



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

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

### Generations Shabbat: May 6<sup>th</sup>

Please come with your families to pray, sing and celebrate our Sisterhood and long time members at our Generations Shabbat and dinner on May 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>, and on-line registration opens April 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://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](mailto:jasmainerusso@gmail.com) or 845-787-509. For other information about Mitzvah Day, contact Marian Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup>.**

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 6<sup>th</sup> *What is Chametz? Why can't we have it on Passover?*

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

April 20<sup>th</sup> *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 26<sup>th</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:00 when we celebrate Passover together.

## New Paths Service

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com), Rabbi Berkowitz at [rabbi@vassar-temple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassar-temple.org), or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

## VT First Night Passover Seder: April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Families, couples, and singles of all ages and generations, join us around the table for Vassar Temple's 5<sup>th</sup> annual *First Night Passover Seder* to be held in the social hall Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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@](mailto:brandaliz5@optonline.net)  
[optonline.net](http://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](https://twitter.com/RabbiLRB)  
Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](https://www.facebook.com/RabbiLeahBerkowitz)  
Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog  
at: <http://thisiswhatarabbi-looklike.wordpress.com>



## Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published monthly

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Marianne Abrams

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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@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 *Matzpen*. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com) or 845-454-2570



## Jewish War Veterans Meet April 10<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 (6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> graders)**

Open to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 (8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Reform Jews! Registration fee assistance is available.

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

Email us at [youthgroup@vassartemple.org](mailto: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 Himmelstein  
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 Selekman  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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? [rabbib@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbib@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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:socialaction@vassar-temple.org) if you are interested in joining the advocacy group. Visit [rjvnys.org](http://rjvnys.org) for more information on RJV and to sign onto their e-mail list.

## Wise Aging Program Resumes April 13<sup>th</sup>

On Wednesday evening, April 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> and we will meet as the entire group on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 Dreishpooon  
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 14<sup>th</sup>



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 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm., in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141

Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

*All Other Nights* explores race and religion in 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 65<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Janel L. Aronson  
Dan & Emma Aronoff 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  
Russell Oppenheimer  
Miriam Oppenheimer  
Jill Oppenheimer Auerbach

Susan Matlin

Louis Shub  
Morris Levine

Lila Matlin

Lila Matlin

Ralph Partridge

Evelyn Partridge

Tessie Turk

Harvey Kflowitz

Rose Baum Kraut

Dutch Kraut

Nathaniel Baum

Sidney Greenman

Richard Partridge

Steven & Shelly Turk

Roslyn Kflowitz

Nina & Nicholas Kraut

Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz

Marjorie Kallman

Richard & Linda Cantor

Lillian Gerber

Lillian Feldman

Annemarie Teutsch

Evelyn Lanning

Robert Feldman

Doi Cohen

James & Maryann Robinowitz

Blanche Fertig

Marjorie Kallman

Phyllis Ritter

Morton & Rita Alterman

Ann Lacher

Ester G. Rheingold

Herman Jacobs

Edward Moffit

Bernard Zuckerman

Naomi Goldberg

Maury & Miriam Lacher

Irma Jacobs

Kent & Kathy Mardon

Adrian Zuckerman

D'Arcangelo & Co

Polly Lewis

Ed & Vivian Garber

Kent & Kathy Mardon

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 Dahnert*



# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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www.vassartemple.org



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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