



Where You Belong

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהלים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 159 No. 5 July/August 2013

This Summer There Will Be Children, Teens, and Adults Who Can't Afford Lunch: Vassar Temple invites you to participate in "Protein Plenty!!! 2013"

For people of all ages, having protein during a meal is healthy and satisfying. Whether they are children missing the free school lunch or seniors on a limited income, all need a protein-rich meal to fuel the brain and body, build muscle, strengthen the immune system, and give rise to a sense of energy, vitality and well-being.

How can you help? During the month of July, Vassar Temple invites you to make a monetary donation of any amount which, in turn, will be used to purchase protein foods to supplement summer meals in the community: jars of peanut butter, canned chili, canned tuna and other fish. At the end of the month, the entire load will be delivered to the Community Action Partnership for distri-

bution to their food pantry sites throughout Dutchess County.

How to donate? Please forward your donation to Vassar Temple. Please write your check to "Vassar Temple". In the subject line, write: "Protein Plenty". Send the check to: Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Money collected for Protein Plenty!!! 2013 will be exchanged (100%) for scrip at the Temple, which benefits the Temple too. The scrip will be used to buy non-perishable protein foods at Stop and Shop. It's a win/win deal!

Questions? Please call Nancy Samson of the Social Action Committee at 845-462-4828 or via email at CAN-JAM123@aol.com.

Save the Date: Yom Kippur Break The Fast

At the conclusion of our Yom Kippur services, join with your Temple family and friends for a traditional dairy meal at the seventh annual Vassar Temple Break the Fast on Saturday, September 14. We will have full details in the August/September bulletin.

To contribute food, or to be part of the fun of preparing for the Break the Fast, contact Sandra Mamis at 914-456-3524 or ssmdermpa78@gmail.com.

**Trivia Night has been
rescheduled for
Saturday, October 19th**

Social Action News

Great Summer Project: Talking Books

Select the children's book of your choice and record the story which will be donated along with the book for the enjoyment of young children at a local children's agency. Do this at home at a time of your own convenience, perhaps with family members or friends who are looking for something fun, different, and meaningful to do during the summer. There's a need for Talking Books in both English & Spanish. Contact Susan Hecht at socialaction@vassar temple.org. She will happily explain all and loan materials and recording equipment if necessary. A great project for adults, Talking Books can also provide youths with a creative way of earning community service credits and can be the basis of a fun and meaningful bar/bat mitzvah project.

Hunger Does Not Take a Vacation

Driving past the Temple? Please stop in and drop a nonperishable food item into our Can Jam bin. Even if you are vacationing out-of-town, you can support our Protein Plenty fundraiser this month. If you would like to join with other members of the Jewish community to provide one or two dishes for a summer dinner featuring sandwiches, sides, fresh fruit, etc. to be served to those staying at Hillcrest overnight shelter, please contact Linda Doherty at lindadoherty@myway.com or call her at 914-474-0038. Vassar Temple will resume cooking and serving a meal for our hungry neighbors the first Sunday of the month at Lunch Box starting Labor Day weekend. We are already lining up helpers. If you're interested, contact us at socialaction@vassar temple.org. This is another wonderful activity for those seeking community service credits. Is a family member trying

to choose a bar/bat mitzvah project? Learn more about hunger issues and partici-

hunger (continued on page 7)

Summer Bulletin Schedule

Please note that this edition of the Vassar Temple Bulletin covers July 1 – August 17.

The August calendar through Aug 24 can be found on page 8

Our next bulletin will cover August 18 – September 30. The deadline for submitting articles for the next Vassar Temple Bulletin is July 15.

Enjoy your summer!

Rabbi's Message: OLD-NEW LAND



Summer days (and nights) can often be hot and humid. They are also the stretch of days in which we have the maximum freedom. Almost all of us can spare a week or two for vacation during July or August, more than

at any other time of the year.

Summer days in Israel, as a rule, are hot, but not particularly humid. Because of the relatively dry weather, the nights are moderate. There are months of the year in which the weather is more pleasant, but July and August are, nevertheless, the most convenient months to plan a visit. I propose marking off next summer (2014) for just such a trip.

In over forty years of travel to the land of Israel, I have never been there at what might be characterized as an exciting time. The State is always at some crossroads. The reason for this is reasonably obvious. It is a young country – a really young country. Let me give you two comparisons: the United States and the Republic of Ukraine.

Ukraine is just twenty years-old as an independent nation. Thus, it is younger than Israel and most other nations in the

world. (East Timor and South Sudan are younger still.) But, Ukraine's cultural distinctiveness within its current borders reaches back over 1000 years to the rise of the Kievan Rus. Since the tenth century, Ukrainians have been living and working on the land, an identifiable society in everyway except politically. That came only in 1992.

The U.S., on the other hand, will be celebrating its 238th Independence Day (counting the first one in 1776). There was, however, only a century-and-a-half of European settlement leading up to the colonies' break-off from Great Britain. Further, it would be another thirteen years before the individual states developed a sufficient amount of cultural-political cohesion to become the nation we recognize today.

Israel is much more like the U.S. than Ukraine. Serious Jewish return to the Land began in the 1870s, and a coherent effort at creating a Jewish nation got underway just fifty years before the State was declared. Ukraine is a brand new State (beset, by the way, with lots of growing pains) but an old culture. Israel is a new State *and* a new culture.

Now, think about young children. Every few months, they are dramatically dif-

ferent: taller, heavier, more verbal, more coordinated, more mature. For fifteen to twenty years, the changes are pronounced. A similar process takes place with respect to a young country. Review the history of the United States from Washington to Lincoln. Virtually every year is filled with nation-altering events: territorial expansion, social readjustment, technological development, and, of course, ongoing and ultimately bloody debates over human and civil rights.

Israel is currently younger than the U.S. was at the time of Lincoln; a good deal younger in social-cultural terms. At the same time, Israel is old! It has a history that stretches out for 3,000 years: one encompassing pagans, ancient Israelites, Greeks, Romans, Muslim Arabs, Christians, and Jews. Theodore Herzl, founder of modern Zionism, knew precisely what he was doing when he entitled his principal Zionist work **Altneuland** [*The Old-New Land*].

Travel to foreign places is almost always fascinating. Israel is a little more. It is a young, constantly changing society with roots that reach back millennia. Now is the time to plan to go in Summer 2014. Please be in touch.

Rabbi Paul Golomb



President's Message: Resilience of Vassar Temple

At IBM, I am a member of a software engineering team that focuses on

ensuring and improving the resiliency of IBM's mainframe operating system. We define a resilient system as one that can isolate, remove, tolerate and recover from individual failures so that any business impacts are minimized. Don't worry if you don't understand the terminology ... this is just recognition that problems and challenges occur from time to time, and that the system must be able to handle these challenges and recover from them seamlessly. Each issue presents itself as a *challenge* that must be overcome to *keep the overall system running smoothly*.

At Vassar Temple, we experience challenges all of the time. As chal-

lenges occur, we try to assess them and address them in the best way possible to allow our Temple community to continue enjoying Temple functions. Whether the challenge is a family member's health, a leaky window, putting on a successful Passover Seder, dealing with religious education matters, or locating someone to work in the kitchen on a Shabbat evening, it's wonderful how many Temple members work together to get things resolved. We have a fantastic network of committees that take care of different aspects of Temple life, each doing their part to ensure that Vassar Temple is a resilient organization.

The resolutions to these varying challenges don't come about by magic. We need you to volunteer to spend an hour or two per month to help some aspect of the Temple. Those who do this take wonderful pride in the programs that they help run, or the committees that they participate in, as each group or project, no

matter how small, provides a critical piece of the "system" that keeps Vassar Temple resilient.

If we all join in together and help with any or many of the varied projects, we can accomplish a great deal. Please understand that we are not asking for a lifetime commitment, merely an hour or two here and there. Help Sisterhood plan, setup, or cleanup one of the Shabbat dinners, work at the rummage sale, or host an Oneg Shabbat. The Men's Club could also use a hand with painting, putting up the sukkah, or cooking the Purim dinner. There's so much to do ... and so few hands at times. The best thing about participating is the interaction and the camaraderie that takes place.

Help us ensure that Vassar Temple continues to be a vibrant place to come, learn and be with friends! Have a healthy and happy summer.

Bob Abrams

Worship and Holiday Services

Friday, July 5

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 6

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, July 12

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 13

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, July 19

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 20

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, July 26

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Golomb

Saturday, July 27

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Ellis

Friday, August 2

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 3

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, August 9

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 10

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, August 16

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday August 17

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Scriptural Readings

July 5 & 6 Mattot-Masei

Numbers 33:15-6:13

Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4

July 12 & 13 D'varim Shabbat Hazon

Deuteronomy 2:31-3:22

Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27

July 19 & 20 Va'etkhhanan Shabbat Nahamu

Deuteronomy 6:4-7:11

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26

July 26 & 27 Ekev

Deuteronomy 10:12-11:25

Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

August 2 & 3 Re'eh

Deuteronomy 15:16:17

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:11-55:5

August 9 & 10 Shoftim

Deuteronomy 19:14-21:9

Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12

August 16 & 17 Ki Tetzei

Deuteronomy 24:14-25:19

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10

August 23 & 24 Ki Tavo

Deuteronomy 27:11-29:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

From the Religious School Director: Why Should Anyone Bother Learning Hebrew?



Why should people learn to read Hebrew? And why do we insist that children learn it before bat/bat mitzvah? There are

lots of good answers, I think, but unfortunately some bad answers get in the way. One of the most widespread answers is outdated, and another is simply wrong.

The outdated answer is that learning Hebrew is learning to be literate. That used to be true, but it isn't any more. As we Jews traveled around the world, we often used the Hebrew alphabet to read and write: first in Hebrew, then Aramaic, Arabic for a while in Spain, our dialect of German ("Yiddish"), and so on. But now, if a child has to learn only one alphabet, the Latin alphabet is probably a better way to go.

The wrong answer is, sadly, also the most common answer across the American landscape: children have to learn Hebrew to participate in worship. But it's not true. (Never mind the fact that even if it were, many children would see a win-win here, and opt neither to learn Hebrew nor

to go to services.) The cat's out of the bag regarding transliteration. People know it's there. They know that the words of our sacred liturgy can be written in Hebrew letters or in English ones.

A more important, though less widely recognized, reason to reject this common second answer is that most people learn the prayers by praying, not by reading the prayers in a classroom. (This is why we have expanded worship in the religious school.) So if Hebrew is no longer the best path to literacy, and if it's not the only route to the narrow reward of worship, why should children learn Hebrew?

Here are my top five reasons:

1. Hebrew is part of our heritage, and learning it helps this generation connect to its past.
2. Hebrew is part of the eternity of the Jewish people, and this generation has an obligation not to break the chain. A time will come when English will go the way of Greek and Latin. (Not many people know that it was the Muslims and the Jews who brought the classics to a European

audience that could no longer read Aristotle or Plato.) But Hebrew is still around.

3. Hebrew forms a connection with Israel and can be a stepping stone to a greater sense of belonging to the Jewish people.
4. Hebrew is fun, particularly for children. Children like puzzles, and decoding Hebrew is a wonderful puzzle. (If learning Hebrew isn't fun, something has gone terribly wrong.)
5. Study for its own sake is part of our heritage. Even if Hebrew had no other purpose at all, it would be valuable because we believe in learning.

I'm thrilled that starting in the fall we'll be bringing all of this excitement, joy, and tradition to Wednesday afternoons at Vassar Temple.

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman

Mazal Tov

Rebecca Marcus graduated in February and is a licensed cosmetologist and working in a salon in Connecticut.



Refuah Sheleimah

To our Temple member, **Sheila Newman**, who was recently hospitalized.

In Remembrance

Vassar Temple shares in the loss of our member

Elizabeth "Liz" Freedman, mother of David, Charles, Matthew, Steven Ellicott, Wendy Valleau and Mary Ann Rittenhouse; and in the grief suffered by the families of Leonard Schuyler, grandfather of Lewis Schuyler, Arthur and Jack Maserjian, and Raymond Ross, father of Shirl Davis-Susser

Death: inevitable... and a tough conversation starter!

We are all going to die one day. Despite this inevitability, few want to talk about it or - more importantly - plan for it. There are many Jewish customs and rituals related to this milestone event which can help those who are facing end of life, and those left behind, feel connected to their faith and community. The Vassar Temple Nachamu Committee has developed a Bereavement Guide, which is available online at the Temple website. It answers many of the questions you might have about how we, as Reform Jews, prepare for and deal with the death of a loved one; what common practices are at the time of a loved one's death, and what meaning these rituals have at such a difficult time. [The Hebrew word "Nachamu" means "to bring comfort."]

This 60-page guide can be challenging to digest: there is a great deal of information. Trying to familiarize yourself with its contents when immersed in the immediacy of a loved one's death is the hardest time to take this on. You are encouraged to find some moments of quiet - well before you may need the information contained in the guide - to review it and decide what might be useful to you when 'the time comes.'

The members of the Nachamu Committee are here to help you deal with the death of a beloved family member or friend. Should you need more information, please contact the Nahamu Committee Chair, Sandra Mamis at nachamu@vassartemple.org.

2013 Confirmation Class

Confirmation teaches young adult Jews that they are entering "a sacred community" in which they can question, challenge, and debate Jewish issues without being judged. Confirmation emphasizes the importance of communal participation in Judaism. Four Vassar Temple students were confirmed on Sunday, June 2. From left to right: Alissa Dahnert, Kiley Quack-enbush, Rachel Marcus, and Noah Carbo.

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

May 31 2013 Confirmation Class Families
July 26 In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Ellis with love from his family.



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

MAZEL TOV TO OUR 2013 COLLEGE GRADS...

Jennifer G. Greenberg graduated magna cum laude from Binghamton University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a minor in Geography. She completed an internship through Binghamton's Geography department for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.



Maxwell Benjamin

Hecht graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.S. in Chemistry and minors in Music and History. He completed thesis research on the hydrosilylation of alkenes using β -diketiminate cobalt (I) catalysts and undertook additional research on nickel-catalyzed reductive cross coupling through a National Science Foundation fellowship. He will be listed as a co-author on both publications. Max is a member and served on the executive board of the Rochester chapter of Alpha Delta Phi. He was the principal bassist of the UR Chamber Orchestra for three years. Following an independent study on the process impacts of brewing chemistry and an apprenticeship at Rohrbach's Brewery in Rochester, Max is employed at Cisco Brewers on Nantucket for the summer season for additional training and hopes to eventually acquire a professional diploma in brewing science.



Shari Gabrielle Kram

graduated from Union College with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. During her college years she spent a month performing community service in New Orleans as well as a semester abroad in York, England. Shari held many leadership positions on campus and in her sorority. As a Senior Admissions Intern, she interviewed incoming students, attended prospective student fairs, and worked with high school seniors and their parents on their college choice. Her thesis topic was *The Role of Self-Monitoring on Food Consumption within Different External Cue Scenarios*. Shari has accepted a position as Junior Media Analyst at MediVest, an international branding and advertising agency, and has moved to New York City where she will be based.



Shelby Lynn Quackenbush

graduated summa cum laude from SUNY Albany with a double major in Journalism and Women's Studies and a minor in Sociology. She was selected for Phi Beta Kappa

and received the university's Women's Studies Award and Presidential Leadership Award.



Shelby was President of the equestrian team for four years. She initiated the first chapter of Peace Action New York on campus. Last summer she worked and taught in an orphanage in Thailand for the Global Service Corps. Shelby presented her senior Feminist *Research Seminar project on The Sexual Exploitation of Thailand's Northern Hill Tribe Communities* at the college's Undergraduate Research Conference. She is working for the coming year as a City Year Corps member of AmeriCorps in Los Angeles.

Jessica Susser graduated from Boston University magna cum laude with a B.A. in Biology, concentration in Ecology. She wrote an Honors senior thesis entitled *Effect of Reduced Winter Snowpack on Above-ground Growth of Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum) Trees in a Northern Hardwood Forest*. Jessica spent the Spring 2012 semester in Ecuador in the BU Tropical Ecology Program. Following graduation, she is taking an AmeriCorps position as an Invasive Species Management Intern at Cuyahoga Valley National Park outside of Cleveland. She plans to work a series of seasonal positions before entering graduate school to obtain a PhD in Ecology.



Samantha Lee Turk

graduated from Union College with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Economics. She was elected to the Psi Chi National Honor Society. Samantha participated in the New Zealand Study Abroad Program in Alternative Energy Resources. She is a member and Licensing Chairperson of the Delta Delta Delta Sorority. Samantha has been accepted to the George Washington University Fellows Masters Program in Organizational Sciences.



NEWS OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CLASS...

Becky Duvall transferred in her junior year from the University of Illinois to the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and will spend an additional year finishing her degree with Sibbi Bernhardsson, second violinist of the Pacifica Quartet. Becky expects to graduate in May 2014 from IU with a B.A. in Violin Performance and a minor in Music Education.

Arthur Maserjian anticipates graduation from Northeastern in May 2014 with a B.S. in Business Administration, concentration in Finance and Accounting, and a minor in French. His degree requires an additional year in order to complete a series of full-time co-op work experiences. These include State Street Bank, Goldman Sachs, and Wells Fargo in Boston. Arthur served as both President and Treasurer of Northeastern Hillel, as well as Vice President of Communications for Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS...

Danielle Abrams completed her first year towards a PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She recently presented the results of a study at an autism conference in Spain.



Julieta Gruszko finished her first year as an ARCS Fellow in the Physics PhD program at the University of Washington, working in Experimental Particle Physics.



Mariel Gruszko completed her first year towards a PhD in Cultural Anthropology at UC Irvine. She is spending the summer conducting preliminary field work in Spain.



Samantha Lillian Hecht has started the graduate program in Music Education at the Ithaca College School of Music. She will complete her Master's degree over three summers while remaining in her position as Orchestra Director at Ithaca High School, meeting the requirements for both permanent teacher certification and tenure, and has been awarded a graduate assistantship for the duration of the program.



Graduates (con't on page 6)

Alex Jordan received his M.S. in Engineering from Princeton University in June. He will be working as a structural engineer at Skidmore Owens and Merrill in Manhattan.



Dan Joy completed his first year at the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University. He is spending the summer interning with a judge in Brooklyn.



Jennifer L. Ollendorf received her DDS degree summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo, where she was trained in General Practice Dentistry and also completed a concentration in Esthetic Dentistry. She was inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Chapter of the National Dental Honor Society, for individuals who have “distinguished themselves by excellence in scholarship, while demonstrating exemplary traits of character and potential qualities for future professional growth and attainments.”



Mallory Turk completed her first year at Brooklyn Law School. She will be on Moot Court next year and has just tried out for Law Review. She is working for the NYS Attorney General this summer.



Jennifer Renee Wolf was accepted to several medical schools and has chosen to attend Wayne State School of Medicine in Detroit. During the year between college graduation and med school, Jennifer worked in an emergency room in Grosse Pointe, Michigan as a hospital scribe.

**THE VASSAR TEMPLE SCRIP PROGRAM
OFFERS EVERY MEMBER THE OPPORTUNITY
TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR TEMPLE
WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU!**

**WITH EVERY PURCHASE OF GIFT CARDS
TO YOUR FAVORITE RETAILER
THE TEMPLE EARNS MONEY.**

SHOPPING WITH SCRIP MAKES LOTS OF CENTS!

**CONTACT OUR SCRIP COORDINATOR, SANDRA
MAMIS
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME A
SCRIP PROGRAM SUPPORTER!
[914-456-3524; SCRIP@VASSARTEMPEL.ORG]**



Help Needed with New Temple Web Site

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.

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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly
 Publisher: Marianne Abrams
 Editor: Melissa Erlebacher and Sue Lesser
 Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the August/September Bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by July 15. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone!
 Articles may be sent to the Temple office via e-mail at office@vassartemple.org or faxed to (845)452-5161.

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

Marsha and Richard Lowry Recognized for 40+ Years of Dedicated Service to the Temple

Marian Schwartz Receives the Evelyn Kahn Award

On May 7th, Sisterhood held its annual Donor Dinner and awarded the Evelyn Kahn Award to Marian Schwartz. Marian has always put community service and social action at the top of her list. Congratulations to Marian on this well-deserved honor.



Sisterhood President Lisa-Sue Quackenbush presents Evelyn Kahn award to Marian Schwartz

“The Vassar Temple Founders’ Service Award is given annually to identify and honor an individual, or a household, who has provided consistent and beneficial service to Vassar Temple over an extended period of time. The awardee’s service acts as an inspiration to others, demonstrating leadership by example. ...”

Last year’s award recipients, Melissa and Brianna Erlebacher, had the privilege of presenting the 2013 Founder’s Service Award to Marsha and Richard Lowry during the Temple’s Annual Meeting on May 22. They commended Marsha and Richard for their pragmatism and their ability to evaluate problems or needs with a critical and exacting eye, as well as from a human perspective. They cited the Lowrys for helping “to make the Temple a warm, highly ethical, organized, and thoroughly Jewish institution in its purpose and principles.”

Richard has served on the Temple Board of Trustees, chaired the Ritual Committee, and has been active on the Adult Education Committee, teaching a number of engaging classes over the years. Richard designed and has maintained the current Vassar Temple web site for the past five years, setting a high standard for communication with our members and the public.

Marsha has also served on the Temple’s Board of Trustees, as well as on the Executive Committee as the Board Secretary. She chaired the Personnel and Use of Facilities Committees for several years. She has co-chaired the High Holiday Committee, has served on the Finance Committee, and has contributed to the success of several Vassar Temple Galas. Marsha has also been an active member of Sisterhood, serving as secretary and as chairwoman of the Sunshine Committee.

In addition to formally volunteering to serve Vassar Temple, Marsha and Richard’s decades of devotion to the Temple include many caring acts toward individual temple members and families.



Sisterhood Officers

Co- Presidents: Jennifer Dahnert & Carolyn Frankel
Treasurer: Nadine Zaritsky
Financial Secretary: Donna Loshin
Recording Secretary: Danah Moore
Corresponding Secretary: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
VP Ways & Means: Melissa Erlebacher
VP Membership: Perla Kaufman
Immediate Past President: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

pate at Lunch Box throughout the year. Or contact Nancy and Max Samson at CanJam123@aol.com for information on how to hold a mini food drive. No matter what time of year or what their age, Vassar Temple members care about hunger!

Vassar Temple Social Action

Whether you have some ideas to share, think you’d like to get involved on a committee project, or might just want to help out once in a while, we’d love to hear from you! Please contact Marian Schwartz, Social Action Committee Chairperson at socialaction@vassartemple.org or at 845-849-0025.

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.

JWV July Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on July 7 at 9:30 a.m. at Congregation Shomre Israel on Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Congregation Shomre Israel is strictly kosher, so absolutely no food is to be brought into the meeting. For questions contact Ralph Schwartz at 845-849-0025 or via email at Rschwa9881@aol.com.



Musicians Wanted

Do you enjoy playing music? Interested in helping to add another musical dimension to our worship services? The Music Committee is looking for youth and adults to participate in a musical ensemble to play occasionally at services and other Temple functions.

We would love to have this music ensemble debut at our annual Hanukkah celebration. In order to have enough time to rehearse (Hanukkah starts on Thanksgiving this year) we are gauging interest now. If you are interested, please email Joel Kelson, Music Committee Chairman, at jkelson1@gmail.com, as soon as possible.

Strides for Progressive Judaism

The Israeli Ministry of Religious Services has agreed to recognize eligible Reform and Conservative rabbis as “community rabbis”, which will entitle them to state-funded stipends. Previously only male, Orthodox rabbis were eligible to receive state-funded salaries. Also significant is the agreement to refer to the non-Orthodox spiritual leaders as “rabbis of non-Orthodox communities,” whereas previously in Israel they could be officially referred to as “community leaders” because their ordination to the rabbinate was not acknowledged as legitimate in this context. Furthermore, this is the first time that a female will be officially acknowledged as “rabbi.” These reforms represent a compromise that took Reform Judaism’s Israeli Religious Action Center seven years to effect. The non-Orthodox rabbis still have a way to go to achieve full equality with their Orthodox counterparts in Israel. Just in terms of this compromise, whereas the Orthodox rabbis are paid by the Ministry of Religious Services, the

non-Orthodox rabbis will be paid by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and not be considered actual salaried government employees. Also only non-Orthodox rabbis from rural areas will be considered; the title “community rabbi” and the stipend will not be available to non-Orthodox rabbis who serve congregations in urban settings. But considering the vast control that Orthodoxy has in Israeli government and society, this is a tremendously significant victory.

For the first time in the history of the modern state of Israel, a plan is being instituted to enable men and women to pray together in a new section to be designated at the Kotel (Wailing Wall), and to perform worship rituals not based on the Orthodox interpretation of Jewish tradition. For example, female worshipers are now guaranteed the right to wear prayer shawls (tallit), read from the Torah, and pray aloud in the section to be established

for egalitarian prayer. These reforms will give all Jews the opportunity to worship at this central Jewish holy site in the freedom of their own traditions. Credited for bringing about the plan is Natan Sharansky, the former hero of the Soviet Jewry movement and current leader of the Jewish Agency for Israel. And Anat Hoffman, long-time leader of the Women of the Wall who have been fighting for women’s right to egalitarian worship and pluralism at the Kotel, was just named one of the five most influential Jews in the world by the Jerusalem Post. Much still needs to be done before the new egalitarian section can be made available for worshipers, including the development of a new entrance to the Kotel that will require cooperation of local Muslim officials. Ultra Orthodox leaders will also have to accept the authority of these legal decisions and the elements of the plan, and cease instructing their followers to harass the women who seek to worship at the Wall according to more

August 2013 Calendar through August 24th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am SEP	2 Can Jam deadline 7:30 pm service	3 9:00 Torah Study
4	5 7:15 pm Ritual mtg	6 10 am-SEP Rosh Chodesh	7 Rosh Chodesh	8 Flyer Deadline 10 am SEP	9 7:30 pm service	10 9:00 Torah Study
11	12 7PM—Executive mtg	13 10 am-SEP	14	15 10 am SEP	16 7:30 Service Led by Sandra Mamis & Bob Ritter	17 9:00 Torah Study
18	19	20 10 am-SEP 7pm Finance mtg	21	22 10 am SEP	23 7:30 pm service Led by Ben Krevolin	24 9:00 Torah Study

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

IN HONOR OF

Lila Matlin's special birthday

Adrienne Bourstein

The birth of Braydon Riley Steinberg,
grandson of Robert & Joanne Dyson

Eric & Jackie Steinberg

Robert & Joanne Dyson

WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

For Rabbi's thoughtfulness

Irma Jacobs & Family

SUSTAINING FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Boris Czesler

The Gruszko Family

Ruth Rabinowitz Browner

Miriam & Maury Lacher

Kurt Lemberger

Barbara & Alan Lemberger

Morris & Lillian Kovacs

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Kovacs

Charlotte Cohen

Linda Babas

Alvin Kaskowitz

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Lillian Kapner

Ruth Kapner

Josephine Kahn

Muriel & Matt Lampell

Samuel Lampell

Sandra LoGiudice

Julie Anne McGaulley

Marilyn McGaulley Lampell

Elizabeth "Liz" Freedman

Muriel & Matt Lampell

continued-Sustaining Fund-In memory of

Doi Cohen

Bernice & Peter Edman

Selina Banner

Roslyn Kaflowitz

Paul & Lucille Kaplan

Bernice Litcofsky

Rose Miller

Naomi & Paul Goldberg

Roy & Carol Gross

Pauline Abrams

Bob & Marianne Abrams

Margaret Poston

Gretchen Gould

Shirley Ruth Karnes

Barbara Stern

Miriam B. Gellert

Arthur L. Gellert

Joseph Wrobel

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Robert Weinberg

Miriam Weinberg

Michael Waine

Margot Similes

Sandra & Harry Mamis

Joshua Aaron Himmelstein

Emily & Howard Himmelstein

IN APPRECIATION FOR

Having received the Founder's Award

Marsha & Richard Lowry

The meditation classes and looking forward
to continuing in the Fall.

Judith Clemente

IN HONOR OF

2013 Confirmands of Vassar Temple

Sandra & Harry Mamis

GRANDMOTHERS' FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Liz Freedman

Ilse Rosenschein

ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLARS FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Arthur Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

Irma Manheim

HINENI FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Seth Erlebacher

Vassar Temple Men's Club

Vassar Temple Sisterhood

IN HONOR OF

Lila Matlin's special birthday

Doi Cohen

Marsha & Richard Lowry receiving
the Founder's Award

Paul & Andi Ciminello

MUSIC FUND

IN HONOR OF

Rebecca Dugatkin's Bat Mitzvah

Doi Cohen



Yahrzeits

July 5

Dr. Jacob Kronman
Ethel Scheer
M. Fred Praeger
Lillian Lampell
Hillard Mann
Anne Kahn
James Quackenbush
Marie Robinowitz
Michael Wrobel
Edith Posner
Samuel E. Trivers
Lloyd Fertig
Lawrence L. Landau
Dora Rosenmann
Emil M. Zullo
Sam Lessin
Siegfried Frank
David Krevolin

July 12

Winona Rosenthal
Michael L. Solomon
Linda Fertig Waldman
Lillian Edelman
Max Uttal
Max Kapner
Merlin B. Lass
Marshall Effron
Hyman Schwartz
Leon R. Bloom
Gertrude Krugman
Edward Moffit, Jr.
Shirley Green
Chertock
Minnie Lass
Sylvia Reifler
Silberman
Ida Cohen
Philip Cohen
Henry Klein
Morton Bloch
Phillip R. Moselle, OD
Bertha Goldstein

July 19

Cynthia R. Feldman
Elsie Goldberg
Dr. Sidney S.
Cohen
Jerry Bass
Elsie Lustig
Sol Present
Robert J. Creedon,
Sr.
Herbert Klein
Dr. Alan E. Apfel
Flora M. Hoffman
David Clearfield
Jennie Worona
Saul A. Lazarus
Dr. Robert Kohan
Joshua Aaron
Himmelstein
Yetta Prisansky

July 26

William Schrock
Ethel Marcus
Minnie Schudroff
Coleman
James Effron
Meta Altman
Dr. Benjamin Leeds
May Rosenfeld
Fanny Bronfeld
Gertrude Rosenthal
Robert H. Lipschutz
Irving Schwartz
Cecelia Riechman
Charlotte Wechsler
Louis Gellert
Julius Lazarus
Blanche Adler

August 2

Martin L. Drefuss,
MD
Adele Stern
Lillian Rosen
Hortense Feldman
Florence Levitch
Kurt Harlam
Melvin Matlin, MD
Gladys Strauss
Louis Temlock
Janice Fink
Walter B.
Goldfinger
Jack Wiseman
Marjorie Gluck
Margot Similes

August 9

Mae Berger
Hy Miller
Katherine Moffit
Louis I. Worona
Muriel Weingart
Alexander
D'Imperio
Aaron Reifler
Dr. Richard Slater
Cohen
Dr. Burton Katz
Charles Newman
Evelyn Herman
George Izraelewicz
Robert Marks
Anna Saperstein
Eve Canter
Goldberg
Gloria Berlin
Mildred L. Greller
Regina R. Olivar
Molly Solomon

August 16

Dr. Harry Barbash
Minnie Toroker
Howard S. Abrams
Frances Myer
Zerline Lehman Simon
Beatrice A. Goodman
Emanuel Zimmer
Bernard Reifler
Edna Z. Kleiner
Dorothy Rauh
Nettie Jacobs
MaryLouise Parke
Lee Schwartz
Oscar Charwat
Norman Kessler
David Cohen
Beatrice Plansky

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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 www.vassar temple.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:	Robert Abrams
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



July 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:15 Ritual	2 10am SEP	3	4 INDEPEN- DENCE DAY Office Closed	5 CAN JAM Weekend 7:30pm Shabbat Service Led by Doi Cohen	6 9am Torah Study
7	8 Flyers Deadline	9 10am Sep	10	11 10am SEP	12 7:30pm Shabbat Service Led by New Paths	13 9am Torah Study
14	15 EREV TISHA B'AV 7:30pm Service Deadline for Aug/Sept bul	16 10am SEP	17	18 10am SEP	19 7:30pm Shabbat Service Led by Rabbi Golomb	20 NO Torah Study
21	22 7pm Board	23 10am SEP	24	25 10am SEP	26 7:30pm Shabbat Service Led by Rabbi Golomb	27 9am Torah Study 10am Bar Mitzvah Jacob Ellis
28	29	30 10am SEP	31			

The August calendar through the 24th can be found
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