



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 3 November 2015



Shabbat Services will change to 6:00pm (our winter schedule) on Friday November 27th!

Rummage Sale

Start going through your closets now in anticipation of the **Nov. 8th VTS-Fall Rummage Sale!**

We're looking for small appliances, household items, seasonal clothing & shoes, books and other useful items.

Larger items must be approved before bringing them to the Temple. No old TV's, textbooks, or broken items are accepted as we cannot sell them.

All items should be clean and gently used. Please contact us if you need to make arrangements for pick-up of your items. Drop-off starts on Nov. 1st.

For more information contact Roni Stein at roniagt99@aol.com or 223-5804.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 3	Mid-East Course, p5
4, 11, 18	Wise Aging Course, p6
8	Rummage Sale, p1
13-15	NFTY-NAR, p8
15	Fannie-Doris Berlin Lecture, p7
20	Camp Shabbat, p6
	VaTY
22	DCIC Music Festival, p6

Turkey Trot!

During this season of thanksgiving for our bounty, you can bring sustenance of body & spirit, help & hope, and make a world of difference to a struggling local family.

If you earn a free Thanksgiving turkey from supermarket points, please consider donating your free turkey and help those-in-need celebrate. No free turkey? We'll gladly accept purchased turkeys, checks, supermarket scrip & gift cards. Cash donations may be left in the Temple tzedakah box near the stairs.

Checks may be made out to "Vassar Temple" with "Turkey Trot" on the memo line, and are tax deductible. We will use your cash and checks, scrip and gift cards, to provide turkeys to families who otherwise would have none.



If you have a turkey, just trot on down to the Temple, pop it in our freezer, and we will work with local agencies to distribute the turkeys to those in need! **Please bring your turkeys and financial donations by 6:00pm, Nov. 18th for Thanksgiving delivery.** Turkeys received later will be delivered for the December holidays.

Have questions? Need home pickup? Contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org or call 845-849-0025.

Trim-a-Thanksgiving

"Vassar Temple Cares about Hunger"

Please drop off a nonperishable food item from the list below to complement the Thanksgiving meal of Dutchess County families in need. Just bring it to the Temple and place it in the CanJam bin in the hall **by Tuesday, Nov. 17.**

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

Our teens will arrange your donations in gift baskets to be delivered to the families in time for the holiday. **Together we can help these families now!** Questions? Please contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org or 845-849-0025 or Nancy Samson at CanJam123@aol.com or 845-462-4828.

Rabbi's Message: How Jewish Camp Changed My Life



It's hard for me to remember life BC: Before Camp. I was twelve years old and painfully shy. I cried every

night for a year leading up to my first summer at URJ Camp Harlam. Don't get me wrong; I really wanted to try overnight camp. But I was scared that I wouldn't fit in.

My fears were unfounded. Before we had even unloaded the car, I had a new best friend. When my parents picked me up at the end of each summer, I chattered for the entire two-hour car ride home about how awesome camp was and then collapsed into bed and woke up with no voice at all!

Twenty-one years have passed since that first fateful summer, and I'm still chattering about how awesome camp is. It is still very much a part of my life and who I am today.

A Jewish summer camp experience has a different impact on each child—which is why the URJ provides a variety of summer experiences—but there are a few things that are sure to happen when you send your child to Jewish summer camp:

Lifelong friendships: I made friends in an instant, but I also built friendships that

lasted a lifetime. We wrote letters, attended b'nai mitzvah and sweet sixteens, visited each other at college, and even traveled abroad together. I've stood under the *chuppah* with them; their children call me "auntie." We ended up in the same college or rabbinical school, and, every time I join a new congregation, there's always somebody who knows somebody I went to camp with!

Important life skills: I may have cried before leaving for camp, but college was a breeze. I already knew about being on my own and sharing with a roommate (though 13 are easier than one!). We weren't allowed to call home when I was a camper, so whatever challenges I faced, I had to work them out myself. I learned how to be self-reliant, how to be part of a team, and how to be a leader.

Role models: My counselors introduced me to my favorite bands, new trends in clothing, and even the college I would one day attend. Just as cool as the college kids who took care of me were the rabbis, cantors, and educators who came to camp as faculty. Jewish professionals were no longer unapproachable adults, but mentors who valued us and our opinions.

Making Judaism our own: Not everyone who goes to Jewish camp becomes a rabbi. But everyone at camp learns that

Judaism isn't something we do in the synagogue on weekends at our parents' insistence. Judaism was a part of our everyday lives. We could build upon it with our own energy and creativity. We led our own services, not only learning the prayers but also inventing our own interpretations. And we brought our Jewish learning into other things we were doing: sports, art, music and dance.

Fun! A friend and I were trying to remember specifically what was so much fun about camp, but nothing made sense out of context. There were lip-syncs and shoe-golf, long hikes through the mud and scaling the climbing tower blind-folded. Doing any one of those things is not guaranteed to be amazing or transformative. But going to camp is. You just have to experience it for yourself!

Join us on Friday, November 20th at 7:30 pm for our first annual "Camp Shabbat!" Our services will be a taste of camp *tefillah*, and a representative from our three regional URJ Camps (Eisner, Crane Lake, and 6-Points Sci-Tech) will be here to tell us about all of the incredible summer experiences the Reform movement has to offer! Wear your camp t-shirt if you have one: I'll be wearing mine!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: Dream with Me



As we round the calendar year, I'm starting to count down the months I have left as your Temple president. It's too early to tell you what I've learned or to wrap up my thoughts, but

there also isn't much time left for things that I feel are important, and which I'd like to accomplish before finishing my term as President. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to one item in particular that I would really like us to accomplish, if at all possible, this spring/summer 2016.

Our Temple has a sanctuary to pray in, albeit in need of carpeting. We have refurbished classrooms to learn and study. We have offices. We have a social hall with a newly renovated kitchen for events. But what we do not have is enough good space upstairs to congregate and schmooze. I've been going to Vassar Temple for nearly

50 years - all my life - and, for as long as I can remember, people have crowded on the walkway or squeezed in our tiny lobby or blocked the entrance by standing under the portico to hang out.

Socializing is vital to a temple. We need a better space for that today! We are not able to build an addition on at this time; however, we *can* create a lovely patio garden at our entrance to either side of the front portico, right where there are two giant shrubs blocking the view of the Temple!

Now that we've restored our beautiful sanctuary windows, the perfect complement would be to remove those shrubs and to construct approximately 700 sq. ft. of patio. We can then add benches, garden beds along the edge, lighting, and even sculpture over time.

Ma Tov, imagine how delightful it will be for us on major holidays and special occasions. Think how pleasant it will be for religious school teachers and the Rabbi to sit outside with students to have a discussion or sing songs. Picture how beautiful it will look from the road and coming down the walk.

We would do this "off budget" through special gifts. If one or a few members wanted to name this patio garden in honor of a loved one, we could consider that. Please share my dream and help us to create a lasting and meaningful improvement for Vassar Temple this spring, 2016! If this interests you, call me or come up to me at Temple, maybe this Hanukkah!

Bob Ritter

November Worship Services

November 6	7:30pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist, Joseph Bertolozzi
November 7	10:00am	New Paths service
November 13	7:00pm	Men's Club Shabbat with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist, Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin
November 14	10:00am	Shabbat morning service with guest scholar, Imam Antepi
November 20	7:30pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist, Joseph Bertolozzi; Representatives from Camps Eisner and Sci-Tech and VaTY
November 21	7:30pm	New Paths service
November 27	6:00pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist, Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin

Scriptural Readings

Nov. 7	<i>Hayei Sarah</i> Gen. 24:53-25:18; I Kings 1:1-31
14	<i>Tol'dot</i> Gen. 27:28-28:9; Malakhai 1:1-2:7
21	<i>Vayetze</i> Gen. 31:17-32:3; Hosea 12:13 – 14:10
28	<i>Vayishlah</i> Gen. 35:16-35:26; Obadiah 1:1-1:21

Chanukah Dinner and Service: December 11th

Vassar Temple's annual pot-luck Chanukah Dinner will be held on Friday, December 11th at 6:00pm in the social hall. Bring a dairy dish (anything except meat or poultry) for 12; Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages.

\$18 per family or \$6 per individual

Prepaid reservations for this popular event must be made by Tuesday, December 8th by contacting Roni Stein at 223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com. Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 with "Chanukah Dinner" on the memo line.

This dinner will be followed at 7:30 by our traditional, exciting and beautiful family-friendly Chanukah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service, to which everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a menorah and 7 candles. If you have not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!

New Paths Services

Join us at the next New Paths services **Saturday Nov. 7th** and **Nov. 21st** at 10:00am in Vassar Temple's East Chapel. The atmosphere has been described by participants as spiritual, uplifting, and thought provoking. 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 informal kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Tiny Temple

Tiny Temple will take place November 15th from 11:00-12:00. During this time of Thanksgiving, our theme will focus on Tzedakah and giving thanks. Please join us and bring your young child/grandchild (5 and under). No temple affiliation is required. If you don't have a young child in your family, you can introduce friends and neighbors to our Temple by encouraging them to enjoy our relaxed program of crafts, stories, snacks and song. Please RSVP to Fern Wolf or Laura Brundage at Tinytemple@vassartemple.org.



Follow the Rabbi!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Follow her and join the conversation!

Twitter/Instagram:

@RabbiLRB

Facebook: [RabbiLeahBerkowitz](#)

Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog

<http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com>

Judaica Shoppe Hannukah Sale

Hanukkah comes early this year so our Judaica Shoppe will hold its annual Hannukah sale with special hours on Sundays, Nov. 8th, Nov. 15th and Dec. 6th from 9:30am - 11:30am, and will be open as usual Mon-Thurs from 9:30 am. - 2:30pm.

See our special holiday display in the East Chapel: menorahs, candles including a new Safed line from Israel, dreidels, gelt candy, holiday items, gift wrap and much, much more. Our usual selection is always available and special orders can be arranged. For further information, contact Perla Kaufman brandaliz5@optonline.net.

Condolences to...

Jenny Krevolin on the passing of her sister, Susan Vance

Refuah Shelemah

Carol Strauss recovering from a recent illness.

Pulpit Flowers



November 6: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

November 13: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

November 20: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

November 27: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

The Bimah Flower Fund needs your participation! Formerly called The Shrub Fund, the fund's name was changed by Vassar Temple Sisterhood to better reflect what it really is. Take a look at your calendar. Do you have a special occasion? Is there someone special you would like to honor or remember? Consider sponsoring the flowers placed on the Bimah to commemorate this occasion. Special color requests can be honored.

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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly
Publisher: Marianne Abrams
Editors: Sue Lesser and Donna Loshin
Technical Support: Bob Abrams

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

Dear VT Congregation,

My heart felt thanks goes out to the many of you who helped me, as well as my immediate family, through my very grueling illness over this past spring and summer. Many of you called, texted, emailed, cooked, visited, and offered words of encouragement and included me in your prayers. Truly I am as thankful for my Vassar Temple family as I am for my own immediate family. Every day I feel stronger. And many of you will be happy to know I am making a new job change by mid November (which, by the way, is my first day job in ten years). All good things may come to those who wait, but I believe all great things come to those who have love and support in their lives and know when and how to access that support system. Both Kurt and I and our children, again, thank you, our Vassar Temple Family!
Sincerely & With love,

Lisa-Sue Zuackebush

Religious School Director: From Holy to Ordinary and Back Again



I write this during the holiday of Sukkot, in the Jewish month of Tishrei.

Sukkot, according to the Rabbis, isn't just any holiday. It is The Holiday --- the holiday par excellence, we might now say. It comes just a few days after Yom Kippur, the Sabbath par excellence, and two weeks after Rosh Hashanah, the new year, which, along with Yom Kippur, earns the name "high holidays." This is a special time of year, marked by our most celebratory, our most solemn, and our most holiday-like days. What a month. That's Tishrei.

By the time you read this, we will be in the Jewish month of Cheshvan, whose Jewish holidays number exactly zero. Except for Shabbat, every day of Cheshvan is just like any other --- an ordinary, common, run-of-the-mill, nothing-to-write-about period of darkness followed by daylight.

It's easy to celebrate the centrality of Judaism when our calendar is full of high ceremony and public gatherings. It's much harder when the encroaching darkness of winter underscores the lack of anything clear to celebrate.

But Judaism has always celebrated ordinary time as much as holy time.

We mark the beginning of Shabbat --- our holiest of times --- with candles and celebration. Yet we also mark the end of Shabbat --- in a ceremony called Havdalah --- with a candle and celebration. Similarly, tradition dictates a short blessing before each meal, as well as a longer set of blessings for when the meal is over.

There is a time for everything, we might say, quoting the wisdom of Ecclesiastes --- perhaps not by coincidence the book we read on Sukkot. If Tishrei is the time for celebrating the glory of Judaism, Cheshvan is when we do the hard work of living up to its ideals.

In Tishrei, we declare the grandeur of a new year. In Cheshvan, we grapple with the daily reality of that year. In Tishrei, we stop to examine the nature of our lives. In Cheshvan, we set about actually trying to do better. In Tishrei we joyously accept Torah. In Cheshvan, we strive to live by its teachings. In Tishrei we take time out from the world. In Cheshvan we go back to repairing the world.

For that matter, in Tishrei we rejoice in the millennial continuity of our tradition. In Cheshvan we focus on teaching it to one more generation --- in my case, with the daily and weekly labor of love that we call religious school.

I like Tishrei more than Cheshvan, just as I like the copious daylight of summer more than the gloomy darkness of winter. (And let's remember that rare is the child who's afraid of the light.) I also like Shabbat more than the workweek, or, to put it in general and secular terms, the weekend is the highlight of the week. But without the week, there would, of course, be no week to end. Without the hard work of the everyday days, we would have nothing to celebrate on our holy holidays.

So it's back to work, day-in, day-out. But just as each workweek is both a memory of one Shabbat and a precursor to the next, the daily travail of living our lives is imbued with subtle holiness, in the form of memory, in the form of purpose, and in the form of hope. And if we're lucky, each mundane building block we lay starting in Cheshvan forms a stronger foundation to support what we value most.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Adult Education

Torah Study: every Saturday with Rabbi Berkowitz at 9:00 am.
rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570

Talmud Study: every Tuesday at noon with Rabbi Golomb
pjgolomb@verizon.net

The Cockpit of the Middle East: No Easy Answers, No Easy Exit- Martin Charwat speaks on Hezbollah. Tuesday, Nov. 3rd at 7:00pm. macharwat@yahoo.com

Wise Aging Workshops- Led by Linda Cantor & Debbie Golomb. Wednesdays, Nov. 4, 11, 18 at 7:00pm. Group will resume meeting in Dec. office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570

Making the Torah Come Alive: Reading and Writing Creative Midrash- Taught by Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. Tuesdays, Nov 10 & 17 at 7:00pm. Course continues Dec. 8, 15.
rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570

VT Sisterhood News

Sisterhood will have an Executive Board meeting on November 1st at 9:30am at the Temple. If you wish to participate in Sisterhood or just want to see what we are about, you are welcome to join us at 10:00am. We welcome your suggestions and APPRECIATE your help.

November 15th at 4:00pm: The *Fannie and Doris and Berlin Lecture* series featuring Rabbi Rachel Cowan-an inspirational and powerful speaker who should not be missed!

Please join Vassar Temple Sisterhood in any capacity. Keep an eye out for membership renewal information. We want and need you to join Sisterhood!

Another Fabulous Break the Fast at VT

After the shofar sounded on Yom Kippur, ninety people gathered for a delightful Break the Fast. Everyone enjoyed the buffet of bagels, fish, kugels, blintzes, quiches and salads. An entire table was devoted to desserts of fruit, cakes and cookies.

Many thanks to: Susan Colodner, Susan Karnes Hecht, Kristin Judd, Polly Lewis, Sandra Mamis, Susan Needelman, Amy Horn Oclatis, Mary Ritter, Bonnie Scheer, and Kamil Wisniewski. Their help made this event an incredible success!

Wise Aging, Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit

Don't miss this eight session course that runs between November 4th and January 13th. Preregister by calling the Temple Office at 454-2570.

DCIC Music Festival

The Dutchess County Interfaith Council will present its annual interfaith music festival for the community on Sunday, Nov. 22nd at 2:30pm in the Church of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, 1925 Route 82, Lagrangeville. Featuring choral and dance performances presented by local congregations, this year's festival is entitled "Giving Thanks for 40 Years," in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the DCIC. For further information visit www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org or call 845-471-7333.

Beyond Isaac and Ishmael: Muslim-Jewish Relations Where Do We Go from Here?

Friday, Nov. 13th thru Sunday, Nov. 15th the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County is sponsoring a weekend of education, discussion, and prayer, featuring distinguished guest, Imam Abdullah Antepli. Various special events will take place in area synagogues throughout the weekend, including a torah study and nosh at Vassar Temple Saturday morning, Nov. 14th at 9:00am led by Imam Antepli, who will also speak during a Torah service led by Rabbi Berkowitz at 10:00 am.

The Imam is co-founder of the Muslim Leadership Initiative, which aims to forge deeper and more nuanced relationships between the Muslim and Jewish communities in North America through educational exchange. He serves on the Duke University Adjunct Faculty of Islamic Studies and as Senior Fellow on Jewish-Muslim Relations at Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem. Mark your calendars--more details on this exciting weekend to follow!

High Holiday Thanks

Many thanks to those who helped make VT's High Holy Day services so special this year:

Rabbi Berkowitz, Elisa Dugatkin for providing us with both the spiritual and musical elements enriching our worship with meaning and warmth; **Joe Bertolozzi** for his talent at the organ.

Sherrie Geisler and **Alvin Rosen** for working tirelessly to ensure the success of our High Holy Days. **Maria Araceli Muñoz** for setting up the RH apple offerings and the breakfast table. **Judy Creedon, Debbie Golomb,** and **Sue Lesser** for lovingly polishing our silver Roma and Torah breast plates. **Alan Kflowitz, David Lampell** and **Ron Rosen** for their assistance and support. **Hayley Kflowitz** for her help. **Sarah Frankel** and **Sherrie Geisler** our very special dedicated babysitters for a job well done.

Brianna Erlebacher, VaTY president and her team, for distributing the bags at the end of the RH service and collecting and loading the filled up bags on YK.

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

Bill and **Susan Barbash** for their generous contribution that covered the rental of the truck for the Yom Kippur food drive. **Brian Silverman** and **Ron Rosen** for picking up the truck. To **Ron Rosen** for delivering the goodies to Dutchess Outreach!

Adams Fairacre Farm... we could not have done it without your bags! A special thanks to **Vincent Miller Funeral Home** for his generous support. **Jen Dahnert** for securing Sunset Lake on the Vassar College Campus for the Tashlich ceremony, **Alan Kflowitz** for providing shelter! **Laura Brundage, Linda Cantor, Jen Dahnert, Carolyn Frankel, Vivian Garber, Kristin Judd, Meredith Kflowitz, Sandra Mamis,** and **Mary Ritter** for making the Tashlich ceremony extra special and sweet! **Steve Turk** for his donation of greens and cornstalks for the Sukkah and the Sanctuary. **Susan Hecht** and **Meredith**

Kflowitz for decorating the Sanctuary and the Sukkah for the holidays of Succot and Simcha Torah.

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

Officers: Robert Ritter, Mark Metzger, Ron Rosen, Susan Karnes Hecht, Sam Finnerman, Len Greenberg.

Torah readers: Robert Ritter, Lisa Rubenstein, Charlotte Katz, Joel Kelson, Dave Wolf, Ron Rosen, Brianna Erlebacher, David Smith, Jacob Kudria, Susan Hecht, Eric Gillman, Justin Moore, Jacob Moore, Melissa Wall.

Shofar Blowers: Rebecca Strauss, David Hecht, and Sandra Mamis.

Participants: Rebecca Acker, Marianne and Bob Abrams, Linda Babas, Didi and David Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Berkowitz, Cathy Bokor, Michele and Jeff Brenner, Laura Brundage, Linda Cantor, Martin Charwat, Barbara and Andy Chernack, Andi Ciminello, Wayne Cochran, Susan and Alan Colodner, Judy Creedon, Jan and Stephen Dahnert, Olivia DiIorio, Brianna and Melissa Erlebacher, Alan Fink, Sam and Adriaan

Fannie and Doris Berlin Lecture: November 15

An Inner Birthright Trip: Mining our Rich Spiritual Resources for Deeper Meaning

Many of us grow up with a strong Jewish identity, a sense that being Jewish stands for something important and gives meaning to our life. Some of us belong to synagogues and enjoy being part of a community and going to services. Fewer of us, though, feel we have a Jewish spiritual practice that helps us remain grateful, open-hearted, compassionate, hopeful and resilient in the face of difficulties. Few of us feel we have been given the tools to unlock our inner spirit through Judaism. We need to travel inward to find our core with a Judaism that is rich with teachings, insights and practices that can help us find deeper importance and significance in our

lives.

Rabbi Rachel Cowan, formerly the Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and consultant to the Institute's Wise Aging program, will share her own spiritual journey and offer opportunities for us to think about our journeys.

Rabbi Cowan was named by Newsweek Magazine in 2007 and 2010 as one of the 50 leading rabbis in the United States, by the Forward in 2010 as one of the 50 leading women rabbis, and featured in the PBS series *The Jewish Americans*. She received her ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1989. From 1990-2003 she was Program Director for Life and Values at the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Her work has been included in Moment and Sh'ma as well as

in several anthologies and *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. She is the author, with her late husband Paul Cowan, of *Mixed Blessings: Untangling the Knots in an Interfaith Marriage*. Her most recent book, co-authored with Dr. Linda Thal and called *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*, was published in June 2015.

The entire community is warmly invited to come and hear Rabbi Cowan speak on **Sunday, Nov. 15th at 4:00pm** at Vassar Temple. For further information please contact Linda Cantor, Program Chairperson, at licantor@gmail.com or 473-1819.

Finnerman,Carolynn Frankel, Ed Garber, Eric Gillman, Sara Jane Goldberg, Len Greenberg, Rose, Andrew and Wayne Hartman, Susan and David Hecht, Emily Himmelstein, Charlotte, Molly and Dan Katz, Joel Kelson, Benjamin Krevolin, Jacob Kudria, Lauren and Ellie Jen, Kristin Judd, David Lampell, Muriel Lampell, Richard Levien, Donna and Ken Levinson, Polly Lewis, Elaine Lipschutz, Sandra Mamis, Kent Mardon, Danah, Jeremy, Jacob and Justin Moore, Amy and Kenneth Oclatis, Joan and David Posner, Bob Ritter, Michele, Michael, Jacob and William Stolfi, Shaari, Mark and Rachel Roland, Ron Rosen, Eric and Judy Rosenfeld, Lisa Rubenstein and Rick DuVall, David Samson, Bonnie Scheer, Marian and Ralph Schwartz, Arlene and Gil Seligman, Michele and Alexander Sinn, David Smith, Roni and Charles Stein, Shira and Dan Teich, Steve Turk, Dave Wolf, Melissa Wall, Nadine Zaritsky.
(Any omission is totally unintentional.)

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!
Perla Kaufman. HHD Committee Chair

Jewish War Veterans Meeting

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, November 1st at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The meeting begins at 9:30 am.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces (Active, Reserve, or National Guard) are cordially invited to attend and participate in the activities of this JWV Post. As Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue. If you need a ride or for further information, please contact the Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison, at ROBL56@aol.com.

The stuff I bought with Some of My SCRIP

*Cookbooks, tech, and travel books
Bottle slings, food and latchhooks*

*Bike lights, bike bags
And tasty sounding tea bags*

*Phone charge packs
Sahale snacks
Flashlights for purses and packs*

*Orthodontic silicone
Very useful cordless phone,*

*Stuff to stay
Stuff to go
Travel undies and blowup pillow.*

*A stretchy bike cargo net
So things don't get loose*

*And to make your hair look really
good
a can of fluffy mousse*

*Of all the things that Amazon has,
this is just the tip,
Find even lots more stuff when using
your SCRIP*

Marianne Abrams

Contributions

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Ed Garber on his special birthday
Michael & Eileen Garber
F. David Petelinz
Ken & Amy Oclatis
Melissa Wall

Melissa Erlebacher on receiving
the Arnold Award

Richard & Linda Cantor
Lila Matlin

Hal & Sue Lesser on the engagement of
their son, David Doi Cohen

In Memory of:

Dr. Irving Dreishpoon
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Dr. & Mrs. Bernardo Steinvurzel

Celia Levine
Saul Heiser
Marjorie Gluck
Margaret Feldman
Cynthia R Feldman
Samuel Feldman
Hillard Mann
Kurt Lemberger

Lila Matlin
David & Nancy Gluck

Robert Feldman
Alan & Barbara Lemberger

Joseph LaLone
Kathryn Audtin
Brian Matson
Forrest Growers
Beatrice Plansky

Jane LaLone
Mark & Elaine Plansky

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Ed Garber on his special birthday
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Martin & Marilyn Revitz
In appreciation of Rabbi Berkowitz and the
most meaningful Memorial Service
Irma Jacobs

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Honor of:

Elaine Lipschutz' birthday Lila Matlin

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of:

Peggy Sisselman's daughter,
Amanda's wedding
Rabbi Leah Berkowitz
Vassar Temple

Doi Cohen
Judy Harkavy
Gloria Turk

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of:

High Holy Day Music
Alan & Meredith Kaffowitz
Ron & Marilyn Rosen
Joel & Claudia Kelson
Bob & Marianne Abrams

GRANDMOTHERS' FUND

In Honor of:

Ken & Amy Oclatis on the birth of their 1st
grandchild Doi Cohen

HINENI FUND

In Honor of:

Melissa Erlebacher on receiving the Arnold
Award

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Berkowitz

Limnology Information
Freshwater Ecology Inc.
(Mark & Shaari Roland)

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.

VaTY (Youth Group)

Please give a big *Todah Rabah* to all
the VaTY members who helped lead
Family High Holiday Services and those
who helped with the Yom Kippur Food
Drive.

Upcoming Events include:

November 13-15 - NFTY-NAR Fall Kallah at URJ Kutz Camp Warwick, NY

A weekend camp retreat, Fall Kallah features an immersive, Jewish camping experience for teens, by teens. A strong focus is placed on new members. Grades 9-12. More information at <http://www.nfty.org/nar/> Please contact

us if you are interested; there may be some assistance with registration fees.

November 20 -Camp Shabbat at Vassar Temple, 7:30pm, VaTY Jr. We will be welcoming Rabbi Liz Hirsch (one of Rabbi Berkowitz 's campers) from URJ Camps Eisner, Crane Lake, and Sci-Tech for a camp-style service and stories about what makes camp awesome. Wear your camp T-shirt if you have one! Dinner before services, VaTY Movie Night after services. Join us for a camp style shabbat service led by VaTY. You can learn about what Jewish camping has

to offer. VaTY members should look for announcements about meeting times to prepare for the service.

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

B'Shalom
Shira and Dan

Yahrzeits

NOVEMBER 6

Alan Abraskin
Michael Aronson
Samuel Baum
Arthur Berlin
Philip Browner
Frank DeGeorge
Claire Gersoni
Nathan Givner
Forrest Graves
Alexander W. Jacobs
Marvin Maisel
Brian Matson
B. Jay Newman
Henry Newman
Maurice Olivar
Phillip Ritter
Samuel Sapowitch
Herbert Schenberg
Suzanne Seligman
Alice Spitalnik
Molly Susser

NOVEMBER 13

Epifania Acevedo
Joseph Anthone
Kathy Austin
Ellen Bernard
Lena L. Bloch
Solomon Charles
Cantor
Bella Tyson Doppelt
Martin Gad
Rochelle K. Goldstein
Evelyn Heidelberger
Arthur George Henderson
Rose Jacobson
Larry Komreich
Anthony A. Krzywicki
William Payne
Shirley Richter
L. Richard Rosenberg
Sadie Rosenberg
Henry Rosenmann
Reuben Rosenthal
A. Louis Rubin
Samuel Saul
Rose Schonberger
Penya Schmukler
Albert E. Schwartz
Diane Ruth Shore
Rose Slate
Paul Stamer
Henrietta Burns
Subkow

NOVEMBER 20

Elizabeth Bokor
Gussie Bernstein
Daniel Budson, M.D.
Robert Feitelson
Abraham Feuerstein
Maurice Horn
Myrtle Oclatis
Samuel Reifler
Helen Robinson
Samuel R. Rosen
Lily Fink Schenberg
J. Ralph Stein
Paul Susser
Iris J. Turk A
Dr. Diane L. Weston

NOVEMBER 27

John Azanco
Abraham Baum
Wallace Berkowitz
Lee Bronfeld
Ruby Cohn
Louis Dubler
Charles Ernest
Lester Fries
Dorothy M. Haber
Charles Hoffman,
DDS
Jack Josias
Marcia Krandel
Dr. Sidney N. Miller
Sylvia Mishel Nectow
L. Charles Podret
Joanne Rein
Magus Roizen
Richard H. Satz
David F. Schor
Albert Levy Serfaty
Ada Sigalow
Marie Fischer Solo-
mon
Arthur Stern
Claire M. Trivers
Hildegard Tuchmann
Phyllis Zack

Fund Facts: Tzedakah

As I sat in Temple over Rosh Hashanah, I was noticing the simply beauty of our sanctuary and pondering its significance to all of us who cherish our Temple home. As my thoughts wandered, I found my inspiration for this month's "Fund Facts."

This winter, our Temple was ravaged by the consequences of snow and ice accumulation that ultimately did significant damage to our building. Thanks to resources in the Capital Fund (and a few hard workers!), we were able to address the situation, and we now have downstairs classrooms that are renovated and better than ever. In addi-

tion, the upstairs classrooms have gotten a facelift with new carpet and paint, the balcony has been renovated, the Rabbi's office has new paint and clean carpet, the boiler has been replaced, and we aspire to renovate the Temple administrative office. We have been taking good care of our home, largely because of funds provided by members of the Temple to support projects of this nature.

But even with all of this work completed, more must be done to keep our beautiful 60+ year old building in the best possible condition. Challenges persist with water seepage during heavy precipitation and that situation needs to be explored and rectified. The carpet in the sanctuary is badly stained in places

and needs replacement. The Social Hall requires updating, and the HVAC system needs attention as well.

The Capital Fund is a perfect way for members of the congregation to support the upkeep of our spiritual home. Because of the many urgent projects undertaken this past year, the fund is nearly depleted, and in order to proceed with other much-needed work, it must be replenished. If you are considering a contribution to the Temple, the Capital Fund would be a timely and worthy beneficiary of your support.

Jen Dahnert

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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Rabbi:	Leah Berkowitz
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen Arnold
Senior Scholar:	Paul Golomb
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
1st Vice-President	Mark Metzger
2nd Vice- President:	Ron Rosen
Secretary:	Susan 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

November 2015 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 R/S Open House 9am R/S Gr. K-7 9:30am Judaica Sale 12 noon Lunchbox	2	3 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte 7pm Martin Charwat lecture on Hezbollah	4 4:30 Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr 7-12 7pm Wise Aging Workshop, Linda Cantor, Debbie Golomb	5 10am SEP	6 7:30pm Shabbat Services	7 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
8 9am R/S Gr. K-7 9:30am Judaica Sale 9:30am Rummage Sale	9	10 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Making the Torah Come Alive, with Rabbi Berkowitz	11 4:30 Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr 7-12 7pm Wise Aging Workshop	12 10am SEP 7pm Exec Cmte Meeting	13 7:30pm Men's Club Shabbat	14 9am-12 noon Mini- Shabbaton with Iman Abdullah Antepi 9am Torah Study
15 9am 7th Grade Parent- Student learning with Rabbi Berkowitz 9am R/S Gr. K-7 9:30am Judaica Sale 11am Tiny Temple 4pm Berlin lecture: Rabbi Rachel Cowan	16	17 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Making the Torah Come Alive, with Rabbi Berkowitz	18 4:30 Hebrew School 6:30pm R/S Gr 7-12 7pm Trim-A-Tree Thanksgiving—RS Teens 7pm Wise Aging Workshop	19 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	20 7:30pm Last Shabbat Services at 7:30pm - Camp Shabbat with Sarah Lauing, URJ Camps	21 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
22 9am 7th Grade Parent- Student learning with Rabbi Berkowitz 9am R/S Gr. K-7 9:30am Judaica Sale	23	24 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	25 No Hebrew School No Religious School	26 No SEP Office Closed	27 Office Closed 6pm Winter Shabbat Services begin	28 9am Torah Study