



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 161 No. 8 March 2015

Vassar Temple Gala

Saturday, April 18th

Villa Borghese, Wappingers Falls

Supporting Ha'Makom (The Place)

A fundraising campaign to support the spiritual space of Vassar Temple

Honoring Rabbi Paul & Deborah Golomb and
Bernard & Shirley Handel

Featuring

A delectable four-course meal

The Vassar College Night Owls

DJ & Dancing

Safe Crack 50/50 – The Big Reveal

Silent Auction

If you did not receive your Gala invitation, or need more information,
please contact gala@vassartemple.org

Upcoming Events

March 1	Lunch Box
7	Purim Shpiel/Dinner
13-14	Joint Shabbaton
15	French Toast Breakfast
18	Chai Tea
22	Tiny Temple
26	VTS Donor Dinner
April 18	Gala (see insert)
May 3	Mitzvah Day

Reminder:

As of March 6th, Friday Night services at Vassar Temple will resume the regular time of 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

Purim Shpiel Pasta Dinner

On March 7th at 5:30pm, the Vassar Temple Men's Club will sponsor a Pasta Dinner before the Purim Spiel. The menu features pasta and salad. Don't miss this opportunity to be waited on hand & foot by the men of Vassar Temple!

- \$5 per person, maximum \$15 per family
- RSVP by **March 4th** to mensclub@vassartemple.org



VT's First Night Passover Seder

Friday, April 3rd at 5:30pm
(see flyer insert for details)



Vassar Temple Sisterhood Donor Dinner

March 26th



Rabbi's Message: Ready, Set...Seder



The first Seder of Passover takes place at the beginning of next month (April 3rd). Most of you, I would guess, have to engage in some preparation – shopping, cleaning, cooking, extending invitations, digging up the Haggadahs from... just where did we put them? Seders are a lot of work. They cannot simply happen. The classic Jewish Sages (the talmudic rabbis) fully understood that one could not enter Passover unprepared. They were not thinking about the logistics of the Seder meal, but rather of the spiritual preparation everyone requires in order to experience the event of liberation properly.

Passover prep begins, for the rabbis, six weeks before the Seder. For four of the six Sabbaths prior to the festival, a special Torah reading was added to the weekly portion. The extra passages – ranging from three to over twenty verses – can seem to be obscure. They are, however, worth summarizing, and in the process, determining their contemporary value.

At the beginning of the Hebrew month of Adar, we read a segment in the book of Exodus that describes the entire Israelite people's responsibility to the Sanctuary (later Solomon's Temple). Everybody – rich or poor – must contribute the same amount, half a shekel. The contribution should, therefore, not be viewed as a tax; it is closer to being a ticket. Going to the movies? Everybody pays the same for

admission.

In the middle of the month, a brief, strange passage from Deuteronomy is read: remember Amalek, the fierce desert tribe that attacked the Israelites shortly after they left Egypt. When the people are safely settled on the land, however, the memory of Amalek can be erased. We read this segment on the Shabbat right before Purim. Haman is Amalek. This much is obvious. And we certainly 'remember' Haman with the reading of the Megillah. The Torah calls for us to forget Haman/Amalek sometime in the future. What can it mean to blot out the memory of one's enemies?

A week or so later, we read an even stranger passage from the book of Numbers: the preparation and use of the red heifer. An all red-haired calf is supposed to be culled from the herd, ritually slaughtered and burned on the altar. Its ashes are then mixed with water and other ingredients in order to create a potion that will render a ritually impure person pure. Ritual purity is not merely a spiritual condition. It is more a credential. By being pure, a person is worthy or permitted to act in certain ways.

Finally, at the beginning of the month of Nisan, the narrative in Exodus describing what the Israelites had to do before the final plague is read: acquiring and slaughtering a lamb, putting its blood on the doorposts of their homes, and eating it with matzah and bitter herbs. Clearly, this last special Torah reading is on point: Israel's preparation for the first Passover.

What about the three preceding passages?

Two of them – the half shekel and the red heifer – are about acquiring tickets. The first passage reminds us that a ticket is a ticket. There is no first and second class when it comes to liberation. All of Israel – rich and poor, noble and low-born – are in it together. The red heifer passage suggests that simply being part of the people Israel is not enough. One has to aspire, to elevate oneself spiritually in order to gain freedom. How is that done? Like the preparation of the red heifer, it is a mystery. But, you yourself, in the depths of your soul, will know when you are ready.

And the short piece about Amalek? Even as we get ready to celebrate liberation, we know that there is still a wilderness to cross. Freedom does not come in a flash. There are enemies about, and for the most part, they are inside us. We aspire to true peace of mind, true safety and security, and then the wilderness will be crossed. Our enemies will become a fading memory.

I invite you to have a wonderful, fun, celebratory and meaningful Seder (*if you do not already have plans, you should come to the first night at the Temple.*) I know for sure that it will be so, if you prepare; not only in the cleaning and cooking, but also in the spiritual effort of making yourself worthy of liberation.

Rabbi Paul Golomb



President's Message: It's Friday Night-Now What?

Let's say it's Friday night. You have several options. You could stay home, and that's just fine. You could go out to the movies and maybe a light meal. Good, too. You have another choice - Shabbat Services at Vassar Temple. I can hear some of you now, "Yeah right." But let's consider this a bit.

To begin with, Shabbat Services is an option you have any Friday night; so, no planning is needed and you can decide on the spur of the moment to go. The door is always open. You don't need reservations. It's free. The seats are comfortable. You

can sit by yourself in the back, or you can move up and be near others. The dress code is pretty much "come as you are." You're nearly guaranteed to see friends who greet you warmly, maybe even with a hug.

As you settle in for the service, you'll be guided through a ritual that calms your mind and helps the stresses of your week melt away. Lovely songs with ancient words and familiar melodies you've heard all your life will lift your spirit. Meditations and readings will soothe your soul and center you on what is really important, like love, good deeds, family & friends. You'll think about others, pray for their health and remember loved ones. In

under an hour, you'll find that pressures of the material world will be largely put aside as you begin to feel the warmth and freedom of the Shabbas. As the service comes to an end, with song, you'll turn to those around you and notice that you both feel more joyful and appreciative. You are ready for the weekend!

But before you leave, you might join your fellow Temple friends for a light desert and some Kiddush wine. During the winter months, you can be out the door in time to go for a nice dinner.

What have you missed? Nothing!

What have you gained? Well, let me put it this way:

Shabbat Services: Free.

Oneg: Free.

The experience: Priceless!

March Worship Services

- 4 (Wed) 7:30pm Purim Evening Megillah reading: An exercise in chaos
6 7:30pm Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Golomb
7 9:00am Torah study; 10:00am New Paths Shabbat morning;
7 Vassar Temple Purim Shpiel 5:30pm Pasta Dinner; 7:00pm The Shpiel and other odd noises
13 Annual Shabbaton with Temple Beth-El; 7:30pm Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin. Guest speaker: Rabbi Uri Regev, Director of Hiddush
14 **At Temple Beth-El**, 9:30am Shabbat morning service followed by Kiddush and lunch (No 9:00am Torah study)
20 7:30pm Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Golomb
21 9:00am Torah study
27 7:30pm Shabbat evening service and Torah reading with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
28 9:00am Torah study; 10:00am New Paths Shabbat morning

New Paths Services

Join us at upcoming New Paths services at Vassar Temple on Saturdays, March 7th and March 28th at 10:00am. The focus is on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. The atmosphere has been described by participants as spiritual, uplifting, and thought provoking. 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 informal kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

Scriptural Readings

- March 7 *Ki Tissa*
Ex. 31:18 – 33:11;
I Kings 18:1-39
- March 14 **Shabbat Parah**
Vayakhel-Pikude
Ex. 37:17 – 39:21,
40:34-38
(Ex. 12:1-20);
Ezekiel 36:16-38
- March 21 **Shabbat HaHodesh/
Rosh Hodesh** *Vayikra*
Leviticus 3:1 – 4:26;
Ezekiel 45:16 – 46:18,
Isa. 66:1,24
- March 28 **Shabbat HaGadol**
Tzav
Lev. 7:11-38;
Malakhai 3:4-24

Joint Shabbaton Israel: Jewish and Democratic?

Whether or not Israel can be both Jewish and democratic will be the theme of a shabbaton co-sponsored by Vassar Temple and Temple Beth El, **March 13th-14th**. Israeli attorney and Rabbi Uri Regev will serve as scholar-in-residence and during the weekend, will speak about the issues with which he deals as Director of Hiddush. Founded in 2009, Hiddush is a nonprofit, made up of both Israeli and world Jewry, and aims to reinstate the original vision of Israel as described in the Israeli Declaration of Independence: “*The State of Israel ... will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture.*”

The community is invited to participate in any or all of the events during this special shabbat. On Friday, March 13th, Rabbi Regev will give the sermon during Vassar Temple's Shabbat evening service, which will begin at 7:30pm. The service will be followed by an

oneg shabbat, with wonderful refreshments and the opportunity to both meet Rabbi Regev in person and to socialize with one another.

The next day, on Saturday March 14, Regev will give a dvar torah at Temple Beth El during Shabbat services that start at 9:30am and then will give a third and final presentation, which will include time for Q & A, during a kiddush luncheon that will follow the service. The luncheon will begin at about 12:15pm.

Anyone who plans to dine with us should please make reservations by March 9 to programs@tbeny.org or 845-454-0570, which will greatly assist in our planning. The joint shabbaton is underwritten by the Sherman Fund of Temple Beth El and the Groten Fund of Vassar Temple. Go to <http://hiddush.org> for further information about both Rabbi Regev and Hiddush.

Any VT members **who would like to contribute refreshments for the oneg should contact Amy Horn Oclatis**

Purim Shpiel: Saturday, March 7th

Purim in a Galaxy Far, Far Away -- The Musical

The Vassar Temple Players will present the annual Purim Shpiel on Saturday, March 7th at 7:30 pm. An adaptation of Star Wars with a special twist, this year's Shpiel is entitled *Purim in a Galaxy Far*, Far Away -- The Musical.

The cast includes performers from young children to «mature adults» (using the term somewhat loosely), and the play will include music, song, dance and amazing special effects. The evening will also include an optional pre-performance dinner, a Megilla reading just before the play, and after the show, endless, delicious hamantashen baked by our own Vassar Temple bakers. So mark your calendars now! The evening will be exciting and entertaining for adults and children of all ages! We warmly invite all to join us in making Purim the joyous holiday that it is.

Art Menken
Purim Shpiel Director/Producer

Tiny Temple Passover on March 22nd

Tiny Temple will hold a Passover program on March 22nd from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Please join us as we explore Passover through crafts, song, story and fun! Passover-themed snacks will be provided. Tiny Temple is open to anyone with a child under 5, regardless of Temple affiliation. Contact Fern Wolf or Laura Brundage at TinyTemple@Vassartemple.org.





Mazel Tov

to:
Melissa Wall on her new home;

Susan Hecht, prize winner of the February *Bulletin* Reader's Contest

Passover Tasting & Sale at Judaica Shoppe

Vassar Temple's Judaica Shoppe will be open special additional hours for the annual Passover Sale on Sundays, March 15th and March 22nd from 9:00am-noon, in the East Chapel. Items for your Passover table including beautiful seder plates and matzo covers, haggadahs, books, hostess gifts, and fun items to bring special meaning to Passover for the children will be featured.

At the sale on March 15th a special event, "Passover 101," will offer tastings of traditional and not so traditional variations on haroset, chocolate matzo, etc., and the now famous "Passover 101" recipe handout will be available throughout the sale at no charge.

The Shoppe will also be opened its regular hours, Mon.-Thurs. from 9:30am-2:30pm, and by appointment, for our regular selection of Jewish ritual items, mezuzahs, tallit, gift items, jewelry, cosmetics and art from Israel. We have a wide array of items on display and in stock and can place special orders for you.

For more information please contact Perla at 914-456-7309 or membership@vassartemple.org

Condolences to...

Jack & Fredrica Goodman on the passing of their son-in-law, Monte Tate Brown; Alan, Susan, Erica, Alexander & Carrie Colodner on the passing of Alan's father, Jesse Colodner; Lisa Duvall-Rubenstein on the passing of her father, Alan S. Rubenstein; Ellen Devorsetz, (former member), on the passing of her son, Brett Devorsetz.



Chai Tea March 18th Get-Together

On Wednesday, March 18th at noon we will meet at 'Shadows' on the Hudson on Rinaldi Blvd in Poughkeepsie.

Join us for lunch (Dutch treat) and enjoy the company of your Temple sisters! Guests are welcome!

Please let us know you are coming by sending an email to sisterhood@vassar-temple.org

French Toast Breakfast: March 15th

Vassar Temple is holding a French Toast Breakfast Sunday, March 15th from 9:30-11:30am in the social hall. The menu will feature homemade challah French toast, maple syrup, fresh fruit, coffee and tea. This casual drop-in event is presented by the Sisterhood and Men's Club and is free of charge, but donations are appreciated and will go to benefit Lunch Box.

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.



Pulpit Flowers



- March 6: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- March 13: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- March 20: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- March 27: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

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

Use SCRIP Help yourself and the Temple

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly
 Publisher: Marianne Abrams
 Editors: Sue Lesser and Donna Loshin
 Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the April Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by March 1st. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

From the Religious School Director



“Small Words and Great Holiness”

As many people know, we have different traditional greetings for different times of the year: *shannah tovah* (“Have a good year”) for Rosh Hashanah, for instance, or *chag samei’ach* (“Have a happy holiday”) for most holidays.

It is less widely appreciated that we also have different greetings for different times of the week.

The standard, all-purpose, greeting in Hebrew is *shalom*, a word that means “peace.” Underscoring our commitment to peace, we also use that word both for “hello” and for “good-bye,” thereby greeting people with peace and departing from them in peace. As the end of correspondence, the prefix *b’* --- “with” --- might come before that word, which is why you’ll frequently see me sign e-mail notes with *b’shalom*. (A complex debate in the Talmud prompts some people to sign off with *l’shalom*--- “for peace” --- instead. Apparently even saying “good-bye” in Hebrew requires a pretty sophisticated understanding of Torah.)

But on Friday afternoon, I don’t sign my notes with *shalom* or *b’shalom* or even *l’shalom*. Instead, I use *shabbat shalom*.

That’s because Shabbat is approaching and our Jewish lives are based around the weekly cycle defined by the Sabbath. Communication on Friday afternoon is extra special, because it comes at that magical time when Shabbat is almost upon us. The workweek is nearing its end. We prepare to celebrate a day that simultaneously reenacts creation, symbolizes the holy city of Jerusalem, and offers a taste of the messianic era. Surely that deserves special consideration.

Anticipation of such an extraordinary occurrence extends backward in a fairly flexible manner. A note on Friday morning might also earn the distinction of *shabbat shalom*. If I don’t think I’ll see you on Friday, I might even wish you *shabbat shalom* on Thursday. And of course it’s perfect on Shabbat itself.

Even in secular Israeli society, people wish one another *shabbat shalom* on Friday afternoon. Shopkeepers and shoppers, bus drivers and commuters, and, in general, people awaiting a day off share in the collective joy that the Sabbath is approaching, even if they don’t plan to spend any of it in synagogue.

Similarly, Saturday evening has its own vocabulary: *shavu’a tov*. The phrase means “a good week,” as in, “have a good week.” The week begins on Saturday night with the departure of Shabbat. And

we enter the workweek by highlighting the symbiosis between Shabbat and the ordinary days of Sunday through Friday. Even though we don’t explicitly mention Shabbat, we keep it in mind --- as both a recent sweet memory and an upcoming treat --- by using the phrase *shavu’a tov* only shortly after Shabbat. It’s a fine way to end a note on Saturday night or Sunday, but it would be odd on, say, Wednesday, even though there’s still some week left to enjoy.

And, again, even the most secular Israeli elements join in using Shabbat to reckon time in this way, too. For example, the hourly official news broadcast on Saturday evening abandons the general “shalom” for the more specific *shavu’a tov*.

On the one hand, these are mere linguistic conventions. But on the other, they reflect the fundamental Jewish insistence that time, like space, comes in more than one variety. And just as it would be a shame to walk by a physical marvel without noticing it, so, too, we try not to let holy time pass by unobserved

Dr. Joel Hoffman

March Adult Education at VT

Members of the community of all faiths are invited to attend the following adult education classes to be held at Vassar Temple during the month of March, free of charge. If you have any questions, please call the Temple at 845-454-2570 or email rabbi@vassartemple.org.

The Jewish Idea of Time: An Introduction and Guide to the Celebration of Festivals

Learn about the religious foundations, liturgy, customs and practices that go into the observance of the major holidays of the Jewish year. Sessions will be held Sundays 9:15am in conjunction with upcoming Jewish holidays. This month: March 1: “Purim”; March 22: “Passover”

Maimonides and Spinoza: How Jews

Think Tuesday evenings, Mar. 3 and 10 at 7:00pm. Moses ben Maimon (1138-1204) and Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) were two of the most influential Jewish philosophers in history. Their ideas about the relationship of God, the material world and the individual not only had a profound effect on Jewish thought, but also on Christian, Muslim and modern secular thinking.

Judaism 101 This twelve-week introduction to Jewish history, religion and practice continues thru May 6. Classes Wednesdays, 7:00pm, led by Rabbi Golomb and special guest speakers. Participants are encouraged to attend all twelve classes,

but each class is separate and can be taken individually. This month: “The Holocaust” on Mar. 11, “Zionism and the State of Israel” on Mar. 18, “The Jewish Year” on Mar. 25. Complete schedule at <http://vassartemple.org/learning/adult-education>

Please note: There is no Talmud class on Tuesday, 3/17.

Men's Club Lunch Box a Success

Members, family members, and friends of the Vassar Temple Men's Club came through in a big way for less fortunate members of our wider community on January 4th. Enthusiasm was so great for the annual Men's Club Lunch Box event that volunteers had to be divided into two teams!

Volunteers prepared and served an appetizing meal of chili con carne, salad, and fruit. Many thanks to the chefs and servers: Bob Creedon, Ed Garber, Allen & Noah Kram, Richard Levien, Stan Marcus, Kurt Quackenbush, Bob Ritter, Adam & Eric Rosenfeld, Dave Samson, Arlene & Gil Seligman, Chuck Stein,

Dave Wolf, and Aaron & Joel Zaritsky. Thank you also to the Chernack, Ciminello, Creedon, Garber, Lampell, Levien, Marcus, Metzger, Nobel, Quackenbush, Ritter, Robinowitz, Rosenfeld, Samson, Schwartz, Seligman, Stein, and Wolf families for their food donations. Finally, no Lunch Box event would occur without the dedicated assistance of Joel and Linda Babas, who shop for the event and help the volunteers set up.

Volunteering at the Lunch Box is a great way to spend quality time with your family and Temple friends! It's also a great way for students to earn community service credit!

A Souper Thank You

Dear Temple Members,
Once again, we thank you for your generous donations to our annual December SOUPER SALE. As a result of these donations, we were able to purchase and deliver 33 cases of large cans of Chunky Soups to Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry, Dutchess Outreach's Beverly Closs Food Pantry and seniors at Interfaith Towers. The soups are ready to eat, a warm meal for a child, a teenager, an adult of any age during a cold winter. Thanks also, to our volunteers, who delivered the load with smiles, and to Sherrie for processing all of the donations, 100% of which was used for this food.

*Nancy Samson and Marian Schwartz
Social Action Committee*

2015 Gala Honorees

Please join us at the 2015 Gala on Saturday, April 18th, as we honor these individuals who have contributed so significantly to our congregation and community.

Rabbi Paul and Deborah Golomb have served us for 15 years. Rabbi was ordained in 1975 and previously served as a Director of Hillel Foundations, the URJ Regional Director for Canada, and at synagogues in Chicago and Connecticut. He has been involved in an extensive variety of rabbinic activities including chaplain to university students, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, and working on behalf of the Reform movement. He has published many scholarly articles and is Editor-in-Chief of the *CCAR Journal*. Rabbi has been president of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, a member of the county's Human Rights Commission, and the founder and convener of Scriptural Reasonings, a Jewish, Christian, and Muslim text study symposium.

Paul and Debbie met as adolescents at Camp Eisner in Great Barrington and again ten years later when both were students at HUC, where Debbie was completing a Masters in Education. While Paul launched his rabbinical career, Debbie completed graduate work in Jewish History, eventually going on to earn a law degree. They raised son, Tal, and daughter, Rivka, and are the proud grandparents of Eden and Dalia, daughters of Tal and his wife, Ariella.

Bernard and Shirley Handel have a deep commitment to enhancing the cultural, physical, educational and spiritual direction of the Hudson Valley community. Vassar Temple is deeply honored that they will add to their many accolades the Kahn-Lampell Award for Community Service.

Bernard Handel has served with numerous local organizations including: the Health Planning Council of Dutchess County, the Hudson Valley Health Systems Agency, the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council, the Board

of Vassar Brothers Medical Center, the Dutchess Community College Foundation, the Poughkeepsie Rotary Club and the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Shirley Handel is Executive Director of the Handel Foundation. She has served with: Poughkeepsie Day School, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, the American Symphony Orchestra League, Planned Parenthood, Dutchess Outreach, the Byrdcliffe Advisory Council, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, and the Advisory Board of the Hudson River Valley Institute of Marist College.

The Handels' philanthropic contributions include the establishment of annual lectures at Dutchess Community and Marist colleges. Their charitable contributions have benefitted so many in our community including Vassar Brothers Medical Center, the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, and Vassar Temple, among many others.



**Cereal Counts
Breakfast Cereal Box Drive
Sunday, April 12th thru Sunday, May 3rd**



Every summer, when schools are closed, there are underprivileged children and teenagers who may not have access to breakfast; children, teenagers and adults of all ages county-wide go hungry in the morning.

Breakfast hunger is real. Breakfast hunger is intolerable.

This spring, we can work together to make breakfast happen this summer. How to help:

- drop off a box of cereal at the Hudson Valley Community Center/Jewish Community Center, 110 South Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, anytime between Sunday, April 12th and Sunday, May 3rd.
- host a “mini-drive” to collect cereal boxes in your office, business, school, faith organization, with your teams and karate clubs and more.

Contact us to pick up your “mini-load” or drop it off at the HVCC/JCC. On May 3rd, County Cereal Counts Student Captain, Max Samson, and his team will again count and pack up all of the donated cereal boxes onto a U-Haul truck for delivery to food pantries all around the county. Please contact us with any questions or if you would like to schedule a time for us to pick up your load.

Every box counts. Every box makes breakfast meals and makes breakfast real.

Max Samson, County-wide Student CC Captain

Nancy and Dave Samson, Cereal Counts!!! Coordinators cerealcounts123@aol.com or 845.235.2860

Do You Like to Cook and Help Others?

WANTED: Food you prepare at home and one or two people to help serve evening meal to people staying at the overnight shelter in the Hillcrest building.

The Jewish community joins together in providing the night time meal the 4th Thursday of the month. For further information or to sign up to help, please contact Linda (of Temple Beth El), who coordinates “Jewish night,” at lindadoherty1998@gmail.com or 914-474-0038.

Lunch Box March 1st

The March 1st Lunch Box will be captained by Wayne Hartman and staffed by his fellow members of the Roy C. Ketcham H.S. National Honor Society. If you can help by donating one or two dozen pieces of fresh fruit (bananas are a favorite) please contact him at whartman007@gmail.com or 896-1769.

Fruit should be labeled “For Lunch Box” and may be dropped off in the Temple kitchen beforehand, during hours when the Temple is open. Your tax deductible financial donations are also essential for us to do every Lunch Box. Simply make out your check to “Vassar Temple” with “Community Tzedakah Fund” on the memo line.

Thank you for your participation in the mitzvah of feeding the hungry in our community through the Lunch Box project.

**Save the Date
Mitzvah Day: Sunday May 3rd**

More info will be in the April Bulletin.

Interested now? Contact:

- Marian socialaction@vassartemple.org
- Lenora jfs@jewishdutchess.org

From Chametz to Table

As Passover arrives and you clear your cabinets of chametz in preparation for the holiday, we hope you will consider donating these foods to help feed the hungry in our community. This March and April, please drop off your canned and non-perishable goods in the CAN JAM bin. We will bag and deliver them to food pantries in Dutchess County. Happy Passover. Questions? Nancy Samson, 462.4828 or canjam123@aol.com

Wind Chill Fund



As the cold winter winds persist, we continue to collect (in our tzedakah box) for the Wind Chill Fund, which subsidizes the local overnight shelter. Tax deductible checks are also welcome--just make them out to “Vassar Temple” with “Wind Chill Fund” on the memo line. ~Vassar Temple Social Action Committee



Yahrzeits

MARCH 6

Nathan Baum
 Rae Jacobs Rauh Brown
 Frank Devan
 Dr. Randy Bennett Edman
 Victor Fein
 Gilbert Feinman
 Miriam Genshaft
 Samuel Gold
 Mildred Gould
 Howard Judd
 Jeanne Klein
 Saul Kleinfeld
 Rose Landau
 Geraldine N. Leeds
 Morris Lessin
 Katherine Mamis
 Saul Marks
 Gertrude K. Miller
 Ruth Parry
 Irving M. Rosenthal
 Irving Schechtman
 Joseph Schwartz
 Dr. Maurice Sitomer
 Tessie Turk

MARCH 13

Morris Abraskin
 Lewis Acker
 Meyer Harold Bagun
 Dorothy Davis
 Bettina DelVescovo
 Silvia Domes
 David Feinberg
 Sara Leslie Goldman Fite
 Anna Frankel
 Ethel Graves
 Bessie Kaplan
 Samuel Karnes
 Fred Lehman
 Sonya Markovitch
 Benjamin Metlis
 Ralph Partridge
 Bee Plimack
 Gertrude M. Plimack
 Alfred Podell, MD
 Esther G. Rheingold
 Dr. Simon Riechman
 Kaye Roth
 Dr. Louis Shub
 Arlene Sitomer
 Howard Smith
 Reuben Temlock
 Harry Uttal
 Belle Weiss

MARCH 20

Lena Baskin
 Lillian Burger
 Scott Buxbaum
 Sarah Benton Childs
 Louis D. Dampf
 Gary Feder
 Michael Feder
 Joseph Feuer
 Eli Gellert
 Pearl Bettigole Goldberg
 Sidney Greenman
 Joseph Gutnick
 Gwendolyn Harlam
 Mae Miller Klampert
 Ruth Kovacs
 Esther Laks
 Sol G. Lipschutz
 Ann R. Margolin
 Leonard Nectow
 Judith Newman
 Idane Evan Salenger
 Vawn Jennifer Salenger
 Erwin Schischa
 Gary Schischa
 Samuel Schmukler
 Lillian Schwarz
 Claire Sherwin
 Kurt Similes
 Sarah Singer
 Max Solomon
 Esther Temlock
 Annemarie Teutsch
 Bruce Weber
 Meyer A. Wolfson

MARCH 27

Patricia Adler
 Elsie H. Albert
 Fannie Berlin
 Harry Bronfeld
 Chris Brown
 Benjamin Clarfeld
 Bernard Faver
 Esta Feder
 Esther Feinberg
 Charles Frankel
 Zoey Rachel Gillman
 Herman Jacobs
 Harvey Kafflowitz
 Rose Baum Kraut
 Martin Lowenthal
 Isaac Mendel
 Etta Simon Podret
 Erica Robbins
 Harold Rosen
 Lee Rosenthal
 William M. Rothstein
 Harold Satz
 Ann Solomon
 Jennie Uttal

Jewish War Veterans Meeting

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, **March 1st** at Congregation Schomre Israel at 18 Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The meeting begins 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 cordially invited to attend and participate in the activities of this JWV Post.

As Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue.

If you need a ride or for further information, please contact the Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison, at ROBL56@aol.com.



Refuah Shelemah

Linda Babas who is recovering from surgery

Bereavement Support Group Forming

A Bereavement Support Group, sponsored by Jewish Family Services, is forming and will be open to people of all faiths. The group is designed for participants aged 30 and up (approximately).

Poughkeepsie location, Thursdays 10-11:30am

Co-led by Lenora Koffman, LCSWR and Lee Corwin, retired psychologist

Free of charge (suggested donation \$10/session)

The date and time for the first meeting of this group will be determined as soon as enough participants are registered. For more info & to register, please contact Lenora Koffman at 471-9817 or jfs@jewishdutchess.org

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In honor of:

Rabbi Golomb

Stephen & JoAnn Greller

Rabbi Golomb's Birthday

Robert & Mary Ritter

SUSTAINING FUND

In celebration of:

Melissa Wall's new home

Robert & Mary Ritter

In memory of:

Bess Claster Kaufman

Carol, Stewart & Barbara Nectow

Arthur Stern

Adele Stern

Nicholas Stern

Mark Zatzkis

John Ciminello

Barbara Stern

Paul & Andrea Ciminello

Miriam R. Oppenheimer

Russell B. Oppenheimer

Sara Poley Jill Oppenheimer Auerbach

Alan Pack Greller

Stephen, JoAnn, Benjamin,

Johanna, Mark,

Candace, Allan

and Zoe Greller

Bessie Lipschutz

Shirley Lipschutz

Sidney Friedman

Jeffrey Sisselman

Philip Lustig

The Sisselman & Lustig Families

Libby Silverstein

Faye Siefs

Elaine Lipschutz

The Friedman Family

The Sisselman Family

Robert & Mary Ritter

Robert & Mary Ritter

Robert & Mary Ritter

Susan Sommerfield

HINENI FUND

In honor of:

Bob Ritter's infectious enthusiasm for Vassar

Temple

Paul & Andrea Ciminello

In memory of:

Seth Erlebacher

Paul & Andrea Ciminello

GRANDMOTHER'S FUND

In memory of:

Libby Silverstein

Dave & Susan Hecht

High Holy Day Donations

A special thanks to all who donated:

Bob & Marianne Abrams

Joanne Abraskin

Daniel & Susan Albinder

William & Susan Barbash

Gabe & Cathy Bokor

Tom & Laura Brundage

Doi Cohen

Richard DuVall & Lisa Duvall-Rubenstein

stein

Dawn Effron

Mrs. Faver

Ed & Vivian Garber

Jeff & Nan Genshaft

Sara Jane Goldberg

Jack & Fredrica Goodman

Art & Marge Groten

David & Susan Hecht

Howard & Emily Himelstein

Irma Jacobs

Roslyn Kaffowitz

Maury & Miriam Lacher

David & Marilyn Lampell

Herschel Lescher

Lou & Candace Lewis

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Bob & Mary Ritter

Ron Rosen

Loren & Charlene Rosenthal

Justin & Deborah Scheer

Ken & Bonnie Scheer

Gilbert & Arlene Seligman

Brian & Helen Silverman

Charles & Roni Stein

Carol Strauss

Debra Tierney

Steve & Shelley Turk

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel



Cast Your Vote for Israel

The World Zionist Congress will convene in October 2015 in Jerusalem. Right now votes are being cast for congressional delegates who represent various ideas of what Israel should look like in the future. **Stand for a better Israel by casting your vote for ARZA** (Association of Reform Jews in America) representing Reform/Progressive Judaism.

ARZA representatives will vote for:

- Women's Rights and Gender Equality, (men and women should pray, live and work together as equals)
- Religious Equality (we are all Jews regardless of our religious observance) and
- Lasting Peace and Security for Israel by supporting the two-state solution.

Please go to www.ReformJews4Israel.org and vote today!

Requirements:

\$10

You must be 18 and Jewish (self-defined).

The more people who vote for this progressive agenda the more influence we have in Israel's future. Last time progressive Jews secured 39% of the vote and now we are aiming for over 50%. You actually have a say in this important election.

Please vote! Forward this to your friends and family.

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rabbi:	Paul Golomb
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen A. Arnold
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
1st Vice President:	Jen Dahnert
2nd Vice President:	Susan Karnes Hecht
Secretary:	Len Greenberg
Treasurer:	OPEN
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



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15am Adult Ed: Jewish Idea of Time 9:30am Sisterhood meeting 10am Purim Carnival, HVJC 12pm Lunchbox	2 7pm Ritual Committee	3 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class 7pm Adult Ed: Maimonides 7pm Meditation	4 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Purim Megillah Reading 7:30	5 10am SEP	6 Can Jam 7:30pm Shabbat Service	7 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service 5:30pm Mens Club Purim Pasta Dinner
8 9am R/S K-7	9 7pm VT Exec Committee	10 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class 7pm Adult Ed: Spinoza	11 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 7pm Judaism 101	12 10am SEP	13 7:30pm Annual Beth El Shared Shabbat	14 9am Torah Study 9:30am Joint Shabbaton 12:15pm Kiddush Luncheon
15 9am R/S K-7 9am VTS Judaica Sale 9:30am VT French Toast Breakfast	16	17 10am SEP 12pm NO Talmud Class	18 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 7pm Judaism 7pm Finance Cmte Chai Tea 1200pm	19 10am SEP	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study
22 9am R/S K-7 9am VTS Judaica Sale 9:15am Adult Ed: Tiny Temple	23 7pm VT Board Meeting	24 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class	25 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S 7pm Judaism 101	26 10am SEP Vassar Temple	27 7:30pm Shabbat Service	28 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
29 9am NO R/S K-7	30	31 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Class				