



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 6 February 2016

Rabbi's Berkowitz' Installation

We are delighted to be installing Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz as the 29th Rabbi of Vassar Temple during shabbat services Friday night, February 5th, 2016. The eminent Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, current President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, who is a former professor of Rabbi Berkowitz, as well as Cantor Patrice Kaplan, Rabbi Berkowitz's childhood musical inspiration and mentor, will both be present and participating. The service begins at 7:00pm and will be followed by a festive oneg.

In the brief time since her arrival, Rabbi Berkowitz has launched a new initiative for bar/bat mitzvah students and their families and is fashioning a monthly family Shabbat program. She developed a series of Vassar Temple podcasts for YouTube. She has established herself as a role model participating in social justice activities such as CROPWalk, Lunch Box, and interfaith community events. She taught a popular adult education series on bringing the Torah alive through writing midrash and this winter

is the main presenter at three programs on diverse Jewish topics, in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Library system. In all her actions and interactions, Rabbi Berkowitz has made many small changes with large impact to Vassar Temple already.

Prior to the service, at 5:30pm, Rabbi Berkowitz will be feted at a shabbat dinner in the social hall. The cost for the dinner is \$18 per adult, \$10 per children under 13. Free babysitting is available.

Dinner tickets may also be purchased at higher sponsorship levels for which recognition will be given. Funds from the sponsorships will not only go toward a leaf on the Tree of Life in our lobby to honor and welcome our new rabbi, they will help support the new programs that Rabbi Berkowitz is striving to institute as well as fund other much needed improvements to the Temple. For the highest level of sponsorship you will even receive your own leaf on the Tree of Life to be used at any time of your choice when you wish to honor the living or commemorate a joyous event. Should you choose this level, you will be pro-

Upcoming Events

Feb.	5	Rabbi Installation, p1
	5	Family Dinner, p1
	6	New Paths Service, p3
	7	Lunch Box, p 6
	17	Book Club, p5
	20	New Paths Service, p3
	28	Hamantaschen, p1 & 7
	28	Tiny Temple, p3

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

March	11-12	Joint Shabbaton
March	6-7	NFTY-NAR
March	11-12	Teen Song-leading Seminar
May	15	Mitzvah Day

vided with complete information about ordering the leaf of your own.

Please RSVP for the dinner as soon as possible, as seating is limited. For further information about the dinner, installation, and sponsorships, please visit the Temple website www.vassartemple.org or contact Sandra Mamis at either Installation@vassartemple.org or 914-456-3524.

BAKERS NEEDED!

Join us for Sisterhood's annual

HAMANTASCHEN BAKING DAY

Hamantaschen will be served at Purim and delivered to college students and as outreach to homebound congregants **Sunday, February 28th (snow date 3/13/16)**

9:00 – 1:00 in the Temple kitchen

R.S.V.P. to Judy Rosenfeld

635-2414 or hamantaschen@vassartemple.org

Recipe and more details on page 7

Please bring a batch of dough (made from the recipe below) and a rolling pin. Remaining supplies and fun provided.

Not able to come and help? Dough can be brought in in advance and placed in the Temple freezer - just let Judy know.





At the moment I am writing this, it is 14 degrees outside, and not much warmer in my office. I'm

wearing a scarf, fingerless gloves, and two pairs of pants. And yet, I'm thinking of summer.

I just received my faculty assignment for this summer at URJ Crane Lake Camp in West Stockbridge, MA, one of three sleepaway camp programs that the Reform movement offers in the Northeast. I'll be serving as a rabbi there for the very first week of camp: June 26th to July 3rd.

This will be the fourth URJ Camp I've worked with, and I'm continually surprised by how different these spiritually-connected camps are. At Harlam, where I grew up, song session involves dancing and banging on the tables. At OS-RUI, where I worked as faculty, campers sit cross-legged on the floor, waving their arms wildly in time to the music. One could write a doctoral dissertation on the variations in the "Announcements" song from camp to camp, which is sung whenever a careless person

says the offending word. Harlam's ended with a demand that announcements be recited in rhyme; Eisner's ended with an attempt to throw the guilty party in the lake!

Every camp has its own culture and style, and yet, they share many common threads that make them amazing places to spend our summers. Inviting rabbis, cantors and educators from area Reform synagogues to spend time at camp each summer is one thing that makes camp great.

What do rabbis do at camp? We create Jewish learning experiences—which in some camps are a scheduled part of the day and at others are woven into the regular camp activities. We guide campers and staff as they create meaningful weekday and Shabbat prayer moments. But the most important thing we do is hang out with our kids outside of the walls of the synagogue. We high-five them when they score a goal. We are inspired by the art projects (or science experiments) they are working on. We bring them hugs from home and see their bewildered faces when they see us in shorts and t-shirts for the first

time. And we watch THEM lead Shabbat services for a change!

I am really hoping that you will join me this summer, at Crane Lake or at one of our neighbors, Eisner Camp and 6-Points Sci-Tech Academy, both of which I will likely also visit. Together, we can experience everything that's different from camp to camp, and everything that's the same.

There are still spots at all three camps for campers entering grades 3 through 10 (as well as some URJ summer programs for teens). Be sure to visit <http://eisner-cranelake.urjcamp.org/>! Our theater folks might be interested to know that the URJ is, for the first time ever, offering a theater program in New York City for middle and high schoolers! Check out <http://justactnyc.org/>!

February may seem early to think about camp, but cabins fill up quickly. DON'T WAIT to register your children! An amazing summer awaits them!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



President's Message: It's Official

It's official: on February 5th, we will install Rabbi Berkowitz. And in less than five months it will be time to install new Officers and Trustees.

Now it is time for all of us to make our choices. In coming months our Nominating Committee will have important leadership choices to make. Who would we like to install to lead Vassar Temple? Who will accept the responsibility and the honor? Who will answer our call and say Hineni?

One of the reasons our Temple has survived 168 years is because we have adapted when we needed to, while maintaining the traditions and qualities we cherish. And we have done so thanks to the spirit of volunteerism.

I urge everyone to take at least one turn at being an active volunteer with Vassar Temple. Don't worry about what you don't know and who you don't know. You'll learn. We welcome ideas! Be yourself; we need diversity of opinions. If you have skills or expertise from a career or your life experiences, please share them with your Temple.

When you serve Vassar Temple, you serve your community, your friends, people in need, the Jewish people, and God. In the process you will develop new relationships and take satisfaction and joy from your experience. What could be a better use of your time?

Notice I didn't say "spare" time! People don't have spare time anymore; which is why nobody EVER thinks they have the time to volunteer. Trust me, you will find the time, or make the time. We always do. Besides, you're not making a lifetime commitment - positions have a term. Plus, the time goes very fast!

Serving as your Temple President has been both one of the most challenging and one of the most rewarding experiences of my lifetime. Rabbi Golomb said something that helped convince me to accept the position of President. He said, "Nobody ever feels ready or able to be the temple President. You will grow." I thought about that point a lot. And, I realized that we live our lives to grow, to become better human beings, to love and to serve others. And, it occurred to me that I was being given an enormous opportunity to grow, and that I

would be foolish to turn it down. The same could be said of a Trustee or committee chair position.

If you are asked to serve, please do! And if you're interested, please step forward and let us know of an interest you have. Saying Hineni may change your life for the better in ways you can't imagine.

These are exciting times for Vassar Temple. They are also fun times. We have a proud history which we honor, and we are also willing to try fresh new approaches. *You* can make a positive difference in the life and times of Vassar Temple. Your Temple needs you - your temple is calling. Send me a message today at president@vassartemple.org and let's talk about a role you can play!

The installation of Rabbi Berkowitz is a milestone for Vassar Temple and the Jewish Community in our area. It can also be a milestone in your life that you mark through volunteer service.

Bob Ritter

February Worship Services

5	5:30pm	Rabbi Berkowitz' Installation Shabbat/Family Shabbat dinner
	7:00pm	Family Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist, Joseph Bertolozzi
6	9:00am	Torah study
	10:00am	New Paths Shabbat morning service
12	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
13	9:00am	Torah study
19	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
20	9:00am	Torah study
	10:00am	New Paths Shabbat morning service
26	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist, Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin
27	9:00am	Torah study

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays Feb. 6th & Feb. 20th 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, Rabbi Berkowitz at rabbi@vassar-temple.org, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Torah-to-Go: Music in the Bible

Come join Rabbi Berkowitz as we explore the theme of *Music in the Hebrew Bible* **Sunday, March 6th, 2:30pm** at Adriance Memorial Library, Market Street, Poughkeepsie. See the Torah scroll unrolled, hear (and sing!) musical renditions of biblical passages and learn how music played a role in the stories of the Bible. This program will also feature renowned musician and composer, Joe Bertolozzi. Bring friends--all faiths welcome!

New Schedule for Monthly Family Service

Starting on January 8th due to the New Year holiday, join us on the **first Friday night of each month** for a **Family-Friendly** Shabbat service. The monthly family service will begin at **7:00pm** throughout the year (including the winter months), with Shabbat dinners beginning at 5:30pm when scheduled. Please note this change from our previous schedule and watch Temple publicity for information about dinners and other special events.

SAVE THE DATE: March 11-12

Annual Shabbaton, co-sponsored by Vassar Temple & Temple Beth El

All are invited!

Special Guest: Rabbi Jay Michaelson,
author of *The Gate of Tears*

Scriptural Readings

Feb. 6 *Mishpatim* Ex. 23:1-24:18;
Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26

13 *T'ruma* Ex. 26:31-27:19;

I Kings 5:26 – 6:13

20 *T'zaveh* Ex. 29:19- 30: 10,
Ezekiel 43:10-27

27 *Ki Tissa* Ex. 33:12- 34:35;
I Kings 18:1-39



Tiny Temple

Tiny Temple will participate in VT's annual hamentaschen baking! Please bring your young child to Temple on February 28th at 11:00am to help out in this wonderful baking extravaganza! Snow date for this event is March 13th Temple affiliation is not needed; please encourage any interested friends or neighbors to come and enjoy our inclusive Temple programming. RSVP to Fern Wolf or Laura Brundage at Tinytemple@vassartemple.org.



Mazel Tov to...

JoAnne Abraskin on the birth of her grandson, Arron Phillip Abraskin;

Jasmine Russo on graduating from Nursing School;

Sue & Hal Lesser on the marriage of their son, David, to Abigail Potts.

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 haftorah, is held Saturday mornings at 9:00am. “The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text” is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays at noon (no class Feb. 23). All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! Questions? Contact us at: rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845)454-2570

Improvements at VT’s Route 44 Cemetery

The Benevolent Society (part of Vassar Temple cemeteries) on Route 44 has a new look. Richard Arnoff had a new fence, a path from the parking lot, and a shrub installed at its entrance. Thank you Richard!

Perla Kaufman
Chairperson

Pulpit Flowers



February 5: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

February 12: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

February 19: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

February 26: 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.

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.

Follow the Rabbi!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram. Follow her and join the conversation!
[Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB](#)
Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](#)
Read Rabbi Berkowitz’s blog at: <http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com>



Please Note!

In order to enhance security, the front door of the Temple will be locked at the conclusion of services on nights when the oneg is held in the social hall, in order to avoid leaving the lobby unattended. Should you need to leave, and then return to the building, please arrange for someone else to accompany you to let you back in. Thank you.

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

From Our Religious School Director: Unique Gifts



This month's Torah portions detail the building of the great Tabernacle, which in many ways is the spiritual precedent for our modern-day synagogues. In particular, we read about the various ways people contributed to this most central undertaking.

In the portion from the middle of the month, we are told that people are all supposed to donate "whatever their heart prompts." A passage at the end of the month demands an assessment of one-half shekel from each person. And right after that section, the text tells us about Betzalel, a man of unique creative and artistic talent.

These three themes have proven so central that their vocabulary endures to this day. For example, the Hebrew word for "tabernacle" is MISHKAN, and that's the first word of the name of our Reform prayer book, "Mishkan T'fillah," that is, a "tabernacle of prayer." The shekel as a monetary unit is in use again today in the modern state of Israel. And Israel's most prestigious art academy is named Betzalel.

In addition, these three different approaches suggest three different ways of contributing to our sacred Vassar Temple projects, both in the school and beyond.

One way, based on the first passage, is that people offer what moves them. For some, this might be a donation honoring or recognizing someone. For others, it might be volunteering in some particularly meaningful fashion.

Countering this first way is the second: Everyone gives something, even if it's only a token half-shekel.

Thirdly, we have the category of expertise. Betzalel was an uncommonly gifted artist --- "filled with the spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge, and with all kinds of skills" with which to fashion art. For this reason, Betzalel and a helper named Ohaliab were tasked with creating the detailed and exquisite furnishings of the Tabernacle.

When all three of these models co-exist properly, we get a double reward. The people in the community feel valued, and the community itself benefits from all that its members have to

offer: joint pride in building something together, an opportunity to feel good about contributing, and a chance to provide niche skills.

But we pay a doubly severe price when we confuse the models --- by asking too much of people without regard to whether they feel moved to provide what we ask, or by confusing good will with expertise so that experts feel ignored and amateurs feel unduly burdened, or by ignoring what people can contribute, and so on.

It's a tricky balance, but an important one, because at its core it reflects the key observation that no two people are the same.

Equally, each of us --- regardless of age or station, of background or training, of experience or skill --- has a unique to gift to offer. When we provide a forum to receive and value those gifts --- when we recognize the individuality of each individual --- our community, like its model thousands of years ago, thrives in marvelous and unexpected ways.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Book Club to Discuss *Little Failure* on February 17th

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss "Little Failure" by Gary Shteyngart, a memoir described by critics as finding the delicate balance between sidesplitting humor and heartbreak. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17th at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Little Failure is the true story of a Russian immigrant family, as told by a lifelong misfit who finally finds a place for himself through books and words. In 1979, a little boy, "schlepping" an enormous fur hat and an oversize coat, slips off the plane at JFK and into his new American life. His troubles are just beginning. Careening between his Soviet home life and his American aspirations, he finds himself living in two contradictory worlds, wishing for a real home in one. He becomes so strange to his parents that his mother coins the nickname to her once promising son, "failurchka," or "little failure." From the terrors of Hebrew School, to a crash course in first love, and a return visit to the homeland that is no longer home, Gary Shteyngart has crafted a brave and funny memoir of searching for every kind of love – family love, romantic love, and most of all, love of self.

This inspiring memoir is available in paperback and through the local library system. Myrna Rubenstein will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or linda.babas.41@gmail.com. Please feel free to e-mail your suggestions for future readings.



GREAT GRANT NEWS!

Vassar Temple has been awarded two grants totaling \$5,000 through the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley!!!

The first is \$2,500 from the Bertha Effron Fund to support a Shabbaton in collaboration with other local congregations featuring noted author and internationally renowned scholar, Dr. Jay Michaelson. Dr. Michaelson is the author of six books and more than three hundred articles on religion, sexuality, law and contemplative practice, topics that will be prominent themes throughout his visit. More information will follow, but for now, save Friday, March 11th and Saturday, March 12th for this important event.

The second grant, also for \$2,500, came from the Ann and Abe Effron Donor Advised Fund in support of the Vassar Temple Religious School. One portion of the funding will underwrite expenses associated with Hebrew Education in the Religious School and another will enable the school to offer a special series this spring on Israel Education.

We are indebted to the members of the Effron Family and the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley whose thoughtful generosity is providing these wonderful enrichment opportunities to our community. Special thanks to Jen Dahnert for pursuing and writing these grants. Such funding is key to the vitality and sustainability of Vassar Temple.

Rabbi Regina Jonas: Auschwitz Rabbi

The fall of the Berlin Wall in the 1990s brought to light much hitherto unknown information, including the inspiring true story of the first ordained female rabbi, a German woman named Regina Jonas. Born in 1902, devoutly Orthodox in her upbringing, and a gifted scholar and teacher, Regina was denied a place in the rabbinate by the Orthodox movement, finally becoming ordained by a liberal rabbi in her native Germany in 1935. Tragically, just seven years later, Rabbi Jonas was sent to the Nazi camps, where she served the spiritual needs of the captives to the best of her ability until she was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944 at the age of 42.

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of her ordination, Rabbi Jonas's life will be commemorated **Sunday, Feb. 21st** at 2:30pm in Poughkeepsie at the Adriance Memorial Library, with the showing of the movie *Regina*, followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Berkowitz.

The community is invited to come and learn about this remarkable Jewish figure; refreshments will be served. This program is co-sponsored by the area Sisterhoods and Jewish women's organizations, and supported by the Mid-Hudson Library system. For further information about Rabbi Jonas visit <http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/jonas-regina> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regina_Jonas. For further information about the Feb. 21st program, contact Sandra Mamis at ritual@vassartemple.org.

Sisterhood Lunchbox Feb. 7th

Sisterhood will host Lunch Box on Sunday, February 7th. Please contact Laura Brundage at 914-489-0278 or lbrundage001@gmail.com if you are able to help donate or participate at Lunch box on the 7th. If you never have helped out, you'll find that it is a rewarding way to kick off the New Year!

Please consider donating one or more of the following:

3 lb. ground beef or turkey, browned with ½ cup onion

10-12 dozen pieces of fresh fruit (bananas or grapes cut into small bunches)

Food can be dropped off beforehand in the kitchen 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. Thank you for your support of this life-sustaining project.



VT Men's Club: Lending a Helping Hand

Members and friends of Men's Club came through in a big way on the first Sunday of the new year to help some less fortunate members of our larger community. Seventeen volunteers assisted chef extraordinaire, Kurt Quackenbush, in preparing a delicious meal of chili, rice, salad, and fruit at the Lunch Box on January 3rd. Several recipients of the meal commented favorably about the generous portions that were served and about the overall quality of the meal!

Many thanks to Kurt and the other volunteers: Jeff Brenner, Howie Brown, Paul Ciminello, Alan, Aaron and Haley Kaflowitz, David Lampell, Jacob Moore and his friend Robby, David Posner, Bob Ritter, Jim Robinowitz, Eric Rosenfeld, Dave and Max Samson, Jerry Slate, Howard Spilke, and Dave Wolf. Men's Club would also like to thank Linda and Joel Babas for their assistance in preparing for the event and to the Brenner, Ciminello, Creedon, Hecht, Kaflowitz, Lampell, Moore, Posner, Quackenbush, Ritter, Robinowitz, Rosenfeld, Rosenthal, Samson, Schwartz, and Wolf families for their food donations.

Volunteering at the Lunch Box is a wonderful way to schmooze with your Temple friends while helping the community. It's also a great way for students to earn community service credit.



Kurt Quackenbush prepares lunch with other members of Men's Club

Tzedakah: The 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. This month's donations to the Temple tzedakah box (located near the staircase) will benefit

Hudson River Housing's *Wind Chill Fund*, which supplements their emergency overnight shelter when that facility is overflowing. HRH 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.

Your tax deductible checks made out to "Wind Chill Fund" are also appreciated and may be dropped off or mailed to the Temple. To learn more about what the amazing agency known as Hudson River Housing, Inc. does, visit <http://hudsonriverhousing.org>, and thank you for your support of the Wind Chill Fund drive at our Temple this month.

Marian Schwartz
socialaction@vassartemple.org

VaTY (Youth Group)

Please give a big *Todah Rabah* to all the VaTY members who helped the Trim-a-Thanksgiving event, Camp Shabbat and Chanukah Service!

Upcoming Events include:

March 6-7: NFTY-NAR Albany Social Justice Experience

Teens will join together on Sunday at a hotel in Albany to learn about several social justice issues and gain the necessary knowledge to lobby their state Assembly members and Senators. On Monday, we'll spend the day at the State Capitol in Albany, where we will meet with our legislators and visit the Chambers of the State Assembly.

March 11-13: Nashir: Teen Song-leading Seminar

An exciting new opportunity to join with other teen song leaders for a week-end of training, skill development and hands-on learning! Participate in intensive workshops, small-group specialty-focused electives, individual evaluation and a musical Shabbat experience.

Look for upcoming information about the Shabbaton, Jewish-Muslim teen dialogue, joining with other youth groups at Bounce and Shabbat cupcake wars!

Email us at youthgroup@vassartemple.org if you have questions, suggestions or want to participate!

B'Shalom

Shira and Dan

Memorial Board Plaques

Honor the memory of your loved ones with a plaque on the Memorial Board in the sanctuary. For information, call the Temple office at 454-2570.

HAMANTASCHEN DOUGH RECIPE

4 cups sifted flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla

4 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup butter, softened*
2 eggs
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. The dough may seem a bit sticky, but chilling will solidify it, so don't add too much extra flour. This dough freezes well and can be made ahead of Hamantaschen Baking Day. Leave it in the refrigerator to thaw overnight before baking day.



* Please use real butter – the pastries are superior and all batches cook evenly. Thank you.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Jasmine Russo on graduating from
Nursing School
John & Arlene Russo

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Vassar Temple and our appreciation of
High Holy Days Services
Allan & Sally Cohen
Bill & Susan Barbash on the birth of
their grandson, Leonard Franklin
Kent & Kathy Mardon
Constance Ramirez
Elizabeth Ramirez & Charles Slater

Vassar Temples' Ritual Committee and
Rabbi Berkowitz for producing the
wonderful Chanukah videos
Gabe & Cathy Bokor

In Memory of:

Annette Forman
Joe Forman
Anne Richmond
The Karnes Hecht Family
Cecilia Zuckerman
Adrian Zuckerman
Aaron Slote
Selma Kahn
Goldie Bleich
Joseph L. Kahn
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Solomon Berger
Rose Jacobson
Herbert & Rita Jacobson
Irving Wrobel
Helen Wrobel
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Katherine Mamis
Harry & Sandra Mamis

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of:

Lunch Box Program
Matt & Muriel Lampell

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Memory of:

Bessie Lipschutz
Shirley Lipschutz
Elaine Lipschutz

Jewish War Veterans Meeting

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The meeting begins 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) are cordially invited to attend and participate in the activities of this JWV Post. As Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue.

For further information, please contact the Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison, at ROBL56@aol.com.



Buy Scrip

Help Yourself

Help the Temple

Yahrzeits

FEBRUARY 5

Jeanette Bergman
Jacqueline Sydney Colodner
Alice Davidson
Harold Devorsetz
Aaron Estrin
Alan Pack Greller
Martha Held
Evelyn Slote Kahn
Jane Kramer
Leo Livingston
Arlene Mates
Susan Matlin
Joseph Moselle
Russell B. Oppenheimer
Dorothy Parish
Ronah Gordon Posner
Sara Poley-Rosenberg
Mark Rosenthal
Gertrude Rothstein
Paul M. Schwartz, MD
Michael Sommerfield
Dr. M. Alden Weingart

FEBRUARY 12

Goldie Abraskin
Leon Alpers
Evelyn Bersak
Marjorie Rubin Brody
Evelyn Brown
Philip Cochran
Timothy Creedon
Joseph Drobner
Lawrence Edell
Lillian Feldman
Blanche Fertig
Celia Frank
Lillian Gerber
Jacob Greenberg
Jarrod Harrington
Mary Hyman
William Hyman
Rose Kahn
Jon Franklin Katz
Herman Kraut
Harry Lashinsky
Jules H. Lippmann
Sidney I. Love
Hon. Henry Morgen-
thau, Jr.
Armand H. Newman
Freda Reifler
Harold Robinowitz
Owen J. Sacks
Mary R. Scheer
Dr. Lawrence Schuyler
Stanley Soirefman
Benjamin Uttal
Samuel Warshaw
Reuben Wiseman
Rosanne Weber
Gary M. Zimmer

FEBRUARY 19

David Charles Albert
Anne Alpers
Sylvia Cantor
Jacob Erdreich,
Henrietta Greenberg
David Haber
Robert Joseph
Herbert Kallman
Saul Kleinfeld
Dr. Irma (Earma) Koltai
Vladimir M. Konheim
Louis Kovacs
Morris Levine
Stanton Lipschutz
Julie McGaulley
Bernard Miller
Walter L. Mock
Wendy E. Newman
Catherine Peluse
Milton Rauh
Louise S. Rosen
David Stephen Satz
Ida Baskin Schwartz
Lewis Schwartz
Ida Scope
Alec Stall
Augusta Steinman
Robert Toroker

FEBRUARY 26

Stuart Alpers
Matilda Banckek
Irving M. Bloch
Victor Fein
Irving Fink
Gloria Fischman
Jack Frankel
Esther Frances Goldberg
Paul S. Goldberg
Mildred Gould
Morris Haas
Fannie Kagan
Samuel Karnes
Shirley Kaskowitz
Ida Klein
Ethel Haber Kohan
Milton Kramer
Ruth Levitt
Frances Lewis
Harry Lewis
Stanton Lipschutz
Katherine Mamis
Shirley E. Reifler
Michael Rothenberg
Francesca Vadersen

FUND FACTS: *Trees in Israel Fund*

FUND FACTS: In the January Bulletin I wrote about the “Tree of Life” that adorns the entrance hallway of the Temple, unaware that I was seeding (no pun intended) a mini-series on trees. This month, inspired by the messages associated with Tu B’Shevat, I will again write about a fund relating to trees, but rather, and appropriately, a fund that supports trees...literally.

As you read this, you will hopefully be filled with the lessons of Tu B’Shevat, the holiday we observed last month to celebrate ecological awareness. On that day, also called “Rosh Hashanah La’llanot” (New Year of Trees), that ironically falls in the dead of winter, trees are planted in celebration of the holi-

day. What better time to call attention to the fund at Vassar Temple established for this very purpose!

Through the “*Trees in Israel Fund*” at the Temple, you can help plant trees in Israel. But with so many needs close to home, why give toward planting a tree in Israel? Making a gift for this purpose, and helping to green the land of Israel, is a perfect way to both celebrate a special occasion (birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, wedding,

birthday, get-well wish or memorial) and demonstrate your support of Israel. Similar to giving to the “Tree of Life,” it is gift that symbolizes growth and renewal, but in this case, it also provides actual *trees* for the sacred land of Israel. In the coming year, as you celebrate simchas (may they be abundant!) and remember loved ones, consider the “Trees in Israel Fund” as a way to recognize them.

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601
 845-454-2570
 www.vassartemple.org



PRSTD STD
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Permit # 11
 Newburgh, N.Y.

**DATED MAIL
 PLEASE
 RUSH**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

February 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10am SEP 12 Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte	3 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 8-12	4 10am SEP	5 Rabbi Berkowitz installation 5:30pm Family Shabbat Dinner Family Shabbat Services	6 Shabbat 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
7 9am R/S Gr. K-7 12pm Lunchbox	8	9 10am SEP 12 Talmud Study	10 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 8-12	11 10am SEP 7pm Exec Cmte Meeting	12 6pm Winter Shabbat Services	13 9am Torah Study
14 No Religious School	15	16 10am SEP 12 Talmud Study	17 2pm VTS Book Club 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 8-12 7pm Finance Cmte	18 10am SEP	19 6pm Winter Shabbat Services	20 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
21 9am R/S Gr. K-7	22	23 10am SEP 12 Talmud Study	24 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 8-12	25 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	26 6pm Winter Shabbat Services	27 9am Torah Study
28 9am Hamentaschen Baking 9am R/S Gr. K-7 11am Tiny Temple	29					