



Where You Belong

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אחים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 160 No. 2 Aug/Sept 2013

## Vassar Temple to Receive Award “Vassar Temple Cares About Hunger”

Vassar Temple will be honored by Dutchess Outreach for our extraordinary commitment to fighting hunger at their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Brunch at the Grandview in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. This award recognizes the contributions made by all our members who have helped support Dutchess Outreach's LunchBox and Beverly Closs Food Pantry through Vassar Temple social action projects. Whether you filled a bag with groceries for the Yom Kippur Food Drive, cooked and served at the LunchBox, dropped nonperishables into the Can Jam bin, delivered cans of Souper Sale soup, or donated much needed funds and food to our seasonal drives throughout the year, you have made a difference in the lives of our Dutchess County neighbors in need.

The proceeds from the Brunch and a related raffle will benefit all the vital programs of Dutchess Outreach. Last year Dutchess Outreach's LunchBox served over 100,000 meals and provided the snacks for two afterschool programs. Their food pantry distributed enough food to provide 84,582 meals for local families. In addition, Dutchess Outreach delivers free nutritious meals to the homebound suffering from HIV/AIDS, houses a children's clothes closet, facilitates donations of essential household goods and kitchenware to families, provides one-time emergency assistance for utility, rent, mortgage, or medication payments and arranges transportation to rehab. They give referrals and do advocacy, encouraging clients to take responsibility for taking care of themselves, treating each client with individuality and dignity. To learn more about Dutchess Outreach, visit [www.dutchessoutreach.org](http://www.dutchessoutreach.org).

If you would like to join us to celebrate

## Break Your Fast at Temple Again This Year

At the conclusion of our Yom Kippur services, join with your Temple family and friends for a traditional dairy meal at the seventh annual Vassar Temple Break the Fast in our Social Hall. After praying together as a congregation, let's celebrate the beginning of the New Year with each other on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> around 6:15 p.m., following *Ne'ilah*, the concluding Yom Kippur service, and the traditional Havdalah service led by our Youth Group.

In order to enjoy salads, kugel, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, fish, bagels, sweets and more on September 14<sup>th</sup>, you must prepay your reservation by Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 for children ages 6 to 16 (children under 6 are free). The maximum cost is \$40 per family unit. Just send a check made payable to Vassar Temple, with Break the Fast on the memo line, to 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 before September 6<sup>th</sup>.

To contribute food, or to be part of the fun of preparing for the Break the Fast, contact Sandra Mamis at [ssmdermpa78@gmail.com](mailto:ssmdermpa78@gmail.com) or 914-456-3524.

this honor and to help Dutchess Outreach to continue offering these critical services in our community, tickets for the Brunch are available for \$75 or two for \$140. Tickets can be ordered by mail from Dutchess Outreach, 29 North Hamilton St. Suite 222, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or by calling Carol Hegener at 454-3792 x3208. If you would like to be part of a table from Vassar Temple, contact [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) before ordering your tickets.

In addition to Vassar Temple, Ulster Savings Bank and Peter Berbec (Domino's Pizza) will also receive special awards at the Brunch.

## Upcoming Events

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## Help Break Last Year's CROP WALK Record

The annual Dutchess County Interfaith CROP WALK will be held October 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am at the JCC building, and ending at 4pm at JCC building, 110 S. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie. See how you can be part of this major fundraiser to help combat hunger locally, nationally, and globally.

- Be a walker. Get sponsors and walk with friends, family, and Temple members. The route is 6.3 miles, but you can walk as much or as little of the route as you feel comfortable.
- Sponsor other walkers, including our rabbi. Watch the table in the lobby for a clipboard where you can sign up to sponsor Rabbi Golomb!
- Bake for the bake sale to be held outside the JCC that day to support the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, or stop by to purchase some home made treats.
- Help at the registration table. Twenty-five percent of the money raised comes back to nutrition sites and food pantries in our local communities such as Dutchess Outreach and the Community Action Partnership. Last year

*crop walk continued on page 5*

# Rabbi's Message: Two Special Observances



As a result of the gyrations of the Jewish lunar calendar overlaying the civic solar year, the observance of Rosh Hashanah falls near the beginning of September this year. Here it is, therefore, the middle of the summer, and it is already time to talk and think about the Holidays!

I have noted in the past that the observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have virtually no home component. There is no Sukkah-raising, menorah lighting or Seder dinner that permits one to fulfill the obligation of the holiday without actually going to the synagogue. These Holy Days, therefore, place greater focus on the notions of worship and assembly than any other aspect of our Jewish lives. So, let us focus.

I wish to highlight two services that take place during the Holy Days. They tend to be overlooked as neither falls into our conventional pattern of synagogue-going.

## *S'likhot*

The "Days of Awe" is given a running start. On the Saturday night preceding Rosh Hashanah (this year it is August 31),

Jews gather for a relatively brief ceremony in which they might begin to come to grips with their wrong-doings of the previous year, and express regret (*s'likhot*). Why Saturday night? Shabbat, a day given over to rest and relaxation, is over.

At Vassar Temple, S'likhot is a multi-layered affair: from celebration to introspection. The evening begins with dessert – a diet-busting spread – and the honoring of the Rabbi Stephen Arnold Award winner (this year, it is the Samson family). The program then moves into the sanctuary with the always fascinating *This I Believe*, brief talks that will be given this year by Stella Turk and Sandy Metlis, and a concluding S'likhot liturgy.

S'likhot represents in a single evening what the synagogue is all about. Over the course of a few hours, there is celebration, camaraderie, food, learning, contemplation and devotion. Coming to Vassar Temple on the eve of S'likhot is a microcosm of what coming to Vassar Temple means.

## *Yom Kippur Musaf*

Most of us think about Jewish worship as something that happens in evenings and mornings. On the fast day of Yom Kippur, however, some people find it easier to remain in the synagogue than to go wherever they may be tempted to eat. Thus, services

are designed virtually throughout the day. Vassar Temple puts the Memorial (*Yizkor*) observance near the end of the afternoon, right before the concluding (*Ne'ilah*) service. Hidden in plain sight is a service that covers much of the stretch of the afternoon.

The liturgy in the Reform High Holy Day prayer book (the Mahzor) actually combines two traditional services: a conventional afternoon (*Minhah*) worship, which includes a Torah reading, and the Yom Kippur *Musaf*. Reform Judaism has formally dropped this service whose principal purpose is to recall the sacrifices done in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. The liturgy on Yom Kippur is an exception. This *Musaf* recalls the extraordinary pageant that was held at the Temple in the last two centuries of its existence. At that time, the High Priest would perform three special sacrifices of atonement for himself, his family and the whole Jewish community, and then enter into the holiest part of the Temple in order to speak God's otherwise unpronounced name. It is a moment of high drama; an occasion when sacrifice is submerged into the themes of atonement and forgiveness.

The Yom Kippur *Musaf* goes beyond

*Rabbi, con'd on pg 8*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Looking Forward to a Good Year



As the summer draws to a close, we observe the New Year of 5774, we embark on a new school year and celebrate the return of our full programming at Vassar Temple. I have been reflecting on my first year as your president – the highs and the lows, the challenges and the successes – and I can state without hesitation that I have thoroughly enjoyed all of it. I am looking forward with enthusiasm to what the next year has in store.

The primary reason I found my first year as president so fulfilling is all of you: our congregants, board members, committee members, our Education Director, and our Rabbi. Our Board of Trustees is strong, diverse, forward thinking and a group that works well together. Members are free to disagree without rancor, all for the betterment of our synagogue. I am constantly reminded of their collective wisdom and imaginative ideas. Our committees, including Sisterhood and Men's Club, are strong and led by and comprised of dedicated volunteers

working toward a common purpose.

Vassar Temple is positioning itself to be "the Education Temple" in Dutchess County. With a bold plan approved by the Temple Board this past spring, Vassar Temple will deliver religious education that is included at no additional fee to Vassar Temple members. At the same time, the Board asked Joel Hoffman to create a Hebrew School program, with a curriculum for grades 5, 6 and 7. This will be accompanied by a stronger emphasis on Hebrew vocabulary in the lower Religious School grades.

Looking forward, we need to continue our efforts to reduce and eliminate our yearly budget deficit. Ultimately, that depends on our ability to increase Temple membership and to support fundraising efforts, which help generate income for the many programs and services that the Temple offers. Many thanks to Perla Kaufman and the Membership Committee for engaging people who have expressed interest in the Temple by showcasing the many functions and activities that Vassar Temple has to offer Jewish families in our area. A hearty

thanks goes to the amazing Sandra Mamis for her continued championing of SCRIP, which raises income for the temple without costing members additional money.

This month, I'd like to especially thank Joel Kelson, whose personal commitment has resulted in a beautiful new Vassar Temple website. Several months ago, the Temple started a project to create a new website, replacing the original website created and managed by Richard Lowry over the past six years. Our new website is based on a feature offered by the URJ, allowing the Temple to create a modern look for our site. Joel picked up the project and personally completed updates required for Vassar Temple's special requirements. He recently engaged the temple's Publicity Caucus to review the site's content and to bring the information up to date. Vassar Temple is very proud of this accomplishment.

Marianne and I wish each and every one of you a sweet and healthy New Year. I thank you for the privilege of being your president

*Bob Abrams*

## Shabbat and Festival Services

Aug. 23 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening, led by Ben Krevolin  
 Aug. 30 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening, led by Rabbi Golomb  
 Aug. 31 9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
 7:30 p.m. S'likhot program and worship

### Sept. 4 Rosh Hashanah

6:30 p.m. Family Service  
 8:30 p.m. Evening Service  
 Sept. 5 10:00 a.m. Morning Service  
 2:30 p.m. Children's Service  
 4:00 p.m. Tashlich at Vassar College  
 Sept. 6 10:00 a.m. 2nd Day Service  
 Sept. 6 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening, led by Rabbi Golomb  
 Sept. 7 9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
 10:15a.m. New Paths Shabbat

### Sept. 13 Yom Kippur

6:30p.m. Family Service  
 8:30p.m. Evening Service  
 Sept. 14 10:00a.m. Morning Service  
 12:30p.m. Study  
 1:30p.m. Children's Service  
 2:45p.m. Afternoon Service  
 4:45p.m. Yizkor (Memorial) Service  
 5:30p.m. Ne'ilah (Concluding) Service

### Sept. 18 Sukkot

7:00p.m. Evening Service with Torah Presentation  
 Sept. 19 10:00a.m. Morning Service  
 Sept. 20 7:30p.m. Shabbat evening, led by Rabbi Golomb  
 Sept. 21 9:00a.m. Torah Study  
 10:15a.m. New Paths Shabbat

### Sept. 25 Sh'mini Atzeret-Simhat Torah

7:00p.m. Celebration and Consecration  
 Sept. 26 10:00a.m. Morning Service and Yizkor (Memorial)  
 Sept. 27 7:30p.m. Shabbat evening, led by Rabbi Golomb  
 9:00a.m. Torah Study

**Please note: No High Holy Day tickets are required for any afternoon service, the Tashlich Ceremony, or for the second day of Rosh Hashanah**

## New Paths Service August 17 and September 21

Join us for a new Shabbat morning experience at the New Paths Service Saturday, August 17 and Saturday, September 21st at 10 a.m. in the intimacy of the East Chapel. We take our time reading and discussing both traditional and nontraditional prayers and readings, and a brief informal kiddush follows. To learn more contact Rabbi Golomb at 454-2570 or Marian Schwartz at [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com)

## Scriptural Readings

Aug. 17 Ki Tetzei  
 Torah reading: Deuteronomy 24:14-25:19  
 Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10  
 Aug. 24 Ki Tavo  
 Torah reading: Deuteronomy 27:11-29:8  
 Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22  
 Aug. 31 Nitzavim-Vayeilekh  
 Torah reading: Deuteronomy 31:7-30  
 Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9  
 Sept. 7 Shabbat Shuvah Ha'azinu  
 Torah reading: Deuteronomy 32:1-52  
 Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27  
 Sept. 14 Yom Kippur  
 Torah reading (morning):  
 Deuteronomy 29:9-17; 30:7-20  
 Haftarah (morning): Isaiah 58:1-14  
 Torah reading (afternoon): Leviticus 19  
 Haftarah (afternoon): Jonah  
 Sept. 21 Shabbat Sukkot  
 Torah reading: Exodus 33:12 – 34:26  
 Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18 – 39:16  
 Sept. 28 B'reisheet  
 Torah reading: Genesis: 1:1 – 2:3  
 Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5 – 43:10

## S'likhot: A High Holy Day Preview

Prepare for the upcoming High Holy Days by attending the special S'likhot program at Vassar Temple on Saturday, August 31 at 7:30 p.m. During a tantalizing dessert reception in the social hall, the Samson family will receive the Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold Award for their contributions to the spiritual life of the Temple. The dessert reception, sponsored by last year's Arnold Award recipient Susan Hecht, will conclude with havdalah.

We will then move upstairs to the sanctuary where congregants Stella Turk, who works in the humanities, and Sanford Metlis, who works in the sciences, will share brief reflections from two unique perspectives on the topic "This I Believe," to encourage us all to reflect on our own guiding values as the New Year begins. The evening concludes with the traditional S'likhot service led by Rabbi Paul Golomb. The entire community is warmly invited to attend any or all of the evening's events.





## Mazel Tov to...

Joanne and Bob Dyson on the birth of their grandson, Braydon Riley Steinberg on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Proud parents are their daughter, Jackie, and her husband, Eric;

Alicia Davis and Steve Ellis on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jacob Ellis, on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Board of Trustees

In the last eight months we have received two very generous donations to the Sustaining Fund from the estates of Michael and Muriel Ettenson, former members of Vassar Temple. The Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire congregation, wishes to extend our most heartfelt thanks and sincere condolences to the Ettenson family. Their generosity in remembering Vassar Temple is greatly appreciated.

## 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.

## Samson Family to be Given Arnold Award at S'likhot Services

Just before our S'likhot observance, at 7:30 on Saturday evening, August 31<sup>st</sup>, this year's Rabbi Stephen Arnold Award for contributions to the religious and spiritual life of our congregation will be presented to Nancy, David, Adam and Max Samson.

The Samson family has for many years been the inspiration as well as the organizer of Vassar Temple's food collection and distribution projects. Nancy transformed our non-perishable food collection into the very successful Can Jam system, which was later augmented by the Souper Sale and Protein Plenty drives to bolster what we could provide to area food pantries during the "slow" seasons (December and summer). With Marian Schwartz, chair of the Social Action Committee, she partners with Hudson River Housing to organize the Trim-a-Thanks-

giving project with our Wednesday Night Religious School students. The Cereal Counts project which Nancy initiated at the Temple was expanded to include the broader Jewish community leading up to Mitzvah Day and now reaches out to the community at large for donations. The Samson family finances and drives the large truck that became necessary for the delivery of cereal as the program grew, and their sons have served as student captains of Cereal Counts.

Dave helps with each of these projects and Max, a student at Spackenkill High School, has spoken to groups and recruits local schools to do mini-drives for Cereal Counts. He is working at Dutchess Outreach and the Lunch Box this summer. Adam, who is now away at

college, has served as Social Action Chairman and President of our Youth Group, walked in the CROP WALK, was student coordinator of Can Jam, made deliveries to food pantries, and wrote newspaper articles about the need for food drives.

Nancy has also taught in our religious school. This year, in the devastating wake of Hurricane Sandy, she initiated the two-phase Breezy Point Baby Rescue drive at Vassar Temple, raising almost \$2,200 which was used to get necessary supplies to distribution points in a heavily-impacted section of Queens.

The Samson family provides great role models for our Temple families, and all four of them provide us the opportunity to be our best possible selves through helping others.

## Guest Speaker and Therapy Animals at Shabbat Noach on October 4<sup>th</sup>



*Unsaid* is a novel about animals, afterlife, and the power of love. Its author, Neil Abramson, is an attorney; his wife is a veterinarian. Living with her and her 29 animals motivated him to write the book, as well as set up an animal welfare foundation. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of *Unsaid* is being donated to Finally Home – A Sanctuary for Animals, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe haven for lost and abused animals in southern New York State.

Neil Abramson will be the guest speaker at our Shabbat Noach service on Friday evening, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Thanks to Walter Effron of the Three Arts Book Shop in Arlington, this book will be available for purchase at the temple during Sunday school hours in September and October. Our congregation will share in the profits and the author will be glad to autograph your copy after his talk.

As part of our celebration of the animals in our lives, we will welcome some live therapy animals and their human partners to our social hall during the Oneg Shabbat after the October 4<sup>th</sup> service. Be sure to mark your calendar now for this special evening and plan to bring your whole family!

### Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher:	Marianne Abrams
Editors:	Melissa Erlebacher
and	Sue Lesser
Technical Support:	Bob Abrams

Articles for the Oct. Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by Sept. 2. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent to the temple via e-mail at [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or faxed to (845)452-5161.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

# FROM the RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

I write this in the days leading up to "Shabbat Nachamu" --- the "Sabbath of Consolation."



It gets its name from the haftarah for the week, which opens with Isaiah comforting the People of Israel with words of consolation: *nachamu, nachamu*. "Take comfort, says God. Take comfort."

This is actually the first of the seven haftarah portions that precede Rosh Hashanah. And taken together they form a narrative, a dialog of sorts.

"Take comfort, says God. Take comfort." That's from Shabbat Nachamu, the opening line of the conversation.

But "God has forsaken me, and God has forgotten me...." The human reply, from the next week's haftarah.

"You who have no comfort, who are afflicted and agitated," God will make your life like a glorious building. God's reply.

"I am the one who comforts you," God adds.

"Rejoice," even amid all your sorrow,

God says, because things will get better.

"Arise, shine, your light has dawned...." God's final plea.

"I will greatly rejoice ... and be called by a new name." The final human response.

The themes are clear: pain and comfort, sorrow and rejoicing. More subtle are the ways in which they mix, vacillating between joy and misery, between optimism and a sense of futility. And in so doing, the verses mirror the way we live our lives. We celebrate good fortune one week, yet lament the next that "God has forsaken me."

Even more subtle yet is the way God gives us a "new name" amid all of this confusion. Names in the Bible are not mere monikers, but significant indications of essential makeup. When Jacob is renamed "Israel," he doesn't just fill out a form. He becomes the father of the Jewish people, living on to this day in the name of the modern state.

Our seven-week lead up to the new year is an exercise in reality. Life is uncertain and uneven, sometimes unpleasant, other times unexpectedly wonderful. Sometimes we are convinced of God's presence, other times equally

convinced that we are on our own.

According to Proverbs, summer is the time for planning. Even the ants know this. (And we could learn a bit from them, is the point of Proverbs 6:6-11.) But the Hebrew word for "winter," *chofef*, is related to the word *charif*, "acerbic," reminding us that winter is harsh. In that sense, Rosh Hashanah is our last chance to plan, our first taste of the approaching harshness, our last taste of summer, and our first chance to start anew.

It can be overwhelming if we wait until the new year to prepare for the new year. So perhaps we can learn from Proverbs to take advantage of the lackadaisical summer months and plan bit by bit --- a little time here, a little energy there --- devoting some summer attention to what's happened in our lives, who we are, and where we want to go, all the time remembering that life is a mixed bag and we live in an unredeemed world.

These are our themes as we prepare for the New Year. And taking our cue from an age-old dialog, we can ask what name God will call us when the new year begins.

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman

## Vassar Temple Religious School

Watch the mail for registration materials for the Vassar Temple Religious School and Hebrew School

### Mark your Calendars

Opening day for Sunday religious school: September 8

Opening day for Wednesday religious school: September 11

Opening day for Wednesday afternoon Hebrew School: October 4

Check out the Religious School website at <http://School-VassarTemple.org> for complete details

*Crop Walk continued from page 1*

our walk raised the most money of any CROP WALK in the Northeast region! This year the need is even greater, so we MUST exceed last year's record! For information on being a walker or to contribute baked goods, contact Vassar Temple's CROP WALK recruiter, Dave Wolf, at [cropwalk@vassartemple.org](mailto:cropwalk@vassartemple.org) or at 845-229-8038. To take a shift at the registration table, contact Marian

Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) or at 845-849-0025.

## First Tiny Temple September 15

Tiny Temple provides monthly programs for young children up to Kindergarten. We read stories, do crafts and enjoy snack together in the Vassar Temple Social Hall. The children have a great time in this easy-going environment! Adults enjoy the ability to meet and greet other parents of young children in the Jewish community. While this is open to the community, regardless of Temple affiliation, we encourage Temple members to participate and enjoy these programs as well.



Our first Tiny Temple of the season is Sunday, September 15 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The theme is Sukkot. Check our website for more information! To RSVP or to get further information, send an email to Laura Brundage at [TinyTemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:TinyTemple@vassartemple.org).

## Jewish Meditation

This fall the Jewish Meditation Group will meet Tuesday evenings October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Vassar Temple under the leadership of Linda Cantor (of Vassar Temple) and Ed Rosenberg (of Temple Beth El). Both beginners and those experienced in the practice of meditation are welcome. At each class there will be a sitting meditation, a walking meditation, either chanting or a short reading, plus time set aside for questions and sharing. Jewish Meditation is offered free of charge and open to the community. Please RSVP to the Vassar Temple office at (845) 454-2570 or [vassartempleoffice@gmail.com](mailto:vassartempleoffice@gmail.com) if you plan to attend any or all of the classes during the fall session.

## Putting the Hebrew Back in Hebrew School: The concrete steps that lead to a more exciting, efficient, and effective Hebrew program

Join us on Tuesday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. for a conversation about Hebrew education with Vassar Temple's Religious School Director, Dr. Joel Hoffman. This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Most Hebrew programs are saddled with poorly planned structures and ill-designed curricula that sabotage their very purpose. The result is frustration among students, teachers, and parents. Dr. Hoffman, a nationally recognized pioneer in the field of Jewish education, explains how research from the past 50 years --- by him and other linguists, by psychologists, and by neuroscientists --- paves the way for dramatic improvements. He'll present the information

as part of an informal dialog in the context of Vassar Temple's new Hebrew program. He'll be available to answer specific questions about the program and general questions about Hebrew education.

Dr. Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and for ten years served on the faculty of the School of Education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He consults to Hebrew Schools across the Americas and in Europe, and in 2008 he chaired the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, the largest gathering of Jewish educators in the world. He currently directs the education program at Vassar Temple.

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## Thank You From The Finance Committee

With the conclusion of fiscal year 2012/13 on June 30, it is time, once again, to recognize and thank those members who chose to contribute dues at the Special Category levels that were established several years ago...Guardian (\$5,500+), Benefactor (\$4,000 - \$5,499), and Patron (\$2,500 - \$3,999). **These generous contributions, over the minimum dues levels, are gratefully acknowledged by the entire congregation.**

### Guardian

Steven & Linda Lant  
Steve & Shelley Turk

### Benefactor

Charles & Joan Blanksteen  
Art & Marge Groten  
David & Marilyn Lampell  
Brian & Helen Silverman  
Gloria Turk

### Patron

Dan & Susan Albinder  
Doi Cohen  
Richard Duvall & Lisa Rubenstein  
Bob (& Doris) Feitelson  
Howard & Rochelle Friedman  
Jeff & Nan Genshaft  
Jack & Fredrica Goodman  
Dan & Molly Katz  
Matt & Muriel Lampell  
Harry & Sandra Mamis  
Stan & Wendy Marcus  
Art & Carol Menken  
Loren & Charlene Rosenthal  
Justin & Deborah Scheer  
Ralph & Marian Schwartz  
Charles & Roni Stein

In addition, we wish to thank those members who contributed dues above the minimums established, although below the special categories listed above.

Finally, our thanks to all members who paid their dues in a timely manner; contributed to the various special funds,

endowment funds, Capital Fund, and/or High Holy Day appeal, and supported the many fund raising events (especially our on-going retail SCRIP program) during the past year. All of these contributions help us to keep Vassar Temple running and help to fund the programs and events that we all want and expect.

*The Finance Committee*

## Charitable IRA – The Gift of a Lifetime

In December 2010, a law was enacted that allows individuals 70 ½ years of age and older to give up to \$100,000 of their retirement savings directly to charity. By transferring IRA assets directly to a qualified charity, such as Vassar Temple, the money is not included in the IRA owner's income and is not taxed, preserving the full amount for charitable purposes. This law provides a distinct advantage to individuals wishing to support their favorite charities and helps non-profits that are experiencing the continued effects of a tough economy.

The law that makes these transfers tax free will expire on December 31, 2013. For anyone interested in establishing a permanent legacy in Vassar Temple, this is the opportunity to make a gift of a lifetime. Please call the office and request that someone get in touch with you to discuss this further.

Thank you,

*The Finance Committee*

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## Save the Date October 10 *Mending the Heart, Tending the Soul: Directions to the Garden Within*

Ancient Jewish tradition says that much of the Torah's deepest wisdom about the spiritual path lies hidden beneath the surface text. National Book Award Finalist and Book-of-the-Month Club author Gail Albert, PhD offers detailed and practical guidance for bringing this wisdom into our lives in *Mending the Heart, Tending the Soul: Directions to the Garden Within*.

Dr. Albert will discuss her book at Vassar Temple on Thursday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. See the October Bulletin and check our website at [www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org) for full details.



## Vassar Temple Sisterhood Book Club

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss two short novels, *The Shawl* by Cynthia Ozick and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid, on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Ave., Poughkeepsie. The subjects of these books are completely different from each other so Myrna Rubenstein will lead the discussion of *The Shawl* and then Muriel Lampell will lead the discussion of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

*The Shawl*, which will be the focus of The Big Read this fall, presents a devastating vision of the Holocaust in 70 pages. It centers on a mother and her two daughters in a concentration camp, the poignant decisions they are forced to make, and the terrible damage their experiences do to them.

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* has won several awards and become an international bestseller as well as the basis for a recent movie. The narrator is a Pakistani who worked as a financial analyst for a prestigious firm in New York after graduating from Princeton. After a disastrous love affair and the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, his Western life collapses and he returns to Pakistan, disillusioned and alienated. This brilliantly written, thought-provoking novel seamlessly combines ideology and emotion, the political and personal, in 184 pages.

Both books are available in paperback and through the local library system.

To RSVP or get more information, contact Doi Cohen at 462-6193 or [dcohen1230@gmail.com](mailto:dcohen1230@gmail.com).

## Interfaith Story Circle on September 24<sup>th</sup>

Telling and listening to stories can be a way into the heart of another person. When it is done under the auspices of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, it can also be a relaxing and spiritual experience.

The next Interfaith Story Circle sponsored by the Council will be held at St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic Church, 122 Cedar Valley Road, Poughkeepsie 12603, on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Stories about "Saints Old and New" will be the focus of the evening, with the word "saints" interpreted loosely to include all especially spiritual people.

This informal, free event provides people of all faith traditions the opportunity to listen to local storytellers and to share their own story if they wish. More information is available from the DCIC office, 471-7333 or at [www.dutchesscounty-interfaith.org](http://www.dutchesscounty-interfaith.org).

## Your Writing Skills Needed for Small Temple Publicity Jobs

Using the monthly temple calendar which you will get from the office and the Bulletin articles which Melissa Erlebacher will make available to you before they appear in the Bulletin, you will have all the information you need to do one of these jobs. (In fact, some of them can be accomplished simply by posting the Bulletin articles already written.) Each one takes only a few minutes per week to do but they all keep our members and the general community informed about the exciting things going on at the Temple.

If you like to write brief items and can use Word on a computer, you will enjoy contributing to our congregation's health and

growth by doing just one of the things listed below. Contact Bob Abrams at [president@vassartemple.org](mailto:president@vassartemple.org) for more information or to express your interest.

- Post timely material to the web site with an easy-to-use interface.
- Compile monthly listing of events and programs at temple
- Copy Bulletin articles on our website's *What's Happening* link each month
- Post appropriate temple events on the Federation community calendar
- Submit appropriate temple events for weekly *Poughkeepsie Journal Religion News* column

## JWV September Meeting

Jewish War Veterans Post 625 will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m. at Congregation Shomre Israel on Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Please note that this is the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Veterans of all branches of the regular service, the Reserves, or the National Guard, whether they served in wartime or during peaceful times, are invited to come to the meeting and to join the Post. As Shomre Israel is strictly kosher, please do not bring in outside food. For questions contact Ralph Schwartz at 845-849-0025 or via email at [Rschwa9881@aol.com](mailto:Rschwa9881@aol.com).

## Donations and Volunteers Needed for September 1st Lunch Box

We are looking for food donations of 3 pounds of ground beef browned with ½ cup chopped onion or one dozen pieces of fresh fruit (bananas and soft fruit preferred) for the Lunch Box on Sunday, September 1st. Food can be dropped off in the Temple kitchen during normal Temple hours. Please label all donations "For Lunch Box." We also need volunteers to help cook and serve between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. To donate or to volunteer, please contact captains Wendy & Stan Marcus at [masinc223@aol.com](mailto:masinc223@aol.com) or 226-2502.

We also welcome monetary donations to help us purchase other menu items. Send a check to Vassar Temple with Community Tzedakah Fund on the memo line. The next Lunch Box will be Sunday, October 6th. To help with the October Lunch Box please contact Marian Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).

## GET INVOLVED! TWO NEW SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

**MOTHERS GROUP** - will provide preventive healthcare information, parenting information and socialization opportunities for new moms. Help with set up and hospitality, assist with child care, or provide healthy snacks. Volunteer once a month (or more). The group will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie starting in September.

**HEALTHCARE ISSUES** - collect women's stories of how they were affected by inadequate health care/health insurance, then write up and publish these stories for advocacy purposes.

We will collaborate with AAUW, interfaith and community partners on these health care related projects. Please contact Kay Bishop, a member of our Social Action Committee at [kaybishop@gmail.com](mailto:kaybishop@gmail.com) for further information or to volunteer.



## It's Time to Get Ready for the Holidays and Time to Get the Kids Ready to Go Back to School



It is also a fantastic time to use SCRIP [gift cards]!

**Vassar Temple sells cards that can be used for  
school supplies  
Adams and other local grocery stores  
holiday and back to school clothes  
making travel and hotel/motel reservations  
paying for gasoline  
and more**

**Please use SCRIP when you shop!**

**Contact the SCRIP Coordinator for more information:  
Sandra Mamis at [scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org) or [914-456-3524](tel:914-456-3524)**

*Rabbi, con't from page 2*

from Creation to the present, and in so doing, raises the fundamental issues of purpose: Why do we – why does anything – exist? Do we have reason for living that goes beyond life itself? The questions are basic and tough. They demand a level of personal and introspective honesty that we rarely engage in. Thus, the Yom Kippur Musaf is perhaps the most meaningful liturgy in all Jewish prayer.

Saturday nights and any afternoon are not regular occasions for being in synagogue. S'likhot and the Yom Kippur Musaf are very good reasons to break from that routine, and discover an extraordinary richness in Jewish religious life.

### **A Few Thank You's**

Each year I extend a personal note of appreciation to members of the congregation who make very important but less noted contributions to Vassar Temple. What better time than on the eve of the most solemn days of the year than to acknowledge the crew that has, for the past four years, pulled together the annual Purim Spiel?

While **Art Menken** has most deservedly been honored as ringmaster, we should note the merry band of co-conspirators who have participated regularly in these extravaganzas. **Andy Chernack, Dave Wolf, Kurt Quackenbush, Barbara Greenberg, and Judy Creedon** have formed the core of the Mighty Vassar Temple Players. Behind the scenes **Carol Menken, Marianne Abrams, Bob Abrams, Ron Rosen, David Lampell, Sandy Margolin, and Herb Stoller** have produced the sets, lighting, visuals and sound that turn the sanctuary into the stage of the Met. To all these hardy souls, and the many others who have given time and energy to one Spiel or another, I extend my grateful thanks.

### **Office Transition Thank You**

Sherrie Geisler has been our new office manager since mid-June. A number of temple members have spent significant amounts of time helping Sherrie to get on board. Each person has focused on a specific training area, helping Sherrie with computer use, QuickBooks, financial billing, setting up various letters, etc. Sherrie has been doing a superb job learning the many aspects of running the temple office, a lot of which depended on the perseverance and dedication of certain temple members. The Temple owes a great deal of appreciation to all of these folks:

- Bob Ritter established a training schedule to ensure that Sherrie came on board without being too overwhelmed.
- Marsha Lowry assisted Sherrie with an introduction to Vassar Temple and initial tasks such as answering the phone and providing primary contacts for the many situations that may come up.
- Cathy Bokor helped Sherrie become familiar with the Temple's QuickBooks setup, which was very important to enable Sherrie to handle financial matters for the temple.
- Brian Silverman has been spending *significant* amounts of time in the office, reviewing old financial records and assisting Sherrie in the preparation of bills and letters needed for financial matters.
- Ron Rosen assisted Sherrie on the use of the office computer

I'd also like to thank other committee chairs who set aside time to brief Sherrie on the role of their committees and any special support needed, and the numerous folks who worked many hours to get the office ready prior to Sherrie's arrival, including Sandra Mamis, Perla Kaufman, Marsha Lowry, Bob Ritter, Emily Himmelstein, Jeff Brenner, and Alan Kalfowitz. Please accept my apologies if I inadvertently omitted your name.

**Please join me in recognizing and extending our appreciation to this dedicated group of temple members.**

*Bob Abrams*



# Contributions

## RABBI'S FUND

### IN APPRECIATION OF

Bob Abrams  
Ed Garber  
Rabbi Golomb  
Harry Mamis      Gayle & Sandy Margolin

### UPON RECEIVING SERVICE AWARDS

Hilary & Lewis Wrobel  
Doris Cohen  
Richard & Marsha Lowry  
Barbara Stern

## SUSTAINING FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Philip Cohen      Linda & Joel Babas  
Dr. Sidney S. Cohen      Doris Cohen  
Evelyn Feinbloom      Richard Feinbloom  
Pearl Goldstein      The Friedman Family  
Samuel Haber      David & Shirley Sigalow  
Anne Kahn      Muriel & Matt Lampell

Max Kapner      Ruth & Bruce Kapner  
Helen D. Klein      Wendy Klein, Dana Gisiano,  
and Cindy Satomo

Joseph Kofman      Jim & Maryann Robinowitz  
Gertrude Krugman      Ruth & Bruce Kapner

Lillian Lampell      Muriel & Matt Lampell  
Edward Moffit, Jr.      Kathy & Kent Mardon  
Phillip Moselle      Jonathan A. Moselle  
Jonathan Muehl      Lisa Rubenstein  
Edith Posner      Jonathan A. Moselle  
Sol C. Present

Debbie Tierney & Brian Landesman  
Gertrude Rosenthal      Charlene & Loren Rosenthal  
Marie Robinowitz      Jim & Maryann Robinowitz  
Ethel & Seymour Scheer      Bonnie & Ken Scheer  
Pauline Slote      Muriel & Matt Lampell

Sylvia Soirefman      Mark & Elaine Plansky  
Michael L. Solomon  
Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon      Alan H. Solomon

Eva Tofel      Joan Reifler & Family  
Michael Wrobel      Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

### GET WELL WISHES FOR

Sue Lesser      Sandra & Harry Mamis

### IN HONOR OF

Tessa Jacobs Woodward & Michael Swift      Irma Jacobs



## Yahrzeits

### Aug. 23

Anna Baum  
Phyllis Bell  
Tillie Haber  
Richard M. Held  
Morris Kaufman  
Dr. Saul R. Kelson  
Martin Krakower  
Louis Lester  
Marion Lieberman  
Max Matlin  
William Miller  
Clara Abraham Stein  
Melvin Stolack  
Samuel Sumner  
Frederick C. Tuchmann  
Fannie Weiss  
Mary Weiss

### Aug. 30

Rachel Barchilon  
W. Carlton Bernard  
Jules Burger  
Stuart Dick  
Adolph Milton Fein  
Harry Friedman  
Claire Entner Gad  
Anna Dick Kronman  
Joseph LaLone  
Celia Levine  
Irving L. Marin  
Rose Markowitz  
Fannie Moselle  
Saul Nectow  
Edward J. Newman, MD  
Seymour Niesen  
Mary Elizabeth  
O'Donnell-Moore  
Sara G. Rice  
Rose Ritter  
Elma S. Rosenberg  
Joseph Samuels  
Sarah Peles Samuels  
Sheila Mardon Sukert  
Florence Marks  
Eugene N. Turk  
Paul S. Waxman  
Rose Weisman  
Tobias Wolfson

### Sept. 6

Allene Braw Baskin  
Rebecca Baskin  
Dr. Nathan Bernstein  
Rebecca Slutsky  
Cohen  
Ryan Creedon  
Martha Feinman  
Murray Gordon  
Carl Hoppermann  
Celia Levine  
James Mrazek  
Irving Revitz  
Louis Rosen  
Nathan Rosenberg  
Ida Schwartz  
Alan Taubenkimel  
Rose S. Weigert

### Sept. 13

Leah Aberman  
Howard Cohen  
Solomon Diamond  
Marilyn Dugatkin  
Margaret M.  
Feldman  
Samuel Feldman  
Kyle Hoppermann  
Raphael Horn  
Faye Korn  
Norman Lesk  
Edward Markum  
Elio Ribbi  
Edith Roizen  
Sophie Schwartz  
Ada M. Shelton  
John Sparks  
Elizabeth Troeger  
Samuel Wallace  
Charlotte Zuckerman

### Sept. 20

James Benton  
Sam Brozen  
Bertha Chazen  
Dora J. Chertock  
Edward Cohen  
Howard Cohen, MD  
William Dorn  
Solomon Dunn  
Philip Finnerman  
Morris Goldberg  
Martin Gross  
Klara Haas  
Saul Heiser  
Richard Wayne  
Kallman  
Anna Katz  
S. Herbert Kaufman  
Hilda Klausner  
Louis Lass  
Eva D. Lippmann  
James Lowry  
Julius Oppenheimer  
Aaron Rabin  
Edith Ratner  
Aaron Silverman  
Elizabeth Troeger

### Sept. 27

Joseph Albenda  
Emanuel Aloise  
Susan Alpers  
Louis Altman  
Edna Cohn  
Frances Gray  
Conrad Dahnert  
Bernard Decovnick  
Erna Dorn  
Irene Edell  
William Falenki  
A.D. Hoffman  
Albert D. Kahn  
Harriet Kramer  
Patricia Kramer  
Dr. Paul Lieberman  
Selma Sobel  
Lipson  
Lillian Martone  
Bernard Pearlman  
Haim Ribbi  
Sally Schaffer  
Dorothy Schmukler  
Lena Sherman  
Weisman  
Thomas Weisman  
Goldie H. Worona

## Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen A. Arnold
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
<b>Cantorial Soloist:</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Robert Abrams
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Marge Groten
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Brenner
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Silverman
<b>Sisterhood Co-Presidents:</b>	Carolyn Frankel & Jennifer Dahnert
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Jeff Brenner & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Sandra Mamis
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	Rachel Marcus

**DATED MAIL  
PLEASE RUSH**

## September 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:30 am Lunch Box	2 Labor Day VT Office Closed	3 NO SEP	4 6:30 pm Rosh Hashanah – Family Service 8:30 pm Rosh Hashanah – Evening Service	5 ROSH HASHANAH 10:am Morning Service 2:30 Children 4 pm Tashlich	6 10am Rosh Hashanah 2 <sup>nd</sup> day service CAN JAM weekend VT office closed	7 9am Torah Study
8 9am Men's Club Sukkah Building 9am R/S K-7 1pm Cemetery service	9 7pm Exec Committee Meeting	10	11 6:30 Religious School, gr 8-10	12 11:30am Talmud	13 6:30pm Kol Nidre Family Service 8:30pm Evening service	14 Yom Kippur 10am Service 12:30p Study 1:30 children 2:45 Afternoon 4:45 Yizkor 5:30 Ne'ilah 6:15 Break Fast
15 9am R/S K-7 11am Tiny Temple	16	17	18 7pm Torah Presentation	19 VT office Closed 10am Sukkot Service	20 7:30p Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
22 9am R/S K-7	23 7pm Board meeting	24	25 7pm Simchat Torah – Consecration service	26 VT office closed 10am Yizkor Service	27 7:30p Shabbat service	28 9am Torah Study
29 9am Men's Club Sukkah Takedown 9am R/S K-7	30					