



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 8 April 2016

Generations Shabbat: May 6th

Please come with your families to pray, sing and celebrate our Sisterhood and long time members at our Generations Shabbat and dinner on May 6th. This special service, filled with ruach, is led by our Sisterhood members. A family-friendly dinner will precede services. Generations members are invited as our guests. Look for more detailed info in the May Bulletin.

Moveable Feast Coming in May!!!

Save the date - May 14th, 6:30 - 9:30pm, for Vassar Temple's 2016 Moveable Feast. Back by popular demand, we hope to have a choice of at least eight household dinner options for members and friends. Specific menus, pricing, and other details will be announced soon.

Temple families who wish to host a dinner at their home should contact president@vassartemple.org. Please save the date for this wonderful evening of schmoozing with friends and making new friends. Great food, too! All for a good cause - our beloved Vassar Temple!

Mitzvah Day Registration Opens

Dutchess County Mitzvah Day, a day of community service, will be held Sunday, May 15th, and on-line registration opens April 1st at www.jewishdutchess.org. Information about the day's events and all the mitzvah projects you can choose from is in the April issue of *The Voice*. Something for everyone from tots to seniors... Participate as a family... Participate with friends... Or simply bring yourself for an unforgettable experience.

What's new at Mitzvah Day?

- HQ is at Temple Beth El on Grand Ave. (next to JCC)
- Projects at Grace Smith domestic abuse shelters
- The Birthday Project (see below)

Old favorites:

- Free kick-off breakfast, 9:00am
- Historic Cemetery Clean-Up
- Briggs Farm (great for families with young children)
- Appalachian Trail clearing with Ron Rosen
- PJ Library-led mitzvah projects or preschoolers and primary grades
- Do a Talent Show for seniors, and many more!

What is the Birthday Project? Let's provide birthday parties for children who otherwise would have none; a bag filled with birthday cake fixings, a special toy and book reflecting the child's interests, perhaps a party decoration, a gift card.

Choose from many ways to help:

- Bring boxed cake mix, canned icing, boxed birthday candles to donation box in our Temple starting 4/30
- Donate \$36 to sponsor a bag--receive thank you note from child

Upcoming Events:

- April 3 VaTY Lunch Box, p7
- Four Cups Passover Course, p6
- 13 Wise Aging, p6
- 13 *Four Cups* Passover Course, p6
- 14 Book Club, p5
- 20 Wise Aging, p6
- 20 *Four Cups Passover Course*, p6
- 22 *First night Passover Seder*, p3
- 30 New Paths Service, p3

Save the Dates:

- May 2 Yom Hashoah
- May 6 VTS Generations Shabbat, p1
- May 14 Moveable Feast
- May 15 Mitzvah Day (VaTY car wash too)

- Adopt a child's bag to shop for -- receive a thank you note from child
 - Kids: register to decorate and stuff bags at Mitzvah Day HQ
- For information on sponsoring or adopting a bag, please contact Jasmine Russo at jasmainerusso@gmail.com or 845-787-509. For other information about Mitzvah Day, contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org or 845-849-0025.



As we put away our Purim playthings, the Jewish calendar adopts a more serious tone. We

ready our homes for Passover guests and our hearts for a celebration of freedom. We eat unleavened bread for seven days, in solidarity with our fleeing ancestors and all who are not yet free. But even after we have eaten our last matzah ball, our journey is only beginning.

The Hebrew name of Passover, Pesach, refers to the paschal lamb, the sacrifice that bound us into a covenant with God. But the fulfillment of that covenant does not happen until 50 days AFTER our release from Egypt, when we receive the Torah at the foot of Mount Sinai, a moment commemorated on Shavuot.

While these holidays are seven weeks apart, they are connected by an observance called *counting the Omer*. Most likely the 49 days of counting originally applied to counting sheaves during the grain harvest. Today this ritual reenacts our ancestors' waiting to receive the Torah. The Omer is a time of austerity and reflection, during which there is a custom of studying *Pirke Avot*, a book of our rabbis' ethical teach-

ings.

Along with Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot comprise our three pilgrimage festivals, or *regalim*, in which Jews were encouraged to travel to the Temple and make sacrifices. Today we elevate these holidays by reciting *Hallel*, a series of psalms of praise, and *Yizkor*, a prayer in memory of our lost loved ones, particularly if we have lost a parent, sibling, spouse, or child.

Yizkor prayers originated in the Yom Kippur service, where they encouraged the community to honor their loved ones' memories with gifts to *tzedaka*. This practice later expanded to include the *regalim*, giving us more regular opportunities to remember our loved ones, in words and in deeds. **Our Passover Yizkor Services will be held at 10:00am on Friday, April 29th.**

Want to know more? This year, there are exciting opportunities to learn about this season with the rabbis in our community:

Four Cups, Endless Questions: Understanding the Passover Seder

One of the thrilling—and daunting—tasks of building a Jewish home is making a Passover Seder. What do I cook?

Where do I clean? What does all this mean? Join me for an exploration of the Passover Seder. Get ready to be a dynamic host, or an educated guest.

Three Wednesdays, 7:00pm at Vassar Temple:

April 6th *What is Chametz? Why can't we have it on Passover?*

April 13th *Cups, Questions, Children: Why are there four of everything?*

April 20th *What's new in ancient traditions? The traditional and the innovative on the Seder Plate.*

Dueling Rabbis: A Six-Week Course on Pirke Avot (The Ethics of our Ancestors)

Six Tuesdays April 26th - May 31st, 7:00pm at the Boardman Road Library

"Get yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend, and give everyone the benefit of the doubt." (Rabbi Joshua Ben Perachia, Pirke Avot 1:16). Come and learn what our earliest rabbis had to say about faith and ethics, daily practice and social justice. This class will be taught by chevruta (pairs) of rabbis from across the Poughkeepsie Jewish community. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Jewish texts is required. Come learn with us as we learn from each other!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: Any Given Sunday



On Friday and Saturday we pray together and schmooze at the Oneg. But on any given Sunday, you will see Vassar Temple

doing MUCH MORE than teaching our children. You'll see that there are a whole bunch of other Mitzvahs going on. And it is the synergy and value that we derive individually and as a community from the buzz of activities taking place from 9 to noon on a Sunday that brings a great deal of life to our Temple.

On a given Sunday, you might find one or more of the following happening: a prospective member checking us out; a committee meeting; the Men's club or Sisterhood involved in a Temple activity; a volunteer promoting scrip or Judaica to help support the Temple; Tiny Temple; folks dropping off or picking up Lunch Box food; Rabbi speaking with a family; members kibitzing about the Temple, their family, or life in general.

Sunday at VT is like a mini shtetl - a Jewish village. We are a microcosm of Jewish life in our mostly non-Jewish community. The more each of us gets to see and be with one another, the better. The more our children see their parents and other adults engaged in the life of the Temple, the better. The more opportunities children have to interact and be part of this life in our little Jewish village, the better. The more people there are around and engaged in one activity or another, the better. This is exactly what a healthy Jewish congregation looks like.

Being in this environment goes a long way to help young people form their Jewish identity. And, it helps all of us to maintain our own Jewish identity. Each of us can contribute to the environment as well as draw joy from it.

So, if you're dropping your child off for religious school, please come in and stay a little while. Consider carving out time

on occasional Sundays to pick up scrip. Or come in and check out our beautiful Judaica selection as lovely gifts for loved ones. Strike up a conversation with someone you recognize or introduce yourself to others. The sanctuary is a perfect spot to take a moment for a little meditation or to read a bit of scripture. Have a look at our bulletin boards for information on various activities and news. Maybe even drop a donation into the Tzedakah box to help out the month's good cause.

Being part of a village, especially your own Jewish Village - this place we call Vassar Temple - is all the more special when you are engaged in it. When you're a part of the Temple, the Temple is a part of you and your Jewish identity! The image I've described happens as a result of the choices we each make to create room in our lives for our little *Jewish Village* right here in Dutchess County - Vassar Temple - on any given Sunday.

Bob Ritter

April Worship Services

1	7:00pm	Family Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
2	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study Kershenbaum Bat Mitzvah
8	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
9	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Roland Bar Mitzvah
15	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
16	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study Brown Bar Mitzvah
22	5:30pm	First Night Seder
23	9:30am	NO TORAH STUDY at Vassar Temple but all are welcome to attend Pesach service at Temple Beth El
29	7:30pm	Last day of Passover Shabbat Service with with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
30	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service

April Scriptural Readings

- 2 **Shabbat Parah** *Sh'mini* Lev. 11:1-47, Num. 19:1-22; Ezekiel 36:16-38
- 9 **Shabbat Rosh Chodesh** *Tazria* Lev. 13:29-34; Num. 28:9-15, Ex. 12:1-20; Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
- 16 **Shabbat HaGadol** *Metzora* Lev. 14:33-15:33; Malachi 3:4-24
- 23 **Pesach** Ex. 12:21-51, Num. 28:16-25; Joshua 5:2-61
- 30 **Pesach** Deut. 14:2-16:17, Num. 28:19-25; Isaiah 10:32-12:6

Tiny Temple

We had a wonderful time joining in the baking fun during our Temple hamantaschen baking extravaganza! Our youngest participants enjoyed rolling, filling, baking and *eating* delicious hamantaschen as we prepared for Purim. If you have a child under 5 and would like to check out our Tiny Temple program, please join us on April 17th from 11:00-12:00 when we celebrate Passover together.

New Paths Service

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, April 30th at 10:00am in the informal, intimate setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel. The moving liturgy of the New Paths prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz at rabbi@vassar-temple.org, or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

VT First Night Passover Seder: April 22nd

Families, couples, and singles of all ages and generations, join us around the table for Vassar Temple's 5th annual *First Night Passover Seder* to be held in the social hall Friday, April 22nd at 5:30pm. The seder is lay-organized and lay-led with a short seder service using a user-friendly Haggadah and activities to make the evening fun and meaningful for children.

Complementing the traditional ritual foods will be a delicious kosher-style dinner featuring: home-made matzo ball soup, appropriate appetizers, entrée choices of either chicken or fish, herbed vegetable sides, and selected Pesach desserts. Ritual wine or juice and foods, plus non-alcoholic beverages will be available.

- We can handle special dietary requirements if pre-arranged.
- Additional wine may be brought by attendees as desired.

- To cover expenses, the cost is: Adult: \$36; 5-13 year old: \$10; Under age 5: Free with a maximum of \$80 per nuclear family (parents & children).

Please RSVP BY APRIL 3, 2016 by sending your check (made out to Vassar Temple) to: Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Please indicate "Seder 2016", the number of adults and children, and the number wishing each entrée (chicken or fish) on the memo line.

If you have any questions at all about the seder, please contact Sandra Mamis, at seder@vassar-temple.org or 914-456-3524. Seder co-chairs are Ron Rosen and Polly Lewis.

Mazel Tov to...

Eric & Lori Kershenbaum celebrating
Lindsey's Bat Mitzvah;

Mark & Shaari Roland celebrating
Sam's Bar Mitzvah;

Howard Brown celebrating Aiden's Bar
Mitzvah;

Dan & Emma Arnoff on the birth of
their twin sons, Henry and Miles.



Sisterhood Judaica Shoppe

Our yearly Passover sale is scheduled
for April 3rd and 17th from 9:30 to 11:30am.

We carry all your needs for a fes-
tive Passover table: Seder plates, matzah
plates, Kiddush, Elijah and Miriam cups,
tablecloths, and so much more. We are
also featuring some very special new
Israeli artists:

- "Hamsah" by Ester Shahaf, au-
thentic original creations signed
by Ester, individually hand crafted
combining silver, pewter and
Swarovski crystals
- Mezuzot in brushed aluminum by
Adi Sidler, handmade by Irit Gal-
mor, Caesarea Arts black crystal
and Aluminum
- a large assortment of Lior Glushka
hamsah.

Passover 101 will be on April 17th with
recipes and samples to taste! Don't miss it!
Come and browse... our prices will amaze
you.....no shipping charges either!! The
Shoppe is also open during regular Temple
hours. For more information please
contact Perla Kaufman at [brandaliz5@
optonline.net](mailto:brandaliz5@optonline.net) or 914-456-7309.

Condolences to...

Robert Kallman on the passing of his
mother, Marjorie Kallman;

Jen Dahnert on the passing of her step
sister, Jeannie Lawrence.

Refuah Shelemah

Harry Mamis

We Need Your 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.

Pulpit Flowers Donors



April 1: Donated by the Kershenbaum family in honor of
Lindsey's Bat Mitzvah

April 8: Donated by the Roland family in honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah

April 15: Donated by the Brown family in honor of Aiden's Bar Mitzvah

April 22: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

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 Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund. The donation to the Fund is \$55.
Just call the Vassar Temple Office at 454-2570.



Follow Rabbi Berkowitz!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook,
Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram.
Follow her and join the conversation!
Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB
Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](https://www.facebook.com/RabbiLeahBerkowitz)
Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog
at: [http://thisiswhatarabbi-
lookslike.wordpress.com](http://thisiswhatarabbi-lookslike.wordpress.com)



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published monthly

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

From Our Religious School Director: Finding Our Moral Compass



In the middle of the 16th century, a British explorer and seafarer named William Borough wrote a treatise about the unreliability of navigational charts that ignored magnetic north. He called his work, “*A Discourse of the Variation of the Compass, or Magnetical North.*” His point was that only by following the compass carefully can one successfully navigate unknown areas. That’s part one.

Part Two is this: In the decades leading up to the founding of the modern state of Israel, a Hebrew maven and all around maverick named David Yellin invented a modern Hebrew word for “compass.” His choice was *matzpen*, related to the word *tzafon*, which means “north.” For Yellin, the compass was that which pointed north.

The ancient word *tzafon*, which actually means both “north” and “north wind,” comes from the root Tz.P.N. Also from that root is *tzafun*, which means “hidden.” (After all, who knows what lies to the north?) We find *tzafun* in the order of the Passover Seder coming up later this month. The afikomen is *tzafun*, which is why we have to look for it.

The root Tz.P.N also gives us the word *Matzpun*. In antiquity it may have meant “hidden treasure.” In Modern Hebrew, it means “conscience.”

In this roundabout way, the Hebrew words for “compass” and “conscience” end up sounding nearly identical --- *matzpen* and *matzpun* --- underscoring an inherent connection between the two concepts, and practically begging us to ask how a compass is like a conscience. Perhaps a compass helps us literally find our way in the world while our conscience is the moral equivalent. The compass tells us which way is north and our conscience tells us which way is correct.

Or perhaps the connection is that both the right literal path and the right moral path are hidden, and our task is to find them...or perhaps both.

English also emphasizes the connection between morality and literal navigation with the phrase “moral compass” and, in particular, with the notion that one can lose one’s moral compass. The idea is that our day to day existence can take one of two forms. We can be like the captain of a ship on its correct path, guided by a compass, knowing that we will reach our intended destination even though we cannot see it. Or we can be like the captain of a ship who ignores the compass and ends up lost at sea, never to end up where we want.

For that matter, even the phrase “lost at sea” has both literal and moral interpretations.

All of which brings us back to Passover, a holiday, after all, dubbed “the Time of Our Freedom,” during which we celebrate our freedom from Egypt, and, more generally, our ongoing freedom. With that freedom, we know, comes the ability to choose good paths or bad ones. And it turns out that we sometimes have a natural predilection to ignore what we know is right. After all, our first major project as a free people out of Egypt was to build and worship an idol in the form of the Golden Calf.

This is why every spring we both rejoice in our freedom, with Passover, and begin a moral accounting, with the counting of the Omer --- that seven-week period of time from Passover (and freedom) to Shavuot (and Torah).

This year should be no different. So let’s once again start with the Afikomen --- the surprise that is *tzafun*, hidden --- and with it renew our attention to the tools we have for finding our way: the compass in all of its surprising complexity, and even more, our conscience. Ignore them, as we so often tend to do, and we face unforeseen peril. Heed them and we can look forward, as the Omer promises, to a rich life of Torah.

Chag Samei’ach
Dr. Joel Hoffman

Religious School Field Trip to Farm

The Religious School is stepping outside the classroom on April 10th from 9-11:30. Grades K-7 are heading to the Poughkeepsie Farm Project to experience in real-time concepts about trees and ecology they learned while studying TuB’Shevat. The children will be participating in age-appropriate activities as they learn about our local soil and healthy foods and will be making their own snacks! Our Jewish Heritage of sustaining the earth, nature, God and all its splendor will be right before their eyes at the Farm!

Parents are more than welcome to attend this trip with their children. Please dress accordingly. Children *will* get dirty! The fee is \$5 per child. Permission slips will be sent home with parents so we have an accurate number to give the farm of those participating. More details will come as we get closer to the date.

Please contact Shaari Roland, Religious School Committee Chair, shaari@optonline.net, with any questions.



Summer Veggies on the Way!

Do you love fresh local veggies? Do you want to support local farmers and also contribute to an important community initiative? If so...here's a great opportunity for you and your family!

Pri HaEmek, now into its fourth year, is a not-for-profit Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiative that is grounded in Jewish values concerning the environment. Pri HaEmek is Hebrew for Bounty of the Valley. A CSA is a cooperative agreement between a farmer and a group of people who agree to pre-purchase a share of the farmer's produce for an entire season. The CSA gives members access to fresh, local, sustainably grown produce at competitive prices, while helping to preserve farmland and building community. Pri HaEmek is partnering with Lineage Farm in Hudson. Each week shareholders will choose from a wide variety of seasonal vegetables, freshly harvested and delivered by our farmers, including: lettuce, arugula, salad turnips, kale, Swiss chard, broccoli rabe, garlic and garlic scapes, cabbage, tomatoes, onions, summer & winter squash, carrots, cucumbers, herbs, beans, beets, and radishes.

Besides the great veggies, it's really fun to participate and share food ideas and recipes with the group. Several Vassar Temple families are already members. And, as an added bonus...there is not a huge work requirement to join; only 4-6 hours over the entire season which runs from early June through October. The distribution is held weekly at the Hudson Valley Community Center.

Membership is open to anyone, regardless of religious background. A \$36 membership fee is required from each family which enables us to offer *tzedakah* shares to those in need and provide programming for our members.

Full Share – 10 different veggies each week for \$500

Small Share – 5 different veggies each week for \$300

For further information, please contact: bountyofthevalley@gmail.com

Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day 2016

All those tasty hamantaschen that we ate for Purim could not have been made without the help of a lot of people. Just like in years past, both the social hall and the kitchen were filled with people of all ages rolling, filling and baking LOTS of delicious hamantaschen. It was a hectic day but with the great group of people we had helping it was definitely a fun day!

The religious school participated in making hamantaschen as well. I'm always amazed at how our students are becoming extraordinary pastry chefs! Laura Brundage and Fern Wolf helped the Tiny Temple kids enjoy their first foray into making hamantaschen. Fern and her helpers then readied thirty-five packages of hamantaschen to be sent to our college students and dozens more were prepared for outreach by Barbara Mindel and Roz Kafflowitz to be delivered by our many volunteers.

This year not a single tray was burned, thanks to Lisa Rubenstein, Nadine Zaritsky, Marcia Tanzman and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush. Very impressive ladies! Also astonishing was how Ann Lerman, Ronni Jarvis and Jen Dahnert rolled out and cut all those hamantaschen so perfectly.

Lots of people contributed to making the day such a success and with the temperature outside hitting 60 degrees, we didn't even have to worry about snow! A huge THANK YOU to all our helpers and dough makers. We couldn't have done it without you! This includes Rabbi Berkowitz, Laura Brundage, Susan Colodner, Jen Dahnert, Oriana Danenberg, Carolyn Frankel, Sherrie Geisler, Eve Gendron, Janet Greenman, Tamara Gruszko, Susan Hecht, Ronni Jarvis, Nili Jerome, Meredith Kafflowitz, Roz Kafflowitz, Perla Kaufman, Muriel Lampell, Ann Lerman, Polly Lewis, Dorothy Markus, Barbara Mindel, Danah Moore, Lynda Morgenstern, Amy Horn Oclatis, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Lisa Rubenstein, Nancy Samson, Alex Sinn, Michele Sinn, Roni Stein, Marcia Tanzman, Shira Teich, Fern Wolf and Nadine Zaritsky. A special thanks to Michelle Sinn and Marcia Tanzman for making gluten free hamantaschen and to those of you who came early to help with set up and stayed late for cleanup. There were so many people helping out that I'm sure I unintentionally left someone off this list. I hope you all realize that without your help the day would not have been as successful as it was.

Judy Rosenfeld

Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Chair

From Chametz-to-Table

As Passover approaches and you clear your cabinets of chametz in preparation for the holiday, we hope you will consider donating these foods to help feed the hungry in our community. This March and April, please drop off your canned and non-perishable goods in the CAN JAM bin. We will bag and deliver them to food pantries in Dutchess County.

Happy Passover

Nancy Samson

462-4828 or canjam123@aol.com

Four Cups, Endless Questions: Understanding the Passover Seder

Perhaps one of the most thrilling—and daunting—tasks of building a Jewish home is putting together a Passover Seder. What do I cook? Where do I clean? And what does all of this mean? Join Rabbi Berkowitz for a three-week exploration of the Passover Seder; and get ready to be a dynamic host...or an educated guest.

- **April 6:** *What Is Chametz and Why Can't We Have It on Passover?*
- **April 13:** *Cups, Questions, Children: Why Are There Four of Everything?*
- **April 20:** *What's New in Ancient Traditions: The Traditional and the Innovative on the Seder Plate*

WHEN: Three Wednesdays:
April 6, 13, 20 at 7:00pm

WHERE: Vassar Temple

Further info: vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com or 845-454-2570

Jewish War Veterans Meet April 10th



The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, April 10th at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie. The meeting begins at 9:30am.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces (Active, Reserve, or National Guard) are cordially invited to attend and participate in the activities of this JWV Post. As Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue.

For further information, please contact the Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison at ROBL56@aol.com.



Sisterhood Lunch Box a Success

Sisterhood Lunch Box was a terrific success! Many thanks go to our members and volunteers. We prepared, cooked and served chili, salad and fixings for those who came to the Family Partnership Center. Thanks go out to Judy Rosenfeld, Melissa Erlebacher, Brianna Erlebacher, Laura Brundage, Danah Moore, Jacob Moore, Jen Dahnert, Judy Harkavy, Roni Stein, Ellen Zelig, Nadine Zaritsky, Robin Peritz, Michele Sinn, and Shaari Roland, Arlene and Gil Seligman, and Marianne Abrams. Thank you to Marian Schwartz for all of her guidance, Perla for taking photos, and Linda Babas for shopping! If we have overlooked anyone's contributions, please accept our gratitude and apologies.



VaTy: Upcoming Events

- **April 1-3: NFTY NAR/GER Junior Youth Kallah @ URJ Kutz Camp (6th - 7th graders)**

Open to 6th and 7th graders, Junior Youth Kallah is an opportunity to give our youngest members of NFTY a taste of what's to come when they reach high school. This weekend long event is designed to allow Reform Jewish students from all over the Tri-State area to meet each other and engage in a weekend of socialization, fun and Jewish learning. The event will be run by a combination of high school teens and adults from the Tri-State Area. Registration fee assistance is available.

- **April 3: VaTY Lunch Box**
- **April 15-17: NFTY NAR Spring Kallah @ URJ Camp Eisner (8th -12th graders)**

Spring Kallah is a weekend retreat for any Reform Jewish teen in the NY Area. Teens come from all over Long Island, New York City, Westchester and Fairfield to spend the weekend meeting other Jewish teens from throughout the area, engaging in meaningful conversations and actions around social justice, participating in teen-led prayer and spirituality, most importantly, having fun together. Get ready for a weekend

of fun, food, singing, games, and other surprises with over 200 8th through 12th grade Reform Jews! Registration fee assistance is available.

- **May 15: Mitzvah Day Car Wash**

Email us at youthgroup@vassartemple.org if you have questions, suggestions or want to participate!
B'Shalom

Shira and Dan

New Leaf on Tree of Life

A leaf has been placed on the Vassar Temple Tree of Life in honor of Rabbi Berkowitz by Alim and Anafim contributors. Proceeds from the Tree of Life support the endowment Fund, ongoing programs, and operations.

Alim ~ Leaves

David & Amy Berkowitz
Charles & Joan Blanksteen
Samuel & Adriaan Finnerman
Howard & Emily Himelstein
David & Marilyn McGaulley Lampell
Lou & Candace Lewis
Dr. Harry & Sandra Mamis
Dr. Arthur & Carol Menken
Mark & Kathleen Metzger
Bob & Mary Ritter
James & MaryAnn Robinowitz
Ron & Marilyn Rosen
Dr. Loren & Charlene Rosenthal
Brian & Helen Silverman
Gloria Turk

Anafim ~ Branches



Joseph Ambash & Lillian Weigert
Dr. Andrew Chernack & Dr. Barbara Payne
Paul & Andrea Ciminello
Robert & Judith Creedon
Dr. Paul & Barbara Dworkin
Melissa Erlebacher
Richard & Harriet Fein
Edward & Vivian Garber
Dr. Jeffrey & Nan Genshaft
Eric & Barbara Gillman
Dr. Jack & Fredrica Goodman
David & Susan Karnes Hecht
Cantor Patrice Kaplan
Dr. Daniel & Molly Katz
Matthew & Muriel Lampell
Elaine Lipschutz
Kent & Kathy Mardon
Lila Matlin
Steven & Margot Riley Peter
Bonnie Scheer
Rabbi Mayer & Ann Selekmán
Gilbert & Arlene Seligman
Murray & Mary Solomon
Charles & Roni Stein
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Nadine Zaritsky

Shorashim ~ Roots

Robert & Marianne Abrams
Daniel & Susan Albinder
William & Susan Barbash
Joseph & Judy Berkowitz
Catherine Bokor
Richard & Linda Cantor
Martin & Eleanor Charwat
Doris Cohen
Stephen & Jennifer Sachs Dahnert
Georgene Dreishpoon
Elisa Dugatkin
Richard DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein
Rabbi Larry Freedman
Rabbi John Friedman

Arthur Gellert
Rabbi Paul & Deborah Golomb
L. Arnold & Roslyn Goralnick
Leonard & Barbara Greenberg
Dr. Arthur & Margery Groten
Judith Harkavy
Kristin Judd
Eleanor Katz
Joel & Claudia Kelson
Eric & Lori Kershenbaum
Lee & Michelle Klein
Richard Levien
Brett Lubarsky
Michael & Marcy Lubarsky
Barbara Mindel
Jeremy & Danah Moore
Dr. Kenneth & Amy Horn Oclatis
Eleanor Pupko
Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Betty Renner
Eric & Judy Rosenfeld
Arnold Serotsky
Craig & Michele Sinn
Jerold & Eileen Slate
Barbara Stern
Ira & Sherry Tackel
Glenn & Marcia Tanzman
Daniel & Shira Teich
Hal & Jennifer Teitelbaum
Rabbi Daniel Victor
David & Fern Greenberg Wolf
Ellen Zelig



Buy Scrip

Help Yourself
Help the Temple

Support our Teen Lunch Box

Our Temple teens, grade 8-12, led by the youth group, are sponsoring Lunch Box on Sunday, April 3rd and they are seeking donations of:

3 lbs. all beef franks

1 to 2 dozen pieces fresh fruit/ bananas/ grapes

Your food donations, labeled "For Lunch Box," can be dropped off beforehand whenever Temple is open (non-perishables in the plastic bin on the counter near the kitchen door, perishables in the fridge).

If you can help please let Shira-Teich know what you will contribute at teichs11@gmail.com or (781) 492-1244. Checks made out to Vassar Temple with "Lunch Box" on the memo line also help this life-sustaining project and are tax deductible.



Weekly Study at Vassar Temple

"Torah Study" with the Temple's Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, is held Saturday mornings at 9:00am (no class 4/23). "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*" is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays at noon. All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! Questions? rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845)454-2570

Yiddish Fun!

You are invited to enjoy an hour of Yiddish (broken) conversation, songs and culture at Hudson Valley Community Center (former JCC), 110 S. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie, on Tuesdays at 11:00am. You or Mom & Dad, Grandma & Grandpa are promised a delightful time. For more information call Rita Freeman at 845-473-4129.

(RJV) Reform Jewish Voice of NYS Advocacy Group Forming

We recently held a luncheon featuring guest speaker Arleen Stein, a representative from the Reform Jewish Voice of New York State, an organization which is comprised of volunteers from various congregations and whose purpose is to promote state legislation addressing the root causes of social and economic injustice, advocate for ethical government, and advance religious tolerance and human dignity throughout the state. Arleen is a member of Congregation Beth Emeth in Albany and has served on the Commission on Social Action of the Union of Reform Judaism, with whom RJV is affiliated.

As there was a lot of interest in what Arlene had to say, we are forming an advocacy group at Vassar Temple. Arleen would be happy to return to give them the training they need to successfully approach our state legislators on these issues throughout the year, and everyone is invited to participate in RJV's annual Advocacy Day in Albany on Monday, May 9th. We recognize that Vassar Temple is a politically diverse congregation, and this group will discuss how we can engage in advocacy on an individual level, not as representatives of Vassar Temple.

Please contact socialaction@vassar-temple.org if you are interested in joining the advocacy group. Visit rjvnys.org for more information on RJV and to sign onto their e-mail list.

Wise Aging Program Resumes April 13th

On Wednesday evening, April 13th at 7:00pm, *Wise Aging* resumes after a Winter hiatus. We welcome new people – men and women – as well as those who participated in the fall. There will be an introductory session for newcomers on April 13th and we will meet as the entire group on April 20th, both beginning at 7:00pm. We will select future dates at that time. If you plan to come to the Intro Session or have any questions, please call: Debbie Golomb at 483-7717 or Linda Cantor at 473-1819.



Yahrzeits

APRIL 1

Herman Baskin
 Harry Bronfeld
 Jeanette Ada
 Cohen
 Morris Domes
 Dorothy Esner
 David H. Ettenson
 Hon. Joseph H.
 Gellert
 Zoey Rachel
 Gillman
 Ilse Holzer
 Samuel Karnes
 Rose Baum Kraut
 Milton Levitt
 Morris S.
 Rosenmann
 William M.
 Rothstein
 Tillie Schwartz
 Cora Frances
 Solomon
 Pearl Teperman
 Martin Turk

APRIL 8

Isador Albinder
 Samuel Baskin
 Joseph Frankel
 Lorraine Goldberg
 Dr. Albert Gould
 Idel Izraelewicz
 Martha Katz
 Lillian F. Kovacs
 Morris D. Kovacs
 Morris Landau
 Frances Lazarus
 Jeannette S. Newman
 Joshua Lowe Posner
 Rhona Prussin
 Mollie Rosenberg
 Morris Rosenberg
 Idane Evan Salenger
 Vawn Jennifer
 Salenger
 Eric Samson
 Mimi L. Schor
 Max Michael Simon,
 MD
 Max Solomon

APRIL 15

Elsie H. Albert
 Elias Altman
 Fannie Bard
 Harry Degenshein
 Jack Jacobson
 Dr. Paul Koltai
 David Korobkin
 Anne Lacher
 Philip Lacher
 Evelyn Lanning
 Sadie Lieberman
 Mildred Metlis
 Evelyn Partridge
 Herbert Rosand
 Kenneth (Mickey)
 Rosenblum
 Solomon Salberg
 Ida Salit
 Louis Schwartz
 Nathan "Toolie" Turk
 Charles Volkman, Sr.
 Dr. Fritz Weigert

APRIL 22

Jesse Barbash
 Harry Bard
 Eva Bley
 George N. Freedman
 Elizabeth "Libby"
 Horowitz
 Alfred Kapner
 Doreen Kimmel
 Delbert LaLone
 Daniel Lenger
 Joan Marshall
 Eric Mendel
 Nathan L. Reifler
 Norman S. Reifler
 Lester M. Ritter
 Gladys Salberg
 Julius Seif
 Joan Sachs Shasan
 Gertrude Rosenmann
 Sonkin
 Marion Volkman
 Samuel H. Weisman
 Gertrude Weiss
 Rebecca Wolfson

APRIL 29

Sidney Cohen
 Ruth Edna Day
 Anna Dreishpoon
 Pauline Dubler
 Jacob Ettenson
 Frances R. Finnerman
 Edith Kaufherr
 Faye Prisansky Kaufman
 Beverly Kelly
 Bessie Goldman Lass
 Simi Levy
 Hester Lox
 Edward Moffit
 Sara Silberman
 Esther Strauss
 Mark Syrkin
 J. Louis Sumner
 Abraham Tavss
 Robert Uttal
 Dr. Wolfgang U. Weigert

Memorial Board Plaques

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

Book Club to Discuss *All Other Nights* on April 14th



Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss, just in time for Passover, *All Other Nights* by Dara Horn, an historical novel which

takes place during the Civil War. The meeting will be on Thursday, April 14th, at 2:00pm., in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141

Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

All Other Nights explores race and religion in 19th century America. Jacob Rappaport, the son of a wealthy import-export family, flees home and enlists in the Union Army to avoid an arranged marriage. When his superiors discover his unique connections, he is sent on espionage missions that reveal an American Jewish population divided by the Mason-Dixon Line, but united by business, religious, and family ties. Jacob is ordered to murder his own uncle, who is plotting to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. The murder is to take place on

Passover. Based on real historical figures, Dara Horn's novel has been described by critics as "multilayered, page-turning storytelling at its best," the mix of love and loyalty played out in a divided America.

The book is available in paperback and through the local library system. Elaine Lipschutz 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. Please feel free to

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz' Installation
Ivy F. Hoffman & Megan Valentine
Kent & Kathy Mardon

In Memory of:

Martin L. Lowenthal
Charles, Roni & Joseph Stein
Naomi Goldberg Barbara Aronson

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Mary Ritter in organizing *Fiddler on the Roof* trip Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Marian & Ralph Schwartz and New Paths Services Jane LaLone
David Lampell's 65th birthday
Janel L. Aronson
Dan & Emma Arnoff on the birth of their twin sons, Henry and Miles
Bob & Mary Ritter
Sandra Mamis & the VT Ritual Committee for putting the Installation dinner together beautifully
Lila Matlin

In Memory of:

Jon Franklin Katz Eleanor Katz
Samuel Karnes The Karnes Hecht Family
George Meltzer
Alan S. Rubenstein Lisa Rubenstein
Ruth Parry Kathryn Mardon
Irving Rosenthal Loren & Charlene Rosenthal
Kurt Similes Sandra Mamis
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Rose Baum Kraut
Dutch Kraut
Nathaniel Baum Nina & Nicholas Kraut
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Edward Moffit Kent & Kathy Mardon
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Naomi Goldberg D'Arcangelo & Co
Polly Lewis
Ed & Vivian Garber
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Lila Matlin
Dr. & Mrs Bruce E. Waxman

Richard & Linda Cantor
Janel L. Aronson
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Fanny Dean Gorden

Barbara N. Scheer
Wallace & Elizabeth Schwartz
Thomas M. Cervone
Bill & Carol Rhode

David & Susan Hecht
Marie Cole
Chuck & Marland Berghorn
Irma Jacobs

Muriel & Matt Lampell
John & Karen Herring
Charles & Karen Simon
Doi Cohen

Steven & Amy Effron
Jack & Rita Effron
Larry & Cindy Jacobson

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz on becoming Vassar Temple's rabbi Frank & Paula Sloan

LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of:

Naomi Goldberg Joan Reifler

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Memory of:

Sol Lipschutz
Benjamin Clarfeld Elaine Lipschutz

FUND FACTS – Sustaining Memories and the Temple

If you are like me, throughout the year you receive periodic notices about upcoming Yahrzeits for your loved ones who have passed away. My first response is usually to note the Shabbat observance of the Yahrzeit on my calendar, and the buck stops there...literally! But in response to these important Yahrzeits, there is another step one can take, and I am devoting my column this month to encourage you to consider taking that step: it is called the **Sustaining Fund**.

The notice you receive is not only intended to remind you of the Yahrzeit, it also provides you with an opportunity to make a donation in memory of your loved one. Contributions made for this purpose are generally (though not categorically) directed toward Temple's Sustaining Fund, and as such, help sustain the operating costs of the Temple. This is an important source of income on which the Temple's leadership depends to make ends meet. Starting this month, you will notice a change in the design

and size of the Yahrzeit notice, as a means to provide you with more information about making donations and to offer more personalized wishes on these occasions.

So the next time you receive a Yahrzeit notice – new design and all – don't let "the buck stop there." Please consider directing Chai, or whatever amount you choose, to sustaining your loved ones' memories, and to sustaining our Temple at the same time. You will be doing a double Mitzvah.

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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Senior Scholar:	Paul Golomb
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
1st Vice-President	Mark Metzger
2nd Vice- President:	Ron Rosen
Secretary:	Susan Karnes Hecht
Treasurer:	Len Greenberg
Sisterhood Co-Presidents:	Laura Brundage & Danah Moore
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President:	Bob Abrams
Youth Group President:	Brianna Erlebacher

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm Family Shabbat Service	2 9am Torah Study 10am Kershenbaum Bat Mitzvah
3 9am R/S, Gr. K-7 12pm Lunchbox	4	5 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Committee	6 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr 8-12 7pm Learn about Passover with Rabbi Berkowitz	7 10am SEP	8 7:30pm Shabbat Service	9 9am Torah Study 10am Roland Bar Mitzvah
10 Religious School Class Trip	11	12 10am SEP 11am Rabbi's Lunch 12pm Talmud Study 6pm VTS Donor Dinner	13 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr 8-12 7pm Intro Wise Aging 7pm Learn about Passover with Rabbi	14 10am SEP 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Exec Cmte Meeting	15 7:30pm Shabbat Service	16 9am Torah Study 10am Brown Bar Mitzvah
17 9am R/S, Gr. K-7 10am Tiny Temple	18	19 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	20 4:30pm Hebrew School (last day) 6:30pm R/S Gr 8-12 7pm Intro Wise Aging 7pm Learn about Passover with Rabbi 7pm Finance Cmte	21 10am SEP	22 First night of Passover 10am Yizkor Service No Shabbat Services	23 Passover No Torah Study
24 Passover No Religious School	25 Passover	26 Passover 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Omer classon Pirke Avot	27 Passover No Religious School	28 Passover 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	29 Passover (last day) 7:30pm Shabbat Service	30 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths