



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 6 February 2017

## Concert to Benefit Vassar Temple: Feb.11<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday evening Feb.11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm, singer and cantorial student Laura Stein will present a concert to benefit Vassar Temple. "To Vassar Temple with Love" is a concert that will explore themes of love in Jewish text and liturgy, as well as in American folk and theater tradition. Please join us as we listen to the beautiful expressions of love that come from both our Hebrew and English traditions! The concert will take place at the Temple and tickets are **\$18 at the door**.

Laura is a fourth year cantorial student at Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and this is her third time working with our temple. She grew up in Westchester and has lived in many countries around the world. In her cantorial work, Laura is passionate about pastoral care and the role music can play in healing and in prayer, and she would love to travel to different parts of the world, learning about their musical cultures.

## BAKERS NEEDED!

Please join us for Sisterhood's annual

### HAMANTASCHEN BAKING DAY

Make friends while making Hamantaschen for our Purim service and for outreach to congregants and our out-of-town college students.

Sunday, February 12th  
(snow date: 2/26/17)

9:00 to 1:00 in the Temple kitchen

RSVP to Judy Rosenfeld  
635-2414 or  
[hamantaschen@vassartemple.org](mailto: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 or website, and the Sisterhood Facebook page.

Not able to come and help? Please make a batch of dough and leave it in the Temple freezer in a Ziploc bag - just let Judy know.

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

### Upcoming Events

February

- 5 Pancake Breakfast, p7
- 5 *Sacred Callings* at Adriaance, p6
- 5 Lunch Box. p6
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- 11 Tu B'Shevat, p1
- 11 VT Benefit Concert, p1
- 12 Tiny Temple, p 3
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- 15 Book Club, p5

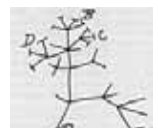
## Tu B'Shevat Program and Seder

The holiday Tu B'Shevat is a time to celebrate nature and the environment, and Vassar Temple has very special activities designed for you to do just that on Saturday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.

After a 9:00am torah study with Rabbi Berkowitz, a complete Shabbat morning torah service will begin at 10:00 am. Special guest speaker will be Mark Schlessman, professor of Biology at Vassar College and chairman of the board of di-

rectors of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. As an evolutionary biologist, one of the first things he noticed about Tu B'Shevat is that it falls very close to Charles Darwin's birthday. Based on Darwin's writings, biologists have used tree-like diagrams and "tree thinking" to explain evolution. Dr. Schlessman will introduce us to Tree Thinking by offering some reflections on the evolution of trees, and by offering some reflections on trees as metaphors for evolution.

After the service, enjoy a Tu B'Shevat seder, featuring fruits and beverages symbolic of the holiday, and a free light kiddush lunch. For further information or to RSVP for the seder lunch, please contact David Hecht at [vtritchair@gmail.com](mailto:vtritchair@gmail.com) or 845-518-8523,



## Rabbi's Message: Packing our Timbrels



One of my favorite Shabbatot of the year is Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song. Shabbat Shirah coincides with the Torah portion Beshalach,

which includes the famous "Song of the Sea" that Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites sang after crossing the Red Sea to freedom from Egyptian slavery. The script in the Torah scroll is laid out in three undulating columns, reminiscent of the walls of water the Israelites walked through on their way to the Promised Land.

This song has become even more ingrained in the Jewish consciousness because the rabbis extracted a few of its lines to create the prayer *Mi Chamocha*, which appears in our morning and evening liturgy. "Who is like You, Eternal, among the gods who are worshipped? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, working wonders?" (Exodus 15:11)

It wasn't only with song that the Israelites celebrated their freedom. The Torah tells us that "Miriam the prophetess... took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her in dance with timbrels" (Exodus 15:20).

This raises two questions: First, what is a timbrel? A timbrel was a portable hand drum, not unlike a tambourine.

Second, how was it that the Israelite women, who left Egypt so quickly that

their bread did not have time to rise, thought to pack musical instruments for their arduous journey?

For this, we have to turn to *midrash*. Rabbi Ishmael suggests that the righteous women of Israel were so confident that a miracle would take place that they brought timbrels with them when they left Egypt. They anticipated that G-d would deliver them, and they knew that such an occasion would require more than a simple, "Thank you."

It is wonderful that the women of Israel were so optimistic, but their choice of accoutrements raises another question: why pack timbrels and not, say, sparklers, confetti, or a stack of thank-you notes?

We have to conclude that music is an essential part of the Jewish experience, and that none of our learning, prayer, or celebration would be complete without it. On Shabbat Shirah, we celebrate the power of music to entertain, to inspire, and to heal.

This year, in honor of Shabbat Shirah, Vassar Temple is planning a very special weekend, **FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>** with Cantorial Student Laura Stein, from the School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Here are some of the events to look forward to!

**FRIDAY, FEB. 10<sup>TH</sup> 6:00pm:** Laura will help to lead a Tisch Shabbat in the social hall. A Tisch or "Table" Shabbat is held around the Shabbat table, and features melodies and stories and highlights com-

munity. The service will include Shabbat prayer and liturgy as well as a spirit of learning and singing. Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, cornbread, and salad during the service. RSVP to Cathy Bokor at [catherine.bokor@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.bokor@gmail.com) or 462-5862 so that we can get a head count.

### **SATURDAY, FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup> 10:00AM:**

Laura will lead our Shabbat morning worship with me, and chant the Song of the Sea for us. Mark Schlessman, an Environmental Biology professor at Vassar College, will speak during the service as well. Laura will also offer her musical gifts during our Tu BiShevat Seder and luncheon immediately following the service. RSVP to [vritchair@gmail.com](mailto:vritchair@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup> 8:00PM:** Laura will present a concert to benefit Vassar Temple. "To Vassar Temple with Love" is a concert that will explore themes of love in Jewish text and liturgy, as well as in American folk and theater tradition. Please join us as we listen to the beautiful expressions of love that come from both our Hebrew and English traditions! Contact [music@vassar temple.org](mailto:music@vassar temple.org) for more info. Tickets are \$18 at the door.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 12<sup>TH</sup>:** Laura will drop into Tiny Temple, and then lead a school-wide tefillah and song session.

Don't miss this incredible weekend of music, prayer, and learning!

*Rabbi Leah Berkowitz*

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## President's Message



The Board of Trustees, together with Rabbi Berkowitz, has been diligently working to gain for Vassar Temple a greater presence in our community. One example of such work was a program last fall, given to the community by Rabbi Berkowitz and Jonah Ritter, called "*A Taste of Judaism*." It was very well received and led to interest in Judaism and our Temple. The Board's efforts also resulted in new members to our congregation.

Marian Schwartz and the Social Ac-

tion Committee are always finding ways to have Vassar Temple volunteers improve the lives of our less fortunate neighbors. The activities of our members show the community the many meaningful ways Vassar Temple participates with and helps our neighbors. The positive activities that VT volunteers, together with Rabbi Berkowitz, engage in throughout the community create interest in Vassar Temple and will lead to a stronger congregation.

Volunteers are always needed at Temple and in the community. Volunteering is very likely to bring a new dimension to your

life. You may be able to find the time to organize or participate in activities to help our community while also helping our Temple. Working to make VT as well as our community stronger is a goal we can all work at and be proud of.

If you have a little time, and the desire, to be involved in meaningful and fulfilling service, your skills will be valued and appreciated by the Temple and our surrounding community.

Please consider volunteering.  
Thank you.

*Mark Metzger*

## February Worship Services

3	6:00pm 7:30pm	Family Dinner Family Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
4	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
10	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and Cantorial Intern, Laura Stein
11	9:00am 10:00am 12:00pm	Torah Study Shabbat Morning Service Tu B'Shevat Seder – Ritual Committee
17	6:00pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and soloist Elisa Dugatkin
18	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Bat Mitzvah of Haley Kflowitz
24	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and soloist Elisa Dugatkin
25	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service

## Scriptural Readings

Feb. 4 *Bo* Ex. 10:1-11:3;  
Jeremiah 46:13-28

11 **Shabbat Shirah/Tu BiShevat**  
*B'shalach* Ex. 13:17-15:26;  
Judges 4:4 – 5:31

18 *Ytro* Ex. 18:1-20:23;  
Isaiah 6:1 – 7:6, 9:5-6

25 **Shabbat Shekalim**  
*Mishpatim* Ex. 21:1-30:16; II  
Kings 12:1-17

## Weekly Study Groups at VT

“*Torah Study*” with the Temple’s Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week’s torah portion or haftarah, will be held every Saturday at 9:00am.

“*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? [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or (845)454-2570



## New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays, February 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 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 [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com), Rabbi Berkowitz [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org), or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

## Tiny Temple to Bake Hamantaschen: Feb.12<sup>th</sup>



Calling all tots! Let’s make yummy hamantaschen in anticipation of the joyous holiday of Purim at this month’s free Tiny Temple program, Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-noon (snow date: Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>). All children ages infant to 5, and those raising them, are warmly invited to join in the fun.

Tiny Temple is open to all regardless of temple affiliation, is always free of charge, and is sponsored by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood. Invite your friends and neighbors with young children to join in the fun! To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Laura Brundage at [tinytemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:tinytemple@vassartemple.org). She will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful free program, and can put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list.

## Mazel Tov to...

Paul Goldberg on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday;  
Jim & Maryann Robinowitz on the birth  
of their grandson, Lucas Sterling Pena,  
born to Leah & Emmanuel Pena

## VTS Judaica Shoppe

The Vassar Temple Sisterhood Judaica  
Shoppe is open Mon-Thur. during office  
hours. It will also be open on Sunday,  
February 12<sup>th</sup> (snow date: February 26<sup>th</sup>)  
for your convenience.

## VTS Shoppe Hanukkah Sale

Donna Loshin, Olga Ibañez and Sherrie  
Geisler, our faithful volunteers, were  
again at the helm! I couldn't have done  
it without you gracious ladies! A big  
thank you to our wonderful customers!

Hanukkah baby socks = sold out!  
Electric menorot = sold out!  
Paper goods and decorations = sold  
out!

YES! We had a successful sale, thanks  
to YOU! Last, but not least, thanks to Ta-  
mara Gruszko for her help in storing the  
remaining inventory...to be continued  
next year!

*Perla Kaufman*

## Condolences to...

Len, Barbara and the Greenberg family  
on the loss of Len's father, Jerry Green-  
berg

## Refuah Shelemah

Ellen Zelig recuperating from a broken  
leg;  
Rachel Rolland undergoing tests;  
Joel Babas recuperating from surgery;  
Fern Lox recuperating from surgery;  
LisaSue Quackenbush recuperating;  
Sandor Metlis back in rehab;  
Barbara Stern recovering from  
pneumonia.

## February's Pulpit Flower Donations



February 3: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund  
February 10: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund  
February 17: Donated by Marilyn Lampell, in memory of her sister, Julie  
McGaully  
February 24: 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 dona-  
tion 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 admit-  
ted to a hospital and wishes to have Rabbi  
visit during the hospital stay. Our goal is  
to meet the needs of all our congregants,  
and we can only do this with your help.



### Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published monthly  
Publisher: Marianne Abrams  
Editors: Sue Lesser and  
Donna Loshin  
Technical Support &  
Understudy: Bob Abrams

Articles for the March Bulletin must be  
submitted to the Temple office by February 1.  
Articles may be sent via email to  
[publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors  
reserve the right to edit articles for style,  
accuracy and length.



## From the Religious School Director

During the winter months, most educators find that it is the time that we “get down to business.”

I would like to introduce you to this

year’s faculty who will be hard at work doing just that.

**Fern Wolf**, Grade 2 teacher, is a long-time VT member and experienced RS teacher. Her class can typically be found learning through hands-on activities, with a focus on early Bible Stories, Mitzvot and Holidays. Fern’s students love spending the morning learning with her.

**Emma Arnoff & Rachel Roland** Grades 3-4 co-teachers. **Emma**, a new teacher this year, is a longtime VT member and with her knowledge and experience as a school social worker, she is a great asset to the school program. **Rachel**, a past graduate of VT’s Religious School, brings joy and laughter to the classroom. Using the URJ Chai curriculum, the class has had lessons in holiday celebrations, holiness and what it means to be holy, Torah, prayers and blessings and beginning Hebrew.

**Joan Quaderer**, Grades 5-6 new teacher. Her class focuses on Jewish history from early times to the present, Israel and prophets. On Sunday mornings if you

happen by her classrooms, you may find her students creating real estate ads for different places in Israel or debating the ideas of a particular prophet. Joan has told me that she is very impressed with the level of social action that takes place at Vassar Temple and can’t wait to participate in Lunch Box with her students.

**Craig Gittelman**, Grade 7 teacher, is working his magic with this year’s class of Bar & Bat Mitzvah students. His dedication to engaging his students in thinking and digging deep into what makes them Jewish is right on. He is the perfect fit for this class on the cusp of Jewish adulthood, allowing them to have a voice and be heard.

**Charlotte Katz**, a past graduate of Vassar Temple Religious School, helps the school tremendously stepping in to assist other teachers or to cover classes when a teacher is unable to be here. Her quiet enthusiasm for our school Tefilah and song sessions encourages our students to participate wholeheartedly!

**Michelle Klein**, veteran Hebrew teacher, has stepped up to the challenge of learning and teaching our new Hebrew curriculum, *Mitkadem*, with grace and always a smile on her face. Her love of teaching here can be felt in all her interactions with the students. Michelle is always at the ready to assist a struggling student, providing individual activities and lessons

to help him/her become a successful learner.

**Yoni Korn** is new to Vassar Temple Religious and Hebrew School. Yoni, a student at the Culinary Institute of America, brings with him years of experience as the son of a Jewish educator from Rochester, NY. Yoni has been involved in teaching the *Mitkadem* Hebrew program in past years.

**Olivia Di Ioria**, Vassar Temple Religious School Music Educator, brings such joy to the school with her efforts to teach new songs to our school community. Olivia was just awarded a special scholarship to attend the *Jewish Song Leader Boot Camp* in St. Louis this winter. I want to congratulate Olivia on this exciting award. I can’t wait to see what new and exciting songs she brings back to share with our VT community.

Please feel free to come and meet our teachers on a Sunday morning, and if you are so inclined, please shake their hands or give them a hug and let them know how much you appreciate their dedication and hard work!

*Julie Makowsky*

## Book Club to Discuss *The Boston Girl* February 15<sup>th</sup>

Vassar Temple’s Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant, author of *The Red Tent* and *Day After Night*. The story, told through the eyes of a young Jewish woman growing up in Boston in the early twentieth century, tells of family ties and values, friendship, and feminism. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

The protagonist is Addie Baum, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who are unprepared for and suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters. An eighty-five year old Addie is asked by her granddaughter what her life was like growing up and how she became the woman she is. Addie begins her story in 1915, the year she found her voice and made friends who would help to shape the course of her life. From the one room tenement apartment she shared with her parents and sisters, to the library group for girls she

joins at a neighborhood settlement house, to her first disastrous love affair, Addie recalls her experiences.

*The Boston Girl* is available in paperback and through the local library system. Sondra Chertok 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). As always, your book suggestions are always welcome.

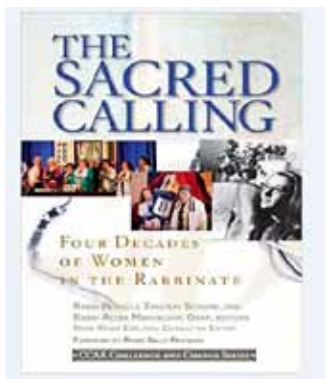
## “Sacred Calling” Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>

2:30-4:00pm Adriance Library  
Charwat Room

For the past 40 years, women in the rabbinate have impacted all aspects of Jewish life, including congregational culture, liturgical development, life cycle ritual, spirituality, theology, and more. And many unique issues impact on the personal and professional lives of rabbis who happen to be women.

Adriance Library is hosting a conversation focusing on these topics and more, featuring our very own **Rabbi Leah Berkowitz** and two other local women rabbis, Rabbi Miriam Hyman of Temple Beth El (Conservative), and Rabbi Rena Blumenthal (Reconstructionist), a freelance rabbi residing in New Paltz. Moderator will be Rabbi Alysa Mendelson, co-editor of *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*. This anthology contains reflections on the historic significance of women in the rabbinate written by rabbis and scholars from across the spectrum of the Jewish world. Rabbi Berkowitz is one of the rabbis whose writings are included in the collection.

So mark your calendar now and don't miss what should prove to be a provocative and illuminating discussion featuring three inspiring leaders of our local spiritual community!



## Support Lunch Box: Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade families will be preparing and serving a hot, wholesome and tasty chili dinner for our neighbors in need at Lunch Box on Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. If you can donate any of the following items, please contact Rose Hartman at [rhartman123@optimum.net](mailto:rhartman123@optimum.net) or 845-896-1769 to let her know what you can contribute.

- 3 lb. ground beef or ground turkey browned with ½ c. chopped onions
- 1 to 2 dozen bananas/ pieces of fresh fruit/ or sandwich baggies of washed grapes

Non-perishables may be dropped off beforehand (during regular Temple hours) in the bin on the counter just inside the kitchen door. Please leave perishables in the fridge and label everything prominently “For Lunch Box.” Tax deductible checks made out to Vassar Temple with “Community Tzedakah Fund” on the memo line also help!



## VaTY (Youth Group)

### Upcoming Events:

- February TBD: Ski/snow tubing day with TEmTY
- March 5: Lunch Box
- March 11: Purim hopping. Purim carnival at TEmTY and Purim Schpiel at VaTY
- March 19-20: Albany Advocacy Day
- April 21-23: NFTY NAR Spring Kallah

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## Table Shabbat Soup & Chili Dinner: Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday night, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, accomplished student cantor Laura Stein will help lead a Tisch Shabbat for us in the social hall. A “Tisch” or Table Shabbat is held around the Shabbat table, features melodies and stories, and highlights community. The service will include Shabbat prayer and liturgy as well as a spirit of learning and singing.

Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread, and salad during the service. Dinner will be at 7:30 right after the 6:00pm service.

- \$10 per person
- \$25 per family
- under age 13 free.

Checks should be made payable to: “Vassar Temple Sisterhood.” RSVP to Cathy Bokor at [catherine.bokor@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.bokor@gmail.com) or 462-5862



## February 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.

This month's donations to the 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 Vassar Temple with "Wind Chill Fund" on the memo line 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.

A reminder that we also have "Jewish night" one Thursday night a month when members of the local Jewish community and their friends provide homemade dinner foods for the guests at the shelter, and we have a collection box in the East Chapel of our temple for toiletry donations. To help with the dinners, or if you have men's PJs or washable bedding/pillows to donate, please contact Judy Harkavy of our Social Action Committee at [judystan@verizon.net](mailto:judystan@verizon.net).

## Pancake Breakfast to Benefit Refugee Families: Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>

Come enjoy a yummy pancake breakfast at the Temple on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-10:00am. Proceeds will benefit the refugee resettlement project.

Choose from three complete meals:

- Pancake meal
- Banana Allergen-Free Pancake meal (no dairy, egg, soy, gluten, or nuts)
- Rabbi B Special (challah French toast meal).

Each breakfast includes syrup, one side (turkey sausage, turkey bacon, or seasonal fruit) and choice of beverage (orange juice, apple juice, coffee, decaf, or tea).

Pancake breakfasts:

- \$5 adult, \$3 child,
- \$20 maximum family
- \$10. RabbiB Special
- \$1 each: hot toppings (blueberry, apple, strawberry), chocolate chips, blueberries.

Questions? Contact Jasmine at [jasmainerusso@gmail.com](mailto:jasmainerusso@gmail.com).

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## FUND FACTS: Don't Forget Adult Education!

Just when I thought I had exhausted all potential topics for this column, I received an email from Marian Schwartz offering the inspiration I needed, so thanks are due to Marian for what follows.

Many members of our congregation, such as Marian, take regular advantage of the many Adult Education offerings throughout the year. Whether it is the weekly Torah Study, ongoing Talmudic study, exploration of special topics such as Middle East politics and the refugee crisis, or simply learning the basics of Judaism, these programs comprise an integral piece of our congregation's programming.

We are indebted to our Rabbis who have provided the vision, leadership and instruction that make them possible. These programs not only enlighten and educate members of our congregation, as courses that are offered to the wider community, they are a source of learning to all, and a means to attract new congregants.



Important as they are to the life of our Temple community, however, thanks to Marian's email I realized that the fund that supports them – the **Rabbi Paul Golomb Adult Education Fund** (established in honor of Rabbi Golomb's retirement) – is not listed among the funds on the donations page of the Temple website! I am, thus, devoting this month's column to the Adult Education Fund to remind readers of this as a potential recipient of your contributions.

By supporting this fund, you can have a direct impact on the intellectual vitality of our community and provide a platform for our learned leaders to impart their knowledge and wisdom. When making your next donation to the Temple, consider supporting the Rabbi Paul Golomb Adult Education Fund.

*Jennifer Sachs Dahmert*

## Dr. Grunfeld's Advice on Refugees

So moved was Dr. Mihai Grunfeld by our Shabbat service, that he went off-script to share a highly personal and bare side of his immigrant experience. Dr. Grunfeld, a professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature at Vassar College since 1987, was the guest speaker at Vassar Temple's 12/10/17 Shabbat service. His life is the embodiment of the challenges and emotions of leaving one's homeland to travel to faraway lands in order to start over in search of a better life. His advice about the special needs that immigrants have was warmly received by Vassar Temple's congregation. Author and playwright, Dr. Grunfeld is a deeply introspective person, who still struggles with giving up his Romanian homeland. Check out Dr. Grunfeld's play, *The Dressmaker's Secret*, playing in NYC at this time.

## Jewish War Veterans Meeting Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am, at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces (Active, Reserve or National Guard) are invited to attend and participate in the activities of this J.W.V. Post. Additionally, all persons of the Jewish faith who have family members who served in the armed forces of the United States are also invited to attend and participate.

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

## CROPWalk Breaks Record!

The latest CROPWalk results are in, and the 2016 Interfaith CROPWalk Against Hunger raised almost \$60,000, exceeding all previous local records! This is thanks to all of you who sponsored walkers, and a very special thank you to our own Vassar Temple team who walked: team captain Rabbi Berkowitz, Haley Kallowitz, R. Jonah Ritter, Ron Rosen, Ralph Schwartz, and Howard Susser (who also acted as Temple recruiter), with much appreciation to Linda Babas and Jane Lalone for helping at the very busy registration table that day.





## Contributions

Eugene Fleishman & Judy Elkin

### SUSTAINING FUND

#### In Honor of:

The birth of their grandson,  
Lucas Sterling Pena

Jim & Maryann Robinowitz

The birth of granddaughter,  
Charlotte Evelyn Ritter

R. Jonah & Mary Ritter

R. Jonah & Mary Ritter on the birth of  
granddaughter Charlotte

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Paul & Andi Ciminello

Emma Arnoff for her Unity Service  
leadership

Paul & Andi Ciminello

Bob Creedon on being inducted to the

Sports Hall of Fame

Paul & Andi Ciminello

In appreciation of Sam Finnerman's  
participation in our service

David & Susan Hecht

#### In Memory of:

Jerry Greenberg

The Hecht Family

Sherrie Geisler

Jenny Krevolin

Linda & Joel Ba-

bas Art & Marge Groten

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Anne Richard

Kate Hecht

The Hecht Family

Marion Tierney

Debbie & Kevin Tierney

Marion Present

Debbie Tierney & Brian Landesman

Cecilia Zuckerman

Adrian Zuckerman

Erin Konheim

Lila Matlin

Maurice Troger

Dr. Jonathan Moselle

Thelma Fival

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

### COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

#### In Honor of:

Paul Goldberg's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

Lila Matlin

Vassar Temple and all it does  
in the community

Richard Levien

Ralph & Marian Schwartz  
& the New Paths Services

#### In Memory of:

Jenny Krevolin

Benjamin Krevolin

Beverly Slone

Mort & Rita Alterman

Harriet Englander

Joel & Linda Babas

Carol Gordon

Scott Carlton

Francis & Diane Keilly

Doug & SueEllen Fairbanks

Barbara Kalleberg

Laura Seagren

Arthur & Nancy Pite

Nina Lynch

### ADULT EDUCATION

#### In Honor and in Memory of:

Jerry Greenberg for his and his family's  
service to the Jewish community

R. Jonah & Mary Ritter

### HINENI FUND

#### In Memory of:

Seth Erlebacher

Paul & Andi Ciminello

Melissa, Rachel & Brianna Erlebacher

## Yahrzeits

### FEBRUARY 3

Leonard H. Arnold  
Jeanette Bergman  
Jacqueline Sydney Colodner  
Alice Davidson  
Harold Devorsetz  
Abraham Ginsberg  
Pedro Gitler  
Alan Pack Greller  
Pauline Gross  
Morris Kahn  
Jane Kramer  
Davida Krevolin  
Nancy Levinson  
Virginia Newman Livingston  
Arlene Mates  
Susan Matlin  
Sylvia Mednick  
Russell B. Oppenheimer  
Ronah Gordon Posner  
Sara Poley-Rosenberg  
Mark Rosenthal  
Gertrude Rothstein  
Isadore Shefts  
Herbert Schiffman  
Paul M. Schwartz  
Michael Sommerfield  
Irving Wrobel

### FEBRUARY 10

Leon Alpers  
Evelyn Bersak  
Marjorie Rubin Brody  
Evelyn Brown  
Timothy Creedon  
Joseph Drobner  
Lillian Feldman  
Lillian Geber  
Martha Held  
Mary Hyman  
Evelyn Slotte Kahn  
Jon Franklin Katz  
Herman Kraut  
Leo Livingston  
Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.  
Armand H. Newman  
Dorothy Parish  
Rose Plotkin  
Harold Robinowitz  
Owen J. Sacks  
Elizabeth Satz  
Dr. Lawrence Schuyler  
Benjamin Uttal  
Samuel Warshaw  
Dr. M. Alden Weingart  
Reuben Wiseman  
Gary M. Zimmer

### FEBRUARY 17

David Charles Albert  
Goldie Abraskin  
Anne Alpers  
Sylvia Cantor  
Philip Cochran  
Lawrence Edell  
Jacob Erdreich  
Blanche Fertig  
Henrietta Greenberg  
Jacob Greenberg  
David Haber  
Jarrod Harrington  
William Hyman  
Dr. Irma (Earma) Koltai  
Vladimir M. Konheim  
Louis Kovacs  
Rabbi Marcus Kramer  
Jules H. Lippmann  
Sidney I. Love  
Julie McGaulley  
Bernard Miller  
Walter L. Mock  
Joseph Moselle  
Wendy E. Newman  
Catherine Peluse  
Freda Reifler  
Louise S. Rosen  
Mary R. Scheer  
Lewis Schwartz  
Ida Scope  
Alec Stall  
Robert Toroker  
Rosanne Weber

### FEBRUARY 24

Stuart Alpers  
Irving M. Bloch  
Aaron Estrin  
Irving Fink  
Gloria Fischman  
Jack Frankel  
Esther Frances Goldberg  
Paul S. Goldberg  
Robert Joseph  
Fannie Kagan  
Herbert Kallman  
Marjorie Kallman  
Shirley Kaskowitz  
Ida Klein  
Ethel Haber Kohan  
Milton Kramer  
Jeannie Lawrence  
Ruth Levitt  
Harry Lewis  
Stanton Lipschutz  
Milton Rauh  
Michael Rothenberg  
David Stephen Satz  
Ida Baskin Schwartz  
Augusta Steinman

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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 www.vassartemple.org



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Rabbi:</b>	Leah Berkowitz
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen Arnold
<b>Senior Scholar:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Julie Makowsky
<b>Cantorial Soloist:</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Mark Metzger
<b>1st Vice-President:</b>	OPEN
<b>2nd Vice-President:</b>	Alan Kaflowitz
<b>Secretary:</b>	Susan Karnes Hecht
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Len Greenberg
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Judy Rosenfeld
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	OPEN

## February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher High School at TBE	2 10am Senior Exercise Program	3 7:30pm Family Shabbat	4 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
5 8am Setup for Pancake Breakfast 9am Religious School 9am R/S Pancake Breakfast 10:30am Lunchbox	6	7 10am Senior Exercise Program 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Ritual Committee	8 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher High School at TBE	9 10am Senior Exercise Program	10 6pm Shabbat Service with Cantorial Student Laura Stein 6:00 Family Dinner	11 9am Torah Study 10am Shabbat Service 12pm TuB'Shevat Seder—Ritual Cmte 8pm To VT With Love concert with Cantorial Student Laura Stein
12 9am Hamantaschen Baking 9am Religious School 11am Tiny Temple	13	14 10am Senior Exercise Program 12pm Talmud Study	15 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher High School at TBE	16 10am Senior Exercise Program	17 6pm Shabbat Service with Elisa Dugatkin	18 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah—Haley Kaflowitz
19 No Religious School	20	21 10am Senior Exercise Program 12pm Talmud Study	22 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher High School at TBE	23 10am Senior Exercise Program 7pm Board meeting	24 6pm Shabbat Service with Elisa Dugatkin	25 VaTY Ski/Snow Tube Day 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
26 9am Religious School 9am SNOW DATE for Hamasntaschen Baking	27	28 10am Senior Exercise Program 12pm Talmud Study				