



Where You Belong

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהלים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 160 No. 10 April 2014



Sisterhood Donor Dinner

TANGOSTOSO

“So Delicious”

Sunday, April 6, 2014

5:00pm to 8:00pm

Vassar Temple

Enjoy the Food and Wines
of South America

A Four-Course Dinner Catered by

Twisted Soul

Special Guest

Bob Brink, Fine Wines Manager

Arlington Wine and Liquor

We can accommodate special dietary
needs.

For information contact Melissa
Erlebacher at mae62@columbia.edu
or 635-9854.

VT Passover Seder on April 14th

Families, couples, and singles of all ages and generations, join us around the table for Vassar Temple’s 3rd annual “First Night Passover Seder,” to be held in the social hall Monday, April 14th at 5:30pm. The seder is lay-organized and lay-led, and this year will be enhanced by the professional musical accompaniment of Joseph Bertolozzi. The haggadah is user friendly and there will be special activities to make the evening fun and meaningful for children.

Complementing the traditional ritual foods, a delicious kosher-style dinner featuring homemade dishes will be served. The menu includes: matzo ball soup, gefilte fish, entrée of either herbed roasted chicken/beef brisket and/or vegetarian loaf in mushroom sauce, vegetables, matzo kugel, potatoes and selected Pesach dessert sweets. Chopped chicken liver with ‘mock’ alternative and crudités will be available for nibbling. Ritual wine, tea and soft drinks will be provided.

After the dinner, the first ever Passover Triathlon will be held with prizes for all the winners!

To cover expenses, the cost is \$30pp (adult); \$10pp (6 - 13 yrs old); under 6 are

Upcoming Events

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Tiny Temple, p3

Apr 8 Torah to Go, p9

Apr 10 VTS Book Club, p7

Apr 14 VT Passover Seder, p1

free. Maximum of \$70 per nuclear family (parents & children)

Late reservations will be accommodated, if at all possible, but are not guaranteed.

If you have any questions or financial concerns, or if you would like to help with the seder planning, please contact Sandra Mamis, Seder Committee Chairman, at seder@vassartemple.org or 914-456-3524. If mailing a check, please make it out to Vassar Temple with “Seder” on the memo line and send it to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Spring Rummage Sale

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is accepting items for its upcoming Spring Rummage sale, and tax receipts will be given to those who donate items. Spring/summer clothing, household items, toys, books 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.

Items may be dropped off in the social hall:

- Sunday April 27th 9:00am-noon
- Monday, April 28th - Friday, May 2nd 9:00am-3:00pm
- Wednesday, April 30th 4:30pm- 8:30pm
- or by appointment

The Rummage Sale will be open Sunday, May 4th from 9:30am to 12:30pm followed by a Bag Sale from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

Volunteers are sought to help set up the week before and to work at the sale. We always have a lot of fun doing this, it’s a great way to make new friends, and teen helpers will be given community service credit. 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. For further information, or to volunteer, please contact rummage@vassartemple.org or call the Temple office at 454-2570.



Rabbi's Message: Making It Happen



For a number of years, I have been devoting this month's column to raising the same challenge. When you stand up from the Passover Seder table, what will be the answer to: what did I learn this evening? And then I have put

forward examples of what I have learned (you are never too old). While I commend the same challenge for this year, I have a different concern to raise.

As I have said before, Passover (Pesach) is the inverse of the High Holy Days. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the principal activity is to go to the synagogue and be immersed in the liturgy and teaching that is provided by the rabbi and cantor. On Pesach, however, one stays home and provides both the liturgy and teaching oneself. Ah, now there is a challenge!

Social psychologist, Erving Goffman, asserted, "Ritual competence – perhaps the most fundamental socialization of all." In simpler terms, one feels most comfortable when one actually knows how to do it. When you enter the sanctuary, say, on the eve of Yom Kippur, you tend to have implicit confidence that the rabbi and the cantor on the bima have ritual competence – they know what they are doing – and, thus, your very presence on this sacred occasion carries a measure of comfort. Is there the same level of comfort at the Seder table?

If the answer is 'yes,' then you are free to end your reading here. If not, then what can you do?

There are many resources that can assist in raising the comfort level to be felt during the Seder: creative Haggadahs, iTunes downloads, easy 'google' access to the answer of thorny questions. All of these can help, but I think they are a band-aids in the effort of achieving real comfort. For that I

wish to suggest two things:

Patience. Ritual competence in anything takes some time. (Consider your own profession, and think about how well you do it now as to when you started out.)

Most important, Don't do it alone. The late NYC Mayor Ed Koch was famous for asking virtually anyone he encountered, "How am I doing?" You need a level of assessment that is outside of yourself. More to the point, however, the Passover Seder becomes most meaningful, most enlightening, and ultimately most satisfying, precisely when it is shared. Everyone has something to contribute: a familiarity with melodies, a good story to tell, a useful thought, a probing question. *Pirkei Avot* [The Sayings of the Sages] reminds us: *Get yourself a companion and find someone to study with.*

May this year's Passover raise your confidence, liberate your soul, and be a joy to you and all around you.

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message



What is the glue that keeps Vassar Temple members engaged in Temple activities? It's the sense of community, the sense of belonging that our members practice

when they gather together, whether it be to work on Temple projects, attend Shabbat services, kibbutz with friends at a Friday night Oneg, meet friends on Sunday mornings during Religious School, and/or attend social events.

A sense of community refers to the interaction that a person has with others in his/her community and the community as a whole. Interaction between Temple members is an important consideration. Congregants with a strong sense of community have been known to have more ties to other members. Conversely, people with a low sense of community belonging are likely to be isolated and have fewer ties to other individuals.

But what brings us together? Our children are often a common source of conversation. In fact, as Jews we value compassion, justice, knowledge, education. We

enjoy books - many Jewish homes are positively overflowing with books!

We value and enjoy discussion and debate. Sometimes I think non-Jews look on in bemusement when someone posts a question to Jews and within minutes, you can witness four or five Jews start debating the 'right' answer to the post between them! The old saying is a true one: if you have three Jews in the room, you'll have four opinions ...at least!

And even Yahoo Answers says, we love and value humor. This might sound glib, but it's really not. The Jewish sense of humor is highly ironic, and often self deprecating, but in a gentle and affectionate manner. Jewish humor reflects and illustrates the historical Jewish experience; some of the more "serious" jokes can pack a real punch.

So what brings us together? Life. Health. Humor. Knowledge. Family... and of course **food!!**

Jews also value justice a great deal. That's why the Talmud offers commentaries on almost every possible situation that could arise and discusses how to apply the principles of Judaism to them.

Attending Temple events is a great way to achieve that sense of community. Social and educational events are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and get to know old friends better. Attending events at Vassar Temple is a great way to build relationships. Volunteering has always been important to the Temple; none of these events would be possible without our congregants who develop, organize, and implement them.

Not sure where you'd like to help out? I'd be very happy to chat with you about your interests and how you can help the Temple and have fun, too!

L'Shalom,
Bob Abrams
president@vassartemple.org

Scriptural Readings

April Shabbat and Festival Worship Services

- 4 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb
- 5 9:00am Torah Study; 10:00 New Paths Service
- 11 7:30pm Shabbat Service and Torah Reading with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
- 12 9:00am Torah Study
- 14 5:30pm Passover Family Seder
- 15 10:00am Pesach morning Service
- 18 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb
- 19 9:00am Torah Study; 10:00 New Paths Service
- 21 10:00am Pesach Seventh Day Service and Yizkor
- 25 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
- 26 9:00am Torah Study; 10:00 Shabbat Service as Justin Moore is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

- Apr. 5 **Metzora**
Lev. 14:1-32
I Kings 7:3-20
- Apr. 12 **Aharei Mot (Shabbat HaGadol)**
Malakhai 3:4-24
- Apr. 19 **Hol HaMoed Pesah**
Ex. 33:12-34:26, Num. 28:19-25
Exek. 36:37-37:14
- Apr. 26 **K'doshim**
Lev. 19:1-37
Amos 9: 7-15

New Paths Services

New Paths services will be held Saturday mornings April 5th and April 19th at 10:00am in the intimacy of our sunlit East Chapel. Moving traditional and contemporary readings illuminate the interactive service, which rotates between being lay-led and rabbi-led. Most of the service is in English and includes both traditional and contemporary readings with the focus on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. A brief informal kiddush follows. Join us! For more info, contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb rabbi@vassartemple.org 454-2570.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 18th, 4:30 pm.

Annual Fannie Berlin Lecture at Vassar Temple

Dr. Lila Corwin Berman will discuss *The City and the Jew: Reflections on Leaving & Returning*



SAVE THE DATE: Joint Shabbaton May 9-10th *Judaism for the 21st Century*

Dr. Lawrence Hoffman will bring his passion for the spiritual renewal of North American Judaism to our local area as scholar-in-residence at a shabbaton, co-hosted by Vassar Temple and Temple Beth El on Friday and Saturday May 9-10th. During the shabbaton we will have three opportunities to hear Rabbi Hoffman speak and to explore the possibilities for a vital evolving Judaism in the 21st century.

Friday May 9th at the 7:30pm shabbat service at Vassar Temple, Dr. Hoffman will speak on "Builders, Baby-Boomers and Beyond: Looking for American Jewish Identity." Many believe that the American synagogue is in crisis. But before looking at where we go from here, we have to ask how we got where we are. Dr. Hoffman will help us develop an understanding of how American synagogues evolved

Joint Shabbaton (continued on page 6)

Tiny Temple Passover Program

Tiny Temple will highlight Passover with crafts and other fun activities in a relaxed and friendly setting on Sunday, April 6th, from 11am-noon. The program, especially designed for children infant through kindergarten and those who are raising them, is free of charge and open to all. Healthy snacks will be served and the adults will have an opportunity to meet others raising young Jewish children. Come join in on the fun! To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Laura Brundage at tinytemple@vassartemple.org.





Mazel Tov to...

Dr. Harry & Mrs. Sandra Mamis on their son Steven's wedding engagement to Michelle Davis;

Danah Moore and family on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Justin Moore, April 26, 2014;

Honorary Member Neil Gould & family on the birth of his new grand son, Allen Emanuel Gould, born on January 19, 2014 to Neil's son Nick and his wife Li.

Passover Judaica Sale



The Vassar Temple Judaica Shoppe is chock full of Passover sale items in the East Chapel: beautiful ritual pieces for the seder table, haggadahs, fun items and books for the children, hostess gifts and more.

- Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am - 2:30pm
- 9-11:30am on Sundays 3/23, 3/30, 4/6
- By appointment.

For more info and special orders contact Perla [914-456-7309](tel:914-456-7309) membership@vassartemple.org

In Remembrance

It is with great sadness and deep sorrow that we have learned of the death of:

Isadore Shefts, Uncle to Nadine Zaritsky, and Mark Rosenthal, brother to Dr. Loren Rosenthal

Refuah Shelemah

to our Temple member, Erica Robbins, who was recently hospitalized.

Pulpit Flowers

- April 4: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- April 11: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- April 18: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- April 25: Donated by the Moore 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 the Temple office 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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

Editors: Sue Lesser and Donna Loshin

Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the May Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by April 1st. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

“School on Sunday? Really?”



Of all the things we could do as a community on Sunday morning, why do we opt to run a school?

After all, restaurants are open. And they serve delicious breakfast and brunch food. For most of the year, appealing outdoor activities entice us to enjoy the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley. And even when the weather turns oppressive, there are still some great indoor destinations. Or we could sleep in, extending the joy of Sabbath rest into a second day.

Against all of these opportunities and more, why do we work so hard to run religious school?

Part of the answer dates back more than 2,500 years when the prophets of Israel announced that the Jewish People had an obligation to the world. Ceremonial religious observance --- sacrifice, primarily, along with other ritual behavior --- was no longer enough. Rather, we had an active role to play beyond our own communities, a sacred obligation to help make the world a better place.

That supreme goal eventually earned the name *Tikkun olam* in Hebrew: “fixing

the world.” In English we usually call it “social action.” At its core is a three-fold recognition. The world is not perfect. We have the ability to make the world a better place. And with those first two comes a responsibility to act.

This basic response to reality is so ingrained in the Jewish psyche that many of us don’t even appreciate that there are other widespread ways of looking at things. Some people think that God made everything just the way it ought to be, so we have no right, and certainly no obligation, to intervene. The so-called “prosperity gospel” runs along these lines. So does the answer to tragedy that asserts merely that “God works in mysterious ways.” Judaism disagrees. Charity is a moral duty. And instead of accepting a tragedy as the work of God, we try to learn from it so we can prevent it the next time.

Some people think that we are powerless to effect change in the world, a sentiment often embodied in slogans like, “Go fight city hall.” Again, Judaism disagrees. We know, after all, that an experiment that we began 3,000 years ago in Jerusalem has left barely any spot of the Earth unchanged.

And some people think that their responsibility ends with themselves. A stream of Buddhism runs in this direction, urging practitioners to learn to accept misfortune. So does a stream of asceticism. In terms of slogans, the most common is, “It’s none of my business.” But again Judaism most vehemently disagrees. It *is* our business. We have a purpose not merely to survive but to build a just and moral society for ourselves and for others.

All of this is on my mind as Passover approaches because each year at the Seder, we assert that we have an obligation to view ourselves as though we personally left Egypt. And we have an obligation to pass this information on to the next generation.

For more than three millennia, we have fulfilled that obligation, not just at grand yearly celebrations, but week by week, child by child, working to bring about the glory of human dignity that our ancestors foresaw.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Adult Learning with Rabbi Golomb

- Torah Study: every Saturday at 9:00am
- *Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*: every Thursday at 11:30am

All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! Questions? rabbi@vassar temple.org (845)454-2570

Jewish Meditation Group

The Jewish Meditation Group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 7:30-8:30pm under the leadership of Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg. Next session is April 1st. Beginners and experienced are all welcome. Sitting and walking meditation, chanting or a short reading, plus time for questions and sharing are all included. There is no charge to participate but please RSVP to the Temple office at 454-2570 or office@vassar temple.org if you plan to attend any or all of the sessions.

Joint Shabbaton (continued from p3)

in order to gain insight into how our synagogues can be transformed to meet the needs of the next generation. The evening will conclude with an oneg shabbat featuring refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with one another and to meet Dr. Hoffman.

The following morning, May 10th at 10am, during shabbat services held at Temple Beth El, Dr. Hoffman will talk about “Authentic Jewish Spirituality— Even for Skeptics Who Think There Isn’t Any.” Americans love to say, “I’m spiritual but not religious.” But there is an authentic Jewish spirituality, and it runs deep through Jewish texts and practice, constituting a distinctively Jewish way of being in the world. Dr. Hoffman will explain how thoughtful Jewish spirituality can connect the dots in our lives and convince us that we matter.

What will Judaism become as people search for meaning and community in the 21st century? The world is changing faster than anyone could have imagined a generation ago. And Judaism has

always had its revolutions, from the split into denominations to today’s profound changes in the American Jewish community, such as rising intermarriage and dimming ethnic memory. The assumptions of the past just don’t hold true anymore. We will explore these issues when Dr. Hoffman discusses “Limits, Truth, and Meaning- What’s Left of Judaism When all the Givens Fail” at the kiddush luncheon that follows the service at 12:30pm. This will be the concluding event of what promises to be an unforgettable, inspiring shabbaton.

Dr. Lawrence Hoffman is widely recognized as a prominent scholar and visionary. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1959, and since 1973, has taught liturgy, ritual and spirituality, theology, contemporary Jewish thought, synagogue leadership, and sacred music at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in NYC, becoming an often cited authority in all his fields. In 1994, Dr. Hoffman co-founded Synagogue 2000, a project that envisioned the ideal synagogue as the moral and spiritual center for the 21st century. And

now, as Synagogue 3000, it has launched “Next Dor”, a national initiative to engage Generation X and Generation Y through strong community connections with transformed synagogues at the center. Dr. Hoffman has written and/or edited over forty books, received two National Jewish Book Awards, and his articles, both popular and scholarly, have appeared in eight languages and on four continents.

The joint shabbaton on May 9-10th in Poughkeepsie, at which Dr. Hoffman will speak, is free and open to the community. Anyone planning to attend the kiddush luncheon is asked to please RSVP to Temple Beth El at programs@tbeny.org. For more information about the event, visit www.vassar temple.org, and for further information about Dr. Lawrence Hoffman go to <http://huc.edu/directory/lawrence-hoffman>.

Use Scrip for your Spring Wardrobe!

**Shopping with SCRIP makes lots of 'cents'.
Questions? Call or email me.
Sandra Mamis, SCRIP Coordinator
[914 456 3524]**

Gap. Macys. DSW. The Dress Barn.....

Book Club to Discuss *The House Girl* on April 10th

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss *The House Girl* by Tara Conklin, an unforgettable story of love, history, and a search for justice. The Book Club meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10th at 2:00 pm in the Community Room of Collegeview Towers, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Weaving together the story of an escaped slave in the pre-Civil War South and a determined junior lawyer in modern-day New York, *The House Girl* follows Lina Sparrow as she looks for an appropriate lead plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking compensation for families of slaves. In her research, she learns about Lu Anne Bell, a renowned pre-

war artist whose famous works might have actually been painted by her slave, Josephine. This moving, suspenseful, and heartbreaking tale explores what it means to repair a wrong and asks whether truth is sometimes more important than justice.

This book is available in paperback and through the local library system. Myrna Rubenstein will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or linda.babas.41@gmail.com.



Hamantaschen Galore!

On February 23rd many of our Temple members got together in an amazing group effort for the annual Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day. Through the efforts of dozens of volunteers we baked about 2,000 hamantaschen to be eaten after the Megillah reading and Purim Spiel on March 15th, delivered to homebound members of our Temple, and mailed by Fern Wolf to very appreciative college students.

For those of you not there to see it, the hamantaschen baking was truly a group effort. With adult and teen help, the entire Sunday School took turns working 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 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 making the dough and helping bake the hamantaschen, 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 the following: Marianne and Bob Abrams, Laura Brundage, Andi Ciminello, Susan Colodner, Bob Creedon, Jen Dahnert, Melissa Erlebacher, Janet Greenman, Tamara Gruszko, Susan Hecht, Amy Horn-Oclatis, Ronni Jarvis, Kristin Judd, Perla Kaufman, CJ Kelly, Annmarie and Kassie Lerman, Polly and Kamil Lewis, Susan Needelman, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Shaari Roland, Lisa Rubenstein, Nancy Samson, Michele Sinn, Roni Stein, Melissa Wall, Fern Wolf, and Nadine Zaritsky. In addition, I'd like to thank the people who did such a wonderful job publicizing this event: Marianne Abrams, Susan Hecht, Perla Kaufman, CJ Kelly and Joel Kelson.

*Judy Rosenfeld
Hamantaschen Baking Day Chair*

Cereal Counts!!! April 23rd through May 4th

Breakfast supports physical and mental health. It is, indeed, an essential meal of the day. This summer, right here in our county, there will be children and teenagers who lack breakfast because their schools are closed and they cannot access free breakfast programs. Disadvantaged adults of all ages may lack access to breakfast, too. This spring we can work together to make breakfast happen this summer. Cereal Counts!!! is an annual county-wide, cereal box drive aimed at supplying area food pantries with breakfast food for the summer.

Donations of boxed, dry cereal are desperately needed! Please drop new boxes of cereal at the HVCC/JCC on 110 Grand Ave in Poughkeepsie anytime between Wednesday, April 23rd and Sunday, May 4th.

If you can - in advance of May 4th - please also consider hosting a "mini-drive" through your schools, businesses, organizations, teams and groups. Just post a sign or email others with your own collection dates, leave out a carton for donated boxes, and drop off your "mini-load" to us by May 4th. It's easy, fun and incredibly rewarding! On May 4th, an energetic team of volunteers will pack up all of the cereal boxes onto a truck. The cereal will then

be delivered to food pantries run by Dutchess Outreach,

Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers, the Community Action Partnership in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Red Hook and Dover, Hudson River Housing, the Reach Out Church in Hyde Park, Beulah Baptist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Department of Social Services, Interfaith Senior Housing, and more.

Imagine breakfast for all!

Fight summer breakfast hunger with us. Fight local hunger. Every box counts. Every box makes a breakfast meal. CEREAL COUNTS!!! 2014...it's a truckload of good morning health!

Nancy and Dave Samson, Cereal Counts!!!

Coordinators

Max Samson, County-wide Student CC

Captain

845.235.2860.cerealcounts123@aol.com



Purim Gallery



Master chefs shop for the Men's Club Purim dinner.



Cast and crew of Purim Spiel 2014



Men at work?



The Purim Gragger Police



So happy-What were they up to?

Torah to Go Hits the Road

Tuesday, April 8th from 5:00-6:00pm is your chance to see a 120-year-old Torah up close, in the Alley Room at the East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Rte. 376, Hopewell Junction. Help Rabbi Golomb roll and roll the Torah to help preserve it, and learn from author/ linguist Dr. Joel M. Hoffman the surprising connection between Hebrew letters and our own alphabet. Bring family and friends--Refreshments will be served.



Tree of Life

To Honor the Living and to Commemorate Joyous Events
“It is a Tree of Life to those who hold it fast.....”

We invite you to record the joyous events of our family by purchasing a part of our Tree of Life.

The event, name and date will be engraved on each item as a permanent remembrance of the occasion.

Available are: Leaves (\$180 each) and Rocks (\$2800 each).

Half of the proceeds from the Tree of Life will go directly into the Endowment Fund; the other half will go to support ongoing programs and operations of Vas-sar Temple. Forms are available in the East Chapel or in the Temple office.

Spring Tzedakah Box Collection

Please consider a donation to the tzedakah box for the Poughkeepsie Mothers Group. The Group provides both English and Spanish speaking new mothers with parenting skills, an opportunity to socialize with other new mothers, and a source of support at this vulnerable time. Your donation will help provide healthy snacks at their meetings and supplies for activities. Please give them their first Mother’s Day gift! For more information about the group contact Kay Bishop at kaybishop@gmail.com.

Be a Part of Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 4th

Save the date and join with hundreds of volunteers from the area’s Jewish community as we unite in performing service projects to benefit 25 local non-profits during our 16th annual local Mitzvah Day, Sunday, May 4th. There are indoor and outdoor projects to appeal to every interest and age from tots to senior citizens, activities ideal for individuals, families and groups, at sites in Dutchess, Orange & Putnam Counties. Mitzvah Day will take place rain or shine, as we have

alternate projects lined up in case of inclement weather.

The day will begin at 9:00am with a free bagel break-

fast & special entertainment at event headquarters, the Hudson Valley

Community Center (former JCC), 110 S. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie, where everyone will have an opportunity to register and get directions to their project sites. Most projects run from 10:00am until completion. A complementary light lunch at the HVCC will be available to volunteers between 11:45am-1:00pm. Here’s a sampling of projects from which to choose:

- Especially for Tots (age 2-6) & Primary Grade Children: The PJ Library Project & Mitzvah Crafts Tables-- Enjoy a story about Mitzvah. Make gifts & cards for those in need in the community; all at the HVCC;
- Fun for Kids & Families: Do chores at Briggs Farm (and pet the animals), spruce up historic Gomez Mill House, nursing home sing-a-long;
- For Teens: stream cleanup environmental project or choose anything from the list!
- For Adults: help clear the Appalachian Trail, paint, plant, clean up an historic Jewish cemetery, stuff envelopes

We will also be collecting new packaged men’s underwear & socks for the veterans’ clothes closet at the Castle Point V.A. facility and toiletries for residents at local shelters, as well as the boxes of cereal for Cereal Counts.

REGISTER EARLY! Information about all projects accompanies the Mitzvah Day registration form found both in the April issue of *The Voice*, and at www.jewishdutchess.org which will appear on line after April 1st.

Mitzvah Day is planned and carried out by a committee of volunteers, organized by Jewish Family Services (a division of Jewish Federation of Dutchess County), and underwritten by a grant from the Schlossberg Fund. So

Men's Club at Lunch Box

The Vassar Temple Men's Club sponsored Lunch Box on Sunday, March 2nd. Bob Abrams, Joel & Linda Babas, Jeff Brenner, Bob Creedon, Lenny Greenberg, Alan, Aaron & Haley Kafowitz, Joel Kelson, Stan Marcus, Kurt Quackenbush, Bob Ritter, Eric Rosenfeld, Dave Samson, Arlene & Gil Seligman, Dave Smith, and Dave Wolf prepared and served a warm and nutritious meal of chili con carne, salad, bread, chips, fruit, and dessert to many food insecure individuals of our community on a cold winter afternoon. The Abrams, Brenner, Ciminello, Cohen, Creedon, Greenberg, Kelson, Marcus, Partridge, Quackenbush, Seligman, Smith, and Wolf families contributed food, and, as they often do, Joel and Linda Babas did the last minute shopping for the event. Several community members expressed their appreciation to the crew and mentioned that they really enjoyed the meal! Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful event.

French Toast Breakfast...a Success Again!

Our chefs and sous-chefs outdid themselves! Our sincere thanks to Jen Dahnert, Mark Metzger, Alan Kafowitz, Kamil Winiewski, Bob Abrams and Bob Ritter. The event was sponsored once again by Vassar Temple Sisterhood and Men's Club. Their generosity gave us the opportunity to raise \$81 for the Lunch Box. Thank you, also, to members, parents and students for their support.

JWV Plans April Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on April 6, 2014 at Congregation Shomre Israel, Park Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am. As Shomre Israel is strictly kosher, no outside food is allowed.

In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be on Cumulus Radio: 101.5 WPDH, 1490 WKNY, 92.7/96.9 WRRV, 94.3/97.3, 1390/1340 OLDIES, 97.7.

If you need a ride or have a question, please contact Ralph Schwartz, Post Commander at [\(845\)849-0025](tel:8458490025) or Rschwa9881@aol.com.



5th Grade Helps Lunch Box

The VT Fifth Grade Sunday School class ran the Lunch Box program at the Family Partnership Center in the City of Poughkeepsie on Sunday, February 2nd, helping to feed over 100 people, including some children, through donations made by the Temple membership. Usually at the beginning of the month, the Lunch Box is not as busy; but this was not the case this week and has not been the trend this past year. The Lunch Box itself was under-staffed this time, so our team was worked hard. It is more important than ever that our congregation continues to support and expand its contributions to this charity.

The VT team included: Jack Barlow, Leah Barlow, Aidan Brown, Jeremy Frankel, Natalie Frankel, Gigi Goldfisher, Mariel Kelson, Sam Kelson, Rachel Krumholtz, Anna Metzger and Jordan Russo from the Fifth Grade, and parents Howie Brown, Carolynn Frankel, Julie Goldfisher, Claudia & Joel Kelson, Pramila Krumholtz, Mark Metzger and Mark Russo.

While Pramila, Claudia, Mark Russo, and Howie were manning the ovens and making the main dish, Mark Metzger was making the sides and the salads, Julie ran the front line, and Joel and Carolynn were floating around helping whichever team needed us. The kids were doing the bread, mixing the salad, plating the desserts, pouring the drinks, opening cans and handling the service. When things really got going, Howie and Mark Russo joined Julie and the kids up front while Pramila, Carolynn, Mark Metzger, Claudia and Joel kept the

Contributions

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In Honor of:

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 Richard & Marsha Lowry Kent & Kathy Mardon

Dr. Harry & Sandra Mamis on their son
 Steven's wedding engagement
 to Michelle Davis
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APRIL 11

Elsie H. Albert
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 Rosenblum
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 Charles Volkman

APRIL 18

Fannie Bard
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APRIL 25

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Sisterhood Co-Presidents:	Carolynn Frankel & Jennifer Dahnert
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Jeff Brenner & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President:	Sandra Mamis
Youth Group President:	Rachel Marcus



April 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S grades 8-12	3	4	5 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
6 9am R/S K-7 11:30am Lunchbox	7	8	9 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S grades 8-12	10	11 CAN JAM Weekend 7:30pm Shabbat Service	12 9am Torah Study
13 9am R/S Grades K-7	14	15	16 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S grades 8-12	17	18 7:30pm Shabbat Service	19 9am Torah Study
20 9am R/S Grades K-7	21	22	23 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S grades 8-12	24	25 7:30pm Shabbat Service	26 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
27 9am R/S K-7 9:30 am meeting at VT	28	29	30			