



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אחים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 159 No. 3 March 2012

Shabbat Service Time Back to 7:30 in March

Beginning on Friday, March 2nd, our Shabbat evening services will return to their regular time of 7:30 p.m. That evening the members of Temple Beth-El will be our guests at the 7:30 service and special oneg. Plan to be there to welcome them and hear our guest speaker, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein. (See the article about the Joint Shabbaton on page 3).

Blowout Purim Celebration on March 10th

Vassar Temple will be celebrating Purim in high style again this year. Purim starts on Wednesday evening, March 7th when Rabbi Golomb will read the Megillah of Esther. But the big celebration will take place on Saturday evening, March 10th and will include a reprise of Rabbi's traditional wacky Megillah reading.

Begin by bringing your family to the pasta dinner sponsored by the Men's Club at 5:45 on March 10th. (See article on this page for details and make your reservation.)

Our service will begin at 7:00, and will feature a costume parade for children and a special Purim *spiel* called "Purim in a Galaxy Far, Far Away," written and produced by our own Art Menken. You are sure to laugh at the dialogue, be amazed at the costumes and special effects created by our congregants, and be impressed by the acting of talented temple members of all ages.

The evening will conclude with the sharing of hamantaschen and other goodies. Adults as well as children are encouraged to come in costume. Don't forget to bring a box of Purim Pasta to shake during the Megillah reading whenever Haman's name is mentioned! (See article on this page about Purim Pasta.)

March 4th Lunch Box Needs You!

On Sunday, March 4th the Sisterhood will cook and serve a meal featuring chili con carne at the Lunch Box at the Family Partnership Center from 11:30 to 2:30. You can help by donating 3 lbs. of ground beef browned with diced onions, or 12 pieces of fruit (bananas are a favorite; grapes should be in small bags). Food may be dropped off at the Temple before that Sunday, clearly marked for Lunch Box. (Be sure to leave meat in the refrigerator.) We also welcome anyone who wants to have fun while helping to cook and serve the meal.

Volunteers and food donors should contact Lisa-Sue Quackenbush now at sisterhood@vassartemple.org or 876-5859 to let her know how you will participate.

Don't Forget Your Purim Pasta on March 10th

Purim traditionally provides a wonderful opportunity to give *Shalach Manot*, edible treats, to friends. Purim Pasta, a simple food-raising drive we have held at Vassar Temple each Purim for the past several years, is an extension of this great tradition, helping people in our wider community.

Once again on Purim this year you are invited to bring in boxes of pasta to shake when the Megillah is read (the boxes are the groggers!) and drown out the name of Haman with the noise of victory. After the 7:00 p.m. service on Saturday, March 10th the boxes will be collected and delivered to a local food pantry. (To complement the collection of Purim Pasta, please consider donating a can or jar of pasta sauce to CanJam this month.)

Macaroni, ziti, bowties - any will do! Get ready to shake them in the spirit of *Shalach Manot*. The opportunity to fight hunger is just boxes away!

Nancy Samson
Social Action Committee

Upcoming Events

- Mar 2,3** Joint Shabbaton with Beth-El, p5
- Mar 4** Lunch Box, page 1
- Mar 7** Megillah Reading, p1
- Mar 6 & 20** Meditation Group, p3
- Mar 10** Purim dinner, Megilla Reading, and Spiel, p 1
- Mar 11 & 18** EZ Pass to Passover 101, p3
- Mar 11,18 & 25th** Passover Sale in the Judaica Shoppe, p3
- Mar 16** Guest Speakers, p6
- Mar 25** Tiny Temple, p6
- Mar 27** Adult Ed: The Art of the Haggadah, p 11
- Mar 30** Teacher Recognition dinner and Service, p6
- April 6** First Night Seder, p5
- May 20** Mitzvah Day-Save the Date!, p3

Reserve Now for Purim Pasta Dinner

Our Men's Club will prepare and serve a pasta dinner on Saturday, March 10th at 5:45, before our Purim service and spiel. Get in the happy Purim mood as you enjoy pasta with various sauces, salad, bread, and soft drinks. Bring wine to share, if you wish.

Please RSVP to mensclub@vassar-temple.org or the temple office, 454-2570, by March 2nd and include the number of adults and children you are bringing. The cost of \$5/adult, \$3/child, under 5 free, maximum: \$15/family can be paid by check to the Vassar Temple Men's Club in advance, or by check or cash at the door.

Rabbi's Message: RETURN of the DREADED PURIM QUIZ



Much like the Amalekites of the Purim story, the annual quiz, which seemed to be subdued a few years ago, has managed to come back to life.

Most of the questions posed below are completely irrelevant – until they become critical knowledge for some necessary purpose. You never know. As in the past, you are welcome to Google. Or better yet, ask that cousin of yours who keeps bragging that he knows everything.

- What used to be at 58 Noxon Street, in Poughkeepsie?
- What is the Hebrew term (meaning

“trembling”) occasionally employed to refer to the Ultra-Orthodox Jews?

- Who is the first Jew since Sandy Koufax to win a Most Valuable Player award in Baseball?
- According to Jewish tradition, can one get married between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur?
- When we sing “Shalom Aleichem” (which means “howdy”) at Shabbat evening services, whom are we welcoming?
- On which Jewish holiday is it customary to eat principally dairy products?
- Of Rambam, Ramban, Ravkav and Ralbag, which was not an important

medieval Jewish sage?

- Both the Israeli Prime Minister and its Ambassador to the U.S. were born in the same country (not Israel). Which country is it?
- Two former rabbis of Vassar Temple just celebrated their fiftieth year in the rabbinate. Who are they?
- Over the years, Woody Allen has received a lot of Oscar nominations. Is it 7, 12, 18 or 21?

As I said, you never know what you need to know. Answers will show up next month. And Happy Purim!

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message



I trust that by the time you get to read this message, we will have made it through the “heavy” winter months, although we’ve been very fortunate to have had an

abnormally mild winter (at least through the beginning of February!). Your new Temple president has been learning the “lay of the land,” becoming acquainted with many of Vassar Temple’s needs as well as getting to know many more of you. We are now entering March with its fickle weather and a host of spring events being planned at Vassar Temple. We are kicking off the month with two fantastic programs!

We begin March with the Joint Shabbaton with our friends at Temple Beth-El. The guest speaker for the weekend will be Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director of the Kolel Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto. Rabbi Goldstein will speak at Vassar Temple during the Friday night service, and will speak at Temple Beth-El on Saturday following the joint Shabbat morning service. Rabbi Goldstein is known to be an accomplished and dynamic speaker; I hope that everyone gets a chance to hear her during this special weekend.

Then on Saturday of the following weekend, March 10th, Vassar Temple will celebrate Purim with the Men’s Club’s annual Purim Pasta Dinner, followed by the Purim Spiel. This year’s spiel is “Purim in a Galaxy Far, Far Away,” written and directed by Art Menken and featuring our congregation’s talented thespians. This is always a fun evening, and I’m sure that this year’s spiel will be as entertaining as past ones! The dinner is a great tradition, started a couple years ago by Seth Erlebacher z”l, and the Men’s Club is looking forward to continuing the tradition, which starts off by locating that huge pot in which to cook the pasta.

A favorite activity of mine is the upcoming Passover 101 event, where we can sample and prepare some traditional Passover foods, including Chocolate Matzah ... Everyone will get to enjoy the result!

For quite some time, the Temple Board has wanted to bring an art-related event to the Temple. On March 27th, Vassar College professor Marc Epstein will present “Art, Narrative and Religious Imagination in the Passover Haggadah,” sponsored by the Adult Education committee. Professor Epstein will explore the mysteries of a certain colorful and artistic Haggadah, for whom it was made, and its secret message.

And finally, on March 30th is our Teacher Recognition Shabbat, where congregational birthdays of the month will be celebrated as well. Our teachers work hard, imparting their knowledge to our children. Let’s be sure to support them by attending!

So, the start of spring brings a host of enjoyable and creative activities. I hope that all of you get to partake in at least some, if not all, of the events, and enjoy yourselves at Vassar Temple.

Bob Abrams

Meditation Group Meets in March

The meditation group facilitated by Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg will meet on March 6th and 20th. At each session there will be a short reading and a bit of music followed by a 30-minute sitting meditation and an optional walking meditation. There will also be time for sharing and for questions related to the practice. Both experienced meditators and those new to the practice are welcome, whether or not you were part of the group before.

In case of bad driving weather, the class will be canceled. Please let office manager Sandi Rugar know if you are planning to attend some or all of the sessions by contacting the temple office, 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.

LISTEN

LEARN

LOVE



Parents are their children's most powerful Jewish teachers. When you learn with your children, you are a model for lifelong Jewish learning. The URJ has resources designed for all age groups, to help you learn as adults and as a family:

- Jewish Parenting Podcast
- Bedtime Rituals
- Berit Mila Program
- Family Shabbat Table Talk
- Got Shabbat
- Holiday Happenings
- Morning Rituals
- The Jewish Parent Page
- Chai Family Education
- RJTeen
- Resources for Parents of Adolescents
- Significant Jewish Books
- URJ Camps

and more...



www.urj.org/parents

Wind Chill Fund

The annual Wind Chill Fund campaign, which culminates this month, benefits Hillcrest overnight shelter for the homeless in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Hudson River Housing hopes to celebrate its 30th anniversary by raising \$30,000 for Hillcrest during the campaign.

The Jewish tradition of hospitality, symbolized by our patriarch and matriarch Abraham and Sarah's open tent, continues today in our support of shelters such as Hillcrest. I am struck by the significance of the amount it costs to house one male or female guest there for one night – \$36 or, as that special number is known in Jewish tradition, “double chai.” Wouldn't it be wonderful if as many of us as possible could donate double chai to the fund?

But be assured that any and all donations will be put to good use, providing

transportation to and from the shelter, a clean, comfortable and safe place to sleep, a hot shower, dinner and breakfast, and referral and advocacy services, to 40-60 of our homeless neighbors each day. Donations may be placed in the tzedakah box near the staircase or brought or mailed to the Temple office. Donations by check can be made out to Vassar Temple with “Wind Chill Fund” on the memo line. Thanks to all of you for your vital support of this life-sustaining community resource.

*Marian Schwartz
Vassar Temple Social Action Committee
Chairperson*

EZ Pass to Passover 101 on March 11th and 18th

Our Adult Education Committee is pleased to present “EZ Pass to Passover 101,” a fun way to get into the mood for Passover and get some ideas for your own seder. The two sessions will take place during Sunday School hours, making them very convenient. Everyone is invited!

Sunday, March 11 – 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Stop in at the Judaica Shop in the East Chapel for all your Passover needs, and while you are there, taste some traditional and not-so-traditional Passover dishes. Share ideas on how to prepare a festive Passover meal and take home some great recipes!

Sunday, March 18 – 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Come down to the kitchen to help prepare some yummy macaroons and chocolate-covered matzah for our Sunday School students! Ingredients will be supplied. Hands-on learning available and warm friendship offered!

Mitzvah Day on May 20th – Save the Date

You'll want to be a part of the expanded Dutchess-Ulster County extravaganza of fun, food, music – and community service on Sunday, May 20th. Plan to start the day at the JCC with a festive bagel breakfast while being entertained by innovative local talent. Then it's on to old favorites as well as exciting new community service projects which will appeal to all ages and interests. From tots to seniors, we have a project just right for you!

Choose from locations indoors and out, both at the JCC and throughout Dutchess County, with some sites also in Ulster and Orange Counties. Join with

others from throughout the local Jewish community to paint, plant, rebuild, repair, feed the hungry, cook, knit, stuff envelopes, bring joy to children, teens, and seniors, and preserve our environment. Help set up in the JCC or work at the registration table.

Watch the Temple bulletin and the Voice for updates. For more information or to volunteer for the planning committee, please contact Dr. Linda Tafapolsky of Jewish Family Services, project chairperson, at 471-9817 (M,W,F) or jfs@jewishdutchess.org.

*Marian Schwartz
Vassar Temple Mitzvah Day Rep*

Passover Sale in our Judaica Shoppe

Our Sisterhood's Judaica Shoppe will hold its annual Passover Sale on Sundays, March 11th, 18th, and 25th from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the East Chapel. Featured will be seder plates, kiddush cups, Elijah's and Miriam's cups, matzo covers, and other special items to grace your Passover table, an assortment of haggadahs and hostess gifts (including gift certificates to our Judaica Shoppe), as well as educational and amusing holiday items for the children.

The shop is also open for business from Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and, in addition to the special Passover items, a variety of Jewish ritual items, mezuzot, tallitot, jewelry, gifts, cosmetics and art from Israel, and books are available. In addition to the items on display and in stock, special orders can be placed for you. For more information, contact Perla Kaufman at 914-456-7309 or membership@vassar-temple.org.

From Our Religious School Director:



The Jewish month of Adar, which coincides roughly with March this year, is known for joy and happiness, primarily because of Purim. We will bake hamantaschen, dress

up in costume, and read the Book of Esther ("The Megillah") in celebration. According to verse 9:26 of that very book, we get the name "Purim" from the *pur* that was cast: "Therefore, they called these days 'Purim' after 'pur.'" But while *purim* is the Hebrew plural of *pur*, *pur* itself is not a Hebrew word. For this reason, twice before in Esther, when *pur* is mentioned, we are told, "...*pur*, that is, the *goral*." So a *pur* is a *goral*, but what is a *goral*?

In all likelihood, *goral* originally referred to of a bunch of small pebbles or similar objects used to make decisions by chance. They would be cast down on the ground or put in a vessel of some sort, from which one would be drawn at random. (A similar practice, in which stones were placed in a helmet, is clearly documented from Homeric Greece. The Greek verb for casting these objects was *ballein*, from which we get our English word "ballot.")

For example, in Leviticus 16, Aaron takes "two goats," "a *goral* for God" and a "*goral* for Azazel." Then the goat that

God's *goral* lands on is God's goat, and the goat that Azazel's *goral* lands on is Azazel's goat. This latter goat is sent "to Azazel" in atonement. (Based on an ancient misunderstanding of the Hebrew "to Azazel," a 1530 translation reads "to scape" instead of "to Azazel," giving us the English word "scapegoat.") *Goral* later progressed to mean not only the item which was cast, but also that which determined the victor. (And because real estate was so often allocated by *goral*, *goral* also meant "real estate.") In the meantime, presumably on the assumption that destiny or fate had something to do with who won, *goral* began to mean "destiny" as well.

The English word "lot" followed exactly the same path, meaning at first a small (usually wooden) object used to make random decisions (as in "draw lots") and then both what one received (for example, a "lot of land") and what one is destined to receive (as in one's "lot in life.") Up to this point in the story a Hebrew *goral* is exactly an English "lot."

But the authors of the Dead Sea scrolls frequently mention *goral*, using it to mean "group of people" or "followers." In "The Rule of the Community," a document (technically referred to as

"1QS") that describes all aspects of life in the Qumran sect, God has a *goral* and Belial (God's Qumranic foe) has a *goral*. The

priests bless those in God's *goral* with a version of the priestly benediction, whereas the Levites curse those in Belial's *goral* (1QS 2:2-5). The War Scroll ("1QM"), which describes the final battle between the forces of good ("light") and the forces of evil ("darkness") before the "end of days," begins with the prediction that the first attack by the sons of light will be against the *goral* of the sons of darkness. If this usage of *goral* is akin to the English expression "to throw one's lot in with," God's *goral* are the people who chose God, not the people that God chose.

Returning to *pur*, the word probably comes from Akkadian, which has a root *pur*, "real estate lot," and a similar-sounding root meaning "vessel." Perhaps Akkadian real estate lots, too, were allocated by drawing lots. (About 1,000 years ago, the famous commentator Ibn Ezra thought the word might be Persian, but while Persian has a word *pur*, it means "son.")

By curious chance, the word *pur*, if it were Hebrew, would have to have come from the Hebrew root *p.r.r*, which means "to break into crumbs." So in addition to reflecting our choice in God and our ancient good fortune, our early-spring holiday's name indirectly reflects the hamantaschen we use to celebrate it. Which, in the case of Purim, is just the way the cookie crumbles. Happy Purim!

Dr Joel Hoffman,
Religious School Director



Win a \$20 Pizza Hut Gift Card

Every \$100 worth of SCRIP Purchases*
made in the month of March
earns you a raffle entry,
with the prize being
a \$20 Pizza Hut Gift Card

So, \$300 worth of SCRIP purchases = 3 Raffle entries

There will be 4 winners with the drawing taking place on
Sunday morning April 1, 2012
... but this is NO April Fool's Joke!

Participate for a chance to win!
Have Questions?

Contact the SCRIP coordinator, Sandra Mamis:
scrip@vassartemple.org or 463-2678

Sign Up by March 16 for a First-Night Seder at Temple on April 6th

A first-night Passover Seder, organized and led by members of the congregation, will be held in the temple social hall on Friday evening, April 6th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. (There will be no Shabbat service at temple that night.)

The short seder service will be engaging, interactive, and fun, appealing to both adults and children. The evening will continue with a delicious four-course dinner, including the traditional ritual foods. (See the flyer which arrived with your Mid-month Reminder for details or go to our website, www.vassartemple.org,

and click on the link to Seder at Temple in the upper right corner.)

This Vassar Temple event is open to temple members, family and friends and is priced just to cover anticipated costs. The cost for each adult is \$25 and for each child under 13 is \$10, with a maximum per family of \$60.

It is essential that you make your reservation by March 16th to allow for all the preparations that need to be made. Reservations must be accompanied by payment and selection of an entrée (Rotisserie Chicken or Orange Mustard Salmon)

for each person. To reserve your place(s), contact Alan Kflowitz at alankflowitz@yahoo.com or 229-1432. Checks should be mailed before March 16th to the Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with the word "Seder" on the memo line.

This promises to be a wonderful way to begin your Passover celebration. If you have questions, contact Sandra Mamis, Seder Event Chair, at seder@vassartemple.org or 463-2678.



A policy change for Scrip!

**You now have more opportunities
to make credit card payments for scrip.**

Cash and check are still preferred
but **you can use your Visa,
Mastercard, or Discover if**

- Your purchase is for at least \$200 worth of gift cards (scrip) at one time
- You purchase cards with at least 5% profit.

Want to know more? Go to the scrip page on the temple website. www.vassartemple.org

Vassar Temple and Temple Beth-El to Hold Joint Shabbaton, March 2-3

The annual Joint Shabbaton sponsored by Vassar Temple and Temple Beth-El will take place during the weekend of March 2-3. The guest speaker for the Shabbaton will be Rabbi Elyse Goldstein who has been the Rabbinic Director of the Kolel Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto for the past 20 years. An accomplished academic, Rabbi Goldstein is an articulate and passionate teacher with a nation-wide reputation. During the five years she served as Rabbi of Temple Beth David in Canton, Massachusetts, the congregation grew from 80 families to over 200 families.

The Shabbaton will begin with a joint Shabbat service at Vassar Temple on Friday, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. during which Rabbi Goldstein will speak about "Growing the 21st Century Synagogue: Lessons from Success." A special oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

The 10:00 a.m. joint Shabbat morning service at Temple Beth-El on Saturday, March 3rd will be followed at noon by a Kiddush Luncheon and a talk by Rabbi Goldstein called "Women are from Genesis, Men are from Leviticus: Do Men and Women Read the Torah Differently?" Please RSVP for the luncheon by February 27th by calling 845-454-0570 or emailing tbelpgm@hvcbiz.rr.com.

The author of *ReVisions: Seeing Torah through a Feminist Lens* and *The Women's Torah Commentary*, *The Women's Haftarah Commentary* and *New Jewish Feminism* (chosen as finalist for the National Jewish Book Award), Rabbi Goldstein is the recipient of numerous awards, including the most prestigious award in Jewish education, the internationally recognized Covenant Award for Exceptional Jewish Educators in 2005.

She is also the author of a self-guided adult study textbook on Women and Judaism called *Seek Her Out*, published by the URJ Press. She is currently creating a new Reform congregation in downtown Toronto which will be up and running by the High Holy Days of 2012.

The Joint Shabbaton is being underwritten by the Lipschutz Fund of Vassar Temple and by the Sherman Fund of Temple Beth-El. All members of the community are warmly invited to attend any or all of the events.



Worship Services

Friday, March 2

7:30 p.m. Joint Shabbaton with Temple Beth-El

Saturday, March 3

10:00 a.m. Joint Shabbaton at Temple Beth-El

Wednesday, March 7

7:00 p.m. Megillah Reading

Friday, March 9

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 10

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

7:00 p.m. Megillah Reading, Purim Spiel

Costume Parade & Hamantaschen Eating

Come and Enjoy!

Friday, March 16

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service with guest speakers

Saturday, March 17

NO Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Friday, March 23

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin with Torah Reading

Saturday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, March 30

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin with Birthday Blessings and Teacher Recognition

Saturday, March 31

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Friday, April 6 First Seder of Pesach

We wish you a joyous and meaningful Seder!

Saturday, April 7 First Day of Pesach

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

Scriptural Readings

March 2 & 3 T'zaveh (Shabbat Zakhor)

Exodus 28:31-29:18; (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-34

March 9 & 10 Ki Tissa

Exodus 31:18-33:11 (Numbers 19:1-22)

Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39

March 16 & 17 Vayakhel-Pikude (Shabbat Parah)

Exodus 37:17-39:21, 40:34-38 (Exodus 12:1-20)

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38

March 23 & 24 Vayikra (Shabbat HaHodesh)

Leviticus 3:1-4:26

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

March 30 & 31 Tzav (Shabbat Hagadol)

Leviticus 7:11-38

Haftarah: Malakhai 3:4-24

April 6 & 7 Pesach

Exodus 12:21-51

Haftarah: Joshua 5:2-6:1, 27

Guest Speakers at March 16th Service

At our regular 7:30 Shabbat service on Friday, March 16th our members Inna and Sergey Kudria will speak about "Growing Up Jewish in Moscow." You won't want to miss this fascinating talk.

Teacher Recognition Dinner and Service on March 30th

Let's show our appreciation to our Religious School teachers and aides on Friday evening, March 30th. They work hard every week to pass on their knowledge and love of Judaism to our students, making Reform Judaism meaningful for our youngest members and strengthening our Jewish future.

The teachers and aides will be our guests at the March 30th Shabbat dinner, beginning at 6:15 in the social hall. For a cost of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child age 5-12 (children under 5 are free), Sisterhood will provide a dinner of chicken or chicken nuggets, challah, and beverages. Every family is asked to bring a salad or other side dish to share. (No dairy, please.)

Reservations are required by Monday, March 26th. Contact Wendy Marcus at 226-2502 or masinc223@aol.com. (Although teachers and aides are our guests, we need to know how many of you to expect so please RSVP.) Checks made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood may be mailed to the temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

The dinner will be followed at 7:30 p.m. by a Shabbat service in honor of our Religious School teachers and aides. Show your appreciation by your presence!

Tiny Temple Learns about Passover

All preschoolers (age infant-5) and those who are raising them are invited to join in the fun at Tiny Temple on Sunday, March 25th, from 10:30 to noon, while learning about Passover through crafts, stories, songs and a special snack. In this relaxed and friendly setting, the adults will have an opportunity to meet others raising young Jewish children.



Tiny Temple is sponsored by the Sisterhood once a month during the school year and everyone is welcome to this free program regardless of Temple affiliation. To assist in our planning and have your questions answered, please RSVP to tinytemple@vassar temple.org



Welcome to New Members of Vassar Temple

We have new members who have recently joined the Temple community. Please extend a warm welcome to:

Shay & Lori Markovitch and their daughters, Maia & Keren

Steve & Margot Peter and their sons, Samuel & Robert

New Vassar Temple Blog

Be sure to check out the Vassar Temple blog regularly at <http://vassartemple.wordpress.com/>. Keep up with the latest reflections and join the conversation!

Celebrate with a Leaf on Our Tree of Life

Looking for a lasting way to honor the birth of a new baby, a special birthday, a Bar/Bat mitzvah, a wedding or an anniversary? Celebrate with the gift of a "leaf" on Vassar Temple's Tree of Life in our entry hall.

The cost of a leaf is \$180. (The money raised is divided equally between the Temple's operating fund and our Endowment Fund.) We will do the engraving and send a card in your name to the recipient(s).

In addition to leaves, we also have 8 "boulders" available at the base of the tree for \$2,800 each. One of these could be the perfect way for a group of friends or family members to commemorate a special occasion.

Tree of Life forms are always available on the counter in the East Chapel. For more information contact Muriel Lampell at mk.lampell@verizon.net or 471-1043.

Lou Lewis Assumes Role as Federation President

At the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, held on December 12, 2011, our fellow congregant Lou Lewis was chosen as the new president of the organization. Lou was the chairperson of our 2010 Eternal Torah project and currently serves on the temple board. We all wish him success in his new position.

SCRIP Raffle Winner Announced

The winner of a \$100 gift card for Adams Fairacre Farms in the SCRIP raffle drawing on February 5th was our long-time member Laurie Cohn, who, upon being informed of her good fortune by SCRIP coordinator Sandra Mamis, said, "What a delightful surprise; thank you!" Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets. Keep on buying and using SCRIP to support Vassar Temple at no cost to you!

Pulpit Flowers



- February 10 In memory of Mary Rae Scheer and David Stephen Satz from Deborah & Justin Scheer.
- March 2 In honor of the birthdays of Rivka Golomb and Tal Golomb from Rabbi & Debbie Golomb.
- March 9 In memory of Miriam Genshaft and Meyer Bagun from Jeff & Nan Genshaft.
- March 16 In memory of Zoey Rachel Gillman from Eric & Barbara Gillman.
- March 23 In memory of Samuel Karnes and Jaime Hecht from Susan & David Hecht.

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 Sandi Rugar at 454-2570. The donation to the Shrub Fund is \$55.

New Paths Services

Please join us in the sun-lit East Chapel on Saturdays, March 17th and 31st at 10:00 a.m. Each New Paths service, whether rabbi-led or lay-led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. We focus on letting the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. A brief informal light kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mshwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

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.



Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams
Editor: Doi Cohen
Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the April bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by Mar 1.. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent to Sandi Rugar via e-mail, at office@vassartemple.org or faxed to (845)452-5161.

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

Contributions

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Jewish War Veterans

Schedule Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on March 11, 2012 at the Jewish Community Center, 110 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. Breakfast is no longer provided. Elections will be held.

In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be on Cumulus Radio: 101.5 WPDH, 1490 WKNY, 92.7/76.9 WRRV, 94.3/97.3 The WOLF, 1390/1340 OLDIES, 97.7 The Mix Mark Bolger. For further information contact Post Commander Ralph Schwartz at RSCHWA9881@aol.com or (845) 849-0025.



Yahrzeits

March 2

Morris Haas

Frances Lewis

Francesca Vadersen

Lena Lath

David Friedland

Shepard P. Solomon

Saul Marks

Dr. Randy Bennett Edman

Dr. Maurice Sitomer

Frank Devan

Irving M. Rosenthal

Irving Schechtman

Samuel Gold

Rose Landau

Gilbert Feinman

Joseph Schwartz

Geraldine N. Leeds

Morris Levine

Hinda Lessin

March 9

Rae Jacobs Rauh Brown

Jeanne Klein

Nathan Baum

Miriam Genshaft

Gertrude K. Miller

Tessie Turk

Ruth Parry

Morris Lessin

Gertrude M. Plimack

A. Alfred Podell, MD

Bee Plimack

Ralph Partridge

Harry Uttal

Benjamin Metlis

Ruth Gelman

Dr. Simon Riechman

Arlene Sitomer

Morris Abraskin

Silvia Domes

Meyer Harold Bagun

Dr. Louis Shub

Saul Kleinfeld

Katherine Mamis

Victor Fein

Samuel Karnes

March 16

Kaye Roth

Lewis Acker

Anna Frankel

Dorothy Davis

Ethel Graves

Bettina DelVescovo

Belle Weiss

Fred Lehman

Reuben Temlock

Sara Leslie Goldman Fite

Joseph Feuer

Meyer A. Wolfson

Judith Newman

Esther Temlock

Lillian Schwarz

Lena Baskin

Ann R. Margolin

Bruce Weber

Pearl Bettigole Goldberg

Eli Gellert

Gerard Hauptman

Mollie Waller

Esther G. Rheingold

Bessie Kaplan

Max Solomon

Idane Evan Salenger

Vawn Jennifer Salenger

March 23

Sol G. Lipschutz

Joseph Gutnick

Sarah Singer

Gary Feder

Michael Feder

Gary Schischa

Erwin Schischa

Esther Laks

Claire Sherwin

Gwendolyn Harlam

Ruth Kovacs

Mae Miller Klampert

Sarah Benton Childs

Annemarie Teutsch

Lillian Burger

Etta Simon Podret

Benjamn Clarfeld

Herman Jacobs

Fannie Berl

Lee Rosenthal

Charles Frankel

Martin Lowenthal

Harold Satz

Jennie Uttal

Harold Rosen

Isadore Wurtzel

Isaac Mendel

Harvey Kafflowitz

Patricia Adler

Esta Feder

Samuel Schmukler

Louis D. Dampf

Sidney Greenman

March 30

Harry Bronfeld

Zoey Rachel Gillman

Rose Baum Kraut

Pearl Teperman

Martin Turk

Cora Frances Solomon

Dorothy Esner

Morris Domes

Jeanette Ada Cohen

Morris S. Rosenmann

Milton Levitt

David H. Ettenson

Tillie Schwartz

Hon. Joseph H. Gellert

Herman Baskin

Elsie H. Albert

Memorial Board Plaques

Honor the memory of your loved ones with a plaque on the Memorial Board in the sanctuary. For information, call Sandi at the Temple office at 454-2570.

Souper Sale a Great Success

The Social Action Committee's annual Souper Sale brought in extraordinary financial donations by so many generous members and friends, enabling us to purchase 744 cans of nutritious, delicious chunky soups with Vassar Temple scrip. Our "souper" volunteer drivers delivered the cases of soup on January 27th to area food pantries and senior housing projects including Dutchess Outreach, Community Action pantries in Beacon, Poughkeepsie, and Dover Plains, Beulah Baptist Church Pantry, and Interfaith Towers. Special thanks go to Sandi Rugar for all her help with the bookkeeping, to the staff and management of Stop & Shop for their assistance and generosity, to our photographer Chuck Kaufman, and to the volunteers pictured.



Marian Schwartz treated the volunteers to coffee at Barnes and Noble before they made their rainy-day deliveries.

(Rear) Nancy Samson (project coordinator; Phil Sierdt, Adam Rosenfeld, Judy Rosenfeld, Ralph Schwartz, Dave Samson, Howard Susser; Wendy Giangrasso, Jim Robinowitz, Tracy Marcus. (Front) Harry Mamis, Ed Garber; Ron Rosen, Kathy Colbert, Ronni Jarvis, Doi Cohen, Sheila Newman, Marian Schwartz, Perla Kaufman.

More pictures can be seen on our website, www.vassartemple.org via the link to Photo Gallery on the left.



Purim Photos Needed

Planning to come to the Purim festivities on Saturday evening, March 10th? Like to take photos? Please bring your camera and photograph the Purim parade, the Megillah reading, and the Purim spiel. Then email the best of your photos to Doi Cohen at dcohen1230@gmail.com so she can post them on our congregation's website and submit them for publicity purposes to the Voice and the temple bulletin. (Let Doi know beforehand if you plan to take photos that evening.)



Religious School Students Get Close to Our Scrolls

During the Holy Rollers session on Sunday, January 29th, Rabbi Golomb's finger pointed out a section of the Torah to some very interested children. Many of their parents also took advantage of this opportunity to see the Torah close up.

Religious School Director Dr. Joel Hoffman examined one of our Torah scrolls with seventh grade students as Michelle Klein (left), our Hebrew teacher, looked on. Dr. Hoffman commented, "I think that giving children direct exposure to the Torah scroll, with its ancient-looking ink and parchment, reminds a generation that's usually focused on the latest technology that we also have a lot to learn from our past."



February Lunch Box Thanks

The Youth Group Lunch Box on February 5th was an all-around success. Not only did the weather cooperate, but there were a lot of volunteers at Lunch Box, as well as many hot dog and fruit donors.

Thank you to everyone who donated food for Lunch Box; it was really appreciated. Our apologies if we unintentionally left anyone off the list of donors. The list we do have is quite long and includes the Abramses, the Brenners, the Brundages, the Cantors, the Carbos, the Chernacks, Doi Cohen, the Dahnerts, the DuVall-Rubenstein family, the Erlebachers, the Gallys, the Giangrassos, the Greenman-Peritz family, the Gruzkos, the Kafflowitzes, the Kaufmans, both Marcus families, the Moores, Sheila Newman, the Quackenbushes, the Rolands, the Rosenfelds, the Schwartzes, the Steins, the Sussers, and the Zaritskys. Our congregants were extremely generous in contributing to this worthy cause our temple supports.

We'd also like to thank the following people who helped out at Lunch Box: our

teens Danielle Brundage, Rachel Erlebacher and her friend Sophie, Marissa Gally, Rachel Marcus, Jacob Moore, Lisa Rosenfeld and Adam Rosenfeld; and the adults: Linda and Joel Babas, Andy Chernack, Stan Marcus and Roni Stein. Everyone who helped out at Lunch Box had helped before and still we were all surprised by how many people we fed. Buddy, the Lunch Box coordinator, said that there has been a huge increase recently in the number of lunches served every day.

Lastly, a huge thank you to Linda and Joel Babas for not only doing all the shopping for the extras we served at Lunch Box along with the hot dogs and fruit, but also delivering it to the Lunch Box on Sunday morning and staying to help set up!

*Judy Rosenfeld and Debbie Carbo
February Lunch Box Captains*

Lunch Box News

Thank you to our Youth Group members, Confirmation Class, teen recruiter Lisa Rosenfeld, and parent co-captains Judy Rosenfeld and Debbie Carbo for sponsoring the midday meal we served at Lunch Box on February 5th, and to our stalwart Sisterhood, under the leadership of Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, for sponsoring our Lunch Box participation on March 4th.

More than ever, many among our neighbors are finding themselves victims of food insecurity and really do depend upon the hot, nutritious (and delicious!) meal we provide them to get through the month. On April 1st our Men's Club will sponsor Lunch Box. Please respond generously when they make a request for food donations and helpers. And at any time, monetary donations toward other food and supplies we need for Lunch Box may be made to Vassar Temple (with "Community Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line of your check).

*Marian Schwartz
Social Action Committee*



Shares in Local Jewish CSA Available

The local Jewish community supported agriculture (CSA), called Pri HaEmek: Bounty of the Valley Harvest Share Program, is officially on its way. This is a cooperative agreement between farmers in the area and a group of people who agree to pre-purchase a share of the farmer's produce for an entire season. The CSA gives members access to fresh, local, sustainably grown produce at competitive prices, while helping to preserve farmland and build community.

Thirty-one of the sixty available shares have been sold. Anyone interested in purchasing a share, or half a share, for the coming season may contact Debbie Most at bountyofthevalley@gmail.com. For more information, check the website at www.bountyofthevalley.org.

Eighteen members and guests of the Vassar Temple Men's Club had a great time at a hockey game at West Point on Saturday, January 21st and saw Air Force beat Army 4-2. Pictured in the first row, left to right are Ron Rosen, Bob Ritter, Chuck Stein, Bob Abrams, Dave Wolf. Second row, left to right: Mariel Kelson, Joel Kelson, Sam Kelson, Alan Kafflowitz, Aaron Kafflowitz (hidden)). Third row, left to right: Max Brenner, Sam Brenner, Dave Harrison.

“The Art of The Haggadah” on March 27th

On Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. our adult education committee will host an illustrated presentation on “Art, Narrative and Religious Imagination in the Passover Haggadah” by Vassar College professor Marc Michael Epstein.

The Passover Seder would be unimaginable without the haggadah, and the haggadah would be incomplete without its illustrations. Join Prof. Epstein in an exploration of the ways in which the illustrated haggadah became the ultimate way of fulfilling the mandate of envisioning oneself as if one had personally come out of Egypt on the night of the

Seder. Discover one of the most beautiful, yet most enigmatic, haggadot ever created, the Golden Haggadah, and delve into its mysteries: for whom was it made, and what is its secret message?

An historian of Jewish art and culture, Marc Michael Epstein has been teaching at Vassar since 1992. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, received his PhD from Yale University, and did much of his graduate research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has written on various aspects of visual and material

culture produced by, for, and about Jews. His most recent book, *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination* (Yale, 2011) was selected by the London Times Literary Supplement as one of the best books published last year.

Plan to attend this “special treat” evening at temple before Passover this year!

Get out of those winter doldrums.....
And exercise!

It lifts the spirits and is a healthy way to start 2012!

Need some equipment? Sports? Books? Videos?

Pick up your SCRIP before shopping at any of the fine stores listed below.



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For more information, contact our SCRIP Coordinator,
Sandra Mamis [scrip@vassartemple.org; 463-2678]

“Gates of the Seasons”

CCAR

B. PESACH

B-1 The mitzvah of observing Pesach

It is a *mitzvah* to observe Pesach for seven days, beginning on the eve of the fifteenth of Nisan. As the Torah says, “in the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, (142) you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening” (Exodus 12:18).

B-2 The mitzvah of removing leaven (Chametz)

It is a *mitzvah* to remove leaven from one’s home prior to the beginning of Pesach. Leaven refers to products made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt, which have been permitted to leaven. Ashkenazi custom adds rice, millet, corn, and legumes (like peas, beans, etc.). The removal of leaven is based on the Biblical injunction found in Exodus 12:15: “On the very first day you shall remove leaven from your house.” If one does not actually remove all the leaven from one’s home, one should place it in a closet or cabinet appropriately marked so that it will not be used during Pesach. (144)

Searching for leaven (*Bedikat Chametz*) on the night before the first *Seder* is a Pesach custom that has special appeal for children. (145) After the house has been cleaned for Pesach, a symbolic search for the last remains of leaven is made. At various places in the home, pieces of leaven are hidden. Then children, with flashlights or other illumination, search them out in the dark. The bread is gathered in a bag and burned or disposed of the next morning with the following blessing:

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tsi-va-nu al bi-ur cha-metz.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe Who hallows us with Mitzvot and commands us to burn Chametz.

Since leaven has been removed, one should not eat bread after breakfast on the day before the *Seder*. To heighten the appetite for *Matzah* at the *Seder* itself, *Matzah* is not eaten at least a full day before the *Seder*. (146)

B-3 The mitzvah of abstaining from eating leaven (Chametz)

It is a *mitzvah* to abstain from eating leaven (*Chametz*) during the entire seven days of Pesach. As the Torah states, “You shall eat nothing leavened...” (Exodus 12:20). Among Reform Jews, abstaining from leaven may take many forms – from not eating those foods which obviously contain leaven, such as bread or cake, to the more stringent avoidance and examination of all ingredients in a particular foodstuff. By consciously making a choice to abstain during the whole week of Pesach, one is constantly aware of the Festival and one’s identity as a Jew.

B-4 The mitzvah of preparing a Seder

It is a *mitzvah* for everyone to participate in the preparations for the *Seder*—cooking, cleaning, and setting the festive table. (147) The leader of the *Seder* has the special obligation to review the *Haggadah* in advance and decide

which passages will be included. The experience of the *Seder* is enhanced when all the participants are provided with the same *Haggadah*. In addition, the tradition encourages the use of beautiful ritual items to increase our enjoyment of the *mitzvot* (see “*Hidur Mitzvah: The Aesthetics of Mitzvot*,” pages 162-164).

Although Reform Jews do not celebrate the second day of Pesach as a holiday, many people have a second *Seder*. Sometimes they join in a communal *Seder* or gather with in-laws or relatives and friends who attended other first night *Sedarim*. The second *Seder* may follow the same pattern as the first or many have another focus, such as the liberation of specific oppressed Jewish communities. A second *Seder* may provide the opportunity to add passages omitted on the first night.

B-5 The mitzvah of hospitality (Hachnasat Orechim)

It is a *mitzvah* to invite guests to join in the *Seder*. So important is it that the invitation is included in the text of the *Haggadah*, “Let all who are hungry come and eat, let all who are in want share the hope of Passover.” (148) Arrangements should be made to see that no one has to celebrate Passover alone. Many communities make special arrangements for those who are alone, including the elderly, widows, widowers, and college students who are away from home.

B-6 The mitzvah of Tzedakah

It is a *mitzvah* to give *Tzedakah* before the beginning of Passover. (149) Tradition encourages the solicitation of special funds (*Me-ot Chitin*) to provide a proper *Seder* for the poor. (150)

Passover 2012 (5772)

Save this for your Seder

“Let all who are Hungry Enter and Eat”

The words are a pledge, and the pledge is a privilege. Surrounded by the hungry and the homeless, we can redeem the pledge. This evening, so that the hungry may eat, we contribute to MAZON, a Jewish response to hunger, and we say together:

Baruch eloheinu sheb'tuvo he'vianu v'zachinu l'mitzvat matan mazon.

Blessed is our God through whose goodness we have been brought to the privilege of sharing our nourishment.

You can send a contribution to MAZON to help in the important task of feeding the hungry. The address is MAZON, A Jewish Response to Hunger, 1990 S. Bundy Dr., Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90025-5232.

Passover is a time for being with others. The Children of Israel came out of Egypt in **community**, not one by one! So, *please call the Temple at 454-2570 to tell us how many places are open at your Seder table.* Or, if you're by yourself, please let us know so that we can make a “*shidduch*” with a host family. Or consider attending the first-night Seder at temple this year.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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| Rabbi Emeritus: | Stephen A. Arnold |
| Religious School Director: | Dr. Joel M. Hoffman |
| Cantorial Soloist: | Elisa Dugatkin |
| Organist: | Joseph Bertolozzi |
| President: | Robert Abrams |
| Vice President: | David Lampell |
| Secretary: | Tamara Gruszko |
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| Men's Club Co-Presidents: | Jeff Brenner & David Wolf |
| Youth Group President: | Rachel Erlebacher |
| Immediate Past President: | Sandra Mamis |

**DATED MAIL
PLEASE RUSH**

March 2012 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | 1 April Bulletin Deadline 10am SEP | 2 CAN JAM Weekend 7:30pm Joint Shabbaton w/Temple Beth-El | 3 10am Joint Shabbaton at Temple Beth-El |
| 4 Purim Carnival @ JCC RS meets @ JCC 11:30am Lunch Box | 5 7:15pm Ritual | 6 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Meditation Group | 7 NO RS 7pm Megillah Reading | 8 PURIM Flyers Deadline 10am SEP | 9 7:30pm Shabbat Service | 10 9am Torah Study 5:45pm Pasta Dinner 7pm Megillah Reading with Purim Spiel |
| 11 9am-12pm RS K-7 9:30am Passover Sale 9:30 Passover 101 | 12 | 13 10am SEP | 14 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 | 15 10am SEP | 16 7:30pm Shabbat Service Growing Up Jewish in Moscow with Inna & Sergey Kudria | 17 NO Torah Study 10am New Paths |
| 18 9am-12pm RS K-7 9:30am Passover Sale 9:30am Passover 101 | 19 | 20 10am SEP 7:30pm Meditation Group | 21 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 | 22 10am SEP | 23 7:30pm Shabbat Service Reading of the Torah | 24 9am Torah Study |
| 25 9am-12pm RS K-7 9:30am Passover Sale 10:30am Tiny Temple | 26 7pm Board | 27 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7pm The Art of the Haggadah with Prof. Marc Epstein | 28 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 | 29 10am SEP | 30 6:15pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Shabbat Service Teacher Recognition Birthday Blessings | 31 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service |