



Vassar Temple

Where You belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 10 June 2017

*The Officers and Board of Trustees
and the families of our confirmands
cordially invite you to attend our
Confirmation Shabbat Service
on Friday, June 2nd, at 7:30 p.m.*

*at Vassar Temple,
140 Hooker Avenue,*

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

A celebratory oneg will follow in the Social Hall.

Confirmands:

Justin Moore, son of Danah and Jeremy Moore

*Mariah Jade Robishaw, daughter of Robert Rosen and Susan Robishaw,
granddaughter of Ronald and Marilyn Rosen*

Upcoming Events

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VTS Salad Supper: June 12th

Be sure to join us on Monday, June 12th at 6:00 pm for Sisterhood's Salad Supper at Joan Posner's house, 28 Brentwood Drive, Poughkeepsie. Don't forget to bring a salad or dessert to share (no meat dishes please). Please e-mail Judy Rosenfeld at therosenfelds@hvc.rr.com to let her know you're coming or call her at 635-2414. We hope you can join us for this fun evening.

Picnic & Outdoor Service: June 16th

Vassar Temple's annual picnic and outdoor service will be held on the front lawn of the temple on Friday, June 16. The picnic dinner will begin at 6:30pm. Dress is casual; please bring your own lawn chair or picnic blanket. The informal kabbalat shabbat service will begin at 7:30pm, following dinner. Religious School faculty and staff will be honored as part of the evening's events. All are welcome, and a special invitation is extended to returning college students to join us. Everyone, including teachers, who are planning on attending the picnic meal, is asked to RSVP by June 9 to picnic@vassartemple.org. There is no charge for the meal, but a donation would be appreciated to help defray dinner expenses. In case of inclement weather, the festivities will take place inside the temple.

From the Bulletin Staff

The Bulletin deadline for the combined July/Aug issue is June 1.

We are pleased to announce that we are up and running again and would like to sincerely thank those who have shown us patience and empathy during the difficulty we experienced.

From the Rabbi's Desk: Summer Reading List: The Jewish Summer Experience Edition



It would probably not surprise you that I always looked forward to getting my school's summer reading list. Whether I was relaxing by the pool, hiding away in our air-conditioned basement, or later, in my camp cabin during rest hour, I always had a book with me. One of my neighbors in North Carolina even taught me how to keep the pages dry while reading in the pool.

Now I have the luxury of creating my own summer reading list. I carefully curate a selection of novels, memoirs, writing manuals, and High Holy Day-themed books. I read for the purpose of honing my craft, but also for the sake of losing myself in the magic of someone else's story.

As we enter into the summer months, I wanted to share some of my favorite books about the Jewish summer experience. Summer vacations played a huge part in the American Jewish story. Crammed tightly into tiny apartments in giant, industrialized cities, Jews developed two modes of escape in the early 20th century: summer camp for children and bungalow colonies for families.

Both offered new immigrants and first

generation Jews a breath of fresh air, a sense of community, and a taste of independence—both for children away from home for the first time, and for women whose husbands joined the family only on weekends.

In that vein, I thought I'd recommend two books about summer camp and two about bungalow colonies, many of which are situated not far from the Hudson Valley:

- *Sleepaway*, edited by Eric Simonoff (a fellow alumnus of URJ Camp Harlam!), illuminates the camp experience through a diverse collection of short fiction and personal essays (My mother insists that ALL the stories in the book are true, but you can decide for yourself). Not every story is outwardly Jewish, but there is plenty that will resonate with former campers: the terror of adolescent social dynamics, the excitement of first love, and the testing of boundaries in a parentless environment. The opening poem alone—Sharon Olds' "The Summer-Camp Bus Pulls Away from the Curb"—makes this book a must-read.
- *The Path of Names*, by Ari Goelman, is a young adult novel featured in this year's lineup for PJ Our Way, which provides free Jewish books to children ages 9-11 (pjourway.org). Goelman weaves ghosts, magic, and Jewish mysticism into the summer camp narrative. The novel shows Dahlia, a thirteen-year-old math whiz and aspiring magician, as she struggles to find her place during her first summer at camp, and also to

solve a decades-old mystery about the camp's haunted maze. I'd also recommend two powerful novels about families in bungalow communities.

- Allegra Goodman's *Kaaterskill Falls* tells the story of several members of a Hasidic community who strain against the confines of their sect's strict observance and struggle to fashion authentic lives for themselves, during their summers upstate.
- Elizabeth Poliner's *As Close to Us as Breathing* follows a more secular Jewish family through their last summer in "Bagel Beach" before a family tragedy. Poliner then follows each character into the future, showing how the event impacts the rest of their lives, their relationships, and their Jewish identities.

Whether you are going to summer camp, vacationing in a bungalow, or enjoying the quiet hum of the air-conditioner at home, I invite you to lose yourself in one of these Jewish summer stories. If you love one of these books as much as I do, let me know, and we'll set up a time for us to talk about it!

Enjoy your summer!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



From Our President: If You Haven't Purchased SCRIP, Please Read This!

You can help with Temple finances and the cost to you will be zero by just buying SCRIP (gift cards)! If you purchase a card for \$100, it is good for \$100 at that merchant. Vassar Temple may earn 12% from that card purchase. It is like you just contributed \$12 to the Temple at no cost to you.

If all our members bought SCRIP/ gift cards weekly, about a quarter million dollars would be earned for the Temple each year. No one would be spending a penny more from their family budget and our Temple's financial well-being would

be ensured.

Just about any business or merchant locally or nationally offers gift cards. Most of their cards are in stock in the Temple office. If we do not have them, we will get them for you. All you have to do is ask. We will even deliver the cards



to your home.

It's easy to purchase SCRIP/gift cards from the Temple. Order online. Go to the Vassar Temple homepage and type in SCRIP. Stop by the Temple during office hours or Sunday mornings or call for an appointment. Remember, SCRIP/gift cards will even be delivered to your home. Can it get it any easier?

Mark Metzger

June Worship Services

2 nd	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and soloist Elisa Dugatkin
3 rd	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
9 th	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
10 th	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Isabella Hartman Bat Mitzvah
16 th	7:30pm	Family Picnic Service
17 th	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
23 rd	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and soloist Elisa Dugatkin
24 th	9:00am	Torah Study
30 th	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi

Scriptural Readings

June	3	<i>Naso</i> Num.4:21-5:10; Judges 13:2-25
	10	<i>B'ha'lot'kha</i> Num. 8:1-9:14; Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7
	17	<i>Sh'lach L'kha</i> Num. 13:1-14:7; Joshua 2:1-24
	24	Shabbat Rosh Chodesh <i>Korach</i> Num. 16:1-17:15; 28:9-15; Isaiah 66:1-24

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays, June 3rd & June 17th 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.

Music Committee News

We are excited to announce that Laura Stein, a cantorial student at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (DFSSM/HUC-JIR), will continue her relationship with Vassar Temple and will be our cantorial soloist for the year starting July 2017.

Laura will be leading the music for the High Holy Days and Friday night services approximately twice a month, as well as B'nai Mitzvah and Shabbaton Saturday morning services. On occasion she will lead the music for the Religious School.

Laura grew up in Scarsdale, New York and attended Westchester Reform Temple where her family still belongs. She studied Spanish Literature at Washington University in St. Louis and has lived in Chile, Peru, Iceland, Tanzania and Israel! Laura is about to begin her 5th year of Cantorial School at the DFSSM. She is passionate about pastoral care and the role of music in healing and prayer. In addition to her cantorial work, she is also interested in travel-

ing to different parts of the world and learning about their musical cultures.

Laura can't wait to sing with the Vassar Temple community and to spend 5778 learning and praying together! Please help us welcome her at Vassar Temple services when she is singing. We promise you will enjoy the experience!

We encourage Temple members to sponsor Laura for a Friday night or weekend when she will be at Vassar Temple. Sponsorship opportunities for any of the ten Friday evenings and nine weekends are available for \$200 and \$350, respectively. The funds raised will help defray Laura's travel expenses. If interested, please contact Bob Abrams at music@vassartemple.org.

Vassar Temple Music Committee

Mazel Tov

to...

Danah & Jeremy Moore on their daughter Amanda's Bat Mitzvah;

Andrew and Rose Hartman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Isabella;

Sarah Ritter Marino and husband, Michael, on the birth of son, Henry Joseph Marino;

R. Jonah & Mary Ritter welcoming their 1st grandson, Henry Joseph Marino;

Our Confirmands, Justin Moore and Mariah Robishaw.

Vassar Temple Sisterhood Judaica Shoppe

Our Passover sale came and went....our most sincere thank you to our devoted members, Cathy Bokor and Olga Ibañez---you make it so easy for me. I cannot forget our faithful supporters. We offered Ashkenazy and Sephardic haroset (thank you Judy Rosenfeld) and dark chocolate matzah bark (finger lickin' good).

We are open weekdays during office hours and by appointment on Sundays. Give us a call and we will find it for you! Contact Perla Kaufman at brandaliz5@optonline.net or at 914-456-7309.

Perla Kaufman

Condolences to ...

Beverly Metlis on the passing of her husband, Sandor Metlis.

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.

June Pulpit Flower Donations

- June 2: Donated by Amy Horn Oclatis & Ken Oclatis in memory of Beatrice & David Horn
- June 9: Donated by Andrew & Rose Hartman celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Isabella
- June 16: Donated by Susan Budson Fink & Allen Fink in memory of Rose Budson
- June 23: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- June 30: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

April Pulpit Flower Donations Update:

April 28: Donated by Lila Matlin in memory of her sisters, June Heiser and Irene Weiner.

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.

What Are Your College Grads Doing Next?

To Parents of Graduating College Seniors/Graduate Students:

Please send me (fernw@optonline.net) updates, honors, awards, degrees, plans after graduation, and any other pertinent information that you would like to share. It's ok to kvell, and your Vassar Temple family is eager to join you in wearing ear-to-ear smiles.

Deadline for sending me your "kvelling

news" is May 25. We hope to include news of our grads in the Summer Bulletin.

Thank you,
Fern Wolf

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

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Articles for the **July/August Bulletin** may be sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. **June 1.** Articles The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



From the Religious School Director

enon and is happening all over, especially in smaller communities.

I just read a study from the Pew Research Center (December 2016) that noted that Jews are the most highly educated of the world's major religious groups. This is not surprising because just about every Jewish family I know prioritizes education.

But here in the United States, we are finding a huge decline in Religious and Hebrew School enrollment. It is uncanny that we prepare our children less and less for their participation in Jewish life. Although I do not disagree that it is vitally important for our children to become fluent in science, math, and technology as well as learn to understand the world through history and literature. But when did learning what it means to be Jewish suddenly become less important?

This year the students in our 7th grade program will be moving on to Gesher, the community high school program that includes Vassar Temple, Temple Beth El and Shir Chadash. Unless we replace and add to those we are losing through this natural process of moving on, we will have a very small school next year. We have opened some special Holiday programs (for Sukkot, Chanukah and Passover) which featured interactive learning to the public. We asked our families to support these programs by bringing

friends to participate. We have reached out to the larger community through publicity, through discussions with the Federation's PJ Library Program and through word of mouth.

We need your help to bring more families to our school. For those of you who do not have children in the school, I would like to remind you that a religious school does not just offer educational program to families but also introduces new families to our Vassar Temple Community, thus strengthening Vassar Temple with new members.

I look forward to working with you all as a community to address this issue. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions and comments and PLEASE do not hesitate to put me into contact with any families you know who might be interested in learning about our school program!

Julie Makowsky

Looking back on this year, I am very pleased with the school community we have worked to create. I am indebted to the dedication and hard work of the teachers and especially the teen aides, or Madrichim, as I like to call them (Madrich is a Hebrew word for leader or guide).

I am pleased with the outcome of the new Mitkadem Hebrew program we have begun to use in the school and was especially gratified when our Wednesday afternoon students were able to stand up in front of the class and recite the Kiddush or practice the blessings over the Torah on the Bimah in some of our recent classes. The students who committed to coming on Wednesdays, as well as Sundays, to learn Hebrew have all progressed and are now reading Hebrew. All in all, it's been a good year.

Recently I met a Jewish educator friend for lunch. One of his first questions to me was, "Are you experiencing a decreased enrollment in your school like we are?" This decline is a real phenom-

Recent B'nai Mitzvah Projects

Our B'nai Mitzvah students are hard at work making a difference in the community!

Isabelle Hartman's bat mitzvah project was for The Nature Conservancy and involved being a volunteer Trail Steward at the Thompson Pond Preserve. She hiked the trail network at the preserve and created a detailed report, including photos, of all trail areas needing attention such as downed trees, missing blazes, collapsed boardwalks, and other obstructions or problems. The Nature Conservancy was very appreciative of this volunteer effort that helps preserve trail access for the thousands of people who visit every

year, an important part of The Nature Conservancy's mission. Volunteers like Isabelle make this possible

Twins Dakota and Cameron Jarvis were born three days apart, weighing 1 pound 13 ounces each, and they spent their first three months in the NICU at Vassar Hospital. So it's no surprise that they did a Mitzvah project to support the NICU and other micro preemies like themselves. Dakota has made each preemie its first stuffed animal, and Cameron created a brochure containing important information for the parents.

Amanda Moore loves animals, so it's only natural that she is volunteering at the Hudson Valley Animal and Rescue Shelter (HVARs)

for her Mitzvah project. She helps new arrivals at the shelter to become socialized with humans and other animals for future adoption. She also cares for the animals' more basic needs of cleaning and feeding, explaining that "These animals have gone through so much, and all the love and care they get at the shelter is just amazing!"

Be sure to thank these generous youth members for their good work and support their projects!

Ascending Sinai: Building One Community through Many Voices

On Saturday, June 11th, we will collaborate with Temple Beth El & Congregation Shir Chadash for our 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.

Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour: June 23rd

If you missed the first Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour in May – no worries. There will be another one on June 23rd from 6:00-7:30pm.

Join with old and new friends for a Happy Hour! We'll meet on the patio in front of the Synagogue (weather permitting) and enjoy wine, beverages, delicious, sumptuous appetizers and small plates before services.

Reservations are *not* necessary; but if you plan to come, please email Andi Ciminello at andi@ecopkny.com so that we can get an idea about numbers.

Lunch Box: June 4th

Our 5th and 6th graders and their families will be sponsoring the Lunch Box on Sunday, June 4th. Come help them prepare and serve a hot, wholesome and tasty meal for our neighbors in need between 10:30am-1:15 pm, and/or help by donating the following:

- 3 lb. all beef franks, or
- 1 to 2 dozen bananas/ pieces of fresh fruit/ or sandwich baggies of washed grapes.

Please contact Michele Sinn (mishsinn41@gmail.com) to let her know if you can come and help that day or what you can contribute. Non-perishables may be dropped off beforehand during regular Temple hours in the bin on the counter just inside the kitchen door. Please leave perishables in the fridge and label everything prominently "For Lunch Box." Tax deductible checks made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Community Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line also help. This is Vassar Temple's final Lunch Box of the school year, so take this opportunity to support this life sustaining project however you can!

Book Club to Discuss *The Japanese Lover*: June 21st

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende, a book described by critics as a "magical and sweeping" love story that stretches from present day San Francisco back to Poland and the United States during World War II. The meeting will take place on Wed., June 21st at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

In 1939, a young Alma Belasco is sent by her parents to live with her aunt and uncle in San Francisco. There, as the rest of the world goes to war, Alma meets Ichimel Fukuda, the quiet and

gentle son of her family's Japanese gardener. Unnoticed by those around them, a tender love affair develops. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, however, the two are cruelly pulled apart as Ichimel and his family are declared enemies and relocated to internment camps. Throughout their lifetimes, Alma and Ichimel reunite again and again, but theirs is a love that they are forever forced to hide from the world.

The "Japanese Lover" is a moving tribute to the constancy of the human heart in a world of unceasing change. The book is available in paperback and through the local library system. Connie Lahey 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.

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: June 3rd

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, June 3, 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.

Weekly Study Groups at Vassar Temple

Torah Study, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, will be held every Saturday at 9:00am with the Temple's Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*," taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held 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! Contact rabbiv@vassar temple.org or (845)454-2570 if you have questions.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Berkowitz
Jim & Maryann Robinowitz

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Vassar Temple, for all it means and represents
Richard Levien

Harriet Fein and her special birthday
Richard & Linda Cantor

Elaine Lipschutz, wishing continued good health
Barbara Stern

Naming our grandson, Lucas Sterling Pena (Emmanuel).
Jim & Maryann Robinowitz

In Appreciation of:

Sherrie Geisler
Jim and Maryann Robinowitz

In Memory of:

Mary Solomon
Jenny Krevolin
Lou Krevolin
June Heiser
Barbara Stern
Richard & Linda Cantor

Howard Smith
Eric & Judy Rosenfeld

Ellen Rosenfeld
June Heiser
Samuel Lampell
Pauline Slote
Fred Geber
Harriet Lipson
Sammuel Cohen
Estelle Cohen
Eva Tofel
Pearl Goldstein
Eric & Judy Rosenfeld
Kent & Kathy Mardon
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Robert Feldman
Brian & Helen Silverman
Glenn & Marcia Tanzman
Joan Reifler
The Friedman family

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Honor of:

The afikomen
David & Susan Hecht

FUND FACTS: Membership Counts!

If you had to guess the single largest source of revenue in Vassar Temple's annual budget, what would be your answer? (Hint: look at the title of this month's Fund Facts article!) If you said 'membership,' you would be correct!

Nearly all non-profit organizations raise money through an "annual fund" of some sort that is essential to those organizations' financial viability. One could think about Vassar Temple's membership dues program in the same way because of its role in our annual budgeting. Truly Fund Fact: **membership dues account for nearly two-thirds of the Temple's annual operating budget!** As such, membership provides the financial foundation of our Temple, our "bread and butter" (challah and honey?), if you will. Maintaining a robust membership is, thus, absolutely vital to our fiscal health, which is why I have chosen it as the focus of this month's Fund Facts.

A strong membership is something toward which

all of us can contribute in one way or another. To that end, on Friday, June 23rd we will have another Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour. This is an opportunity to relax and socialize with fellow Temple members before services and also a chance to introduce new friends to our community. Please mark the date on your calendar, bring a friend, and join the fun. RSVP is recommended (andi@ecopkny.com), though not required. And most of all, THANK YOU for your support as a member of Vassar Temple – it all counts!

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

This summer there are disadvantaged children, teenagers and adults, including seniors, in our community who will go hungry. Some students will not have access to free lunches when schools are closed and on the weekends. Disadvantaged adults including those with minimal or no food stamp support are relying more and more on area food pantries to provide them with food supplies. Pantry stock is often considerably diminished in the summer time.

A Tradition:

For many years now, our temple has stepped up to the plate and helped supplement the food supplies of four local pantries in the summer by providing them with cases of protein rich foods for distribution to those in need. Why protein rich? Proteins fuel the mind and

body and can be an important staple in many meals.

You Are Invited:

Please consider sending a donation for Protein Plenty this June; any amount will do! Send your check, made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Protein Plenty" written on the memo line, to: Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY 12601. 100% of your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation will be used to purchase high protein foods for neighbors in our community. An added plus: all the money collected for Protein Plenty!!! 2017 will be exchanged for scrip, which benefits the Temple as well.

At the end of June, the cases will be ordered and delivered to the Community Action Partnership for their food pantries in Poughkeepsie, Dover, Beacon and Red Hook.

Thank you for supporting this effective drive and helping us beat hunger one meal at a time. Questions? Email CANJAM123@aol.com or call Nancy Samson 845-462-4828.

Looking for something to do during those leisurely summer hours to come? How about recording a **Talking Book**? Record a favorite children's book and we will package and donate the recording and book for children at a local agency to enjoy. Books in Spanish needed too! Recording equipment and helpful guidance is available. For more info, contact socialaction@vassar temple.org.

Or perhaps you'd enjoy providing dinner items needed for the overnight shelter at Hillcrest House. Frequently needed summer menu items include: hard boiled eggs, tuna salad, sandwich fixings, fresh fruit, salads, etc. To volunteer, contact Judy Harkavy at judystan@verizon.net or 471-4973.

And don't forget that hunger never takes a vacation. Our CanJam bin is always here to accept nonperishable food donations. And a mench or menchette is always needed to take a monthly delivery (about 8 shopping bags) from the Temple to a local food pantry. Just contact Nancy Samson at canjam123@aol.com to let her know you want to help!

Yahrzeits

JUNE 2

Pauline Abrams
Seymour Bersak
Catherine Creedon
Rachel Diamond
Ann Feinstein Drobner
Samuel Lampell
Lynn Levy
Dr. Arthur Lipschutz
Shirley K. Loeb
Sandra LoGiudice
Irma Manheim
Regina Mendel
Bessie T. Mock
Daniel S. Schwartz
Margaret "Honey"
Sylvester
Gertrude Tavss
Lucretia Walsh
Paul Warner

JUNE 9

Samuel Berlin
Gilda Charwat
Anna Dunn
Alfred Geber
Bertie S. Levy
Harriet Lipson
Lester Petkofsky
Edward Plimack
Jack Quackenbush
Irving J. Richman
Dr. Albert A.
Rosenberg
Robert Rosenthal
Raymond Ross
Moe Scheer
Jack Turk
Irene Weiner
Joseph Wrobel

JUNE 16

Priscilla Ackerman
Sylvia Arnold
Benjamin Budson
Rose Swatlo Budson
Carol Casiero
Estelle Cohen
Samuel Cohen
Miriam Gellert
Beatrice Gross
Lillian Freda Gross
Dr. Kurt Holzer
Harry Kaltwasser
Paul Kraut
Morton B. Lehman
Margaret Poston
Arthur Richter
Henry Sylvester
Terry Teich

JUNE 23

Annie Blaweiss
Joseph Dunn
Albert J. Eisenberg
Lucile Erdreich
Paul Douglas Fa'gut
Rose Feuerstein
Jean Goldman
Pearl Goldstein
Joseph Gross
Samuel Haber
Irwin Kallman
Joseph Kofman
Muriel Landesman
Jacob Lass
Shirley B. Love
Betty Garber Lyons
Maurice Albert
Margolin
David Menken
Ethel Saul
Pauline Rosenson Slote
Nathan Weiss
Dr. Camilla Reznikoff
Wygan

JUNE 30

Joseph Berlin
David Budson
Isador Dreishpoon
Rosalind Gellert
Joseph J. Kleiner
Dr. Jacob Kronman
Fay Menken
Audrey S. Morgenstern
John Muehl
Cornelius
Saperstein
Ethel Scheer
Seymour Scheer
Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon
Sandor D. Strauss
Eva Tofel
Blanche Weber
Dolores Weisman
Fred Weiss
Nay Wisdom
Dr. Camilla Reznikoff
Wygan

Seder 2017 at Vassar Temple: Oh What a Night!!!

It was the first time I had ever attended a Seder with more than 100 people in attendance; and I have to say, it will definitely go down in my memory book as a most memorable Seder!

The organizing team of Polly Lewis, Sandra Mamis, Ron Rosen and Alan Kafowitz worked their magic and produced an incredibly thoughtful, delicious, relevant and FUN Seder for the assembled group (when was the last time YOU actually “danced with a timbrel!?” We did. . . .). I was initially overwhelmed when I entered the bustling, crowded room and did not immediately see any familiar faces. Indeed, many of the people in attendance were individuals from the wider community, friends of members, and prospective members. Before too long, however, through the naturally bonding experience of sharing a Seder (and the relaxed atmosphere that evolves after consuming four glasses of wine!), everyone felt like long-time friends.

Additionally, one of the most profound

aspects of this Seder was having the opportunity to learn about, and partake of, a wonderfully meaningful combination of rituals and traditions, reflecting traditional practices and contemporary adaptations. For me, the evening was not only deeply moving in a spiritual sense, it was inclusive of a variety of elements from various Seders and thus reflective of the many different people who comprise world Jewry.

Hats (kipot?) off to Polly, Sandra, Ron and Alan and to Jim Robinowitz for shopping and Gail D’Alessio for setting the tables. This committee provided a truly memorable Passover celebration.

If you just want to try something different for a change, consider joining the Vassar Temple Seder next year. If you’re like me, you’ll be glad you did.

Jen Dahnert

Adult Education

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. It is essential that our community familiarize itself with this book *before* we pray from it on the High Holy Days. 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.

Five Shabbat Mornings at 10:30 a.m. (after Torah Study)

The first three sessions are a repeat of the March class. You can attend any or all sessions:

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

Refugee Resettlement Update

With the nation-wide uncertainty about the refugee admissions program, CWS Poughkeepsie is not anticipating resettling any more refugees beyond the family of five that were welcomed in January. We’re happy to report that this family is doing very well; children are in school and adults are securing work opportunities. We understand that CWS will continue to resettle refugees in existing offices, but they cannot sustain further resettlement activities in Poughkeepsie. This outcome is disappointing and frustrating given all the work put into it.

In November, we established a Refugee Welcome Fund through the Community Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to provide support for refugee

resettlement through grants to non-profits, such as Church World Service and local non-profits doing resettlement work.

Donations to that fund include over \$6,000 that was secured by the Vassar Temple Welcome Team through direct donations and fund-raising events. We thank you for this generosity. The Vassar Temple donations were slated to be used to support “our” family. Since we will not be welcoming a family soon, we will honor the intent of our Vassar Temple Welcome Team donors by directing the donations to the organizations below:

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) for a resettlement project in Westchester.

UNHCR: the UN Refugee Agency that is on the ground with supplies like blankets, tents, and bedding, to help protect vulnerable refugees from the frigid cold. UNHCR

also provides support for education and schooling for adults and children living in refugee camps.

We thank you for your generosity and support for this important project and we encourage you to remain involved with the many advocacy projects underway at Vassar Temple. If anything changes, we will re-activate the Welcome Team.

Andi Ciminello and Lisa Rubenstein
Vassar Temple Welcome Team Captains

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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: OPEN
2nd Vice President: Alan Kafowitz
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

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am SEP	2 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Elisa Dugatkin	3 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
4 Israel Independence Day Parade in NYC 10:30am Lunch-box	5	6 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Ritual Cmte Meeting	7	8 10am SEP 7pm Annual Congregation Meeting	9 7:30pm Shabbat Service	10 9am Torah Study 10am Isabella Hartman Bat Mitzvah
11	12 6pm VTS Salad Supper	13 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	14	15 10am SEP 5:30pm Calendar Meeting	16 7:30pm Family Shabbat Picnic Service	17 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
18	19	20 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	21 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Finance Cmte meeting	22 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	23 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Elisa Dugatkin	24 9am Torah Study
25	26	27 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	28	29 10am SEP	30 7:30pm Shabbat Service	