



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהלים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 158 No. 11 November 2012

Shabbat Services at 6:00 p.m. from November 23rd through February



During the winter our Friday evening Shabbat services begin at 6:00 p.m. An hour later you can enjoy crackers,

cheese and nuts, as well as sweets, at an Oneg in the East Chapel.

Early services will begin this year on the Friday right after Thanksgiving and will continue for the months of Decem-

ber, January and February (except for the special Hanukkah candle-lighting service on December 14th). This schedule enables you to come to Kabbalat Shabbat services straight from work on winter evenings and arrive home in time for Shabbat dinner. Many congregants meet old or new friends at the services and then go out for supper.

Give the shortened winter Shabbat services a try; you'll find that this change of pace has advantages on cold evenings.

Bring Your Rummage and Help at Our November 4th Sale

Once again Vassar Temple will be offering bargains to the community while helping you clean out your closets, basement and attic. Bring the winter clothing and shoes, accessories, household items, small appliances in working condition, books, etc. that you no longer want to the temple social hall from Sunday, October 28th between 9:00 a.m. and noon through Friday, November 2nd. Weekday hours are 9:00 to 3:00 and rummage will also be accepted on Thursday evening, November 1st between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. (Please do not



bring computers, items in poor condition or textbooks because these things do not sell and cost us money to dispose of.)

If you really want to have a good time, help us set up for the sale any morning between 9:00 and 12:00 during the week of October 29th through Novem-

(rummage continued on page 8)

Celebrate Hanukkah and Our Honorees at the Gala on December 1st



As the days become shorter and darker, our congregation will be illuminated by a very special event on Saturday, December

1st at Locust Grove. The Temple's elegant biennial gala, "Bright Lights and Miracles: A Hanukkah Celebration", will feature food and wine pairings by Main Course and Arlington Wine and Liquor, and live music. We will honor our members Lou Lewis, Esq. and Dr. Arthur and Carol Menken, all "bright lights" within the

Temple and the wider community.

The evening will celebrate the naming of the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School of Vassar Temple to honor Seth's memory and legacy. It will also support the creation of The *Hineni* Fund to sustain Seth's vision for educational and youth programs. *Hineni*, literally "here I am", is a biblical concept manifested in Seth's years of dedicated service to the Temple and Jewish community. Over \$85,000 had been raised as of late September toward the goal of \$150,000.

Upcoming Events

Nov 1 & 8

Adult Ed Jewish Visions of Afterlife, p9

Nov 2 Men's Club Service, p1

Nov 4

Rummage Sale, p1
Lunch Box, p5

Nov 6- Meditation Group, p9

Nov 8

Joint Sisterhood event, p6

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Deadline for donations to Trim a thanksgiving, p5

Nov 15

2012 Elections: A post mortem w Prof Sidney Plotkin, p9

Nov 18

Hanukkah Sale in the Judaica Shoppe, P5
Tiny Temple, p3

Dec 1

Bright Lights and Miracles Gala ,p1

Men's Club Shabbat Service on November 2nd

The inspiring annual service conducted by members of our Men's Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 2nd. Plan to be there to support our Men's Club and enjoy treats from our Sisterhood at the Oneg afterwards!

Like Seth, our honorees inspire the community through their own interpretations of *Hineni*. They shared their thoughts about him and about these tributes.

Lou Lewis has been a member of Vassar Temple since 1952 and has been dedicated to education in the Jewish community.

Gala continued on page 7



Ah, November: Election Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving.

The three observances that fall each year during the month of November

could not appear to be more different in outlook and purpose, yet they have some striking similarities. First, they are all fundamentally secular in origin. None are drawn from a specific religious tradition. Secondly, they are nationalistic in purpose. Election Day celebrates American polity; Veterans' Day honors those who served in protection of the US, and Thanksgiving is a solemn and joyous celebration of the bounty of the land. Observance and/or appreciation of these three days forms one's American identity.

Land and memory are closely connected in national identity formation.

We can sing "This Land is My Land," because we associate its history with our own: the Pilgrim's landing, George Washington, Western expansion, Abe Lincoln, and so on. It is not our memory exactly. Not only are none of us old enough, but as a rule, few of us had ancestors living on this land before 1890 or 1900. A history that is not ours, nonetheless becomes our history!

There is also a history that is ours: the history of Israel. And like America, it is a history that incorporates a land. Our identity as Jews is not tied to the shtetls of Eastern Europe, but rather to Zion and Jerusalem.

And then there is the third observance: Election Day. American identity is wrapped into participation in the American polity. We celebrate our system of governance, even with all its flaws and

frustrations. Our Jewish identity as well leads us into appreciation of our polity as a people – the synagogue, the Federation community, the Jewish State – again, with all its flaws and frustrations.

Being American and being Jewish are obviously not quite the same thing. Acknowledging the American observances of November promotes our identity as citizens, and yet does not, nor need not, diminish our identity as members of the people Israel. We have two lands, two histories and two polities. In voting on Election Day, we exhibit our American identity. In supporting Vassar Temple, contributing to the Federation campaign and, specifically as Reform Jews, maintaining a membership in ARZA, we exhibit our Jewish identity.

To those who have continued to support ARZA as a supplement on your Temple dues, I continue to express my appreciation. And to those who are unfamiliar with ARZA and its important work, I am happy to sit and explain it.

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message



After the busy High Holy Day season, we get a break this month.

There are no Jewish holidays during November this year. No special services

to attend. No particular prayers to chant or songs to sing. No days when we are expected to gather in the sanctuary.

But wait a second ... many of us enjoy the Jewish holidays. We enjoy coming to services, having dinner with our families, chanting prayers, singing songs, and gathering with fellow congregants. If none of that is happening, we'll feel something is missing from our lives, from our routines. Whether it's the solemnity of Yom Kippur, the delight of kindling the Chanukah candles, or enjoying the fresh air and decorations of the Sukkah, we enjoy the holidays.

Fortunately, I wasn't entirely accurate when I said that there are no Jewish holidays this month. There actually is one. Not only that, but we get to celebrate it five times this November. Of course I'm referring to Shabbat, the Jewish holiday that comes every week. After

a busy week of work and meetings and e-mails, I often look forward to making my way to Vassar Temple on Friday evenings to relax and unwind (or sit on the Bimah). Even though it's a bit of a rush to get there some weeks, the stress of the week melts away. It is always good to schmooze at the back of the sanctuary before the service. Many of us find ourselves getting relaxed once the service begins, as we sing an opening song, such as Hineh Matov, and settle into the familiar rhythm of the service. Of course, the Oneg is always pleasant too.

On Rosh Hashanah, I encouraged everyone to get more involved, to participate more in congregational life. Shabbat is the perfect opportunity to do just that. It doesn't cost anything. It doesn't require you to do anything but show up. It doesn't necessitate having any special knowledge or advance preparation. If you don't know the prayers or can't read Hebrew, that's perfectly fine. Our prayer book includes transliteration for all the Hebrew. Come a few times and it will start to become familiar to you. Come and enjoy meeting and greeting your fellow congregants. Come and enjoy Rabbi Golomb's sermons. Come and enjoy the cookies, brownies and fruit at the Oneg Shabbat. Did you know that Oneg Shabbat literally means Joy of

Sabbath? Who couldn't use a little more joy in their week?

And don't forget to check out our Adult Education calendar. November will feature the continuation of Rabbi Golomb's class on What's Next: Jewish Visions of Afterlife, and a special event on November 15th, when congregant Prof. Sidney Plotkin will discuss The 2012 Elections: a Post-Mortem. And on Saturday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. you are welcome at the Mamises' new home to end Shabbat with a moving Havdalah ceremony and Israeli food and music while you help to re-roll our Torah scrolls.

Here's wishing all of you Shabbat Shalom, a peaceful Shabbat, in November and always.

Bob Abrams

Correction

In the last bulletin, it was stated that Stan Marcus donated the supplies and materials for the room 4 renovation.

H.G. Page donated the supplies and materials, and Stan delivered them.

Worship Services

Friday, November 2

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Men's Club with cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin

Saturday, November 3

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

Friday, November 9

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 10

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Kudria

Friday, November 16

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

Saturday, November 17

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Isabella Turner

Friday, November 23

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 24

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, November 30

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin

Saturday, December 1

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

Scriptural Readings

November 2 & 3 *Vayera*

Genesis 21:1-22:24
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-36

November 9 & 10 *Hayei Sarah*

Genesis 24:53-25:18
Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31

November 16 & 17 *Tol'dot*

Genesis 27:28-28:9
Haftarah: Malakhai 1:1-2:7

November 23 & 24 *Vayetzei*

Genesis 31:17-32:3
Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

November 30 & December 1 *Vayishlach*

Genesis 35:16-36:43
Haftarah: Ovadiah 1:1-21

Tiny Temple Celebrates Hanukkah on November 18th



The next session of Tiny Temple will be held on Sunday, November 18th from 10:30 a.m. to noon. All preschoolers (age infant-5) and their parents, regardless of synagogue affiliation, are invited to have fun while learning about Hanukkah through story, song and crafts and enjoying a healthful snack in a relaxed and friendly setting. Tiny Temple, which is sponsored by the Sisterhood every month during the school year, gives parents an opportunity to meet others raising young Jewish children and is always free of charge. To assist in our planning, please RSVP to tinytemple@vassartemple.org.

New Paths Service on November 3rd

A New Paths service will be held Saturday, November 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. in the intimacy of the East Chapel. Please join us!

Most of this shabbat morning service is in English and everything is open to thoughtful contemplation and discussion. The focus is on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique, thoughtful and spiritual Shabbat morning experience. A brief informal kiddush follows.

For more information about New Paths services, please contact Marian Schwartz at mshwa9882@aol.com or 845-849-0025, or Rabbi Golomb at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

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!

Hanukkah Party on December 2nd

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County is sponsoring a community-wide Hanukkah Party on Sunday, December 2nd at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum, 75 North Water Street, Poughkeepsie, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost for each adult will be \$5; there is no charge for children 12 and under. This includes admission to the museum with all its interactive exhibits, a kosher hot dog dinner, crafts, and party favors. The evening will feature musical entertainment by a group from the Half Moon Theatre School of the Arts and another very special musical guest to be announced.

Your whole family is sure to get into the mood for Hanukkah at this joyful event.

Since space is limited, you should make your reservation early by emailing hanukkahparty@aol.com.



Mazel Tov...

...to Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis whose son Jeremy was married to Chelsea Maisel in Vermont on September 22nd.

...to Molly Katz and Kristy Grimes whose Half Moon Theatre was honored at the Mill Street Loft's celebration of the arts on October 4th.

...to Margery Groten who will be given a BeaconArts Award by the Beacon Arts Community Association at their benefit event on November 1st.

...to Peter and Bernice Edman whose grandson, Jeremy Edman was married to Maria Tsepilovan on September 1st.



Members of Vassar Temple Men's Club pause on the North County Rail Trail Bridge over the Croton Reservoir during their bike ride on September 29th.

Refuah Shelemah

...to our Temple members, **Lisa-Sue Quackenbush** and **Shaari Roland** who were recently hospitalized.

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 November:

November 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Jacob Kudria,
son of Dr. Inna & Sergey Kudria

November 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Isabella Turner,
daughter of Sharon & Richard Turner

In October we had a Bat Mitzvah celebration on Saturday, October 20th at 10:00 a.m.

for: **Alison Peritz Greenman**

Daughter of Robin Peritz & Janet Greenman



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.



Welcome to New Members of Vassar Temple

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

Elena Collins

Donna Davidson and her sons, Bryan & Kyle
Michael and Michelle Stolfi and their sons, William & Jacob

Pulpit Flowers

November 2 In memory of Benjamin Genshaft from Jeff & Nan Genshaft

November 9 In honor of Jacob Kudria's Bar Mitzvah with love from his family.

November 16 In memory of Epifania Acevedo from the Ibañez Family.

November 16 In honor of Isabella Turner's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.

November 23 Vassar Temple Sisterhood

November 30 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.



Wheelchairs Needed

The Medical Lending Closet maintained by Jewish Family Services at the JCC is urgently in need of good quality, functional wheelchairs with footrests. If you have a wheelchair to donate, please contact jfs@jewishdutchess.org, or phone Patty Weathers at 845-471-9811. JFS will be happy to provide you with a receipt for your donation.

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

Editor: Doi Cohen

Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the December bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by November 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.

Find the Gift You are Looking for at our Judaica Shoppe Hanukkah Sale



This year we light the first Hanukkah candle on the evening of Saturday, December 8th. Everything you and your family need to celebrate the Festival of Lights (Hanukkah gelt [both milk and dark chocolate], dreidls, menorot, candles, wrapping paper), as well as new jewelry by GeoArt Cynthia Gale, Alef Bet by Paula, gifts, and ritual items, will be on sale on Sundays, November 18th and December 2nd and 9th from 9:30 a.m. to noon

in the East Chapel, as well as Monday through Thursday from 9:30 to 2:30 – or just give us a call and we will meet you at your convenience.

Special this year: a bucket full of specially priced Hanukkah crafts! Come early for best selection! A grand array of items is on display or in stock – or you may place a special order. For further information contact Perla Kaufman at 914-456-7309 or brandaliz5@optonline.net.

Hillcrest Overnight Homeless Shelter S.O.S!!!

The shelter's funding has been cut so it has appealed to us because there is a critical need for bath towels (either new or used in good condition) and toiletries of any size. Toiletries should be unopened (shampoo, tooth paste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, soap, etc.) Please bring your donated items to the collection box in the East Chapel of the Temple (NOT the CanJam bin) or contact Judy Harkavy at judystan@verizon.net or 471-4973.

Your Help and Food Donations Needed for November 4th Lunch Box



The November 4th Lunch Box at the Family Partnership Center will be sponsored by the parents and students of our 6th grade religious school class, who will make and serve a frank and bean casserole. You can be part of this *mitzvah* by bringing 3 lbs. of all-beef hot dogs or a dozen pieces of fruit (bananas, oranges, and green grapes in small plastic bags are especially popular) to the temple before 11:00 a.m. that Sunday. If you leave the food in the temple refrigerator, be sure it is clearly marked with your name and "Lunch Box 11/4." Volunteers are also needed at the Family Partnership Center on November 4th between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

If you can donate food or your time, please let parent captainCarolynn Frankel know as soon as possible at carolynfrankel@yahoo.com or 452-8809.

Help Trim-a-Thanksgiving!

Hudson River Housing has again invited Vassar Temple to provide the trimmings of a Thanksgiving meal for families who could not afford to celebrate the holiday of plenty without our help.

Please put any of these non-perishable items into the Can Jam bin in the temple hallway **by Wed., November 14th** when our Religious School students will put them in attractive baskets:

- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Stove-top style stuffing mix
- Canned vegetables
- Canned cranberry sauce & gravy
- Boxes of instant mashed potatoes & instant rice



Juice
Hudson

River Housing will deliver the baskets and you will enjoy your own Thanksgiving dinner much more, knowing that you helped a family down on its luck this year to participate in the holiday.

Questions? Contact Nancy Samson (canjam123@aol.com, 462-4828) or Marian Schwartz (socialaction@vassartemple.org).

Why not use scrip to buy supplies for Lunch Box and Trim- a - Thanksgiving !

Religious School Director's Column: "There's a Famine in the Land"



As I write this, we're poised to begin reading Genesis again. The book is about families, creation, where we come from, and what our lives are like. But it is also about famine. In fact, famine was so common that Genesis 26:1 begins, "there was a famine in the land," but then the text has to clarify that it wasn't the first famine, it was another famine.

Abraham and Sarah endured a famine. So did Isaac and Rebekkah. And so did Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, along with their children. Joseph was spared hunger, but that doesn't mean that the famine didn't impact his life. In fact, it was the famine that led to his rise in the ranks of the Egyptian power structure. Whether for the better or for the worse, famine shaped our people's early life.

I think three things about famines are important.

First, they always happen "in the land." Even though some people suffer more than others, and even though some people, like Joseph, actually benefit, no famine is a personal famine. Famines belong collectively to everyone in "the land."

Secondly, famines are not sent by God. They just happen. Our text does not read, "God sent a famine," or, "God punished Abraham with a famine," or even, "God tested Abraham with a famine," but rather the clearer and more accurate, "a

famine happened."

Thirdly, when our ancestors suffered during a famine, they didn't try to hide their pain. Their only reaction was to acknowledge their undesired misfortune and try to make things better. They looked for food. Genesis 12:10 reads: "There was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt" to get food. He didn't sneak out of the house (well, tent) trying to hide his situation. He accepted the problem and set out to try to solve it.

All of this seems suddenly relevant in 21st century America as our own savings accounts continue to dwindle and as some of us lose our jobs. Most of us haven't descended into actual hunger, but there are those who fear that it's not far off. We are like our ancestors, unexpectedly faced with uncertainty, unsure of the future and sometimes even afraid of the present.

Unfortunately, we are also unlike our ancestors, for we have brought something into our modern misfortune that never plagued our forebears: shame. It's not that they didn't know about shame. They did. But in the Bible shame was reserved for vile actions. Judah's episode with a harlot is a source of shame. So too is building the idolatrous golden calf. More generally, shame is tied up with behavior, not circumstances. Do something wrong to someone else, and you should be ashamed. If something happens to you, you should not be. We seem to have forgotten this basic fact.

When the bottom fell out of the

Argentine economy several years ago, when half of that country reverted to the barter system, synagogues there did two things. They collected food for members who couldn't afford to feed their families. But they also left their doors unlocked at night so people could sneak in under cover of darkness and find food, avoiding the shame they would otherwise have felt when people saw their poverty. Why was this second step necessary?

In this country, too, though most of us still have food, shame has crept in where it doesn't belong. Synagogues are offering job services, but most are trying to do it anonymously. Some people who lose their jobs don't even tell their spouses or children. Again, why?

We live in an unredeemed world, our sages teach. Life is good, but life is also hard. That's just the way it is. Perhaps we can learn from our ancestors that misfortune is part of life, and, more importantly, that we have no reason to hide it.

The coming months and perhaps years will be hard enough on their own. Let's not make them worse by adding the unnecessary burden of shame. After all, there's a famine in the land.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Author Speaks at Joint Sisterhood Program on November 8th



Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, author of "Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious

Memoir," will be the featured speaker on Thursday, November 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 110 South Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Light refreshments will be served and copies of Rabbi Weinberg's book will be available for purchase.

Rabbi Weinberg will share snapshots of her life and offer clues about her search to find God. Her memoir provides a candid look at her struggles with addiction, her philosophy of feminism, and her life as a

wife, mother and grandmother. The book incorporates the author's eye witness accounts of many iconic events of her generation including the 1968 student protests at Columbia University; the challenges of the Peace Corps in Chile in the late '60s; and the outbreak of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Rabbi Weinberg has been a congregational rabbi and activist in Rabbis for Human Rights. She is a co-founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and leads workshops and retreats for Jewish professionals and social justice activists.

So that we can lend our support to Dutchess County babies in need, attendees are asked to bring a small quantity of ready-to-use baby formula and disposable diapers.

This joint program is funded by a generous grant from the Irving & Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund of the Commu-

nity Foundation of the Hudson Valley; admission is free of charge and the program is open to all. This year's duties have been shared by Poughkeepsie Hadassah, Congregation Shir Chadash, and Temple Beth-El Sisterhood for all organizations, including Vassar Temple Sisterhood and Congregation Schomre Israel Sisterhood.





Gala continued from page 1

His recent leadership of our Eternal Torah Project resulted in funding to restore our Torah scrolls and establish a permanent endowment for their long-term maintenance. Lou is a longtime participant in Torah study and adult education programs and shares commentary regularly on the temple blog. Lou has practiced law in New York since 1969. He is a past president of the Dutchess County Bar Association, a former trustee of Marist College, and currently serves as President of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.

Lou said that his “clearest memories of Seth are of his willingness to be helpful, particularly with technical issues such as accessing the Temple web site and blog. He had a wonderful ability to make technical issues clear to anyone and walk you through any process. More importantly, he was a patient listener who reserved his advice for when it was needed. His managerial skills were evident in his conduct of Board meetings and his ability to build a consensus. He never failed to return a call or an email. He was ‘present’ in the most positive sense of the word. The *Hineni* fund is a great way to recognize Seth’s contributions to the Vassar Temple community. I commend Jen Dahnert and Andi Ciminello [Gala and Fund co-chairs] for adopting this concept of being “present” and saying “here I am” in recognition of Seth’s essence. They have given each of us an opportunity to be counted and to make

a difference in our part of the Jewish community – Vassar Temple.”

Dr. Art and Carol Menken have been members of Vassar Temple since 1978. Art has served as a trustee and officer and chaired the 2000 rabbinical search committee. The Menkens have dedicated themselves to laughter and celebration at Vassar Temple, producing our annual Purim Spiel and hosting the Moveable Feast. Art is an otolaryngologist and Carol is a registered nurse. Carol worked in Art’s practice for many years, taught aerobics and fitness, and did volunteer work at the YWCA. She also served on the board and as President of the Mid-Hudson Hebrew Day School and is currently on the boards of the Center for Prevention of Child Abuse, the Dutchess County SPCA, Healing the Children (an international medical mission organization), and Home Matters. In the past she chaired the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) effort to resettle Soviet Jewish immigrants in Dutchess County and volunteered with Mill Street Loft and the Red Cross. Carol was an early responder at the World Trade Center site on September 11, 2001. The Menkens have been part of several missions to repair cleft palates for children in South America. Art has delivered Meals on Wheels for the last 15 years and is on that organization’s advisory board. The Menkens have sheltered victims of domestic violence, putting one of them through community college, and have fostered

animals for many years. Through Vassar Temple, they were involved in several church rebuilding projects in the South and, through our Social Action Committee, Art has slept overnight at the Homeless Shelter for the last five Thanksgivings.

Art described Seth as “the epitome of *Hineni*. To be included in the same evening when we create a tribute to him is an honor for Carol and me. We never really thought of our efforts in these terms. Can we say in our own hearts that ‘we are here’ for others? We’ve tried hard to focus on this and tried to instill this value in our children. At Seth’s funeral, the temple overflowed with his IBM co-workers and others from outside the Vassar Temple community, all of whom admired his character. It was a statement about his impact.”

Invitations to the Gala were mailed in mid-October, and the deadline for reservations is November 12th. If you have not received an invitation please call the temple office (845-454-2570). Sponsorships and general contributions to meet the *Hineni* Fund goal are still available. Please contact Jen Dahnert (jedahnert@vassar.edu), Andi Ciminello (andi@ecosystemsstrategies.com), or the temple office if you have questions about the Gala or the *Hineni* Fund or wish to become a sponsor.

**By using SCRIP [gift cards]
while doing your everyday shopping,
You can make a huge contribution
to Vassar Temple without spending an extra cent!**

Cards are available to the following local grocery stores:

Adams Fairacre Farms [10% profit] Stop & Shop, ShopRite, Hannaford, Price Chopper [5% profit] A & P [4%]

**Buy cards from us for purchases you were going to make anyway.
Pay face value, and help with this fund raising effort.**

**Think about picking up grocery store gift cards
before heading out to do your Thanksgiving day shopping.**

[GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO 500 MORE RETAIL STORES NATIONWIDE!]

**Need more information?
Contact the SCRIP Coordinator, Sandra Mamis
[scrip@vassartemple.org; 463-2678]**



Introducing Nachamu

ber 2nd and/or help on the day of the sale, Sunday, November 4th between 9:30 and 5:00. (The bag sale is between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.) **Teens seeking community service credit are strongly encouraged to volunteer!** If you help set up on Thursday evening, November 1st, you can enjoy pizza while you work.

For more information, to arrange for pick-up of your rummage, or to volunteer, contact Roni Stein (223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com), or Ann Lerman (rummage@vassartemple.org).



Vassar Temple tries to serve our members at all times in their lives, including the challenging times we face at the end of life. So, almost two years ago the Nachamu Committee was formed.

Nachamu means “to bring comfort” and the 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.

To fulfill this mission, the committee has produced a trifold brochure giving basic information which will be helpful at the time of a death, as well as a booklet of meditations and prayers, intended to be comforting for those facing a terminal illness and for their loved ones. We have also produced a CD of appropriate Jewish music and placed copies of it in our temple library for the use of our members.

In addition, the Nachamu Committee has developed an online Bereavement Guide which can be accessed through our temple website, www.vassartemple.org. The online guide answers many questions about Jewish mourning practices, especially as they are observed at Vassar Temple. Congregants are encouraged to peruse the online guide well in advance of their need for it. The trifold brochure and the booklet of meditations are available from the temple office and from Rabbi Golomb.

Among the services offered by Nachamu Committee members, when possible, are:

- Sitting with the family at the bedside of the person who is very ill
- Saying appropriate prayers/meditations at a time when life support is to be removed
- Serving as liaison to the Rabbi at the time of death or before
- Supporting the Rabbi in meeting the informational needs of those dealing with the death of a loved one or with one’s own impending death
- Accompanying family members who are making arrangements at a funeral home
- Assisting in the writing of an obituary
- Contacting the Vassar Temple *Reyut* Committee for assistance with *shiva* preparations
- Participating in planning the unveiling of a memorial stone about a year after the death

The committee should be contacted through the temple office, 845-454-2570.

The members of the Nachamu Committee are Sandra Mamis, Chair; Linda Cantor; Doi Cohen; Joel Kelson; Bonnie Scheer; and Dave Wolf. If you are interested in working with the committee, contact Sandra Mamis at 914-456-3524.



Many Temple members, ages 8 to 95, gathered on the Vassar College campus for a Tashlich ceremony on the first day of Rosh Hashanah to “cast their sins into the water” as the new year began.



The children especially enjoyed throwing pieces of bread into the lake, hoping that birds would benefit from this representation of their “sins.”



Rabbi Golomb led a brief ceremony before everyone threw bread, representing things they wished to get rid of, into Sunset Lake.

To see more photos, go to www.vassartemple.org and click on Photo Gallery on the left.

An Evening of Torah Rolling and Socializing on November 10th



On Saturday evening, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. everyone is welcome at the new home of Harry and Sandra Mamis, 6 Hornbeck Ridge, Poughkeepsie, for a Havdalah service followed by the opportunity to help unroll and re-roll our Torah scrolls, as well as to socialize over Israeli refreshments with Israeli music in the background. Rabbi Golomb will teach us a bit about the

Torah “From Book to Book” as we help preserve our scrolls by rolling them. It is a special experience to handle the Torah scrolls and always pleasant to enjoy warm hospitality and good company. Plan to be there!

To RSVP and get driving directions, call Sandra at 463-2678 or email her at mamis@optonline.net.

Donate Dog and Cat Food for Bat Mitzvah Project

For my Bat Mitzvah Project, I would like to help the SPCA by providing canned dog and cat food for the animals in their shelter. Please help me support this project by bringing in canned food before Thanksgiving and placing it in the bin provided in the East Chapel at the Temple.

Thanks for your support!

Alison Peritz

Meditation Group Meets on November 6th

The meditation group led by Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 6th from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the East Chapel. At each session there is a sitting meditation, a walking meditation and either chanting or a short reading. There will also be time for sharing and for questions related to the practice. Both experienced meditators and those new to the practice are warmly welcomed.

Please let office manager Sandi Rugar know if you are planning to attend some or all of the sessions by contacting the temple office, 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.

Course at Temple on “What’s Next: Jewish Visions of Afterlife”

Rabbi Paul Golomb will discuss “What’s Next: Jewish Visions of Afterlife” on three consecutive Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The focus for each of these fascinating sessions will be as follows:

- October 25th – Afterlife in Hebrew Scripture
- November 1st – The World-to-Come of the Rabbis
- November 8th – I Swear There Ain’t No Heaven, but I Pray There Ain’t No Hell: Judaism and Afterlife Today.

All classes are open to the community free of charge. For more information about this and other adult education programs, go to www.vassartemple.org or email adulded@vassartemple.org or rabbi@vassartemple.org.

“The 2012 Elections: A Post-Mortem” with Prof. Sidney Plotkin at Temple on November 15th

Vassar College political science professor, and Vassar Temple member Sidney Plotkin will lead a discussion of the implications of this year’s elections on Thursday, November 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at the temple. Prof. Plotkin has shared his expertise and insights with us before, always welcoming questions from the audience and leaving the attendees with a deeper understanding of current issues. The community is welcome to attend this special event, led by an outstanding teacher. For more information, email adulded@vassartemple.org.



Is Music at Vassar Temple Important to You?

From congregational singing to musical programs to making music part of the religious school experience, our Music Committee enriches temple life. Participate in planning the aspect of music at Vassar Temple that interests you. Our first meeting will be held at the temple on Wednesday evening, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. Your input is welcome whether or not you are able to attend the meeting.

For more information, or to express your interest in being part of the music committee, contact Joel Kelson at jkelson1@gmail.com.



High Holy Day Thanks

We extend our thanks and appreciation to all of those who assisted with and participated in the High Holy Day services. Our common efforts hopefully resulted in our congregation being able to engage in meaningful High Holy Day observances.

Special thanks to:

Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin for providing us with the spiritual and musical elements that enriched our worship with meaning and warmth

Joe Bertolozzi for his special talent at the organ

Judy Creedon, Debbie Golomb, and Muriel Lampell for lovingly polishing our silver *rimonim* and Torah breast plates

Cathy Bokor for editing our memorial booklet

Al Kaffowitz, Joel Kelson, David Lampell, and Ron Rosen for their assistance and support

Daniel Albinder for his generous donation of apples enjoyed by our members, the Religious School students and Tiny Temple participants

Marsha and Richard Lowry for their contribution that covers the rental of the truck for the Yom Kippur food drive

Brian Silverman for picking up the truck and delivering the food collected to the Dutchess Outreach site and **Ron Rosen** for helping with the schlepping

Rachel and Stan Marcus and helpers for orchestrating the distribution of bags and the collecting and loading of the food in the truck

Allison, Danielle and Emily Brundage, Brianna Erlebacher, and Kylie Quackenbush for their help in preparing the apples on Rosh Hashanah and distributing the bags at the end of the service

Jen Dahnert for securing Sunset Lake

on the Vassar College Campus for the Tashlich ceremony; **Alan Kaffowitz Abrams, Doi Cohen, Jen Dahnert, Vivian Garber, Debbie Golomb, Elaine Lipschutz, and Sandra Mamis** for making the Tashlich ceremony very yummy and sweet!

Steve Turk for his donation of greens and corn stalks used for decorating the Sukkah and the sanctuary

Susan Hecht for her dedication in decorating our Sanctuary for the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Sandi, George and Shane Rugar for working tirelessly to ensure the success of our High Holy Days

Erika Salazar and Lucy Avila for setting up the Rosh Hashanah apple offering and the Break Fast table

Men's Club for raising and taking down the Sukkah and **Sisterhood** for their wonderful and generous continued support

Last but not least, to **our congregation** for their generosity in bringing back bags brimming with food in response to our yearly Yom Kippur Appeal!

Todah Rabah!

A special thanks to **Vincent Miller Funeral Home** for their generous support and to **Adams Fairacre Farms** for their donation of grocery bags!

Officers: Robert Abrams, Robert Ritter, Marge Groten, Brian Silverman, Jeff Brenner and Sandra Mamis

Torah readers: Robert Abrams, Lisa Rubenstein, Charlotte Katz, Joel Kelson, Dave Wolf, Robert Ritter, Linda Lant, David Smith, Matt Mahlke, Susan Hecht, Marge Groten, Brianna Erlebacher, Jacob Moore, Ilana Turk

Shofar Blowers: David Chernack,

Noah Kram, Adam Glatt, Rabbi Golomb, and Sandra Mamis

Participants: Marianne and Bob Abrams, Susan and Bill Barbash, Didi and David Barrett, Cathy Bokor, Jeff and Michelle Brenner, Martin Charwat, Andi and Paul Ciminello, Doi Cohen, Alan and Susan Colodner, Jen Dahnert, Peter Edman, Steve and Alicia Ellis, Melissa and Brianna Erlebacher, Ed and Vivian Garber, Adam Glatt, Debbie Golomb, Kayla Gusikoff, Lisa and Perry Gusikoff, Marge Groten, Tamara and Adrian Gruszko, Susan Hecht, Emily Himmelstein, Meredith and Alan Kaffowitz, Haley and Aaron Kaffowitz, Charlotte Katz, Molly and Dan Katz, Charles Kaufman, Joel Kelson, Mariel and Sam Kelson, Alan and Barbara Kram, Noah Kram, Benjamin Krevolin, Jacob Kudria, Inna Kudria, Miriam and Maury Lacher, David Lampell, Matt and Muriel Lampell, Elliot Lant, Linda and Steve Lant, Candace and Lou Lewis, Annmarie and Seth Lerman, Elaine Lipschutz, Sandra Mamis, Rachel Marcus, Lori and Shay Markovitch, Wendy and Stan Marcus, Kent Mardon, Mark Metzger, Barbara Mindel, Danah and Jeremy Moore, Jacob Moore, Sheila Newman, Janet Greenman, Alison and Zoe Greenman-Peritz, David and Joan Posner, Kiley Quackenbush, Ron Rosen, Lisa Rubenstein and Rich DuVall, Bonnie and Ken Scheer, Marian and Ralph Schwartz, Arlene and Gil Seligman, Helen and Brian Silverman, Michele Sinn, Roni and Charles Stein, Mary and Sarah Ritter, Rachel Roland, Judy and Eric Rosenfeld, Gloria Turk, Mallory Turk, Steve Turk, Dave Wolf, Melissa Wall, Hillary Wrobel, Nadine and Joel Zaritsky.

Any omission is unintentional.

*Perla Kaufman
Chair, High Holy Day committee*



Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF
 Rabbi Golomb Nan & Jeff Genshaft
 Loren & Charlene Rosenthal

WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

To Rabbi Golomb Irma Jacobs

SUSTAINING FUND

IN MEMORY OF
 James Lowry Richard & Marsha Lowry
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 Joan, Jon, Jenny & Jeffrey Ollendorf
 Aleeyah Yankajtis-Sansola
 The Sansola Family

IN APPRECIATION OF

Linda & Steve Lant
 Sandra & Harry Mamis

IN HONOR OF

The marriage of Jeremy Edman,
 grandson of Peter & Bernice Edman,
 to Maria Tsepilovan Irma Jacobs

The birth of Ida Roselyn Kaufman,
 granddaughter of
 Perla & Chuck Kaufman

Bob & Marianne Abrams
 Andi & Paul Ciminello

The marriage of their
 grandson, Jeremy Alan Edman
 to Maria Tsepilovan

Bernice & Peter Edman
 The marriage of Jeremy Oclatis
 to Chelsea Maisel Doi Cohen

MAZAL TOV TO

Peter & Bernice Edman
 on the marriage of
 their grandson, Jeremy Edman
 to Maria Tsepilovan
 Rose Miller
 Lucille Kaplan

GOOD WISHES TO

Sandra & Harry Mamis with their new
 home
 Andi & Paul Ciminello

ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLARS' FUND

IN MEMORY OF
 Gertrude Clarfeld Elaine Lipschutz

TREE OF LIFE

IN HONOR OF
 The marriage of
 Lillian S. Weigert to Joseph Ambash
 Jeff & Nan Genshaft

TREES IN ISRAEL

IN MEMORY OF
 Alicia Polletta The Robinowitz Family
 Judy Brown



Yahrzeits

November 2

Roslyn Worona
 Max H. Richter
 Louis Heidelberger
 Edward J. Kovacs
 Samuel W. Gellert
 George Marcus
 Esther Mardon
 Bernstein
 Henry Newman
 Samuel Baum
 Herbert Schenberg
 Arthur Berlin
 Brian Matson
 Doris Zussman
 Phillip Ritter
 Philip Browner
 Forrest Graves
 Alice Sptalnik
 Amor Levy
 Tamar Grand
 Gertrude F. Troeger

November 9

Alexander W. Jacobs
 Claire Gersoni
 Marvin Maisel
 Alan Abraskin
 Michael Aronson
 Samuel Sapowitch
 B. Jay Newman
 Frank DeGeorge
 Sadie Rosenberg
 Rose Schonberger
 A. Louis Rubin
 Epifania Acevedo
 Kathy Austin
 Larry Kornreich
 Henrietta Burns Subkow
 L. Richard Rosenberg
 Arthur George
 Henderson
 Henry Rosenmann
 Solomon Charles Cantor
 Evelyn Heidelberger
 Maurice Olivar

November 16

Samuel Saul
 Joseph Anthone
 Lena L. Bloch
 William Payne
 Albert E. Schwartz
 Martin Gad
 Bella Tyson Doppelt
 Rose Slate
 Shirley Richter
 Rose Jacobson
 Reuben Rosenthal
 Abraham Feuerstein
 Frances A. Victor
 Helen Robinson
 Paul Susser
 Penya Schmukler
 Diane Ruth Shore
 Rochelle K. Goldstein

November 23

Daniel Budson, MD
 Lily Fink Schen-
 berg
 Iris J. Turk
 Maurice Horn
 Samuel Reifler
 Elizabeth Bokor
 Samuel R. Rosen
 Myrtle Oclatis
 Marie Fischer
 Solomon
 Jack Josias
 Annette Forman
 Hildegard Tuch-
 mann
 Albert Levy Serfaty
 Phyllis Zack
 Wallace Berkowitz
 Richard H. Satz
 Dorothy M. Haber
 Lee Bronfeld
 Gussie Bernstein

November 30

Dr. Sidney N.
 Miller
 Charles Ernest
 John Azanco
 Ada Sigalow
 Charles Hoffman,
 DDS
 Abraham Baum
 L. Charles Podret
 Ruby Cohn
 Manus Roizen
 Lester Fries
 Claire M. Trivers
 David F. Schor
 Joanne Rein
 Edward Roth
 Sidney Horn
 May Kaufman
 Ettenson
 Ida Finnerman
 Solomon Berger
 Bea Russotto
 Marion Himelstein
 Susan Baker
 Carmela Krakower
 Larry Adler
 Louis Dubler

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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601
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 www.vassartemple.org



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Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
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1st Vice President:	Bob Ritter
2nd Vice President:	Marge Groten
Secretary:	Jeff Brenner
Treasurer:	Brian Silverman
Sisterhood President:	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Jeff Brenner & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President:	Sandra Mamis



November 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 December Bulletin deadline 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm The World-to-Come of the Rabbis w/ Rabbi Golomb-	2 CAN JAM Week-end 7:30pm Men's Club Service	3 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
4 9am-12pm RS K-7 9:30am Rummage Sale 11:30am Lunch Box sponsored by our 6th grade students	5 7:15pm Ritual	6 10am SEP 7:30pm Meditation	7 RUMMAGE WEEK 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	8 Flyers Deadline 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Judaism and Afterlife Today 7:30pm Joint Sisterhood Event @ Temple Beth-El	9 7:30pm Shabbat Service	10 9am Torah Service 10am Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Kudria 7pm Havdalah & Holy Rollers at the home of Harry & Sandra Mamis
11 VETERAN'S DAY 9am-12pm RS K-7 10:30am Men's Club Meeting	12	13 10am SEP	14 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12 Thanksgiving Baskets 7pm Music Committee	15 10am SEP 11:30 Talmud	16 7:30pm Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	17 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah of Isabella Turner
18 9am-12pm RSK-7 9:30am Hanukkah Sale 10:30am Tiny Temple 6:00 pm DCIC Thanksgiving Service at Temple Beth-El	19	20 10am SEP	21 NO RS	22 THANKSGIVING Office Closed	23 Office Closed 6pm Shabbat Service	24 9am Torah Study
25 NO RS	26 7pm Board	27 10am SEP	28 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	29 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	30 6pm Shabbat Service	