



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 9 May 2016

Moveable Feast: May 14th

Our Moveable Feast fundraiser, a most popular, sellout event in the past, will be happening on the evening of Saturday, May 14th. Members of Vassar Temple are hosting dinners to raise funds for Vassar Temple.

The following families will be our 2016 hosts: Colberts, Hechts, Lampells, Metzgers, and Ritters. (Others may be added.)

The congregation will receive menus and pricing by email. Please pick a family and attend a dinner. You're sure to have fun, enjoy a tasty meal, and help Vassar Temple – all in the same evening! If you'd like further details or help with making a reservation, please contact president@vassartemple.org or call Bob Ritter at 845-902-8481.



Mitzvah Day: Sunday, May 15th

A Day of Community Service

- Free Kickoff Bagel Breakfast/ Sign-In, 9:00am at Temple Beth El (TBE)
- Most service projects begin by 10:00am at community sites or TBE, rain or shine
- Sign up for projects right for you, whatever your age, interest, singles, families or kids
- Pre-register at jewishdutchess.org & guarantee your FREE lunch at most off-site locations or TBE
- Project & registration info on that website or see front page & centerfold of the April *Voice*
- Drop off cake mix, canned icing, candles to our Temple from 5/1-5/8 for the *Birthday Project*
- To sponsor a birthday child, contact Jasmine at 845-476-4261 or jasmainerusso@gmail.com
- Drop off boxes of cereal for *Cereal Counts* to TBE starting May 1st
- Note: New Project! Planting at Astor Home, Rhinebeck
- Questions? Jewish Federation of Dutchess County: 471-9811 or socialaction@vassartemple.org

Upcoming Events:

- May 1 Lunch Box, p9
- May 2 Yom Hashoah, p3
- May 2 New Paths Service, p6
- May 9 Albany Advocacy Day, p3
- May 11 Wise Aging course, p3
- May 14 Moveable Feast, p1
- May 15 Mitzvah Day . p1
(VaTY car wash too!), p1



Rabbi's Message: Gesher: A Bridge to Becoming a Jewish Adult



"If you wish for your children to study Torah, study it in their presence. They will follow your example. Otherwise, they will not study Torah; they will only instruct their children to do so." (Rabbi Men-

achem Mendel of Kotzk)

This is my favorite quote about Jewish learning. While I often use it to nudge parents to engage in family learning programs, it also speaks to a great challenge of Jewish education: the Inoculation Model.

We may believe that by sending our children to Religious School until b'nai mitzvah, we are vaccinating them against forgetting their Jewish heritage. "You're officially a Jewish adult," we say, "My job is done." The Kotzker Rebbe suggests that this model doesn't create Jewish adults, but rather another generation that feels obligated to send their children to Religious School through b'nai mitzvah. The Inoculation Model doesn't create "healthy" Jewish adults; it only barely keeps us alive as a people.

What we need is a Well-

ness Model: regular Jewish engagement throughout the life-cycle, so that it becomes an integral, beloved part of who we are. Much of this we can do at home: celebrating Shabbat and holidays, talking about Jewish faith and values, and committing ourselves to social justice.

Another part of the Wellness Model is engaging in Jewish learning AFTER b'nai mitzvah. This is when many students—and their parents—make their exit from Jewish education. However, after b'nai mitzvah is when Jewish learning gets particularly interesting! Freed from the burden of preparing for b'nai mitzvah—which sometimes feels like "teaching to the test"—we can explore what it means to live Jewishly. What can our tradition teach us about the issues we face in modern life? And how can we add our voices to the millennia-long conversation that is the Jewish tradition?

As you know, we are in the midst of re-imagining our Religious School. One of the most exciting changes is that our 8th-12th graders will be joining Gesher, a community-wide Jewish high school, that includes students from Temple Beth El, Shir Chadash, and now, Vassar Temple!

By combining forces, our high schoolers will have more choices as to how they

wish to continue their exploration of Judaism. When I visited Gesher, some students discussed a film about Jews in India, while others engaged in a heated debate over medical marijuana. Students explored their creativity through visual art and storytelling. Classes change on a trimester schedule to keep things interesting.

The word "Gesher" means "bridge," and through Gesher, we also provide our teens with the opportunity to make connections to a larger group of Jewish teens. We also give them access to the diverse group of clergy and laypeople in this community. Rabbis Hyman, Victor, Polish, and I are designing an 18-month service-learning class that we teach together, culminating in a week-long community-service trip. That is something that no synagogue in our community could do on its own!

In order to make the transition into Gesher, our current 7th through 11th graders (remember, our teen program starts in 8th grade!) will come to Temple Beth El on Wednesday, May 18th, at 6:30 p.m., to meet our new classmates and choose our classes for the fall. Dinner will be served. DON'T MISS IT!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: Good Is Not Enough



Vassar Temple is a good temple! We have a wonderful rabbi, a dedicated board of trustees, a well-run office, good relations with the com-

munity, active committees producing attractive programming and ritual experiences and broad Jewish education options for children and adults. We've increased our reach into the community through social media, *Torah to Go*, social action activities and many other ways. Our physical environment is in the best shape it's been in decades. There is a lot to be proud about Vassar Temple. And yet, it's not enough.

It's not enough to be a good temple these days. There are trends and forces which have as much impact on our Temple's success as any of the things we're doing to be a good temple. This is to say, our sustainability depends as much as anything on being in the right place at the right time.

Membership is the key. Although I believe we need to broaden our concept to a more expanded term, *affiliations*, we need to recognize while membership is the greatest level of commitment, there are other

relationship levels essential to building a strong temple community. Many affiliations will grow into memberships; but affiliates, at all levels, provide mutual value.

As a child growing up in the 60s and early 70s, I remember Vassar Temple's membership was booming! So much so, we needed to hold both early and late sessions for religious school as well as for High Holy Day services. Those were the days when Poughkeepsie was home to iconic American businesses like the Smith Brothers of cough drop fame and a booming IBM. It is also about the time Poughkeepsie began to slide. An article in the NY Times in 1998 entitled, "Poughkeepsie, in a Long Tailspin, Now Copes with Clouded Image" describes fairly well the mess Poughkeepsie found itself in.

When I accepted the position as Vice President, which put me on the track to be president after two years, I knew what I was getting myself into. I have always maintained no matter how good we were as a temple, ultimately, the biggest factor that would determine our success with member-

ship was going to be the demographics and trends in the Poughkeepsie area. Poughkeepsie needed to have a great resurgence in order for our Temple to do the same. All I could hope for during my term was to get Vassar Temple ready for that day and pray it would come soon!

I believe that day is coming! To quote the new Mayor of Poughkeepsie, Rob Rolison, "I believe in Poughkeepsie and I think the Buzz Is Back!" I lack the space in this article to offer all the supporting reasons and the only test that matters is what we all can read about in the news. But if Mayor Rolison is right, and I do believe he is, better days are ahead for the Poughkeepsie area and Vassar Temple. So I say, from Mayor Rolison's mouth to God's ears...as well as to the ears of everyone in government, our schools and business that need to make it happen! A rising tide does lift all boats and heaven knows there are a lot of other non-profit organizations, small business owners, and households that could all use the lift!

Bob Ritter



**Please Join Us For
The 2016 Community YomHashoah/Holocaust
Commemoration and Lecture
May 2**

6:30 pm – Commemoration Ceremony and Candle Lighting

7:00 pm: Key Note Lecture by Hasia Diner, “Fitting Memorials: American Jews

Confront the Holocaust, 1945 – 1962”

The Hames and Betty Hall Theatre

Dutchess Community College

53 Pendell Road

Poughkeepsie

Hasia Diner is the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History and Director of the Goldstein –Goren Center for American Jewish History at New York University. Professor Diner has published widely on the history of migration and the Jewish experience in the United States. She is the author, most recently, of *We remember With Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence After the Holocaust* (2009). Her books include *Erin’s Daughters: Irish Immigrant Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1984); *In the Almost Promised Land: American Jews and Blacks, 1915-1935* (1977, reissued 1994); *The Lower East Side Memories: The Jewish Place in America* (2000); and *The Jews of the United States, 1654 to 2000* (2004).

This event is sponsored by the Department of History, Government, and Economics of Dutchess Community College; the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, and the June and Aaron Gillespie Forum. The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Dr. Werner Steger at (845) 431 8522 (steger@sunydutchess.edu) or Paula Reckess at reckessp@gmail.com.

Wise Aging Course Resumes

Our *Wise Aging* course will resume in May. An introduction for new members will take place in the Temple on Wednesday, May 4th, 7:00pm, and the first group session will be held on May 11th, also at 7:00pm. If there are any questions, please contact Debbie Golomb at 483-7717.

Reform Jewish Voice Albany Advocacy Day 2016

Join us on Monday, May 9th as we travel to Albany with a group from our Temple, RJV leaders and other Jewish social justice advocates from across the State to learn about key issues and the Jewish values that underpin our view on those issues, and then take the unforgettable opportunity to visit our members of the state Senate and Assembly and advocate on those very topics.

To register for Advocacy Day 2016, go to rjvnys.org and click on Advocacy Day (near the top). For further info and to join a carpool to Albany, contact Rabbi Berkowitz at vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com or 845-454-2570.

May Worship Services

6	6:00pm 7:30pm	Family Shabbat Dinner VTS Generations Shabbat Services with organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
7	9:00am	Torah Study
13	7:30pm	Family-friendly Shabbat service featuring VaTY Junior Youth Group with Olivia Dilorio, song leader
14	9:00am	Torah Study
20	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi
21	9:00am 10:00am	Torah study New Paths Service
27	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
28	9:00am	Torah Study

Scriptural Readings

May	7	Shabbat Machar Kodesh Aharei Mot Lev. 17:1-18:30; I Samuel 20:18-42
	14	<i>K'doshim</i> Lev. 19:23-20:27; Amos 9:7-15
	21	<i>Emor</i> Lev. 23:23-24:23; Ezekiel 44:15-31
	26	<i>B'har</i> Lev. 25:29-26:2; Jeremiah 32:6-27

Rabbi Berkowitz will be at Crane Lake from June 26 to July 3 if you want to plan your visit accordingly !



Be a Book Buddy or Math Helper

Be a Book Buddy-- ask to work specifically with students at Morse School in Poughkeepsie who need and would really appreciate individualized help from you. The commitment is 1/2 hour or 1 hour per week to work with 1 or 2 students. Materials and training are provided and the program generally involves children in grades 2-4. Volunteers are also needed to work



with individual children on math. Our local Jewish social action coalition is making a special commitment to help the children of this school, which contains a very high percentage of children living in economic need. Go to <http://www.literacyconnections.org/programs-services/book-buddies/> for more information and if interested in volunteering, please call Judy Connolly of Literacy Connections at 452-8670.

Mazel Tov to...

Brian and Helen Silverman on moving to their new home;

Bill and Susan Barbash on moving to their new home;

Richard Duvall and Lisa Rubenstein on moving to their new home.



Thank You Vassar Temple

“Meals on Wheels wants to thank you for your generous (tzedakah) contribution of \$80.75. Your support is helping us confront the increasing costs of food and supplies, enabling us to provide meals to our clients at an affordable price. Thank you again for your help!”
~Richard Hall, Pres., Meals on Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie.

Condolences to...

Tamara Gruszko on the loss of her mother, Ruth Lenger, Z”l

Refuah Shelema

- Harry Mamis recovering from surgery
- Judith Harkavy recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Paula Landau, hospitalized
- Sanford Metlis, hospitalized

Pulpit Flowers Donors

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



Updated Flower Donations for March

March 25: Donated by Alan & Meredith in memory of their fathers,
 Harvey Kflowitz & William M. Rothstein;
 Also Donated by Cantor Faver in Memory of her husband, Bernard Faver

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.

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.

Follow Rabbi Berkowitz!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram. Follow her and join the conversation!
 Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB
 Facebook: RabbiLeah Berkowitz
 Read Rabbi Berkowitz’s blog at: <http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com>



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published monthly
 Publisher: Marianne Abrams
 Editors: Sue Lesser and Donna Loshin
 Technical Support: Bob Abrams

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

From the Religious School Director: The Things I've Seen



With all of the advance planning, hard work, and theoretical underpinnings that religious school demands, it's easy to lose sight of the individual, day-to-day results. Here, then, in no particular order, are some of the things I saw at school this week.

On Wednesday, with the help of a generous grant we obtained from the Ann and Abe Effron Fund, we began a unique four-week course on grappling with Israel. Facilitated by a pioneer of modern Israel education who herself has spent time in Israel working in coexistence programs, the sessions help students explore their relationship to Israel in a way that ensures a lasting and meaningful engagement with the Holy Land.

The first question set the stage: "Do you think Jews have an automatic connection to Israel?" The conversation that ensued was insightful, intelligent, and authentic. No wonder some parents wished they could attend the class, too.

Earlier that Wednesday, in what has become a familiar element of Hebrew school, a student asked me for dark chocolate in Hebrew. In my office I have a stash of Israeli chocolate (shokolad), both milk chocolate (shokolad chalav) and dark chocolate (shokolad marir). Older students who petition correctly in Hebrew have a pretty good chance of getting a small and delicious Israeli snack in return.

We started the practice last year, when the students learned the words for "I'd like,"

"chocolate," "milk," etc.

On the one hand, this is just a gimmick for reinforcing some Hebrew vocabulary. On the other hand, though, some of that vocabulary goes back 3,000 years to the very foundation of our people. The "chalav" of "milk chocolate" is the same word we find in Exodus, where Israel is described as a "land flowing with milk [chalav] and honey." We are continuing a conversation begun 3,000 years ago.

It was also 3,000 years ago that the Hebrew alphabet was established to help ensure the continuity of Judaism. "Write these things down," commands Deuteronomy, and "teach them to your children." For 100 generations we have honored this obligation, teaching both the content and the letters. This tiny Hebrew exchange was emblematic of our commitment to bring one more generation into the chain of tradition.

And speaking of the chain of tradition, one holiday more than any other demands that attention be given to the next generation. And that is Passover, with its slogan "tell your children."

This morning I saw many of our religious school teachers teaching about Passover. The youngest students learned the plagues, in order, if they were able, and created a matching art project. Older students got more advanced material. Watching it play out, I saw more than just 7 and 10-year-olds learning the ancient texts. I saw teenagers teaching them. Just a few years ago, these teens publicly accepted the obligations

of bar and bat mitzvah.

Today they are putting their promise into action. In such a context, it was hardly a surprise when a 2nd grader raised her hand enthusiastically in pride, eager to share what she had just learned about Passover.

Our tradition speaks of *hiddur mitzvah*, the merit of adorning the commandments when we perform them. We are required to teach about Passover. But once we're at it --- and this is *hiddur mitzvah* --- wouldn't it be great if we did it with the kind of flair that prompted children to jump out of their seats with joy. And we did.

A more general form of *hiddur mitzvah* is music, and I saw and heard that this morning, too. We sang a variety of songs, led by a college student who herself learned to teach music at Vassar Temple. We sang "mitzvah goreret mitzvah" (one mitzvah leads to another) giving voice to words that are nearly 2,000 years old. We sang a passage from *Y'did Nefesh*, the first truly egalitarian text to make its way into our canon. We sang about the plagues and the gift of Shabbat that God has bequeathed us.

Music and visual art. Modern Hebrew conversation and ancient Hebrew vocabulary. Conceptual Israel and political Israel. The language of our people and our people's history. The texts of yesterday and the promise of tomorrow.

It's all here. And I get to see it.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

New Paths Saturday Morning Worship

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, May 2nd 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 at mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz at vassartemplerabb@gmail.com, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Dueling Rabbis: The Ethics of our Ancestors

The weeks of Passover and Shavuot are a time of contemplation and reflection, during which there is a custom of studying *Pirke Avot* (The Ethics of our Fathers), one of the most beloved and oft-quoted volumes of rabbinic literature, what our earliest rabbis had to say about faith and ethics, daily practice and social justice. This class will be taught by *chevruta* (pairs) of rabbis from across the Poughkeepsie Jewish community. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or Jewish texts is required. Come to any or all of the remaining sessions and learn with us as we learn from each other! Tuesdays in May at 7pm in the Boardman Road library.

May 3, Chapter 2- Rabbi Neal Loevinger, Vassar Brothers Medical Center

May 10, Chapter 3- Rabbi Michael Fessler, Editor, Jewishrecon.org & Rabbi Daniel Victor, Temple Beth El

May 17, Chapter 4- Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, Vassar Temple & Rabbi Dan Polish, Congregation Shir Chadash

May 24, Chapter 5- Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, Vassar Temple & Rabbi Eliezar Langer, Congregation Schomre Israel

May 31, Chapter 6- Rabbi Kerry Chaplin, Vassar College & Rabbi Dan Polish, Congregation Shir Chadash

Yahrzeit Cards

Many of you honor the memory of your loved ones by making a contribution on the anniversary of their passing, their yahrzeit. The Temple for decades has sent a reminder card about the date so that those of you who wish to make a contribution could do so.

We recently changed the process of sending out that card. We now attempt to send out the reminder two months before the date of the yahrzeit. The reason we are doing this is so acknowledgement of the contribution can appear in the Temple Bulletin in the same month of the yahrzeit date itself. This change takes into account the Bulletin deadlines.

For example, if your loved one's

yahrzeit is in March and we wish to acknowledge your contribution in March, the reminder is sent out in the beginning of January, giving you four weeks to respond. The Bulletin staff will then be given the information at the beginning of February, so it can appear in the March Bulletin.

Contributions in memory of your loved ones are a beautiful way to recognize how important they were in your life, while at the same time providing significant support to the Temple we all love.

In addition, thanks go out to Marianne Abrams for designing and producing an updated, modernized Yahrzeit card, which will be put into use very shortly!

Sandra Mamis

Weekly Study Groups

Torah Study with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah and is held every Saturday morning at 9:00am. *The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*, is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb every Tuesday at 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? Contacts: vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com or (845)454-2570.

VaTy: Upcoming Events

May 13, 7:30pm: VaTY Jr Shabbat

VaTY Jr will lead Family Shabbat Services. The readings/prayers and music will be created or selected by our Junior Youth Group. Olivia DiOrio on guitar and Joe Bertolozzi on keys and percussion accompaniment will add to the worship experience. Let our youth show you their perspective through Shabbat prayer. Bring the whole family!

May 15, 9:00am: Mitzvah Day

VaTY will hold a Car Wash for Mitzvah day in the parking lot of McDonald's in Lagrange. Proceeds will go to Family-to-Family Birthday Giving Project.

VaTY Jr will be working at Temple Beth El on the Birthday Giving Project making baskets of birthday materials for children in our community whose families cannot afford to celebrate. We will be collecting supplies leading up to this event including:

- Box of cake mix
- Container of frosting
- Birthday candles
- Wall decoration (streamers, Happy Birthday banner, etc.)
- A new book (appropriate for the age/gender child you picked)
- \$10 - \$15 toy or small gift and we can also include extras such as a goody bag filled with small surprises.

Contact Jasmine Russo (845) 476-4261 or jasmainerusso@gmail.com for more information or visit this website: <http://www.family-to-family.org/kids-helping-kids/the-birthday-giving-project/>

June 5: Israel Independence Day Parade in NYC

Look out for further information on this event.

Summer

Tour camp this summer. Meet 'real-live' staff and campers in action! See the facilities open and operating, instructors instructing, coaches coaching, campers learning, playing, and laughing!

Eisner: Camper-selected activities; Eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org

Crane-Lake: Cabin-centered activities; Eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org

Sci-Tech: Science, Robotics and Engineering; most Sundays and Thursdays throughout the summer; 6pointsscitech.org
See websites for details.

Email us at youthgroup@vassartemple.org if you have questions, suggestions or want to participate!

*B'Shalom,
Shira and Dan*

Yahrzeits

MAY 6

Eleanor Albenda
Julius Albert
Ida Albinder
Naomi Berkowitz
Samuel Blaine
Elaine F. Bloch
Samuel Bronfeld
Toby U. Cederbaum
Sarah Chernack
Edna Gibell
Eugene Jacobs
Jaime Hecht
Ted Hecht
Walter Kallman
Lillian Kapner
Helen Danilin Klein
Shirley Kornhauser
Mary Kovacs
Irving D. Kraut
Julius Laks
Betty Prussin Levitan
Louis Lipp
Philip Mardon, MD
Gayle Margolin
Ruth Myer
Sylvia Pearlman
Eva Revisit
Paul Reznikoff
Samuel Satz
Jeanne Schwartz
Stanley Shapiro
Wilfred Sumner

MAY 13

Bernard "Paul" Buchalter
Samuel Cederbaum
Martin Frankel
Suzanne Hecht
Josephine Lion Kahn
Shirley Ruth Karnes
Marjorie F. Katz
Kurt Lemberger
Joseph Markoe
Charlotte Miller
Paul Plansky
Bernice D. Rabin
Clara Levy Ribbi
David Lawrence Wolfson

MAY 20

Ruth Browner
Charlotte Cohen
Martin Cohen
Dr. Boris Czesler
Louis Diamond
Henry Feder
Hyman Fink
Dan L. Golomb
Hyman Hoffman
David M. Horn
Harold Jacobs
Charles Kagan
Nathan Landau
Bernard Lesk
Reuben Lewis
Lois Metlis
Raymond Miro
Claire Troeger Moselle
Lewis Moselle
Royden Parke
Rose S. Podell
Norman Prisansky
Ellen Rosenfeld
Eloise Ross
Selma Friedman Satz
Samuel Sigalow
Mary B. Sparks

MAY 27

James Burns
Stuart Chertock
Victor Collen
Betty Fein
Elizabeth Freeman
Martin Gally
Annie Givner
Joseph H. Goodman
Alvin Kaskowitz
Iris Krause
Samuel Lampell
Therese Lehman
Franklin H. Littell
Leonard Margolin
Bessie T. Mock
Leo Morgenstern
Ken Richter
Jack Rubinstein
Kenneth Scheer
Samuel Schwartz
Eugene Seigel
Goldie Simon

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.

Kedem Wine Tasting Event a Big Success!

A fabulous afternoon was had by all who attended the Vassar Temple Wine tasting on Sunday, March 20, 2016.

Description of the wine tasting was provided by Tara Coupart of Kedem Winery. Adams provided cheeses that were paired with the wines and music was provided by Stringendo members Marisa Jacobs, Mac-tenzie Hobel-Furrer, and Kyle Patterson. Many thanks to all who helped with and/or attended this event!

Sincerely,
Polly Lewis



Buy Scrip
Help Yourself
Help the Temple

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Berkowitz for doing a wonderful job with our B'nai Mitzvah Joel & Claudia, Mariel & Sam Kelson

In appreciation of Purim

The Hecht Family

In appreciation of Rabbi Berkowitz's pastoral care

Harry & Sandra Mamis

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Harry Mamis, wishing him well

Lila Matlin

In appreciation of Rabbi Paul Golomb's kindness

In appreciation of the entire Temple family for their caring and support

Harry & Sandra Mamis

In Memory of:

Ruth Lenger, mother of Tamara Gruszko

Chuck & Perla Kaufman

Hal & Susan Lesser

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Gabe & Cathy Bokor

Zoey Rachel Gillman

Eric, Barbara,

Molly, Noah & Sophie Gillman

Doreen Kimmel

Matt & Muriel Lampell

Morris Kovacs

Lillian Kovacs

Naomi Goldberg

Nathan "Toolie" Turk

Joshua Lowe Posner

Dorothy Davis

Ruth Edna Day

Ethel Raymo Graves

Delbert LaLone

Sadie Lieberman

Erwin Schischa

Gary Schischa

Eva Bley

Ann R. Margolin

Ruth Rabinowitz Browner

Chris Brown

Henry Feder

Howard Judd

Dr. Paul Koltai

Shirley Karnes

Suzanne Hecht

Jamie Hecht

Dr. Bernard Kovacs

Joan Reifler

Matt & Muriel Lampell

Perry & Wendy Hatch

Steven, Shelley, Samantha

& Stephanie Turk

Dr. Philip Mardon

Kent & Kathy Mardon

David & Joan Posner

Gretchen Gould

Jane LaLone

Howard & Rochelle Friedman

Barbara Schischa

The Chernack Family

Sandor Margolin

& the Quackenbush Family

Maury & Miriam Lacher

Paul & Andrea Ciminello

Barbara Mindel

Kristin Judd

Gabe & Cathy Bokor

Ted Hecht

Annie Givner

Jesse Barbash

Claire Moselle

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of:

Gayle Margolin

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In Memory of:

Zoey Rachel Gillman

Eric & Marjorie Frazier

YOUTH GROUP FUND

In Memory of:

Leo Feinstein

Ethel Feinstein,

grandmother of Meredith Kflowitz

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

LUNCH BOX FUND

Bill and Sue Barbash on the birth of their grandson, Leonard Franklin

Richard and Linda Cantor on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Karp

Lila Matlin

In Honor of Mariel & Samuel Kelson's

B'nai Mitzvah

The Hecht Family

In support of the Lunch Box Program

Bob & Mary Ritter

Support Lunch Box and our Board: May 1st

Our Temple Board will be preparing a chicken dinner at Lunch Box on Sunday, May 1st. They work hard for us all year, and now is our chance to help them! If you can donate 1 to 2 dozen bananas or pieces of fresh fruit, please contact Bob Ritter at

President@vassar-temple.org or 845-902-8481. Please place individual portions of washed grapes in sandwich



baggies. Non-perishables may be dropped off before hand during regular Temple hours in the bin on the counter just inside the kitchen door. Please leave perishables in the fridge and label everything "For Lunch Box." Tax deductible checks made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Community Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line also help!

What is the 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 speedy outright grants or loans 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. Confidentiality is preserved at all times, and referrals and counseling can be provided to help prevent future crises.

Pick up a descriptive brochure next to the tzedakah box (by the staircase) to learn more about this unique local resource, which could benefit you or a friend, and which relies solely upon our support to continue its work. You may donate to their annual appeal in our tzedakah box near the staircase, or by tax deductible check, payable to "Vassar Temple" with "JFS" on the memo line. For more info about the fund, please contact Marian Schwartz, our Temple's member on the JFS advisory board, at socialaction@vassar-temple.org or 845-849-0025.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Religious School, Grades K-7 12pm Lunchbox	2	3 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte 7pm Omer Class on Pirke Avot	4 6:30pm R/S Grade 8-12 7pm Adult Ed: Intro to Wise Aging	5 10am SEP	6 6pm Family! Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm VTS/Generations Shabbat Service	7 9am Torah Study
8 No Religious School	9 Reform Jewish Voice Advocacy Day in Albany	10 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Omer Class on Pirke Avot	11 6:30pm R/S Grade 8-12 7pm Adult Ed: Intro to Wise Aging	12 10am SEP 7pm Exec Committee meeting	13 7:30 Jr. VaTY-led Family Service	14 9am Torah Study Moveable Feast Fundraiser
15 Mitzvah Day 9am R/S K-7 at Mitzvah Day Sites	16	17 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Omer Class on Pirke Avot	18 6:30pm R/S Grade 8-12 7pm Finance Committee	19 10am SEP	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
22 9am Last Day R/S K-7	23	24 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Omer Class on Pirke Avot	25 6:30pm Last Day of R/S Grade 8-12	26 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	27 7:30pm Shabbat Service	28 9am Torah Study
29	30 Office Closed	31 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Omer Class on Pirke Avot	Note: Congregation meeting June 1st at 7pm			