



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 4 December 2015



**Shabbat Services at 6:00pm
(winter hours)**

Hanukkah Candle Lighting Service & Dinner

Vassar Temple's annual Hanukkah Candle Lighting Shabbat Service will be held Friday, Dec. 11th at 7:00pm. Each person attending is encouraged to bring a menorah and candles, and together we will fill the room with the warm glow of the holiday lights! If you or your family has not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!

A holiday/shabbat dinner will be held prior to the service, at 5:30 pm in the social hall. Bring a dairy dish (anything except meat or poultry) for 12; Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages.



Upcoming Events

Dec.	6	Lunch Box p. 7
	6	Tiny Temple p.3
	11	Hanukkah Dinner & Lighting p.1
	16	Book Club p. 5

\$18 per family \$6 per individual
Please RSVP for the dinner by Dec. 8th
to Roni Stein at 223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com. Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 with "Hanukkah Dinner" on the memo line.

Mark your calendar & join your Temple family for the holiday dinner or service or both on Dec. 11th !



It's Time for VT's Annual Souper Sale

Winter is here again and too many people are now both cold *and* hungry. YOU CAN HELP! Vassar Temple invites you to make a monetary donation of any amount. 100% of your donation will be used to purchase large cans of nutritious, delicious chunky soups. A caravan of volunteer members will deliver the load to local food distribution sites including Dutchess Outreach, Beulah Baptist Church Pantry, the Castle Point VA, Community Action Partnership's pantries in Beacon, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook and Dover, & Interfaith Senior Housing.

Please send a tax deductible check in any amount, made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Souper Sale" on the memo line, to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31.** Cash donations to Souper Sale may also be made in the tzedakah box located near the staircase in the Temple.

That's it. You will know you are making a difference, helping feed someone in this county who would otherwise miss a meal. An added plus: Money collected for the Souper Sale will be exchanged for Stop and Shop SCRIP, which benefits the Temple, too. It's a win/win deal!! Questions? Please call Nancy Samson 845 462-4828 or email CANJAM123@aol.com.

Rabbi's Message: Rededicating Ourselves at Hanukkah



Given all of the fires we kindle in December, one might think that the word "Hanukkah"

has something to do with light. But the word Hanukkah actually comes from the Hebrew word *l'chanech*, which means "to dedicate."

After successfully defeating the Syrian-Greeks, the Maccabees had to clean the Temple before they could celebrate. Antiochus had taken over the Temple in Jerusalem and defiled it, putting up statues of Zeus and slaughtering pigs on the altar. In order to preserve the tradition they had fought so hard for, the Maccabees had to purify the Temple and re-dedicate it to the worship of God.

This is a lesser-known reason that Hanukkah lasts for eight days. The Maccabees modeled the holiday after the eight-day dedication ceremony Solomon held for the First Temple. The legend of the miraculous cruse of oil that burned for the entire time emerged a few centuries later.

Thankfully, our sanctuary does not need to be purified—though we are replacing the carpet! But we, too, are at a moment of rededication. At this crossroads in our congregation's history, we are taking a good look at the community we have been and rededicating ourselves to building a Jewish future. It is time for us to ask

ourselves, as a community: To what are we rededicating ourselves? What kind of community can we build for the 21st century Jew? What lights do we want to kindle for the generations to come?

This January, I will lead four "Discovery Sessions" for our congregation. At these 90-minute sessions, members of our community will have an opportunity to speak about what Vassar Temple has meant to us and what we hope to build for the future. Using the model of Appreciative Inquiry, we will share the experiences that have made a positive impact on our lives and imagine how we can build upon these experiences to improve our community.

The word Hanukkah also shares its root with the word *chinuch*, education or learning. Our Discovery Sessions are an opportunity for us to learn about one another and dedicate ourselves to the education of the next generation.

Each Discovery Session is geared towards a sub-group of our congregation, so we can address the experiences of different segments of our population. If you are in one of these groups, planning to be in that group soon, have loved ones in that group, or are just interested in the experiences of your fellow congregants, please join us. If you can't make the Discovery Session you most identify with, or if you don't want to choose from one of the categories

below, please know that you are welcome to join us at any Discovery Session. You need only attend one Discovery Session to have your voice heard. There will be a light nosh at each event.

Young Adults and Parents with Children at Home: Sunday, January 10, 2016, 9:00am

Seniors (Self-Identified): Sunday, January 24, 2016, 12:00 noon

Empty-Nesters and Adults without Children: Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7:00pm

Interfaith Families and Jews by Choice: Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 7:00pm

Even though their Temple had been desecrated, and their oil reserves were low, the Maccabees lit that first light, rededicating themselves to the tradition of their ancestors. In doing so, they inadvertently created something new: the first post-biblical holiday.

As we prepare to light our own Hanukkah lights, may we rededicate ourselves to building a bright Jewish future. And like the lights of Hanukkah, and the traditions of Hanukkah, may the dreams we have for our community keep burning long into the next generation.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: Puzzle Pieces



Have you ever gone to temple for services and thought to yourself that life seemed clearer for being there? I mean that sitting in the sanctuary, reading the scriptures and meditations, listening to Rabbi, and singing the songs, had a way of centering you and bringing your focus back to what matters.

The passages we read were not written for us, but they were meant for us - and the circumstances we face in life, in our community, and in our world. The passages are like puzzle pieces that can fill the empty spaces in our life - our heart, our soul.

Jews pray together as a community, in a *beit tefilah*, a house of prayer. We also study there, in a *beit midrash*, a house of study. And temple is also a *beit k'nesset*, a house of assembly. We go to temple to pray, study, and to be with one another.

Every time I go to temple I am open to

the possibility that someone I will see or meet is a messenger. In 1977, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner said what I'm trying to say:

"Each lifetime is the piece of a jigsaw puzzle.

For some there are more pieces.

For others the puzzle is more difficult to assemble.

Some seem to be born with nearly a completed puzzle.

And so it goes.

Souls going this way and that

Trying to assemble the myriad parts.

But know this. No one has within themselves

All the pieces to their puzzle...

Everyone carries with them at least one and probably

Many pieces to someone else's puzzle.

Sometimes they know it.

Sometimes they don't.

And when you present your piece

Which is worthless to you,

To another, whether you know it or not,

Whether they know it or not,

You are a messenger from the Most High.

Vassar Temple has many messengers: "Ordinary people who happen to carry messages of the Most High, even unknown to themselves." Rabbi Kushner also said, "Never forget that you, too, yourself may be a messenger. Perhaps even one whose errand extends over several lifetimes."

When we go to Vassar Temple, to pray or to study or for an occasion, the potential exists to find a missing piece to our puzzle or to help someone with theirs. That is exciting if you think about it. It's a reason to go with an open and optimistic heart. It is a reason to make yourself available and to reach out. It is a reason to be grateful; grateful for our community, grateful for Vassar Temple. Waking from his sleep, Jacob said, "Truly, Adonai is in the place, and I did not know it!"

Bob Ritter

December Worship Services

4	6:00pm	Winter Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist, Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
5	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study New Paths service
11	7:00pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi.
12	9:00am	Torah study
18	6:00pm	Winter Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
19	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study Shabbat service as Sam Ellis is called to the torah as a Bar Mitzvah
25	6:00pm	Winter Shabbat evening worship lay led by Sandra Mamis, and organist Joseph Bertolozzi.
26		NO TORAH STUDY

Scriptural Readings

- Dec. 5 *Vayeshev* Gen. 39:1-39:6; Amos 2:6 – 3:8
- 12 **Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah** *Miketz* Gen. 43:16-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15, 42-47; Zechariah 2:14 4:7
- 19 *Vayigash* Gen. 46:28- 47:27; Ezekiel 37:15-28
- 26 *Vay'hi* Gen. 49:27-50:26; I Kings 2:1-12

Follow the Rabbi!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram. Follow her and join the conversation!

Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB
Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](#)
Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog at: <http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike>.



Weekly Adult Study Groups at Vassar Temple

“Torah Study” with the Temple’s Rabbi Leah Berkowitz examines passages from the week’s torah portion or haftarah and is held Saturday mornings at 9:00am (no class Dec. 26).

“The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text”, is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays at noon.

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

Tiny Temple Celebrates Hanukkah!

Tiny Temple will learn about and celebrate Hanukkah on **Sunday, December 6th** from **11:00am-12:00noon**. Come with your young child (under 5) to sing, color and craft in a relaxed and friendly setting while adults can meet and schmooze with others raising young Jewish children. No Temple affiliation required

Tiny Temple, sponsored by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood, is open to all regardless of Temple affiliation and is always free of charge. To assist in our planning or get on the mailing list, please RSVP to Laura Brundage and Fern Wolf at tinytemple@vassartemple.org.

New Paths Service

Join us at the next New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, Dec. 5th at 10:00am in 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 informal kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz rabbi@vassartemple.org or the Temple office 845-454-2570.





Mazel Tov to...

Bill & Sue Barbash on the birth of their grandson, Leonard Franklin, born to Daniel Barbash and his wife, Hsiao-Pei Yang.

Judaica Shoppe Sale at Vassar Temple

Vassar Temple's Judaica Shoppe will continue its annual Hanukkah sale with special hours on Sunday, Dec. 6th from 9:30 am - 11:30 am, and will be open as usual Mon-Thurs from 9:30 am- 2:30 pm. Visit our special holiday display in the East Chapel for menorahs, candles including a new Safed line from Israel, "Fair Trade" chocolate gelt candy, dreidels, holiday items, gift wrap and much, much more.

Our usual selection of ritual items, talitot, gift items, jewelry, art from Israel, and colorful new "Fair Trade" items is always available, and special orders can

Condolences

to...

Miriam Cohen on the loss of her brother, Daniel L. Cohen

be arranged. The shop is operated by the Sisterhood, and we would love to help you with your Judaica needs. For further information, please contact Perla at brandaliz5@optonline.net.

Pulpit Flowers



December 4: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

December 11: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

December 18: Donated by Sam Ellis' family in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

December 25: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

Update for November Flowers:

November 13: Donated by Marian and Ralph Schwartz

Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or 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.

Fiddler on the Roof Trip to NYC

Guess who's going to *Fiddler on the Roof*? Vassar Temple, and YOU, we hope! Mary Ritter is organizing a NYC theater trip for January 31st and we are taking names NOW. Family and friends all welcome. We are going to have a blast. If enough sign up, we will get a private bus. A group dinner will be planned in the city. Interested? Contact Bob Ritter at president@vassartemple.org for details.



Refuah Shelemah

Paul Goldberg being hospitalized;
Loren Rosenthal being hospitalized;
Debbie Golomb recovering from hip surgery.

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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published monthly

Publisher:

Marianne Abrams

Editors:

Sue Lesser and

Donna Loshin

Technical Support:

Bob Abrams

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

Religious School Director: Let's Get a Few Things Straight



As with so many things, the problem started with Alexander the Great, and, in particular, with what he *didn't* do.

Just over 2,300 years ago, Alexander III "The Great" of Macedonia was a young man of 32 who had conquered the known world in just a decade --- a feat marked to this day by the names of cities like Alexandria, Egypt, and, 2,000 miles further east, Kandahar, Afghanistan. Alexander's first wife was seven month's pregnant, and, in both a literal and figurative marriage of east and west, he had just taken the daughter of the defeated Persian ruler Darius III as a second wife. How could Alexander have known that he wouldn't live long enough to be a father?

Demonstrating understandable but ill-fated short-sightedness, Alexander had, therefore, not created a plan of succession, so his death brought huge instability, with various generals and other power brokers vying for control.

Four points define the geography of the ancient world: Greece in the west; Persia (Iran) in the east; Egypt in the south; and Syria, where the journey north from Egypt intersects the east-west trail from Greece to Persia. So power centers were established in those four places. (It is not coincidence that, more than 2,000 years later, Iran,

Egypt, Syria, and Greece still dominate the news.)

Jerusalem had the misfortune of lying just off the path from Syria to Egypt, so every time the new Syrian dynasty and the new Egyptian dynasty fought, Jerusalem was part of the battleground. For a while Egypt had the upper hand, and Jerusalem was part of Egypt. Then around 200 BCE, the Syrian ruler Antiochus III "The Great" won Jerusalem and turned it into a Syrian province.

That wouldn't have been so bad but for the fact that Antiochus III had a son, Antiochus IV. The details are complex --- and involve familiar figures like Hannibal --- but the upshot is that Antiochus IV was taken into Roman captivity, only to be freed later for another Syrian ruler's son.

While Antiochus III's nickname was "The Great," Antiochus IV was dubbed "The Insane." And this was not good news at all. Antiochus IV tried to quash Jewish practice in Jerusalem. This is the Antiochus against whom the famous Maccabees took up arms. The Maccabees, led in large part by Judah Maccabee, prevailed. This is the victory we celebrate at Hanukkah.

Because Antiochus IV was from Syria, some people say that the Maccabees fought the Syrians. And because Antiochus IV was part of the Greek dynasty that took over Syria after Alexander the Great's death, other people say that the Maccabees fought the Greeks. This is why different versions of the Hanukkah

story variously refer either to the Syrians or to the Greeks.

So Hanukkah originally commemorated the violent overthrow of violent and unstable Syrian Greek rulers.

Unfortunately, the Maccabees, while able fighters, were less capable rulers. For instance, Simon, one of the five Maccabee brothers, served as high priest of Jerusalem. Then one of his sons, John Hyrcanus I, took over. The reason that Hyrcanus was next, rather than one of Simon's other two sons, is that Simon's son-in-law had murdered them, along with Simon himself. And astonishingly, those events were peaceful compared to what would follow.

Later --- perhaps because of the dubious optics of a holiday that commemorated overthrowing the government --- Hanukkah was recast in terms of the familiar light and darkness, oil and miracles.

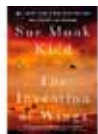
But I think those four elements were actually there from the outset. We see from the full story what we already knew: Life is complex and messy. We have periods of light and periods of darkness. The path to the light is often a mundane one that's based far less in lofty theology and far more in our day-to-day existence.

Oh yes. And, if we look carefully, we find that life is marked by miracles.

Happy Hanukkah

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Book Club to Discuss *The Invention of Wings* on December 16th



Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, the celebrated author of

The Secret Life of Bees. This exquisitely written historical novel focuses on two unforgettable women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 16th at 2:00pm in

the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in 19th century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls of the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter Sarah, who ultimately will become an important historic figure in the early abolition and suffragette movements, feels hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. The story is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful,

who is to be her handmaid. Their remarkable journeys take place over the next thirty-five years as both women strive for lives of their own, shaping each other's destinies, and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, and estrangement.

The Invention of Wings is available in paperback and through the local library system. Val Suter 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. Your suggestions for future readings are always welcome.

Contributions

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Ed Garber on his special 80th Birthday
Elaine Lipschutz
Debbie Golomb, wishing her a speedy
recovery Lila Matlin

In Memory of:

Michael Aronson Lila Matlin
Margaret Ciminello Paul & Andrea Ciminello
Susan Doppelt Pearlman Howard & Allison Pearlman
Philip Browner
Miriam Browner Lacher
Samuel Baum Nick & Nina Kraut
Ira Greenberg
Dave, Fern, Jen & Ilana Wolf
Philip Ritter
Morris Fertig Phyllis Ritter
Arthur Peritz
Jillian Greenman
Robin Peritz & Janet Greenman

Herbert Samuel Marks

Esther Mardon

Henry Cantor

Ellen Bernard

Molly Susser

Paul Susser

George Tofel

Harold Posner

Frank DeGeorge

Ruth Muraskin

Aleeyha Yankajtis Sansola

Lisa Graney

Hildegard Tuchmann

Rose Slate

Lawrence Slate

Donna Marks-Murphy

Kent & Kathy Mardon

Richard & Linda Cantor

Richard & Linda Cantor

Howard Susser

Joan Reifler

David & Joan Posner

Sanford & Beverly Metlis

Eric & Barbara Gillman

Steve Sansola

Ron Hahn

Doi Cohen

Jerold Slate

Jerold Slate

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

(Lunch Box)

In Honor of:

Vassar Temple's Youth Group
Ralph & Marian Schwartz

HINENI FUND

In Honor of:

Melissa Erlebacher on receiving the Arnold
Award Paul & Andrea Ciminello
Rabbi Leah Berkowitz on her 1st successful
HHD at Vassar Temple Paul & Andrea Ciminello
Elaine Lipschutz for being awesome
Paul & Andrea Ciminello

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

Wishing Emily Himelstein the best!
Elaine Lipschutz

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of:

All Music Joel & Claudia Kelson

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.

Lunch Box News

Many thanks to Lunch Box Captains
Michele Brenner and Carolynn Frankel,
Linda Babas, our 7th graders and their
families, and everyone else who helped
cook and serve, donated food or funds to
help make our October and November
Lunch Box days a success. Together we
did it!

For our next Lunch Box, **Sunday Dec.
6th**, we are inviting one and all to come
and help prepare and serve a delicious
chili lunch for our hungry neighbors in
need at the Family Partnership Center
in Poughkeepsie. Individuals, families,
friends all welcome! We are also asking
folks to donate the following foods,
which may be dropped off at the Temple
any time beforehand when the building
is open:



- 3 lbs. ground beef or turkey,
browned, with ½ cup chopped
onion
- 1 or 2 dozen bananas, pieces
fresh fruit or individual sand-
wich bags of grapes

If you can help cook, serve, or donate
food, please let Marian Schwartz know
at socialaction@vassartemple.org or
845-849-0025.

Marian will also be happy to answer any
questions you may have about Lunch
Box. To make a tax deductible donation
toward this project, just make your check
payable to Vassar Temple with "Commu-
nity Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line.

Scenes from a Vibrant Vassar Temple



Time to Buy SCRIP!!



Yahrzeits

DECEMBER 4

Larry Adler
Susan Baker
Dr. Morton Bard
Solomon Berger
Sadie Breit
Seth A. Erlebacher
May Kaufman Ettenson
Ida Finnerman
Miriam Feitelson
Lillian Friedman
Matilda "Tillie" Gordon
Carl Gross
Kate Hecht
Marion Himmelstein
Sidney Horn
Julius Klein
Sandra Lipschitz
Leo Loeb
Martin Markowitz
Sol Cohen Ribbi
Edward Roth
Bea Russotto
Minnie Shapiro

DECEMBER 11

Ruth Bagun
Albert Barchilon
Abe Barnett
Anna Cairo
Elsa Cohen
Allan E. Dampf
Shirley Ernest
Michael Goldfinger
Elaine Hendricks
Albert J. Levy
Clara Lewin
Leah Michel
Thomas Nolan
Cynthia Rosenblum
William Schwartz
Rhea Sumner
Mildred Tauber
Jordan Taylor
Maurice L. Troeger
Wilford Wittenberg
Helen Wrobel
Esther Yelsky

DECEMBER 18

Belle G. Adler
Ruth Seegal Cohen
Eileen Dermody
Ise B. Dreyfuss
Lottie Glick
Herman R. Gross
Annette Livingston
Kleinfeld Katz
Erna Konheim
Charles Kovacs, DDS
Ida Krevolin
Miriam Levine
Evelyn Lesser
Susan Marash
William Robinowitz
Anna Rubin
Nathaniel Rubin
Marilyn Sirkus
Aaron Slote
Beatrice Snyder
Joseph Weber
Cecilia Zuckerman

DECEMBER 25

Dr. Doris Berlin-Acker
Goldie Bleich
Barnard Cohen
Leah W. Cohen
Joseph Fa'gut
Fay Gordon
Deborah H. Jacobs
Wilford Jordan
Joseph L. Kahn
Selma Kahn
Beatrice S. Kaye
Celia Kraut
Dr. Joseph R. Levy
Reine Reinhart
Stella W. Renick
Louis Rosen
Louis Satz
Michael Schenberg
Harry Schneider
Barnet B. Shelton
Henry Solomonson
Ruth Stein
Philip Wolfson

FUND FACTS: The Hineni Fund

Hineni. How many times have you heard that word? Hineni. It is the word that Abraham speaks to God in Genesis to say, "Here I am!" Hineni. Rabbi Berkowitz, not knowing of the special significance of Hineni to Vassar Temple, spoke about it in her High Holy Day sermon this year. Hineni! Hineni is a powerful and significant declaration for Jews, a statement proclaiming that one is present, ready to stand and take a stand. But at Vassar Temple, it holds still deeper meaning.

This month marks the fourth anniversary of the sudden loss of our Congregation's beloved President, Seth A. Erlebacher, z"l. During the year that

followed Seth's passing, in consultation with his family, our Temple decided to honor Seth's enduring legacy of service by naming the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School in his memory. The Temple simultaneously established The Hineni Fund to support the vitality of the religious school and youth programs, aspects of Jewish life to which Seth was particularly devoted.

As members of our community observe Seth's Yahrzeit this month, it is an appropriate time to renew attention on The Hineni Fund, which Seth's exemplary Jewish life inspired. Supporting The Hineni Fund at Vassar Temple is not only a way to continue recognizing

and honoring Seth, through it one can contribute to the future of Judaism and pass our traditions and teachings to succeeding generations – l'dor vador. Then next time you want to meaningfully recognize a loved one's simcha or Yahrzeit, or simply assert your dedication to Jewish beliefs, consider a contribution to The Hineni Fund. In doing that, you will follow in the footsteps of Abraham and of Seth and also say "Hineni!" for future generations.

Jen Dahnert

Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue
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845-454-2570
www.vassartemple.org



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

December 2015 Calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1 Souper Sale 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte	2 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30 R/S Gr 8-12 7pm Wise Aging Workshop	3 10am SEP	4 6pm Winter Shabbat Services	5 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
6 9am 7th Grade Parent-student learning with Rabbi Berkowitz 9am R/S Gr. K-7 11am Tiny Temple 12pm Lunch Box	7 Hanukkah	8 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Making the Torah Come Alive, w/ Rabbi Berkowitz	9 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30 R/S Gr 8-12 7pm Wise Aging Workshop	10 10am SEP 7pm Exec Cmte Meeting	11 5:30pm Family Dinner 7pm Hanukkah Candle Lighting Service	12 9am Torah Study
13 9am 7th Grade Parent-student learning with Rabbi Berkowitz 9am R/S Gr. K-7	14	15 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Making the Torah Come Alive, w/ Rabbi Berkowitz	16 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30 R/S Gr 8-12 7pm Wise Aging Workshop 7pm Finance Cmte2pm VTS Book Club	17 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	18 6pm Winter Shabbat Services	19 9am Torah Study Bar Mitzvah — Sam Ellis
20 9am R/S Gr. K-7	21	22 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	23 No Hebrew or Religious School	24 Office Closed No SEP	25 Office Closed 6pm Winter Shabbat Services	26 NO TORAH STUDY
27 No Religious School	28	29 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	30 No Hebrew or Religious School	31		