



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אחים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 158 No. 10 October 2012

Rummage Sale to be Held on November 4th

Starting on Sunday, October 28th between 9:00 a.m. and noon, we will be glad to receive the winter clothing and shoes, accessories, household items, small appliances in working condition, books, etc. that are cluttering up your closets, basement and attic. De-clutter your house to support the annual Sisterhood Fall Rummage Sale!

You may bring your rummage during that week, Monday through Friday between 9:00 and 3:00, or Thursday evening, November 1st between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. Put everything in the social hall along the left side wall. When you bring your rummage in, you can pick up a letter from the office to use when showing the IRS that you made a tax-deductible contribution of goods to the temple. (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 November 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).

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The Hineni Fund and December 1st Gala Deserve Your Support

The new *Hineni* Fund will provide lasting support for Vassar Temple's Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School and youth programs. The name *Hineni* – literally "here I am" – embodies Seth's enduring legacy of service. The fund raising goal for this initiative is at least \$150,000, of which half has already been raised. It will include the proceeds of *Bright Lights & Miracles*, a Gala event planned for Saturday, December 1st, at the beautiful Locust Grove estate. The honorees for *Bright Lights & Miracles* are Temple



members Lou Lewis, Esq. and Dr. Arthur and Carol Menken, all bright lights in our congregation and community.

Individual embodiments of the *hineni* spirit abound in our congregation, as illustrated by the motivations of fund and gala co-chairs Andi Ciminello and Jen Dahnert. As movingly expressed by Andi, "Seth's death was

Hineni continued on page 8

Sisterhood Opening Dinner on October 23rd

Our Sisterhood's annual Opening Dinner will be held in the temple's social hall on Tuesday, October 23rd. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:00 p.m. and a lovely dinner at 7:00. While we enjoy dessert, several of our members who are involved in social action projects will describe opportunities for participation which will fit into your busy schedule, in-

troduce you to interesting people, and help you make the world a better place.

Plan to see your Sisterhood friends again and make new friends at our Opening Dinner while you learn how you can give back to the community. All Sisterhood members, potential members, and guests are welcome!

Make your reservation by **Tues-**

day, October 16th by calling Lisa-Sue Quackenbush at 876-5859 or emailing her at sisterhood@vassartemple.org. Your check for \$20 made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, with "Opening Dinner" on the memo line, may be mailed to 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Rabbi's Message: THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION in OUR LIVES



I am writing this piece as the Republican convention has concluded and the Democratic one is starting. Rarely have the position and

outlooks of the two parties seemed to be more divergent, but I sense that there is more smoke than substance.

Conventionally, we view the elections being contested on a liberal-conservative divide. This is a false dichotomy, principally because the two positions are not only not mutually exclusive, they are not even contrasting. "Conservative" carries a sense of time: what are values, systems and material things we wish to maintain (*conserve*) as the days, months and years move on. The near-opposite to "Conservative" is "Progressive." Near, I say, because progress is inexorable. Time cannot be stopped. Some things

must change. One can embrace or even promote that change, or try to moderate, retard or control it. Indeed, one of the enduring political parties in Canada is called the Progressive Conservatives; change, yes, but slowly.

"Liberal," on the other hand, carries a sense of space. Its opposite might be "narrow." This, however, is too freighted a term. Let me suggest "ordered" instead. It is therefore quite possible to be a liberal-conservative: expansive and egalitarian yet uncomfortable with change. Actually, let me suggest that we all tend to be liberal-conservatives, *and* ordered-progressives. We constantly vacillate between wanting order and valuing personal freedom, between embracing and resisting change.

Judaism, as a body of thought and practice, is neither inherently liberal nor conservative. Actually, it tends to-

ward order and progressivism. Jews, on the other hand, as a distinctive community in the body politic, have historically valued both an expansive society – narrowed and strictly ordered societies tend to leave the Jews as a minority on the outside – and stability – too much disorder and change often exposes Jews for scapegoating.

This final month of campaigning will be filled with fevered messages, predictions of fateful decisions and looming disaster. Choices are important – make no mistake – but I doubt that they are life-and-death critical. Our lives, as human beings, Americans and Jews, is too complex and too overlaid with divergent hopes and fears, to permit the chasm getting too wide.

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message



We are all on the Membership Committee.

Where are all of the potential new members? What happened to all of the Jews, both young and

old, who could be joining our Temple? How do we find them and engage them? These are typical questions asked when we discuss temple membership. There are unaffiliated Jews in Dutchess County and the Poughkeepsie area, but we need to locate them and get them interested, not just wait until they come to us. As it turns out, word of mouth is our best form of outreach.

It's no secret that most Jewish families join a temple when their children become of age to enter a religious school, and those families find themselves temple-shopping. Vassar Temple's religious school offers a very attractive venue for educating young children through confirmation age about Jewish customs, lifecycle, history, a little Hebrew, and for socializing with friends.

Vassar Temple's initial educational outreach approach has been the Tiny Temple program, which attracts pre-school children and their parents, and allows young children to become familiar with the Temple, the Rabbi, and the Jewish holidays. The program also gives parents the opportunity to meet and socialize with other young Jewish families. Participa-

tion in Tiny Temple varies by month, with the most popular programs being around Hanukkah and Purim (when the kids make Hamentaschen). Some of the families are current temple members, but many more are unaffiliated.

Another medium Vassar Temple has been using to attract prospective members is through social media, as a way to reach out to prospective members rather than wait for them to contact us. The temple's Facebook page contains posts about many interesting Temple topics and programs, allowing our members to share topics of interest with their friends. The temple website is our primary vehicle for describing all of the activities and events held at the Temple. It provides a simple way for anyone to indicate interest in the Temple, and we always follow up with those contacts. We have received several membership inquiries through the web site.

But sometimes the web pages can be a little intimidating, especially if the viewer is new to the area and just trying to get a feel for what the local Reform temple provides, and whether he or she would like to attend a Shabbat service. A new "landing page" (www.vassartemple.org/light) was developed by a small group of temple volunteers as part of our marketing focus last year. The landing page is a simple, friendly view that provides a taste of what

the Temple is all about. We reference the page in our Facebook advertisement with some print ads as well. The user can simply leave an e-mail contact or link incertain pages of the web site.

Still, it seems, with all of these efforts, the best way to attract members is through "word of mouth." Many people first hear about all of the wonderful things we do at our Temple from friends and relatives. They then "check us out" online, or talk to others who may know more about us. The key is the person-to-person contact. The website, social media and our other forms of outreach serve the same purpose. However, it appears that nothing still beats personal contact as a starting point.

We are *all* on the membership committee; our word of mouth from person-to-person is the best form of advertising. When we welcome strangers at our Temple and make them feel right at home, we are doing more than observing/obeying? the words of our faith; we are building community. I know that we have our work cut out for us, and this challenge provides an opportunity. As we have seen, there are potential new members out there, and together, we need to engage them.

My best wishes for Peace and Health this New Year.

L'Shalom, Bob

Have Fun Helping to Take Down Our Sukkah

On Sunday, October 14th at 9:00 a.m. the Men's Club will take down our *sukkah* from the lawn in front of the temple and put it away for next Sukkot. Helpers of both genders are always welcome! Contact: mensclub@vassartemple.org.

Worship Services

Monday, October 1

10:00 a.m. Sukkot Service

Friday, October 5

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 6

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Sunday, October 7 Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

7:00 p.m. Consecration Service

Monday, October 8

10:00 a.m. Yizkor service

Friday, October 12

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

Saturday, October 13

9:00 p.m. Torah Study

Friday, October 19

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Noach Service with Rabbi Golomb and cantorial soloist, Elisa Dugatkin, guest speaker, and birthday blessings

Saturday, October 20

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Alison Peritz Greenman

Friday, October 26

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 27

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Morning Shabbat Service

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

Scriptural Readings

October 5 & 6 Shabbat Sukkot

Exodus 33:12-34:26

Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

October 12 & 13 B'reisheet

Genesis 5:1-6:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:10

October 19 & 20 Noach

Genesis 11:1-11:31

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

October 26 & 27 Lekh L'kha

Genesis 16:1-17:27

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:15

November 2 & 3 Vayera

Genesis 21:1-22:24

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-36



Celebrate Our Connection with Animals During Shabbat Noach

Because our world is a better place when we nurture all living things, Vassar Temple is hosting a special celebration of animals during the weekend of October 19-21 to coincide with the Torah reading which includes the story of Noah. On Friday evening, October 19th we begin with a Shabbat dinner in honor of our animal friends (see article on next page) and welcome a guest speaker at our 7:30 service. The Tiny Temple program for preschoolers and their parents on Sunday, October 21st will have the same theme. (See article on the next page)

The speaker at our Friday night service will be Neil Abramson who, with his wife, founded Finally Home – A Sanctuary for Animals, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe haven for lost and abused animals in southern New York State. A partner in a large Manhattan law firm where he specializes in labor and employment law, Neil also has worked on animal rights and animal welfare issues on a pro bono basis for over two decades and has been recognized for his animal legal work by the ASPCA.

In addition, Neil Abramson is the author of an acclaimed novel about the deep bonds between people and the animals that share their lives called “Unsaid.” An evocative story about the healing power of animals, “Unsaid” will resonate with anyone who has experienced loss, loved a pet, or has pondered the meaning of those things that remain “unsaid” in life—but mean so much.

Thanks to Walter Effron of the Three Arts Book Shop in Arlington, the book will be available for purchase in paperback at the temple during Sunday school hours in September and October. Our congregation will share in the profits and the author will be glad to autograph your copy after his talk. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of “Unsaid” is being donated to Finally Home. For more information about our guest speaker and his novel, go to <http://www.neilabramsonauthor.com/>

For the third time, we will host therapy animals and their human partners in the social hall during the Oneg Shabbat after services on October 19th. This opportunity to interact with these special dogs and cats is always very popular with congregants of all ages, so plan to come with your family and friends. The service will include Birthday Blessings (and tasty gifts) for the month of October.

“Life on a Stage” after Shabbat Services on Saturday Morning, October 27th

Our temple members, Molly Renfroe Katz and Kristy Grimes, are the co-directors of Half-Moon Theatre, an ensemble of Hudson Valley theatre professionals. After our Shabbat morning Torah service on Saturday, October 27th, they will share their reflections on the challenges and joys of “Life on a Stage.”

Whether you are attracted by a moving Torah service, a lively presentation, or a chance to socialize over kiddush, you are sure to get into the spirit of Shabbat at temple that Saturday. The dress code is casual and you are welcome during all or any part of the morning.

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. with our usual interactive study of the Torah portion of the week with Rabbi Golomb. A family-friendly Torah service will begin at 10:00 in the sanctuary, providing the perfect opportunity for parents to attend with their children and for adults who prefer daytime services to hear the Torah read. At 11:15 we will be treated to Molly and Kristy's presentation, and at noon we will enjoy a kiddush together. Plan to join us!



Mazal Tov to

...**Lillian Weigert and Joe**

Ambash in honor of their wedding on September 1st.

....**Jim & Marianne Robinowitz** in honor of their daughter, Leah's wedding to Emmanuel Peña on September 22, 2012.

....**Perla & Chuck Kaufman** in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Ida Rose-lyn Kaufman on September 7th. Proud parents are David & Daisy Kaufman.

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 October:

October 20th at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Refuah Shelema

....to **Irma Jacobs and Gail Weisman**, who were recently hospitalized.

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.

Shabbat Dinner on October 19th

Join your Vassar Temple family on Friday, October 19th at 6:15 p.m. for a meatless Italian dinner before the special service for Shabbat Noach at 7:30. Beverages, salad and challah, as well as pizza, will be provided. (The meal will be meatless in honor of the animals we celebrate that evening.)

The cost of the dinner is \$10 per adult; \$5 per child under 13; and no cost for children under 5. **Prepaid reservations must be received by Monday, October 15th.** Send a check made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood to 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 with "Oct. 19 dinner" on the memo line or contact Laura Brundage at lbrundage@frontiernet.net or (845) 227-4312.

Joyous Simchat Torah Service on October 7th

On Sunday evening, October 7th at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate Simchat Torah, which marks the completion of our annual reading of the Torah with the end of Deuteronomy, and the beginning of a new year of Torah reading with Genesis. This family service is always very moving as we parade around the sanctuary with our Torah scrolls and unroll one of them around the edge of the sanctuary. Everyone has a chance to help hold up the scroll before we re-roll it.

Children especially enjoy this service when they dance to traditional songs in the aisles of the sanctuary while holding our fuzzy child-sized scrolls. During this lovely service the new students in our Religious School will be consecrated to the studies they have just begun.

Tiny Temple for Young Children



Sunday, October 21st 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

"Noah's Ark and Our Animal Friends"

with activities, playtime, a story – and a special snack!

For infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents
Open to the community free of charge, regardless of synagogue membership

To RSVP and for more information, email tinytemple@vassartemple.org.

Pulpit Flowers

- September 28 In memory of Dorothy Schmukler from Joan & David Posner.
- October 5 Vassar Temple Sisterhood
- October 12 In memory of Harold Posner from Joan & David Posner
- October 19 In honor of Alison Peritz Greenman's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.
In memory of Kurt & Margot Similes from Sandra and Harry Mamis.
- October 26 Vassar Temple Sisterhood.



4 Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can do so by sponsoring the Sanctuary flowers with a donation to the Shrub Fund. Just call Sandi Rugar at 454-2570. The donation to the Shrub Fund is \$55.

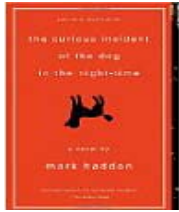
Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams
Editor: Doi Cohen
Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the November bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by October 2. 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.

Book Club to Discuss Mystery Novel on October 18



Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will meet on Thursday afternoon, October 18th at 3:00

p.m. (please note time) in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Ave., Poughkeepsie, to discuss "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon, a prize-winning mystery novel related by Christopher, a 15-year-old British boy who describes himself as

"a mathematician with some behavioral difficulties."

When Christopher discovers the dead body of Wellington, the neighbor's dog, speared by a garden fork, he decides to investigate the dog's death, and discovers secret information about his mother, but is severely limited by his fears and his difficulties when interpreting the world around him. The author has written that his 2003 book is not about Asperger's Syndrome... "if anything it's a novel about difference, about being an outsider, about seeing the world in a surprising and reveal-

ing way." This delightful and thought-provoking story is available in paperback and from the local library system.

Jean Malkischer will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome, and light refreshments will be provided. To RSVP or get more information, contact Doi Cohen at 462-6193 or dcohen1230@gmail.com.

**It's expensive to feed your family!
And it's expensive to run the Temple!**

**But did you know that you can make a
contribution to Vassar Temple
while doing your everyday shopping,
a contribution important to sustaining the Temple?**

SCRIP [gift cards] to these local grocery stores

Adams Fairacre Farms [10%]

**Stop & Shop, ShopRite, Hannaford, Price Chopper [5%]
A & P [4%]
Walmart [2%]**

are available through the Vassar Temple SCRIP program.

Buy cards from us for purchases you were going to make anyway.

**Pay face value, and help with this fund-raising effort.
You Can Stock Your Pantry and Earn a Contribution For
Temple!**

How Much	Revenue	Potential Is	There?
Grocery Spending	SCRIP Contribution / Year	SCRIP Contribution / Year	SCRIP Contribution / Year
	2%	5%	10%
\$50/ week	\$52	\$130	\$260
\$100/week	\$104	\$260	\$520
\$150/ week	\$156	\$390	\$780
\$200/ week	\$208	\$520	\$1,040
Imagine if 10 people were doing this!	How about 50?	100 ? Or more?	

Supporting the VT SCRIP program is easy to do and important for the Temple. If you are already a supporter, Thank you, If you are new to SCRIP [gift cards], getting started is simple and quick. Let me know how I can help. Sandra Mamis, Vassar Temple SCRIP coordinator (463-2678; scrip@vassartemple.org)



Religious School Director's Column



This is our "holiday season" – Rosh

Hashanah (at least one day, two for many), then Yom Kippur (never more than one day), Sukkot (about a week), and finally Simchat Torah and Shmini Atzeret. It's these last two that cause confusion.

Simchat Torah, literally, "The Joy of Torah," is either the eighth day of the seven-day holiday of Sukkot (if you keep only one day of Rosh Hashanah) or the 9th day of the eight-day holiday of Sukkot (if you keep two).

Shmini Atzeret, literally, "the eighth, a convocation," is always the eighth day of Sukkot, whether or not Sukkot has eight days or only seven. (It also gives us the chance to use the word "convocation," which doesn't otherwise pop up too frequently.)

Generally the first and last days of a holiday are "yontiv," days on which, more or less like Shabbat, we rest from work. So the first and last days of the seven-day holiday of Passover are both yontiv, or, if you keep eight days, the first two days and the last two days. Similarly, the first day of the seven-day

holiday of Sukkot --- or the first two days of the eight-day holiday of Sukkot --- are yontiv, along with the last day or so.

This background is important for understanding a discussion in the Talmud, that ancient compendium of Jewish law that examines and directs Jewish practice. For example it's the Talmud that tells us when and how to light Hanukkah candles (put them in the menorah from right to left, light them left to right), how often to pray (thrice daily, unless you don't feel like it), when one bird is similar enough to a kosher bird that it, too, counts as kosher (if they naturally interbreed or if their eggs are indistinguishable), which activities detract from rest on Shabbat and yontiv (travel, for instance), and, of course much more.

So it should come as no surprise that the Talmud gives us regulations regarding the Sukkah: It must have four, three, or two and half walls; must offer a view of the stars; must have more shade than sun; must be at least ten hand-breadths high, but less than about 10 yards; and so on.

Then the question arises in the Talmud (on page 23a of the section called "Sukkot," if you want to follow along at home) of whether a Sukkah can be built on top of a camel. And the answer is, no, because the Sukkah is meant for the entire seven- or eight-day period of Sukkot, but sitting on a camel counts as travel, which,

as we just saw, detracts from yontiv. So a Sukkah on a camel would be useless for at least two of the seven days of Sukkot (or four of the eight).

The next question raised in the Talmud is whether an elephant can be used for one of the walls of the Sukkah. And, again, the answer is no, because it might run away, invalidating the Sukkah. What about a dead elephant? Sure! As long as the elephant is at least ten hand-breadths in height, we're good to go. Smaller animals, of course, might be ten hand-breadths in height only when standing but not when lying down. These, according to the Talmud, should therefore be suspended by ropes from above. (Please don't try this at home.)

Now, Rabbis Meir, Yehudah, and Zeira, along with the other participants in this Talmudic debate, knew full well that hanging an animal just so it couldn't lie down was a violation of the prohibition against cruelty to animals, and other obvious considerations prevent beasts of burden from doing double duty as structural supports.

So what are we to make of all of this? To me, the most important lesson is to try to enjoy whatever we do. We don't have to be somber to take something seriously, and sanctity doesn't have to be solemn. Torah is joyous.

And we have a holiday just to remind us. Happy Simchat Torah!

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Inspiring Selichot Program Includes Award Presentation, Two Speeches

When Rabbi Golomb presented the Rabbi Stephen Arnold Award for contributions to the religious life of our congregation to Susan Karnes Hecht on Saturday evening, September 8th, he commented on her ability to read meaningfully from the Torah and her outstanding work as chair of the Reytut Committee. Then he shared words which had been sent from Massachusetts by Rabbi Arnold, who recalled Susan as a devoted mother of two wonderful children, now successful young adults, and an enthusiastic student of Torah who grew in wisdom as her children grew.

When Susan accepted the award, she noted that she and her husband Dave joined the congregation many years ago because of Rabbi Arnold and she was honored to have earned an award bearing his name. Rabbi Golomb added that he

always enjoys hearing Dave's wonderful voice when the congregation sings. (Both Susan and Dave were members of our volunteer choir.)

After a Havdalah ceremony, and before the red Torah covers were exchanged for white ones in preparation for the Days of Awe, Gil Seligman and Eleanor Pupko each spoke briefly and very movingly of the values which form the basis of their lives. Gil

stressed the integrity upon which character is built, comparing it to the straight and strong mast of the model boats he builds. Eleanor talked about her formative years on a farm in upstate New York, her discovery of her Jewish heritage as an adult, and the satisfaction of being an inspiring math teacher.



From left: Eleanor Pupko, Susan Hecht, and Gil Seligman at the Selichot program.

Protein Plenty Thanks

On behalf of the Protein Plenty drive held this July at Vassar Temple, we thank all of you who generously funded the purchase of protein-rich foods that stocked pantries operated county-wide by the Community Action Partnership of Dutchess County.

Your donations of \$1,425 enabled us to purchase \$1,425 worth of cases of protein-rich foods from Stop & Shop on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie. Those foods, plus another \$50 worth donated by Stop & Shop, were loaded into a van and delivered to literally empty pantry shelves at a host of sites. \$1,475 worth of tuna, peanut butter, and other healthy protein-rich foods were then distributed to individuals and families who might have otherwise missed an essential meal this summer.

Thank you for participating in this powerful food-raising effort; together we beat hunger.

Our best,

The Samson family

The Vassar Temple Social Action Committee

Plan to Help Trim-a-Thanksgiving in November

Vassar Temple will once again partner with Hudson River Housing to provide the trimmings of a Thanksgiving meal for families which could not afford to celebrate the holiday of plenty without our help.

So, as October goes by, plan to put any of these non-perishable items into the Can Jam bin in the temple hallway before Wednesday, November 14th when the students in our Religious School 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

Questions? Contact Nancy Samson (canjam123@aol.com, 845-462-4828) or Marian Schwartz (socialaction@vassar-temple.org, 845-849-0025).



Vassar Temple Social Action

Make room in your fall line-up for mitzvot! Meet new friends and have fun! Pick the project that's best for you.

GET OUT THE VOTE 2012- If you need a ride to the polls, or can offer one, contact Perla Kaufman at brandaliz5@optonline.net or her cell, 914-456-7309.

We volunteer at HILLCREST OVERNIGHT SHELTER on the fourth Thursday of every month (including Thanksgiving). Volunteers can make sandwiches, casseroles, or side dishes at home to be served at the shelter, and a few folks go there to serve. For further information about helping please call the person who coordinates our dinners at the shelter, Linda Doherty, at lindadoherty@myway.com or her cell, 914-474-0038. And please bring unopened toiletries and (new or in good condition) bath towels, men's pajamas, washable pillows, sheets and blankets, to the shelter collection box in the East Chapel (not the CanJam bin). For questions about donations for the shelter, contact Judy Harkavy at 471-4973 or judydstan@verizon.net.

TALKING BOOKS is an opportunity to record a favorite children's book onto audio tape or CD. Then we will present the book and recording to Cath-

erine Street Community Center to bring enjoyment and learning to the children there. Books *en español* are also needed! Record at home at your own convenience and we will provide you with guidelines, help and any recording equipment you may need. Just contact Susan Hecht at 463-8254 or through socialaction@vassartemple.org.

We provide, cook and serve lunch at the LUNCH BOX in the Family Partnership Center on N. Hamilton St. (formerly Our Lady of Lourdes H.S.) the first Sunday of most months during the school year. To help, contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org or 849-0025. Note: This is also a great way for youths to earn community service credit!

The AUDREY MORGENSTERN KNITTING GROUP is a friendly interdenominational group that meets Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the JCC to knit and crochet items for those in need (beginners cheerfully taught). To learn more contact Perla Kaufman at brandaliz5@optonline.net or her cell, 914-456-7309.

CANJAM is our program which makes it so easy for you to drop off non-

perishable foods for those in need in our CanJam bin in the Temple hallway at any time. Once a month a volunteer takes the food (averaging 8 grocery bags) and delivers it in his/her car to a local food pantry. You can arrange to do this at a time of your own convenience. Help with delivery is sorely needed! If you would like to sign up to deliver the food one month, Nancy Samson would love to hear from you at 462-4828 or CanJam123@aol.com.

To find out more about Vassar Temple Social Action, see the Social Action link on our Temple's website, www.vassartemple.org. And if you have new ideas for us, we'd love to know all about them!

Marian Schwartz, Chairman

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!

(continued from page 1)

such a tragic loss for our temple family. This project demonstrates our resilience and our ability to find good in something terrible...I realized that I needed to come forward to help lead this project. Jen and I have been in the development and fundraising world professionally for over thirty years and worked together at Vassar College for about ten years. She agreed to chair the Gala and asked me to serve as co-chair. This was just a few weeks after Seth died, and I knew that the temple couldn't do a large fundraising effort like the Gala without including a memorial and tribute for Seth. Thus, the *Hineni* Fund was launched. In many ways this is us saying 'here we are' to use our skills for the temple and create a lasting memorial for Seth, as well as to recognize Lou Lewis and Art and Carol Menken for their extraordinary dedication to Vassar Temple and the wider community."

Jen explained further that "throughout my years as a member I have admired and appreciated the individuals in our congregation who give of themselves so selflessly and tirelessly in making our temple community the vibrant, close, interesting, and nurturing place that it is. These individuals set a wonderful example for all of us to try to emulate. Our sudden loss of Seth was a harsh reminder that we cannot take these remarkable people in our midst – Seth was one – for granted. It's so important, in the hustle and bustle of our lives, to stop from time to time to recognize people's efforts and let them know how much they are appreciated; people like Lou, Art, and Carol who help us connect to

the joy and meaning of our heritage, and so many others who make our temple the special place that it is."

Jen continued, "Rabbi Rick Jacobs' profound remarks at Seth's funeral struck me like a bolt. I had taken a back seat in temple life for a while after [daughter] Ali's Bat Mitzvah, but as Rabbi Jacobs spoke of *Hineni*, it became my call to action. When Rabbi Golomb approached me a few weeks later to ask if I would chair the Gala, I knew that there was only one answer, but I also knew that this year the Gala needed to be more. It needed to acknowledge the current circumstances of our temple. So my first call, even before answering Rabbi Golomb, was to my dear friend Andi to ask her to partner with me. We feel that there has never been a moment like this in the life of our congregation; we both feel called to the task of creating something important – and momentous – at Vassar Temple. The Gala was the right opportunity."

The theme of *Hineni* is also woven into religious education at Vassar Temple. Our curriculum reflects the famous passage from *Pirke Avot*: "The world depends on three things: Torah, worship, and deeds of loving kindness." As individuals and as a group, our students declare *Hineni* by becoming involved in the temple's longstanding tradition of community service.

Religious School Director Dr. Joel Hoffman developed a close rapport with Seth as they worked together to strengthen the school. He discovered that "Seth had a vision for Jewish education that

would be meaningful, relevant, authentic, and fun – a vision he worked to implement by empowering others and through personal example. Sadly – tragically for some – Seth left us far too soon, depriving us of his person and of his personal example. We are lucky that his vision remains. Our challenge now is to work toward it on his behalf. That's one reason I'm so excited about the *Hineni* Fund. It both honors Seth's memory and helps continue the work he started."

In Jen's words, "we have been so deeply touched by the outpouring of support and enthusiasm for this project, bittersweet though it is. We are proud to be the stewards of a project that we hope will ultimately do something financially sustaining for Vassar Temple as a whole and provide our remarkable community with an occasion to come together in a way that will make us even stronger than we were before. These past few months in our Temple have been marked by some devastating losses which served as painful reminders that there is no time like the present to take action, to rejoice in who we are, appreciate the people in our midst, and seize every opportunity to celebrate those things for which we are eternally grateful."

Mark your calendar now for the December 1st Gala and respond when you receive your invitation. For more information on participating in the *Hineni* Fund contact one of the Gala and campaign co-chairs: Andi Ciminello (452-1190; andi@ecosystemsstrategies.com) or Jen Dahnert (226-1158; jedahnert@vassar.edu).

Front Lawn of Temple Gets a Makeover

Thanks to the hard work of Alan Kaflowitz, Bob Ritter, Bob Abrams, Jeff Brenner, Howard Brown, Ron Rosen, and Joel Kelson, we can once again see the Vassar Temple sign on the front lawn. Bushes planted 60 years ago had become overgrown, obscuring the signage and detracting from the beauty of our lawn. Since the sunny morning of September 9th, we have a newly painted sign and attractive white mums which should be in bloom for the High Holy Days.

Future beautification plans include the removal of some additional bushes and their replacement with appropriate shrubs and perennials. This will further open up our outdoor space and make us look as

welcoming as we are. After all, this is the temple "Where you Belong"!

Great job, guys! By the way, this was an 'unofficial' Men's Club project. If you are not a current member, consider joining this active, welcoming Temple auxiliary by emailing mensclub@vassartemple.org.



From left, Joel Kelson, Alan Kaflowitz, Bob Ritter, and Bob Abrams stand next to the newly painted sign, surrounded by new shrubs.

Alan, Joel and Bob Ritter didn't mind getting "down and dirty" to beautify our lawn.

September Lunch Box All-Stars

On Sunday, September 2nd, ten folks from their teens to their 60's, some experienced and some first-timers, some acquaintances and others strangers, worked together at the Lunch Box. They cooperated seamlessly and made new friends while working together to prepare and serve a delicious, nutritious meal. The menu featured a frank and bean casserole topped with Linda Babas's recipe for piquant sauce, and corn with secret special seasonings known only to Benjamin Krevolin. The meal was enjoyed by 135 of our hungry neighbors.

Meditation Group Meets on October 2nd

The meditation group led by Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg will continue its meetings this year. At each session there will be 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 welcome.

The group will meet in the East Chapel from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the first non-holiday Tuesday of each month, beginning on October 2nd and continuing on November 6th. 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.

JWV Plans October Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on October 14, 2012 at Congregation Schomre Israel on Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie NY. Although you cannot see Congregation Schomre Israel from the JCC, it is just north of the rear at the JCC on Park Avenue. It also has an entrance on College Avenue. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. As Schomre Israel is strictly Kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the Synagogue. The only exception is that Dunkin Donuts coffee may be brought into the synagogue. The time of the meeting will not interfere with Shalom on Grand.

In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be on Cumulus Radio: 101.5 WPDH, 1490 WKNY, 92.7/76.9 WRRV, 94.3/97.3 The WOLF, 1390/1340 OLDIES, 97.7 The Mix Mark Bolger.

For further information contact Post Commander Ralph Schwartz at RSCHWA9881@aol.com or (845) 849-0025.

Thanks to all our September Lunch Box All-Stars, without whom this couldn't have happened. Many helped cook and serve (most of whom also brought food): Bob Abrams, Linda Babas, Bill Beehler, Rose Hartman, Wayne Hartman, Joel Kelson, Aide Kopito, Benjamin Krevolin, Marian Schwartz, and Ellen Zelig; and some donated food or funds: Marianne Abrams, Kay Bishop, Andi & Paul Ciminello, Doi Cohen, Jen Dahnert, Joanne and Bob Dyson, Perla Kaufman, Muriel Lampell, Elaine Lipschutz, Wendy and Stan Marcus, Lila Matlin, Celeste McGregor, Sheila Newman, Bonnie Scheer, Michele Sinn, Roni and Chuck Stein.

Vassar Temple Social Action Committee

Helpful Information for High School Students and Their Parents

Reform Judaism, the world's largest circulated Jewish magazine (and a URJ publication free to members of affiliated congregations), has partnered with Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, in creating The RJ Insider's Guide to College Life. This guide is a great place to begin or further a student's search for the right college and help answer some of those big questions. Here you can learn about schools with a lot of Jewish students, active local Reform services, including Getting In: What the Experts Say; How to Grow as a Jew, Your Way; and Financial Aid: Secrets of Success.

The guide is available both digitally, at reformjudaismmag.org/fall_2012 and in print, in the center section of Reform Judaism magazine's Fall 2012 edition which all our congregants have received in the mail.



Celebrate Jewish Culture at Shalom! On Grand

Shalom! On Grand, Poughkeepsie's family-friendly festival of Jewish culture, is returning by popular demand on Sunday, October 14th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 110 South Grand Avenue. This joyful event, which benefits the JCC, will be held rain or shine (indoors in the event of significant rain). Plan to be there!

Aide Kopito and Rose Hartman made new friends while working at Lunch Box.



Ellen Zelig split the rolls.



Wayne Hartman and Joel Kelson poured the iced tea.

Join us at the Interfaith CROP Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, October 21st



The Dutchess County Interfaith Council will sponsor the annual community CROP Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, October 21st. The walk

raises money to aid folks nationally and globally, with 25% of the proceeds coming back to local agencies such as Dutchess Outreach. Last year we were the top fundraising walk in our region, raising over \$52,000. But this year the needs will be even greater so we'll need more help to reach our goal.

There are several ways to participate.

You can do all or part of the walk with family, friends, a group from the Temple, or on your own. Sponsor yourself, or get a few sponsors and you can help even more! If you cannot walk, perhaps you can sponsor our rabbi or another congregant who'll be walking. (To pledge to sponsor Rabbi Golomb in the CROP Walk, look for a signup sheet on the Tzedakah box table in the temple lobby). Finally, help is needed at the registration table and the bake sale on the day of the event.

The complete walk is a little under 10K (6 mi.) on a safe, marked, monitored route in the City of Poughkeepsie, beginning and ending at the JCC, with 3 rest station checkpoints along the way at local houses of worship. Walkers should

start any time between 10am-2pm to assure that all the support systems will be available to them while they're walking. Get your walker materials now so you can start signing up sponsors! If you'd like to learn more or sign up to be a walker, please contact Dave Wolf, our Vassar Temple CROP Walk recruiter, at cropwalk@vassartemple.org. If you can help at the registration table any time between 9:15 and 3:00 on October 21st, or provide baked goods for the bake sale that day (both at the JCC), please contact Marian Schwartz, registration table director, at socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Room 4 Renovation

Have you noticed that classroom 4 (the one to the right of the library) has a fantastic new look? On Sunday, August 12th a hard-working crew of volunteers, inspired by Sandra Mamis and led by Alan Kaffowitz, tackled the project, having lots of fun while transforming a space which is used for adult ed and committee meetings as well as for religious school classes.

First Bob Ritter, Alan Kaffowitz, and Stan Marcus (pictured, left to right) took the room apart, removing shelving, etc. Then Michelle Sinn, Janet Greenman, Joel

Kelson, Joel Hoffman and Sandra Mamis spackled and painted. Stan bought the paint at Page Lumber, where he works, Sandra donated new blinds for the windows, and beautiful new flooring was donated by temple members Mark and Elaine Plansky of Heritage Carpet. The project was completed after more work by these and other volunteers. (Additional photos of the work crew can be viewed on the Vassar Temple blog, <http://vassartemple.wordpress.com>.)

As Sandra said, "we are hoping that this fresh clean environment gives our



religious school students a wonderful atmosphere in which to learn and delights others who use this space for learning and for doing the work of the temple."

Adult Ed Classes on Middle East in October

"Tinderbox Triangle: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria" is the title of our annual fall adult education course on the Middle East. The three classes will be held at the temple on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

October 4th: Rabbi Paul Golomb, who has been to Jordan three times, including meetings with American diplomats and Jordanian officials, will talk about that country.

October 11th: Dr. Mouannes Hojairi of the Africana Studies Department at Vassar College will speak about Lebanon.

October 18th: Martin Charwat, a Vassar Temple member and former president of the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley, will bring us up to date on the situation in Syria.

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 adulted@vassartemple.org or rabbi@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 adulted@vassartemple.org or rabbi@vassartemple.org.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF
Rabbi Golomb for his kindness to Irma
Jacobs during her recent illness.
Fran Jacobs, Douglas, Tessa &
Molly Woodward

SUSTAINING FUND

IN MEMORY OF
Joshua Aaron Himelstein
John & Emily Moran
Tamara & Adrian Gruszko
Marvin & Linda Skolnik
JoAnne Abraskin
Mark & Elaine Plansky
Marge Lazarus
Rae & David Slingerland
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Irving Revitz Lynn & Marty Revitz
Eugene N. Turk Drs. Jed & Stella Turk
Anna Baum Nina & Nick Kraut

IN HONOR OF
Lillian Weigert and Joseph Ambash
Mary Madden & Gregory Glassen
The marriage of
Lillian Weigert and Joseph Ambash
Doi Cohen
Susan Hecht receiving the Arnold Award
Bob & Marianne Abrams
Paul & Andi Ciminello

IN APPRECIATION OF
Rabbi Golomb's special efforts in making
Michael Wrobel's
Bar Mitzvah a special joy for the
entire family Mitchell Wrobel
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
All the kindnesses that
Vassar Temple members have
done for Mim Oppenheimer
Jill & Ira Auerbach &
Family

SPEEDY RECOVERY WISHES TO
Irma Jacobs
Rose Miller
Lucille & Paul Kaplan

MAZAL TOV TO
Peter & Bernice Edman
for the upcoming wedding of their grand
son, Jeremy to Maria Rose Miller
Lucille & Paul Kaplan

ANDY ERDREICH YOUTH EDUCATION FUND
IN MEMORY OF
Joshua Aaron Himelstein
Georgene & Irving Dreishpoon

HINENI FUND
IN MEMORY OF
Joshua Aaron Himelstein
Joel & Claudia Kelson

GROTEN FUND
IN MEMORY OF
Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell-Moore and her
deep understanding of, and commitment to
Justice The Chernack Family

TREES IN ISRAEL
IN MEMORY OF
Joshua Aaron Himelstein Liz Freedman
Lorenz Herzog Hudson Valley Iris &
Daylily Society



Yahrzeits

October 5

Fannie Levy
Robin Rayfield
Jessie Barker
Alfred J. Bogad
Michael Oremus
Mary Stollack
Jeanne Loth Rubin
Gertrude C. Clarfeld
Bessie Rabin
Minnie Israel
Alleyah Yankajtis
Sansola
Ira Greenberg
Arthur Peritz
Judith Faria
Irving J. Wurtzel

October 12

Bonnie Gordon
Aaron Parish
Bernat Ackerman
Margaret Ciminello
Lucila Albinder
Joseph Sparks
Harry Plotkin
Susan Doppelt Pearlman
Milton Entner
Marion Miller
Norman Kramer
Jean W. Dampf
Gertrude Hines Groten
Jean Strauss
Harold Posner
Lena Sherman Weisman
Thomas Weisman
Haim Ribbi

October 19

Charles Finnerman
Evelyn Locke
Albert Plotkin
Dr. Martin Rabin
Ida Goldberg
Morris Bronfeld
Dr. Barry G. Jordan
Dr. William J. Lazarus
Lisa Lemberger
Sidney Horowitz
Morris Fertig
Max Eli Kosstrin
Arthur Fink
Leo Klausner
Sophia S. Wolfson
Murray Gutnick
Susan Salit Lowe
Henry Cantor
Sidney Goldberg
Howard Kapner
Samuel Scope
Murray Sigalow
Ethel Solomon
Charlotte Konick
J. Ralph Stein
Lillian Greenman

October 26

George Tofel
Rose Maisel
Joshua Karp
Monroe Robbins
Claryce Jordan
Herman Katz
Sidney Locke
Bernard Himelstein
Mollie Daniels
Leo Feinstein
Jacob Haber
Lawrence Slate
Mark Zatzkis
Lenore Schiffman
Annie Erdreich
Bessie Rothausen
Abraham Zack
Benjamin Michel
Adele Lerman
Warsaw
Benjamin Genshaft
Fred Sisselman
Ida S. Miller

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

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www.vassartemple.org



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Rabbi:	Paul Golomb
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen A. Arnold
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Robert Abrams
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

**DATED MAIL
PLEASE RUSH**

October 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 SUKKOT Office Closed 10am Morning Service	2 November Bulletin deadline 10am SEP 7:30pm Meditation	3 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	4 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Adult Ed - Jordan	5 CAN JAM Weekend 7:30pm Shabbat Service	6 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
7 NO RS 7pm Consecration at Simchat Torah Service	8 SHEMINI ATZERET SIMCHAT TORAH Office Closed 10am Yizkor Service 7pm Executive	9 Flyers Deadline 10am SEP	10 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	11 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Adult Ed - Lebanon	12 7:30pm Shabbat Service	13 9am Torah Study
14 9am-12pm RS K-7 9am Take down Sukkah SHALOM ON GRAND	15 7:15pm Ritual	16 10am SEP 7pm Finance	17 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	18 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 3pm VTS Book Club 7pm Adult Ed - Syria	19 6:15pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	20 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Alison Peritz Greenman
21 9am-12pm RS K-7 10:30am Tiny Temple CROP Walk	22 7pm Board	23 10am SEP 6pm VTS Opening Dinner	24 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10	25 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Adult Ed-Afterlife	26 7:30pm Shabbat Service	27 9am Torah Study 10am Morning Service
28 9am-12pm RS K-7 Rummage week	29 Rummage week	30 10am SEP Rummage week	31 NO RS Rummage week	Rummage week	Rummage week	Rummage week