



Vassar Temple

Where You belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 163 No 11 July/August 2017

Super Sandra, SCRIP Meister



**Our SCRIP meister, Sandra, on her maiden SCRIP trip.
Keep an eye out for her!**

Reminder:

August 1st is the deadline for submitting articles to the September Bulletin!

The August calendar will be available at the end of July.

Vassar Temple Sisterhood



Noon Lunch

Tuesday, July 18th

at 12:00 noon of course! Dutch treat!
We will be waiting for YOU at Shadows-on-the-Hudson, 176 Rinaldi Blvd, Poughkeepsie! Hope you can join us!
To RSVP, contact Perla Kaufman at brandaliz5@optonline.net. Last minute guests are welcome.

Summer Reading List: High Holy Day Edition



As I write this, Shavuot has passed, Religious School is over, and we are about to move into our summer service schedule. Hebrew School and b'nai mitzvah are replaced by weddings and time at URJ Crane Lake Camp. Instead of leading Shabbat services (thank you lay leaders!) I am already imagining how High Holy Day services are going to look, sound, and feel at Vassar Temple.

This year, the transition to *Mishkan HaNefesh* looms particularly large. Cantorial Student Laura Stein, Joe, and I are already hard at work determining how we will navigate this new *machzor*, choosing readings and melodies that will make this a meaningful season of reflection and repentance. The Ritual Committee is committed to making everything run smoothly, from the printing of tickets to the handing out of prayer books!

We all have work to do to prepare for the High Holy Days. By the end of August, we will already be in the month of Elul. During Elul, we are called upon to engage in *cheshbon hanefesh*, an

accounting of the soul. It is important to take this time to reflect on our lives. Otherwise, Rosh Hashana can sneak up on us, and the language of the High Holy Days can be jarring.

I hope you had time to enjoy one of the summer vacation titles I offered last month. As we approach the Days of Awe, I'd like to offer you some of my favorite titles about self-improvement in general, and the High Holy Days in particular.

- *This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared*, by Alan Lew. Lew, a self-described "Zen Rabbi," guides us through the spiritual journey of the High Holy Days, starting with Tisha B'Av—which commemorates the destruction of the Temple—and ending with Sukkot. As the title suggests, Lew encourages us to look at this entire season as an opportunity to confront the very real challenges of sin, forgiveness, mortality, and change.
- *Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days*, by Kerry Olitzky and Rachel Sabath. This guided journal offers a prompt for every day of the month of Elul, based on the themes of Psalm 27—traditionally recited every day during this period—and other *teshuvah*-related texts.
- *Divrei Mishkan HaNefesh*, edited by Edwin Goldberg. This collection of essays walks us through how our new *machzor* was created. The contributors to *Mishkan HaNefesh* reflect on the decisions they made and how they envision a High Holy Day experience for the 21st century Reform Jew.

There are also some wonderful secular books out there about living your best life, and many of them relate to how we affect change in our lives, even when we feel stuck.

I'm currently reading *Designing Your Life*, by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans, which uses the elements of design thinking—both authors are engineers—to help us get "unstuck" in addressing challenges and moving towards the life we want. David Brooks' *The Road to Character* asks the question: how do you want to be remembered? Brooks explores the lives of several historical figures who lived with integrity and made a lasting impact on their communities.

I highly recommend Gretchen Rubin's many books on cultivating happiness and good habits, starting with *The Happiness Project*. I appreciate how Rubin lays out strategies for incremental change, encouraging us to focus on one area of our lives at a time, rather than trying to fix everything at once.

After taking some time to relax, read, and reflect, we can look forward to entering the year 5778 on higher spiritual ground!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



From Our President

Summer is here. That brings beautiful warm days and also lay led Friday night Shabbat services. Each Friday evening at 7:30, a member or a group of members of our congregation will lead us in prayer. Experiencing a different perspective of Friday night worship each week is enjoyable and enlightening.

The Ritual Committee and the individuals or groups who lead the service put in a lot of time, energy and wisdom to make the Shabbat service meaningful and enjoyable.

Have a wonderful and safe summer and please come and participate in the Vassar Temple Friday night shabbat services.

Mark Metzger



Mitzvah Day Thank You's

Many thanks to: Perla Kaufman, our rep on the committee and official Mitzvah Day Photographer; to those who captained projects: Craig Gittelman, Rabbi Paul Golomb, Alan Kafowitz, Ron Rosen, Jasmine Russo, Nancy & Dave Samson, Gil & Arlene Seligman; to Kurt Quackenbush, and our religious school director and her staff, all of whom helped supervise projects that day; and most especially to those without whom none of the projects would have come to fruition: all our Temple members, young and old-er who donated cake mix, cereal, socks, money, time, and/or sweat equity to make each and every project a resounding success. Interested in helping with Mitzvah Day 2018? Just contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Summer Services are Special at Vassar Temple!

Over the summer we will present weekly Friday night services led by a wonderful series of specially trained lay leaders. The services will be held at 7:30pm in an intimate and relaxed setting in the air conditioned social hall. Each will be a complete service including kaddish, will be enhanced with music, and will reflect the unique perspective of the leader. Afterward, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy light seasonal refreshments (often ice cream), and of course to socialize and share news with friends. Be sure to join us! In advance, we thank those who have volunteered to serve as lay leaders over the summer:

June 30	David & Susan Hecht
July 7	Ron Rosen
July 14	Linda Cantor & Ed Rosenberg
July 21	Andi & Paul Ciminello
July 28	Shira Teich & Emma Arnoff
Aug. 4	Sandra Mamis & Richard Levien
Aug. 11	Joel & Claudia Kelson
Aug. 18	New Paths participants; oneg in honor of the celebration of of the Schwartz's wedding anniversary
Aug. 25	Ben Krevolin
Sept. 1	David & Susan Hecht

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, July 29th 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. During August, some regulars from New Paths will lead a Friday night service on Aug. 18th. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Weekly Classes Summer 2017

Torah Study will be held every Saturday during July and August at 9:00am (call to confirm 8/19; no class 9/2). No Tuesday Talmud Study during July and August.

Scriptural Readings

July	1	<i>Chukat</i> Num. 19:1-20:13; Judges 11:1-33
	8	<i>Balak</i> Num. 22:2-38; Micah 5:6 – 6:8
	15	<i>Pinchas</i> Num. 23:27-30:1; Jeremiah 1:1 – 2:3
	22	<i>Matot-Masei</i> Num. 30:2-31:54; Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4
	29	Shabbat Chazon <i>D'varim</i> Deut. 1:1-2:1, Isaiah 1:1-27
Aug.	5	Shabbat Nachamu <i>Va'et-chanan</i> Deut. 3:23-5:18; Isaiah 40:1-26
	12	<i>Eikev</i> Deut. 7:12-9:3; Isaiah 49:14 – 51:3
	19	<i>Re'eh</i> Deut. 11:26-12:28; Isaiah 54:11-55:5
	26	<i>Shoftim</i> Deut. 16:18-18:5; Isaiah 51:12 – 52:12



Teacher Recognition during the June 16th BBQ-Picnic Shabbat Service (held indoors due to inclement weather)

Mazel Tov to...

Dan & Susan Albinder on the wedding of their daughter, Alisha Albinder to Jesse Comac;

James & Allison (Pearlman) Ravener on their 1st anniversary;

Derek & Johanna (Tanzman) Kosciolk on their 1st anniversary;

Michael & Sarah (Ritter) Marino on their 1st anniversary;

Dave & Fern Wolf on the marriage of their daughter, Jennifer, to Robert Parish;

Jennifer Wolf on graduating medical school in the Gold Humanism Honor Society and beginning a residency in Family Medicine at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center in Lawrence, MA.

Rummage Sale Success

On April 30th Sisterhood ran another successful Rummage Sale. Thank you to everyone who donated merchandise – we raised over \$2,000!

We also want to thank everyone who volunteered their time either sorting, setting up or working at the sale: Roni Stein, Lisa Sue Quackenbush, Ellen Danziger, Ann Hartman, Patty Ann Clark, Perla Kaufman, Judy Rosenfeld, Claudia Kelson, Lisa Rubinstein, Nadine Zaritsky, Joyce Gally, Charlene Rosenthal, Kassie Lerman, Jasmine Russo and Joan Reifler.

Everything went very smoothly and we appreciated everyone's efforts. We are looking forward to our next sale in the fall – date to be announced shortly.

Ann Lerman and Ronni Jarvis
Rummage Co-Chairs



New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our Vassar Temple family:

Jo Schaffel and Dan Scherer

VTS Donor Dinner and 2017 Evelyn Kahn Award

Sisterhood held our annual Donor Dinner in the Temple's social hall on May 9th. Beautifully organized by Marcia Tanzman, the forty or so women in attendance enjoyed a wonderful meal and conversation as well as a very interesting presentation about mindfulness and ways of coping with stress by Shelley and Dr. Ron Tatelbaum.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2017 Evelyn Kahn Award. This award is given annually by Vassar Temple Sisterhood in recognition of a member who always goes above and beyond for Sisterhood. This year's recipient was Lisa-Sue Quackenbush.

A past president of Sisterhood, Lisa-Sue has always cheerfully undertaken any task asked of her. In addition, over the years she has been involved with almost every Sisterhood committee and has chaired many of them. For all her wonderful contributions to the Vassar Temple Sisterhood, we were pleased to be able to honor Lisa-Sue with this very special award.



Pulpit Flowers

No Flowers during summer months unless specially ordered.

Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can do so by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers with a donation to the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund. The donation to the Fund is \$55. Just call the Vassar Temple Office at 454-2570.

Condolences to...

Susan Colodner and family on the loss of her father, Manual Darwin;

Jen Dahnert and family on the loss of their friend, Joan Kostick Andrews;

Howard Himelstein and family on the loss of his wife, Emily.

Refuah Shelemah

Carol Nectow, recovering from a recent hospitalization

We need your Help!

We are, once again, asking that you be the eyes and ears in the lies 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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher:

Marianne Abrams

Editors:

Sue Lesser and

Donna Loshin

Carol Nectow

Technical support
& understudy

Bob Abrams

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

Articles may be sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

COLLEGE NEWS!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Evan Gally

Evan has completed two years at Dutchess Community College studying engineering science. In the fall he will be attending Clarkson University and will be pursuing a Bachelors degree in civil engineering.

Marissa Gally

Marissa graduated (Spring 2017) with a Bachelors degree in Family and Child Studies: School Settings from Montclair State University in New Jersey. Marissa will begin persuing her Masters degree this summer in Elementary and Special Education. She is excited to find out her student teaching placement for the upcoming school year!

David Greenberg

David graduated from the University of Albany's College of Engineering and Applied Science with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. David has accepted a full-time position in Computer Engineering with IBM Poughkeepsie.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Danielle Abrams

Danielle has completed all of her academic requirements for her Ph.D program in Clinical Psychology at Georgia State University and is currently working on her dissertation. She is also submitting internship applications for next year.

Rachel Erlebacher

Beginning this Fall, Rachel will begin graduate school part time at Georgetown University studying Public Policy. While she will continue to work at the USDA in the Office of Budget and Program Analysis full time, she looks forward to starting the next chapter of her life!

Jennifer Greenberg

Jennifer graduated from George Washington University's Milken School of Public Health with a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology. Jennifer plans to stay in the DC/MD/VA metro area with hopes of finding employment as a data analyst or research assistant.

Michelle Silverman

Michelle has just earned two masters degrees from Columbia University's Teacher's College: one a Master of Education and the other a Master of Arts leading to her PhD in School Psychology now being worked on.

Jessica Susser

Jessica is finishing up her master's degree at University of Toledo. She plans on completing her thesis in August.

Rachel Susser

Rachel is still in grad school at the Royal Academy of Music, London. She will be back in the States for 8 weeks in July and August, working at Apple, Cupertino; then back to London for her 2nd year there.

Ilana Wolf

Ilana finished her fifth year in a six-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Ithaca College. She completed a clinical internship at Wingate at Ulster, a skilled nursing facility. Ilana continues to be active in the Challah for Hunger Organization on a national and local level.

Jennifer Wolf

Jennifer graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, MI with her Doctor of Medicine Degree. She will be doing a four year Residency program in family medicine at Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence, MA, working with an immigrant population.

From the Ritual Corner

I recently met with our sofer, Neil Yerman, as he repaired one of our Torahs. Since my bar mitzvah I've been called to the Torah many times. Until last month I'd never sat at length with a sofer and an open scroll. I helped roll it. I felt the parchment and the letters. I could feel the difference where Neil had cleaned; I could smell the parchment where the repairs had been done. Neil taught me about keeping our scrolls healthy. I saw the column in the Torah where the scribe arranged the words in the shape of a Cohen's hands, as the passage actually contains the priestly blessing.

I was overwhelmed and awed by all of the history in front of me. I had an opportunity that day to touch, learn from and commune with that scroll. I've gained a new appreciation for Torah. It is literally a living document.

Vassar Temple's 2017 Torah restoration project is almost complete. You, too, should have a chance to commune with our scrolls. Please join me on Sunday, October 29th with our sofer as we finish the restoration of the last of our scrolls during Religious School. Students will do cleaning and lettering under Neil's direction. You, too, can and should participate.

This is a fundraiser; proceeds will replenish our Eternal Torah Fund. The requested donation for adults will be \$50 or \$100 for participating in cleaning or lettering/crowns respectively.

David Hecht

Ritual Committee Chair

ritual@vassartemple.org



From the Religious School Director

One of the first tasks I had as the Education Director was to introduce myself and share a little bit about my plans in the Summer Bulletin. This was a daunting task because there were so many things I wanted to share, especially my excitement for the coming school year. Looking back on the year, I am heartened about the relationships I have created in the School as well as the larger Vassar Temple community. I am also very pleased with how well our Mitkadem Hebrew program has become integrated into our school curriculum. And, I am grateful and inspired by our dedicated teachers and Religious School Committee.

Recently Rabbi Berkowitz and I met to discuss plans for the coming school year and, although we have not finalized everything, there are some exciting things that we are working towards making happen this coming school year. I am bursting to share them with you.

We will be involving our post-B'nai

Mitzvah Students in Vassar Temple through our Madrichim Program (teen aide). The word Madrich (Madrichim is the plural) means leader. We plan to bring our post-Bar and Bat Mitzvah students back to serve as leaders and role models to the younger students. Included in this position are workshops to help the teens reach their full potential in this role. We have also engaged a Youth Group advisor who will also be here on Sunday mornings and will hold Youth Group meetings/gatherings following Religious School on specific Sundays. We want to encourage our teens to create for themselves (with help) a vibrant Youth Group.

Our teens will also be encouraged to participate in the Geshet High School Program. Although the Wednesday night classes take place at Temple Beth El, this is a program for ALL Jewish teens in our community. After speaking to a number of this past year's participants, I was struck by how excited they were by the topics that they were engaged in. Students are given an opportunity to choose their classes and to learn from amazing teachers. If you know of anyone interested in the Geshet Program, have them email Rabbi Berkowitz or me (Julie Makowsky).

This year the Religious School will include field trips. We plan to kick off the school year with a family program at a local farm cooperative and in the spring we are planning a trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. In addition, we will be holding a few Shabbat morning family programs in lieu of Sunday morning

classes.

The Mitkadem Hebrew program will continue being used in our Hebrew School on Wednesday afternoons and now that our students are familiar with the curriculum, I expect them to continue to master the prayers we use on Shabbat morning, gaining fluency and understanding with each new level.

For those of you (adults and youth) interested in learning Hebrew through our Mitkadem Program this summer, I am offering **FREE** Hebrew classes. Beginning on Tuesday, June 6th we've been meeting at the Temple 5:30-7 pm. Knowledge of the Hebrew letters and vowels is required. This program is designed for students to work at their own pace and works for students on many different levels. Students can begin at any time over the summer but an RSVP to vassartempliers@gmail.com is required to make sure we have materials. (Due to my summer travel plans, some classes may be changed or canceled – so please RSVP to sign up for the class.)

I wish you all a wonderful summer, full of rest, relaxation and extra time for Jewish learning!

Julie Makowsky

Let's Help the Children Learn

As you are probably aware, 86% of the children, right here in Poughkeepsie, come from economically disadvantaged homes. And we all know how important education is, especially to these children so that they will be able to make a brighter future for themselves and for their own children.

To help these children succeed in school, we at Vassar Temple are collecting money to help provide them with the school supplies they will need during the coming school year, and which a great many of their families cannot af-

ford. The fundraiser for school supplies will run through the months of July and August.

We are currently working with Morse Elementary School located on Mansion Street in Poughkeepsie, which has over 500 students, and will assist children in additional schools if possible. Last year through your generosity, we raised enough to not only provide basic school supplies to Morse, but also to provide supplies for their art teacher. We also made a donation to the high school teen closet to be sure all high schoolers have access to such essentials as deodorant, tooth paste and underwear.

Just bring your tax-deductible check in any amount to the Temple or mail it to: Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Checks should be made out to "Vassar Temple" with "School Supplies" on the memo line.

Please help the children learn by donating to this project today. Money collected in the tzedakah box by the stairs during July and August will also go toward school supplies for the children.

Vassar Temple Social Action Committee
socialaction@vassartemple.org

Reform Jewish Voice of New York Lobby Day

Vassar Temple members Andi Ciminello, Marge Groten and Howard Susser joined other Reform Jewish Congregations in Albany on Monday, May 8th for a Lobby Day organized by Reform Jewish Voice of New York State. The event was attended by approximately 30 people. The morning session was devoted to training the participants on the issues on the organization's agenda for the day of lobbying and on lobbying techniques. Presenters included the Co-chairs of Reform Jewish Voice; Assemblywoman Pat Fahey; staff from NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office and a legislative assistant from the Religious Action Center, in Washington DC.

We were asked to advocate for: support of measures that curb the growing influence of money in politics;

support of the New York Votes Act to make voting more accessible to New Yorkers; support of the Reproductive Rights Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act, and opposition to the Education Affordability Act, which would provide extremely generous tax credits to those making donations to private and parochial schools.

In the afternoon we meet with Assemblyman Frank Skartados, a staff person working for Assemblywoman Didi Barrett (a Vassar Temple member) and a staff person in Senator Sue Serino's office to discuss all of the issues on the day's agenda. We all felt the event was very worthwhile and encourage Temple members to take the opportunity—either in Albany or locally—to lobby our State legislators on issues identified by Reform Jewish Voice of New York. Speak to one of us if you are interested.

Marge Groten



The 2017 Consultation on Conscience

On April 30th Rabbi Berkowitz and I traveled to Washington for the biennial Consultation on Conscience at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. The theme of Consultation - attended by a record 800 participants - was *The Urgency of Now*, in reference to Martin Luther King's 1967 remarks. I am delighted to share the highlights of this amazing experience.

The focus of Consultation was criminal justice and immigration reform. I first learned the difference between social action - direct service that we provide for others in need - and social justice, which is action that addresses the underlying root causes of those needs. Over the course of three days, we heard incredible speakers such as Anat Hoffman, Director of the Israeli Religious Action Center, and Reverend Cornell Brooks, head of the NAACP. We attended a morning service with 800 people and networked with representatives from local congregations. I attended workshops about the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups and the mechanics of community

organizing. I started to equip my social justice toolbox.

On the last morning, 800 of us climbed into buses and went to the historic Sixth and I Street Synagogue, where we were addressed by legislators including Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio who, when advised to moderate to more centrist positions to advance his career, chose to remain at the moral center and invite others to move the political center to that place; Representative Joseph Kennedy III of Massachusetts, who cried when he spoke about the rights of individuals and has courageously stepped into the fray despite the unimaginable tragedy that has befallen his family; Congressman Jerry Nadler of New York, who spoke of his Yeshiva education and the impact of Judaism on his choices; and Representative Jacky Rosen of Nevada, a freshman representative who is the immediate past president of her synagogue and cut her political teeth on the temple board.

Finally, we moved to Capitol Hill, where Rabbi and I participated in lobbying at the offices of Senator Gillibrand and Representative Maloney. We had prepared talking points covering background and statistics on each issue, relevant Jewish ethical teachings, personal stories, and specifics of the legislation that the URJ is supporting. Stopping in the Senate office building for a quick takeout lunch, we sat down to await our group

and realized that we had settled ourselves outside of John McCain's office and the Senate Armed Services Committee room. No one minded our picnic. What an incredible privilege to live in a country where we can wander freely in the seat of government. That's OUR office.

The message we heard in every venue was this: We the people ARE the government. When we stand up, it makes a difference. When we stand up as a faith community guided by our ethics, the impact is even greater. We are wanted; we are welcome; we need to keep showing up.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ, said, "Judaism without social justice is not Judaism." The URJ has taken clear positions on many issues, reflecting the teaching of Deuteronomy: "Justice, justice, you shall pursue." We look forward to having a conversation with you in order to identify the injustices that keep us all up at night, to find common ground where we can pool our energy for the greater good. I invite you to join me in showing up.

Susan Karnes Hecht

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Memory of:

Mary Solomon
Sanford Metlis

Ellen Zelig
Beverley Metlis

Joseph Wrobel
Margot Similes
Sanford Metlis
Eugene Jacobs
Bernard Rheingold
Leonard Nectow

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Harry & Sandra Mamis
Harry & Sandra Mamis

Irma Jacobs

Floyd Fertig
Linda Waldman
Jonathan Muehl

Phyllis Ritter

Lisa Rubenstein & Rick DuVall

Sidney Slatter Cohen
Irene Weiner

Doi Cohen
Lila Matlin

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Sandra Mamis' amazingly
impressive Community Seder

David & Kathy Steinberg

Vassar Temple, for all it means and represents
Richard Levien

Eugene Jacobs

Carol, Stuart & Barbara Nectow

Fran Jacobs, husband
Douglass Woodward &
daughters Tessa &
Molly Woodward

In Appreciation of:

Elisa Dugatkin and all her years of dedication
and beautiful music

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Sharing Seder with the community

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

R. Jonah Ritter

Sherrie Geisler

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Pauline Abrams
Dutch Kraut
Paul Kraut
Reuben Lewis
Sol Present

Bob & Marianne Abrams
Nina Kraut & son Nicholas
Nina Kraut & son Nicholas
Polly Lewis

Debbie & Kevin Tierney
& Brian Landesman

Kent & Kathy Mardon

Joel & Linda Babas

Dr. Jonathan Moselle

Mark & Elaine Plansky

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

The Quackenbush family

The Quackenbush family

and Sandor Margolin

Gretchen Gould

Loren & Charlene Rosenthal

Margaret Poston

Gertrude Rosenthal

Irving Schwartz

Steve, Shelly, Samantha & Stefanie Turk

Marie Robinowitz

Jim & Maryann Robinowitz

Robert A. Feldman

Cynthia R. Feldman

Lillian Lampell

Ann Kahn

Matt & Muriel Lampell

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Memory of:

Irma Manheim
Dr. Arthur Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz
Elaine Lipschutz

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Honor of:

The confirmation of Mariah Robishaw

Doi Cohen

FUND FACTS: Why Is This Night Different from All Other Nights?

This week I donned my “volunteer hat” and attended a fund raising meeting that, even in the greater scheme of my professional life as a fund raiser, was perhaps the most important fund raising meeting I’ve attended in a while. When I tell you the topic, you may groan; but please bear with me. . . .

The meeting was about the 2017 Gala (okay, groan. . .). But read on. This year’s Gala is going to be different from previous Galas. Borrowing from Passover, “Why is this Gala different from all other Galas?” In previous Galas, we have honored an individual or individuals for their achievements and/or contributions to our community. But this year, the Gala will honor **all** of us within Vassar Temple. As we prepare to enter our 18th decade of existence (yes, it’s true!), we will celebrate the countless ways our Congregation has distinguished itself over the decades and the profound ways our members – individually and collectively – have enriched the wider community. And in the process, we are going to all enjoy a fun and informative evening that will raise some critically important funds for the Temple (with opportunities to contribute at all levels).

More details will follow in the near future, so for now, mark **Saturday, November 11th** on your calendar, and plan to join us for a night that will truly be different from all other nights you have attended in support of our very special Vassar Temple.

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Migration, Exile, Refuge: Stories from the Hudson Valley

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: August 13th

This exhibition was put together by Vas-sar College history department intern Nikki Lohr, history department students, and Vas-sar Refugee Solidarity. Serving as the inaugural exhibition at the newly opened Glebe House at 635 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, the exhibit remains open until June 25, 2017.

Students interviewed a number of individuals from the area to preserve their stories of flight from violence and repression and finding refuge in the U.S. On display are also artifacts that people brought with them

from their homes, archival materials from Vas-sar's efforts in the 1930/40s to save European Jewish scholars, Poughkeepsie Journal articles going back to WWI, as well as local artists' responses to the themes of migration, exile and refuge.

The exhibit creators see this project as the beginning of a conversation and hope that local students will be contributing to its success in the future by sharing their own families' histories.

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America will hold a regular monthly meeting at 9:30am on Sunday, August 13, 2017 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York. There is an informal coffee and cake period of schmoozing that begins at 9:00am.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces (Active, Reserve or National Guard), or who have family members who have served, are invited to attend and participate in the activities of this J.W.V. Post. As Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue. For further information please contact the Presiding Officer, Rob Rubin, at qbee5@optonline.net.

Yahrzeits

JULY 7

Lloyd Fertig
Anne Kahn
Lillian Lampell
Lawrence L. Landau
Hillard Mann
Edith Posner
M. Fred Praeger
James Quackenbush
Marie Robinowitz
Dora Rosenmann
Winona Rosenthal
Michael L. Solomon
Samuel E. Trivers
Linda Fertig Waldman
Michael Wrobel

JULY 14

Morton Bloch
Leon R. Bloom
Shirley Green Chertock
Ida Cohen
Philip Cohen
Marshall Effron
Cynthia R. Feldman
Gertrude Krugman
Max Kapner
Henry Klein
Merlin B. Lass
Minnie Lass
Edward Moffit, Jr.
Hyman Schwartz
Sylvia Reifler Silber-
man
Max Uttal

JULY 21

Dr. Alan E. Apfel
Jerry Bass
Martin Brenner
David Clearfield
Dr. Sidney S. Cohen
Minnie Schudroff
Coleman
Robert J. Creedon, Sr.
James Effron
Helene Favor
Joshua Aaron
Himmelstein
Flora M. Hoffman
Herbert Klein
Dr Robert Kohan
Cary Lutwin
Ethel Marcus
Sol Present
Ed Stoller

JULY 28

David Albenda
Meta Altman
Fanny Bronfeld
Dr. Irving Dreishpoon
Martin L. Dreyfuss,
MD
Louis Gellert
Robert H. Lipschutz
Lawrence Paradis
Cecelia Riechman
Gertrude Rosenthal
Irving Schwartz
Adele Stern
Charlotte Wechsler

AUGUST 4

Mae Berger
Hortense Feldman
Walter B. Goldfinger
Helen Goldman
Marjorie Gluck
Kurt Harlam
Marjorie Lazarus
Paul Liebman
Melvin Matlin, MD
Hy Miller
Katherine Moffit
Saul Norman Nectow
Margot Similes
Louis Temlock
Jack Wiseman
Louis I. Worona

AUGUST 11

Gloria Berlin
Dr. Richard Slater
Cohen
Alexander D'Imperio
Eve Canter Goldberg
Evelyn Herman
Ruth Kapner
Dr. Burton Katz
Aaron Reifler
Anna Saperstein
Muriel Weingart

AUGUST 18

Howard S. Abrams
Dr. Harry Barbash
Oscar Charwat
Dorothy Rauh Fogle
Jack Goldman
Beatrice A. Goodman
Nettie Jacobs
Edna Z. Kleiner
Sarah Faith
Krzywicki
Marion Lieberman
Frances Myer
MaryLouise Parke
Jeanne M. Payne
Bernard Reifler
Lee Schwartz
Zerline Lehman Simon
Clara Abraham Stein
Samuel Sumner
Minnie Toroker
Mary Weiss
Emanuel Zimmer

AUGUST 25

Anna Baum
W. Carlton Bernard
Tillie Haber
Morris Kaufman
Dr. Saul R. Kelson
Anna Dick Kronman
Max Matlin
William Miller
Mary Elizabeth
O'Donnell-Moore
Sara G. Rice
Sarah Peles Samuels
Hyman Silverman
Melvin Stolack
Frederick C. Tuchmann
Paul S. Waxman
Tobias Wolfson



FREE Hebrew Class at Vassar Temple

Tuesday evenings 5:30-7pm beginning June 6th

- Students of all ages and levels study together
- Teacher guides you as you master the lessons
- Prerequisite: Knowledge of Hebrew letters, vowels and simple phonetic Hebrew reading

RSVP to Julie at vassartemplers@gmail.com

Although you will not be required to attend each week, I will need to know how many people might be joining the class in order to have enough materials for all who are interested.

Students who have been part of the school this year are encouraged to continue their Hebrew learning and join this class.

Vassar Temple Social ACTION

We always have a great deal of activities going on, and if you have any new ideas, we'd love to hear them!

Year round we have:

- CanJam: our non-perishable food collection and distribution program;
- Talking Books: record one for a child, or anyone else, in the community;
- Homeless Shelter Dinners and Gleaning
- Lunch Box: During the school year we provide, prepare and serve meals at the Family Partnership Center;
- Book Buddies and Tutors: There are opportunities at local elementary schools;
- DCIC: sponsored interfaith story circles are held.

Annual activities include:

- Get Out the Vote
- Protein Plenty, Souper Sale, Purim Pasta, Chametz to Table, Thanksgiving Baskets, Turkey Trot, and Cereal Counts

Annual community events include:

- DCIC Interfaith CropWalk Against Hunger (fall)
- Dutchess County Mitzvah Day (spring, but planning starts in January)
- On-Call Environmental Team
- Refugee Resettlement Team
- Advocacy Group

Plus, our monthly tzedakah box collections benefit various worthy causes. And we are always ready to respond to human rights issues and national disasters that may arise. If any of these projects pique your interest, or if you have something new to suggest, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Marian Schwartz, Social Action Chairperson, at socialaction@vassar temple.org or 845-849-0025.



Cereal Counts Update

Thanks to Vassar Temple and donors throughout our county, 1,471 boxes of cereal were provided to CEREAL COUNTS 2017, an annual all-county food drive hosted each spring. Friends donating boxes included individuals, families, preschool, elementary, middle and high school communities, diverse faith organizations, businesses, staff and officials of our county and government offices, the Dutchess County Legislature, sports teams, women's auxiliary groups, men's service organizations, karate, other hobby and interest groups.

As our central donation site this year, Temple Beth El graciously stored incoming donations during the weeks prior to the final collection date for incoming boxes. Once again, Arnoff Moving & Storage Company donated all the cartons to hold the boxes; much appreciated. Strong support from our online and print newspapers, radio and other media friends helped get the word out about this incredible community effort. We couldn't do this without you all.

We also so appreciate the energy and grace of many volunteers of all ages who helped us stack, pack the cartons and load them onto a large truck for delivery. Many hands and hearts make light work.

Our county food pantries work very hard to serve the needs of our wider community throughout the year. The following pantries will receive cereal boxes: Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Food Pantry, Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry, Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership for their Poughkeepsie/Dover/Red Hook/Beacon sites, Zion Episcopal Church, Hudson River Housing/Gannett House, the Morse Magnet Elementary School, Interfaith Senior Housing and the Hyde Park Reach Out Family Worship Center. Children, families and adults of all ages will be availed the cereals through these well organized and caring providers.

Every box counts. Every box reduces hunger, meals at a time. Well done, Dutchess County, well done. Have a beautiful summer.

Nancy and Dave Samson

Entering Mishkan HaNefesh: A New High Holy Day Experience

This coming fall, Vassar Temple will introduce Mishkan HaNefesh (Sanctuary of the Soul), a new High Holy Day prayer book. Anyone interested is invited to join Rabbi Berkowitz now to explore this beautiful new liturgy, learn how and why this prayer book is different from all other prayer books, and discuss how to make the High Holy Days more personally meaningful for you. Classes will be held five Shabbat mornings at 10:30am (after Torah Study Class). The first three sessions are a repeat of the March classes for those who missed them. You can attend any or all sessions:

1. *Exploring Mishkan HaNefesh: An Overview of the New Prayer Book (June 24)*
2. *The Shofar Service: A New Approach (July 8)*
3. *Avinu Malkeinu: Machzor and Metaphor (July 22)*
4. *Sin and Forgiveness in the 21st Century (August 5)*
5. *Wrestling with Unetaneh Tokef (August 12)*

For further information, please contact Rabbi Berkowitz at vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com or call the Temple Office at 454-2570.

Help Needed! Jewish Night at the Shelter

Vassar Temple is responsible for organizing dinners at the overnight homeless shelter in Hillcrest House **the 4th Thursday of the month from July thru December**. This involves volunteers from the congregation providing items on the month's menu (sandwich fixings, lasagne, chili, etc.), which someone can transport there for you if necessary; a few people are also needed to serve.

If you can sign up to provide a menu item or two for just one of our nights, it would be greatly appreciated. If everyone pitches in we will be able to fulfill our commitment, performing the mitzvah of providing a nice evening meal for up to 60 homeless men and women once a month for all six months. Although that night is designated "Jewish Night," non-Jewish friends and neighbors are very welcome to join in as well.

Please contact Judy Harkavy at (845)471-4973 or judystan@verizon.net to discuss when and how you can help with the meals. And many thanks to those who have been faithfully donating much-needed toiletry items--please continue to leave them in the shelter box in the East Chapel.

Vassar Temple Bulletin
 140 Hooker Avenue
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
 845-454-2570
 www.vassartemple.org



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

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9am Torah Study
2	3	4 Office Closed	5 7pm Ritual Committee	6	7 7:30pm Shabbat Service led by Ron Rosen	8 9am Torah Study 10:30am Entering Mishkan Ha Nefesh
9	10	11	12 2:00- 3:00pm 2pm PJ Library Summer Science Club	13	14 7:30pm Shabbat Service led by Linda Cantor & Ed Rosenberg	15 9am Torah Study
16	17	18 12 Noon VTS Chai Noon	19 2:00- 3:00pm PJ Library Summer Science Club 7pm Finance Cmte	20	21 7:30pm Shabbat Service	22 9am Torah Study 10:30am Entering Mishkan Ha Nefesh
23	24	25 7pm Adult Ed Cmte meeting	26 2:00- 3:00pm PJ Library Summer Science Club 6pm VTS Exec mtg, offsite	27 7pm VT Board Meeting Meals at Shelter	28 7:30pm Shabbat Service	29 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
30	31					