



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 7 March 2016

Vassar-Beth El Joint Shabbaton: March 11-12

Noted author, scholar and spiritual leader, Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson, will be the featured scholar-in-residence at the 2016 Shabbaton, jointly organized by Vassar Temple and Temple Beth El.

Author of six books and a columnist for *The Daily Beast* and *The Forward*, Dr. Michaelson has appeared on NPR, CBS and MSNBC. He speaks on many contemporary issues, including, but not limited to, religion, law and LGBT. Dr. Michaelson received a JD degree from Yale Law School and is most known for his work on LGBT issues. Ordained as a non-denominational Rabbi, Dr. Michaelson is also a scholar of Jewish mysticism and serves on the faculty of Chicago Theological Seminary. Dr. Michaelson's book credits include Lambda Award winner *God Versus Gay: The Religious Case For Equality*, *Everything is God*, *Evolving Dharma*, and most recently, *Gate of Tears*.

Dr. Michaelson will be speaking at Vassar Temple on Friday evening, March 11th and at Temple Beth El on Saturday morning, March 12th. He will also lead a meditation session at Temple Beth El on Saturday morning, prior to services and will speak following lunch that afternoon.

This special visit has been made possible through a grant from the Bertha Effron Fund of the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Michaelson with us for the weekend; please save the date and plan to attend.

Anyone willing to provide food for the oneg that follows the March 11th service should contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org. For more information including suggested advance readings, please refer to the Vassar Temple and Temple Beth-El web sites: www.vassartemple.org and www.tbny.org.

Kedem Wine & Cheese Party: March 20th

Order your Passover wine at Vassar Temple's Wine & Cheese Party, featuring wine tasting from the kosher Kedem Winery in Marlboro. This lovely afternoon event, enhanced by musical entertainment, will be held on Sunday, March 20th from 2:00 – 4:00pm in the Vassar Temple Social Hall.

Selected wines will be available for tasting, and you will be able to order from a large variety of Kedem products. Your order will be delivered to the Temple before Passover, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Vassar Temple. The admission fee of \$10 includes tasting

and one full glass of wine. Raffle tickets are \$2 for a door prize (2 bottles of Kedem wine).

This event is restricted to adults; however, on-site babysitting will be available, courtesy of the Vassar Temple Youth Group. RSVP is required by Sunday, March 13th (let us know if you need babysitting). Contact Polly Lewis at Bella6034@yahoo.com or 845-476-9778. Wine ordering will be available for a limited time following the event.

Hope to see you then!

Upcoming Events

March 4	Shabbat Across America dinner, p3
March 5	Torah-to-Go, p3
March 11-12	Joint Shabbaton, p1
March 15	Adult Ed, p8
March 20	Wine & Cheese Party, p1
March 23	Purim Dinner & Shpiel, p1

Save the Date

May 15th Mitzvah Day

Purim Pasta Dinner: March 23rd

Continuing a tradition, Men's Club will be sponsoring a pasta dinner prior to the Temple's Purim festivities on March 23rd beginning at 5:30pm.

Requested dinner donation: \$5 per person (maximum \$15 per family)

If you'd like to join us, please RSVP to mensclub@vassartemple.org by March 18th. Hope to see you then!

Rabbi's Message: Purim: An "Inside Out" Holiday



The first movie I saw after I moved to Poughkeepsie was Pixar's "Inside Out." I love all Pixar movies, but

this storyline was particularly close to my heart. "Inside Out" follows an eleven-year-old girl, Riley, as she adjusts to life in a new city. I spent much of the film simultaneously crying and laughing, which is, actually, the whole point of the movie.

Riley's story is told from the point of view of her five emotions: Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust. For much of the film, Joy and Sadness are at odds. Joy is the head of the emotional household, and she thinks her purpose is to keep Sadness from ruining everything. After a long journey together, Joy realizes that Sadness, too, has a place at the table. Without Sadness, we wouldn't actually know how to be happy.

This is why I chose "Inside Out" as the theme of this year's Purimshpiel.

The Jewish calendar is an emotional roller-coaster. At Passover, we throw off the shackles of our winter hibernation and celebrate the feeling of libera-

tion that marks the onset of spring. On the High Holy Days, we watch the leaves change and contemplate our own potential for transformation. In the depths of winter, we kindle the lights of Chanukah, a symbol of hope even in our darkest nights.

What emotion, then, is Purim?

Purim arrives on the cusp of winter and spring. We've had enough snow; we're simultaneously sluggish and stir-crazy. Any hint of warmth, or the scent of flowers piercing the winter air, is enough to make our hearts flutter with excitement. It is in this moment of spring fever that we celebrate Purim. Purim is an opportunity for us to come together after a long winter and shake our sillies out. We wear costumes, wigs, masks, and makeup. We make up silly songs, stomp our feet on the floor, and shake our noisemakers—*in the middle of services!*

Underneath the silliness lie more serious emotions: In the Purim story, our heroes experience their own fear, anger, sadness, and disgust, as they look within themselves for the courage to be their true selves, and to stand up to the ultimate

bully, Haman. Purim brings all of these emotions to the surface. By leading us through this emotional thrill ride, Purim reminds us to make space for all emotions in our lives. Even as we celebrate a victory, we are vigilant against prejudice and persecution. Even as we struggle to find our place in the world, we make time to be playful and sing out in joy.

I encourage everyone to watch "Inside Out" before our Purimshpiel (**Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:00pm**). This year we will be combining the megillah reading with the Purimshpiel, so that we can fulfill Purim's charge to mix the silly with the serious, the sadness with the joy. Come in costume, and bring boxed rice and pasta so that we can make some joyful noise (and donate it to the Morse Magnet School Food Pantry afterwards!)

As we prepare for Purim, I hope you will join me on **March 15th at 7:00pm** for a text study on gender roles in the Purim story: "*The Feminine and the Feminist in the Book of Esther*," which will feature midrashim on the Purim story, as well as artistic representations of Esther and Vashti!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: The Next Phase



Over the last few years, the Officers and Trustees of Vassar Temple have made strides in reducing our operating costs. Through capital improvements we have improved our systems in order to significantly lower the cost of utilities. We've also reduced monthly maintenance expenses even as we've improved the Temple's appearance. Frankly, there is hardly any operating cost that we can reduce at this point without there being a significant change to our program. The next phase is the Growth Phase. We need to grow the spirit of Vassar Temple.

Membership seems to have stabilized at about 185 households, give or take. We have held the line on dues for the last couple of years, and it is my plan to do so again as we go into our budgeting process. The answer is not higher dues! The answer is that we need more members. Put another way, we need more people in the pews!

But before membership can happen, we need to grow the spirit of Vassar Temple... the team spirit... the family spirit... the spirit of friendship... the spirit of learning... the spirit of Jewish traditions and Jewish values.

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It will come as no surprise to you that demographic trends, and trends with respect to involvement in organized religion, are not helping matters. It is somewhat like trying to paddle against the current. But we live on the mighty Hudson River, and as you probably know, one of the things that makes our magnificent river special is that it has a tidal current; when the tide changes, the river current flows the other way.

I believe the tide is turning for the City of Poughkeepsie, Judaism, and Vassar Temple. Mayor Rob Rolison, our newly elected City of Poughkeepsie Mayor, ran with the campaign slogan "Believe in Poughkeepsie." Is he right? To begin with, "belief" can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. (Pun intended.) For another thing, we have seen what can happen when a city "get's its mojo back," as well as its act together. Look at Beacon: the resurgence is having a tremendous positive impact on businesses and non-profits there, including Beacon's temple. The same can happen in Poughkeepsie! "A rising tide lifts all boats!"

Here are three things that I am asking you to do:

1. **Start by going to temple.** Attend a service once or so a month. Take part in

more holidays. Enjoy the experience of being a Jew! Watch our Bulletin and emails for upcoming events and set aside time. You'll find it enriches your life and brings you joy! If you have children, that's even better. This is how Judaism is handed down from generation to generation. This is what keeps Judaism alive; one household at a time. Jewish pride!!

2. **Tell Others.** Word of mouth is the most effective and economical means to draw new friends to our temple. Do NOT, I repeat, DO NOT use the word "membership." That is like talking about a marriage even before the first date! It may take a couple of years before someone is ready to make a membership commitment. We have to start with just simply getting to know one another. That can begin with you sharing stories about your experiences and inviting people to join you for something at the Temple. It could be for a service or holiday, a social activity, or an adult education topic. And, when you do enjoy yourself at our beloved Temple, share your experience on social media. Getting the word out is crucial because the people we want to reach are not in the Temple; they are outside, in the community!

Continued on page 4

March Worship Services

4	5:30pm 7:00pm	Family Shabbat dinner Family Shabbat worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
5	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study New Paths Shabbat morning service
11	7:30pm	Joint Shabbaton with Temple Beth- El
12	9:00am	Meditation with Jay Michelson/Shabbaton with Temple Beth-El (NO TORAH STUDY)
	10:00am	Joint Shabbaton with Temple Beth-El
18	7:30pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
19	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study Kelson's Bar/Bat Mitzvahs;
25	7:30pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
26	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study New Paths Shabbat morning service

Scriptural Readings

March 5	Shabbat Shekalim <i>Vayakhel</i> Ex. 36:20-38:20, 30:6; II Kings 12:1-17
12	<i>Pikude</i> Ex. 39:22-40:38; I Kings 7:51-8:21
19	Shabbat Zachor <i>Vayikra</i> Lev. 4:27-5:26, Deut. 25:17-19; I Samuel 15:2-34
26	<i>Tzav</i> Lev. 8:1-8:36; Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning services on Saturdays, March 5th & March 26th 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 mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz rabbi@vassartemple.org, or the Temple office [845-454-2570](tel:845-454-2570).

VTS Shabbat across America Dinner: March 4th

Please join us for a traditional Shabbat Dinner and celebrate *Shabbat Across America* on March 4th. Sisterhood will provide a delicious roast chicken dinner with a vegetarian option also available. During *Shabbat Across America*, you will enjoy Shabbat at Vassar Temple and connect with Jews from all over world who will be celebrating Shabbat beauty and peace.

- Cost for dinner: \$10 adults, \$5 ages 5-13, under 5 free
- Dinner: 5:30pm
- Family Service with visual Tefillah and story
- Family Game Night 8:00pm

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to take a look at Vassar Temple- **people interested in joining Vassar Temple are invited as our guests.** Please **RSVP BY MARCH 1st** to Laura Brundage at lbrundage001@gmail.com or 227-1962.

Torah-to-Go: Music in the Bible

Join Vassar Temple's Rabbi Leah Berkowitz to explore the theme of music in the Hebrew Bible. See the Torah scroll unrolled, hear (and sing!) musical renditions of biblical passages, and learn how music played a role in the stories of the Bible. The program also features renowned musician and composer, Joseph Bertolozzi. No charge; people of all faiths welcome!

Sunday, March 6, 2:30 pm
The Auditorium (next to Adriance Library)
105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

Info: rabbi@vassartemple.org

Purim Pasta

Purim is a wonderful opportunity to provide Shalach Manot, a tradition which involves providing food to friends. Purim Pasta, a simple food-raising drive we have held at VT each Purim for a number of years now, is a special tradition at Vassar Temple and you are invited.

On March 23, 2016, please bring in boxes of pasta to Temple and shake them when the Megillah is read (the boxes are the groggers!). Prevail with the noise of victory! After services, the boxes will be collected and delivered to a local food pantry. Macaroni, ziti, bowties too - any will do! Get ready to shake them! The opportunity to fight hunger with our Jewish brothers and sisters is just boxes away.

Follow Rabbi Berkowitz!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram. Follow her and join the conversation!
Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB
Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](https://www.facebook.com/RabbiLeahBerkowitz)
Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog at:
<http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com>



Mazel Tov

to...

Joel and Claudia Kelson on celebrating the upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah of Sam & Mariel;

Richard & Linda Cantor on the birth of grandson Aaron Karp, born to daughter Laura and husband Mark;

David & Joan Posner on becoming grandparents again.

Condolences to...

to...

Paul and Sara Jane Goldberg on the loss of wife and mother, Naomi Goldberg;

The family and loved ones of our former Rabbi Alton Winters.

Congregational Kvellings

We're so proud of:

Brianna Erlebacher on receiving the 2016 MLK Jr. Award from Catherine Street Community Center for her outstanding leadership, community service and scholarship;

Rachel Mamis on her new job representing international and domestic insurers with Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP;

Max Hecht whose research was recently published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society;

Zoe Peritz on receiving her Black Belt and becoming Student of the Year at her Martial Arts Studio.

Your Temple family would love to *kvell* with you. Send us noteworthy news for inclusion in this new column that will appear a few times a year, as space permits.

President *continued from page 2*

3. Get involved in other ways. Look at a list of the committees that are the true engines of our Temple: Sisterhood, Men's Club, Ritual, Social Action, Music, Outreach & Membership, and others. Take part! Make friends; make a difference.

Don't underestimate the personal satisfaction you can realize from the experience of helping others and your Temple. Don't wait until you feel like you're part of the Temple community before you become engaged. Become engaged to become part of the Temple community! This is key!

Bob Ritter

Pulpit Flowers



- March 4: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- March 11: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- March 18: Donated by The Kelson Family in honor of Sam & Mariel's Bar / Bat Mitzvah's
- March 25: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

Updated Flower Donations for January and February:

- January 29: Donated by Michelle Sinn and family in memory of her grandparents; Abe & Mary Kohl and Paul & Margaret Nemiroff;
- Feb 5: Donated by Muriel Lampell in honor of her mother Evelyn Slote Kahn's life
- Feb 19: Donated by Marilyn McGaulley Lampell in memory of her sister, Julie McGaulley

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.

Plansky Family Generosity

Many thanks to Heritage Carpet and the Plansky family for donating and installing the new carpet in our Temple office. This gift is much appreciated.

We Need Your Help!

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

We are encouraging you to contact the Temple office when a congregant is admitted to a hospital and wishes to have Rabbi visit during the hospital stay. Our goal is to meet the needs of all our congregants, and we can only do this with your help.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published monthly

Publisher:

Marianne Abrams

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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 Our Religious School Director: Numbers and Names



We live in a society practically obsessed with numbers: social-security numbers, phone numbers, population counts, Dow-Jones industrial averages, batting averages, test scores, dates, ages, and myriad varieties of statistics. Fill out an application for something, and you're likely to need more numbers than letters. Try to understand a new situation, and you'll probably get more numbers than letters.

Numbers have their place. We have a whole book of the Torah called "Numbers" in English, after all, and it starts with a prolonged census discussion. But Exodus in Hebrew is called "Names" (SH'MOT), because even though it tallies the number of people born to Jacob, the book starts with their names.

Genesis, too, contains numbers, but it's about names. What we know about Adam is his name, just like what we know about Eve is her name. And Adam relates to the animals not by counting them but by naming them --- a tradition that continues today when people give their pets names.

Moses even demands to know God's name before he's willing to work in earnest to do God's work.

Names and numbers represent two different ways of understanding people.

I know what it's like to have 20 6th-graders in a room, and I know that it's different than having 20 2nd-graders or 20 parents. And just as clearly, a group of 20 6th-graders is entirely different than a group of 200. But that doesn't mean that each 6th grader is the same, any more than each parent is the same. People are not interchangeable, no matter their age. Yet I frequently hear people suggest that they know what a person or class is like because they know some statistics. "Oh, I've worked with middle schoolers," people tell me. Or, "you let a high-school student do that?" Or, "that's a smart answer for someone only in 3rd grade."

These comments --- and many more like them --- are both well meaning and, frequently, based in reality. But not unlike other stereotypes, they push us in the direction of forgetting that each person is unique and, similarly, wrongly encourage us to concentrate on numbers to the exclusion of

names.

We invest considerable energy in making our school a poignant antidote to this widespread pattern.

We do keep track of numbers, of course, as various signs of the health of the school: 8% year-over-year growth, for instance, and 75% retention beyond bar/bat mitzvah. And we plan different activities for 2nd graders than we do for 8th graders.

But much more, we keep track of people.

We know that a student who attends 50% of the time may be showing up every opportunity he has if a shared custody arrangement prohibits him from attending half of the time. We know that some students thrive best with older or younger peers. We know that some teachers mesh better with certain kinds of learners.

We know that numbers are only the first step in focusing on what really matters: the individually named people that make up our holy community.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Thanks to Installation Group

The Installation of Rabbi Berkowitz was an amazing milestone event for Vassar Temple made possible by the hard work, unending energy and creative ideas of many individuals! What a night of great food, tremendous spirit and sense of collective wholeness.

In the kitchen and all around, **Mary Ritter** worked her magic making chicken while sharing her positive energy with all. **Zoe Weinstein** was by her side, mixing and cutting and measuring, not to mention shopping and schlepping. She also served as our florist- both arranging and donating beautiful flowers which were the perfect touch for the room. **Marty Noble** was Chief Hummus Maker and **Marilyn Lampell** was the pilaf maven, though both did so much more, such as steaming the wrinkles out of our table linen (Marty) and developing the menu (Marilyn). Relatively new member, **Marcia Tanzman**, jumped right into the planning for this evening's festivities, food shopping, helping with room set up, and acting as sous chef in the kitchen. Her husband, **Glenn**, was

corralled to help and together orchestrated breakfast on Saturday morning before Torah study. **Shira Teich** was one of the committee's core and pitched in with cooking and setting up, an amazing 'worker bee'! **Hilary and Lew Wrobel** and **Sarah Ritter**, worked to transform our social hall space into a gorgeous dining space for 170+ members and guests. **Charlene Rosenthal**, as always, was a workhorse in the kitchen, lending a hand always with a smile. Office manager, **Sherrie Geisler** went beyond the call of duty making sure that our building was looking its best and helped out, just because.....

A BIG thank you to **Amy Horn Oclatis** for putting together an incredible oneg, an elegant array of sweet treats. A separate mention of these helpers will be in next month's Bulletin.

And thank you, of course, to our President, Bob Ritter, and the Board

of Trustees. Their role in bringing Rabbi Berkowitz to VT, implementing the vision for this wonderful event, and working behind-the-scenes addressing the minutia of details made everything run smoothly. A special thanks to **Susan Hecht** for developing the beautiful Service Booklet.

Another group cannot be overlooked: all those who supported the event by coming and giving, and those who could not come, but who gave generously anyway. This event would never have been so special without you either.

While the 'chair' of such events often gets the credit for successes, it takes an army of people to really make it happen. My personal gratitude goes to every person who stepped up.

Sincere thanks to all,

*Sandra Mamis, Chair
Installation Committee*

Gleaning Project

Where do you eat? Where do you shop? If you know a restaurant, store or farm that can donate unwanted food that we can distribute to area food pantries, or if you want to volunteer to do food pick-ups and deliveries, please contact Kay Bishop at kaybishop@gmail.com.

Jewish Family Services Has Job Opening

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County is looking for a new, part-time Director of Jewish Family Services. For more information and/or a complete job description, email: Director@JewishDutchess.org

Preparing for Purimshpiel



Mitzvah Day: New for 2016!!!

What's new about Mitzvah Day this year? It's easier and more fun to come together to do good works throughout the County with other members of the Jewish community as well as with friends of all faiths.

**Save the date:
Sunday, May 15th**

Watch for registration info in the April Voice and register on the Federation website at jewishdutchess.org starting April 1st. For questions or to help contact: socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Memorial Board Plaques

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

New Artwork Graces our Building

Vassar Temple recently received a generous donation of two items of Jewish art from local resident, Lesley Stone, who inherited the articles from her mother. One is an exquisite oil painting depicting a view of the Old City, and the other is a print illustrating the architectural plan of the Holy Temple. Both of these artworks were presented to us in beautiful frames and will greatly enhance our congregational home. Many thanks to Lesley!

A Note of Thanks to House Committee

The trustees wish to acknowledge and thank our intrepid House Committee members, Chuck Stein and Eric Rosenfeld, who recently completed painting in the social hall, fixed the broken tables, repaired seats in the sanctuary, and installed our new mailbox.

March Tzedakah: Emergency Fund for Jewish Families

Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County administers this fund and their sole source of donations is private contributions. The fund provides grants to local Jewish residents in a time of financial crisis when they have nowhere else to turn, for essentials such as a utility bill, medicine, rent, job search expenses, etc. Referrals and counseling are provided to help prevent future crisis. Please donate to their annual Purim appeal in our tzedakah box near the staircase or by check to Vassar Temple with "JFS" on the memo line. For more info contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Berkowitz's summer camp program
 James and Maryann Robinowitz
 Vassar Temple's Religious & Hebrew School
 Sandor David Strauss Shofar Fund
 David & Abigail Lesser's wedding
 Melissa, Rachel & Brianna Erlebacher
 Al & Dolores Erlebacher
 Brianna Erlebacher for being honored by Catherine St. Comm. Ctr. at the MLK Breakfast
 Bob & Mary Ritter

In Memory of:

Rabbi Alton Winter
 Bob & Mary Ritter

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Hal & Sue Lesser on the marriage of their son, David & new wife, Abigail
 James & Maryann Robinowitz
 Jasmine Russo graduating from nursing school
 Ed & Vivian Garber
 Howard & Emily Himelstein
 Brianna Erlebacher for being honored by Catherine St. Comm. Ctr.
 Howard & Emily Himelstein
 Richard & Linda Cantor on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Karp, born to daughter, Laura and husband Mark
 Howard & Emily Himelstein

In Memory of:

Naomi Goldberg
 Howard & Emily Himelstein
 Arthur Stern
 Adele Stern
 Nicholas Stern
 Mark Zatzakis
 Harold Robinowitz
 Barbara Stern
 James & Maryann Robinowitz

Louise Rosen
 Ron & Marilyn Rosen
 Virginia Newman Livingston
 Leo Livingston
 Stuart Alpers
 Anne Alpers
 Leon Alpers
 Stanley Soirefman
 Bob & Judy Creedon
 Mark & Elaine Plansky
 Frances Lewis
 Harry Lewis
 Lewis Schwartz
 Lou & Candace Lewis
 Robin Peritz & Janet Greenman
 Mark Rosenthal
 Loren & Charlene Rosenthal
 Evelyn Slote Kahn
 Matt & Muriel Lampell
 Shirley Kaskowitz
 Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Sidney Friedman
 Henry Goldstein
 John Ciminello
 Robert Joseph
 Ronah Gorden Posner
 Meyer H. Bagon
 Miriam Genshaft
 Julie McGaulley
 Evelyn Slote Kahn
 David & Marilyn Lampell
 Herman Kraut
 Nina Kraut and son, Nick
 Michael Sommerfield
 David C. Sommerfield
 Susan Sommerfield

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of:

Alex Sinn's Bar Mitzvah
 Sheila Kohl
 Richard & Linda Cantor on the birth of grandson, Aaron Karp, born to daughter Laura and husband Mark
 Judith Harkavy

Brianna Erlebacher on receiving the Catherine St. Comm. Ctr. MLK Award
 Ralph & Marian Schwartz

HINENI FUND

In Memory of:

Seth Erlebacher
 Melissa, Rachel & Brianna Erlebacher

In Honor of:

Brianna Erlebacher on receiving the Catherine St. Comm. Ctr. MLK Award
 Ed & Vivian Garber

YOUTH GROUP FUND

In Memory of:

Les Feinstein
 Ethel Feinstein
 Grandmother of Meredith Kflowitz

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Honor of:

Rachel Mamis and her new position at Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP
 Bob & Mary Ritter
 Zoe Peritz being Student of the Year at her Martial Arts studio.
 Bob & Mary Ritter

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Memory of:

Stanton Lipschutz
 Elaine Lipschutz

ERDREICH FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Herbert Kotz
 Jack & Fritzi Goodman
 Dr. Jacob Erdreich
 Andrew Edreich
 Joan Kotz & Family
 Lawrence Edell
 Eugene S. & Fran Isert



Buy Scrip

Help Yourself
 Help the Temple

Cold Winter, Warm Hearts, Full Bellies: Vassar Temple Fights Hunger

Thank you, Vassar Temple members, for your generous donations to our annual December Souper Sale and to the awesome volunteers who delivered cases and cases of soup to a wonderful group of local food pantries in need.

This year, 42 cases of large cans of Chunky Soups were delivered to: Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry, Dutchess Outreach's Beverly Closs Food Pantry, the Community Action Partnership for their pantries in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Dover and Red Hook, and Interfaith Towers/Senior Housing.

Additional funds that came in later for Protein Plenty (our summer drive) were also used to purchase cases of lunch-healthy, protein based foods. In addition to cases of soup, these foods were also delivered to Morse Magnet Elementary School in Poughkeepsie. Morse Magnet, home to approximately 500 young students, has its own food pantry serving the needs of low income children in need of food on the weekends and school breaks when schools are closed.

Well done, Vassar Temple, well done.



Adult Ed: The Feminine and the Feminist in the Book of Esther

Did the King really ask Vashti to dance naked at his royal banquet? Was Esther the King's new wife or just his favorite concubine? Get ready for Purim with Rabbi Berkowitz as we explore the characters of Esther and Vashti, in the Bible, in rabbinic literature, and in visual art. What can these different characters in the Purim story tell us about what it means to be a woman (or a man)? Come find out on **Tuesday, March 15th, 7:00pm** at Vassar Temple.

Weekly Study Groups at Vassar Temple

Torah Study with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, is held Saturday mornings at 9:00am (no class 3/12). "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*", is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays at 12:00 noon.

All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! No charge to attend. Questions? rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845)454-2570



2015 Interfaith CROPWalk Results Are In!

The fall 2015 Dutchess County CROPWalk took in \$55,483.40 to help combat hunger locally, nationally and abroad. About 25% of the funds we raised will come back to our home community. Special thanks to Howard Susser who served as our recruiter, to Linda Babas & Marian Schwartz for helping at the registration table, to our walkers: Rabbi Berkowitz (team captain), Susan Hecht, Ron Rosen, Ralph Schwartz (who also was drafted into helping at registration), Gil Seligman, & Howard Susser; to those who accompanied them to offer moral support: Marge Groten, Rob Ritter, & Bonnie Scheer; and to everyone who sponsored our rabbi and walkers. Please consider joining our intrepid team of workers and walkers at the next CROPWalk!

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 6th at Congregation Schomre Israel, 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.

Yahrzeits

March 4:

Lena Lath
David Friedland
Shepard P. Solomon
Saul Marks
Dr. Randy Bennett
Edman
Dr. Maurice Sitomer
Frank Devan
Irving M. Rosenthal
Irving Schechtman
Rose Landau
Gilbert Feinman
Joseph Schwartz
Geraldine N. Leeds
Howard Judd
Claire Sherwin
Rae Jacobs Rauh
Brown
Jeanne Klein
Nathan Baum
Miriam Genshaft
Esther G. Rheingold
Bessie Kapner
Sonya Markovitch
Bernard Zuckerman
Samuel Schmukler

March 11:

Gertrude K. Miller
Tessie Turk
Ruth Parry
Morris Lessin
Gertrude M. Plimack
A. Alfred Podell, MD
Bee Plimack
Ralph Partridge
Harry Uttal
Benjamin Metlis
Dr. Simon Riech-
man
Arlene Sitomer
Morris Abraskin
Silvia Domes
Meyer Harold Bagun
Dr. Louis Shub
(Shoob)
Kaye Roth
Lewis Acker
Anna Frankel
Howard Smith
Louis D. Dampf
Sidney Greenman

March 18:

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
Leonard Nectow
Lillian Schwarz
Lena Baskin
Scott Buxbaum
Ann R. Margolin
Bruce Weber
Pearl Bettigole Goldberg
Eli Gellert
Sol G. Lipschutz
Kurt Similes

March 25:

Sarah Singer
Gary Feder
Michael Feder
Gary Schischa
Erwin Schischa
Claire Sherwin
Gwendolyn Harlam
Ruth Kovacs
Mae Miller Klampert
Sarah Benton Childs
Annemarie Teutsch
Etta Simon Podret
Benjamin Clarfeld
Herman Jacobs
Fannie Berlin
Lee Rosenthal
Charles Frankel
Martin Lowenthal
Harold Satz
Jennie Uttal
Harold Rosen
Isaac Mendel
Harvey Kflowitz
Erica Robbins
Chris Brown
Patricia Adler
Esta Feder
Ann Solomon
Bernard Faver
Howard Judd
Victor Fein

FUND FACTS: Sisters + Neighborhood = Sisterhood!

Few people stop to think, “Where would we be without the Vassar Temple Sisterhood?” That is why the Vassar Temple Board voted unanimously at their early January meeting to adopt a citation recognizing the Vassar Temple Sisterhood. The citation acknowledged the Sisterhood’s “*continuous generosity and tireless good will through its numerous projects to support Temple operations and initiatives.*”

So where do we see the impact of their generosity and tireless good will? Everywhere! The Onegs every Friday are the result of Sisterhood work. Scholarships for teens to attend the NFTY

conclaves, the Youth Scholarship Fund, the renovated kitchen and upgraded restrooms have all been funded with Sisterhood resources. The ever-popular calendar that keeps us all on track with simchas and anniversaries is a Sisterhood project. The Rummage Sale, Tiny Temple and the thousands of Hammentaschen produced on that special Sunday each year are financed and run by the Sisterhood; and very often, the Bimah flowers are a Sisterhood donation. The list goes on. . . . and on. Yes, the Board’s citation was well-deserved!

These projects are made possible by proceeds from Sisterhood dues paid by its members and benefit events throughout the year including: the annual Opening, Donor and Closing Dinners, and the Rummage Sales; but also, to a large degree, by voluntary donations to the Vassar Temple Sisterhood General Fund.

The next time you want to honor a special occasion or do something meaningful to recognize one of our beloved Temple sisters, a gift to the VTS General Fund would be the perfect gesture; it is truly a gift that keeps on giving!

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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Rabbi:	Leah Berkowitz
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen Arnold
Senior Scholar:	Paul Golomb
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
1st Vice-President	Mark Metzger
2nd Vice- President:	Ron Rosen
Secretary:	Susan Karnes Hecht
Treasurer:	Len Greenberg
Sisterhood Co-Presidents:	Laura Brundage & Danah Moore
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President:	Bob Abrams
Youth Group President:	Brianna Erlebacher

March 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Committee	2 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr. 8-12	3 10am SEP	4 5:30pm VTS Family Dinner 7pm Family Shabbat Service	5 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
6 9am R/S Gr. K-7 12pm Lunch Box 2:30 Torah To Go at Adriance Library	7	8 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	9 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr. 8-12	10 10am SEP 7pm VT Exec Cmte Meeting	11 7:30pm Joint Shabbaton with Temple Beth El	12 9am Meditation with Jay Michelson at TBE No Torah Study 10am Joint Shabbaton at TBE
13 Snow date for Hamentaschen Baking and Tiny Temple 9am R/S Gr. K-7	14	15 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7:00pm Adult Ed	16 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr. 8-12 7pm Finance Cmte	17 10am SEP	18 7:30pm Shabbat Service	19 9am Torah Study 10am Kelson B'nai Mitzvah
20 No R/S 2pm Wine & Cheese Party, Kedem Winery tasting/ordering	21	22 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	23 Purim Pasta Dinner 7pm Purim Spiel NO Hebrew School NO R/S Gr. 8-12	24 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	25 7:30pm Shabbat Service	26 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
27 No R/S	28	29 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	30 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr. 8-12	31 10am SEP		