



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 164 No. 4 December 2017

Chanukah Dinner and Service: December 15th

Vassar Temple's annual pot-luck Chanukah Dinner will be held on Friday, December 15th, at 6:00pm in the social hall. Bring a meat or non-dairy dish (anything except dairy) for 12; Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages. \$18 per family or \$6 per individual.

Reservations for this popular event should be made by Tuesday, December 10th, by contacting Roni Stein at 223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com. Send your check to: Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with 'Chanukah Dinner' on the memo line.

This dinner will be followed at 7:30pm by our traditional, exciting and beautiful family-friendly **Chanukah Menorah-lighting Shabbat service, to which everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a menorah and candles.** If you have not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!



Upcoming Events

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Music Cabaret: Dec. 2nd

Cantorial Intern Laura Stein Sings "Renewing Hope to Strengthen Our Community"

Enjoy a magical musical evening with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein, Saturday evening, Dec. 2nd at Vassar Temple. In an intimate cabaret setting, Laura will explore themes of faith, optimism and strength as expressed in songs from the Jewish, American Folk, and Musical Theater traditions. Doors open for schmoozing at 7:00pm, with the concert starting at 7:30. There will be an elegant Viennese table and cabaret seating; bring your own wine.



- Tickets \$18 at the door
- RSVP to music@vassartemple.org by Nov. 26th

Proceeds benefit our very own Vassar Temple.

Laura is a fifth year cantorial student at Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and currently serves as cantorial intern at Vassar Temple. She grew up in Westchester and has lived in many countries around the world. In her cantorial work, she is passionate about pastoral care and the role music can play in healing and in prayer.



Winter services begin at 6:00pm starting December 1st



When I was growing up, Hannukah gifts were still pretty modest, especially as the week wore on. Socks and underwear always made an appearance towards the eighth night, with clothes, toys, and music rounding out the rest of the week. If we really wanted something, we could save up all eight nights to get it. One year, my mother teased out a plane ticket for my teenaged brother to visit his girlfriend by giving him a letter of her name each night! Of course, there were quite a lot of books, as well. Books remain my favorite gift to give and receive, and I have a few recommendations as you begin your holiday shopping.

Children It's no secret that my absolute favorite Hannukah book is *Herschel and the Hannukah Goblins*, written by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Trina Schwartz. Though I'm too old to have enjoyed it as a child, I did read it to my third grade class every year as a teacher's assistant. This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the story of Herschel of Ostropol, a resourceful traveler who saves a village from a horde of Hannukah-

hating goblins with a series of clever tricks. This December, I'm also going to check out Jamie Korngold's *Sadie's (Almost) Marvelous Menorah*, illustrated by Julie Fortenberry. When Sadie's handmade menorah falls apart, she learns about the meaning of the shamash candle, and repurposes her broken art project!

Young Adults: Joel Ben Izzy is a master storyteller whose young adult novel, *Dreidels on the Brain*, was a delightful addition to my Hannukah reading list last year. Young Joel searches for miracles during a particularly difficult Hannukah season: his father is in the hospital, his family is broke, and his peer group at school doesn't appreciate his humor or his budding skills as a magician. While the story is funny, strange, and ultimately heart-warming, I'll admit my favorite part is the author's dedication to his wife: "As the dreidels in my brain spin out into the world, know that the dreidels in my heart spin for you alone."

Adults: Aside from romances and mysteries, it can be challenging to find Hannukah-centered fiction for adults. Instead, I want to recommend two great books about Hannukah by Noam Zion, author of the *A Different Night Haggadah*. For Hannukah, he wrote two volumes: *A Different Light: The Hannukah Book of Celebration* and *A Different Light: The Big Book of Hannukah* are excellent collections of Hannukah facts, stories, rituals, and thought

pieces about how to make the holiday meaningful in a modern world.

Although this isn't exactly a Hannukah story, I am really looking forward to reading Naomi Levy's new book, *Einstein and the Rabbi*. Levy is one of my favorite spiritual writers: *To Begin Again*, *Talking to God*, and *Hope Will Find You* all explore how to live a meaningful life in the wake of tragedy, and how to have courage, hope, and faith in the midst of life's general messiness. Levy's jumping-off point for her latest book is a correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi, in which they discuss life, the Universe, and the nature of the soul.

Music: Tired of "I Had a Little Dreidel"? Here are two Hannukah music alternatives: The Levees's upbeat and funny *How do You Spell Channukkah?* and Erron Baron Cohen's stylistically diverse collection, *Songs in the Key of Chanukah*.

May your Hannukah be filled with light, hope, and peace, and a good book to curl up with!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



From Our President

Hanukkah is almost here. It's a wonderful time of year. We get to celebrate another miracle. This season also seems to be very hectic. Although I enjoy Hanukkah, I also look forward to beginning the new year. Fortunately, during the long Thanksgiving weekend, I had time to relax and reflect on the past few weeks and why they were all so special.

I thought about the high holy days, Sukkoth and the marvelous gala among other things. I also considered how special Vassar Temple and the people associated with our synagogue are to me. I truly enjoy the opportunity to worship on Friday nights and some Saturday mornings. Rabbi Berkowitz, and the music which accompanies her provide a very special

spiritual experience. And people at Temple make it all exceptional. Those involved give so much to our synagogue, the community and the world. They never let what they cannot do interfere with what they can do. They keep giving and giving. I enjoyed being with them and working together.

So as we are about to celebrate Hanukkah and the miracle, I realize that Vassar Temple is not wonderful because of a miracle. Congregants who focus on what they can do for our temple make it such a great place. If you do not come to services, please join us. If you do not volunteer at Temple, please try it. Participating in Temple will add a new dimension to your life.

Thank you to all who make Vassar Temple so wonderful. Happy Hanukkah and best wishes for a wonderful new year.

Dec. 2nd Shabbaton: Finding Renewed Hope in Humanity

Please join us for Shabbat morning services on December 2nd. The morning will include a presentation by members of The Race Unity Circle (RUC), followed by a brief question and answer period. Services will be followed by a light lunch.

RUC began 3 years ago as a result of an urgent call to action felt by a few local members of the Baha'i Faith in response to the news coming out of Ferguson, Missouri. The Circle quickly became multi-cultural and multi-faith. Members of RUC believe that we need to act as one as we're all human. Their goal to eliminate racism from our communities is not just an aspiration; it is a spiritual imperative that requires sustained, persistent action.

Mark Metzger

Dec. 1st Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour.... Join the Fun!

The monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hours continue thanks to the ongoing sponsorship from Sisterhood! Donations and contributions to Sisterhood help to defray the costs and expenses associated with continued gatherings.

In October, we squeezed out one last time on the patio to enjoy the evening breeze. November's Happy Hour, hosted by Men's Club, featured Mexican food & beer downstairs. December's Happy Hour will be hosted by Jas Russo and Melissa Wall. The time will change to 7:15pm, following the early service. If you haven't joined us yet for these monthly gatherings, please come! It's a fun and relaxed way to welcome shabbat with your Vassar Temple friends and family.

January and February Happy Hours will be at 7:15pm, following the 6:00pm services. Stay tuned for themes and fun menu items to share. Anyone can host. It's easy and fun to grab a few friends and organize a gathering. Please contact Andi Ciminello at andi@ecopkny.com.

Office Volunteers Needed

Periodically we have large-scale projects at the office, such as mailings or other organizational tasks, for which we need extra hands for a couple of hours. If you would be willing to be on a list of available volunteers that can be contacted when needed, please email our administrative assistant, Michelle Havas, at office@vassartemple.org or call her at 454-2570. Thank you for your support!



Don't forget to bring your Menorah and Candles to the Chanukah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service on Dec 15!!

Hannukah Judaica Sale at Vassar Temple

Vassar Temple's Judaica Shoppe will hold its annual Hannukah sale with special hours on Sundays, December 3 and December 10 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am, and will be open as usual Mon-Thurs from 10:00am- 2:00pm.

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, or to make a special appointment, please contact Perla at perlakaufman22@gmail.com or 914-456-7309.

DCIC Fair Trade & Hand Made Bazaar: Dec. 2-3

Saturday, Dec. 2 (11:00am-5:00pm)
Sunday, Dec. 3 (11:00am-3:00pm)
Hellenic Center, 54 Park Ave., Poughkeepsie (rear entrance of Greek Orthodox Church, next to Temple Beth El)

Featuring hand-made and fair trade items from local sources and around the world: art, gift items, jewelry, clothing, cosmetics, chocolate, coffee, and other edibles. Proceeds benefit the Dutchess County Interfaith Council. Questions? Contact Pat Lamanna at patla42@gmail.com.

Music Committee Thanks Cantorial Intern Sponsors!

The Music Committee thanks all Temple members who have contributed to sponsor Cantorial Intern Laura Stein, to help defray Laura's travel expenses. Sponsorships are available for a Friday night or weekend when Laura will be at Vassar Temple.

We greatly appreciate sponsorships contributed by the following members:

- Gail D'Alessio
- Susan and David Hecht
- Andi and Paul Ciminello, in honor of Bonnie Scheer's music leadership at Vassar Temple
- Bonnie Scheer
- Marilyn Barlow, in honor of her daughter, Leah's Bat Mitzvah
- Jon Lieberman and Fern Lox, in honor of their daughter, Lana's Bat Mitzvah

If you would like to sponsor a future Shabbat, please contact Bob Abrams at music@vassartemple.org.

*Bob Abrams
Music Committee Chair*

Lunch Box: Dec. 3rd

Help us feed our neighbors in need! We need donations of the following foods, which can be dropped off at the Temple beforehand, any time the building is open:

- 1 to 2 dozen pieces fresh fruit/bananas, or
- 3 lbs. ground beef or ground turkey browned with 1/2 cup onions

We also need volunteers to help cook and serve at the Family Partnership Center between 10:30am and 1:15pm that Sunday. Please LABEL all food 'For Lunch Box.' There will be a bin near the entry to the kitchen for your donations of nonperishable fruits.

For questions, to volunteer or to donate food, please contact December Lunch Box Captain Dave Wolf at DaveWolf@optonline.net or 845-229-8038. (P.S. Your tax deductible check made out to Vassar Temple with 'Community Tzedakah Fund' on the memo line also helps our Lunch Box project!)

From the Ritual Corner



On the morning of Sunday October 29th, Vassar Temple congregants, Religious School students and madrichim and teachers enjoyed studying and working with Neil Yerman, our sofer (Torah scribe).

We learned about the tools used by a sofer and why the upkeep of our scrolls is important, and we set about doing various tasks. With Neil's guidance we cleaned the first four of the five books of the Torah! We fixed fading letters with more ink. We added several crowns to existing letters in the Song of the Sea. All of this was done to the scroll which we use for each of our B'nai Mitzvot. The work

was done with love and respect for our heritage. We wondered aloud who may have read and learned from, danced with or carried our scrolls on their journeys from Europe to Vassar Temple...possibly our own relatives.

Together we helped care for and learn about our Torah, a living document. It was very special to be part of three generations of congregants involved in something so central to our education and faith. We did ourselves proud.

*David Hecht
Ritual Committee Chair*

December Weekly Study Groups at Vassar Temple

'Torah Study' with the Temple's Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, will be held at 9:00am on Saturdays (no class 12/2 or 12/30). "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*", taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held every Tuesday at 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? Contact rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845)454-2570.

Membership Committee News!

Hello from the Membership Committee! What is membership? Membership is everything we do to engage the members of our temple and to bring new members in. Our committee is working to find innovative ways to make our amazing community even better. We are working on programs for all ages starting with our youngest members.

We are revamping Tiny Temple as our toddler membership is on the rise! Our first event will be a Hanukkah Party on December 17th at 10:30am. We will be celebrating the holiday along with the Religious School. There will be music, story time, snacks and crafts!

We hope parents, grandparents and children ages 0 to 5 can join us for this event. Membership is about all our members and our tiniest members are our future! For questions about Tiny Temple or any other membership related issues, please reach out to membership@vassartemple.org with suggestions or ideas.

Jewish War Veterans Meet Dec. 10th

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, of The Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America has a scheduled meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. The meeting starts at 9:30am.

Persons of the Jewish faith who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces are cordially invited to attend and fully participate. Persons of the Jewish faith are also invited to attend and fully participate. At 9:00am there will be an informal "schmooze" with coffee and cake, so come and socialize with your fellow comrades.

Because Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought in to the building.

December Worship Services

1	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
2	7:15pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour
	9:00am	Torah Study
	10:00am	Mini-Shabbaton
8	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
9	9:00am	Torah Study
15	6:00 pm	Chanukah Potluck Dinner
	7:30pm	Chanukah Candle-lighting Service with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
16	9:00am	Torah Study
	10:00am	New Paths morning service
22	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
23	9:00am	NO TORAH STUDY
29	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
30	9:00am	NO TORAH STUDY

New Paths Service

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service on Saturday, Dec. 16th at 10:00am in the informal 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. We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service.

Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz at rabbi@vassartemple.org, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Scriptural Readings

Dec.	2	<i>Vayishlach</i> Gen. 34:1-35:15; Obadiah 1:1-1:21
	9	<i>Vayeshev</i> Gen. 38:1-30; Amos 2:6 – 3:8
	16	Shabbat Hanukkah <i>Miketz</i> Gen. 41:53-43:15, Num. 7:48-59; Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7
	23	<i>Vayigash</i> Gen. 45:28-46:27; Ezekiel 37:15-28
	30	<i>Vay'chi</i> Gen. 47:28-48:22; I Kings 2:1-12

Tiny Temple Hanukkah Party: Dec. 17th

Please join us for Tiny Temple's *free* Hanukkah Party at Vassar Temple on Sunday, December 17th from 10:30am-11:30am. The tots, along with the Religious School, will learn about Hanukkah through crafts, story, and song in a relaxed and friendly setting, and a special holiday snack will be served.

Parents, grandparents, families and children ages infant to 5 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 Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo at 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. Additional information is available at www.vassartemple.org or by calling the Temple Office at 845-454-2570.



Mazel Tov

To:

Fredrica (Fritzy) & Jack Goodman on the establishment of *The Goodman Initiative for American Youth* at The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum;

Susan & Allen Fink on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Eli Benjamin Burger, son of Julie Rosenberg & Niels Burger;

Dan Joy and Tori Serigano, son of Suzanne (Turk) Warren, grandson of Gloria Turk and Toolie Turk 'zl';

Elaine Lipschutz on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Noa Goodis;

Marilyn Barlow on the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Leah Barlow;

Fern Lox and Jon Lieberman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Lana Lieberman;

Zoe Weinstein on being one of Hudson Valley's Top Physicians 2017



Remembering George

George Rugar, husband of Vassar Temple retired Office Administrator, Sandi Rugar, and himself head of VT maintenance for many years, passed away on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. George was a gentle soul. He always had a smile on his face and was at the ready to share a joke. You could never leave the temple with a package without his offer of a helping hand. A good-natured and friendly man, he was an avid Yankees fan, very well versed on their standing. The Vassar Temple family offers its sincere condolences to Sandi and her family.



December Bimah Flower Donations

November 3:	Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
November 10:	Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
November 17:	Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
November 24:	Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

October and November Bimah Flowers Donations Update:

October 13:	Donated by Gloria Turk
November 10:	Donated by Lew & Hilary Wrobel in honor of U.S. military veterans
November 17:	Donated by Ben Krevolin in memory of Jenny Krevolin

Please consider commemorating a special occasion or honoring the memory of a loved one by sponsoring the Sanctuary Flowers. The cost is \$55. Checks should be made payable to 'Vassar Temple Sisterhood' with 'Bimah Flower Fund' in the memo line. For more information call the Temple Office at 454-2570.

Condolences to...

Joan Posner on the passing of her father, Nathan Schmukler;

Sandi Rugar on the passing of her husband and Vassar Temple's former Facilities Engineer, George Rugar

Refuah Shelemah

Linda Babas

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 Donna Loshin

Technical support & understudy	Bob Abrams
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Articles for the **January Bulletin** must be submitted by **December 1st** sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



From the Religious School Director

This year the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School took a step towards engaging the post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students in continuing to be a part of our Religious School. In a recent grant proposal, a board member and I named this effort - **YELP or the Youth Engagement Leadership Program**. I simply call these young people ‘Madrichim.’ Madrichim is a Hebrew word that means “leader”.

This past summer I sent out letters to the Vassar Temple teens describing what I had in mind for this program. I laid out my expectations and asked them to fill out the accompanying application if they wanted a job as a Madrich (m) or Madricha (f). To my amazement I received 10 applications. That meant that each and every Sunday morning, these 10 individuals will have to get up and come to Religious School; and this time it is by their choice!

The Madrichim are either paid a small amount each time they work or they can receive community service hours in lieu of payment. Tasked with aiding teachers in numerous ways, they organize, plan and maintain a myriad of things throughout the school. I demand positive attitudes and for them to always be “present” (as in really attentive to the students and the mission of the school). They know to turn off their cell phones (unless I ask them specifically to be taking pictures). I have even asked them to take the lead in planning and facilitating some of our holiday programming. For example, the Chanukah Extravaganza on December 17th will take place because of their hard work!

I recently asked a group of Madrichim to help me create an activity for the Family Shabbat Program that was held in November. In order to help me they needed to reread the Torah portion and come up with ideas. I was amazed to see them pull out Bibles and begin to read and discuss the themes that they would need to highlight in this activity. That same Sunday, another student was working with a class creating Midrashim about the days of Creation, and others had spent

time one-on-one with students learning their Hebrew letters, listening to them sound out the syllables. I am incredibly impressed with the initiative and motivation of these young people, and I leave here on Sunday afternoons thrilled that this initiative is not only working but exceeding my expectations.

In order to cover the cost of the Madrichim Program (or YELP) the Religious School has scheduled a couple of Fundraisers. **Please join us on Sunday morning, December 3rd at 9:00am for a Pancake Breakfast** made and served by our fabulous Madrichim under the supervision of our Religious School Committee member, Jasmine Russo, and Hebrew Teacher & Youth Group Advisor, Fran Kuperberg and Hebrew Teacher, Yoni Korn.

Julie Makowsky

Book Club to Discuss *Before We Were Yours: Dec. 20th*

Vassar Temple’s Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate, in which the author explains the lives of families, generations apart, who are connected by a history of tragedy.

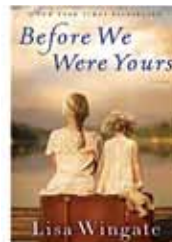
In 1939, Rill Foss, only twelve years old, must fend for herself and her siblings after they are taken to an orphanage. At the mercy of a cruel director and the adults in her life, Rill attempts to keep her siblings together and safe. Fast forward to the present, Avery Stafford, a lawyer from a prominent South Carolina family, has a chance encounter that leaves her questioning her family’s history and the reality of her birth.

Before We Were Yours is based on the heartbreaking true scandal of Georgia

Tann, a woman whose Memphis adoption center kidnaps and sells poor children to wealthy families.

This highly praised historical novel is available through the local library system, where multiple copies are available. Elaine Lipschutz will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 20th at 2:00pm, in the Community Room of Colleague Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 473-7931, or linda.babas.41@gmail.com. As always, your book suggestions for future meetings are always welcome.



Adult Ed: *Coming to America: Stories of Immigration* Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00pm at Vassar Temple

Through an exploration of Jewish short fiction (“The First December Dilemma:” Grace Paley’s “The Loudest Voice”), and real letters in the Forward in the Bintel Brief advice column, we will see how this historic period of migration played out in the lives of new Americans. How did they deal with the challenges of culture shock, adaptation, and assimilation? All welcome! No charge to attend.

FUND FACTS. . . “Saying Thankfuls”

Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays, but not for the reasons you might think (much as I love a good slice of pumpkin pie!).

Ever since my Mom got remarried to a Methodist minister in 1980 (a very ecumenical one who, I'm convinced, was a Jew at heart!) and then my brothers and I all chose spouses who are not Jewish, our family has been interfaith, respectfully sharing and supporting each other's holidays. But Thanksgiving was unique among them. It was the one holiday that we could all come together and celebrate in the same way, regardless of our religious upbringings. I always loved the warm, unifying feelings of that

holiday, especially because it was a time for all of us to pause together and give thanks as we entered the holiday season. Saying “thankfuls” at mealtime came to be a family tradition.

As we are now at that time of year, I wanted to take this moment to give thanks to the many members of our Vassar Temple community who give so much of themselves throughout the year. My admiration and gratitude for your endless generosity of time, energy and resources is especially profound in this season. As our thoughts turn later this month to year-end giving (okay, I had to slip in *some* encouragement to continue giving!), I am doing my own year-end thanking, from the bottom of my heart.

Jennifer Sachs Dahnert

The Helping Hands of Meals-on-Wheels

Do you need assistance with meal preparation? Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie is here to help - any age or any need! MoW prepares daily meals from Monday to Friday (an extra weekend meal may be purchased for the weekend)! These meals are delivered, by wonderful volunteers, to your home.

Weekly cost is \$22.50 for a hot meal, milk and dessert or \$30 for the hot meal, milk and dessert, plus a supper bag (sandwich, milk and dessert). Most dietary needs can be met.

For more information please call 845-452-2245.

Crop Walk Report

Thanks to the 14 people on the Vassar Temple CROPWalk Team, Bob Abrams, Rabbi Berkowitz, Hannah Gendron, Haley Kafflowitz, Lana Lieberman, Jonah Ritter, Mariah Robishaw, Ron Rosen, Jordan Russo, Ralph Schwartz, Alex Sinn, Chuck Stein, Howard Susser, and especially to our terrific Youth Group Advisor, Fran Kuperberg who led five of our teens on the walk! And thanks to all of you who generously sponsored our walkers, our team raised \$1,797 to combat hunger, with the top three walker totals coming from team members Ron Rosen, Ralph Schwartz, and Mariah Robishaw. Our appreciation also goes out to Howard Susser for once again serving as Temple recruiter and Marian Schwartz for handling the registration table. Next year we hope even more of you will join us on a beautiful crisp fall day in this annual interfaith walk to combat hunger.

Vassar Temple's Annual December 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, in turn, 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, Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry, 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, 2017.

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 in the Temple's tzedakah box in December will support Souper Sale and will be exchanged for Stop & Shop scrip at the Temple, which benefits the Temple, too. 100% of your donation will be used to buy the chunky soups. It's a win/win deal!!

Questions? Please contact Shaari Roland at 845-494-1365 or email shaarirs@gmail.com.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

Lisa Rubenstein & Richard Duvall

In Honor of:

For appreciation of the Rabbi's meaningful memorial services

Irma Jacobs & family

For appreciation of Rabbi's meaningful

High Holiday services

Ed & Marilyn Rosenberg

Rabbi Berkowitz for guiding by example

Gail D'Alessio

SUSTAINING FUND

Joseph Forman

Barbara Mittenberg

In Honor of:

The birth of Elaine Lipschutz' great

granddaughter, Noa Goodis

Doi Cohen

In Memory of:

Frank DeGeorge

Beverly Matlis

Jeanne Lotu Rubin

Martin & Eleanor Charwat

Lucila Albinder

Dan & Susan Albinder

Bernard Himelstein

Howard Himelstein

Bernard Pearlman

Howard Pearlman & Alison

Ravener

Alice Slonim

Julie Makowksy

J. Ralph Stein

Chuck, Roni & Joseph Stein

Ida Goldberg

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Immediate Past President:	Bob Ritter
Youth Group President:	OPEN

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Services with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein	2 9am Torah Study 10am Mini-Shabbaton 7:30pm Concert with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein
3 8am Pancake Breakfast 9am R/S with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein 9:30am VTS Judaica Hanukkah Sale 10:30am Lunchbox	4	5 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Ritual Committee meeting	6 4:30pm Hebrew School	7 10am SEP	8 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	9 9am Torah Study
10 9am Religious School 9:30am VTS Judaica Hanukkah Sale 11am Youth Group Cookie Baking	11	12 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Coming To America, Part II with Rabbi Berkowitz	13 4:30pm Hebrew School	14 10am SEP	15 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Hanukkah Pot Luck Dinner 7:30pm Candelight Service with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein	16 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
17 9am R/S, Hanukkah Party 9:30am R/S Cmte 11am Tiny Temple	18 12pm VTS Chai Noon	19 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	20 No Hebrew School 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Finance Cmte	21 10am SEP	22 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	23 No Torah Study
24 No Religious School	25 Office Closed	26 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	27 No Hebrew School	28 Shelter Meal 10am SEP 6pm Exec Meeting 7pm Board Meeting	29 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	30 NO Torah Study
31 No Religious School						