



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 10 June 2016

Outdoor Picnic & Service: June 10th

The annual Picnic and Outdoor Service will be held on the front lawn of the Temple on Friday, June 10th. Religious school faculty and staff will be special guests and will be honored during the service. Dr. Joel M. Hoffman will be specially recognized for his years of service as Religious School Director.

The picnic dinner will begin at 6:30pm and will feature assorted wraps, salads, pizza, beverages and dessert. Dress is casual; please bring your own lawn chair or picnic blanket. A donation of \$5 per person would be appreciated to help defray dinner expenses.

The informal kabbalat shabbat service will begin at 7:30pm, following dinner. A warm invitation is extended to returning college students to join us. Everyone, including teachers, who is planning on attending the picnic meal is asked to RSVP by June 3rd to picnic@vassartemple.org. In case of inclement weather, the festivities will take place inside.

Annual Congregation Meeting, June 15th at 7 pm

June Upcoming Events

- 5 Interfaith Freedom Walk, p7
- 10 Picnic , p1
- 11 Joint Tikkun Leil Shavuot, p3
- 12 Dedication of Windows & Garden, p3
- 14 Tower Music Opening, p6
- 15 Book Club, p5
- 15 Film Screening, p7
- 17 Renegades game, p6
- 24 Shabbat Dinner for Rabbi, p1

Shabbat Dinner to Celebrate Rabbi Berkowitz's First Year: June 24th

Please join us, your Temple family, for Shabbat dinner on Friday, June 24th in honor of Rabbi Berkowitz's first year at Vassar Temple! Dinner will begin at 6:15pm and includes: rotisserie chicken, vegetarian burgers, selection of salads, challah, and drinks. Shabbat services and oneg will follow at 7:30pm.

- \$10 per adult;
- \$5 per child under 13 years

Please RSVP for dinner by June 17th to the Temple office, office@vassartemple.org or 454-2570.

Please Note

The **deadline** for the **combined July-August Bulletin is June 1st**. Please make sure that you submit your article on time.

Thank you,
The Bulletin Staff

Rabbi's Message: Standing Again at Sinai



When you enter our synagogue, the first thing you might notice are the three panels of beautiful stained-glass windows in our sanctuary. These windows were originally commissioned by Dr. Melvin and Lila Matlin and Bea and Marty Gross,

and were recently lovingly restored by the Efron family. They depict three scenes from the Torah: our exodus from Egypt, our covenant with God at Sinai, and our dwelling in booths as we wandered in the wilderness. These are pivotal moments in our journey from slavery to freedom. They are also the basis for the *shalosh regalim*, the three pilgrimage holidays of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot, when our ancestors would make the arduous journey to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices in the ancient Temple.

One of these festivals, Shavuot, got the short shrift over the last century, possibly because it often falls outside the realm of

the Religious School calendar. If it weren't for the ritual of Confirmation, often held on this holiday, we might neglect it altogether.

But Shavuot is no minor holiday, nor is it merely a holiday for eating cheesecake and blintzes! Shavuot celebrates the moment when over a million Israelites stood at Mount Sinai and agreed to accept the Torah from God. When we stay up late studying on Erev Shavuot, and when we chant the Ten Commandments on Shavuot morning, we are reenacting that moment at the foot of Mount Sinai, when our entire people shouted, "We will do and we will listen!" Every year on Shavuot, it is as if we are standing at Sinai ourselves, preparing to receive the Torah anew. It is as if we are making a pilgrimage, once again, to the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.

We receive Torah in many different ways: through the prayers in the siddur, by engaging in Torah study, and by committing ourselves to living up to the ideals of social justice that the Torah lays out. This year, our celebration of Shavuot will encompass a variety of activities, to symbolize the many different ways through which we can receive the words of the Torah.

On Saturday, June 11th, Temple Beth El, Shir Chadash, and Vassar Temple will make a pilgrimage to Temple Beth El for a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, an evening of learning, music, movement and storytelling designed to prepare us to receive the Torah once again. Festivities will begin with a light meal at 7:30pm, followed by a text study, Torah yoga, a Havdalah service, a story slam, and a song session! Though many Tikkunei Leil Shavuot run past midnight and into the wee hours of the morning, ours will wrap up by 11:00pm!

On Sunday morning, June 12th, at 10:00am, we will return to Vassar Temple for our Shavuot morning service, which will include the reading of the Ten Commandments, the recitation of Yizkor, and the dedication of our restored windows and our new meditation garden, a gift from Howard and Emily Himmelstein. A delicious dairy lunch will follow. We hope that you will make your pilgrimage to Vassar Temple to bear witness as we accept both these generous gifts to our community and God's generous gift to us: the Torah!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: This Is Not Goodbye



I started my position as 1st VP on the way to President four years ago. You'll remember, "The BOBs." I will be eternally grateful for all that [the other] Bob

taught me.

This article marks my last one as your Vassar Temple President. Now I move into the position of Immediate Past President, another two year term. I will continue to serve our beloved Temple in a support role to our incoming President, Mark Metzger.

This isn't goodbye, it's thank you! Everything we have accomplished, we accomplished together. Committee chairs, volunteers, donors, Temple staff, past presidents, Rabbi's, members and friends have given me your kindness and council. A very special thanks to those who have been there for me when I called for advice or to vent, and who had my back at times I may not have even known about. Thank you, Mary Ritter, my greatest supporter. Now many more of you know how special she is.

I took the job of President, for four reasons:

1. A temple serves an essential role in maintaining a Jewish community, and a Jewish community is critical to the survival of the Jewish culture and people.
2. At the time I was asked to serve, Vassar Temple had fundamental problems and was facing large challenges that could threaten its future.
3. To help set an agenda that would make Vassar Temple better.
4. A mitzvah is not just a deed, it is a commandment. My middle name is Jonah, and the story taught me that ultimately, we must say Hineni.

In Isaiah 42:6 we read, "We are a light unto the nations." And as a temple Board, we need to be a light, so our temple will be a light in our community. As president, I operated with the following principles:

Discern, Decide, & Do: There were many important things I wanted to ac-

complish during my term. We had an action oriented Board and I commend the team on its willingness to face issues and choices head on.

Onward & Upward: As a Reform congregation, one of our institution's strength is its ability to adapt. Because change is not easy, we tend to find ourselves in a rut. I give the Board credit for recognizing the difference between traditions worth holding onto and having the willingness to embrace a positive vision.

Kindness & Respect: I am proud of the way our Board meetings were conducted. Everyone was able to be heard. No shame or embarrassing moments. People were genuinely nice. A positive and supportive Board atmosphere brings out honesty and participation.

Being a temple president is a great responsibility. but I liked to look at it as a privilege, a gift. One of greatest joys I experienced was being a part of a team with a shared hope for making Vassar Temple a better temple. And nothing made me happier than when others on the team succeeded.

President (continued on page3)

June Worship Services

3	7:00pm	Family Shabbat service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
4	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Bar Mitzvah Jeremy Frankel
10	6:30pm 7:30	Shabbat Picnic Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
11	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
17	7:30pm	Board Installation, Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
18	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study Bat Mitzvah Elizabeth Katz
24	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
25	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Bat Mitzvah Chloe Pfeifer

Scriptural Readings

June	4	<i>B'hukotai</i> Lev. 27:1-34; Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14
	11	<i>Bamidbar</i> Num. 3:14-4:20; Hosea 2:1-22
	18	<i>Naso</i> Num.7:1-89; Judges 13:2-25
	25	<i>B'ha'lot'kha</i> Num. 10:35-12:16; Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7

New Paths Saturday Morning Worship

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service, Saturday, June 11th at 10:00am in the informal, intimate setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel. The moving liturgy of the New Paths prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mshwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz at rabbi@vassartemple.org or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Ascending Sinai: Building One Community through Many Voices

On Saturday, June 11th, we will collaborate with Temple Beth El & Congregation Shir Chadash for the annual joint Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a program of prayer and learning late into the eve of Shavuot, as we anticipate the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Please join us at Temple Beth El at 7:30pm for a Seudah Shlishit (a light kosher meal held at the close of Shabbat) followed by an evening of prayer, learning, movement, music, and storytelling. Stay as long as you wish; all activities will be completed by 11:00pm.

President *(continued from page 2)*

By the same token, there is much to be said of the power in a team spirit. There is joy in being part of something on a mission. Team spirit will take Vassar Temple to greater heights, provided it is guided by the Torah, the prophets, our culture's many sages past and present, and the great and many volunteers who have served Vassar Temple over the years.

A stronger foundation has been built over the last several years to prepare Vassar Temple for the growth ahead. Let's come together as a team to create the synergy which WILL attract others in the community who can benefit from a relationship with our shtetl, our Jewish village, our Temple's members, programming, ritual, education, and the rich cultural history of Judaism and the values we stand for.

It takes a shtetl to maintain the Jewish people in order for us to help heal the world. "Ma tovu ohalecha Yaakov, mishk'notecha Yisrael," we read from sefer bamidbar, the book of Numbers in the Torah. (Num. 24:5). "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel!" How lovely is Vassar Temple!

Shavuot & Dedication of Windows & Gardens, June 12th

A "Shavuot Morning Service, and Dedication of Windows and Gardens" will be held Sunday, June 12th at 10:00am. The Shavuot service includes the reading of the Book of Ruth, the reading of the Ten Commandments, and Yizkor. The new landscaped patio courtyard, generously donated by Emily and Howard Himelstein, as well as the recently renovated stained glass windows, will be dedicated during this service. The children of James & Dawn Efron, along with an anonymous donor, made possible the restoration of our sanctuary's beautiful stained glass windows, two of which were originally a gift in memory of Dr. Melvin Matlin, funded by his friends Marty & Bea Gross. After the service, a lovely oneg will be provided by the Matlin and Gross families. Please join us for the celebration of the festival of Shavuot as well as the celebration of these wonderful gifts to our congregation. RSVP for lunch to Sherrie at office@vassartemple.org or 454-2570.

Mazel Tov to...

Daniel & Shira Teich on the birth of their first child and Vassar Temple's youngest member, Itai Tobias Teich;

Martin & Eleanor Charwat on their 50th wedding anniversary;

David & Susan Hecht on their 35th wedding anniversary;

Bob & Marianne Abrams on their 35th wedding anniversary;

Tom & Carolyn Frankel on the celebration of their son Jeremy's Bar Mitzvah;

Daniel & Molly Katz on the celebration of their daughter Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah;

Barry Pfeiffer & Kristy Grimes on the celebration of their daughter Chloe's Bat Mitzvah

Judaica Shoppe News

Happy to report that we had a great sale thanks to the continued support of our faithful VT and VTS members. Special thank you to Olga Ibañez and Donna Loshin... could not have done it without your help!

We are open Monday-Thursday during Temple hours; Friday by appointment only. For more information contact Perla Kaufman at perlakaufman22@gmail.com.

Condolences to...

Tom Brundage and his family on the loss of his mother, Dolores Marie Brundage

Refuah Shelemah

Sanford Metlis being hospitalized; Harry Mamis recovering

Summer Camp...and it's Jewish!

Tour camp this summer. Meet 'real-live' staff and campers in action! See the facilities open and operating, instructors instructing, coaches coaching, campers learning, playing and laughing!

There are camps focusing on special interests such as drama, science, and sports, and these camps give tours most Sundays and Thursdays throughout the summer.

Camp Eisner features camper selected activities, while Crane Lake features cabin-centered activities.

Sci-Tech Camp features science, robotics and engineering For more info, see Eisner-cranelake.urjcamps.org and/or 6pointsscitech.org for further information. So take your child and take a peek at some or all of the great programs available!

Pulpit Flower Donors



June 3: Donated by the Frankel Family in celebration of Jeremy's Bar Mitzvah

June 10: Donated by Martin & Eleanor Charwat in celebration of their 50th anniversary

David Hecht & Susan Karnes Hecht in celebration of their 35th anniversary

June 17: Donated by the Katz Family in celebration of Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah

June 24: Donated by Barry Pfeifer & Kristy Grimes in celebration of Chloe's Bat 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. The donation to the Fund is \$55. Just call the Vassar Temple Office at 454-2570.

We Need Your Help!

We are, once again, asking that you be the eyes and ears in the lives of our congregational family. Federal patient privacy regulations limit the information that hospitals make available to clergy and volunteers.

We are encouraging you to contact the Temple office when a congregant is 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

Technical Support:

Bob Abrams

Articles for the combined July-August Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by June 1st. Articles may be sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Follow Rabbi Berkowitz!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram. Follow her and join the conversation!

Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB

Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](https://www.facebook.com/RabbiLeahBerkowitz)

Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog at:

<http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com>



From the Religious School Director: Goodbye



Though I started working here five years ago, I first heard about Vassar Temple two years before that from my colleague and dear friend, Rabbi Shoshana Hantman. “They’re a really nice group of people,” she was fond of saying about Vassar Temple.

In fact, when I would tell my colleagues where I was working, the single most consistent response mirrored Rabbi Hantman’s remarks: “That’s a nice congregation,” frequently followed by a kind reference to Rabbi Arnold and Rabbi Golomb, and, most recently, Rabbi Berkowitz.

As I look back on five years, I certainly don’t want to minimize our technical accomplishments together. We built a thriving Hebrew school that draws members from neighboring congregations.

Those feats, noteworthy in themselves, are also good for the financial health of the congregation: good for the Jews and good for the bottom line, one might say. Or, as Rabbi Stuart Geller observes: the religious school is the financial engine that pulls the synagogue train.

So I don’t want to make light of bringing in new members or of increasing enrollment. But neither are these statistics the things that stand out most in my mind.

Rather, I remember non-tangible manifestations of a holy community. For example, when our last Hebrew-school session of the year for grades 5-7 came to an end at 6:00pm on the Wednesday

before Passover, the nearly 20 students in attendance refused to leave. Instead of bolting out of the school --- as children so often do in other settings when class ends --- they stayed behind, savoring a few final moments with each other and their Hebrew teachers. Surely this is what the Rabbis had in mind when they inserted the line into our morning liturgy, “Make the words of your Torah sweet to us.”

When four Sunday-school teachers called in sick at the last minute last year, the remaining, healthy teachers jumped into action to run a constructive program together. One high school-aged teacher offered to teach a different class, improvising as she went. Another agreed to teach alone, though she had planned to work with a partner. And so on down the line. Though extreme, that day was hardly atypical, as teachers regularly volunteered to help each other out, never losing the smiles that came to symbolize our time together on Sunday mornings. What better way could there be to realize the Rabbis’ hope that we serve God together in joy?

The list goes on: Sixth graders who eagerly anticipated their opportunity --- though at least two years away -- to teach in the school. Middle- and high-school students who insisted on starting each class with, “How was your week?” Grade-school students who were so proud of their work that they begged me to come into their classrooms for a closer look. Students who complained when I canceled class for snow that never arrived. Teachers who focused not just on what we were

teaching but even more on who we were teaching.

In Pirkei Avot --- “The Sayings of the Ancestors” from almost 2,000 years ago --- Rabbi Shimon declares that the world is sustained by three things: Torah, service to God, and kindness. Later, still in the spirit of groups of three, he enumerates three crowns: the crown of monarchy, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of Torah. Then, having listed three, he adds a fourth, a crown that outweighs the other three: the crown of a good name.

More than a millennium later, Ovadiah ben Avraham of Bartenura wrote about this, suggesting that the crown of a good name refers specifically to a good reputation for doing good deeds. Taken together, Ovadiah and Shimon tell us that being known for the right things is more important than royalty, more important than religious leadership, and even more important than Torah itself.

And this is what I will remember from my five years running the school at Vassar Temple: students, parents, teachers, leaders, and rabbis who in overwhelming majority are deservedly known for the way, through personal example, that they model the three things upon which the world stands: Torah, service to God, and great kindness.

Blessed is God, who crowns us with glory.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Book Club to Discuss *Jerusalem Maiden*: June 15th

Vassar Temple’s Sisterhood Book Club will discuss Talia Carner’s award winning and exquisitely told novel, *Jerusalem Maiden* which takes place in Jerusalem during the waning days of the Ottoman Empire. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 15th, at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Esther Kaminsky, a young orthodox Jewish woman in the holy city of Jerusalem, is expected to marry and produce many sons. While Esther understands her obligations, her artistic talent inspires her

to explore worlds outside her religion and to believe that God has a special destiny for her. When tragedy strikes her family, Esther views it as a warning from an angry God and suppresses her desires in order to become an obedient “Jerusalem Maiden.” But when a surprising opportunity forces itself on to her preordained path, Esther is forced to confront the most difficult question of all: To whom must she be true, God or herself?

This thought-provoking novel is available in paperback and through the local library system. Ellen O’Hara 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. Your suggestions for future readings are always welcome.

Thank You, Vassar Temple

We received this note in appreciation of a recent tzedakah box collection:

Thank you for your recent contribution to Hudson River Housing. This gift will directly benefit the Wind Chill Fund. Your generosity will help us to continue our efforts to strengthen our communities.

Sincerely,

Sean Robin, Executive Director

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Join Vassar Temple members and others for a fun evening sure to please all ages, on Jewish Heritage Night at the Hudson Valley Renegades Stadium, June 17th featuring a twilight baseball game, a special menu, and many special events. Watch for updates, or contact Stacy Gamberg at smg7474@gmail.com for further information and tickets.

Bertolozzi's Tower Music Photos Exhibited at Vassar

Photos and videos of **Tower Music** by our Temple musician, **Joseph Bertolozzi**, will be exhibited at Vassar College's Palmer Art Gallery for two weeks in June. "*A Photographic Diary of Joseph Bertolozzi's Tower Music / Music de la Tour*" by Franc Palaia will include 30 large format color photographs by Franc Palaia and Tower Music videos by Joseph Redwood-Martinez.

The exhibit will be open from Tuesday June 14 - Thursday July 28

Opening Reception - Tuesday June 14th, 4:30pm-6:30pm

For gallery hours call (845) 437-5370 or go to this link: <http://palmergallery.vassar.edu/>

VaTY News

VaTY's lunchbox was a success! The staff complimented the teens' teamwork and positive attitudes. Cooking and serving franks and beans went smoothly. Todah rabah (thank you) to all the teens and congregants who donated food to help us.

VaTY Jr. had a great time Bowling! Our second event with Congregation Emanuel (Kingston)

June 5 Israel Independence Day Parade in NYC: Look out for further information on this event.

Summer: Tour Camp this summer. Meet 'real-live' staff and campers in action! See the facilities open and operating, instructors instructing, coaches coaching, campers learning, playing, and laughing!
Eisner: Camper-Selected Activities.

Protein Plenty

Did You Know?

- 80% of Poughkeepsie students are considered economically disadvantaged.
- During the summer, disadvantaged students from all over the county may lack access to free lunches and go hungry.
- During the summer, hunger will impact adults of all ages including seniors as well.

What Can We Do?

Participate in our annual summer **Protein Plenty Drive!**

Proteins are a necessary fuel for the brain and the body of young and old alike. Through the month of June, you are invited to make a monetary donation of any amount with which we will purchase high protein canned and non-perishable foods like canned tuna, franks and beans, ravioli, chili, peanut butter, refried beans, meatballs and spaghetti and more. At the beginning of July, the cases will be delivered to Dutchess Outreach and Beulah Baptist Food Pantry.

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" on the memo line. Please send the check to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 anytime between June 1-30. Any amount will do!

That's it! You will know you are helping feed someone in this county who might otherwise truly miss a meal. An added plus: all the money collected for Protein Plenty!!!! 2016 will be exchanged for scrip, which benefits the Temple as well.

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

VT Seder Huge Hit ... Again!

The 5th Annual Vassar Temple First-Night Seder was a resounding success! Approximately seventy individuals from the Temple and the wider community attended and enjoyed a delicious meal and a lively hagaddah reading that included additions recognizing that the day was the 2016 Earth Day and also calling attention to the ongoing refugee crisis in the Mideast. Kudos to the many present who volunteered to read (or sing!) from the hagaddah.

The following people deserve special thanks for their assistance in planning the event, taking reservations, purchasing the food, preparing the meal, assisting during the seder, providing entertainment, and/or helping with the cleanup afterwards: Sherrie Geisler, Betty Gibbs, Jacob Kudria, Polly Lewis, Sandra Mamis, Anna Metzger, Mark Metzger, Bob Ritter, Mary Ritter, Ron Rosen, Charlene Rosenthal, Zoe Weinstein, and Kamil Wisniewski, and the expanded kitchen staff under Maria's direction.

Film Screening at VT: “*Complicit*” June 15th

Vassar Temple will host a screening of the film, “*Complicit*” followed by lunch and a discussion with the film’s director, Robert Krakow, on Wednesday, June 15th. The film documents the true story of the SS St. Louis, a ship that journeyed from Germany to North America in 1939 with 937 Jewish refugees seeking to escape Nazi persecution and gain entry into the United States through Cuba. Upon arrival the ship and her passengers were denied entry, and despite weeks of waiting at sea while negotiations ensued with the US, Canadian and Cuban governments, the SS St. Louis was forced to return to Europe. Estimates indicate that more than one-quarter of her passengers ultimately perished in German concentration camps.

The plight and fate of the SS St. Louis is a pivotal event in American Jewish history, one that resonates in the

current global refugee crisis, and as such, provides important lessons for present discussion. This promises to be a provocative and timely program.

In addition to being the film’s director and our discussion leader, Robert Krakow is the Executive Director of the SS St. Louis Legacy Project Foundation, a nonprofit organization that uses education through drama to enlighten audiences on events in world history. Accordingly, “*Complicit*” reflects the perspective of the SS St. Louis Legacy Project Foundation, which confronts the Roosevelt Administration’s handling of the situation. A survivor of the SS St. Louis will also be present to share her personal perspective on this important historical event.

Vassar Temple is partnering with the Long Island Temple Educators for this program, to which members of the Hudson Valley community are invited. Coffee and

refreshments will be available at 10:30am, followed by the film screening and discussion at 11:00am, and concluding with a light lunch at 1:00. There is no charge to attend but donations will be appreciated. For further information and to make advance reservations (which are requested), please contact Jen Dahnert at jensachs-dahnert@gmail.com with “*Complicit*” in the subject line.

Funding for this program has been provided by The Irving and Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund through the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

Interfaith Freedom Walk Events: June 5th

On Sunday, June 5th (the Sunday before Ramadan), Jews of Dutchess County, joined by members of other faith communities, are holding an Interfaith Freedom Walk and Model Iftar in support of, and in solidarity with, our Muslim brothers and sisters. Iftar is the meal that ends the daily Ramadan fast.

We will begin assembling on the Walkway Over the Hudson at 5:30pm, and between 6:00 -7:00pm we will walk across the bridge hand in hand. We will then join together in a pavilion by the water until about 9:00pm for a model Iftar meal, interfaith learning, discussion, and sunset prayer offerings.

The entrance to the Walkway is located at 61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie 12601, and elevator access to the Walkway is also available (go to <https://walkway.org/>). Please join us to show that voices of loving-kindness outnumber the voices of hatred.

For further information, and to help us better estimate how much food we’ll need, please contact Marian at socialaction@vassartemple.org or 845-849-0025.

Temple to Sponsor Refugee Families

The Vassar Temple Board has voted to sponsor a refugee family, in collaboration with Vassar College Refugee Solidarity, a project at the college that works with local faith-based institutions to support refugee resettlement in Dutchess County. In doing this, we are following the model recommended by the URJ to respond to the current global refugee crisis. At this time the college anticipates 8-9 additional congregations of various religious faiths will follow our temple’s lead, each signing on to sponsor their own refugee family.

The families will be resettled here under the supervision and guidance of an officially sanctioned volunteer refugee resettlement agency (VOLAG) that works with the U.S. government to receive and relocate refugee families, all of whom have been extensively screened by diverse offices of the State Department and Homeland Security. In the role of sponsor, Vassar Temple’s Social Action Committee will be coordinating members of the temple to help the family

with all facets of integrating into the community, including schools, medical care, transportation, and employment, and the family will stay with the Ciminellos. Each refugee receives financial assistance from the U.S. government, and the Temple will fulfill other financial needs through grants and other gifts without drawing upon the temple budget. If you would like to help us welcome and resettle our family, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Yahrzeits

JUNE 3

Pauline Abrams
Seymour Bersak
Catherine Creedon
Rachel Diamond
Ann Feinstein Drobner
Lynn Levy
Dr. Arthur Lipschutz
Shirley K. Loeb
Sandra LoGiudice
Irma Manheim
Regina Mendel
Dr. Albert A. Rosenberg
Abraham J. Salit
Daniel S. Schwartz
Margaret "Honey" Sylvester
Leo Tauber
Gertrude Tavss
Bertha Troeger
Lucretia Walsh
Paul Warner

JUNE 10

Samuel Berlin
Gilda Charwat
Anna Dunn
Alfred Geber
Morton B. Lehman
Bertie S. Levy
Harriet Lipson
Eugenia Pearlstein
Lester Petkofsky
Edward Plimack
Jack Quackenbush
Bernard Rheingold
Irving J. Richman
Robert Rosenthal
Raymond Ross
Kenneth Scheer
Moe Scheer
Morris Schwartz
Jack Turk
Irene Weiner
Joseph B. Weisman
Joseph Wrobel

JUNE 17

Priscilla Ackerman
Sylvia Arnold
Rose Swatlo Budson
Carol Casiero
Estelle Cohen
Samuel Cohen
Joshua Collen
Miriam Gellert
Beatrice Gross
Lillian Freda Gross
Dr. Kurt Holzer
Kalmen Izraelewicz
Harry Kaltwasser
Paul Kraut
Dorothy Lewis
Margaret Poston
Arthur Richter
Donald Silberman
Sylvia K. Weisman
Nathan Weiss

JUNE 24

Joseph Berlin
Annie Blaweiss
Isador Dreishpoon
Joseph Dunn
Albert J. Eisenberg
Lucile Erdreich
Paul Douglas Fa'gut
Rose Feuerstein
Gertrude Lashinsky Ginsberg
Jean Goldman
Pearl Goldstein
Joseph Gross
Samuel Haber
Irwin Kallman
Joseph J. Kleiner
Joseph Kofman
Muriel Landesman
Jacob Lass
Edmond Levy
Shirley B. Love
Betty Garber Lyons
Maurice Albert Margolin
David Menken
Ethel Saul
Pauline Rosenson Slotte
Dr. Camilla Reznikoff
Wygan

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: June 5th

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2016. Meetings are held at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York and begin 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 invited to attend and participate in the activities of this J.W.V. Post. All persons of the Jewish faith who have family members who served in the armed forces of the United States are also invited to attend and participate.

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



Buy Scrip
Help Yourself
Help the Temple

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

With Gratitude Karl L. Holmstrom

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Arthur Menken and a speedy recovery
Allen & Susan Fink

With special thanks to Michele Sinn for the
B'nai Mitzvah handbook;

With special thanks to Shaari Roland for
all her help to all this year's B'nai Mitzvah
parents;

With special thanks to Laura Brundage &
Linda Cantor for organizing a wonderful
Fannie & Doris Berlin lecture

Joel & Claudia Kelson

In Memory of:

Ruth Lenger, mother of Tamara Gruszko

Allen & Susan Fink

Bob & Mary Ritter

Martin & Eleanor Charwat

Harriet Lipson Brian & Helen Silverman

Rose Cohen Budson

Allen & Susan Fink

Milton Ritter

Bob & Mary Ritter

Josephine Lion Kahn

Samuel Lampell

Pauline Rosenson Slot

Sandra LoGiudice

Matthew & Muriel Lampell

Ellen Rosenfeld

Howard Smith

Eric, Judy, Lisa & Adam Rosenfeld

Paul Plansky Mark & Elaine Plansky

Pauline Abrams

Bob & Marianne Abrams

Jack Jacobson Herbert & Rita Jacobson

John Muehl Richard DuVall

& Lisa Rubenstein

Alvin Kaskowitz

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

FANNIE & DORIS BERLIN FUND

In Honor of Mariel & Samuel's

B'nai Mitzvah

Rabbi Paul & Debbie Golomb

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Arthur Lipschutz

Irma Manheim

Margery Kallman

Elaine Lipschutz

MUSIC FUND

In Appreciation of:

David & Susan Hecht

Polly Lewis

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of:

All it does for the community

Joel & Claudia Kelson

With thanks to all who donate their time &
efforts

Judith Harkavy

FUND FACTS: Bucks for Bubbie?

Last month my family lost a beloved member. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, step-sister and aunt, but perhaps above all, she was a deeply beloved grandmother. While we were mourning, I was also occupied with my *Fund Facts* column for the month, so when I had to decide on my theme, the choice was easy: **The Grandmother's Fund.**

The Grandmother's Fund at Vassar Temple supports programs and projects specifically geared toward youth and children, particularly activities that will additionally serve to strengthen the sense of community. Programs supported in the past have included Tallit-making workshops, field trips and Shabbatons. Decisions about allocating this fund involve input from the Religious School, Youth Group, Board of Trustees, the

Rabbi and Sisterhood. The initiatives funded through The Grandmother's Fund provide experiences that reinforce traditions of our faith and culture, and as such, are essential to pass along from generation to generation, and foster belonging within the Jewish community.

On February 24th many hearts were broken in my family by the loss of a most special grandmother, Jeannie Littell Lawrence. I dedicate this column to you, my step-sister. It is grandmothers like you whom Vassar Temple seeks to honor with contributions to our Grandmother's Fund. Our grandmothers help foster and sustain traditions that reinforce connections to our past, present and future. The Grandmother's Fund, dedicated to this pursuit, is a perfect way to celebrate someone who brings that sort of meaning to your life.

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Weekly Study Groups at Vassar Temple

Torah Study with our Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, examining passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, is held every Saturday morning at 9:00am. «*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*,» is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb every Tuesday at noon. All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! No charge to attend. Questions: rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845)454-2570

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



PRSTD STD
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Permit # 11
 Newburgh, N.Y.

**DATED MAIL
 PLEASE
 RUSH**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rabbi:	Leah Berkowitz
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen Arnold
Senior Scholar:	Paul Golomb
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
1st Vice-President	Mark Metzger
2nd Vice- President:	Ron Rosen
Secretary:	Susan Karnes Hecht
Treasurer:	Len Greenberg
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

June 2016

			1	2 10am SEP	3 7pm Family Shabbat Services	4 9am Torah Study 10am Frankel Bar Mitzvah
5 12pm Lunchbox 6pm Solidarity Walk	6	7 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte meeting	8 6pm Calendar Meeting	9 10am SEP 7pm Exec Cmte meeting	10 6:30pm VT Picnic Dinner 7:30pm Picnic Shabbat	11 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths 7:30pm Joint Tikkun Leil Shavuot @ TBE
12 10am Shavuot morning Service & dedication of windows & Garden—Oneg to follow	13	14 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6pm VTS Closing Dinner	15 12pm Film Screening 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Congregation Meeting	16 10am SEP	17 7:30pm Board Installation Shabbat Services	18 9am Torah Study 10am Katz Bat Mitzvah
19	20	21 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	22	23 10am SEP 7pm Board meeting	24 7:30pm Shabbat Services	25 9am Torah Study 10am Pfeifer Bat Mitzvah
26	27	28 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	29	30 10am SEP		