



# Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אחים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 159 No. 4 April 2012

## Spring Rummage Collection and Sale

It's time once again to de-clutter your home and gather items for Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Spring Rummage Sale! Spring/summer clothing, household items, toys and jewelry are bestsellers. Please only donate items that are appropriate for the season, clean and in good, new or gently used condition. We cannot accept items in poor condition, textbooks, computers, or TVs, as they do not sell and cost us money to dispose of.

Items for the sale may be dropped off in the social hall from Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (only until noon on Sunday), on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., or by appointment. When you bring your rummage in, you can pick up a letter from the office to use to show the IRS that you made a tax-deductible contribution of goods to the temple.

The Rummage Sale will be held on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a bag sale from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Your help is needed to sort the clothing each morning during the week before the sale. On sale day, we need people to keep the merchandise tables neat and help customers check out. Teens seeking community service credit are strongly encouraged to volunteer! Great training is provided and we always have a lot of fun and make new friends while working on the Rummage Sale.

This semi-annual sale is a major Sisterhood project that brings in funds from the community to help finance improvements to our Temple facilities and programming, so please support the effort in any way you can. For further information, or to volunteer, please contact Ann Lerman at [rummage@vassartemple.org](mailto:rummage@vassartemple.org) or call the temple office, 454-2570.

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## Joel Hoffman to Present "The Bible Doesn't Say That" on May 1<sup>st</sup>

Like the game of telephone that prompts children to pass messages around a circle, hundreds of generations have handed down translations of the Bible from one to another, along the way unknowingly distorting the original meaning. The original Hebrew of the Ten Commandments doesn't say "don't kill," the translation "the Lord is my shepherd" is misleading, and the English phrase "with all your heart and all your soul" is simply wrong. Fortunately for us, unlike in the children's game, we still have the original.

On Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in our social hall, meet local author, translator, linguist, and our own Religious School Director, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman, as he explains why "The Bible Doesn't Say That." He will illustrate how we can move past our modern, mistranslated versions and find the authentic meaning of many familiar Bible passages.

The entire community is invited to this fascinating free program. Some of Dr. Hoffman's publications will be available at a book signing following the lecture, and light refreshments will be served.

Dr. Hoffman divides his time between Jewish education and researching translation, Hebrew, and the Bible. A gifted teacher, he holds a PhD in theoretical linguistics and has taught at prestigious centers of learning including Brandeis University and HUC-JIR. A much sought-after speaker, Dr. Hoffman frequently addresses church groups, synagogues, community groups, and university audiences across the world. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language* from NYU Press. His latest book, *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning* (Thomas Dunne Books/

St. Martin's Press) explores how mistakes in translation mask the original meaning of the Bible. Dr. Hoffman also served as chief translator for the popular ten-volume series *My People's Prayer Book* (winning the National Jewish Book Award) and for *My People's Passover Haggadah*.

Our congregation is most fortunate to have Dr. Hoffman as the Director of our Religious School. For further information visit Dr. Hoffman's website, <http://www.lashon.net>, the Temple's website <http://www.vassartemple.org>, or call the Temple at 454-2570.

For another Adult Education offering in April, please see page 3

# Rabbi's Message: New Wine, Old Bottles



Time to pull out the old Haggadahs again, and gear up for the Passover Seder!

The key word here is "old." Most of the elements of the Seder are described in the Mishna, a work that is roughly 1800 years old. The principal sections of the text we read are newer, but medieval nonetheless. Since Passover comes around only once a year, we tend to forget some of the Haggadah. In a short time, however, the story comes back to us, and the words become very familiar.

This condition cuts both ways. There is something very comforting about repeating the tried-and-true. Aunt Trudy brings the same chopped liver concoction, and Cousin Jim interrupts with the same joke, for which he gives the heartiest laugh. The chopped liver is not that

good, and the joke is really corny, but what would the family Seder be without them?

Life is dynamic and a text is static. With each passing year, decade, century, the words of the Haggadah get relegated to an earlier time. Its relevance can be lost, and the words become increasingly meaningless. What can one do?

One possibility, of course, is to write a new Haggadah. This course has been followed by some. In my collection of *haggadot* are Passover Seders dedicated to the Civil Rights struggle and the plight of Soviet Jews, among others. The Haggadah itself reminds us that "in every generation we must see ourselves as if we are being freed from Egypt." Indeed, each generation is confronted with reality of those who remain enslaved and oppressed.

Writing new Haggadahs is time-consuming and difficult. Let me suggest instead re-reading the one that you

already own. The text of the Haggadah, when read with an open mind and heart, is remarkably open itself. It pokes and challenges us. It lays intellectual traps. For instance, just what does it mean that "God hardened the heart of Pharaoh"? Whose hearts are hardened today? How did they get that way?

The Seder is distinguished by its many symbols, and chief among them are the four cups of wine. The cups may be old, pulled out each year for the festive dinner. The wine, however, is new, opened and poured for just this year. Try pouring new meaning into the old words. And have a sweet and joyous Passover.

*Rabbi Paul Golomb*



As I write this, it's the beginning of March, and we will celebrate Purim in a few days with a pasta meal

and a wacky Purim Spiel. It's one of those times when many of our members come to the temple anticipating a great time and happy to see each other.

The beginning of April brings the Passover Seder. This is traditionally a home celebration; we'll bring it to the Temple on the first night for the first time, thanks to Sandra Mamis and her committee. Members without extended family in the area and other folks who want celebrate Passover in each other's company will enjoy this opportunity.

The aforementioned events are just two that speak to the vitality of Vassar Temple. It was delightful being in the Temple on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, observing it bustling with lots of activity. A large group, led by Judy Rosenfeld, was in the kitchen preparing hamantaschen, with additional groups commandeering tables

to allow children in each of the grades to make hamantaschen as well. Our Tiny Temple program, led by Laura and Danielle Brundage, also shared the social hall, joined in making hamantaschen, and read a story. It's rare that you'd ever see so much dough being rolled, cut and shaped, with flour everywhere ... resulting in very tasty treats! And, of course, the Religious School was in progress upstairs. It's just great how everyone worked together to make the day a success and have lots of fun!

Speaking of Religious School, our director, Dr. Joel Hoffman, has been doing much to keep our children engaged in the classroom. In addition to working with our teachers to implement the curriculum, Joel has been working with the interim Religious School Director at Temple Beth-El to create a joint Religious School program for Grades 8-12 starting in September. The new post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah program is designed to help teenagers become Jewish adults. A number of vibrant classes will include The Environment, Reading the

## President's Message

Newspaper through Jewish Eyes, Israeli Dance, Cooking, Hebrew and other exciting topics. Our education staff (Craig Gittelman, Joel Hoffman, and Rabbi Golomb) will join with three teachers from Temple Beth-El to offer these programs, which neither Temple could offer on their own! Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

I will also be pursuing an educational venture. At the end of April, I'll be attending the URJ's Scheidt Seminar in Atlanta, a training workshop for new congregational presidents from around the country. The program includes three days of intensive learning, exchange, worship, study and (of course) eating! The workshop promises to offer tools for creating an effective presidency, as well as a chance to network and exchange ideas with other new congregational presidents. I'm really looking forward to participating in this program!

I wish everyone peace and happiness on Passover ... *Chag Pesach Same'ach!*

*Bob Abrams*

**Planning Your Summer Vacation?**  
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*SCRIP can be a Powerful Tool to Financially Support our Congregation!*

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**For More Information, contact the SCRIP Coordinator,**  
**Sandra Mamis [463-2678; [scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org)]**

**These are examples of travel-related companies that can be paid using SCRIP!**

**Avis Car Rental**

**American Airlines Budget Car Rental**

**Celebrity Cruise Lines**

**Ascend Collection Hotels**

**[BedandBreakfast.com](http://BedandBreakfast.com)**

**Best Western International**

**Big Cedar Lodge**

**Econo Lodge**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott**

**Fairmont Hotels**

**Four Points by Sheraton (Chicago)**

**Grand Geneva Resort**

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**Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington**

**Las Vegas and The Pfister**

**Hyatt Hotels**

**Hyatt Place**

**Hyatt Summerfield Suites**

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**Inn at the Ballpark**

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**JW Marriott Hotels**

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**Marriott Hotels & Resorts**

**Marriott Vacation Club**

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**Residence Inn by Marriott**

**Ritz Carlton**

**Rodeway Inn**

**San Luis Resort**

**Southside Inn**

**SpringHill Suites by Marriott**

**Tower of the Americas**

**TownePlace Suites by Marriott**

**Well Spa at Grand Geneva, Platinum**

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## **Classes on Medieval Jewish History in April**

Our spring Adult Education season will open with a new course entitled “Shining the Light on Medieval Jewish History” taught by Rabbi Golomb. Class sessions to be held on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**April 10<sup>th</sup>: “Baghdad 700-1000: The Beginning of Judaism as We Know It.”** We think of Judaism as being old, going back to the days of Abraham. Yes, the people Israel has its origin in the Bible,

but what we consider conventional Jewish thought and practice was created in the Jewish community of Baghdad beginning around the year 700. Why is that, and how did it happen?

**April 18<sup>th</sup>: “Spain 900-1200: The Golden Age.”** Those with a casual knowledge of Jewish history are aware that the Jews enjoyed a Golden Age in Spain during this period. What made it golden, and what impact does this period continue to have on us today?

**April 24<sup>th</sup>: “Christian Europe: 1096 and All That.”** For virtually all of us, our lives as Jews, going back generations, has been in encounter with the Christian world. 1096, the year of the First Crusade, is a good place to start an examination of a very complicated history.

Congregants and members of the general community are all warmly invited to attend any or all of the sessions. For further information about the course, contact Rabbi Golomb at [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or call the Temple office at 454-2570.

## From Our Religious School Director: From Generation to Generation



I recently asked a middle-school student how many friends she has. "Nine hundred and thirty," she told me. "That's funny," I replied. "I have about two dozen." And

then I added,

"I guess we're using the word 'friends' differently." She was talking about Facebook friends, and, for lack of a better way of describing it, I was talking about "real" friends.

Facebook is a "social networking" site, which I guess means that it's a way of being social online. According to Facebook itself, its 800-plus million members (if Facebook were a country, it would be the world's third largest) spend an average of almost 20 minutes each day "on Facebook." Taking into account the members who don't use the site daily, that works out to well over half an hour for most Facebook users. Each day.

Facebook's basic relationship is "friend," which, it turns out, is both a noun and a verb. A "friend" is what you become when someone invites you, and when you want someone to be your friend, what you do is "friend" them. Facebook conveniently keeps a list of the people you have friended.

Once you've become friends with someone on Facebook, you can interact electronically. You can send your friends

messages, which is just like the e-mail that now seems like last century's technology. In addition, you can share pictures with your friends. You upload a photo to Facebook, and then all of your friends --- and only your friends --- see that it's there. You can also share one-line updates about your life. "I'm going to the mall," you can post, and then all of your friends will know your plans. If you're having a bad day, you can tell people. They know about your life, and you know about theirs.

But that's not all. You can also send them, for example, plants. That's right. You click on the right buttons and you send your friends a living, growing, plant. Except that it's not alive. And it doesn't grow. And it's a not a plant.

So what's going on? And why are so many people doing this? Why are so many people, and, in particular, so many young people, practically addicted to "social networking"? What is the point of pushing a button on your computer so a message on someone else's mentions a gift in the form of a virtual plant? Couldn't this time be spent on something more productive?

In much the same way that teenagers usually think that they alone are going through the awkward changes of puberty, and that no one understands them, each generation thinks that the older ones wrongly judged them, but that they are justified in judging the younger ones. Our parents misunderstood our generation, we all think, but we understand the failings of

our children's. They text message instead of talking. Their music is terrible. They don't even send real plants. And don't even get us started on how they dress.

But if we really want to learn from our experience, let us remember that sometimes the older generation (us!) really doesn't appreciate the younger one. Styles change. Different doesn't have to mean worse.

My grandfather was convinced that the only appropriate attire outside the house was a jacket and tie. If he had known that I sometimes show up at Temple wearing neither, he would quite honestly have been ashamed. Never mind the fact that I don't even own a hat. But he would have been wrong in his assessment. Not everyone wears a jacket and tie, or a hat, these days, and we all know that there's nothing wrong with that.

We should offer the same consideration to children. Let us be careful when we judge their behavior by our standards. Let us be careful not to repeat our parents' mistakes. After all, sending a virtual plant is one really good way of taking seriously the old adage that, "it's the thought that counts." And for a generation usually labeled as materialistic, this online Facebook experience is a remarkable way to interact.

When we open our minds and suspend judgment, it's amazing what our children can teach us.

*Dr Joel Hoffman,  
Religious School Director*

### Helping the Homeless

You may have noticed the collection box in the East Chapel. It is labeled "Toiletries," and indeed toiletries of any size (shampoo, soap, deodorant, tooth paste, shaving cream), as well as disposable razors, toothbrushes, and combs are always needed at Hillcrest, the local overnight homeless shelter. There is also a need for men's pajamas and washable bedding (including pillows) and bath towels, all in good condition. Temple member Judy Harkavy will bring the donated items from the box to the shelter or, if you have a large amount to donate and require a pickup, please contact her at judystan@verizon.net or 471-4973.

On the fourth Thursday of every month members of the local Jewish community provide the evening meal for Hillcrest shelter guests. During warm weather this meal might include sandwiches, salads, juice, cookies, and chips. In cooler weather we try to augment the meal with soup, chili, lasagna, or other hot casseroles and side dishes. If you would like to contribute one of these food items once this year, please contact Linda Doherty at lindadoherty@myway.com or 914-474-0038 and she will be happy to schedule you for an upcoming date.



*Young people had fun while making franks and beans at the Lunch Box on February 5<sup>th</sup>.*

**Note: All Board and Committee Meetings, except Executive Sessions, are open to all Temple members. Community Hebrew School of Dutchess County is the Hebrew Education Division of Vassar Temple.**



## Book Club to Discuss Anita Diamant's "Day After Night" on April 19<sup>th</sup>

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss "Day After Night" by Anita Diamant, a fascinating historical tale based on a true story, on Thursday afternoon, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. (note special time) in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Ave., Poughkeepsie.

The best-selling author of *The Red Tent*, Anita Diamant's latest novel focuses on the experiences of four women

who survived the Nazi regime in Europe only to find themselves detained in a camp in Haifa, during the time when the State of Israel was struggling to be born. Diamant's novel is a fascinating tale about the aftermath of the Holocaust and the struggle that Jewish people of all nationalities faced as they worked to establish a new country. This interesting and well-written story is available in paperback and from the local library system.

Sue Lessser will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome, and Linda Babas will provide light refreshments. To RSVP or get more information, contact Doi Cohen at 462-6193 or [dcohen1230@gmail.com](mailto:dcohen1230@gmail.com).

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutchess County Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

This year Mitzvah Day will feature perennially popular projects as well as lots that's new. Old favorites include the stream cleanup in Casperkill Creek, a project at the homeless shelter, preparing a garden for the children of the JCC nursery school, and making and serving the midday meal at the Lunch Box. We will once again collect boxes of cereal for hungry local children ("Cereal Counts") and collect used computers, keeping them out of local landfills and benefiting students on the other side of the world.

While most project locations are in the Poughkeepsie area (some right at the JCC), we offer several projects in Northern Dutchess (such as gardening at Astor

Home), the Jewish Farm School project at Eden Camp in Putnam County, the Gomez Mill House historic site project in Orange County, and this year we are partnering with the Jewish Federation of Ulster County which will sponsor additional projects in their locality.

The very youngest volunteers (ages 2-7) will help at the JCCDC with a PJ Library "mini-Mitzvah" project, led by JCC Early Childhood Director Melinda Margulies. Meanwhile seniors will have the opportunity to help non-profits with mailings and filling gift baskets for shelter residents. Volunteers are also always needed to help in the JCC with the free breakfast and lunch served to volunteers, for setup, registration the morning of Mitzvah Day, and cleanup.

If you'd like to sign up to help, you may contact Jewish Family Services at 471-9817 or [jfs@jewishdutchess.org](mailto:jfs@jewishdutchess.org) right now. Online registration will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the May issue of the VOICE will have final details of all Mitzvah Day 2012 projects.

Mitzvah Day 2012 is supported by a major grant from the Bertha Effron Fund of the Community Foundation of Dutchess County. Local businesses who have signed on thus far to be sponsors of Mitzvah Day 2012 include Mercedes Benz of Wappingers Falls, Kraus-Ritter Insurance, and The Bagel Shoppe. Your business can be a sponsor too!

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### Gardening? Cooking? Yard-work? Ecology?

If one of these is your passion, put your talents to good use doing something you love while helping others on Mitzvah Day, Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Both project leaders and helpers are urgently needed in these areas, so please contact Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County at 471-9817 or [jfs@jewishdutchess.org](mailto:jfs@jewishdutchess.org) to discuss how you can help.

A hands-on training session for congregants who would like to be able to lead a brief service in a house of mourning, using the new prayer book we have just acquired for this purpose, are encouraged to come to temple on Sunday morning, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for a helpful introduction to this booklet. Guidelines for its use will be discussed and participants will acquire the knowledge and confidence which will enable them to bring comfort to fellow members when they are bereaved.

### Learn How to Lead a Shiva Minyan

Please register in advance for this session by contacting Ron Rosen, Chair of the Ritual Committee, at [Rrosen@alum.mit.edu](mailto:Rrosen@alum.mit.edu) or 454-4936. If you attended a previous training using the old prayer book, you will need to attend this session so you will be able to use the current prayer book, which is quite different from the one we had been using for many years.

## Worship Services

**Friday, April 6** *First Seder of Pesach*

*We wish you a joyous and meaningful Seder!*

**Saturday, April 7** *First Day of Pesach*

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

**Friday, April 13** *Last Day of Pesach*

10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service

7:30 a.m. Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin

**Saturday, April 14**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

**Friday, April 20**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

**Saturday, April 21**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Katz

**Friday, April 27**

7:30 p.m. Generations Shabbat Service and Birthday Blessings with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin

**Saturday, April 28**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Calista Nicholson

**Friday, May 4**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

**Saturday, May 5**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Roland

## Scriptural Readings

**April 6 & 7 Pesach**

Exodus 12:21-51

Haftarah: Joshua 5:2-6:1, 27

**April 13 & 14 Pesach**

Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

Haftarah: Isaiah 10:32-12:16

**April 20 & 21 Sh'mini**

Leviticus 10:12-11:32

Haftarah: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

**April 27 & 28 Tazria-Metzora**

Leviticus 13:40-14:32

Haftarah: I Kings 7:3-20

**May 4 & 5 Aharei-K'doshim**

Leviticus 17:8-19:14

Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

## Family Shabbat Dinner and Generations Shabbat Service on April 27th

Celebrate the strong connections among all the generations of our temple family as we honor members of 40 or more years standing at our annual "Generations Shabbat." Plan to join us at on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning with the warmth of a congregational Shabbat dinner at 6:15 p.m. at which the honorees will be our special guests.

The dinner menu will feature roast chicken with all the trimmings, and a chicken nugget option sure to please the children. At the family Shabbat service, which follows at 7:30, in addition to honoring our long-time members, everyone of all ages who is celebrating a birthday during the month of April will receive a special blessing – and a special treat. Every aspect of the evening is designed to be family-friendly for all generations. You won't want to miss this special evening, whether you attend the dinner or the service or both, or whether you have been a temple member for four years or forty!

The cost of the complete Shabbat dinner is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child aged 5-12, and no charge for those under age 5. We are offering the option of a chicken nugget dinner for the children, so please specify your child's preference. Members of 40 or more years standing will be our guests but everyone must RSVP by April 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wendy Marcus [masinc223@aol.com](mailto:masinc223@aol.com) or 226 -2502 so we will know how much food to prepare. Prepayment by check made out to Vassar Temple is requested. In the memo line please write "April 27<sup>th</sup> dinner," the number of adults and children coming, and specify how many chicken nugget dinners you'd like.

Don't miss this great opportunity to gather together with Vassar Temple friends and honor the "matriarchs and patriarchs" of our Temple family!

## New Paths Service on April 14<sup>th</sup>

A New Paths service will be held on Saturday morning, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the sunlit East Chapel. Please join us. The liturgy of the P'nai Or siddur includes both traditional and contemporary writings, and the service leader or those attending may bring supplemental materials to share. The focus is on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service.

Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. A brief informal kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com) or Rabbi Golomb at [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or 454-2570.



## Tiny Temple Learns about Tzedakah (Charity)

All preschoolers (age infant-5) and those who are raising them are invited to join in the fun on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to noon, at Tiny Temple, learning about *tzedakah* (charity) through crafts, stories, and other fun activities, in a relaxed and friendly setting. A healthy snack will be served. The adults will have an opportunity to meet others raising young Jewish children. All are welcome to this free program regardless of Temple affiliation.

Tiny Temple is held once a month during the school year, is always free of charge, and is sponsored by the Sisterhood. To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Laura at [tinytemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:tinytemple@vassartemple.org)

## Mazal Tov to ...

Shay & Lori Markovitch on the birth of their son, Jacob Matthew Markovitch on February 20, 2012.

Steve Lant who was named the Poughkeepsie Journal's 2012 Business Person of the Year, in recognition of his many achievements as CEO and chairman of Central Hudson and CH Energy Group.

David & Joan Posner on the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Sara Posner to Seth Tillman.

## Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

Everyone is welcome at the service and Kiddush as we celebrate with Bar/Bat Mitzvah families at Vassar Temple. To be called to the Torah in April:

**April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**Charlotte Katz, daughter of Dr. Daniel & Molly Katz**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**Calista Nicholson, daughter of Paul & Carol Nicholson**

## In Remembrance

Vassar Temple shares in the grief suffered by the families of:

- Michael Rothenberg, son-in-law of Dr. Jack & Fredrica Goodman
- Julie McGaulley, sister of Marilyn McGaulley Lampell
- Blanche Fertig, grandmother of Robert Ritter.

**Men's Club Lunch Box on April 1st can use your food donations and your help. Contact Dave Wolf now at 229-8038 or mensclub@vassartemple.org.**

## New Vassar Temple Blog

Be sure to check out the Vassar Temple blog regularly at <http://vassartemple.wordpress.com/>. Keep up with the latest reflections and join the conversation!

## Refuah Shelemah

....to our Temple members, **Arthur Stern, Vera Maisel, Suzi Stoller and Doi Cohen**, who were recently hospitalized.

## Pulpit Flowers

- April 6 Vassar Temple Sisterhood  
 April 13 In memory of Dr. Paul Koltai from Cathy & Gabe Bokor.  
 April 20 In honor of Charlotte Katz's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.



- In memory of George N. Freedman from Liz Freedman  
 April 27 In honor of Calista Nicholson's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family

Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can do so by sponsoring the Sanctuary flowers with a donation to the Shrub Fund. Just call Sandi Rugar at 454-2570. The donation to the Shrub Fund is \$55.



## We Need Your Help!

It's awful to be the last to know that someone has been hospitalized, needs a visit or needs some other kind of help.

We are, once again, asking that you be the eyes and ears in the lives of our congregational family. Federal patient privacy regulations limit the information that hospitals make available to clergy and volunteers.

We are encouraging you to contact the Temple office when a congregant is admitted to a hospital and wishes to have Rabbi visit during the hospital stay. Our goal is to meet the needs of all our congregants and we can only do this with your help.

## Save These Dates for Sisterhood Events!

Sisterhood's Donor Dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, May 8<sup>th</sup> and this year's Sisterhood Shabbat will take place on Friday evening, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now for these annual favorites!

## April Tzedakah

Thank you to all who responded to our emergency food drive in March. Please continue to stuff our Can Jam bin through the spring and summer – hunger does not take a vacation! Donations to our Temple tzedakah box this month will also go to help the Beverly Closs Food Pantry of Dutchess Outreach. This will enable the food pantry to purchase some of the food items they need at a special discount.

## Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher:	Marianne Abrams
Editor:	Doi Cohen
Technical Support:	Bob Abrams

Articles for the June bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by May 1. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone!

Articles may be sent to Sandi Rugar via e-mail, at [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or faxed to (845)452-5161.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

# Contributions

## SUSTAINING FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Lewis Schwartz  
Robin Peritz & Janet Greenman  
Shirley Kaskowitz  
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel  
Louise Rosen Ron & Marilyn Rosen  
Stanley Soirefman Mark & Elaine Plansky  
Alec Stall  
Georgene & Irving Dreishpoon  
Herman Kraut Nina & Nick Kraut  
Julie McGaulley Sandra & Harry Mamis  
Marianne & Bob Abrams  
Hilary & Lew Wrobel  
Muriel & Matt Lampell  
Jack Frankel Dave, Fern, Jen & Ilana  
Wolf  
George Meltzer Lisa Rubenstein  
Ruth Parry Kathryn & Kent Mardon  
Dr. Randy Bennett Edman  
Bernice & Peter Edman  
Irving Rosenthal  
Charlene & Loren Rosenthal  
Jordan Taylor Lois Mendel

Ann Alpers The Creedon Family  
Leon Alpers  
Stuart Alpers

Michael Rothenberg  
Muriel & Matt Lampell

Tessie Turk  
Steve, Shelley, Samantha & Stefanie Turk  
Anna Frankel

Dave, Fern, Jen & Ilana Wolf  
Dorothy K. Parish

Sue & Bill Barbash  
Dr. Simon Riechman Vivian & Ed Garber

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Michael Rothenberg  
Aunt George & Uncle Irving Dreishpoon

### IN HONOR OF

The birth of Jacob Markovitch, son of Shay  
& Lori Markovitch  
Sandra & Harry Mamis

## SPEEDY RECOVERY WISHES

To Doi Cohen Sandra & Harry Mamis  
Perle Scope

## ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLARS' FUND

IN MEMORY OF  
Bess Lipschutz Elaine Lipschutz  
Stanton Lipschutz

## COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

IN MEMORY OF  
Julie McGaulley Muriel & Matt Lampell



## Yahrzeits

### April 7

Samuel Baskin  
Eric Samson  
Mimi L. Schor  
Dr. Albert Gould  
Joseph Friedman  
Sally Reifler  
Idel Izraelewicz  
Morris Landau  
Morris D. Kovacs  
Mollie Rosenberg  
Max Michael Simon, MD  
Isador Albinder  
Frances Lazarus  
Joseph Frankel  
Edyth Friedman  
Rhona Prussin  
Alfred Kaplan  
Elizabeth "Libby" Horowitz  
Pauline Dubler

### April 13

Marjorie F. Katz  
Lorraine Goldberg  
Morris Rosenberg  
Jeannette S. Newman  
Lillian F. Kovacs  
Rabbi Aaron Pearl  
Jack Jacobson  
Herbert Rosand  
Evelyn Lanning  
Charles Volkman, Sr.  
Dr. Paul Koltai  
Solomon Salberg  
Ruth Browne  
Nathan "Toolie" Turk  
David Korobkin  
Alvin B. Brooke  
Anne Lacher  
Louis Schwartz  
Elias Altman  
Sally Richman  
Ida Salt  
Frank Scholnick  
Harry Degenshein  
Sadie Lieberman  
Mildred Metlis  
Irving Goldstein  
J. Louis Sumner  
Simi Levy  
Jaime Hecht

### April 20

Dr. Fritz Weigert  
Philip Lacher  
Fannie Bard  
Evelyn Partridge  
Marion Volkman  
Eva Bley  
Doreen Kimmel  
Eva Freedman  
Rebecca Wolfson  
George N. Freedman  
Eric Mendel  
Gladys Salberg  
Nathan L. Reifler  
Samuel H. Weisman  
Delbert LaLone  
Gertrude Rosenmann Sonkin  
Jesse Barbash  
Eva Feldman  
Gertrude Weiss  
Norman S. Reifler  
Joan Marshall  
Andrew Newman  
Julius Albert  
Elaine F. Bloch  
Philip Mardon, MD

### April 27

Lester M. Ritter  
Harry Bard  
Estelle Josias  
Sidney Cohen  
Esther Strauss  
Clara Levy Ribbi  
Sara Silberman  
Bessie Goldman Lass  
Anna Dreishpoon  
Frances R. Finnerman  
Abraham Tavss  
Robert Uttal  
Dr. Wolfgang U. Weigert  
Jacob Ettenson  
Gertrude Fink  
Ruth Edna Day  
Faye Prisansky Kaufman  
Edith Kaufherr  
Paul Plansky  
Reuben Lewis

### Memorial Board Plaques

Honor the memory of your loved ones with a plaque on the Memorial Board in the sanctuary. For information, call Sandi at the Temple office at 454-2570.



## April Tzedakah

Thank you to all who responded to our emergency food drive in March. Please continue to stuff our Can Jam bin through the spring and summer – hunger does not take a vacation! Donations to our Temple tzedakah box this month will also go to help the Beverly Closs Food Pantry of Dutchess Outreach. This will enable the food pantry to purchase some of the food items they need at a special discount.

## Yom HaShoah Event at Dutchess Community College on April 17<sup>th</sup>

“Becoming a Professional Antisemite: Three Biographies From Nazi Germany” is the topic of a lecture that will highlight the Yom HaShoah commemoration to be held at Dutchess Community College on the evening of Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Alan Steinweis, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, will be the featured speaker.

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of the victims of the Shoah, followed by Dr. Steinweis’s talk at 7:00 p.m. The event will take place in the James and Betty Hall Theatre, and is free and open to the public. This annual event is organized by Dutchess Community College in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.



On February 26<sup>th</sup> Sisterhood and other Temple members joined together in an amazing group effort on Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day. Through the combined efforts of dozens of volunteers, we baked almost 2,000 hamantaschen which were served after the Megillah reading on March 7<sup>th</sup> and the Purim Spiel on March 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as mailed by Susan Hecht to very appreciative college students and delivered to the homebound members of our congregation.

The hamantaschen baking was truly a group effort. With adult and teen help, the entire Sunday School and Tiny Temple group worked at tables in the social hall rolling, cutting, filling and shaping the dough while the kitchen was filled with more adults doing the same thing. We

## Hamantaschen Thanks

made an incredible number of hamantaschen in a very short time! A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

With so many volunteers, I’m sure that some names have been inadvertently omitted. Please know that we couldn’t have done it without everyone’s help, so to anyone whose name was left off the list, please accept my apologies. The names I do have include Howie Brown, Emily Brundage, Laura Brundage, Andy Chernack, Andi Ciminello, Doi Cohen, Jen Dahnert, Janet Greenman, Tamara Gruszko, Susan Hecht, Amy Horn Oclatis, Marilyn Lampell, Bunnie Levinson, Polly Lewis, Marsha Lowry, Rachel Marcus, Rebecca Marcus, Lori Markovitz, Beth Needelman, Susan Needelman, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Shaari Roland, Adam Rosenfeld, Lisa Rosenfeld, Michele Sinn, Roni Stein, Shirl Susser, Stella Turk, Melissa Wall, Kamil Wisniewski, and Fern Wolf. We also had the help of our amazing delivery team – Melissa Erlebacher, Susan

Hecht, Irma Jacobs, Bunnie Levinson, Elaine Lipschutz, Beth Needelman, and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, and of our photographers Perla and Chuck Kaufman. I’d like to thank the people who did such a wonderful job publicizing this event: Doi Cohen, Perla Kaufman, Richard Lowry and Marian Schwartz. Last, a special thank you to Kamil Wisniewski and Adam Rosenfeld for watching four ovens for many hours to make sure that nothing burned!

*Judy Rosenfeld  
Hamantaschen Baking Day Chair*



More pictures can be seen on our website, [www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org) via the link to Photo Gallery on the left.

## Answers to the Dreaded Purim Quiz

For those panting to know the secrets of life's mysteries, look elsewhere. But if your sights are set on last month's Rabbi's Message, here are a few bits of critical information:

1. 58 Noxon St. used to be a **residence set up by the congregation for the Rabbi**. You can see the plaque for Rabbi Charles Mantinband, Vassar Temple's rabbi in the early 1920s (and later an important figure in the Civil Rights Movement) as you enter our current building – on the right side just inside the front door.
2. The Hebrew word meaning “trembling” is **Haredi**, and is often employed to refer to ultra-Orthodox Jews who “tremble before God.”
3. **Ryan Braun** of the Milwaukee Brewers won the National League MVP award for the 2011 season.
4. Jewish tradition discourages weddings taking place during the week of Sukkot, in the seven-week period from Passover to Shavuot, and in the three weeks prior to Tisha b'Av, but it is **perfectly OK** to have a marriage between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
5. We sing *Shalom Aleichem* to **angels (or more accurately, messengers of God)** who are supposed to visit us at the start of the Sabbath.
6. Certain foods are connected to certain festivals, such as matzah on Passover, apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah. On **Shavuot**, one traditionally eats dairy products. The reason is obscure, but one explanation is that Torah (the holiday celebrates the revelation on Mt. Sinai) is compared to honey and milk on one's lips.
7. Medieval Jewish sages are often given a nickname made up of the initials of their name, preceded by an “R” for Rabbi. Thus, Rambam is Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (also known as Maimonides), Ramban is Rabbi Moses ben Nahman (Nahmanides), Ralbag is Rabbi Levi ben Gershon (Gersonides). **Ravkav** is an internet chat site for Reform rabbis.
8. Mea culpa. While Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. – Michael Oren – was born in the **United States**, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu only grew up in the States, but was born in Israel.
9. Both Rabbis **Henry Bamberger** and **Stephen Arnold** were ordained rabbis in 1961. They were not really classmates as Bamberger went to the New York school and Arnold to the Cincinnati school of Hebrew Union College. Anyway, they were both honored for their fifty years in the rabbinate last March.
10. Woody Allen has been responsible for **21** Oscar nominations (Whew!), including the screenplay for *Midnight at Paris* this year.

### May 6<sup>th</sup> Lunch Box Needs Your Help

Please support our fifth grade students as they take charge of a Sunday meal at the Lunch Box for the first time on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 2:00. You can help by donating 3 lbs. of all-beef hot dogs or 12 pieces of fruit (bananas and other soft fruits are favorites; grapes should be washed and packed in individual bags). Food can be brought to temple kitchen ahead of time, clearly marked for Lunch Box and with your name. Use the temple refrigerator except for bananas.

Your help with preparing and serving the meal will also be greatly appreciated. To assist in our planning, please contact parent captain Robin Peritz at [robinperitz@yahoo.com](mailto:robinperitz@yahoo.com) or 227-0160.

### Meditation Group to Meet in April and May

The Jewish Meditation Group will meet on Tuesday evenings, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. under the leadership of Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg. Both beginners and those experienced in the practice of meditation are welcome, and synagogue affiliation is not required.

At each session there will be a sitting meditation, a walking meditation, either chanting or a short reading, plus time for questions and sharing. Please RSVP to the Vassar Temple office at 454-2570 or [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) if you plan to attend any of the sessions.

### Jewish War Veterans Schedule Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on April 15, 2012 at the Jewish Community Center, 110 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. This no longer includes breakfast.

In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be on Cumulus Radio: 101.5 WPDH, 1490 WKNY, 92.7/76.9 WRRV, 94.3/97.3 The WOLF, 1390/1340 OLDIES, 97.7 The Mix Mark Bolger.

For further information contact Post Commander Ralph Schwartz at [RSCHWA9881@aol.com](mailto:RSCHWA9881@aol.com) or (845) 849-0025.

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## Passover 2012 (5772)

### Save this for your Seder “Let all who are Hungry Enter and Eat”

The words are a pledge, and the pledge is a privilege. Surrounded by the hungry and the homeless, we can redeem the pledge. This evening, so that the hungry may eat, we contribute to MAZON, a Jewish response to hunger, and we say together:

*Baruch eloheinu sheb'tuvo he'vianu v'zachinu l'mitzvat matan mazon.*

Blessed is our God through whose goodness we have been brought to the privilege of sharing our nourishment.

You can send a contribution to MAZON to help in the important task of feeding the hungry. The address is MAZON, A Jewish Response to Hunger, 1990 S. Bundy Dr., Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90025-5232.

Passover is a time for being with others. The Children of Israel came out of Egypt in **community**, not one by one! So, *please call the Temple at 454-2570 to tell us how many places are open at your Seder table.* Or, if you're by yourself, please let us know so that we can make a “*shidduch*” with a host family.

---

### **Put Social Justice on your Passover Table**

You may choose to add this reading to the *yachatz* portion of your seder, when you break the middle matzah.

#### **The Matzah of Unity**

*by the United Jewish Communities Rabbinic Cabinet*

Passover is the great Jewish family holiday -- but with a critical message about our ethics and values.

We eat the Karpas, the green vegetable -- and recall our concern for the environment.

We dip into the salt water of tears -- and remind ourselves to care for the oppressed.

We eat the bitter herbs -- and sharpen our concern for the stranger.

We taste the matzah, the bread of affliction -- and feel the memories of our servitude to Pharaoh.

We note the roasted egg, symbolic of the extra offering in the Temple in ancient days -- and ask ourselves what are our own sacrifices?

Passover is so real and tangible, because we not only taste our freedom, but we also resolve to work for the liberation of all people. It is a time to ask ourselves: what are we doing to care for those in need? Can we reach out and assist with our tzedakah, our charitable contributions, or through our acts of loving-kindness?

Let us now take the middle matzah and divide it in half. As we break this matzah and set it aside, we link ourselves symbolically with all Jews throughout the world, especially those who have lived under the heel of the oppressor.

Our Seder meal will not conclude until the missing piece of matzah is found and returned to the table. The matzah, when restored, shows the desire of our people to be together as one, at peace. As Jews, we are a people of sacred fragments; we need help from God to bond together in everlasting unity.

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601  
 845-454-2570  
 www.vassartemple.org



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Rabbi:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen A. Arnold
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
<b>Cantorial Soloist:</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Robert Abrams
<b>Vice President:</b>	David Lampell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Tamara Gruszko
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Silverman
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Jeff Brenner & David Wolf
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	Rachel Erlebacher
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Sandra Mamis



## April 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NO RS 11:30 Lunch Box	2 May Bulletin dead line 7:15pm Ritual	3 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Meditation Group	4 NO RS	5 10am SEP	6 FIRST SEDER No Shabbat Service 5:30 Seder at temple by reservation only	7 1st DAY PASS-OVER 9am Torah Study 10am Passover Morning Service
8 NO RS	9 Flyers Deadline 7pm Executive	10 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:00pm Shining the Light on Medieval Jewish History, "Baghdad 700-1000: The Beginning of Judaism as We Know It" with Rabbi Golomb	11 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	12 10am SEP	13 LAST DAY PASSOVER Office Closed 10am Yizkor Service 7:30pm Shabbat Service	14 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
15 9am-12pm RS K-7 RUMMAGE WEEK 4/15 - 4/20	16	17 10am SEP 12pm Talmud	18 YOM HASHOAH 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 Pizza 7pm Finance cmte 7:00 pm Shining the Light on Medieval Jewish History, Spain 900-1200: The Golden Age with Rabbi Golomb	19 10am SEP 3pm VTS Book Club	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Charlotte Katz
22 9am-12pm RS K-7 9:30am Spring Rummage Sale	23 7pm Board	24 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:00pm Shining the Light on Medieval Jewish History, "Christian Europe: 1096 and All That" with Rabbi Golomb	25 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	26 YOM HA'ATZMA'UT 10am SEP	27 6:15pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Generations Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	28 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Calista Nicholson
29 9am-12pm RS K-7 10:30 Tiny Temple	30					