



Where You Belong

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהלים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 159 No. 1 January 2013

6:00 Shabbat services through March 1st



During the winter, our Friday evening Shabbat services begin at 6:00 p.m. An hour later, you can enjoy crackers, cheese and nuts, as well as sweets, at an Oneg in the East Chapel.

Vassar After Hours: Tapas, Sangria and Beer on February 9th

Save the date! Plan to join us on Saturday February 9th from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in our Social Hall for a relaxed evening of noshing, drinking, music, and schmoozing. We're going to dim the lights so the candles twinkle, putting us all in the mood for another wonderful Vassar After Hours event, a purely fun social evening with members and guests.

Satisfy your palate: Enjoy delicious (dairy) home-made Tapas (small plates), a selection of quality micro-brews from Half Time Beverage, and sangria. (Guests are welcome to bring a bottle of wine.)

Great live music: Rudy, a talented local musician, will entertain us with '50s and '60s covers. Sing along or shake a leg! Dance teacher and temple member Mary Ritter will lead us in an ethnic dance lesson while our entertainer takes a break. This should be almost as much fun to watch as it is to participate and you are welcome to do either!

The cover charge for this delightful evening is just \$20 per person. RSVP to Perla Kaufman at 914-456-7309 or brandaliz@optonline.net by February 1st.

BAKERS NEEDED!

Please join us for
Sisterhood's annual

HAMANTASCHEN BAKING DAY

Make friends while making hamantaschen for our Purim service and delivery to homebound congregants and out-of-town college students.

Sunday, February 3rd
(snow date: 2/10/13)
9:00 to 1:00 in the temple kitchen

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

Please bring one
double batch of dough
- recipe available from Judy or
the temple office – and a rolling pin.
Remaining ingredients provided.

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“Today is the First Day of the Rest of Your Life; Don't Blow It!” – Torah Service and Discussion on January 12th

After our Shabbat morning Torah service on Saturday, January 12th, you will have the opportunity to share with your fellow congregants, with some professional guidance, the implications of the fact that we are all getting older every day. What doors open when others shut? Dr. Linda Tafapolsky, the director of Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County, will lead our discus-

sion.

Whether you are attracted by a moving Torah service, a thought-provoking interactive discussion, or a chance to socialize over a light kiddush lunch, you are sure to get into the spirit of Shabbat at temple that Saturday. The dress code is casual and you are welcome during all or any part of the morning.

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. with our

usual lively study of the Haftarah of the week with Rabbi Golomb. A family-friendly Torah service will begin at 10:00 in the East Chapel, providing the perfect opportunity for parents to attend with their children and for adults who prefer daytime services to hear the Torah read. At 11:15 we will begin our sharing, and at noon we will enjoy a kiddush lunch together. Plan to join us!

Rabbi's Message: A Congregation of Learners



Vassar Temple is a pretty smart congregation. Virtually all of its adult members have spent time in college, and many have post-graduate education.

The synagogue is littered with lawyers, doctors, dentists, mental health professionals, educators and engineers, among others. All of this is laudable, but not particularly unusual. The American Jewish community is in general a very well educated bunch.

The reason for this is not hard to discern. When Jewish society lost its kingdom – first in 586 B.C.E., and again in the early decades of the first Christian century – it also lost the conventional way of determining who sat on the top rungs of that society; that is, the land owner. A Jew's aspiration could no longer be for control of land and its resources, as was the norm in every other pre-modern society, but rather for something else. The new goal became scholarship.

For nearly two thousand years, Jewish parents took enormous pride in their children's mastery of the texts (at least their male children). The texts themselves were Hebrew Scripture and the subsequent works of Jewish scholars,

especially the Talmud and related writings. The body of material produced and studied over these centuries was voluminous. Moreover, it was comprehensive; it contained everything on almost any topic one could be interested in. Jews had no reason and no incentive to attend to anything else.

Then, something changed. In the nineteenth century, Jews were invited to participate in the larger European societies and cultures. New opportunities arose, both in business and intellectual endeavors. The Jewish dedication to scholarship did not appreciably change, but their choice in texts certainly did. Where once mastery of the Talmud and related works was the key to advancement, now it was a vast new library of principally secular works in history, literature, mathematics, and science.

So, today we have a superbly educated Jewish community, but what about all those texts that once defined Jewish academic excellence? They are still here. While they are no longer the key to personal aspirations, and certainly no longer the repository of everything a Jew needs to know, they remain the heart and soul of what it means to be Jewish.

I think that everyone reading this

column already knows this. Many of you decided to connect with Vassar Temple principally for the education of your children. Jewish texts are very important – worth the expense of time and money – at least at some point in your life. Why not now?

Vassar Temple should be a congregation of learners. Currently, the synagogue has regular weekly study on Shabbat morning and Thursday lunch time, as well as mini-courses on many Thursday evenings. I am gratified by the turnout for these offerings but recognize that not everyone can free the time to attend. We do offer an alternative. Through the Vassar Temple blog on our website, you can participate in the weekly Shabbat morning study of Torah. You need only to go to <http://vassar temple.wordpress.com/> and follow the excellent summary provided by Lou Lewis. Have a question or comment? Please do not hesitate to submit it, and I will make a point of responding.

You are committed to education. You recognize the importance of Jewish learning. As the Sage Hillel said: If not now, when?

Rabbi Paul Golomb



I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

About 180

Temple members and friends enjoyed the highly successful Bright Lights and Miracles Gala on December 1st at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie. Everyone had a great time, and beautiful photos continue to be posted to Vassar Temple's Facebook page, and even more in the Photo Gallery on our website. Congratulations to the entire committee for the planning and implementation of this delightful Gala. Special thanks go to Jen Dahnert and Andi Ciminello for all their hard work in organizing the celebration and their outstanding fundraising skills resulting in approximately \$145,000 pledged for the Hineni Fund, to benefit Vassar Temple's operating expenses and the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School and youth programs. Special thanks go out to the many contributors whose unselfish generosity led to the extraordinary results of the fundraising effort.

President's Message

We celebrated Hanukkah in December with our annual Hanukkah Dinner and Service. This is one of the most enjoyable Friday night Shabbat events on our yearly calendar, with lots of latkes to accompany dinner, and the beautiful candle-lighting service when the lights are turned down and everyone lights their shamash candle from the lead candles around the sanctuary. The sight and the mood is amazing, with everyone's lit menorahs ablaze in the darkened room!

I'd like to extend a special thank you to compassionate Nancy Samson for leading our Vassar Temple Breezy Point/ Hurricane Baby Rescue Drive in November. With your help, we rose to the challenge of helping families with babies who were impacted by Hurricane Sandy in October. Over 100 homes burned to the ground in Breezy Point, New York, as fire spread rapidly amid surges of wind and rain. Our temple raised \$950, which was used to purchase baby supplies through Amazon. Purchased supplies included diapers, infant formula, and baby food, which were sent

directly to a distribution point at Breezy Point. I'm very proud of how our congregation pulled together to help a special group impacted by the hurricane and in need of supplies. I congratulate Nancy on leading the Temple in delivering needed relief to our neighbors at Breezy Point ... this is tikkun olam at its best!

Before we know it, our annual Hamantaschen baking will take place and Purim will be here. One group of recipients of Hamantaschen is our college students. Fern Wolf is the chair of the College Committee this year – I encourage all college parents to ensure that Fern has your students' addresses so she can send them a little Purim package. Contact Fern through office@vassar temple.org.

And be sure to mark your calendar for our next Vassar After Hours event on Saturday, February 9th. Those evenings are always warm opportunities to get together with old friends and meet new ones.

These are just a few wonderful examples of the vibrancy of our Vassar Temple congregation.

Marianne and I wish all of you a warm, healthy and Happy New Year in 2013!

Bob Abrams

Worship Services

Friday, January 4

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Friday, January 11

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin

Saturday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service, Program & Kiddush

Friday, January 18

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 19

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Friday, January 25

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, February 1

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 2

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

New Paths Services

Please join us in the sun-lit East Chapel on Saturdays, January 5th and 19th at 10:00 a.m. Each New Paths service, whether rabbi-led or lay-led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. We focus on letting the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. A brief informal light kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mshwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

Treat Yourself to This Shabbaton in New Jersey

Every winter the URJ sponsors a wonderful day of Torah study, music, food, and workshops for the congregations in our region. By being part of the Vassar Temple carpool to Short Hills, NJ on Saturday, January 26th, you will be treated to a full day of intellectual and spiritual nourishment (plus three meals), including an inspiring Shabbat morning service with an excellent speaker and beautiful music.

To see the full schedule and sign up, go to <http://urj.org/east/edshabbaton/>. The fee is \$36 if you register by January 6th; \$45 after that. Rabbi Golomb's discretionary fund will cover the fee of the first four congregants to sign up, so let him know that you are planning to go at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 454-2570. To join the Vassar Temple carpool, contact Bob Abrams at president@vassartemple.org or 297-3649.

Scriptural Readings

January 4 & 5 *Shmot*

Exodus 4:18-6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23

January 11 & 12 *Va'era Rosh Hodesh*

Exodus 8:16-9:35

Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24

January 18 & 19 *Bo*

Exodus 12:29-1:16

Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-25

January 25 & 26 *B'Shelah Shabbat Shirah*

Exodus 14:26-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:1-5:31

February 1 & 2 *Yitro*

Exodus Chap. 20

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

Save Friday, March 1st for our "Shabbat Across America" Dinner/Service

On Friday night, March 1st hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families — all ages.

As part of Shabbat Across America, Vassar Temple will have a family-friendly dinner combined with a Shabbat service in the social hall starting at 6:00 on March 1st. More details are coming, but be sure to mark your calendar now for this lovely evening.

Tiny Temple on January 13th

The next session of Tiny Temple will be held on Sunday, January 13th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. All preschoolers (age infant-5) and their parents, regardless of synagogue affiliation, are invited to have fun while learning about the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, through crafts, story and song in a relaxed and friendly setting. In modern times this holiday, known as the New Year of the Trees or the Birthday of the Trees, has also become an occasion to celebrate all nature and dedicate ourselves to caring for the Earth. Healthy snacks including fruits of the trees will be served.

Tiny Temple, which is sponsored by the Sisterhood every month during the school year, gives parents an opportunity to meet others raising young Jewish children and is always free of charge. To assist in our planning, please RSVP to tinytemple@vassartemple.org.



Meditation Group Meets on January 8th

The meditation group led by Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 8th from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the East Chapel. At each session there is a sitting meditation, a walking meditation and either chanting or a short reading. There will also be time for sharing and for questions related to the practice. Both experienced meditators and those new to the practice are warmly welcomed.

Please let office manager Sandi Rugar know if you are planning to attend some or all of the sessions by contacting the temple office, 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.

Wheelchairs and Shower Chairs Needed

The Medical Lending Closet maintained by Jewish Family Services at the JCC is urgently in need of good quality, functional wheelchairs with footrests as well as shower chairs. If you have a wheelchair or shower chair to donate, please contact jfs@jewishdutchess.org or call Patty Weathers at 845-471-9811. JFS will be happy to provide you with a receipt for your donation.

If You Want to Help Plan the Second Annual Vassar Temple Seder...

...come to a planning meeting at the temple on Sunday morning, January 6th at 11:00 a.m. If you want to be involved but can't attend that morning, contact Sandra Mamis at 914-456-3524 or seder@vassartemple.org.

In Remembrance

Vassar Temple suffers in the loss of our members:

Dr. Diane L. Weston

Mother of Eden Miller

Robert Feitelson

Husband of Doris Feitelson

Arthur Stern

Husband of Barbara Stern

Vassar Temple shares in the grief suffered by the family of:

Wilford Wittenberg, past president of Vassar Temple and husband of Ann Wittenberg

Refuah Shelemah

To our Temple member **Sandy Metlis** who was recently hospitalized.

We Need Your Help!

It's awful to be the last to know that someone has been hospitalized, needs a visit or needs some other kind of 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

- December 21 In memory of Sadie Cohen Friedland and Philip Friedland from Esther Reisman.
- December 28 In memory of Joseph Fa'gut from Pola Fa'gut
- January 4 Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- January 11 Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- January 18 Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- January 25 Vassar Temple Sisterhood



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 Shrub Fund. Just call Sandi Rugar at 454-2570. The donation to the Shrub Fund is \$55.

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly
 Publisher: Marianne Abrams
 Editor: Doi Cohen
 Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the February bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by January 2. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent to Sandi Rugar via e-mail, at office@vassartemple.org or faxed to (845)452-5161.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Read What Our Member Janet Greenman Says about SCRIP...

Our family has been buying SCRIP for several years now and we strongly agree that “Buying with SCRIP makes cents.” I do not know how much our use of SCRIP has contributed to the temple’s coffers, but whatever it is, it hasn’t cost us a penny.

I started out buying it for my trips to Adams Fairacre Farms, and that has continued to be the major portion of our SCRIP purchases. In addition to that, though, we now also buy SCRIP for A&P, as well as Starbucks, Home Depot, Aeropostale, American Eagle, and Dunkin Donuts. The money we spend at Adams, A&P, Home Depot, and Starbucks is for daily necessities (okay, maybe not Starbucks), money we would be charging on our credit cards. The Aeropostale, American Eagle, and Dunkin Donuts cards tend to be for gifts to friends or teachers. It’s all money that we would be spending anyway.

Someone might say, “But you are losing points on your credit card purchases.” The great thing about it, though, is that there is a bonus for the temple, and that cancels out the very minor loss we have in not accumulating points. This past year, we bought over \$4,000 worth of SCRIP, probably at least half of it for Adams. Since Adams gives 10% back to the temple, that means that the temple got about \$200 from those purchases alone. I don’t know how much the other cards pay back to the temple (Sandra could tell you that!), but even if they average out to 4% or 5%, that would mean at least another \$80 to \$100 for the temple. I don’t know about you, but outside of the lottery, I don’t know of any other way to get money for nothing.

It would be such a gain for the temple if every member bought SCRIP at least a few times during the year. Think about it. It is truly “something for nothing.”

Janet Greenman

Be Part of our Purim Spiel: “The Wizard of Schnoz”

Art Menken is working on a “new and improved” version of The Wizard of Oz for our Purim spiel this year and you won’t want to miss it. Mark Saturday, February 23rd on your calendar now and plan to bring the whole family!

Actors, costumers, stage hands, makeup artists, special effects creators – people of all ages and interests will enjoy being part of this production. If you want to be among them, contact Art Menken at 914-456-1090 or 845-452-9726 or purim@vassartemple.org right away. Rehearsals will be minimal and fun will be maximal!

Bereavement Guide Available through Our Website

The Vassar Temple Nachamu Committee has prepared a complete guide to Jewish mourning practices for our members. It is easy to find by going to our temple website, www.vassartemple.org, and clicking on the special link on the left side of the home page.

Helpful Tip

To reduce the chance of a mixup in the coat room, put a business card (or a card with your name and contact information on it) in one of the pockets of your coat.



Thanksgiving Giving at Vassar Temple

On November 14th Vassar Temple Wednesday night religious school students, joined by their counterparts from Temple Beth-El, filled seven baskets to overflowing with all the trimmings needed for a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner (and then some!). Through Hudson River Housing, the baskets were delivered to seven families to help them celebrate the holiday. Thanks to all our congregants and religious school students of all grades who donated the glorious variety of non-perishable foods to fill the baskets, and to Tamara Gruszko, Max Samson, and Joanne Dyson for their special help to “Trim a Thanksgiving.”

This year Sandra Mamis initiated another Thanksgiving project at Vassar Temple, aptly dubbed “Turkey Trot” and

aimed at utilizing those free turkeys many of us are entitled to from their supermarkets at this time of year, but often do not use. Temple members were invited to trot down to the Temple with their free turkey (or arrange for pick-up). Others purchased and donated turkeys, or donated funds which were used to buy Temple Scrip with which to purchase more turkeys.

In all we were able to collect 16 turkeys for Thanksgiving giving, seven of which accompanied the baskets we made up. The remaining nine were donated to the food pantry at Dutchess Outreach, which was especially grateful since turkey donations to the pantry this year had been practically nil. We even had extra food for holiday dinner trimmings that

was collected for the basket project which we were able to give Dutchess Outreach to go along with their turkeys.

Special appreciation goes to Emily and Howard Himmelstein who delivered all the turkeys and trimmings to Dutchess Outreach in time for Thanksgiving distribution. Our thanks go out to one and all; without the combined generosity of all our members, it would not be possible for Vassar Temple to make a difference in the lives of so many who are in need in our community.

~Marian Schwartz, Sandra Mamis, and Nancy Samson



It's Easy to Make a "Talking Book"

TALKING BOOKS, a social action project at Vassar Temple, creates a library of books with accompanying recordings for the use of local organizations. With your support, over the past four years I have delivered about 80 children's books. Our beneficiaries include the Vassar Brothers pediatrics unit, the Center for Prevention of Child Abuse, and the Catherine Street Community Center. This project is generously supported by a grant from the Groten Fund.

Participants select, donate, and record themselves reading books, which I then package and deliver as a gift from Vassar Temple. Recording equipment is provided. I would like to acknowledge and thank recent readers Wendy Giangrasso and Elena Collins.

Currently I am collecting chapter books for elementary readers at Catherine Street. I welcome suggestions for additional children's book recipients. And, if you know someone – of any age – who would benefit from the gift of a recorded book, I would be happy to accept these individual requests and match them to volunteer readers, including desires for specific books.

Individual and group efforts are

welcome - the more creative the better! If you would like to donate a book but prefer not to read, I can pass it on to a volunteer. To create a “double mitzvah” please consider making book purchases using Vassar Temple SCRIP. The temple will receive a substantial benefit at no additional cost to you. For further information or to sign up, please contact me at socialaction@vassartemple.org. Thank you for your interest!

Susan Karnes Hecht

Help Needed with New Temple Website

Because Richard Lowry, who has created and maintained the Vassar Temple website that we are all proud of, will be moving to Connecticut in the next few months, we need to set up a new website that does not require knowledge of HTML to create and maintain. Fortunately, the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) offers its 900 member congregations a platform with five different formats on which to base their websites. A group of temple members has begun to look into the options and decide which features from our current website we should keep, etc.



No web expertise is required to participate. We are especially seeking members who can develop and update appealing descriptions of Temple functions. If you would like to be part of this project going forward, your views and assistance will be greatly appreciated. For more information, or to express your interest, contact Bob Abrams at president@vassartemple.org.



Religious School Director's Column

This January 25-26 we celebrate the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat, commonly known as "Jewish Arbor Day," or the "new year for trees."

Yes, that's right – the trees get their own new year. The original idea had to do with two things: reckoning the age of a tree, and calculating the yearly produce of a tree.

Leviticus instructs us not to eat the fruit of a newly planted tree until its fifth year. (The fruit is left alone for three years. In the fourth year the fruit is tithed. Then starting in the fifth year the fruit belongs to the tree's owner.) Tu Bishvat --- Hebrew for "Shevat 15," that is, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat --- is the deadline for counting a year of growth. If the tree is not yet three years old on the 15th of Shevat, you have to leave its fruit alone. Otherwise, you tithe the fruit for one year, and then eat the fruit starting in the next.

Similarly, taxes of a sort were paid on the yearly output of a tree, and, for

accounting purposes, the cut-off date was Shevat 15. Fruit that had grown to more than 1/3 of maturity by that date was counted in one year, while fruit yet to ripen to that stage was counted in the next.

All of this seems a little arcane to people like me who get their fruit from the supermarket. And I'm not the only one. But recognizing that Tu Bishvat is in the same category as Rosh Hashanah (the civil New Year) and Nissan 1 (the start of the Passover season) as well as other less widely celebrated new year observations, modern leaders have been reluctant to give up on Tu Bishvat completely.

So modern practice has turned Tu Bishvat into a more general celebration of trees and their fruit. In Israel, where the winter is coming to an end at the end of January or early February, it's common to plant trees. Here, we often arrange for trees to be planted on our behalf in Israel, or, thanks to modern global agriculture, enjoy fruit that used to be completely lacking in our diets in the dead of winter.

But this last practice actually divorces the holiday from its origins. We are eating

fruit that is only available in the supermarket, not on the trees near us. Any role the trees may have had has been usurped by airplanes and boats. It's as though modernity is adamantly dragging our attention away from the glory that the holiday celebrates.

These past two years in particular have focused my thoughts on trees because back-to-back October storms have toppled so many of them. Last year we had Snowtober, and, this year, Frankenstorm. Certainly the human suffering is most upsetting, but that doesn't diminish my disappointment when I see a formerly majestic tree lying across the ground, a dead reminder of what had once been.

Like most people, I think, I rarely stop to appreciate a tree until it's gone. So this year, even though it sounds a little cliched and sappy (sorry, I'm going to use the roots (again, sorry) of Tu Bishvat as a reminder that the world is full of beauty waiting to be noticed.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Breezy Point/Hurricane Baby Rescue Drive Follow-up

Dear friends,

Many children, teens, and families were impacted by Hurricane Sandy this past October. In Breezy Point, New York, over 100 homes burned to the ground as fire spread rapidly amid surges of wind and rain. Many people were left without shelter, supplies, and stability. Families with babies were among those impacted.

With your help, we rose to the challenge of supporting them. Thanks to you, \$950 was raised as a result of our Vassar Temple Breezy Point/ Hurricane Baby Rescue Drive in November. That \$950 was converted into Amazon Scrip (gift cards), which in turn benefited the Temple. 100% of those funds were then

used to purchase baby formula, baby food, diapers, and wipes.

Specifically, thanks to you, we bought canisters of Enfamil Newborn, Enfamil Premium and Enfamil Enfagrow infant formula by the case. We bought boxes by the case of Gerber Rice Cereal with fruit and Mixed Grain Cereal for infants. We bought Gerber first foods mixed variety vegetables and fruits. We bought economy boxes (bulk!) of Pampers diapers for Newborns and Stage 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 infants as well as Pampers fresh baby wipes. The order was shipped free of charge directly to a central distribution site in Breezy Point. It is due to arrive by December 24th. From there, the goods will be distributed to families still significantly challenged by this tremendous storm and in need of our help.

I thank you for being there for the babies, on short notice, ever generous in your willingness to hear the call and meet the need head on. It is likely we will repeat the drive in March 2013 because the need is anticipated to continue well into the next year, but for now, what you did is beautiful, an example of *tikkun olam* at its best, and greatly appreciated.

Happy New Year!

*Nancy Samson
Social Action Committee*

December Lunch Box Thanks

On December 2nd Youth Group President Rachel Marcus captained the Vassar Temple Youth Group and Confirmation Class in preparing and serving a meal featuring chili at the Lunch Box. Thank you to everyone who prepared, served, and donated food: Ally and Danielle Brundage, Zach and Debbie Carbo, Max Sampson, Brianna Erlebacher, Kiley and Kurt Quackenbush, Allison Peritz, Rachel, Sam, and Shaari Roland, Ali Dahnert, Adam and Judy Rosenfeld, Kassie Lerman, Marian Schwartz, Doi Cohen, Jenny Krevolin, Muriel Lampell, Wendy Giangrasso, Linda Cantor, Lara Cifone, and Stan and Wendy Marcus. As always, a big thank you to Linda Babas! (Apologies if anyone's name was left out.)

Cook Up a Mitzvah

On a cold winter's eve there's nothing better than a savory bowl of chili, a spicy lasagne, a steaming casserole, a hearty stew, or some bone-warming soup. If any of these are your culinary specialties, we invite you to help with one of the "Jewish nights" at the homeless shelter this winter.

On the fourth Thursday of each month, members of the Jewish community provide the evening meal, served around 8:00 p.m., at Hillcrest overnight shelter, which is located near Dutchess Community College. Only a few volunteers are needed to serve the dinner, and they can transport food made by others to the shelter. Donation of foods to round out the menu, including fresh

fruit and containers of 100% juice, are always welcome, as well as sandwiches on nights when we're serving soup. The more people who volunteer, the more we can divide up the amount of food needed to feed the up to 60 nightly guests at the shelter.

For more information, or to sign up to help with this mitzvah in the coming months, please contact Linda Doherty at lindadoherty@myway.com or (cell) 914-474-0038.

December 1st Gala Honored "Bright Lights" of Our Congregation

Your Food Donations Needed for January 6th Lunch Box

The January 6th Lunch Box at the Family Partnership Center will be sponsored by our Sisterhood. You can join them in this *mitzvah* by bringing 3 lbs. of ground beef or ground turkey browned with ½ cup of onions, 3 lbs. of cooked rotini pasta (lightly oiled), or a dozen pieces of fruit (bananas, oranges, and green grapes are especially popular) to the temple before 11:00 a.m. that Sunday. If you leave the food in the temple refrigerator, be sure it is clearly marked with your name and "Lunch Box 1/6."

If you can donate food, please let Sisterhood president Lisa-Sue Quackenbush know right away at 876-5859 or sisterhood@vassartemple.org.

On a Saturday evening before Hanukkah over 180 people celebrated at "Bright Lights and Miracles," a Gala sponsored by Vassar Temple at Locust Grove. The event honored Lou Lewis and Dr. Art and Carol Menken with the Kahn-Lampell Award for Service to the Community and celebrated the life of the late president of our congregation, Seth A. Erlebacher, for whom our religious school has been named. Co-chaired by Jen Dahnert and Andi Ciminello, the Gala was part of a most successful fund raising effort through the new Hineni Fund on behalf of the school and youth

programming as well as of the congregation as a whole. (The final fund raising total and list of donors will be included in the next issue of the temple bulletin.)

The Gala featured music by Adam Ciminello and Company and the Arlington High School String Quartet. Our Religious School Director, Dr. Joel Hoffman, gave a tribute to Seth, and Melissa Erlebacher expressed her family's appreciation of the congregation. and Dr. Andrew Chernack presented the award to the Menkens.



Dr. Art and Carol Menken



Rabbi Emeritus Stephen and Cecile Arnold



Gala co-chairs Jen Dahnert and Andi Ciminello



*MC Perla Kaufman with Andy Chernack as C-3PO,
presenting the award to the Menkens*



*Melissa Erlebacher and her sister,
Alice Heinz*



Rabbi Golomb presented the Kahn-Lampell Award to Lou Lewis.

More photos from the Gala, including closeups of many of the attendees, are available through our website, www.vassartemple.org, by clicking on the Photo Gallery link on the left.

JWV Schedules January Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on January 6, 2013 in the Bingo Room at Congregation Schomre Israel on Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Although you cannot see Congregation Schomre Israel from the JCC, it is just north of the rear of the JCC on Park Avenue. It also has an entrance on College Avenue.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. As Schomre Israel is strictly Kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the

synagogue. The only exception is that Dunkin Donuts coffee may be brought in.

In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be on Cumulus Radio: 101.5 WPDH, 1490 WKNY, 92.7/96.9 WRRV, 94.3/97.3 The WOLF, 1390/1340 OLDIES, 97.7 The Mix Mark Bolger.

For further information contact Post Commander Ralph Schwartz at Rschwa9881@aol.com or (845) 849-0025.



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Rabbi Golomb Sandra & Harry Mamis
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support and comfort

Barbara Stern

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Yahrzeits

January 4

Nicholas Stern
Donald DeWitt
Harris Harold Groten
Alma Barbash
Bertram Katz
Joseph F. Maisel
Greta Blaine
Dr. John Y. Notkin
Betty Israel
Bessie Trivers
Evelyn Laks
Mordecai "Shep" Jackson
Clara Dorn

January 11

Mauricio Ribbi
Anna Lester
John Ciminello
Marion Tierney
Ethel Haber
Rae Lipman
Irene Goldstein
Anne Richmond
Marion Present
Mrs. Ben Rosenstein
Harold R. Sherwin
Pauline Wolfson
Beatrice Salit Horn
Gabrielle Soroka
Dr. Charles Scope
Jeffrey Sisselman
Dorothy Vogel
George Meltzer
Gloria Menken
Pearl Levick
Shirley Lipschutz
Mary Lass Hoffiman
Gerald Mamis
William Worona
Leo Dorn
Samuel Grand
Carl Tobias
Moise Barchilon

January 18

Andrea Sue Rabin
Guiseppe Ribbi
Bella Albert
John Garlock
Stanley Markum
Joseph Norman Katz
Hody I. Gellert
Robert Reinhart, Jr.
Herbert L. Strauss
Hy Kohan
Thelma Fival
Richard Bram
Herman D. Chertock
Lois Grand
Dr. Donald Goldfarb
Stephen Bokor
Morris S. Rosen
Joseph Solomon
Daniel Russotto
Sarah Sacharoff
Belle Baum Fein
Stanley Krell
Helen Wagner
Andrew H. Erdriech
Joseph Effron
Ruth Haber
William Haber
Philip Lustig
Sidney Friedman
Sylvia Mednick

January 25

Herman Yelsky
Bessie Lipschutz
Henry Seligman
Rose Dorfman
Rafael Barchilon
Theresa Wang
William Feinbloom,
OD
Joseph Baskin
Ann J. Miller
Fay Scheer Chazen
Pola Schek
Joan Golomb
Henry Goldstein
Eugenia Lenger
Joseph Marcus
Walter L. Mock, Jr.
Betty DeGeorge
Melvin Lesser
Shirley LaLone
Andrew Frederick Mendel
Mark C. Schwartz
Dr. Harold Rosenthal
Elizabeth Satz
Rose Plotkin
Rabbi Marcus

Memorial Board Plaques

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
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1st Vice President:	Bob Ritter
2nd Vice President:	Marge Groten
Secretary:	Jeff Brenner
Treasurer:	Brian Silverman
Sisterhood President:	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Jeff Brenner & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President:	Sandra Mamis
Youth Group President:	Rachel Marcus



January 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed	2 February Bulletin NO RS	3 10 SEP 11:30am Talmud	4 CAN JAM Weekend 6pm Shabbat Service	5 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
6 9am-12pm RS K-7 11am Seder Planning Mtg. 11:30am Lunch Box	7 7:15pm Ritual	8 10am SEP 7:30pm Meditation	9 Flyers Deadline 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	10 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	11 6pm Shabbat Service C/C RAC Trip Jan 11-Jan 14	12 9am Torah Study 10am Morning Service and Program
13 9am-12pm RS K-7 10:30am Tiny Temple 10:30am Men's Club Meeting	14	15 10am SEP	16 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	17 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	18 6pm Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	19 9am Torah Service 10am New Paths
20 NO RS	21 MLK DAY	22 10am SEP	23 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	24 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	25 6pm Shabbat Service	26 9am Torah Study 9am URJ Shabbaton in NJ
27 9am-12pm RS K-7 9am 2014 BBM Parents Meeting	28 7pm Board	29 10am SEP	30 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	31 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud		