



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel    Founded 1848    Bulletin Volume 161    No. 7    February 2015



### **BAKERS NEEDED!**

**Please join us for Sisterhood's annual**

### **HAMANTASCHEN BAKING DAY**

**Make friends while making hamantaschen for our Purim service, for Outreach to congregants and our out-of-town college students.**

**Sunday, February 8th  
(snow date: 2/22/15)**

**9:00am-1:00pm in the Temple kitchen**

**RSVP to**  
Judy Rosenfeld 635-2414 or  
hamantaschen@vassartemple.org

Please bring one batch of dough and a rolling pin.

Remaining ingredients will be provided.

The recipe is available from Judy, the Temple office /website, and the Sisterhood Facebook page, and on page 7 of this Bulletin.

### **SAFE CRACK 50/50!!!**

What will be revealed in our vintage 1919 safe, hidden for decades behind our original boiler?! No one knows the combination, let alone its contents. Back in those days, gifts to the Temple of treasury notes, bonds, stock certificates and other valuables would have been stored in this safe--and could still be there today!

Get your Safe Crack 50/50 raffle tickets for a chance to win 50% of the raffle proceeds and the contents of the safe up to a total of \$1,000.00! (Documents and artifacts are not counted towards the value of the contents.) Raffle tickets are:

\$20 each  
\$50 for three

Order your tickets by simply calling the Temple office at 845-454-2570. Donations can be made with your credit card. Cash payments and checks made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Safe Crack 50/50" written on the memo line will also get you a chance to win. (Must be 18 to be eligible to accept the prize.)

The contents of the safe will be revealed by video streaming at the Vassar Temple Gala on April 18, 2015.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Feb. 1, Lunch Box
- Feb. 3,10,17  
    Adult Ed, Jewish Mysticism, p9
- Feb. 4,11,18,25 Intro Judaism, p9
- Feb. 8   Hamantaschen Baking,p1&7  
    Tiny Temple, p3
- Feb. 18 Book Club, p8
  
- Mar. 7 Purim Dinner and Shpiel
- Aprl 18 2015 Gala (see insert)



## **SAVE THE DATE** **Vassar Temple GALA**

**Honoring**

**Rabbi Paul & Deborah Golomb  
and  
Bernard & Shirley Handel**

**April 18, 2015**

**Villa Borghese  
Wappingers Falls, NY**

## Rabbi's Message: Israel and You: Part 2



Zionism is the natural, and perhaps inevitable, blend of classic Jewish devotion to the community of Israel with the development of the modern concept of nationalism. But concepts like “community” and “nationalism” have a very wide scope. The ties can be very loose. Canada, where I lived and worked for a number of years, is a vast country with an incredibly diverse population, including two official languages and special status for its aboriginal people. For the most part, Canadians themselves cannot clearly articulate what binds them to the nation. Indeed, there have been points in its history when one part or another of the country seemed prepared to break off. Conversely, nationalism can be so intensely felt that it squeezes out all inhabitants who do not fit into some narrowly defined group. These forms of nationalism usually veer into racism, of which Nazi Germany is the prime example.

The range in nationalist feeling arises, I believe, from the push-pull of group identity. Human communities tend to

form, on the one hand, from the pull of like-mindedness and common purpose, and on the other, from the push that is the felt need to be protected from outside forces. Both dynamics inevitably exist, but usually one or the other is dominant. Needless to say, these impulses operate within both the religious community and the national State of Israel.

Reform Judaism, I think most of you would agree, is more like Canada than, say, Mussolini's Italy. Our Jewish identity is drawn from the sense of personal liberty in a pluralistic society that permits us to be nearly anything we wish, and yet we choose to be Jews. Ultra-Orthodoxy tends to betray the opposing tendency of attempting to protect oneself from modernizing and secularizing forces. (We should not deny, however, that both pushes and pulls operate among Reform and Orthodox alike.)

We should take note of the parallel forces operating within Israel as a political entity. Some are prepared to see the Jewish national spirit as operating as a component within a larger more pluralistic society, while others want to protect the Jewish nation by keeping non-Jews at bay.

The religious and political parallels should be clear. We Jews in the United States would only be interested but outside observers – not dissimilar to our interest in events in Ukraine or the Scottish referendum to break off from the United Kingdom – if it were not for the binding force of Zionism. For many decades, Israelis wished to assert that being a Zionist and a resident of the Jewish State were essentially one and the same. That notion has dissipated. Zionism is a sense of Jewish collectivity that transcends a particular State, and the Jews of Israel know this.

Just where on the nationalist spectrum Israel is going to reside is dependent to a great extent on how nationalistic the world's Zionists choose to be. **We have a say – a definitive and influential say – if we choose to exercise it.** We can do this by making our voices heard in the current election for the World Zionist Congress taking place right now. Please take the few minutes required to register to vote. [See article on page 6 in this Bulletin.]

*Rabbi Paul Golomb*

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## President's Message from 1,316 Miles Away



This article was written at the end of December, 1,316 miles from home while I was down in Florida visiting my Dad. Thoughts of Vassar Temple travel with me. But even with technology, I still feel the distance.

When you're away from a place and people, whether it is 1,316 miles or just around town, there is a sense of separation. Distance is the enemy of community. It eats away ties. And we lose connection.

Social media has been useful to help Vassar Temple build community. Our Facebook page has helped us to stay connected and provides visual reinforcement of good things happening. It connects faces to names and marks time and occasions, for attendees as well as for those who don't make it to the temple. Our blog is a means to

share news, ideas and opinions.

But for meaningful relationships to grow and be maintained, virtual reality is not sufficient, nor is it a replacement for reality.

For thousands of years, the synagogue has brought people together, in a physical place. Ten, if we are counting a minyan to pray. Imagine an individual or family who is part of that vibrant Jewish community, and surely there is a synagogue in the picture.

There is more to being together. By contrast, there are emoticons (those little smiley faces we insert into text and posts) and then there is a real smile, and maybe a warm embrace.

The synagogue builds community in obvious ways, such as sharing rituals and participating in education. But there are also unexpected and unplanned ways; like when you meet someone new, or when you happen to sit or chat with someone and get to know them better. It is terrific that so many people “Like” Vassar Temple on Facebook; however, human interactions

benefit from a *real* place, rather than a virtual one alone.

Part of the reason we have a wonderful and meaningful experience at our Hanukkah party, our Purim schiel, and family shabbat dinners, is our presence with one another, which can't be created in a virtual reality - at least not yet.

We tend to come to Vassar Temple for one thing or another. Maybe it is to drop our child off at religious school, or for a *yahrzeit*, or to pick up scrip. We have what one might call an intention which is our focus. But sometimes, if we are open to the possibility, there is the possibility for more: a conversation in the lobby or even a special meditative moment in the sanctuary.

Vassar Temple will enrich your life with real meaningful human experiences. The door is open. We simply need to walk in and be open ourselves. As much as we use virtual reality, Vassar Temple is also the antidote to an overly fast-paced world

*Bob Ritter*

## February Worship Services

Feb. 6	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Golomb
7	9:00am	Torah Study; 10:00am New Paths Shabbat morning service
13	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
14		A Vassar Temple Shabbat
	9:00am	Torah Study; 10:00am Shabbat morning service and Torah reading; 11:15am Program on the Jewish Arts followed by Kiddush and lunch at 12:00 noon
20	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service led by the Youth Group
21	9:00am	Torah Study; 10:00am New Paths Shabbat morning service
27	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat service and Torah reading with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
28	9:00am	Torah Study

## Scriptural Readings

Feb. 1	<b>T'rumah (Rosh Hodesh)</b> Ex.25:1-25:40 Isaiah 66:1-24
Feb. 8	<b>T'tzaveh</b> Ex. 27:20-28:30 Ezek. 43:10-27
Feb. 15	<b>Ki Tissa</b> Ex. 30:11-31:17 I Kings 18:1-39
Feb. 22	<b>Vayakhel</b> Ex. 35:1-36:19 I Kings 7:40-50

## Thank you, Vassar Temple!

"You are brightening the lives of so many by helping people who are in need in our community. Thank you for being...someone who not only cares, but cares enough to take action. We really appreciate your generous donation of a total of \$900 in Stop & Shop gift cards from your Turkey Trot Program, for the purchase of holiday turkeys... We are so grateful for your support... Thank you for your kindness and for believing in our mission." ~ **Brian Riddell, Executive Director, Dutchess Outreach**

"Thank you for your donation of eleven Thanksgiving baskets and ten turkeys. This donation was greatly appreciated by our clients. Your generosity will help us to continue our efforts to strengthen our communities." ~ **Edmund G. Murphy, Executive Director, Hudson River Housing**

**Please refer to the Temple website for up-to date information on events.**

**Reminders:  
<http://vassartemple.org/whats-happening>**

## New Paths Services

Join us at the next New Paths services Saturdays, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am in the sunlit East Chapel. The focus is on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. The atmosphere has been described by participants as spiritual, uplifting, and thought provoking. 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](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com) or Rabbi Golomb [rabbig@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbig@vassartemple.org) or 845-454-2570.

## Tiny Temple to Make Hamantaschen



Tiny Temple will join with others at the Temple Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00am-noon, to make hamantaschen in preparation for the upcoming holiday of Purim. All children aged infant-5 and those raising them are warmly invited to join in!

Tiny Temple programs, sponsored by Vassar Temple Sisterhood, are open to both Temple members and those not affiliated, and are always free of charge. 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 can put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list.

## Purim Pasta

Purim is a wonderful opportunity to provide Shalach Manot, a Jewish tradition which involves providing food to friends. Purim Pasta, a simple food-raising drive we hold at Vassar Temple each Purim, is an extension of this great tradition with the capacity to reduce local hunger in our wider community.



On March 7, 2015 at this year's Purim services, you are invited to bring in boxes of pasta to shake when the Megillah is read (the boxes are the groggers!) and prevail with the noise of victory! After services, the boxes will be collected and delivered to a local food pantry. Macaroni, ziti, bow ties, too - any will do! Get ready to shake them! The opportunity to fight hunger with our Jewish brothers and sisters is just boxes away.

*Nancy Samson and Marian Schwartz  
Social Action Committee*



### Mazel Tov to:

Ed & Vivian Garber on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;

Joel & Linda Babas on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;

Marian Schwartz receiving the JFDC Volunteer of the Year award;

David & Joan Posner on the birth of new grandson, Marco R. Posner, born to parents Michael and Katie and big brother Kai.

### VTS Judaica Shoppe Hanukkah Sale a Success

The Annual Vassar Temple Sisterhood Judaica Hanukkah sale in the East chapel was a big success! Donna Loshin, my right hand, was there from early in the morning until closing time. Special thank you, also, to Sherrie Geisler, who covered during office hours.

Today Raba to all!!

*Perla Kaufman*

### A Letter to the Congregation

We would like to thank the Reyut Committee for lending a helping hand with Dick's recovery from a recent accident. There are so many who sent food over, some whom we do not even know. To those we know and those who are "unknown," we offer our thanks. To you all, we hope you had a Happy Hannukah and that the New Year brings health, happiness and PEACE. May Vassar Temple and its members grow and prosper!

*Dick and Harriet Fein*

### Changes to Temple Email

The monthly email reminders were recently replaced with weekly messages which will be distributed every Thursday. The new weekly email provides information about Shabbat services and programs followed by notes for the coming week, important "save the date" information, and reminders about social action initiatives. The monthly "snail mail" reminders have been discontinued, but all events will be listed in the Bulletin. You can also check the Temple website [www.vassar temple.org](http://www.vassar temple.org) and the online calendar <http://vassar temple.org/monthly-calendar> for up-to-date listings. Please make a note of these changes and *don't forget to scroll down* in the weekly email for complete information!

### Condolences to...

Nadine Zaritsky, and her family, on the passing of her mother, Faye Seif;

Perla Kaufman on the passing of her Aunt Sol Cohen Ribbi

### Refuah Shelemah

Former Vassar Temple custodian, George Rugar, who has been very ill.

### We Need Your Help!

We are, once again, asking that you be the eyes and ears in the lives of our congregational family. Federal patient privacy regulations limit the information that hospitals make available to clergy and volunteers.

We are encouraging you to contact the Temple office when a congregant is admitted to a hospital and wishes to have Rabbi visit during the hospital stay. Our goal is to meet the needs of all our congregants, and we can only do this with your help.

### Pulpit Flowers

- February 6: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- February 13: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- February 20: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- February 27: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund



The Shrub Fund has changed its name to the **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 \$55 donation to this fund. Just call the Vassar Temple Office at 454-2570.

**Vassar Temple Bulletin**, published monthly  
 Publisher: Marianne Abrams  
 Editors: Sue Lesser and Donna Loshin  
 Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the March Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by February 1st. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent via email to [publicity@vassar temple.org](mailto:publicity@vassar temple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



# From the Religious School Director



The evening of February 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the start of Tu Bishvat, a name that means the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of Shevat and refers to the so-called “new year of the trees.” Why do trees need a new year?

For an answer we turn to the Talmud --- that great compilation of Jewish laws and lore from the middle of the first millennium CE. The section called “Rosh Hashana” (“New Year”) starts with the intriguing claim that “there are four new-year days.” And it turns out they fall in the months of Nissan, Elul, Tishri, and Shevat.

The new year with which we are now most familiar --- Rosh Hashana --- falls in Tishri, which, as it happens, is the seventh month of the year. Certainly the year ought to begin with the first month, so we know we have some digging to do. The first month is Nissan. Passover falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of this month, and the first day is what the Talmud calls the new year for kings and festivals. Elul is the sixth month, usually overlapping August and September in our calendar. The first of Elul is the new year for the cattle-tithe. After Elul comes Tishri, the first day of which is New Year’s Day. As we just saw, this puts the Jewish new year in the middle of the Jewish year.

And then we get to Shevat, the 11<sup>th</sup> of

the 12 months in the Jewish year. The Talmud advises that some people thought that the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Shevat was the new year for trees; but the prevailing opinion relegated that status to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

Fine. So we have, working our way through the year, the new year for kings (in the 1<sup>st</sup> month (a couple of weeks before Passover), the new year for cattle-tithes (in the 6<sup>th</sup> month), New Year’s Day (on the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month), and then the new year for trees in the 11<sup>th</sup> month.

The Talmud explains why kings need their own new year, starting with a cryptic answer: “on account of documents.” It turns out that documents such as mortgages were dated according to the year of a king’s reign --- as in, “during the second year of the reign of King So-and-So.” The question is when that second year commences. Is it on the anniversary of his ascension to the throne? No. It’s on the new year for kings. So along with each first day of Nissan there begins a new year for reckoning time according to the reign of kings.

What about the cattle-tithe new year? It used to be that people would pay yearly taxes of a sort based on how many animals they had. To implement this system, an arbitrary cut-off date for counting the animals was required. For instance, you might have 15 heads of cattle on one date,

and 20 on another. At what point would you pay for the additional animals? The answer is that the 1<sup>st</sup> of Elul was the cut-off date. You paid taxes each year on however many animals you owned on Elul 1. (The IRS uses the same principle in calculating income tax. Tax on money earned up to December 31 of one year is due by April 15 of the next year.) Similar reasoning applies to the new year for trees. Taxes were paid on fruit trees. A tree whose fruit was fully formed before Tu Bishvat of a given year was taxed in its entirety during that year; if the fruit formed thereafter, it was taxed in the next year.

Of course, we no longer reckon our years by kings and no longer pay tithes on the animals or on the fruit trees that we own. (And in any event, my animals number zero each year.) So why should we care? Beyond the interesting, if now-irrelevant details, and the spotlight on our history, we find meaningful customs that have come to accompany the different new years. On Tu Bishvat, for instance, we now pause to honor trees and nature in general. In addition, we learn that our lives have more than one yearly cycle. Natural patterns commence around Passover, with the onset of spring, just as things like school calendars begin in the fall, and our official American calendar resets in the middle in winter. And thanks to a long sequence of interpretation, February 3<sup>rd</sup> marks yet another fresh start.

Happy new year.

*Dr. Joel Hoffman*

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## Tzedakah: Wind Chill Fund

As we relax in our warm, secure homes, let’s think of those who don’t share these comforts by dropping a donation in the Temple tzedakah box, located near the staircase.

This month’s donations will benefit Hudson River Housing’s (HRH) Wind Chill Fund, which supplements emergency overnight shelter when that facility is overflowing. HRH (<http://hudsonriverhousing.org>) provides the homeless not only a warm, clean, safe place to sleep, but also dinner, breakfast, a hot shower, transportation to and from the shelter, and perhaps most importantly, referral services. During 2013, HRH provided emergency shelter to 692 individuals and 324 families, the most they’d served to date in a single year, and as we enter 2015 the need is even greater.

Your tax deductible checks made out to “Wind Chill Fund” are also appreciated and may be dropped off or mailed to the Temple. Please contact Marian Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) for more information.



## Marian Schwartz Awarded Jewish Federation Volunteer of the Year Award

Vassar Temple is honored and blessed to count as a member the remarkable Marian Schwartz, who was recently awarded the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County's Volunteer of the Year Award. Among her countless accomplishments, she was cited for her invaluable role in Mitzvah Day, an annual public service event that unites the local Jewish community. Marian shared some highlights of her personal journey during a recent interview.

*"I was confirmed at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester. Our Rabbi, Michael A. Robinson, was deeply involved in the civil rights movement during the years I was growing up. He was larger than life, and no one could belong there and not be indelibly impressed by his sermons on social justice and human rights."*

*She continued, "About 15 years ago I learned that a woman named Danile Spokony was starting Mitzvah Day in Dutchess County, a day when people would get together and do good deeds. I thought, wow, what an amazing concept! I really wanted to be a part of it! I participated in the first Mitzvah Day, signing up for a project at the Castle Point VA. I joined a committee made up of amazing, talented, and inspiring young women, who encouraged me by example to go outside*

*my comfort zone, and soon I was totally immersed. I continue to be committed to Danile's vision and to the values Mitzvah Day represents: unity of the Jewish people, the shared tradition of performing mitzvot, and a multigenerational opportunity for l'dor v'dor, all the better before the eyes of the general community so that they can see that this is what Jewish people do. I have been told by teens that they never before knew that "old" people could do the things they see us doing on Mitzvah Day, so I'm also doing my part to combat age stereotypes!"*

Marian has supported myriad social action projects, including the focus on fighting hunger that is one of Vassar Temple's greatest contributions. She works to develop these values in our youth through the Religious School. Marian always has the time and energy to do just one more thing for others. As summarized by



Marian Schwartz holding her award

## Do You Like to Cook and Help Others?

**WANTED:** Food you prepare at home and one or two people to help serve evening meal to people staying at the overnight shelter in the Hillcrest building.

The Jewish community joins together in providing the night time meal the 4th Thursday of the month. For further information or to sign up to help, please contact Linda (of Temple Beth El), who coordinates "Jewish night," at [lindadoherly1998@gmail.com](mailto:lindadoherly1998@gmail.com) or 914-474-0038.

Temple President Bob Ritter, "Her story inspires others to act. It's bigger than this one award; it's a lifetime of serving others, her Jewish values, and her strength. Marian is one heck of a righteous fighter."



In his Yom Kippur sermon, Rabbi Golomb discussed the World Zionist

Congress election that is scheduled for April 2015. He explained that we have the opportunity to achieve our vision of a just, equal, pluralistic future for Israel. YOU CAN ALL HELP MAKE THAT HAPPEN!

From now until April 30, 2015 you have the opportunity to vote in the American Zionist Movement (AZM) elections to determine US Jewish representation to the World Zionist Congress (WZC), the highest legislative body of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). "The WZO

## Israel at a Crossroads

provides a forum for all the world's Jews to come together and deliberate about issues affecting both Diaspora Jews and the state of affairs in Israel."

Five years ago Reform Jews held 50 out of 145 seats, 39% of the vote. Our objective this year is to fill more than 50% of the available seats with ARZA representatives. With a majority on the WZC, we can strive to achieve women's rights, gender equality and religious equality in Israel and security in the region.

All Jews over the age of 18 (as of June 30, 2015) can vote. One need not be a member of any other organization or Jewish institution to vote. Our goal is to have 100% of the Vassar Temple community vote. Please take the pledge to participate

in this vitally important election by going to [www.ReformJews4Israel.org](http://www.ReformJews4Israel.org). If you pick up an ARZA postcard in the front hall of the Temple you can pledge to vote and will receive an email reminder. If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

Marge Groten  
[mgroten@optonline.net](mailto:mgroten@optonline.net)

Bonnie Scheer  
[bonniescheer1@verizon.net](mailto:bonniescheer1@verizon.net)

# Contributions

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In honor of:

Joel & Linda Babas' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
 Matt & Muriel Lampell  
 Hal & Sue Lesser

Ed & Vivian Garber's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
 Matt & Muriel Lampell  
 Hal & Sue Lesser  
 Lila Matlin

In appreciation of New Paths Services  
 Eugene Fleishman & Judith Elkin

### In memory of:

Sol Cohen-Ribbi, aunt of Perla Kaufman  
 Bob & Mary Ritter  
 Harry & Sandra Mamis  
 Ed & Vivan Garber  
 Lisa Heidelberger  
 Adrian & Tamara Gruszko  
 Suzanne Seligman  
 Ed & Vivian Garber  
 William Robinowitz  
 James & Maryanne Robinowitz  
 Lillian Friedman  
 Rochelle Friedman  
 Anna Cairo  
 Martin & Marilyn Revitz  
 Nathan Givner  
 Roslyn Kafowitz  
 Lester Fries  
 Mark & Kate Metzger  
 Ruth Seegal Cohen  
 Doi Cohen  
 Gerald Mamis  
 Harry & Sandra Mamis  
 Aaron Slote  
 Goldie Bleich  
 Selma Kahn  
 Joseph L. Kahn  
 Matt & Muriel Lampell

Helen Wrobel  
 Solomon Berger  
 Lewis Rosen  
 Hyman Silverman

Jordan Taylor  
 Bernard Cohen

Beatrice Snyder  
 Toby Cederbaum  
 Sam Cederbaum  
 Lee Bronfeld  
 Morris Bronfeld  
 Morton & Elaine Cederbaum

Dr. Saul Kelson  
 Doris Berlin Acker

Erna Konheim  
 Irving Wrobel

Dr. Jack Endreich  
 Andy Endreich

Miriam Oppenheimer  
 Betty DeGeorge  
 Alma Barbash  
 Ruth Stein  
 Greta Blaune  
 Andrew Frederick Mendel

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel  
 Rita & Herb Jacobson  
 Ron & Marilyn Rosen  
 Irwin & Barbara Lifshy

Lois Mendel  
 Ruth Bagun

Jeff & Nan Genshaft

Joel & Claudia Kelson and family  
 Lila Matlin  
 Thelma Fival  
 Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Herbert & Joan Kotz & family

Lisa Romero  
 Beverly Metlis

William & Susan Barbash

Chuck & Roni Stein & family

Martin Noble

Bernard Cohen

Lois Mendel

Ronah G. Posner  
 David & Joan Posner  
 Mark Rosenthal  
 Dr. Loren & Charlene Rosenthal  
 Marion Present  
 Marion Tierney  
 Kevin & Debra Tierney

## GRANDMOTHER FUND

### In memory of:

Kate Hecht  
 Anne Richmond  
 The Hecht family

## LUNCH BOX FUND

### In honor of:

Marian Schwartz receiving the JFDC Volunteer of the Year Award  
 The Hecht family

## LIPSCHUTZ FUND

### In honor of:

Ed & Vivian Garber's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
 Elaine Lipschutz

## Hamantaschen Dough

4 cups sifted flour  
 4 teaspoons baking powder  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1 cup butter, softened\*  
 2 cups sugar  
 2 eggs  
 2 teaspoons vanilla  
 4 tablespoons milk or orange juice



Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Cream butter and sugar, add egg and vanilla and beat well. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk or juice, mixing until well-blended. Refrigerate.

This dough freezes well and can be made ahead of Hamantaschen Baking Day. Leave it in the refrigerator to thaw overnight.

\* Please use real butter – the pastries are superior, and all batches cook evenly regardless of dough source. Thank you.

# Yahrzeits

## FEBRUARY 6

Jeanette Bergman  
Jacqueline Sydney  
Colodner  
Alice Davidson  
Harold Devorsetz  
Leona Lowry Engel  
Lillian Geber  
Reba Gold  
Martha Held  
Evelyn Slote Kahn  
Jane Kramer  
Rabbi Marcus Kramer  
Leo Livingston  
Arlene Mates  
Susan Matlin  
Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.  
Dorothy Parish  
Sara Poley-Rosenberg  
Gertrude Rothstein  
George Schoenbrun  
Dr. Lawrence Schuyler  
Paul M. Schwartz, MD  
Michael Sommerfield  
Dr. M. Alden Weingart  
Augusta Wurtzel

## FEBRUARY 13

Goldie Abraskin  
Leon Alpers  
Evelyn Bersak  
Marjorie Rubin Brody  
Evelyn Brown  
Timothy Creedon  
Joseph Drobner  
Lawrence Edell  
Jacob Erdreich, DMD  
Aaron Estrin  
Lillian Feldman  
Blanche Fertig  
Henrietta Greenberg  
Jacob Greenberg  
Jarrod Harrington  
Mary Hyman  
William Hyman  
Sabina Jacobs  
Herman Kraut  
Dr. Samuel Levitch  
Jules H. Lippmann  
Sidney I. Love  
Joseph Moselle  
Armand H. Newman  
Freda Reifler  
Harold Robinowitz  
Louise S. Rosen  
Owen J. Sacks  
Mary R. Scheer  
Benjamin Uttal  
Samuel Warshaw  
Rosanne Weber  
Reuben Wiseman  
Gary M. Zimmer

## FEBRUARY 20

David Charles Albert  
Anne Alpers  
Stuart Alpers  
Sylvia Cantor  
Dr. Michael Ettenson  
Jack Frankel  
Esther Frances Goldberg  
Paul S. Goldberg  
David Haber  
Robert Joseph  
Dr. Irma (Earma) Koltai  
Vladimir M. Konheim,  
MD  
Louis Kovacs  
George Laks  
Harry Lashinsky  
Stanton Lipschutz  
Julie McGaulley  
Bernard Miller  
Walter L. Mock  
Wendy E. Newman  
Milton Rauh  
Meyer Rubin  
David Stephen Satz  
Ida Baskin Schwartz  
Lewis Schwartz  
Ida Scope  
Stanley Soirefman  
Alec Stall  
Augusta Steinman  
Robert Toroker  
Isadore Weisman

## FEBRUARY 27

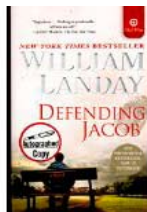
Matilda Banckek  
Irving M. Bloch  
Irving Fink  
Gloria Fischman  
Celia Frank  
David Friedland  
Morris Haas  
Fannie Kagan  
Shirley Kaskowitz  
Ida Klein  
Ethel Haber Kohan  
Milton Kramer  
Lena Lath  
Morris Levine  
Ruth Levitt  
Frances Lewis  
Harry Lewis  
Shirley E. Reifler  
Michael Rothenberg  
Shepard P. Solomon  
Francesca Vadersen

## Book Club to Discuss

### *Defending Jacob*: February 18<sup>th</sup>

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss *Defending Jacob*, by award winning author William Landay, the consummate novel of an embattled family in crisis – a suspenseful character-driven mystery of guilt, betrayal, and the terrifying speed at which our lives can spin out of control. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm, in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for more than twenty years. He is respected in his community, tenacious in the courtroom, and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But when a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens



next: his fourteen year old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student. Every parental instinct causes Andy to reach out to protect Jacob, who insists that he is innocent. But as damning facts and shocking revelations surface, the crisis reveals how little a father knows about his son. Andy will soon face a trial of his own – between loyalty and justice, truth and allegation, and a past he has tried to bury, as well as a future he cannot conceive.

This riveting story is available in paperback and through the local library system. Muriel Lampell will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or [linda.babas.41@gmail.com](mailto:linda.babas.41@gmail.com). Your suggestions for future readings are always welcome.



## Being a Jew on Campus

At its Shabbat program on December 20th, Rachel Plotkin, Marissa Gally, Ilana Wolf and Emily Brundage talked about what it meant to be Jewish college students. A number of common themes were brought up:

*Being Jewish on campus is not daunting when one is at a school with a relatively large Jewish population.* While many colleges have a Hillel or a Jewish Student Union and a Jewish Studies Program, these organizations supplement the more informal Jewish connections that are made as a part of campus life.

*Yes, there are instances of anti-Jewish activity, particularly attacks on Israel, but they need to be taken in context of a mostly benign state of affairs.* The incidents are

relatively rare, have little enduring impact, and tend to be opposed by the college administration.

*Jewish students generally wish to find their own way.* The University is a universalizing experience, opening all of its students to a range of new ideas, life-styles and practices. Jewish students, like most others on campus, view their time in college as a process of self-discovery. Many are quite confident in their own Jewish identity, and therefore draw on the Jewish opportunities (Hillel, Jewish Studies, etc.) available to them, but at their own choosing.



## Adult Education Classes

### *The How and Why of Jewish Mysticism*

Dr. Ronald Robbins, author, psychologist and student of Kabbalah and other mystic traditions, will not only introduce the principal texts and concepts of Jewish mysticism, but also discuss the extraordinary and enduring lure of Kabbalah. **Tuesday evenings, Feb. 3, 10 and 17 at 7:00pm.**

### *Judaism 101*

A 12-week introduction to Jewish history, religion and practice led by Rabbi Golomb and guest speakers who will impart their own knowledge and experience to the topic at hand. Participants are encouraged to attend all 12 classes, but each class is separate and can be taken individually. **Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm through May** (see below)

- *What is a Jew* (Feb. 4)
- *History I: From Nation to Diaspora* (Feb. 11)
- *History II: From Talmud to Emancipation* (Feb. 18)
- *Jews in America* (Feb. 25)

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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 www.vassartemple.org



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



## February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9-12 R/S K-7 12-1pm Lunchbox— Youth Group & Grades 8-12	2 7-9pm Ritual Committee Meeting	3 10-11am SEP 11a-1pm Talmud 7-9pm Adult Ed Part 2—Jewish Mysticism	4 4:30-6:30 Hebrew School 6:30-8:30 R/S 7-9pm Adult Ed - Judaism 101	5 10-11am SEP	6 Can Jam 6pm Shabbat Service	7 9am Torah Study
8 9-1pm Hamantaschen Baking 9-12 R/S K-7 11-1 Tiny Temple helps Hamantaschen	9 7-9pm VT Exec Committee Meeting	10 10-11am SEP 11a-1pm Talmud 7-9pm Adult Ed Part 3—Jewish Mysticism	11 4:30-6:30 Hebrew School 6:30-8:30 R/S 7-9pm Adult Ed - Judaism 101—History	12 10-11am SEP	13 6pm Shabbat Service	14 9am Torah Study 10am Shabbat Morning Service 12pm Kiddush Luncheon
15 No Religious School	16	17 10-11am SEP 11a-1pm Talmud	18 2pm VTS Book Club 4:30-6:30 Hebrew School 6:30-8:30 R/S 7-9pm Finance Cmte 7-9pm Adult Ed - Judaism 101	19 10-11am SEP	20 6pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study
22 Snow Date for Hamantaschen Baking 9-12 R/S K-7 11-12 Tiny Temple	23 7-9pm VT Board Meeting	24 10-11am SEP 11a-1pm Talmud	25 4:30-6:30 Hebrew School 6:30-8:30 R/S 7-9pm Adult Ed - Judaism 101 History II	26 10-11am SEP	27 6pm Shabbat Service	28 9am Torah Study