



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 164 No. 3 November 2017

Fall Rummage Sale: Nov. 5th

Start cleaning those closets of gently used items and packing your bric-a-brac; the Rummage Sale is coming very soon! We start collecting rummage items as of Sunday, October 29th.

- All Rummage may be brought to the social hall.
- No rummage will be accepted after November 3rd.
- Two evenings available for rummage drop-off: Wednesday, November 1st and Thursday, November 2nd.

When you bring your items to the social hall, please make sure you place items on the left side of the room and keep the area in front of the stage clear, as well as the rest of the building! The sale on Nov. 5th runs from 9:30am to 12:30pm; the bag sale starts at 2:00pm and ends at 5:00pm. For questions or further information, you may contact rummage@vassartemple.org or the Vassar Temple office.

***Please note:** We CANNOT accept textbooks, old TVs or old computers, or heavily damaged goods. For large items, please contact us before you bring them! Volunteers are always welcome and needed!!

Vassar Temple Members Come Through Again!

When Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the URJ informed its member congregations that several Jewish communities had suffered greatly and were in need of support. It was suggested that monies raised could be converted to gift cards for stores in the Houston area where victims could purchase items necessary to start rebuilding their lives, piece by piece.

Of course, gift card sales have long profited Vassar Temple, so this was a perfect opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Texas while also benefiting our temple. We reached out to you, our members, for donations. You were generous; we received \$1,525.00 with which cards to Walmart, Target, Home Depot and Lowe's were purchased. Thank you!

After speaking with the affected congregations, it was clear that the best way to get these cards to those most desperately in need was through the Houston Jewish Federation which had taken on the responsibility of organizing the distribution of relief aid. Their administrator asked that a message of gratitude be conveyed to those families who have been so kind to help. She went on to say, that in the midst of all the stress and angst, "... hearing from people around the U.S. and around the world has been so comforting and reassuring..."

Performing deeds of loving kindness..... it's what we, at Vassar Temple, continue to do!

Upcoming Events

Nov.	5	Rummage Sale, p 1
	5	Lunch Box, p8
	10	Yoga Class, p9
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	17	Shabbat Happy Hour, p3
	28	Adult Ed, p3

SCRIP: Help Others, Help Yourself

Our SCRIP (Gift Card) initiative is a fund raising effort; its success is critical to the Temple's financial bottom line. Buying cards and shopping with them is easy!

If you are not currently a supporter, please tell us why. If you just don't understand enough about how one becomes a supporter, give me a call; getting started is simple.

We need the ongoing support of everyone who shops anywhere! Whether for yourself or as gifts for friends and family, gift cards are a 'no brainer.' Please get on board the SCRIP train.

Sandra Mamis, Coordinator
scrip@vassartemple.org
914-456-3524



From the Rabbi's Desk: Toledot Means "Generations"

November begins another season of families coming together, whether it is for Thanksgiving, Channukah, winter vacations, or the secular New Year. The winter holidays, with all of their family gatherings, can be times of great joy and high drama. It is fitting that, in the Torah portions we read this month, we find the seeds of parental favoritism and sibling rivalry.

In the middle chapters of Genesis, we read about various sets of siblings who, with their parents' encouragement, became bitter rivals: Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel. The climax of these early stories is the rivalry between Jacob and Esau, who lie, cheat, and manipulate one another, and their parents, in order to secure what they believe is rightfully theirs: the birthright and the blessing.

It is interesting that Jacob and Esau were so contentious with one another, when they were literally as close as brothers could be, sharing the womb as twins! Some say that their troubles started in utero, causing Rebecca a lot of discomfort; others say that

it took a while for the rivalry to come to a head. In Genesis Rabbah, the rabbis say that Jacob and Esau were, "like a myrtle and a wild rose-bush growing side-by-side; as they grew to maturity, one yielded its fragrance and the other its thorns." Jacob, they say, turned to Torah study, and Esau to idol worship (Gen. Rabbah 63:10).

The rabbis read these stories in a very black and white way: Esau must be evil in order to justify Jacob usurping Esau's birthright and blessing (though Jacob's name, Yaakov or "heel," also means, "to supplant," so in some ways his name was his destiny). Nowadays, we know that individual personalities and family relationships are much more complex than that. Like the myrtle and the rose, Jacob and Esau each had their own strengths and weaknesses, and might have become a powerful team, had their rivalry, in part due to their parents' favoritism, not torn them apart.

The *parasha* in which Jacob and Esau's story appears is called *Toledot*, "Generations," because it lists the generations that spring from Abraham and Sarah. There must be something oppositional in their genes, because each generation features family members fighting and trying to overpower one another. However, in time, each generation of siblings also learns to work together with the other,

and forgive one another, for the sake of their families, and because they have the vision of future generations in mind.

With our own generations of Vassar Temple in mind, we are going to try something new this month. On Saturday, November 18th, at 9:00am, our Religious School will come to learn with our Torah Study group. This is a great opportunity for all of our generations to come together to wrestle with these rivalry stories together, particularly the story of Jacob and Esau, who are featured in that week's Torah portion.

Even if you are not a regular participant in Torah Study, or involved in our Religious School, we hope that you will join us for an interactive, intergenerational study of our Torah portion, followed by a Shabbat morning service led with help from our Religious School students and teachers.

Wishing you all a happy—and peaceful—Thanksgiving!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



From Our President

The success of our congregation depends largely upon Rabbi, lay leaders, volunteers and YOU. Participation in Temple services and activities by our members brings vitality to our synagogue.

The Vassar Temple Gala is less than two weeks away. Your support and attendance is vital to the well-being of our congregation. A great deal of planning and work by members of the Temple has gone into making the celebration on November 12th a success. Your presence will ensure the realization of this magnificent event. I look forward to celebrating with you.

Please make every effort to attend the Vassar Temple Gala and honor our heroes on Sunday, November 12th at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. A great time will be had by all!

Thank you.

Mark Metzger

From Our New Men's Club Co-Presidents...

The call went out for new leadership for the Men's Club, and Dan Teich and Glenn Tanzman decided to pick up the mantle. They would like to introduce themselves as the new Men's Club Co-Presidents.

"My wife, Shira, and I have been Vassar Temple members for a few years. A year and a half ago we welcomed our son, Itai Tobias, to the world. I've been a trustee on our board for two years. I am excited about all the Men's Club events this upcoming year."

Dan Teich

"As a relatively new member, I look forward to this as an opportunity to engage with more members of our Temple community. My time with the Engagement Committee has reminded me that it's the relationships we build here that sustain us, and Dan and I hope that we will be able to provide those opportunities. Marcia and I are very happy with our choice to join the Temple and we hope to continue to work with all of you to see our community prosper."

Glenn Tanzman

Dan and Glenn plan to continue the programs that we have come to expect as well as new programs which you'll find interesting. Speaking of which, they are planning the Men's Club Shabbat which will be on November 17, 2017. If you are interested in participating in the service, please contact them at g.tanzman@tanzco.net

November Worship Services

3 rd	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
4 th	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Lana Lieberman's Bat Mitzvah
10 th	7:30pm 10:00am	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship
11 th	5:30 pm 7:00pm	Pizza/Pasta dinner Simchat Torah Service
17 th	6:00pm 7:30pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour Men's Club Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
18 th	9:00am	Intergenerational Shabbat Morning Program (includes Religious Shool, Ritual, and Torah Study)
24 th	6:00pm	Shabbat Winter Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi (WINTER HOURS BEGIN)
25 th	9:00am	NO Torah Study

New Paths Service

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, Nov. 11th at 10:00am in the informal 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. We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. 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 mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Berkowitz rabbi@vassartemple.org, or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

Membership News!

Hello from the Membership and Engagement Cohort! We're an enthusiastic committee that is dedicated to expanding and engaging the Vassar Temple community. To that end, we are mobilized for outreach activities for new members and working on projects and programs to sustain our current membership. Membership is all of us, and it begins with you!

There are many reasons why people join Vassar Temple and even more reasons why people stay as active members of the community. Whether it's our worship services, adult education, Torah study, Religious School, Men's Club or Sisterhood – we are a community of diverse and caring individuals. When new faces visit our Temple, please reach out and let them know why you've chosen to join this community.

We'd love to hear your suggestions and ideas so contact us at membership@vassartemple.org.

*Emma Arnoff
Andi Ciminello*

VT Membership Co-Chairs

Scriptural Readings

- Nov. 4 *Vayera* Gen. 19:1-20:18; II Kings 4:1-37
- 11 *Chayei Sarah* Gen. 23:1-24:9; I Kings 1:1-31
- 18 **Shabbat Machar Chodesh**
Tol'dot Gen. 26:23-27:27;
I Samuel 20:18-42
- 25 *Vayetze* Gen. 30:14-31:16;
Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Coming to America Part II: Stories of Immigration

Three Tuesdays: November 14, 28, December 12 (note that these are *not* successive dates)

Join Rabbi Berkowitz as we continue our conversation about the immigrant experience. Through an exploration of Jewish short fiction---and real letters from the Bintel Brief advice column in the Forward---we will see how this historic period of migration played out in the lives of new Americans. How did they deal with the challenges of culture shock, adaptation, and assimilation?

- 11/14 Scenes from Hester Street: Abraham Cahan's "Yekl"
- 11/28 The Problem of Well-Meaning Americans: Anzia Yezirska's "Free Vacation House"
- 12/12 The First December Dilemma: Grace Paley's "The Loudest Voice"

Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour: Nov. 17th

Join with old and new friends for Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour on November 17th from 6:00-7:30pm. Everyone welcome – bring the kids! We'll meet downstairs in the social hall and enjoy wine, beverages, delicious appetizers and small plates before services.

It's easy and fun to host a Happy Hour, if you're interested and want to help. Please contact Andi Ciminello at andi@ecopkny.com.

Mazel Tov

To:
Karen Goodman on the marriage of her daughter, Laura Perl, to Ray Buynak;

Mitchell Barden on the birth of his granddaughter;

Susan and Allen Fink on the marriage of their daughter, Leslie Carroll, to Joshua Chason;

David Posner (and McCabe and Mack) for receiving the 2017 Champions of Justice award from Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.



New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our Vassar Temple family:

- Julie Arbiter
- Brett & Angie Colbert
- Robert & Ilene Friedman
- Sandy and Don Goodman
- Jessa & Jon Kwon
- Lisa Kaul & Jeff Seidman

November Bimah Flower Donations

- November 3: Fern Lox & Jon Lieberman in honor of their daughter Lana's Bat Mitzvah
- November 10: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- November 17: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- November 24: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

October Bimah Flowers Donations Update

- October 6: Donated by Marianne and Bob Abrams in memory of their parents

Please consider commemorating a special occasion or honoring the memory of a loved one by sponsoring the Sanctuary Flowers. The cost is \$55. Checks should be made payable to 'Vassar Temple Sisterhood' with 'Bimah Flower Fund' in the memo line. For more information call the Temple Office at 454-2570.

Mitzvah Projects Bloom

Two of our recent Bat Mitzvah students at Vassar Temple have chosen to do service projects to benefit Renewed for You Bouquets, a local non-profit organization that delivers repurposed flowers to elder care facilities, brightening the days of adult residents who do not receive visitors. The flowers are donated from events or by businesses, made into bouquets, placed in vases, and cards are added.

As part of her mitzvah project, **Leah Barlow** collected vases from her neighborhood and she went on a delivery with her mom and the founder, Kathleen. Leah also worked very hard on the yearly fundraiser to raise money for the delivery van. Over 120 people attended the fundraiser, and Leah helped sell raffle tickets, baked desserts, served food, helped out all night long, and then stayed to work on clean up. And we think Leah set a great example for other b'nai mitzvah students when she donated and delivered the flowers from her Bat Mitzvah!



Condolences to...

Karen Goodman on the passing of her mother, Estelle Goodman;

Lana Lieberman also did her mitzvah project to benefit this wonderful organization. Lana has painted cards, helped create bouquets, and made several visits with Bouquets Renewed for You to bring flowers and a smile to seniors. When asked, Lana explained, "When my grandfather was in a nursing home, I remembered how the people and the rooms needed cheering up. So that's what I wanted to do -- help seniors in my community."

Kudos to both girls for starting on a path of Tikkun Olam. They definitely made the saying, "The gift that keeps on giving" come to life!

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
Donna Loshin

Technical support & understudy: Bob Abrams

Articles for the **December Bulletin** must be submitted by **November 1st** sent via email to publicity@vassar temple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



From the Religious School Director

This month we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. I have always loved Thanksgiving. I love the Fall when the air turns crisp and cool. I love having a reason to gather my loved ones together to share in the celebration. And I love to cook and bake and make yummy foods. But most of all, I love the fact that everyone I know - whether Christian or Jew, Muslim, or Hindu- is celebrating this holiday. It crosses religious lines and blurs our differences while we celebrate the things we are blessed with.

But I want to make sure you realize that Thanksgiving, an interfaith holiday, can be looked at through Jewish lenses. The Hebrew prayer, Modim Anachnu Lach, is a prayer of Thanksgiving that is said daily; in fact, many say this three times a day. We are reminded three times daily that we must count our blessings. MODIM ANACHNU LACH.

The text of this prayer makes us aware

that we have much to be grateful for and that we must thank God for these blessings. In our world we take much for granted. We expect to have running water when we turn on our faucet or electricity when we turn on a light. Food is found in the aisles of the grocery and even those who are struggling to make ends meet have resources at their disposal to help them find food and shelter. And yes, I recognize that there are many in our community that are finding life difficult; but for most of us, we see our blessings as privileges.

How many of our children take a moment to think of their blessings before putting food in their mouths? Judaism is ripe with opportunities for us and our families to create awareness of our blessings. The Vassar Temple Hebrew students can tell you that one of the first units of the Mitkadem Hebrew program is dedicated to blessings over food and holiday celebrations. But learning the blessings can only go so far. If they do not see the connection between the blessings and how to make them relevant to their own lives, then we are not taking the next step in our children's Jewish Education.

As a teen, I attended Jewish summer camp and many Youth Group events. One of the most memorable things about those experiences was the singing of Birkat HaMazon after each meal. This series of blessings that is sung far and wide by campers, youth group members and many Jewish families in their own homes makes us pause for a moment to remember that we have been blessed with so much.

This year at your Thanksgiving holiday table, I urge you to find a way to incorporate some Hebrew or Jewish blessings into your feast. Help our children connect giving thanks and counting our blessings with being Jewish. If you need some help in finding the right blessing or want help with the Hebrew words, please let me know. I am very happy to help you make this a year filled with blessings of thanks!

Julie Makowsky

Morse School News

Through our annual Vassar Temple fundraiser, we were able to get the children at Morse elementary school off to a good start with 6 cartons of essential school supplies: composition notebooks, pencils, erasers, pocket folders, glue sticks, markers, scissors, crayons and disinfectant wipes.

Thanks to all for donating generously and to Ralph Schwartz for obtaining us several discounts and, most especially, for his help with the shopping and schlepping. Through the local Jewish Social Action Coalition, we have gotten the school library reopened.

If you would like to volunteer to help the children sign out books, if you can come in to present an enrichment program, tutor, or be a mentor in other ways, please contact Perla Kaufman at perlakaufman22@gmail.com or 914-456-7309 .

From the Ritual Corner

L'Shanah Tovah! On behalf of the VT Board of Trustees and Ritual Committee, I'd like to thank all who contributed to the discussions, planning and doing of tasks related to the 5778 High Holidays. You know who you are! For Bulletin readers who may not know, this includes:

Rabbi Berkowitz; Cantorial Intern Laura Stein; Organist Joe Bertolozzi; Youth Group; Ritual, Music, Membership/Engagement and Social Action Committees; Michelle Havas and Irene Vasquez, our new VT office staff, who rose to the challenges presented during this busy season; Linda Cantor for the scrumptious Selichot spread; Alvin Rosen for keeping the building ship-shape and set-up as needed; Marian & Ralph Schwartz (sanctuary carpet cleaning); Daniel & Susan Albinder (apples); Steven & Shelley Turk (shchach and cornstalks for the

sukkah); Marcia Tanzman for taking over the annual decoration of the sanctuary for Sukkot; the Torah silver cleaning crew; Bill & Susan Barbash (rental truck for food donations); our security detail managed by Detective Matt Tatar; and last, but definitely not least, Polly Lewis for spearheading the wonderful Break the Fast.

Special thanks to those congregants who bravely consented to facilitate or participate in services in many different respects (reading in Hebrew or English, other honors on the bimah, greeting, ushering, It does indeed take a village. Well done, everyone.

David Hecht
Ritual Committee &
High Holiday Chair

FUND FACTS. . . and Other Needs, as Required

My inspiration for this month's 'Fund Facts' came from a very unlikely source: Rabbi Berkowitz's childhood congregation and the core of her rabbinic inspiration, Temple Beth Sholom in Broomall, PA. Steve and I spent Yom Kippur in Philadelphia with my Mother, and Beth Sholom is the Temple Mom attends; we were very pleased that they honored our Vassar Temple membership and welcomed us at their services.

During the service, Temple Sholom's president made her annual appeal to the congregation. I was prepared for a message that seized the moment amid growling tummies as we turned inward on that day of serious reflection and atonement. But her passionate plea took a surprising turn when she proceeded to make



a heartfelt, and compelling, pitch for . . . the Temple's HVAC system! Yes, even in the midst of the most solemn and contemplative day for Jews, reality spoke in the form of a request focused on the physical comfort of all who come to that house of worship.

This is Temple Sholom's reality, and it is Vassar Temple's reality, as well. While we are not in the exact same position at the moment (our HVAC is doing just fine), we have had our share of other 'home ownership' woes. Your continuing support – whether it is through annual membership or the voluntary gift you may consider at the end of the calendar year – is critically important to maintaining our Temple home. Thank you for all that you do, and may choose to continue doing, in this regard. Your support is needed and appreciated.

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Men's Club and Helpers Erect Sukkah

On Sunday morning, September 24th, members of the Vassar Temple Men's Club, along with some Religious School helpers, assembled the Sukkah in the front of the temple building. As usual, everyone had a fun time arranging the poles, attaching them to the corner braces, and getting the Sukkah to quickly establish its shape.

Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to David Lampell for obtaining new materials to use on the Sukkah's side walls.

Bob Abrams
2017 Sukkot Chair

From left: *Ron Rosen (on ladder), David Lampell, Glenn Tanzman*

Rear: *Chuck Stein, Hannah Gendron,*

Front: *Haley Kaflowitz, Jonah Ritter, Bob Abrams, Kamil Wisniewski, Sam Finnerman*

Missing: *Jim Robinowitz*



Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Gail D'Alessio's conversion to Judaism
Kenneth & Amy Horn Oclatis
Donald & Sandra Goodman

Emily Himelstein

Albert Kahn

Muriel & Matt Lampell

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

The marriage of Kristin Judd and Justin
Horowitz Marian Schwartz
The engagement of Doi Cohen's daughter,
Lisa, to Hershel Kleinberg
Elaine Lipschutz

Lisette Goldemberg

Margaret Ciminello
Mary Solomon

David & Susan Karnes Hecht

Andi & Paul Ciminello

Jane LaLone

Bryan Matson

Joan Posner

In Memory of:

Anna Baum

Nina Kraut and son, Nicholas

Irving Revitz

Marty & Lynn Revitz

Emily Himelstein

Sara Jane Goldberg

& George Papageorge

Jane LaLone

Melissa Erlebacher

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of:

Bonnie Scheer receiving the Arnold Award

Jon Lieberman & Fern Lox

Doi Cohen

Donald & Sandra Goodman

CANTORIAL INTERN SPONSORS

David & Susan Karnes Hecht

Gail D'Alessio

In honor of Bonnie Scheer

Andi and Paul Ciminello

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Memory of:

Emily Himelstein

Gil & Arlene Seligman

GROTEN FUND FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Donald & Sandra Goodman

In Memory of:

Emily Himelstein

Richard & Linda Cantor

YAHRZEITS

NOVEMBER 3

Samuel Baum
Arthur Berlin
Esther Mardon Bernstein
Philip Browner
Samuel Garber
Samuel W. Gellert
Forrest Graves
Louis Heidelberger
Gloria (Golda) Jordan
Dr. Herbert Kotz
Edward J. Kovacs
Amor Levy
George Marcus
Brian Matson
Bridget Molloy
Henry Newman
Max H. Richter
Phillip Ritter
Herbert Schenberg
Suzanne Seligman
Alice Spitalnik

NOVEMBER 10

Alan Abraskin
Epifania Acevedo
Michael Aronson
Kathy Austin
Ellen Bernard
Solomon Charles Cantor
Frank DeGeorge
Claire Gersoni
Nathan Givner
Tamar Grand
Evelyn Heidelberger
Arthur George Henderson
Alexander W. Jacobs
Larry Kornreich
Marvin Maisel
B. J ay Newman
L. Richard Rosenberg
Sadie Rosenberg
Henry Rosenmann
A. Louis Rubin
Henrietta Burns Subkow
Molly Susser
Solomon Tanzman
Gertrude F. Troeger

NOVEMBER 17

Lena L. Bloch
Bella Tyson Doppelt
Robert Feitelson
Abraham Feuerstein
Martin Gad
Rose Jacobson
Jenny Krevolin
Anthony A. Krzywicki
Maurice Olivar
William Payne
Shirley Richter
Helen Robinson
Samuel Saul
Leopold Scharf
Penya Schmukler
Albert E. Schwartz
Diane Ruth Shore
Rose Slate
Paul Stamer
Paul Susser
Frances A. Victor
Dr. Diane L. Weston

NOVEMBER 24

Ida Axelrod
Wallace Berkowitz
Elizabeth Bokor
Daniel Budson, M.D.
Jack Josias
Annette Forman
Dorothy M. Haber
Maurice Horn
Myrtle Oclatis
Samuel Reifler
Samuel R. Rosen
Richard H. Satz
Lily Fink Schenberg
Albert Levy Serfaty
Marie Fischer Solomon
Arthur Stern
Hildegard Tuchmann
Phyllis Zack

Yom Kippur Food Drive Thanks

Once again we have all started out the new year with a mitzvah, that of stuffing the truck for Dutchess Outreach's food pantry! Thanks to all who donated food, to Sue and Bill Barbash for underwriting the truck, to Fran and our Youth Group members and their families for prepping the bags and loading the truck (sometimes in the rain), to Ron Rosen for picking up and driving the truck and making the delivery, to Adams Fairacre Farms for donating bags, and to Perla Kaufman and Ralph Schwartz for their special help.

Marian Schwartz
Social Action Chairperson

Lunch Box Is Back on Nov. 5th

Sunday, November 5th is our first Lunch Box of the year, and we need your help! We need volunteers who can help cook and serve at the Family Partnership Center between 10:30am and 1:15pm that Sunday, and folks to donate the following:

- 3 lbs. all beef hot dogs, or
- 1 to 2 dozen pieces fresh fruit/bananas

Donated food items can be dropped off at the Temple beforehand any time the building is open. There will be a bin near the entry to the kitchen for nonperishable fruits. Please LABEL all food 'For Lunch Box.' For questions, to volunteer or to donate food, please contact Lunch Box Captain Gil Seligman at a.seligman@outlook.com or 845-297-0006. (P.S. This is a great service project for teens who need community service credit!)



Jewish War Veterans Meet Nov. 12th

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, of The Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America has a scheduled meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. The meeting starts at 9:30am.

Persons of the Jewish faith who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces are cordially invited to attend and fully participate. Persons of the Jewish faith are also invited to attend and fully participate. At 9:00am there will be an informal "schmooze" with coffee and cake, so come and socialize with your fellow comrades.

Because Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought in to the building.

Temple Office Hours and Building Policy

The office is open for general business, including SCRIP sales, 10:00am – 2:00pm daily with the exception of legal and Jewish holidays. You can contact the office at other times via phone (845-454-2570), or email (office@vassartemple.org).

The entrance is generally locked for building security and the safety of our members and staff. Please ring the bell to be admitted. If you have an appointment at another time, please ring the bell to announce your arrival.

Anyone entering the building must first inform the office staff of their presence and purpose of the visit including the need to visit other areas of the building. If you arrive during a period when the door is unlocked, or if you are an individual with a key, it is especially important for you to first stop at the office so that we can be aware of who is in the building. We greatly appreciate your compliance with these policies to keep our temple home and valuables safe and secure.

Appreciation for Our Office Volunteers... and One More Item Needed

Heartfelt thanks to Shira Teich and Hilary Wrobel for stepping up to assist with writing our donation acknowledgement and yearzeit reminder cards. These crucial monthly tasks are extremely important to our members.

We are also in need of a volunteer to assist with changing the announcements on our outdoor sign. This task entails carrying the board indoors, changing the lettering, and then replacing the board. Ideally it should be done weekly in order to promote services and events as well as list our B'nai Mitzvah families. This important job could be done by an enterprising teen in exchange for community service credit!

If you can assist please contact Susan at skarneshecht@gmail.com or 845-518-2687. Thank you!

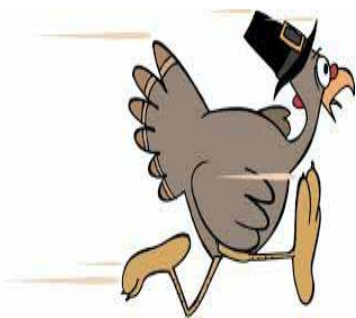


Trim-a-Thanksgiving "Vassar Temple Cares about Hunger"



YOGA CLASS! Nov. 10th

...A way to have fun and raise money for the Temple at the same time. On Friday, November 10th at 10:30am, our member, Judy Harkavy, will lead a class in chair yoga. This class is appropriate for all ages and body types. We will do some easy stretches using the chairs as props and to sit on. Judy is a certified yoga and danskinetics teacher. Dress comfortably and meet in the social hall for an hour or so that will make you feel very alive. Donations will benefit Vassar Temple; \$5 minimum to participate, larger amounts gratefully appreciated! Please RSVP to Judy Harkavy at 845-471-4973.



Please drop off nonperishable food items from the list below to complement the Thanksgiving meal of Dutchess County families in need. Just bring them to the Temple and place them in the CanJam bin by **Tues, Nov. 15th**.

- Canned yams/sweet potatoes/vegetables
- Canned cranberry sauce & canned grav
- Boxes of instant mashed potatoes
- Boxed stove-top style stuffing mix

We will add cookies, juice, and holiday favors. Our Temple youth will create holiday cards and arrange everything 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 at socialaction@vassartemple.org or 845-849-0025.



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 to 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 'Turkeys' 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 try to bring your turkeys and financial donations by Thursday, Nov. 16th Have questions? Need home pickup? Contact Marian & Ralph Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org or call 845-849-0025.

November Weekly Study Groups at Vassar Temple

"Torah Study" with the Temple's Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, will be held at 9:00am Saturdays (no class 11/25). The session on Nov. 18th will be held as part of an intergenerational program.

"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text," taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held 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?

rabbi@vassartemple.org
or (845)454-2570.



Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 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:	Julie Makowsky
Cantorial Intern:	LauraStein
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Mark Metzger
1st Vice President:	Alan Kafowitz
2nd Vice President:	Roni Stein
Secretary:	Susan Karnes Hecht
Treasurer:	OPEN
Sisterhood President:	Judy Rosenfeld
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Glenn Tanzman & Dan Teich
Immediate Past President:	Bob Ritter
Youth Group President:	OPEN

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:30pm Hebrew School	2	3 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Laura Stein	4 9am Torah Study 10am Lana Lieberman Bat Mitzvah
5 R/S Fundraiser 9am Religious School 9:30am Rummage Sale 10:30am Lunch Box	6	7 7pm Ritual Cmte	8 4:30pm Hebrew School	9	10 10:30am Yoga 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11 9am Torah Study
12 No Religious School Vassar Temple Gala	13	14	15 4:30pm Hebrew School	16 6pm VT Exec Cmte 7pm VT Board Meeting	17 6pm Kabbalat Happy Hour 7pm Men's Club Shabbat with Laura Stein	18 9am Intergenerational Shabbat Morning Program 9am Torah Study
19 No Religious School 9:30am R/S Committee	20	21	22 No Hebrew School	23 Shelter Meal	24 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	25 No Torah Study
26 No Religious School	27	28	29 4:30pm Hebrew School	30		