



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

**Congregation Brethren of Israel**

**Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 4 December 2016**

### **Chanukah Candle-Lighting Service & Dinner: Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

Vassar Temple's annual Chanukah Candle-Lighting Shabbat Service will be held Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Please join us for this beautiful family-friendly event. Everyone is encouraged to bring a menorah and candles, and together we will fill the room with the warm glow of the holiday lights!

A potluck dinner will be held prior to the service, at 6:00pm in the social hall. Bring a dairy dish (anything except meat or poultry) for 12. Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages.

- \$6 per individual or \$18 per family
- Prepaid reservations due by Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

Questions? Please contact Roni Stein at 223-5804 or [roniagt99@aol.com](mailto:roniagt99@aol.com). Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with "Chanukah Dinner" on the memo line.

### **Dr. Mihai Grunfeld to Speak at Vassar Temple Shabbat: Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

Vassar Temple will observe Human Rights Shabbat with special programming Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, and everyone is invited to join in any or all of the events of the day. Torah study with Rabbi Berkowitz will begin at 9:00am, followed by a torah service at 10:00am.

During the shabbat event, Dr. Mihai Grunfeld will speak on the topic of "Leaving," the story of his escape from Romania as a teenager in 1969 and the fascinating journey which took him through many countries and across several continents before he found a home in the West. He went on to earn a PhD at University of California Berkeley and has been a professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature at Vassar College since 1987. After the program, the Ritual Committee will provide a light kiddush lunch. For further information about the program, please e-mail [ritual@vassartemple.org](mailto:ritual@vassartemple.org) or call the Temple at 454-2570.

*Shabbat Services winter hours (6:00) are now in effect*

### **Upcoming Events**

Dec. 3, 17	New Paths services, p.3
Dec 18	Tiny Temple, p3
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Dec. 11	Lunch Box, p.7
Dec. 21	Book Club, p 5
Dec. 30	Chanukah Dinner & Candlelighting, p.1



### **Refugee Resettlement Project Update**

Earlier this year, the Vassar Temple Board voted to join Vassar College Refugee Solidarity Project, a Dutchess County collaborative, refugee resettlement project with Vassar College and local faith-based institutions, including Vassar Temple, Christ Episcopal Church, the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association, along with Dutchess Community College, SUNY New Paltz, Marist College and Mount St. Mary College.

This project is moving forward! Church World Service (CWS) received approval from the U.S. State Department to receive and relocate refugee families to the Hudson Valley, all of whom have been screened and extensively vetted through the offices of the US State Department and Homeland Security. As sponsors, Vassar

Temple will work with CWS to assist the designated families with resettlement through financial support and guidance with housing, schools, medical care and employment.

A Community Meeting, held at Vassar College on November 6<sup>th</sup> with representatives from CWS, addressed questions about the resettlement process. Rabbi Berkowitz and clergy from other faith-based sponsor groups offered prayers and blessings for this project. Representatives from the different sponsor groups were also in attendance to express their support and work on committee assignments. We are especially proud to note that Vassar Temple was the first to make this very important commitment, setting a fine example of leadership for other congrega-

tions and fellowships in our region.

As many of us have watched the current refugee crisis unfold, we have felt helpless in our ability to take a concrete action to make a difference. With this project, we can do more than advocacy and fundraising; we can welcome a family to our community and demonstrate our commitment to addressing the worldwide refugee crisis.

Andi Ciminello and Lisa Rubenstein are serving as Co-Captains for the Vassar Temple team. If you want to be involved in this project and aren't already receiving updates, please contact them at the email listed below and you will be added to the Vassar Temple Refugee Resettlement Team. [refugee@vassartemple.org](mailto:refugee@vassartemple.org)

## Rabbi's Message: Introducing Laura Stein, Cantorial Student!

Music is an essential part of Jewish worship. Music gives shape to our sacred texts, both our prayers and the words of the Bible. In the days before moveable type and audio-visual systems, music helped us not only to pray together, but also to make our prayers resonate, and to help us to preserve and remember important values and ideas. Case in point, everyone, from the disaffected Hebrew school dropout to the 90-year-old dementia patient, will sing along to a melody they learned as a child, no matter how much time has passed. Music is *hiddur mitzvah*—the beautification of a mitzvah. Music gives voice to emotions that we cannot express in words and often reaches us right in our *kishkes*, in a way that mere words cannot.

When I came to Vassar Temple, I was extremely impressed with the value that this community places on music. I have served many congregations that had no professional musical leadership, or who knew only one melody for each of the prayers in the service. Vassar Temple's musicians—and congregants—have a diverse repertoire of Jewish songs and an openness to new tunes, and new instruments, when we introduce them. Over the past year, our community has expressed a strong desire to build on the rich musical tradition we already have. We have added piano, percussion, and new melodies to enhance our worship experience, and much of this has caught on so quickly that it is already "tradition"!



With this vision of a beautiful, participatory prayer experience in mind, we have established a connection with the nearby Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. The School of Sacred Music prepares men and women to become ordained cantors, trained not only in Jewish repertoire, but also in the meaning of our sacred texts, and in how to convey the essential ideas of Judaism through music. Training at the School of Sacred Music includes internships at synagogues all over the country, which gives congregations like ours the opportunity to be a part of training the next generation of Jewish leaders!

This year, we will welcome cantorial student Laura Stein to our community for five Shabbatot, during which she will lead the music for our worship services and

teach us new melodies. Laura's expertise in Jewish music, both traditional and modern, will give us a chance to experience a wider range of Jewish melodies and modes. She also brings to our community a wealth of knowledge about the prayers themselves and how to teach them. Here is what Laura has to say about herself:

*"I grew up in Scarsdale, New York and attended Westchester Reform Temple where my family still belongs. I studied Spanish Literature at Washington University in St. Louis and have lived in Chile, Peru, Iceland, Tanzania and Israel! Currently in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of Cantorial School at Hebrew Union College, I am passionate about pastoral care and the role of music in healing and prayer. In addition to my cantorial work, I am also interested in traveling to different parts of the world and learning about their musical cultures. I can't wait to sing with the Vassar Temple community and to spend 5777 learning and praying together!"*

Laura joined us for the first time at our Family Service on November 11<sup>th</sup>, and we are delighted to welcome her back on December 16<sup>th</sup> for our 6:00pm Shabbat Evening Service! Please join me in making Laura feel welcome, and in singing along with her beautiful melodies!

*Rabbi Leah Berkowitz*

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## From Our Temple President



I can't believe that Hanukkah is almost here. We know the story of the Maccabees and the return to and the purification of the holy temple in Jerusalem. And we remember that the wicks of the menorah burned for eight days, even though there was only enough oil for just one day.

At today's Vassar Temple, we cannot wait for such a great miracle to pay for eight days of heat or light or salaries with only one day's worth of funds. Although

we have accomplished many improvements with the physical plant during the past few years as a result of the hard work and generosity of our members, much remains to be done. We must maintain the Temple, and we must also pay the Rabbi's and staff's salaries, pay for supplies and so many other things to keep our wonderful temple functioning for all the congregants. Our dues alone do not pay for all of our expenses.

During this Hanukkah holiday giving season, I ask that you continue to give

generously to Vassar Temple. We have yet to meet our fund raising goals for this year. Please consider a donation before the end of the year so that we may worship and enjoy the so many marvelous gifts Vassar Temple offers and will continue to provide this next year and during the years to come. Make your contribution the Hanukkah miracle Vassar Temple has been waiting for.

Thank you and Happy Hanukkah.

*Mark Metzger*

## December Worship Services

2nd	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and soloist Elisa Dugatkin
3rd	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
9th	6:00	Family Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
10th	9:00am 10:00am 11:00am	Torah Study Shabbaton (Torah service, guest speaker) Ritual Comm. Kiddush Luncheon
16th	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and Laura Stein, cantorial intern
17th	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
23rd	6:00	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
24th	9:00am	<b>NO</b> Torah Study
30th	6:00pm 7:30pm	VTs Hannukah Dinner Hannukah Candle light Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and soloist Elisa Dugatkin
31st	9:00am	<b>NO</b> Torah Study

## New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service on Saturdays, Dec.3 & Dec.17 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@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org), or the Temple Office at [845-454-2570](tel:845-454-2570).

## What's Happening at VT: Staying Informed

Watch your email for our **new weekly Thursday message** with news about Shabbat and current Temple events. You'll also find information about social action initiatives and important future dates to mark on your calendar. Our consolidated email will reduce the number of messages that members are receiving and offer links to detailed information about major events.

You can continue to find a printed list of monthly events on the lobby table, which will also be mailed to our members without email. We'll also continue to send a monthly link to the digital version of our Bulletin, for those who prefer to read it online, as well as periodic notices of particularly important events.

The Publicity Committee is working hard to provide you with information in a timely manner and wants to be responsive to your needs. We welcome additional participants! If you have hidden talents in writing, word processing, or graphic design or just want to contribute a little of your spare time from home, please contact Publicity Chair Bob Abrams at [bobabrams1@gmail.com](mailto:bobabrams1@gmail.com).

## Scriptural Readings

Dec.	3	Tol'dot Gen. 25:19-26:22 Malakhai 1:1-2:7
	10	Vayetze Gen. 28:10-30:13; Hosea 12:13 – 14:10
	17	Vayishlach Gen. 32:4-33:20; Obadiah 1:1-1:21
	24	Vayeshev Gen. 37:1-36; Amos 2:6 – 3:8
	31	<b>Shabbat Hanukkah</b> <i>Miketz</i> <i>Gen. 41:1-52,</i> <i>Numbers 7:48-59; Zechariah</i> <i>2:14 – 4:7</i>

## Tiny Temple Celebrates Hannukah: Dec.18<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate Hanukkah at the free Tiny Temple program to be held at Vassar Temple on Sunday, Dec.18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-noon. The tots will learn about Hanukkah through crafts, story, and song in a relaxed and friendly setting, and a special holiday snack will be served.

All children age infant to 5 and those raising them are warmly invited to join in the fun. Tiny Temple is open to all regardless of temple affiliation, is always free of charge, and is sponsored by the Sisterhood.

To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Laura Brundage and Fern Wolf at [tinytemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:tinytemple@vassartemple.org). They will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful, free, monthly program, and to put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list. Vassar Temple is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, and additional information is available at [www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org) or by calling the Temple Office at 845-454-2570.



## Weekly Study Groups Vassar Temple

“Torah Study” with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz examines passages from the week’s torah portion or haftarah, and will be held Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10, & 17 at 9:00am.

“*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*” will be taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays, Dec. 6, 13, & 20 at 12:00 noon.

All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes. No previous training required, no charge to attend! Questions? For more information, contact [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or (845)454-2570.

### Stax of Sox!

Our recent collection, “Socks for Sukkot,” brought in 270 pairs of warm men’s, women’s and children’s socks! These will be donated to Gannett House, which provides shelter and services to well over 100 local homeless families. Thanks to all who made this possible: the many congregants and religious school students who donated the socks or money for socks, Marcia Tanzman who coordinated the project, Rabbi Berkowitz who suggested the project, and the Religious School, Social Action Committee, and Ritual Committee who worked together to see the project through.

## December’s Pulpit Flower Donations

December 2: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

December 9: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

December 16: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

December 23: Donated by Melissa, Rachel & Brianna Erlebacher, in memory of Seth

December 30: 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.

## Hannukah Sale at VTS Judaica Shoppe

Vassar Temple’s Judaica Shoppe will hold its annual Hannukah Sale with special hours on Sundays, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am - 11:30am and will be open as usual Mon-Thurs from 9:30am- 2:30pm.

Visit our special holiday display in the East Chapel for menorahs, candles including the Safed line from Israel, dreidels, holiday items, gift wrap and much, much more. We will also feature Fair Trade chocolate gelt candy and other Fair Trade items.

Our usual selection of tallitot, gift items, jewelry, ritual items, and art from Israel is always available, and special orders can be arranged. Shop early for the best selection!

The Judaica Shoppe is operated by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood and would love to help you with your Hannukah needs. For further information, please contact Perla at [brandaliz5@optonline.net](mailto:brandaliz5@optonline.net).



## Condolences to...

Adriaan Finnerman on the passing of her mother, Sarah Pauline Benton.

## Refuah Shelemah

Joel Babas as he has been dealing with a bad back

Linda Babas as she recuperates from surgery

Sam Roland as he prepares for hand surgery

## Mazel Tov to...

David and Danielle Mashiah on their wedding

## 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:

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Donna Loshin

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Understudy

Bob Abrams

Articles for the January Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by December 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 the Religious School Director

As I write this Bulletin article, I feel the chill in the air and I am contemplating what winter will bring. Will we have many snow days? Will the roads be difficult for my son, a new driver, to navigate? Will my winter boots hold up for another season? Winter brings lots of great things as well: family time reading and relaxing around the fireplace, skiing, sledding and other winter sports. My biggest difficulty with winter and late fall is how dark it gets so early in the day. I always get excited as the days lengthen when spring approaches.

The Jewish holiday of Chanukah is all about light, which is appropriate for the time of year it falls. Most of us have heard the Chanukah story of the oil lasting longer than expected to provide the Israelites with 8 nights of light in the temple. But this is only part of the story. The Maccabees and their followers were fighting for religious freedom, for the right to be able to study, learn and engage in the words of

the Torah. This Chanukah story is about enlightenment, our desire and right to learn and understand how the world works from a Jewish perspective.

One of the most interesting things I learned about Chanukah was why Chanukah lasts for 8 days and nights. It is about the re-dedication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple in Jerusalem after it was desecrated by the forces of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The reason that Chanukah is 8 days and nights was to reenact the celebration of Sukkot, one of the three pilgrimage holidays we celebrate. The lights were an afterthought. There were always menorahs alit in the Temple. The lighting of them was part of the re-dedication.

So this year, we find ourselves celebrating Chanukah when it is in the deep darkness of our winter. In addition, this year our celebration coincides with the celebration of the holiday of Christmas; in fact, the first night is Christmas Eve.

Now I will be the first to make jokes about eating Chinese Food with a side of latkes (which actually sounds rather

yummy), but for many this overlap poses some questions. For example, how do interfaith families celebrate in a way that will enhance the message of Chanukah *and* Christmas so that their children will come away with a clear understanding that each holiday's message is understood? I am not sure about the answer to this question, except that it should not mean that the kids get double the gifts!

As a Jewish Educator, I would be happy to help you find books, rituals, and ideas for discussion to help your family understand the message of religious freedom in the holiday of Chanukah. I can't really give you good advice on teaching about Christmas, but I am sure that there are many Christian educators that can help you, as well.

I wish your family a winter filled with light and joy and time to cuddle by the fire!

Julie Makowsky

### Adult Education at Vassar Temple

*The Bible in the Qur'an: Islam's Reading of Hebrew Scriptures*

Thurs. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

Presenter: Rabbi Paul Golomb, Senior Scholar

Islam's foundational text, the Qur'an, features retellings and reimaginings of many narratives from the Hebrew Bible. Explore Islam's interpretation of our shared sacred stories.

*How Reform Has Reformed*

Tues. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

Presenter: Rabbi Paul Golomb, Senior Scholar

Part III of a three-part series on the evolution of modern-day Reform Judaism, Rabbi Golomb will provide a 40-year perspective beginning with the San Francisco Platform, Gates of Prayer and the founding of ARZA.

### Book Club to Discuss *The Gilded Years*: December 21<sup>st</sup>

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Gilded Years* by Karin Tanabe – an emotionally compelling story about the first African American student to secretly attend Vassar College, at a time when her race would have banned her from admission.

In 1897, Anita Hemmings graduated from Vassar, concealing a truth: she was the School's first black student, passing for white. This fictionalized take on Hemming's real life story animates her struggle to straddle two worlds, each with its own definition of freedom. Set against the vibrant background of the *Gilded Age*, an era when old money traditions collided with modern times, the author raises questions about how race, gender, and class can both advance and limit opportunities.



This thought provoking historical novel is available in paperback and through the local library system. Muriel Lampell will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00pm., in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

For more information, contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or [linda.babas.41@gmail.com](mailto:linda.babas.41@gmail.com). If you have suggestions for future readings, please email them to Linda.

## High Holy Days Thanks

With Chanukah fast approaching, recollections of our High Holy Days may be a distant memory! However, the passing of time has not diminished our appreciation of the small army of people who made sure that our observances were special.

We extend sincere thanks to our professional staff: **Rabbi Berkowitz**, first and foremost, and **Elisa Dugatkin** and **Joe Bertolozzi**, who collectively brought their unique gifts to our holy day observances. Beginning in early summer, **Sherrie Geisler**, the Temple Office Manager, worked vigorously to manage many of the administrative components; we are grateful to her for her work and vigilance keeping us on track. Thanks to our support staff, **Maria Munoz** and **Alvin Rosen**, for their 'behind the scenes' work.

Whether it was securing service participants, developing Sukkoth and Simchat Torah programming or arranging for the Yom Kippur Food Drive the following Ritual Committee members orchestrated various elements of the fall holidays; **Bob Abrams**, **Linda Cantor**, **David Hecht**, **Joel Kelson**, **Ron Rosen**, **Marian Schwartz**, **Marcia Tanzman**, and **Shira Teich**. Thank you...you are an awesome group of individuals!

Appreciation is also extended to the Temple's Executive Committee for their support, whether it was serving as bimah officers and greeters, arranging for security or collectively developing policy related to the HHDs. These people are: **Len Greenberg**, **Susan Hecht**, **Alan Kafflowitz**, **Mark Metzger** and **Jonah Ritter**.

What would the High Holy Days be without the taste of sweet apples dipped in honey? Thank you to **Dan** and **Susan Albinder** for generously donating fresh and delicious apples for our celebration. And what would the sukkah be without its special decorative components? Not a sukkah! So, thank you to **Steven** and

**Shelley Turk** for donating and delivering the branches and cornstalks again this year.

Heartfelt thanks are also sent to ~ our Torah silver polishers: **Judy Creedon**, **Sue Lesser** and **Debbie Golomb**

~ **Sue** and **Bill Barbash** for donating the food truck; to the **Kafflowitz**, **Sinn**, **Kelson** and **Schwartz** families for schlepping and organizing the donated items; to **Ron Rosen** for acquiring the truck and delivering the items to Duchess Outreach; **Perla Kaufman** for ordering the truck; **VaTY** for preparing the bags and assisting with the



food donations

~ **Polly Lewis** for orchestrating the Break Fast event

~ **Olivia DiIorio** for her musical contribution at our family services

~ **Vinnie Miller** for his support of our memorial book

~ **Jen Dahnert** for securing Sunset Lake on the Vassar College Campus for the Tashlich ceremony; to **Alan Kafflowitz** for providing cover and to the many bakers who helped create a festive atmosphere

~ **Susan Hecht** and **Marcia Tanzman** for decorating the Sanctuary and the Sukkah for the holidays of Sukkoth and Simcha Torah

~ **Men's Club** for raising and taking down the Sukkah

~ **Sisterhood** for their generous support of the many HHD events

~ Torah readers: **Betty Gibbs**, **Susan Hecht**, **Alan Kafflowitz**, **Elizabeth Katz**,

**Joel Kelson**, **Mark Metzger**, **Jacob Moore**, **Justin Moore**, **Rachel Roland**, **Lisa Rubenstein**, **David Smith**, **Melissa Wall** and **Dave Wolf**

~ Shofar Blowers: **David Hecht**, **Brett Lubarsky**, **Sandra Mamis** and **Rebecca Strauss**

~ Participants **Marianne & Bob Abrams**, **Amy & David Berkowitz**, **Cathy Bokor**, **Laura Brundage**, **Linda Cantor**, **Martin & Ellie Charwat**, **Barbara & Andy Chernack**, **Andi & Paul Ciminello**, **Melissa Erlebacher**, **Sam & Adriaan Finnerman**, **Susan & David Hecht**, **Emily & Howard Himelstein**, **Charlotte**, **Molly** and **Dan Katz**, **Benjamin Krevolin**, **Marcia & Glen Tanzman**, **Kristin Judd**, **David Lampell**, **Polly Lewis**, **Kamil Wisniewski**, **Elaine Lipschutz**, **Sandra Mamis**, **Amy & Kenneth Oclatis**, **Joan & David Posner**, **Jonah Ritter**, **Mary Ritter**, **Ron Rosen**, **Bonnie Scheer**, **Marian & Ralph Schwartz**, **Arlene & Gil Seligman**, **Michele**, **Matthew & Alex Sinn**, **Roni & Charles Stein**, **Nadine Zaritsky**, **Mary & Murray Solomon**, **Judy Creedon**, **Mark Russo**, **Howard Susser**, **Loren Rosenthal**, **Lou Lewis**, **Eleanor Pupko**, **Gloria Turk**, **Arnie Serotsky**, **Bonnie Scheer**, **Marge & Art Groten....** and all those who came up to the bimah to accept an aliyah!

~ to all of our members who attended services, for your presence sanctified our worship experience and brightened the sanctuary with your voices raised in prayer  
~ to all those members who could not be physically present, but whose spirit was felt and whose commitment to Vassar Temple makes us stronger

And, finally, many thanks to all of you who contributed generously to our Yom Kippur Food Drive Appeal!

With deep appreciation to all, shalom.

*Sandra Mamis,*  
High Holy Day Chair

## Jewish War Veterans Meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 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) or who have family members who served in the Armed Forces of the United States are invited to attend and participate in the activities of this J.W.V. Post.

As Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue. For further information please contact the Presiding Officer, Rob Rubin, at [qbee5@optonline.net](mailto:qbee5@optonline.net).

## VaTY News

### Upcoming Events:

December 16-17 Shul-in at TEmTY  
January 20-23 NAR Winter Kallah at New Rochelle

### Save the Dates:

February 25 Ski/Snow tubing day  
March 11 Purim Hopping  
March 19-20 Albany Advocacy Day  
April 21-23 NAR Spring Kallah at Camp Eisner

Email us at [youthgroup@vassartemple.org](mailto:youthgroup@vassartemple.org) if you have questions, suggestions or want to participate!

Shira and Dan

## Lunch Box: Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

Men's Club will be sponsoring the Lunch Box on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. You can help by donating the following:

- 3 lb. ground beef or ground turkey, browned with ½ cup chopped onion
- one to two dozen pieces fresh fruit or bananas

Food donations can be dropped off beforehand any time the temple is normally open. Please label it "For Lunch Box." Nonperishable fruit can go in the clear plastic bin in the counter just inside the kitchen door.

Please e-mail [mensclub@vassartemple.org](mailto:mensclub@vassartemple.org) to let them know what you will be donating. Thank you!

## Community Chanukah Party at Children's Museum

**Where:** Mid Hudson Children's Museum

75 N. Water St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30pm

**Details:** Museum exploration, latke dinner, goodie bags, door prizes, music, games, crafts and FUN! Special *Science Challenge* for kids ages 9-11.

Tickets must be bought in advance: \$5 each or \$18 family of 5. For more info, call Melinda at 914-475-5566.

## L'Chaim!

We will be sampling different wines during kiddush every Friday night in December. Come and vote for your favorite! Your votes will help the Ritual Committee determine what will be Vassar Temple's "signature kiddush wine" in the coming year.

## Breaking the Fast

As the New Year services ended, Vassar Temple's *Break the Fast* started with 80 people attending in the social hall. The buffet tables included kugels, blintzes, zucchini pie, tuna, egg, and whitefish salads, deviled eggs, bagels, lox, herring and more, not to mention an array of yummy desserts.

Helpers for *Break the Fast* were: Barbara Ballinger, Susan Colodner, Susan Fink, Susan Karnes Hecht, Sandra Mamis, Susan Needelman, Mary Ritter, Bonnie Scheer, and Hilary Wrobel. Many thanks to these wonderful volunteers.

## Thank You Vassar Temple

We are still receiving thanks for the school supplies we purchased (for Morse Elementary School in Poughkeepsie) with your financial donations to tzedakah over the summer. From teacher F. Meyer:

*"I am using some folders today that you had donated to our school & classrooms and felt that I needed to thank you for your kindness. What a fabulous gift you have given. You donated not only supplies but have given from the heart. I wanted to let you know how much all your gifts meant... You truly are Godsent."*

Yes, Vassar Temple members are truly special, and the Social Action Committee thanks you for your support of this and all our projects throughout the year.



# Yahrzeits

## DECEMBER 2

Larry Adler  
Alexander Asch  
John Azanco  
Susan Baker  
Abraham Baum  
Lee Bronfeld  
Solomon Berger  
Ruby Cohn  
May Kaufman Ettenson  
Miriam Feitelson  
Ida Finnerman  
Lillian Friedman  
Lester Fries  
Marion Himmelstein  
Charles Hoffman  
Sidney Horn  
Marcia Krandel  
Sylvia Mishel Nectow  
L. Charles Podret  
Sol Cohen Ribbi  
Edward Roth  
Bea Russotto  
David F. Schor  
Penya Schmukler  
Diane Ruth Shore  
Claire M. Trivers

## DECEMBER 9

Simon Adler  
Ruth Bagun  
Dr. Morton Bard  
Gussie Bernstein  
Rhoda Brooke  
Sadie Breit  
Elsa Cohen  
Allan E. Dampf  
Shirley Ernest  
Matilda "Tillie"  
Gordon  
Carl Gross  
Julius Klein  
Clara Lewin  
Leo Loeb  
Sandra Lipschitz  
Martin Markowitz  
Thomas Nolan  
Minnie Shapiro  
William Schwartz  
Rhea Sumner  
Jordan Taylor  
Wilford Wittenberg

## DECEMBER 16

Abe Barnett  
Anna Cairo  
Ruth Seegal Cohen  
Eileen Dermody  
Ilse B. Dreyfuss  
Louis Dubler  
Annette Livingston  
Kleinfeld Katz  
Erna Konheim  
Charles Kovacs  
Susan Marash  
Marilyn Sirkus  
Aaron Slote  
Beatrice Snyder  
Helen Wrobel  
Esther Yelsky

## DECEMBER 23

Dr. Doris Berlin-Acker  
Belle G. Adler  
Goldie Bleich  
Barnard Cohen  
Leah W. Cohen  
Seth A. Erlebacher  
Fay Gordon  
Kate Hecht  
Deborah H. Jacobs  
Joseph L. Kahn  
Selma Kahn  
Celia Kraut  
Evelyn Lesser  
Miriam Levine  
Lillian Lox  
Stella W. Renick  
William Robinowitz  
Louis Rosen  
Nathaniel Rubin  
Joseph Weber  
Philip Wolfson

## DECEMBER 30

Albert Barchilon  
Julius Bloch  
Rose Brond  
Jean Citron  
Donald DeWitt  
Morris Effron  
Joseph Fa'gut  
DeWitt Fischman  
Harry Fogle  
Michael Goldfinger  
Roberta Weiss Gordon  
Elaine Hendricks  
Keith Warner Landau  
Dr. Joseph R. Levy  
Leah Michel  
Meyer Miller  
Reine Reinhart  
Frances Rosen  
Cynthia Rosenblum  
Harry Schneider  
Faye Seif  
Barnet B. Shelton  
Henry Solomonson  
Nicholas Stern  
Mildred Tauber  
Maurice L. Troeger

## FUND FACTS: BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

This month the Bulletin editors wisely asked if I had any remaining material for my monthly column, or if I had exhausted all available topics for "Fund Facts." Feeling somewhat like the salesperson on the cheesy late-night television ads who exclaims with annoying enthusiasm, "But wait! There's more!" my immediate thought was precisely that phrase. You see, when it comes to encouraging contributions to a cause as important as Vassar Temple, there is *always* more to say. . .

Given the timing of this particular column, my message is about year-end giving. In the coming weeks you will likely think at some point about the end of the tax year and make your final charitable contributions for 2016 before December

31<sup>st</sup>. Gifts to Vassar Temple look great on tax returns (editorial comment!) and qualify for deductions to the fullest extent allowed by law (true story!). Please consider including Vassar Temple with one more gesture of tzedakah through your 2016 charitable gift list.

For information, please refer to the "donations" page on VT web site: <http://vassar temple.org/donate-to-vt>, or feel free to contact me directly: [jensachsdahnert@gmail.com](mailto:jensachsdahnert@gmail.com). It will come as no surprise that I would be delighted to hear from you and offer my assistance! Thank you for remembering Vassar Temple in your 2016 contributions.

*Jennifer Sachs Dahnert*

*Tzedakah*



# Contributions

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Honor of:

Linda Cantor on receiving the  
Arnold Award;  
David Lampell on receiving the  
Founders Award;  
Ken & Amy Oclatis on the  
marriage of their son;  
Glen & Marcia Tanzman for  
their HHD appeal apeech;  
All the HHD shofar blowers.  
Jonah & Mary Ritter  
Mark, Kate & Anna Metzger  
on celebrating Anna's Bat Mitzvah;  
Mark, Jasmine & Jordan Russo  
on celebrating Jordan's Bat Mitzvah;  
Jonah & Mary Ritter on the wedding of  
their daughter, Sarah.

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Memory of:

Marjorie Gluck  
Nancy Gluck & David Gluck  
Abe Braunstein  
Andrew Roberts  
Stanley Tuman  
Martin Brenner  
Joe Braunstein Jeff & Michele Brenner  
Dr. Murray Sigalow  
Shirley Sigalow,  
David Sigalow & family  
Celia Levine  
Saul Hester  
Michael Aronson  
Lila Matlin

Erica Robbins

Stanley Markum

Aaron Slote

Helen Wrobel

Dr. Donald L. Goldfarb

Martin Noble  
William Robinowitz

Jim & Mary Ann Robinowitz  
Goldie Bleich  
Joseph Kahn  
Selma Kahn

Matt & Muriel Lampell

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

The Goldfarb Family



## Vassar Temple's Annual Souper Sale!!

Winter is here and there are children, teenagers and adults of all ages who are hungry and cold and lack nourishing food supplies to sustain them.. YOU CAN HELP! Vassar Temple invites you to make a donation of any amount which will be used to purchase cases and cases of large cans of chunky soups. These soups are full of meats, vegetables, potatoes and more.

In the beginning of January, a caravan of volunteer members will deliver the load to the following local food distribution sites: Dutchess Outreach, Morse Elementary School, Community Action Partnership's pantries in Beacon, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook and Dover, Interfaith Senior Housing and more.

Please send a tax deductible check in any amount made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Souper Sale Donation" on the memo line. Send the check to: Vassar Temple,

140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION IN NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2016.

That's it. You will know you are helping feed someone in this county who might otherwise miss a meal.

An added plus: Money collected for the Souper Sale will be exchanged for Stop N Shop scrip at the Temple, which benefits the Temple, too. 100% of your donation will be used to buy the chunky soups at a local grocery store. It's a win/win deal!!

Questions? Please call Nancy Samson at [845-235-2860](tel:845-235-2860) or email [CANJAM123@aol.com](mailto:CANJAM123@aol.com).



# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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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>	Julie Makowsky
<b>Cantorial Soloist</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Mark Metzger
<b>1st Vice-President</b>	OPEN
<b>2nd Vice- President:</b>	Alan Kflowitz
<b>Secretary:</b>	Susan Karnes Hecht
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Len Greenberg
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Judy Rosenfeld
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	OPEN

## December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am SEP	2 6pm Shabbat Service (with Elisa Dugatkin)	3 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
4 9am B'nai Mitzvah Family Program 9am Hanukkah Judaica Sale 9am R/S	5	6 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte Meeting	7 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher pgm at TBE	8 10am SEP 7pm Adult Ed: The Bible in the Quran— Islam's reading of Hebrew Scriptures	9 6pm Family Shabbat Service	10 9am Torah Study 10am Shabbaton Service 12pm Ritual Cmte Luncheon
11 9am B'nai Mitzvah Family Program 9am Hanukkah Sale 9am R/S 10:30 Lunchbox—Men's Club	12	13 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Adult Ed: How Reform has Reformed part 3	14 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher pgm at TBE	15 10am SEP	16 6pm Shabbat Service	17 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
18 9am Hanukkah Judaica Sale 9am R/S 11am Tiny Temple	19	20 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	21 No Hebrew School 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Finance Cmte meeting	22 10am SEP 7pm Board meeting	23 6pm Shabbat Service	24 No Torah Study
25 No R/S	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed No SEP No Talmud Study	28 No Hebrew School No Gesher	29 10am SEP	30 6pm Hanukkah Dinner 7:30pm Hanukkah Service	31 No Torah Study