



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 161 No. 12 July-August 2015

Welcome Rabbi Berkowitz

As a Sisterhood, we welcome Rabbi Berkowitz and look forward to working together to enhance all that is special about Vassar Temple. We are excited to forge a strong path together. Please keep an eye out for opportunities to meet and get to know our new Rabbi.

As noted in many other articles, Vassar Temple Sisterhood is an integral part of the Temple. We continue to strive to create and foster a sense of community and welcome your participation on any level. From enhancing the building, to working with children, joining a book club or participating in the family dinners, when something strikes your interest, please do not hesitate! If there is an activity you would like to see Sisterhood involved with, please let us know!

We will keep our Sisterhood executive meetings at the Temple and provide for

ample time for any Sisterhood member to join us. We hope you can find something here that connects with you. You can email us at sisterhood@vassartemple.org, call the Temple or co-presidents,

Danah Moore and Laura Brundage, directly.

Stay tuned! Over the summer we plan to help welcome Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. In the year to come, we hope to host a *Soup to Nachas* event to learn how to create traditional Jewish foods. A Paintbrushes Party and hosting a Fannie Berlin lecture are also planned for the coming year.

*Laura Brundage and Danah Moore,
Sisterhood Presidents*

Upcoming Events

Aug. 14 New Paths, p3
Aug. 19 Book Club, p5

2015 Arnold Award Winner

Melissa Erlebacher has been named recipient of this year's Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold Award for her contributions to the religious life of the congregation, which include significant achievements in one or more of the three "foundations of our world" mentioned in Pirke Avot: study, worship, and acts of loving kindness.

Melissa has been a great role model for our Temple's young women and working moms on how to be a Jewish woman and mother in our times. Volunteering to be Youth Group advisor soon after she first joined Vassar Temple, she renewed her commitment to mentoring our teens years later when each of her two daughters became Youth Group Presidents, stepping up to provide guidance and support to the Youth Group.

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Urgent Need for Socks for Homeless!!!

We have been alerted by the homeless shelter that there is an urgent need for men's socks, so this month we will be collecting funds in the tzedakah box by the stairs for this purpose. If you would like to suggest a recipient agency for a future tzedakah box collection, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.



Rabbi's Message: Stories to Tell



Shalom Vassar Temple! As I write this, I am living in a fortress of cardboard boxes and final papers. I'm smiling to think that, when you read this, the moving truck will have come and gone and I will be settling into my new home at Vassar Temple. I am so grateful for all that you have done to make me feel welcome from the very beginning.

We may not have met yet, or we may have connected during one of my visits to Poughkeepsie this past year. Either way, I look forward to building meaningful relationships with each and every one of you in the years to come. And one of the ways we will do this is by sharing the stories of our lives.

I love stories: whether it is telling a story to the congregation's children on Friday night, retelling the story of a couple's relationship under the chuppah, or engaging with the stories of the Torah, whose characters embody real human dreams and shortcomings.

Recently, my tenth graders and I were studying the story of Isaac and Rebecca. Isaac's father, Abraham, commissions a servant to return to Abraham's homeland to find Isaac a

wife. The servant asks God to guide him towards the right woman: someone strong, kind, beautiful, and pure. Suddenly, Rebecca appears by a well, eager to draw water for the servant's camels. She also turns out to be Isaac's cousin, and rushes to welcome the servant into her family's home.

But before Rebecca's family can even offer the servant a chair, he insists on repeating the entire story of what has just happened!. Why does he do this? And why does the Bible—which is usually so concise—make us, the readers, listen to it all over again?

I believe that the servant needs Rebecca's family, and us, the readers, to understand that his meeting Rebecca was more than pure chance. Abraham has sent him on a sacred quest, the servant has prayed for divine guidance, and Rebecca's appearance is the answer to the servant's prayers. Only when the servant tells the story can Rebecca's family see how God was working behind the scenes.

The same is true for us. Only by telling our own stories can we see how the divine is present in the unfolding of our own lives.

We will share many stories during our time together, stories of celebrating simchas, stories of pulling together in times of crisis, stories of teaching our children,

stories of joining together for prayer, and stories of reaching out to those in need in our community. And most importantly, we will be shaping the story of this community's future.

I am so grateful to Vassar Temple—particularly the Search Committee and the Board—for all that you have done thus far to draw water for my camels. Like Rebecca, you have eagerly welcomed me into your homes and your families. And above all this, I am grateful to you for inviting me to be a part of the story of Vassar Temple and for becoming part of the story of my life as a rabbi.

I hope that you will come find me, by phone or email, at synagogue events or in my office, so that we can begin to share our stories with each other. We will delve into the rich history of our community and imagine the tales we want to tell about Vassar Temple in the years to come.

Like Abraham's servant, our sacred quest has been a long one. But I assure you, our story is just beginning.

Our next chapter begins on July 1st, when I arrive at Vassar Temple. Please join me for services on Friday, July 3rd, at 7:30pm when I will share a d'var Torah, a congregant-led service.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



June passed into July, and so the summer goes...but not really, July starts with a bitter sweet celebration and an exciting new beginning. Of course I could be referring to the founding of America and our 4th of July celebration; but I am actually talking about the start with our new Rabbi, Leah Rachel Berkowitz. Fortunately, since Rabbi Golomb has become our Senior Scholar, we are maintaining a wonderful connection, as we also have with our Emeritus, Rabbi Arnold. Our temple is blessed threefold!

Rabbi Berkowitz made the comment in her first Bulletin article that, "Only by telling our own stories can we see how the divine is present in the unfolding of our own lives." Rabbi foreshadowed how this will happen when she said, "We will share

President's Message: Life Stories

many stories during our time together, stories of celebrating simchas, stories of pulling together in times of crisis, stories of teaching our children, stories of joining together for prayer, and stories of reaching out to those in need in our community. And most importantly, we will be shaping the story of this community's future."

I read that back in May because the articles have to be submitted about a month in advance in order to allow time for layout, publication, and mailing. That's true for all those submitting articles for the Bulletin, including my article. When I read this I thought to myself, wow, what a great message for Rabbi to open with. And, I thought about it. And I believe Rabbi summed up what being involved with Vassar Temple is all about in one

sentence. It's the story of our lives together - supporting one another, learning together, sharing the good times and the hard, growing up together, growing old together. Life is hard and it's also the most beautiful and amazing journey. And that journey is better when it is shared.

Who do you share life with? Family, I certainly hope so. Good friends, that's wonderful too. Co-workers, can be fine. And maybe those are enough. But I believe adding a spiritual bond, the history of our Jewish people, in the context of Vassar Temple, adds an extraordinary dimension. Not to say that you need to choose one over the other. Just that being involved, as a family or as an individual, with Vassar Temple gives you a place to tell your stories, hear others, and to make new beautiful stories as well together, with

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Summer Worship Services are Special at Vassar Temple!

This summer Vassar Temple will present a unique series of Friday night services led by specially trained lay leaders. These services will be held at 7:30pm in an intimate and relaxed setting in the social hall, followed by the opportunity to enjoy light seasonal refreshments and socialize. Each will be a complete service including kaddish, will be enhanced with special music, and will reflect the individual perspective of the leader. Summer service leaders are:

July 3:	7:30pm	Ron Rosen with D'var Torah by Rabbi Berkowitz
July 10:	7:30pm	Ben Krevolin
July 17:	7:30pm	Joel Kelson
July 18:	10:00am	New Paths service
July 24:	7:30pm	Rabbi Berkowitz
July 25:	10:00am	Sinn Bar Mitzvah
July 31:	7:30pm	The "Jew Crew" college-aged group, led by Rachel Erlebacher
Aug. 7:	7:30pm	Bob Ritter, Susan & David Hecht
Aug. 14:	7:30pm	New Paths group
Aug. 21:	7:30pm	Sam & Adriaan Finnerman
Aug. 28:	7:30pm	TBA

New Paths Summer

Please join us for a unique, thoughtful and inspiring shabbat experience at the New Paths sabbath morning service on Saturday, July 18th at 10:00am in the air conditioned East Chapel. A brief informal kiddush follows. Some of the New Paths "regulars" will also lead a Friday night service with a New Paths approach on Aug. 14th at 7:30pm, in a special setting in the social hall. The evening service will be followed by ice cream and other light refreshments and an opportunity to socialize. For more information about New Paths Services or the summer service schedule, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com or call the Temple at 845-454-2570.

Scriptural Readings

July

4 Balak

Num. 22:39 – 23:6;
Micah 5:6 – 6:8

11 Pin'has

Num. 26:52 – 28:15;
Jeremiah 1:1 – 2:3

18 Matot-Ma'sei

Num. 32:1 – 33:49, 36:10-13;
Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4

25 D'varim

Deuteronomy 2:2-30;
Isaiah 1:1-27

Aug. **1 Va'et-hanan**

Deut. 5:1 – 6:25;
Isaiah 40:1-26

8 Eikev Deut. 9:4 – 10:11;

Isaiah 49:14 – 51:3

15 Rosh Hodesh Re'eh Deut.

12:29 – 14:29; Isaiah 54:11 – 55:5, 66:1,24

22 Shoftim Deut. 18:6 – 19:13;

Isaiah 51:12 – 52:12

29 Ki Tetzei Deut. 23:8 – 24:13;

Isaiah 54:1-10

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your temple second family.

It so happens for me, today was a day when I feel like several of the aspects that Rabbi listed occurred. I had a crisis and other Temple leaders pulled together to help one another. I visited the Temple and a family, the Glatts, was there going over the details for their daughter's Bat Mitzvah, a simcha. Then I took a ride up to visit Lisa-Sue and Kurt Quakenbush to reach out to them. From there I stopped by to see Lisa and Rick Rubenstein's new old house and hear the story of their project as they enter a new chapter in their lives. On the ride back from Rhinebeck it occurred to me that the divine was present with me, unfolding in my life...all as a result of Vassar Temple! When I got home, I turned on the French Open tennis match, cleaned the kitchen, and threw in some laundry...and life got back to "normal."

Bob Ritter

High Holy Days

We are in the summer mode, but we all know that the High Holy Days are very early this year! Please mark your calendar:

- S'lichot 2015 is on Saturday, September 3rd, Labor Day weekend.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah is on Sunday, September 13th,
- Rosh Hashanah Monday, September 14th, followed by Tashlich at Sunset Lake.
- Kol Nidre will be on September 22nd and Yom Kippur is on September 23rd.

We always need readers, bakers (for Tashlich) ushers, head ushers and greeters. Volunteer! You will enjoy it, I promise! You can reach me any time at perlakaufman22@gmail.com.

Perla Kaufman
HHD Chairperson

Membership

You, Vassar Temple member, are part of a very important committee. ME, you ask? Yes, YOU!

We are all Membership Committee members! Your neighbors, your friends are potential VT members who are waiting for a gentle 'push' from you to belong, Invite them along to a service; offer them a taste of what we are all so proud of: our temple and our temple family!

Don't miss opportunities to show them "Where You Belong!"

Thank you. We are always available at membership@vassartemple.org



Mazel Tov

to:

Craig & Michele Sinn on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Alex;

James & Maryann Robinowitz on the birth of their first grandchild, Luna Scarlett, born to daughter Leah and husband, Emmanuel Pena;

Elaine Lipschutz on her daughter, Karen Lipschutz Goodis, being honored by Beth Sholom Congregation (Toronto) on her retirement as Religious School Director;

Miriam Cohen and Michael Hanagan on the birth of their granddaughter, Leah, born to parents, Nora and Melanie.



Pulpit Flowers

July 26: Craig & Michelle Sinn on their son Alex Sinn's Bar Mitzvah

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. Just call the Temple office at 454-2570. The donation to the Fund is \$55.



Condolences

to:

the Albenda family on the passing of Eleanor "Ellie" Albenda, mother of Peter Albenda;

Bonnie Scheer and family on the passing of husband and father, Ken Scheer.

Refuah Shelemah

Sue Lesser recuperating from hip surgery complications;

Joe Bertolozzi having been hospitalized;

Paul Goldberg having been hospitalized;

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush having been hospitalized;

Sandra Mamis recuperating from surgery.

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.

SCRIP
So many choices,
So little effort!



Book Club to Discuss *China Dolls* on August 19th

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss *China Dolls* by Lisa See, the bestselling author of *Shanghai Girls* and *Peony in Love*. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 19th at 2:00pm in the community room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Lisa See's latest novel takes readers back to pre-World War II San Francisco, introducing them to Grace, Helen, and Ruby, three young Chinese-American nightclub performers who, despite differences in backgrounds and personalities, forge resilient friendships, relying on one another



through unexpected challenges and shifting fortunes. But after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, paranoia and suspicion threaten to destroy their lives, and a shocking act of betrayal changes everything.

This fascinating portrait of the lives of Chinese-American women in the 1930s and 40s is available in paperback and through the local library system. Elaine Lipschutz 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.

Protein Plenty Summer Drive!!!

This summer, disadvantaged children, teenagers, adults & seniors in our community will go hungry. Some students will not have access to free lunches when schools are closed.

What Can we Do?

Vassar Temple's Social Action Committee invites you to participate in our annual summer Protein Plenty Drive.

Proteins are a necessary fuel for the brain and the body of young and old alike. Throughout the month of July, we invite you to make a monetary donation of any

amount which will be used to purchase high protein foods to be delivered to the Community Action Partnership for food pantries throughout Dutchess County. 100% of your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation will be used to purchase high protein foods for neighbors in our community.

How to donate: Just make a check out to "Vassar Temple" with "Protein Plenty" in the memo line anytime between now and the end of July. Send the check to: Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY 12601. Any amount will do!

An added plus: All the money collected for Protein Plenty!!! 2015 will be exchanged for scrip, which benefits the Temple as well.

That's it: You will know you are helping feed someone in this county who might otherwise truly miss a meal.

Questions? Email CANJAM123@aol.com or call Nancy Samson 845 462-4828

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

Editors: Sue Lesser and
Donna Loshin

Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the September Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by August 1. 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.

Correction Noted

We apologize for a name error in Rabbi Golomb's June *Bulletin* article. Max and Josephine Kahn's son was Albert D. Kahn, not Alfred. Please make note of this correction.

VTS Closing Dinner and Kahn Award

VT Sisterhood had a terrific closing dinner on June 18th at the Temple. Lots of Sisterhood members attended, bringing delicious dishes to share. Everyone relaxed and enjoyed themselves. It was a wonderful way to close out a very busy year!

During the dinner, the Evelyn Kahn award was presented to two very special Sisterhood members, Judy Rosenfeld and Nadine Zaritzky. Both Judy and Nadine have been long time Sisterhood members who have done so much to promote and lead many Sisterhood activities and events through the years. The Sisterhood is very lucky to have such dedicated and talented women in our group. Congratulations Judy and Nadine!!



Religious School Director: Giving Students a Jewish Future Three Cliches for Summer

A child visits our Sunday religious school, planning to stay as briefly as possible. Once in class, she finds she likes school so much that she begs her parents to let her stay until the end.

A Hebrew school student on Wednesday afternoon spontaneously covers the whiteboard with graffiti: "I love this class."

A student e-mails me to lament a canceled class.

A student guesses the password to my computer because I used a Hebrew word, and he knows it thanks to the effectiveness of his teachers.

A group of students asks if we can please extend the school year because they don't want classes to end.

These are a few scenes out of many that remain prominent in my mind as I look back on the year now ending. They are, of course, just the tip of the iceberg. I know. It's a cliché. And "good writers" don't use clichés. But I like clichés, because they tend to encapsulate important truths. In this case: the part you see is supported by a much larger part that you don't.

Much of my job is putting in place the parts of the school-iceberg that you don't see: the staffing (rare for a religious school, we have a waiting list of teachers

who want to teach here), the training, the ambiance (treat everyone with respect), the policies (only make rules about things that matter), the materials, the schedules, the vision. It's on my mind, because summer is when I focus most on these things. I'll meet with the heads of the textbook publishing houses to ask, "What's your absolutely best material?" I'll plan content that best matches our faculty and student body. I'll ask what I can learn from the other religious schools that I've visited during the past year. I'll revisit everything that didn't work to see if we can do better. I'll solicit direct feedback from students, teachers, parents, and the leadership. I'll apply my experience and training to make sure all of our ducks are in a row.

I know. It's another cliché. But three paragraphs later, I still like clichés. In this case, it may not matter which way any particular duck faces, but they do have to be aligned (for travel and for sleep, it turns out). In terms of our school, we face dozens of seemingly arbitrary decisions, but even though each one admits of many successful resolutions, they still have to work together to further a single vision: "Giving students a Jewish future."

For instance, there are lots of good 4th grade text books and lots of people available to teach 4th grade. But there are fewer successful combinations of books and teachers. Our incoming 4th grade, too, is unique, different from last year's

or next year's; its particular nature further limits our choices. And the 4th grade has to take its place in a progression from kindergarten to 12th grade; that limits the choices even more. The 4th grade school duck has to line up with all the other ducks.

In this regard, it's important to focus on the vision --- giving students a Jewish future --- and ignore the Siren song of programming.

Yes, I did it. (another cliché) The fabled Greek Siren, half bird and half woman, sang beautifully sweet songs that lured sailors off their safe sailing paths and into destructive island reefs. Many new programs are the same. Though individually attractive, their value is dubious if we let their beauty distract us from our vision. Or to look at things differently: does a new program bring us closer to giving children a Jewish future? If not, our resources and energy are probably better spent elsewhere.

So even though I'll examine dozens of new ideas, my enthusiasm will be reserved for a tiny fraction of them --- the few programs or undertakings or materials that support the iceberg that lines up our ducks that point away from the Siren song. As I work on next year this summer, that will be my litmus test.

(Okay. So it's four clichés.)

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Sisterhood Generations Shabbat

Our Sisterhood/Generations Shabbat in May was a lovely evening! What a meaningful opportunity to honor our long time members of 40 plus years and also celebrate the contributions of our Sisterhood. Readings were conducted, blessings made and songs beautifully sung by our sisterhood members. A special thank you to Ellen Smith and Lisa Rubenstein who shared their personal thoughts about change and its effect on their lives and the life lessons learned. We gained an understanding of how women grappled with traditional roles and found the wisdom learned when goals were not attained, but opportunity continued. Ellen and Lisa created a bridge between past, present and future in a message relatable to both personal and professional life.

Cemetery Update

In the spring bushes and plants are trimmed and debris is picked up. We strive to keep our cemetery welcoming and clean. Trees and plants can become invasive and disturb surrounding footings causing potential expensive resetting.

Help us by securing permission from the Cemetery Committee before you do any planting. Please, no fake flowers or wreaths are allowed.

The VT Board of Trustees voted this past year on a resolution to only allow single tombstones.

A spouse will always have a 'reserved' adjacent burial place as long as they maintain their VT membership.

*Perla Kaufman
Cemetery Committee, Chairperson*

Accept the Green Summer Challenge!

The challenge of combating climate change and maintaining a habitable earth can really seem overwhelming! Yet by accepting the Green Summer Challenge, each of us can significantly reduce our carbon footprint by simply altering one tiny habit. The Green Summer Challenge is a call to make your life a little more eco-friendly by switching to reusable water bottles instead of disposable plastic ones this summer. You ask, how much of a difference can that really make?

The worldwide population disposes roughly 50 billion plastic water bottles every year, 80% of which wind up in overburdened landfills. Each bottle takes roughly 450 years to decompose, all the while releasing dangerous toxic chemicals into our earth, air and water. And over 17 million barrels of oil are required annually to produce plastic water bottles, plus 50 million barrels of oil to process, transport and refrigerate them. Ironically, especially at a time when parts of our country are

experiencing extreme drought, it takes three times as much water to manufacture the bottle as the average water bottle even holds! So now you can see how by using a reusable water bottle this summer you will help ameliorate all these problems simply because of the sheer number of plastic water bottles that you, personally, will not be using and throwing away!

Jewish tradition teaches that we have an obligation not to destroy God's earth, but to be its caretakers. Buying plastic water bottles is bad for our environment and contributes significantly to climate change. Yet, it is so easy to avoid these problems. Just accept the Green Summer Challenge and buy a reusable hard water bottle. Keep it handy in your backpack or pocketbook. You will save money, stay hydrated, and most important, be performing the mitzvah of caring for our planet Earth.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Community Service Projects for Youths

Our Social Action Committee is here to offer assistance to bar/bat mitzvah students or other youth seeking community service credit who would like to conduct a mini food drive, record Talking Books for children in need, do education and fundraising for malaria-preventing mosquito nets for families in Africa, conduct a swabbing drive for bone marrow donors, undertake a collection of simple needed items for The Living Room, a local daytime shelter, revamp the recycling program at the Temple, or help with/walk in the CROPWalk in October. Please contact us at socialaction@vassartemple.org for help or advice.

Hunger Hurts

Hunger does not take a vacation. Please remember an item for the CanJam bin when you come by the temple this summer. And if you would like to volunteer to take nonperishable food we collect over to a local food pantry even once during the coming year, it would be *tremendously* appreciated--just contact Nancy Samson at canjam123@aol.com.

Let There Be More Light ...

Thanks to the generosity of Blair, Craig, Drew, and Brooke, in honor of the memory of their father James Effron, we have been able to restore the magnificent stained glass windows in our Sanctuary. The imagery of our Jewish history depicted in these windows is a bright reminder of our past. And the light of Judaism still shines brightly at Vassar Temple today. A rededication ceremony is being planned for the fall.



2015 Arnold Award Winner

(Continued from page 1)

Melissa also helped our littlest ones by coordinating our Tiny Temple program and getting the newest generation of temple folk off to a good start in their understanding of what it means to be Jewish. Through leadership roles in the Sisterhood, Melissa was involved with social action projects such as a multi-generational project making inspirational jewelry for a battered women's shelter and creating and carrying out worship experiences for the congregation, such as the Sisterhood Shabbats. She has served as Lunch Box captain and taught in our adult ed program.

As a member of the Reyut Committee, Melissa not only volunteered, but also involved her children, in the mitzvah of lovingly visiting the sick, disabled, and lonely, and cheerfully doing practical things to help them. Through their parents' influence, the Erlebacher children were involved in so many Temple activities it seemed as if this were their second home.

Melissa is inextricably bound in our temple family, guiding not only her own children, but the children and teens of so many temple families, in living a life imbued with Jewish values. She has enriched our spiritual life through worship experiences and inspiring speakers she has brought to our congregation. For all these reasons, Melissa Erlebacher exemplifies the qualities we speak of in an Arnold Award winner.

The award is named for Vassar Temple Rabbi Emeritus Stephen A. Arnold. The recipient of this coveted honor is chosen by the Ritual Committee and the award is presented each year during the Seli-chot program on the sabbath before the high holy days begin. Join us this year to congratulate Melissa when she is honored with the Arnold Award Saturday evening, September 5th, at a dessert reception prior to havdalah and the selichot service.

Albany Advocacy Day 2015

At the recent annual Advocacy Day sponsored by the Reform Jewish Voice of NYS, over 30 Reform Jews from across New York State gathered in Albany to speak to our legislators about issues central to Reform Jewish values. The legislators and their aides listened thoughtfully, said they appreciated hearing things from our perspective, and some even immediately picked up the phone to co-sponsor one of the bills we advocated for, which included:

The **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act** (GENDA), a bill that would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation for transgender New Yorkers

The NY DREAM Act, a bill that would increase access to higher education for undocumented students in the Empire State

The Reproductive Services Act, a bill that would close important loopholes in New York State on reproductive health and abortion services, codifying the rights and principles of *Roe v. Wade*

We also discussed education issues relating to taxpayer dollars going to parochial schools. The RJVNYS is a volunteer group that advocates for state legislation consistent with Reform Jewish values. For further info and to join the RJVNYS information network, go to www.rjvnys.org.

Adopt-a-Shelter Night

Judy Harkavy of Vassar Temple, Linda Doherty of Temple Beth El, and Yvonne Polito are now coordinating our re-organized Adopt-a-Shelter-Night, whence we help provide an evening meal once a month for up to 60 guests at the overnight shelter in Hillcrest House, run by Hudson River Housing.

This night was designated for the Jewish community, but we are actively recruiting volunteers of all faiths at this time, since we no longer get enough Jewish volunteers to fulfill our commitment. Judy and Yvonne are hosting a Friend-Raiser in their condo complex to spread awareness of the needs and what volunteers can do to help out.

If you would like to host a Friend-Raiser for your own circle of friends and neighbors at which they would speak, or if you would like to sign up to help provide and prepare some food for a meal at the shelter, please contact Judy at judystan@verizon.net or 845-471-4973.

Vassar Temple maintains a shelter box in the East Chapel where you can always drop off toiletries of any size, gently-used bed linens, bath towels, and men's PJs for the shelter. There is currently a special need for men's socks. If you have a large load, Judy will try to come and pick it up.

Jewish War Veterans July Meeting

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, July 12th 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. If you need a ride or further information, please contact the Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison, at ROBL56@aol.com.



SUSTAINING FUND

In honor of:

Harry & Sandra Mamis on the wedding of their son, Steven Mamis and Michelle Davis
 Alan & Meredith KafLOWITZ
 CJ Kelly
 Bob & Mary Ritter
 Polly Lewis & Kamil Wisniewski
 Joel & Linda Babas
 The Hecht family
 The Samson family
 Hal & Sue Lesser
 William & Susan Barbash
 Chuck & Perla Kaufman
 on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson,
 Brandon Fong Bob & Mary Ritter
 Sue Lesser for a speedy recovery
 Lila Matlin
 Paul Goldberg for a speedy recovery
 Lila Matlin
 Joseph Bertolozzi for a speedy recovery
 Harry & Sandra Mamis
 Sandra Mamis' outstanding
 contribution to the Temple Comm.
 The Samson family
 Ed & Vivian Garber's 50th
 wedding anniversary
 The Samson family
 Joel & Linda Babas' 50th
 wedding anniversary
 The Samson family
 Kent & Kathy Mardon's new home
 Elaine Lipschutz
 Carol Straus' son, Simon, getting married
 Sue and Hal Lesser
 Carol Strauss
 Rabbi & Debbie Golomb on their retirement
 Carol Strauss

In memory of:

Kenneth Scheer
 Bob & Mary Ritter
 Harry & Sandra Mamis
 Sherrie Geisler
 Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
 Elaine Lipschutz
 Hal & Sue Lesser
 James & Margaret Nelson
 Barbara W. LaPietra
 Doris Wexler Haas
 Jack & Jean Hentel
 William & Susan Barbash
 James & Maryanne Robinowitz
 Linda Lavinsky
 Richard & Marsha Lowry
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 Bernard Rheingold

Joshua Himelstein Harry & Sandra Mamis
 Anne Givner Roslyn KafLOWITZ

RABBI'S ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In honor of:
 Rabbi Golomb's retirement Ellen Zelig
 William Beehler

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

In honor of: (Lunch Box)
 River Haven Youth Shelter
 Ralph & Marian Schwartz
 River Haven in memory
 of Albert & Lynn Levy
 The Greller Family
 Marilyn Barlow
 River Haven
In memory of:
 Kenneth Scheer Allen & Susan Fink

HINENI FUND

In memory of:
 Kenneth Scheer Gil & Arlene Seligman
 Doi Cohen

MUSIC FUND

In honor of:
 Rachel Susser's receipt of a Fulbright
 Award The Samson Family
In memory of:
 Suzanne Hecht The Hecht Family
 Mark Syrkin Doi Cohen
 Kenneth Scheer
 Matt & Muriel Lampell
 Morton & Rita Alterman
 Adrian & Tamara Gruszko

GRANDMOTHER'S FUND

In memory of:
 Suzanne Hecht The Hecht Family

August 2015 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Torah Study
2	3	4 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	5	6 10am SEP	7 7:30 Shabbat Service	8 9am Torah Study
9	10 7pm Exec Cmte meeting	11 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	12	13 10am SEP	14 7:30 Shabbat Service	15 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
16	17	18 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	19 7pm Finance Cmte	20 10am SEP	21 7:30 Shabbat Service	22 9am Torah Study
23	24 7pm Board Meeting	25 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	26	27 10am SEP	28 7:30 Shabbat Service	29 9am Torah Study
30	31					

College News

Undergraduate Students

Samuel Plotkin graduated from Vassar College in May 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music. This summer he will be working as an intern at Remote Control Productions in Santa Monica, CA, the studio founded and operated by Academy Award winning film composer, Hans Zimmer.

Bradley Quackenbush graduated from Dutchess Community College in December 2014 with a degree in Business. He is presently attending SUNY New Paltz to complete his Bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing.

Adam Samson graduated from the University of the Arts in December 2014 having received a BFA in Multimedia Design with a dual focus in Motion Design and Interaction Design. He was hired by Random 42, a medical animation firm in London, as an Interaction Designer. Adam is also the recipient of the Eddie Oliver Entrepreneurial Spirit Award for his outstanding work in the Design, Art + Technology Program.

Rachel Susser graduated in February 2015 from Barnard College at Columbia University earning a BA in Computer Science and Music Technology. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and was elected into Phi Beta Kappa. Rachel has been offered a Fulbright research grant for the next academic year. She will be studying Balkan flute music in Bulgaria and Romania. This summer she is working as a software engineer for Apple in Cupertino, CA.

Graduate Students

Danielle Abrams just completed the requirements for her Master's Degree in Clinical psychology at Georgia State University. She is now working toward her PhD. in Clinical Neuropsychology.

Diana Smith Danoff graduated from NYU's Stern School of Business in May 2015 having received a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Brand Management. Diana completed an internship at Chobani last summer and is currently exploring job opportunities in the food industry.

Mariel Gruszko finished the third year of the Anthropology PhD program at the University of California- Irvine, where her focus is on sociocultural anthropology. She has been offered a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to Spain in Anthropology. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. government and recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Mariel will spend the next academic year in Barcelona doing anthropological research on the relationship between participatory architecture and democracy.

Samantha L. Hecht will complete her Master's in Music Education in August 2015 at the Ithaca College School of Music. Now a veteran of four years teaching in the public schools, she is currently the Orchestra Director at Ithaca High School, where she directs the string, symphony, and chamber orchestras. Samantha is concertmaster of the Ithaca Community Orchestra and maintains a private lesson studio.

Dan Joy received his law degree in June 2015 from the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University. He is preparing intensively for the bar exam and seeking future employment.

Shelby Quackenbush is attending NYU's Wagner graduate program working on her Master's Degree in Public Administration. This summer she is interning for a GLOBAL organization called RHIZE. She will be based in NYC.

Jennifer Wolf completed her second year at Wayne State School of Medicine in Detroit. She is coordinator at the Cass Clinic, which provides free care to the underserved population of Detroit. She is also group leader for the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Interest Group, working with that department at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan to put on events for students considering the specialty. Jennifer traveled to Haiti, her second medical mission trip, with the World Health Student Organization doing international relief work, serving approximately 500 patients and installing 50 water filters. She serves as a student mentor for incoming first year med students.

Reminder: if you have a student still in college/graduate school or starting in the fall 2015, please send student's name and address, student's year in school, name of school, parent's email and phone number and any other pertinent information to Fern Wolf: fernw@optonline.net as soon as possible

Yahrzeits

JULY 3

David Budson
 Anne Kahn
 Kitty Kraus
 Dr. Jacob Kronman
 Lillian Lampell
 Hillard Mann
 Edith Posner
 M. Fred Praeger
 James Quackenbush
 Marie Robinowitz
 Cornelius Saperstein
 Morris Silberman
 Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon
 Eva Tofel
 Ludwig Willner
 Nay Wisdom
 Michael Wrobel
 Dr. Camilla Reznikoff
 Wygan

JULY 10

Lillian Edelman
 Marshall Effron
 Lloyd Fertig
 Siegfried Frank
 Max Kapner
 David Krevolin
 Lawrence L. Landau
 Merlin B. Lass
 Sam Lessin
 Thomas "Tucker"
 McGrath
 Dora Rosenmann
 Winona Rosenthal
 Michael L. Solomon
 Sylvia Soirefman
 Samuel E. Trivers
 Max Uttal
 Linda Fertig Waldman
 Emil M. Zullo

JULY 17

David Albenda
 Dr. Alan E. Apfel
 Jerry Bass
 Morton Bloch
 Leon R. Bloom
 Shirley Green Chertock
 Ida Cohen
 Philip Cohen
 Dr. Sidney S. Cohen
 Robert J. Creedon, Sr.
 Cynthia R. Feldman
 Elsie Goldberg
 Henry Klein
 Herbert Klein
 Gertrude Krugman
 Minnie Lass
 Elsie Lustig
 Edward Moffit, Jr.
 Phillip R. Moselle, OD
 Sol Present
 Hyman Schwartz
 Sylvia Reifler Silberman

JULY 24

Meta Altman
 Martin Brenner
 Fanny Bronfeld
 David Clearfield
 Minnie Schudroff
 Coleman
 James Effron
 Bertha Goldstein
 Joshua Aaron
 Himelstein
 Flora M. Hoffman
 Dr. Robert Kohan
 Saul A. Lazarus
 Dr. Benjamin Leeds
 Robert H. Lipschutz
 Cary Lutwin
 Ethel Marcus
 Jacov Markowvitch
 Cecelia Riechman
 Gertrude Rosenthal
 William Schrock
 Irving Schwartz
 Ed Stoller
 Jennie Worona

JULY 31

Blanche Adler
 David Albenda
 Martin L. Dreyfuss,
 MD
 Hortense Feldman
 Louis Gellert
 Kurt Harlam
 Ruth Kapner
 Julius Lazarus
 Florence Levitch
 Yetta Prisansky
 Lillian Rosen
 Adele Stern
 Charlotte Wechsler

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.

AUGUST 7

Mae Berger
 Janice Fink
 Walter B. Goldfinger
 Marjorie Gluck
 Melvin Matlin, MD
 Katherine Moffit
 Hy Miller
 Saul Norman Nectow
 Aaron Reifler
 Margot Similes
 Gladys Strauss
 Louis Temlock
 Muriel Weingart
 Jack Wiseman
 Louis I. Worona

AUGUST 14

Howard S. Abrams
 Dr. Harry Barbash
 Gloria Berlin
 Dr. Richard Slater Cohen
 Dorothy Rauh Fogle
 Eve Canter Goldberg
 Beatrice A. Goodman
 Evelyn Herman
 George Izraelewicz
 Nettie Jacobs
 Dr. Burton Katz
 Ruth Kapner
 Edna Z. Kleiner
 Robert Marks
 Millicent May
 Frances Myer
 Charles Newman
 MaryLouise Parke
 Jeanne M. Payne
 Bernard Reifler
 Anna Saperstein
 Zerline Lehman Simon
 Minnie Toroker
 Emanuel Zimmer

AUGUST 21

Anna Baum
 Oscar Charwat
 David Cohen
 Maurice Goldemberg
 Jack Goldman
 Mildred L. Greller
 Norman Keiser
 Dr. Saul R. Kelson
 Marion Lieberman
 Louis Lester
 Regina R. Olivar
 Lee Schwartz
 Molly Solomon
 Clara Abraham Stein
 Samuel Sumner
 Mary Weiss

AUGUST 28

Rachel Barchilon
 Phyllis Bell
 W. Carlton Bernard
 Jules Burger
 Adolph Milton Fein
 Harry Friedman
 Claire Entner Gad
 Tillie Haber
 Morris Kaufman
 Anna Dick Kronman
 Joseph LaLone
 Rose Markowitz
 Max Matlin
 William Miller
 Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell-Moore
 Edward J. Newman, MD
 Beatrice Plansky
 Sara G. Rice
 Rose Ritter
 Elma S. Rosenberg
 Sarah Peles Samuels
 Hyman Silverman
 Melvin Stolack
 Frederick C. Tuchmann
 Eugene N. Turk
 Paul S. Waxman
 Tobias Wolfson

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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Rabbi:	Paul Golomb
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen A. Arnold
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
2nd Vice- President	Susan Karnes Hecht
Secretary:	Len Greenberg
Treasurer:	OPEN
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



July 2015 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10am SEP	3 Office Closed 7:30pm Shabbat Service	4 9am Torah Study
5	6 7pm Ritual Cmte	7 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	8	9 10am SEP	10 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11 9am Torah Study
12	13 7pm VT Exec Cmte	14 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	15 7pm Finance Cmte	16 10am SEP	17 7:30pm Shabbat Service	18 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
19	20	21 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	22	23 10am SEP	24 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25 9am Torah Study 10am Sinn Bar Mitzvah
26 Tisha B'Av	27 7pm Board Meeting	28 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	29	30 10am SEP.	31 7:30pm Shabbat Service	

The August calendar can be found on page 9