



Where You Belong

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהלים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 159 No. 5 May 2013

*The Officers and Board of Trustees and the families  
of the  
Confirmands*

*cordially invite you to attend  
CONFIRMATION SERVICES*

*Sunday, June 2, 2013*

*10:00 a.m.*



*CONFIRMANDS*

*2013 ~ 5773*

*Danielle Brundage, daughter of Tom and Laura Brundage*

*Noah Carbo, son of Joe and Debbie Carbo*

*Wayne Hartman, son of Andrew and Rose Hartman*

*Rachel Marcus, daughter of Stan and Wendy Marcus*

*Kiley Quackenbush, daughter of*

*Kurt and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*

## Donor Features Spring Fare and Friendship

Our Sisterhood's annual Donor Dinner will be held in the social hall on Tuesday, May 7th. This special evening will highlight spring-inspired culinary treats beginning with hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. and followed by a complete dinner at 7:00. The program for the evening includes the presentation of the Evelyn Kahn Award and a special musical interlude by local high school musicians.

Reservations must be made by May 1st through Lisa-Sue Quackenbush at 845-876-

5859 or [sisterhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassartemple.org) or by sending a check made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood (Donor Dinner on memo line) and mailed to: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, c/o Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. You may support Sisterhood and, through it, the temple at the Patron level (\$18) or become a Sponsor (\$36) or a Benefactor (\$54). Contributions from those who are unable to attend will also be greatly appreciated.

The Donor Dinner is always a gala

## Upcoming Events

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## Annual Congregational Meeting on May 22nd

Plan to attend the annual meeting of the congregation on Wednesday evening, May 22nd 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 Marsha and Richard Lowry; voting on the slate of nominees for board positions; voting on 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](http://www.vassartemple.org)), so check it regularly.

All members in good standing are eligible to vote. New members who paid the introductory membership rate are not eligible to vote, but are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

celebration of spring and the friendships that flourish among Sisterhood members. Reply to the invitation you received in the mail and join us!

## Rabbi's Message: TURNING IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN



In college, I used to attend an informal lunch-bag seminar on religion and science. The word “cybernetics” came up, and a fellow student admitted he had never heard the word before. (This was the late 1960s.) The student,

who was working on a graduate degree in English Literature, then announced: if the word is not in Shakespeare or the Bible, it does not exist!

My colleague was exaggerating, of course, but only just a little. Shakespeare produced so many new words in his plays that he can fairly be called the creator of modern English. The Bible, on the other hand, is something else. As a sacred book its ideas and themes are fundamentally timeless. A rabbinic sage with the odd name of Ben Bag Bag advised that one need only “turn it (the pages of Scripture) over and over again, and find everything in it.”

Consider, therefore, the biblical Book of Ruth. It is really only a short story – less than 100 sentences in length – but nonetheless full of intriguing issues. The Book defines the Festival of Shavuot. Shavuot is principally the celebration of the revelation at Mt. Sinai – the giving of the Ten Commandments. The Book of Ruth moves the observation into deeper territory. Consider:

At the beginning of the story a famine hits the land of Israel and one family picks up and leaves for Moab. Two thoughts come to my mind: the Okies who left the Dust Bowl in the late 1920s, early 30s, mostly for California (as in Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath*), and the classic Kenny Rogers song: *Know when to hold ‘em; know when to fold ‘em, when to walk away, when to run*. When does adversity lead you to quit, and when does it stiffen your resolve and cause you to hold out longer in hope and expectation that things will turn around?

Sometime later the one surviving member of the family decides to return to Israel. The act echoes earlier decisions made by Abraham when famine pushed him into Egypt, and Jacob who had fled to Aram. Why return? What is the attraction of home, even after everyone is gone? Jews have historically been “light on their feet;” picking up relatively easily from one place and moving elsewhere – sometimes thousands of miles away. What is home to the people Israel?

Finally, Ruth the Moabite chooses to return with her mother-in-law to an unknown land. Again, there is an echo of God’s call to Abraham to leave his father’s land and go “to a place that I will show you.” Ruth, however, was not moved by God, but by something else. What was it? What impels someone to set aside their personal past and commit

themselves to a wholly different future? Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David, committed herself to the Jewish people. What does such a commitment mean to each of us, whether we were born in a Jewish home or not?

While Shavuot formally focuses on God’s revealing of the divine *mitzvot* (commandments) from the top of the mountain, the Book of Ruth redirects that focus on the people who received them. Needless to say, that people is us!

Please join me on Tuesday, May 14 at 8pm, at Temple Beth-El for the annual study with Rabbis Loevinger, Polish and myself, in observance of Shavuot. We will hold a service and *yizkor* at Vassar Temple on Wednesday, May 15 at 10am.

Also mark your calendars for Sunday, June 2 at 10am when, as a congregation, we celebrate a Confirmation Service to recognize an important milestone in our students’ Jewish education at Vassar Temple as Danielle Brundage, Noah Carbo, Wayne Hartman, Rachel Marcus, and Kiley Quackenbush are confirmed.

*Rabbi Paul Golomb*



It’s spring and it’s beautiful in Poughkeepsie! The tulips and daffodils have bloomed, and many

of us are out enjoying the beautiful weather, whether it’s in a local park, on the Walkway Over the Hudson, or on the local rail trails.

Spring includes some of the busiest months at Vassar Temple. In April we wrapped up a very successful Flexible Feast, coordinated by Linda Lant. Twelve temple families offered dinners with a wide variety of delicious-sounding menus at their homes over three successive Saturday evenings. This was a tasty variation on the Moveable Feasts of prior years, allowing us to choose a dinner without being limited to one

evening.

We also held our first Trivia Night, a fun-filled evening in our beautifully-decorated social hall. During this wonderful event, chaired by Marianne Abrams, teams of participants answered challenging, witty questions from ten general categories. Many thanks to Marianne and her committee for making this an enjoyable evening!

This month Mitzvah Day falls on May 5. This is a popular event where Temple members can participate in the Jewish community’s efforts to make the world a better place right here in the Hudson Valley. With many activities to choose from, we can help local agencies in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster Counties. A popular activity among Temple members is to clean up our old cemetery where many

of Vassar Temple’s founding families are buried with headstones dating back to the 1800’s!

Most importantly, I’d like to congratulate Richard and Marsha Lowry, who will receive this year’s Founders’ Service Award at the Annual Congregational meeting. The award is given annually to honor an individual or a household who has provided consistent and beneficial service to Vassar Temple over an extended period of time. The Lowrys have been active Temple participants for many years, chairing numerous committees in their decades of devotion to the temple. I hope you will join us for the Annual Congregational meeting on Wednesday, May 22 at 7pm in the social hall.

So, enjoy the spring and be sure to mark your calendars for the great events happening in the coming days and weeks.

*L’Shalom,  
Bob Abrams*

## Worship Services

### Friday, May 3

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

### Saturday, May 4

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

### Friday, May 10

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

### Saturday, May 11

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

### Wednesday, May 15 *Shavuot*

10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service

### Friday, May 17

7:30 p.m. Vassar Temple Sisterhood and Generations Service with cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin and Birthday Blessings

### Saturday, May 18

9:00 a.m. Torah Study  
10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Keren Markovitch

### Friday, May 24

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

### Saturday, May 25

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

### Friday, May 31

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

### Saturday, June 1

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

### Sunday, June 2

10:00 a.m. Confirmation Service

### Friday, June 7

7:30 p.m. Outdoor Shabbat and Teacher Recognition Service with Birthday Blessings

### Saturday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

## New Paths Service

Please join us in the sun-lit East chapel on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The New Paths Service focuses on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. The liturgy of the New Paths siddur includes both traditional and contemporary writings, and the service leader or those attending 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](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com) or Rabbi Golomb [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or [845-454-2570](tel:845-454-2570).

## Scriptural Readings

### May 3 & 4 *Behar-Behukotai*

Leviticus 27:1-27:34  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

### May 10 & 11 *Bamidbar*

Numbers 3:14-4:20  
Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22

### May 17 & 18 *Naso*

Numbers 7:1-7:89  
Haftarah: Judges 12:2-25

### May 24 & 25 *B'ha'alotkha*

Numbers 10:35-12:16  
Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

### May 31 & June 1 *Sh'lakh L'kha*

Numbers 15:8-15:41  
Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24

### June 7 & 8 *Korah Rosh Hodesh*

Numbers 17:25-18:32  
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24

## What Must a Jew Remember? Shavuot Study Session on May 14<sup>th</sup>

Join our community rabbis for a Shavuot study program on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at Temple Beth-El, 118 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie. The theme for this year's *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* is "What Must a Jew Remember? The Obligations of Remembering...and Forgetting."

## Shavuot Yizkor Service

Yizkor for Shavuot will be observed with a service to be held Wednesday, May 15 at 10am. The office will be closed for business and there will be no religious school that evening.

## Jewish Meditation on May 14

Jewish Meditation will hold their monthly session at Vassar Temple on Tuesday May 14 from 7:30pm-8:30pm under the leadership of Linda Cantor of Vassar Temple and Ed Rosenberg of Temple Beth El. Both beginners and those experienced in the practice are warmly invited to participate. The session includes sitting and walking meditations, chanting, and time for sharing and questions. There is no cost to attend, but your RSVP to the temple office at 4542570 would be appreciated.

## Shabbat Dinner at 6:15 pm on May 17<sup>th</sup>

A Shabbat dinner featuring chicken with all the trimmings, with chicken nuggets for the youngsters, will be held prior to the service on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person, \$5 for kids 5 -12. Children under 5 years old are invited free of charge. Vassar Temple members who have belonged to the congregation for forty or more years are invited as our guests. To RSVP for the dinner, please contact Wendy Marcus at (845) 226-2502 or at [masinc223@aol.com](mailto:masinc223@aol.com) by May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Join Us to Celebrate Long-Time Members and the VT Sisterhood

Generations Shabbat and Sisterhood Shabbat will both be celebrated during services Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30. The service, which will be led by Sisterhood members, will honor everyone who has belonged to Vassar Temple for forty years or more. Long-time members will discuss the history of the Vassar Temple Sisterhood and the changing role of women in the congregation. In addition, all those born during the month of May will receive a birthday blessing. All Sisterhood members are welcome to participate in the service. If you would like to participate, please contact Melissa Erlebacher, chair of Sisterhood Shabbat at (845) 635-9854 or at [mae62@columbia.edu](mailto:mae62@columbia.edu).

## Mazal Tov

...to **Ellen and David Smith** in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Lea, on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents are Lindsey Smith Genut and Jordan Genut.



...to **Gilbert and Arlene Seligman** in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Eliana Sadie Seligman on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents are Dr. Neil and Tracy Seligman.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**Keren Markovitch**

**Daughter of Dr. Shay and Dr. Lori Markovitch**



## Welcome to New Members of Vassar Temple

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

**Lara Cifone and her sons, Maxwell & Samuel**

**Paul & Jean Rosenfeld and their son, Dorian**

## Bereavement Guide and End-of-Life Support Available through the *Nachamu* Committee

Vassar Temple tries to serve our members at all times in their lives, including the challenging times we face at the end of life. *Nachamu* means "to bring comfort" and the *Nachamu* Committee's mission is to support and give comfort to our congregants and their loved ones during a terminal illness, when the removal of life support is being considered, when a funeral is being planned, and during the time immediately following a death in the family. The committee can be reached through Rabbi Golomb or the temple office.

The *Nachamu* Committee has prepared a complete guide to Jewish mourning practices for our members which has recently been updated by the addition of new prayers and ideas for the unveiling of a memorial stone. It is easy to find the guide by going to our temple website, [www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org).

## In Remembrance

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

Sonia Markovitch, mother of  
Dr. Shay Markovitch

Bernard Faver, father of Elisa  
Dugatkin

## Refuah Shelemah

To our Temple members, **Hal Lesser, Liz Freedman, Sandor Margolin and Gayle Margolin** who were recently hospitalized.



## 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.

## Pulpit Flowers

- May 3 In memory of Jaime Hecht and Sam Karnes from Susan & David Hecht
- May 10 Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- May 17 In honor of Keren Markovitch's Bat Mitzvah from her loving family
- May 24 In honor of the May 24, 1997 B'nai Mitzvah of Steven & Rachel Mamis from Sandra & Harry Mamis.
- May 31 Vassar Temple Sisterhood



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.

## Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher:	Marianne Abrams
Editors:	Melissa Erlebacher and 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](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or faxed to (845)452-5161. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

## From the Religious School Director



I write this as we begin the transformative period known as the Omer --- that 49-day journey from Passover to Shavuot, from slavery in Egypt to acceptance of Torah at Sinai. As I explained last year, “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.”

At this time of reflection it seems appropriate to ask how we’re doing in terms of education at Vassar Temple, and where we’re going. Here are a few of my thoughts.

Perhaps most exciting, we’re planning a brand new, in-house Hebrew program during the week to complement Religious School on Sunday. This will replace the Community Hebrew School at the JCC. While the Community Hebrew School had a great many benefits, in recent years it suffered from declining attendance (fewer than half of current Vassar Temple children who are eligible attend) and, therefore, decreasing effectiveness for Vassar Temple.

Details will be announced as they’re finalized, but the core idea is to ramp up the level of Hebrew education at Vassar Temple while also making it more efficient and engaging. And this new program will help us integrate religious and Hebrew education, as well as better incorporate bar/bat mitzvah preparation.

We also started a new Sunday-morning program this semester: the Sababa Center. It gets its name from a slang Hebrew word for “great” (pronounced sa-BA-ba), and it reflects the center’s goal of offering great Jewish learning in an alternative format. The center augments our current classroom-based model by providing small-group and individualized experiences to the entire student body. So far it’s been a huge hit.

We’re experimenting with different worship-service formats on Sunday morning. In addition to giving the students a little more variety, we hope that Sundays can serve as a laboratory for new Friday-night and Saturday-morning possibilities. So if you’re in the area on a Sunday morning at 11:30, stop by. Then let us know what you think.

Our other main new initiative, a joint high school program with Temple Beth-

El, is off to a rocky start. In spite of near universal agreement that the program is in principle a great idea, in practice it has been hindered by a series of missteps and false starts. We’ll keep trying to achieve the goals of the program while also being attentive to the wishes of the current students.

If I had to pick one area that most needs attention, it would be attendance on Sunday mornings. My perception, shared by the teachers, is that most students enjoy their time on Sunday and leave with a feeling that their time was well spent. And the new Sababa Center promises to help the few students who don’t yet feel this way. (But we can’t do anything about the natural and widespread tendency for kids who are asked about what they did to answer “nothing” and when asked how it was to respond with a curt if discouraging “fine.”)

Nonetheless, we seem to have two populations: one group attends most of the time, but the other attends only sporadically. Surely there are some good reasons for poor attendance (and some families have spoken directly with me), but I wonder if there’s anything else we should be doing.

So that’s how I see things. As always, I’ll look forward to hearing your observations and suggestions.

*Dr. Joel Hoffman*

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## URJ Hurricane Sandy Relief

Thank you to all who donated to the URJ Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund, which has now reached about \$782,800. The URJ is directly advising individual congregations that were impacted by the hurricane, and is financially supporting relief organizations that have been on the scene in Queens, Brooklyn, Long Island, Westchester, and at Monmouth and Ocean Counties in New Jersey.

In order to provide the long-term support that is needed, the funds collected by the URJ are being dispersed in phases. Initially support was given to groups organizing volunteers, providing meals, obtaining and distributing supplies, and addressing housing issues. Free legal assistance and help with making insurance claims were made available to hurricane victims.

Tools were obtained, work teams were organized, and cleanup and rebuilding in many effected communities are still being addressed. Housing needs of families and individuals still displaced continue to be dealt with. A community center that hosts after school and teen activities in Queens is being rebuilt. \$142,000 was given thus far to several Reform temples that suffered serious structural and interior damage. A special fund has even been set aside to help teens from effected families attend NFTY camps this summer.

As you can see, there is much rebuilding and rehabilitation yet to be done. If you would like to make a further donation to this fund online or by mail, or for a link to more details about the Sandy relief work that the URJ has already facilitated, just go to <http://urj.org/socialaction/issues/relief/hurricanes/>.

## Religion and Power

The spring adult education series continues on Thursday May 9 at 7pm when Margaret Leeming, Instructor in Religion at Vassar College, speaks on “The Kingdom of Faith: Islam and Power.”

The series will conclude on Thursday, May 23 at 7pm when Rabbi Paul Golomb speaks on “586, 70, 1948 and All That: Judaism and Power.”

The public is invited to any or all of the sessions. There is no charge to attend. For more information contact the temple at 845-454-2570 or email [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or [adulted@vassartemple.org](mailto:adulted@vassartemple.org).

## Mitzvah Day Miracle - May 5

What is the Mitzvah Day miracle? It's hundreds of volunteers from the area's Jewish community uniting as one for the wonderful goal of performing service projects to benefit 25 local non-profits. There are indoor and outdoor projects to appeal to every interest and age from tots to senior citizens, and will take place rain or shine, as we have alternate projects lined up in case of inclement weather.

The day will begin at 9am with a free bagel breakfast at event headquarters, the Jewish Community Center (JCC), 110 S. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie, where everyone will have an opportunity to register and get directions to their project sites. Most projects run from 10am until completed. A complimentary lunch buffet at the JCC will be available to volunteers between 11:30am-1pm. Here **just a sampling** of projects from which to choose:

**SPECIAL FOR TOTS & young children** - The PJ Library Project- Enjoy a story about Mitzvah and make a craft gift for those in need in the community. In the Early Childhood wing of the JCC from 10am-12:30pm. Parent must accompany children.

**ESPECIALLY FUN FOR KIDS / FAMILIES**- Do chores at Briggs Farm (and pet the animals), decorate blankets at the JCC, bake cookies, clean up an historic Jewish cemetery at 10am and come back to pack up the wall of Cereal at 11:45am.

**TEENS**- a stream cleanup, a carwash in Rhinebeck, or choose anything from the list!

**ADULTS**- rebuild a brick walk for an elderly Holocaust survivor, cook at the JCC or LunchBox, garden and plant shrubs.

**SEDENTARY PROJECTS** all at the JCC-- stuff envelopes, sort items donated to Castle Point, knitting.

Information about all projects accompanied the Mitzvah Day registration form in the April issue of *The Voice* and is online at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://www.jewishdutchess.org). You can also volunteer, or get any questions answered, by calling Linda Tafapolsky at Jewish Family Services [845-471-9817](tel:845-471-9817), e-mailing [jfs@jewishdutchess.org](mailto:jfs@jewishdutchess.org), or contacting Marian Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) or [845-849-0025](tel:845-849-0025).

## Mitzvah Day Schedule

9am - Free bagel breakfast at JCC and Sign In

10am - Mitzvah Projects throughout the Hudson Valley begin

11:45am to 1pm - Free lunch for volunteers available at the JCC

## Mitzvah Day Collections

Please drop off at the JCC by May 5<sup>th</sup>:

**Boxes of Cereal**- Help your hungry neighbors start the day right--Cereal Counts!!!

**NEW Twin Comforters and Pillowcases** for River Haven teen shelter, Poughkeepsie

**NEW Packaged Men's Underwear and Socks** for veterans at Castle Point V.A.

**Nonperishable Foods** for Veterans Food Pantry

Questions? Email Marian at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org)

## Judaica Shop Thank You

I would like to give a big thank you to Linda Babas, Melissa Erlebacher, Donna Loshin, Michele Sinn and Fern Wolf, as well as Sandi and George Rugar, for their invaluable help during the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Judaica Passover sale. In addition to regular hours Monday through Friday, we offered special hours on three successive Sundays in March.

Our customers enjoyed jumping frogs, dancing matzo balls and the infinite array of traditional offerings. We thank you for your continued support; our success is always thanks to you! Remember we are at your service for all of your Judaica needs!

*Perla Kaufman, Judaica Chair*  
*914-456-7309 or [Brandaliz5@optonline.net](mailto:Brandaliz5@optonline.net)*

### \*\*\*Special Thanks\*\*\*

to  
SHAARI ROLAND and  
WENDY GIANGRASSO  
for captaining our last two  
Lunch Boxes of the school year.

## Joe Bertolozzi Featured on Pete Seeger Album

Our Music Director Joseph Bertolozzi plays his solo percussion rig "The Bronze Collection" on Pete Seeger's new spoken-word album *Pete Seeger: The Storm King*. The collection contains personal stories, narratives, and poems by the folk legend with musical interpretations from guest musicians such as New Age pioneer Will Ackerman and many others. The album from Hachette Audio, a division of Hachette Book Group, was recently released.

## Advocacy Day in Albany May 6<sup>th</sup>

The Reform Jewish Voice of NYS invites you to Albany, along with Reform Jews from all around New York State, on Monday May 6th. Serving as advocates for progressive legislation, we will be speaking with legislators about the Women's Equality Agenda (specifically about passing the Reproductive Health Act and enacting pay equity for women), and about the need for Campaign Finance Reform in New York State elections.

To learn more about RJVNYS and to register for Advocacy Day 2013 go to <http://rjvnys.org> and for further information about Advocacy Day itself e-mail [info@rjvnys.org](mailto:info@rjvnys.org). **There is a \$25 per person fee to participate, which will be reimbursed to you by the Vassar Temple Social Action Committee.** High School students are encouraged to attend but must be accompanied by an adult. Join with this knowledgeable and energized group to make your influence felt in Albany!

## JWV Plans May Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on May 5, 2013 at Congregation Shomre Israel on Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The meeting will begin at 9:30am. As Shomre Israel is strictly kosher, no outside food is allowed. Assemblyman Kieran Lalor will speak at the meeting.

For further information contact Post Commander Ralph Schwartz at (845)849-0025 or [Rschwa9881@aol.com](mailto:Rschwa9881@aol.com).

## Interfaith Music Festival on June 9<sup>th</sup>

Another wonderful Interfaith Music Festival will take place on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls. Sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council (471-7333; [www.dutchessinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.dutchessinterfaithcouncil.org)), the concert's theme is "Let All God's Children Sing." It will feature performances in song and dance from various faith traditions, children's choirs, and the Interfaith Choir. In keeping with its dedication to the victims of the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the Music Festival will include the debut of an original tribute, composed and arranged by Gretchen Gould.

The suggested donation is \$10; children under 12 are free. All proceeds will help the Dutchess County Interfaith Council continue its mission of 40 years: promoting understanding and respectful relationships among the diverse religious communities of our county. This event is always uplifting, so plan to attend!



The Junior Youth Group Enjoyed Ice Skating at the Civic Center in March.



## TIME TO PREPARE FOR SPRING!

Whether it is Getting the Garden Ready  
or Making Home Repairs,

you can do all your Shopping with SCRIP [gift cards] from Vassar Temple!

Visit Adams Fairacre Farms' amazing Garden Centers  
in Poughkeepsie, Wappingers and Newburgh,  
or Lowe's and Home Depot for all your springtime supplies,  
but FIRST pick up SCRIP to these fine stores at the Temple.

Supporters of SCRIP over the years have raised \$57,000 in profits for the temple,  
without spending any extra money!

Yes, shopping with SCRIP makes Lots of Cents.

Questions? Contact our SCRIP Coordinator: Sandra Mamis at [scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org)



## Holly Rollers During Religious School on March 10th

*Under the guidance of Rabbi Golomb, Religious School Director Dr. Joel Hoffman, and their teachers, both students and their parents were able to learn about our Torah scrolls up close as they were unrolled and re-rolled to keep them in good condition.*



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## 80 Gathered at Vassar Temple's 2nd Annual 1st Night Seder

A shortened presentation captured the essentials of the Seder story; it was presented in a thoughtful, interactive and, occasionally, silly way. Everyone received a personalized boarding pass that identified the "slave" as a 1st class passenger on "Canaan Airlines". The evening opened with a recorded message from the pilot who introduced the Pesach story in a humorous manner.

Children of all ages were engaged in the typical ways: for the asking and answering of the four questions and for the finding of the afikomen. But, perhaps for the first time in Dutchess County, there was an additional event incorporated into the evening: a pyramid building contest. The young architects and engineers were evenly matched in two teams, then given 20 boxes of matzo each. With only 5 minutes to plan and construct their pyramids these young people did a tremendous job. Our judges, Michelle Brenner and Eleanor Pupko, had a tough time determining which the winning team was; it ended in a tie. All participants were rewarded with a \$5 B & N gift card!

There was a lot of singing before and after the meal with active conversation over dinner, occasionally focused on the contents of the Hagaddah. Once again this year, we used the Hagaddah that the

Seder Committee developed last year.

Sandra Mamis relayed a conversation she had with Leslie Maserjian, z"l, at the conclusion of last year's event. Leslie, who had come with the extended family, asked to be the first contacted this year so that she could help on the committee. The experience had been so rewarding, she said, that she wanted to make sure she could be a part of the planning in 2013. As we know, a short time after, we lost Leslie so unexpectedly. This year's Seder was dedicated to her memory.

A special "thank you" to chairperson Sandra Mamis and her committee: Alan Kaflowitz, Polly Lewis, Joan Ollendorf, Lyn Lewis, and Jim Robinowitz with help from Mark Metzger, CJ Kelly and Tracy Marcus.

More photos from the Seder are available for viewing on our website by clicking on "Photo Gallery" on the left.





# Contributions

## SUSTAINING FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Miriam Rosenberg Oppenheimer  
 Babi Sommer-Satzman  
 Barbara & Al Lemberger  
 Annemarie Teutsch Doi Cohen  
 Nathaniel Baum Nina & Nick Kraut  
 Herman Kraut  
 Rose Baum Kraut  
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 & Stefanie Turk  
 Ilse Holzer Jana Bernick  
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 Meyer Bagun Jeff & Nan Genshaft  
 Miriam Genshaft  
 Joshua Posner David & Joan Posner  
 Samuel Karnes The Hecht Family  
 Jaime Hecht  
 Tillie Schwartz Ruth Kapner

### IN HONOR OF

Sandra & Harry Mamis' Special Birthdays  
 Muriel & Matt Lampell  
 Doi Cohen  
 Vivian & Ed Garber  
 Richard & Marsha Lowry  
 Elaine Lipschutz  
 Charlene & Loren Rosenthal  
 Nan & Jeff Genshaft  
 Brian & Helen Silverman  
 Robert & Mary Ritter  
 Alan & Meredith Kflowitz  
 Dr. & Mrs. David Schlam  
 Arthur & Margery Groten  
 Bob & Marianne Abrams  
 Cathy & Gabe Bokor  
 Herb Stoller's special birthday  
 Dr. Lewis & Rita Sims  
 Paula & Azzy Reckess

### IN CELEBRATION OF

Sandra & Harry Mamis  
 Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

### WISHING REFUAH SHELEMAH TO

Arthur Menken Paula & Azzy Reckess

### GOOD HEALTH WISHES TO

Hal Lesser Sandra & Harry Mamis  
 Liz Freedman

### ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLARS' FUND

IN MEMORY OF  
 Benjamin Clarfeld Elaine Lipschutz  
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Bernard Faver Muriel & Matt Lampell

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### IN MEMORY OF

Max Michael Simon, MD Georgene &  
 Irving Dreishpoon

## PRAYERBOOK FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Mim Oppenheimer Joel & Claudia Kelson

### IN HONOR OF

Special Birthdays of Rabbi Arnold &  
 Ruth Kapner Joel & Claudia Kelson

### IN GRATITUDE FOR

The work that Doi Cohen has done on Temple  
 publicity

The work that Richard Lowry has done on the  
 Temple website

Joel & Claudia Kelson

## TREES IN ISRAEL

### IN MEMORY OF

Sonia Markovitch Sandra & Harry Mamis

### 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.



## Yahrzeits

May 3	May 3 continued	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Jacob Ettenson	Samuel Blaine	Mary Kovacs	Josephine Lion Kahn	Hyman Fink	James Burns
Gertrude Fink	Jeanne Schwartz	Paul Reznikoff	Flora Laks	Selma Friedman Satz	Leo Morgenstern
Ruth Edna Day	Toby U. Cederbaum	Martin Frankel	Joseph Markoe	Rose S. Podell	Eugene Seigel
Faye Prisansky Kaufman	Ida Albinder	Samuel Cederbaum	Marjorie F. Katz	Bernard Lesk	Bessie T. Mock
Edith Kaufherr	Edna Gibell	David Lawrence	Nathan Landau	Eloise Ross	Olga Gutnick
Gertrude Levene	Eva Revitz	Wolfson	Samuel Sigalov	Raymond Miro	Samuel Lampell
Edward Moffit	Ruth Myer	Alan Taylor	Dr. Boris Czesler	Norman Prisansky	Rachel Diamond
Beverly Kelly	Helen Danilin Klein	Charlotte Miller	Charlotte Cohen	Ruth Browner	Regina Mendel
Lillian Kapner	Louis Lipp	Kurt Lemberger	William B. Erdreich	Ellen Rosenfeld	Daniel S. Schwartz
Irving D. Kraut	Eugene Jacobs	Bernard "Paul"	Charles Kagan	Iris Krause	Seymour Marks
Lloyd L. Rosenthal, Esq.	Leo Tauber	Buchalter	Henry Feder	Harold Jacobs	Seymour Bersak
Betty Prussin Levitan	Bertha Troeger	Bernice D. Rabin	Hyman Hoffman	Mary B. Sparks	Lucretia Walsh
Shirley Kornhauser		Abraham J. Salit	Louis Diamond	Martin Cohen	Margaret "Honey" Sylvester
Stanley Shapiro		Bernard Rheingold	Lois Metlis	Leonard Margolin	Ann Feinstein Drobner
Samuel Satz		Eugenia Pearlstein	David M. Horn	Ken Richter	Catherine Creedon
Wilfred Sumner			Royden Parke	Martin Gally	Pauline Abrams
Julius Laks			Rabbi Abraham	Peter Nevard	Samuel Rein
Naomi Berkowitz			Hasselkorn	Samuel Schwartz	Evelyn Feinbloom
Samuel Bronfeld			Else Willner	Joseph H. Goodman	Dr. Arthur Lipschutz
Sarah Chernack			Dorothy Lewis	Franklin H. Littell	Shirley K. Loeb
Walter Kallman				Goldie Simon	Irma Manheim
Sylvia Pearlman				Therese Lehman	Sandra LoGiudice
				Stuart Chertock	Gertrude Tavss
				Alvin Kaskowitz	Lynn Levy
				Joshua Collen	Gertrude Lashinsky Ginsberg
				Edmond Levy	

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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 www.vassar temple.org



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<b>Rabbi:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen A. Arnold
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
<b>Cantorial Soloist:</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Robert Abrams
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Marge Groten
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Brenner
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Silverman
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Jeff Brenner & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Sandra Mamis
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	Rachel Marcus



## May 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 June Bulletin 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	2 10am SEP 11:30 Talmud	3 CAN JAM Week-end 7:30pm Shabbat Service	4 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
5 MITZVAH DAY	6	7 10am SEP 6pm VTS Donor	8 YOM YERUSHA-LAYIM Flyers Deadline 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	9 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Adult Ed - "The Kingdom of Faith: Islam and Power"	10 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11 9am Torah Study
12 MOTHER'S DAY NO RS	13 7pm Board mtg.	14 EREV SHAVUOT 10am SEP 7:30 Meditation 8pm Tikkun Study @ Temple Beth-El	15 SHAVUOT Office Closed 10am Yizkor Service NO RS	16 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	17 6:15pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Sisterhood & Generations Shabbat Service Birthday blessings	18 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah of Keren Markovitch
19 9am-12pm RS K-7	20 7:15pm Ritual	21 10am SEP	22 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12 7pm Congregational Meeting	23 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Adult Ed - 586, 70, 1948 and All That: Judaism and Power"	24 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25 9am Torah Study
26 NO RS	27 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	28 10am SEP	29 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	30 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	31 7:30pm Shabbat Service	