



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 158 No. 5 May 2012

Sisterhood Shabbat on May 18th

Please join us for our annual Sisterhood Shabbat on Friday evening, May 18th at 7:30. This is always an inspiring and uplifting spiritual experience, led by the wonderful women of our Sisterhood and followed by an oneg of delicious desserts provided by our Men's Club.

This year we will have a Torah service, including "A D'var Torah from a Woman's Point of View" by Doi Cohen.

All Sisterhood Members are welcome to participate in the service. This is our time to lead the congregation in worship and we welcome readers (English or Hebrew). If you would like to participate, please contact Sandra Mamis, chair of Sisterhood Shabbat. You can reach her at mamis@optonline.net or at 463-2678. We hope to see you on May 18th!

Annual Congregational Meeting on May 23rd

Plan to attend the annual meeting of the congregation on Wednesday evening, May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. to participate in the making of important decisions for the temple. The agenda will include the presentation of the Founders Service Award to Melissa, Rachel, and Brianna Erlebacher; voting on the slate of nominees for officer and board positions; consideration of the budget for the coming fiscal year; brief reports by the Rabbi and the President; and other matters. The official agenda will be mailed to all members and will be posted on the temple website (www.vassartemple.org), so check it regularly. Refreshments will be available at the meeting.

Upcoming Events

- May 1 Joel Hoffman presents: The Bible Doesn't Say That, p1
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See the many opportunities to make a difference on Mitzvah Day on pages 5 & 6!

Shabbat Dinner on May 18th

Before the 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, May 18th, join your temple family for a 6:15 Shabbat dinner in the social hall. The dairy dinner will include quiche with assorted salads, and pizza for the kids. The price for the complete meal is \$10 for each adult and \$5 for children aged 5-12, while those under 5 eat free.

In order to enjoy this lovely dinner, you must make your reservation by Monday, May 14th the latest. Contact Wendy Marcus at 226-2502 or masinc223@aol.com. Checks made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood may be mailed or brought to the temple.

Temple Picnic Shabbat on June 8

Join us at the annual Vassar Temple Picnic Shabbat on June 8, rain or shine (we'll move indoors if inclement weather).

Teacher Recognition will take place. Come and honor our hard-working Religious School teachers!

Vassar Temple will provide the picnic, co-sponsored by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood and Men's Club. The menu will include Veggie wraps & salads, and pizza for the kids.

RSVPs are a **MUST** so that we can order the right amount of food. Please RSVP by Monday, June 4 to Laura Brundage / lbrundage@frontiernet.net / 227-4312



Heads Up! Something is brewing

"After Hours" on Saturday, July 14th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Vassar Temple! Don't get skunked!



Don't miss the fascinating presentation on Bible translation by author, translator, linguist, and our own Religious School Director, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman! Learn why "The Bible Doesn't Say That" on Tuesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the temple.

Rabbi's Message: WHAT DO YOU KNOW?



*Do not say,
'when I have leisure,
I will study.'
You may never
have leisure!*

What do you need to know in order to be a doctor? A lawyer? A chef? A garage mechanic? The answer in every case is more than just something. The successful maintenance of virtually every profession requires more than a minimal amount of expertise.

OK, now, what do you need to know in order to be an American? Technically, the answer is nothing! If one is born

in the United States, one is an American, and absolute insensitivity to history, geography, government, or even sports does not change that status. Yet, we tend to have a low opinion of the ignoramus. Being an American, we feel, requires some knowledge about the U.S. How much is hard to say, but something ought to be known; probably at least something more than you already know!

Finally, what do you need to know in order to be a Jew? The answer is roughly similar to American. One can become a Jew by virtue of birth, and therefore not need know anything. Yet, we sense that being Jewish requires knowing something. What is that something? At least one thing more than you already know.

Saturday evening, May 26 (admittedly, it is Memorial Day weekend) marks the eve of Shavuot. This is the annual Festival commemorating the giving of Torah at Mt. Sinai. As such, Shavuot is the holiday of knowing in order to be a Jew. Each year, Vassar Temple joins with Temple Beth El and Shir Hadash in marking the occasion with a *Tikkun*, a study session. [Please check page 8 of this Bulletin for details.] I personally invite you to attend. If that is not possible, then I especially invite you to engage –by yourself or with your family – in answering the question: What more might I learn this year in order to be a Jew?

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message



It's May already. The school year and other temple activities are winding down, and our yearly congregational meeting will take

place on Wednesday, May 23rd. Mitzvah Day preparation is in full swing, with an amazing myriad of activities, allowing Dutchess community Jews to participate in a host of very worthwhile projects. Next month will bring the annual outdoor Shabbat on June 8th. This year on that evening we will recognize our Religious School teachers and aides who have worked so hard to educate our children.

In looking back over the past few months, it occurred to me that I never had the opportunity to share some of the information that I learned at the Biennial. We all know that Seth z"l had shared the excitement of the Biennial right up until his untimely passing. I was hoping to share my thoughts in the blog, but got caught up in the events that followed.

One of the first sessions I attended was for new and incoming presidents (little did I know ...), where Dale Glasser presented "Frameworks for Thinking about Issues". The goal of the session was to distinguish between leadership and management, and emphasize the importance of both. "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Part of the session required discussion in small groups, which was the best part. Our group had a good mix of participants, from the president of a small 90-member congregation, to one whose congregation has over 2,000 members! Interestingly, we all had similar stories, similar problems, just on different scales. Overall it was a worthwhile session, and great way to kick off the conference.

One of the most interesting sessions I attended, "Scripture, Simpsons, South Park and Suffering," examined a Simpsons episode based on the Book of Job and showed how the use of animated sketches can appeal to younger folks. The Simpsons is PG but "edgy enough to be cool." In many of its scripts, there are kernels of profound wisdom. The session explored

how to use this type of message for exploring issues, such as why bad things happen to good people, and discussing generosity vs. destruction. There were several other examples, with a South Park sketch making some additional points. I'll save some of the other topics for another month.

I recently placed a request on the Temple Blog called "Suggestion Box." I'd like to reach out to all of you to get ideas for future events or activities that might appeal to you. In general, the Temple needs to establish a good balance of "fund-raising" and "fund-raising" activities, but the lack of fundraising (other than the very successful SCRIP program) has placed a lot of pressure on the Temple's operating budget. Please use the link to VT Blog in the upper right of our home page at www.vassartemple.org, click "Comment," and give us your input.

Bob Abrams

Worship Services

Friday, May 4

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Roland

Friday, May 11

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

Saturday, May 12

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Moore

Friday, May 18

7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Shabbat Service with cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin

Saturday, May 19

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Friday, May 25

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 26 *Erev Shavuot*

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

8:45 p.m. Tikkun Study at Temple Beth-El

Sunday, May 27 *Shavuot*

10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service

Friday, June 1

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 2

9:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

New Paths Service on May 19th

The New Paths service is an opportunity for Shabbat morning worship in a warm, innovative setting that encourages interactive participation in discussion and prayer. We draw upon a rich variety of both traditional prayers and contemporary readings which can provide new paths toward spiritual growth for us as Jews in our contemporary world.

Join us for New Paths in the sunlit East Chapel on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m. and stay for a brief informal kiddush afterward. For more information please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb at 454-2570 or rabbi@vassar-temple.org.

Pulpit Flowers

May 4 In honor of Rachel Roland's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.

May 11 In honor of Jacob Moore's Bat Mitzvah with love from his family.

May 18 Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

May 25 Donated by Elise Friedlich.

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.



Scriptural Readings

May 4 & 5 *Aharei-K'doshim*

Leviticus 17:8-19:14

Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

May 11 & 12 *Emor*

Leviticus 22:17-23:22

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

May 18 & 19 *B'har-B'hukotai*

Leviticus: 25:39-26:46, 27:32-34

Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

May 25 & 26 *Bamidbar*

Numbers 2:1-3:13

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22

June 1 & 2 *Naso*

Numbers 5:11-6:27

Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25

Sisterhood Donor Dinner on May 8th

The theme of this year's Sisterhood Donor Dinner on Tuesday, May 8th will be "A Night in Havana." The cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. and a delicious dinner will be served at 7:00. The Evelyn Kahn Award will be presented and our speaker will be Leslie Offutt, associate professor of history at Vassar College, who will discuss her recent trip to Cuba. Her "Reflections on Life in Today's Cuba" are sure to be fascinating.

Respond to your invitation now and support the Sisterhood while enjoying an evening with old and new friends.

Learn How to Lead a Shiva Minyan Using Our New Prayer Book

Congregants who would like to be able to lead a brief service in a house of mourning, using the new prayer book we have just acquired for this purpose, are encouraged to come to temple on Sunday morning, May 6th at 9:00 a.m. for a helpful introduction to this booklet. Guidelines for its use will be discussed and participants will acquire the knowledge and confidence which will enable them to bring comfort to fellow members when they are bereaved.

Please register in advance for this session by contacting Ron Rosen, Chair of the Ritual Committee, at Rosen@alum.mit.edu or 454-4936. If you attended a previous training using the old prayer book, you will need to attend this session so you will be able to use the current prayer book, which is quite different from the one we had been using for many years.

At 10:00 a.m. on the same Sunday, May 6th, you can learn (or brush up on) how to conduct a summer service at temple. Contact Ron Rosen if you would like to lead the congregation in worship this summer.



Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Joanne and Bob Dyson on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Harry Dyson. Proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dyson.

Congratulations to Didi Barrett who ran a successful campaign for state assembly.



Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

Everyone is welcome at the service and Kiddush as we celebrate with Bar/Bat Mitzvah families at Vassar Temple. To be called to the Torah in May:

May 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Rachel Roland, daughter of Mark & Shaari Roland

May 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Jacob Moore, son of Danah & Jeremy Moore

Please Help with this Bar Mitzvah Project

Dear Vassar Temple Community:

As a part of my becoming a Bar Mitzvah, I have taken on a Mitzvah Project to help others in need. As you know, a mitzvah is a commandment to do good in the world. My family and I have spent time helping out at the Lunch Box soup kitchen in Poughkeepsie these last few months. This is a place that people can come to for a free meal and fellowship. I am collecting non-perishable food items so that they can be given to people in need.

If you would like to donate, there is a specially marked box for my food collection in the hall, near the regular Can Jam box. I plan on delivering the items to the Lunch Box the week of May 14th. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jacob Moore

Thanks to our Vassar Temple Family

The Mamis and Evans families extend our profound gratitude to all those who have offered support as we mourned the loss of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Kurt Similes. Your words of condolence, your physical presence with comforting hugs, and your contributions of food helped ease our grief. At times of loss our Temple family takes on monumental significance, serving as a reminder of how wonderful it is to belong to Vassar Temple.

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.

In Remembrance

Vassar Temple shares in the grief suffered by the family of:

- Kurt Similes, father of Sandra Mamis, grandfather of Steven and Rachel Mamis
- Ann Solomon, sister of Murray Solomon
- William M. Rothstein, father of Meredith Kafflowitz, father-in-law of Alan Kafflowitz, grandfather of Haley and Aaron Kafflowitz
- Joshua Lowe Posner, brother of David Posner

Refuah Shelemah

...to our Temple member, **Tamara Gruszko**, who was recently hospitalized.

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!

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

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

Articles for the June bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by May 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.

Religious School Director's Column



I write this just before Passover, which means you will read it during the magical period of transformation known as the Omer. Seven weeks of seven days long, the Omer is

the period between the springtime holiday of Passover and the summer holiday of Shavuot.

Passover is so easy to relate to, and not just because of the universally attractive message of freedom. The holiday comes after the darkness of winter has begun to yield to the light of summer that brings the world to life again. In place of bare trees and shrubs, blossoms appear on the Earth, as the Song of Songs recounts. The time of singing is here!

Shavuot, by contrast, often slips under our cultural radar unnoticed. The other two great Holidays --- Sukkot and Passover --- both last about a week. Shavuot is but one day long. And most people don't even know what it stands for. Sukkot has decorative booths, and comes amid the brilliant foliage of the fall. Passover has the Seder and freedom to mark the world as it blooms anew, to say nothing of the wonderful animated film, *Prince of Egypt*. No one ever made a major motion picture out of Shavuot.

Except that that's not quite true, because while Sukkot is the "time of our happiness" and Passover is the "time of our freedom,"

Shavuot is the "time when the Torah was given to us." Shavuot celebrates the Ten Commandments, Torah, and God's Word. If Passover is a flamboyant celebration of possibility, Shavuot is an understated celebration of reality. The Omer is the time when we move from one to the other.

And to judge by previous attempts, we haven't always had an easy time of it. According to the book of Exodus, what did we do as newly freed Jews after Almighty God freed us from Egypt? We built an idol in the form of the Golden Calf and worshiped that false god. Oops. Before that theological travesty, what did we do as we stood poised to leave Egyptian bondage behind? We tormented Moses with bitter, ironic complaints: "There weren't enough graves in Egypt, so you brought us to the desert to die?" we taunted. Oops again.

Similarly, in the book of Numbers, we read that as a group journeying in the desert toward the Promised Land we were still pathetic whiners (prompting Rabbi Ammi Hirsch of Stephen Wise Free Synagogue to observe that this book is so "us." We haven't changed a bit!) We remembered the succulent foods and magnificent feasts that we were forced to leave behind in Egypt, and we longed to return. Oops yet again.

A pattern presents itself. Freedom is enticing, but it is also scary. So, bizarrely, slav-

ery can also be enticing because it is certain. Additionally, myopic memory can force us to long for a return to succulent foods we never had and magnificent feasts that never were. The "good old days," we usually call it, or a "return to simpler times," like our childhood (when we weren't even free to leave the house because we didn't drive), or the '50s (never mind that women were

practically slaves), or the shtetl (the pogroms notwithstanding). Worse, we sometimes lament true loss. Egypt wasn't all bad, just as there were great parts to our childhood, the '50s, and the shtetl.

So once each year, we take seven weeks of seven days to consider where we have been, where we are, and where we're going. What parts of slavery still keep us from enjoying our freedom? What fictions of the past block our path to the future? What bitter memories taint the sweetness of the present? And what fears of the future lead us astray? These are not easy questions, so it's a good thing we have a new chance each year to confront them. Let's make a date to meet on Shavuot and compare notes.

But for now, we're trekking through the desert, freedom behind us, the promised land ahead. Have a good trip.

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman

Be a Part of Mitzvah Day on May 20th

Hundreds of volunteers from the area's Jewish community will unite to perform service projects to benefit over 15 local charitable and non-profit organizations on Dutchess County's 13th annual Mitzvah Day, Sunday, May 20th. There are indoor and outdoor projects to appeal to every interest and age from tots to senior citizens, activities ideal for individuals, families and groups, at sites in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Ulster Counties. Mitzvah Day will take place rain or shine, as we have alternate projects lined up in case of inclement weather.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a free celebratory bagel breakfast and sing-along at event headquarters, the Jewish Community Center (JCC), 110 South Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, where everyone will have an opportunity to register and get directions to their project sites, with a variety of projects also taking place right at the JCC itself. Most projects begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until completed. A complimentary lunch buffet at the JCC will be available to volun-

teers between 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Special projects are planned for religious school age children and teens, from environmental projects to cookie baking to a real family favorite: helping out at nearby Briggs Farm (and visiting with the animals in between chores). The PJ Library project designed for children age 2-8 will take place in the Early Childhood wing of the JCC from 10:00 a.m. to noon, where the youngest volunteers will hear a story about mitzvot and then craft gifts for those in need in the community.

Projects for older children and adults run the gamut from stuffing envelopes and filling gift baskets to cleanup at an historic Jewish cemetery to painting picnic benches. Plant flowers, serve a meal to neighbors in need at the Lunch Box, or wash cars to raise money for a local food pantry. At the JCC you can write a letter to cheer an Israel Defense Forces soldier, wash windows, or prepare a garden plot. Some featured project sites outside the

Poughkeepsie area include Eden Farm Village in Putnam County, Gomez Mill House Jewish historic site in Orange County, Astor Home in Rhinebeck, and a unique project in Southern Dutchess.

See the listing and descriptions of most local projects on the Mitzvah Day registration form which will be in the May issue of *The Voice* and which will also appear online after May 1st at www.jewishdutchess.org. You can also volunteer, or get any questions answered, by calling Linda Tafapolsky at Jewish Family Services at 845-471-9817 or e-mailing jfs@jewishdutchess.org.

At Mitzvah Day we will be collecting items to fill gift baskets for residents of a teen shelter and boxes of breakfast cereal for hungry children (please think of them when you shop), as well as used computer equipment (see related articles on pages 6 and 8).

Article is continued on page 11.

Cereal Counts!!! Collection Again This Spring

Another hungry summer is coming but Cereal Counts!!! 2012 means a truckload of good morning health is also on its way for children in our community. Every summer children lack access to school-based free breakfast programs. Daily breakfast has potential physical and mental health benefits for everyone in the family that you can help provide by donating boxes of hot and cold cereals.

From now through Sunday morning, May 20th, join the annual county-

wide cereal box drive by dropping off cereal boxes at the Jewish Community Center, 110 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie. On Mitzvah Day morning, May 20th, help stack and count the boxes and load them into a truck for delivery to food pantries and area food distribution sites in Dutchess County, including Hudson River Housing/Hillcrest Shelter; Dutchess Outreach; the pantry at the Department of Social Services; The Reach Out Pantry; Beulah Baptist Church

Pantry; Community Action Partnership Pantries in Dover, Beacon and Red Hook; and senior housing sites.

Questions about CEREAL COUNTS!!! 2012? Contact Nancy Samson, CC Coordinator, or Max Samson, CC Student Captain, at 473-5909 or cerealcounts123@aol.com. Remember: every box counts!!!

Thank you in advance for your support!

You Can Help with the Lunch Box on May 6th

Vassar Temple members go to the Lunch Box, located in the Family Partnership Center on North Hamilton Street in Poughkeepsie, each first Sunday of the month during the school year to provide, prepare and serve a nutritious and tasty mid-day meal to our hungry neighbors. This year we are seeing as much as a 30% increase in the number of guests coming to the Lunch Box, so it is more important than ever that our congregants support this effort. Perhaps you can contribute your time, some food, used dinnerware as described below, or make a financial donation to help meet the increasing needs of our community.

On Sunday, May 6th, our 5th grade is sponsoring our participation and is preparing a meal featuring a frank and bean casserole. They would appreciate donations of 3 lbs. of all-beef franks or 1 dozen pieces of fresh fruit (bananas are a favorite). The food may be labeled "for Lunch Box" and left

in the Temple kitchen beforehand during hours when the Temple is normally open. The 5th grade is a small group and would welcome additional helpers at the Lunch Box that Sunday between 11:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. If you can donate food and/or come and help, please contact parent captain Robin Peritz as soon as possible at 227-0160 or robinperitz@yahoo.com. Your financial contributions to Vassar Temple with "Community Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line help purchase the additional food needed for this ongoing project. The Lunch Box can also use more coffee mugs, dinner plates and metal forks, all in good condition, so if you have any of these to donate please contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Donate Used Computers, Etc. on Mitzvah Day, May 20th

The Help Kenya Project will again be collecting used computers at the Jewish Community Center, 110 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, on Mitzvah Day, Sunday May 20th. Instead of clogging our local landfills or cluttering our basements, the computers will be put to good use by students and school libraries in Kenya. As an additional boon to the environment, the Kenyan students will plant a tree in recognition of each computer donated.

Computers from the year 2000 and on, using Windows 98 or later operating systems, plus related cables, keyboards, speakers, computer mice,

and printer cartridges are all in demand. The computers do not have to be in working order; they will be repaired and refurbished. The Help Kenya Project will also accept printers and scanners, but the printers and scanners must be in working order to be accepted.

Due to space restrictions both on the delivery truck and in the JCC, computers will be accepted by reservation and pre-approval only, and only on Mitzvah Day (no prior drop-offs). Check the May issue of the Voice or the on-line Mitzvah Day registration for at www.jewishdutchess.org after May 1st for instructions on how to sign up to donate your computer and

related peripherals on Mitzvah Day.

Equipment donations to the Help Kenya Project are tax deductible and receipts will be issued. So help yourself, help our environment, and help students in Kenya by donating your unwanted computer equipment on Mitzvah Day. If you would like to be part of the committee working on this project, please contact Linda Tafapolsky at jfs@jewishdutchess.org or at 845-471-9817.

Seder at Temple



A most successful first-night seder at the temple on April 6 was organized by Sandra Mamis and enjoyed by over 90 attendees

For more pictures of the seder, see the Vassar Temple website's Photo Gallery



Men's Club Lunch Box Thanks

The Vassar Temple Men's Club prepared and served lunch for about 160 people at the Lunch Box on April 1st. Our volunteers included Bob Abrams; Joel and Linda Babas; Jeff Brenner; Paul Ciminello; Ed Garber; Alan Kaflowitz; Joel Kelson; David Lampell; Amanda, Danah, and Jacob Moore; Jeffrey Ollendorf; Kurt Quackenbush; Bob Ritter; Dave Smith; Howard Susser; and Dave Wolf. The Abrams, Brenner, Garber, Hecht, Kaufman, Kelson, Krevolin, Lampell, Lipschutz, Moore, Ollendorf, Quackenbush, Ritter, Rosenfeld, Smith, and Wolf families donated food for the meal.

Volunteering at the Lunch Box is a wonderful way to enjoy the company of fellow temple members while performing a mitzvah. Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time or donated food for this event.

Lecture on the Holocaust at Beth-El on May 3rd

“A Faith Betrayed? German Churches During and After the Holocaust” will be the subject of the Efron lecture at Temple Beth-El on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:30 p.m. The speaker, Dr. Werner Steger, is Professor of History and holder of the Greenspan - Handel Foundation Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Dutchess Community College.

While acknowledging the role individual Christians played in rescuing Jews, the talk will examine the role church institutions leaders played during the years of mass killing. Sponsored by The William & Sadie Efron Lecture Fund of Temple Beth-El, the presentation is open to the public free of charge

Sisterhood Lunch Box a Success

The annual Sisterhood-sponsored Lunch Box, this year held on March 4th, went just wonderfully, with plenty of food and plenty of help! Thank you to Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Sisterhood President, who also served as Lunch Box captain, and to everyone who contributed to the success of the day: Marianne Abrams, Jen Dahnert, Perla and Chuck Kaufman, Marsha Lowry, Stan Marcus, Danah, Jacob and Amanda Moore, Amy Horn Oclatis, Kiley and Kurt Quackenbush, Judy Rosenfeld, Lisa Rubenstein, Marian and Ralph Schwartz, Mary Solomon (our shopper) and Melissa Wall.

Meditation Group to Meet in May

The Jewish Meditation Group will meet on Tuesday evenings, May 15th and 22nd from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. under the leadership of Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg. Both beginners and those experienced in the practice of meditation are welcome, and synagogue affiliation is not required.

At each session there will be a sitting meditation, a walking meditation, either chanting or a short reading, plus time for questions and sharing. Please RSVP to the Vassar Temple office at 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org if you plan to attend any of the sessions.

Thanks from the Fishkill Food Pantry

To the Vassar Temple Congregation:

We cannot thank you enough for your VERY generous donation to our food pantry. What a loving and caring congregation you are!!

Our needs have tripled over the last 2 years and we are sometimes overwhelmed by the needs of our southern Dutchess neighbors. Thank you, thank you ...

The Fishkill Food Pantry



Marine in Afghanistan Enjoys Our Hamantaschen

Sarah, a young Jewish Marine serving in Afghanistan who received some of hamantaschen we made at the Temple after we found out she was hoping someone would send the traditional treat for her and her Jewish team mates to enjoy on Purim, writes to all the Vassar Temple hamantaschen bakers: "I wanted to let you all know that I got the cookies and they were wonderful :)! Thank you so much. Everyone did a great job baking these. Thanks for your support! –Sarah" Here is Sarah, enjoying the tasty treats.



Accept the Honor of Being a Holy Roller on May 17th

The next Holy Rollers session will take place on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. Before we unroll and re-roll the Torah scrolls, Rabbi Golomb will talk about "Dressing the Torah: What is Done to Make a Torah Attractive."

Scrolls that are used and aired regularly not only last longer, but the letters retain their original quality longer. YOU can be a caretaker of our Torah scrolls by joining your fellow congregants in the responsibility of preserving them. In this way, you can preserve not only the scrolls but the emotional connection to the Torah you felt when you helped fill in a letter during our Eternal Torah project. Remember: Everyone can be a Holy Roller at least once!

Donations Needed for River Haven Shelter

Your donations are needed for a new Mitzvah Day project to benefit teens and young adults at the River Haven Shelter in Poughkeepsie. Gift baskets containing toiletries, grooming and personal hygiene items for both men and women will be assembled on Mitzvah Day, so please put your new, unused contributions in the collection box at the Jewish Community Center between May 1st and the morning of May 20th. In addition to deodorant, toothpaste, shaving cream, shampoo, etc. (regular or large size preferred but travel size okay), bath towels, wash cloths, and socks are also requested.

If you have items to donate but are unable to bring them to the JCC, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org. To sign up to help fill the gift baskets on Mitzvah Day, use the registration form found in the May Voice or online at www.jewishdutchess.org, or call Linda Tafapol-sky at 845-471-9817.

Holidays Through a Jewish Lens: Mother's Day

"Honor your mother and father" is one of the most well known mitzvot in the entire Torah. In the Ten Commandments it follows only those relating to honoring God and the Sabbath. In the Torah, we find the thoughts and actions of our matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel intrinsically entwined with the lives of our Patriarchs.

Much of Jewish practice is observed in the home and the role of the mother is essential in handing down the tenets of Judaism to her children, from generation to generation, both as a role model and as a teacher. Related to honoring our mothers is showing respect for senior citizens, and creating and supporting programs to protect and further their physical, intellectual and emotional well-being.

Jewish War Veterans Schedule Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on May 14, 2012, at the Jewish Community Center, 110 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. This no longer includes breakfast.

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.

Shavuot Study Session on May 26th

Join our community rabbis for a Shavuot study program of discussion and questions on Saturday, May 26th at Temple Beth-El, 118 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Ma'ariv will begin at 8:45 p.m. and refreshments and tikkun at 9:15 p.m.

The theme for this year's Tikkun Leil Shavuot is "Are You What You Eat? Kashrut, Food and Jewish Identity." Everyone is welcome to enjoy traditional dairy holiday treats and join the discussion.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND	Alan & Meredith Kaffowitz	Dave & Fern Wolf	Herb & Suzi Stoller
		Charlene & Loren Rosenthal	Maury Lacher
		Nan & Jeff Genshaft	
IN MEMORY OF	Seth Erlebacher	Andi & Paul Ciminello	IN HONOR OF
	Jane LaLone	Herb & Suzi Stoller	Cecile Arnold's special birthday
IN APPRECIATION		Margot & Kurt Similes	Andi & Paul Ciminello
	Sandra & Harry Mamis	Marsha & Richard Lowry	Steve & Linda Lant
SUSTAINING FUND		Erwin & Gary Schischa	Elaine Lipschutz
IN MEMORY OF			Barbara Schischa
Seth Erlebacher	Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz	Rose Baum Kraut	Nina & Nick Kraut
Michael Rothenberg	Perle Scope	Meyer Bagun	Nan & Jeff Genshaft
	Adrian & Tamara Gruszko	Miriam Genshaft	
	Drs. Jack & Jean Hentel	Martin Turk	Steven, Shelley, Samantha & Stefanie Turk
Julie McGaulley	Bob & Marianne Abrams	Tillie Schwartz	Ruth Kapner
	Andi & Paul Ciminello	Zoey Rachel Gillman	Eric, Barbara, Molly, Noah & Sophie Gillman
Nathan Baum	Nina & Nick Kraut	William M. Rothstein	
	Sidney Greenman		Sandra & Harry Mamis
	Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz		Vivian & Ed Garber
Martin Lowenthal		Ann Solomon	The Albinder Family
	Roni, Charles & Joseph Stein	Isador Albinder	Jane LaLone
Evelyn Partridge	Richard Partridge	Shirley LaLone	
	Ralph Partridge	Delbert Lalone	
Annemarie Teutsch	Doi Cohen	Cora F. Solomon	Alan Solomon
Esther G. Rheingold	Irma Jacobs	Elizabeth "Libby" Horowitz	
	Herman Jacobs		Barry & Carole Horowitz & Family
Joseph H. Gellert	Arthur L. Gellert		The dear parents and grandparents of the Marciano Family
Kurt Similes	Lew & Hilary Wrobel		
	Muriel & Matt Lampell		
	Linda & Joel Babas		
	Marvin & Linda Skolnik		



Yahrzeits

May 4

Gertrude Levene
Edward Moffit
Beverly Kelly
Lillian Kapner
Irving D. Kraut
Lloyd Rosenthal,
Esq.
Betty Prussin
Levitan
Shirley Kornhauser
Stanley Shapiro
Samuel Satz
Wilfred Sumner
Julius Laks
Naomi Berkowitz
Samuel Bronfeld
Sarah Chernack
Walter Kallman
Sylvia Pearlman
Samuel Blaine
Jeanne Schwartz
Toby U. Cederbaum

Ida Albinder
Edna Gibell
Eva Revitz
Ruth Myer
Helen Danilin Klein
Louis Lipp
Eugene Jacobs
Mary Kovacs
Paul Reznikoff
Lewis Troeger
Claire Troeger Moselle
David L. Golomb

May 11

Jack Israel Goldner
Martin Frankel
Samuel Cederbaum
David Lawrence
Wolfson
Alan Taylor
Charlotte Miller
Kurt Lemberger
Bernard "Paul"
Buchalter
Bernice D Rabin
Betty Fein
Jack Rubinstein
Victor Collen
Leo Tauber

May 18

Josephine Lion Kahn
Flora Laks
Joseph Markoe
Marjorie F. Katz
Nathan Landau
Samuel Sigalow
Dr. Boris Czesler
Charlotte Cohen
William B. Erdreich
Charles Kagan
Henry Feder
Hyman Hoffman
Louis Diamond
Lois Metlis
David M. Horn
Royden Parke
Gertrude Lang
Hyman Fink
Selma Friedman Satz
Rose S. Podell
Bernard Lesk
Eloise Ross
Raymond Mira
Norman Prisansky
Ruth Browner
Ellen Rosenfeld
Iris Krause
Bertha Troeger
Abraham J. Salit
Bernard Rheingold
Eugenia Pearlstein

May 25

Harold Jacobs
Mary B. Sparks
Martin Cohen
Leonard Margolin
Ken Richter
Martin Gally
Samuel Schwartz
Joseph H. Goodman
Frankin H. Littell
Goldie Simon
Therese Lehman
Stuart Chertock
Alvin Kaskowitz
James Burns
Leo Morgenstern
Eugene Seigel
Rabbi Abraham Hasselkorn
Else Willner

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.

Wonderful Purim Celebration



Rabbi Golomb began the March 10 service with a hilarious reading of the Megillah.



The Purim spiel this year was called "Purim in a Galaxy Far, Far Away" and was written, produced and directed by Art Menken, who also played the role of Rabbi Obiwon Jacobi.



Kiley Quackenbush was Princess Esther-Leia in the spiel. Many more photos of the evening can be viewed at www.vassartemple.org by clicking the Photo Gallery link on the left.

SCRIP News

A&P gift cards in \$25 denominations are back in stock!

You can win a \$100
Adams Fairacre Farms
Gift Card !

Every \$100 worth of Adams SCRIP
purchased in the months of May and
June
earns you a raffle entry,
with the prize being a \$100 Adams
Gift Card.

Why shop at Adams?

Because it is one of the best retailers around,
with locations in Poughkeepsie, Wappingers Falls, Newburgh and Kingston!

At Adams you can find all your summer gardening supplies
as well as a wide selection of fresh produce,
fish, meat, dairy items, specialty items
from around the world and prepared foods.

When you shop at Adams with SCRIP [gift cards]
from Vassar Temple, you are supporting our temple and are therefore already
a winner!

But now you have the chance for this special bonus.

The winner of the \$100 Adams Gift Card
will be chosen on Sunday, July 1, 2012

You just have to participate for the chance to win!
Have questions? Contact the SCRIP Coordinator, Sandra Mamis:
scrip@vassartemple.org or 463-2678



Winners of SCRIP Raffle
Named

If you bought SCRIP [gift cards]
during the month of March, a raffle ticket
was submitted on your behalf for every
\$100 purchased. The prize: a \$20 gift
card to Pizza Hut! The following win-
ners were chosen at random on April 1,
2012:

Joanne Abraskin
David and Marilyn Lampell
Lisa-Sue and Kurt Quackenbush
Linda and Marvin Skolnik

Thank you to all who support the
Vassar Temple SCRIP Program, a vital
source of revenue whose success de-
pends entirely on your participation.

Sandra Mamis, SCRIP coordinator
463-2678; scrip@vassartemple.org

Mitzvah Day *continued from page 5*

Mitzvah Day is planned and carried out by a commit-
tee of volunteers, organized by Jewish Family Services (a
division of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County),
and underwritten by a grant from the Bertha Effron Fund
of the Community Foundation of Dutchess County.
This year corporate sponsorship is being provided by
Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls; The Bagel Shoppe;
Kraus-Ritter Insurance; and Arnoff Moving and Storage;
and financial support from the community is always wel-
come. So as Mitzvah Day fast approaches, find YOUR
way to be a part of it!

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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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:	Robert Abrams
Vice President:	David Lampell
Secretary:	Tamara Gruszko
Treasurer:	Brian Silverman
Sisterhood President:	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Jeff Brenner & David Wolf
Youth Group President:	Rachel Erlebacher
Immediate Past President:	Sandra Mamis



May 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 June Bulletin deadline 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7pm The Bible Doesn't Say That with Dr. Joel Hoffman	2 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 Pizza	3 10am SEP	4 CAN JAM Weekend 7:30pm Shabbat Service	5 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Rachel Roland
6 9am-12pm RS K-7 9am Shiva Minyan Training Session 11:30am Lunch Box	7 7:15pm Ritual	8 Flyers Deadline 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 6pm VTS Donor	9 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	10 LAG BA'OMER 10am SEP	11 7:30pm Shabbat Service	12 9am Torah Study 10am Bar Mitzvah Jacob Moore
13 MOTHER'S DAY NO RS	14	15 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Meditation Group	16 6:39-8:30pm RS 8-10	17 10am SEP 7pm Holy Rollers	18 6:15pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Sisterhood Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	19 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
20 MITZVAH DAY RS meets @ JCC Tiny Temple @ JCC	21	22 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Meditation Group	23 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 7pm Congregational Meeting	24 10am SEP	25 7:30pm Shabbat Service	26 EREV SHAVUOT 9am Torah Study 8:45 pm Tikkun Study @ Temple Beth-El
27 SHAVUOT NO RS 10am Yizkor Service	28 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed 7pm Board	29 10am SEP 12pm Talmud	30 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	31 10am SEP		