



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel    Founded 1848    Bulletin Volume 162 No. 2 October 2015

## Crop Walk: October 18th



The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Interfaith CROP-Walk against Hunger, sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, will be held Sunday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> in Poughkeepsie. 25% of the money we raise goes to local organizations that combat hunger in our own community. In 2014, over \$10,000 from our CROPWalk went to Dutchess Outreach, the Community Action Agency, the Beulah Baptist Saturday Soup Kitchen and the Fishkill Reformed Church Food Pantry. The remainder of the money raised goes to a variety of programs to relieve hunger and poverty and respond to emergency situations both in the USA and around the world.

The walk is a safe, 6-mile route with 3 rest stops along the way. Walk alone, with family and friends, or as part of a Vassar Temple team. You may walk all or part of the route, whatever is comfortable for

you, you can use your social media to help get your sponsors, and your sponsors can donate on-line as well as in person.

For more information about being a walker and to get your walker materials, please contact Howard Susser, our Vassar Temple CROPWalk recruiter, at [cropwalk@vassartemple.org](mailto:cropwalk@vassartemple.org) or 471-7820. If you cannot walk, please sponsor Rabbi Berkowitz and other Temple members as they walk. With your support, our local CROPWalk has become one of the most successful in the New England Region, and last year over 450 walkers from over 50 groups in Dutchess County raised \$55,685. With hunger needs greater than ever, we must exceed that total this year, so please help in whatever way you can to make this year's CROPWalk our greatest success ever!

## Upcoming Events

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SAVE THE DATE!

Nov. 15 Fannie Berlin Lecture



## VTS Paintbrush Party

We are getting creative at Sisterhood! Join Sisterhood and come to the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Opening Dinner on October 29 from 7:00-9:30 pm. Meet at Paintbrushes and Party located at 702 Freedom Plains Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Listed on their calendar as a fundraiser, \$45.00 will include hearty appetizers, beverages (funded through Sisterhood) and your own work of art! Our creation is pictured below.

This event is open to the public so please encourage friends and neighbors to come and enjoy a great time. Sisterhood gets \$10.00 back for every participant. Please RSVP directly to Paintbrushes & Party: 845-467-2468 or online: [www.paintbrushesandparty.com](http://www.paintbrushesandparty.com). Please call Laura Brundage at 227-1962 or email Danah Moore or Laura at [sisterhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassartemple.org) with any questions.



## Rabbi's Message: The Sweetness of Learning



We are coming to the end of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei*, in which we celebrated four of

our major Jewish holidays: *Rosh Hashana*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*. By contrast, the Hebrew month of *Cheshvan*, which comes afterwards, contains no holidays at all. Because it is the only Jewish month completely devoid of celebrations, the rabbis called it *Mar Cheshvan*, the "bitter month."

Modern rabbis do not find *Cheshvan* bitter. That's when we go on vacation! Whatever our role in the Jewish community, however, there is a certain sweetness to returning to the ordinary rhythm of Jewish life. We celebrate Shabbat together. We start having events for VATY and Jr. VATY. We engage in social action together. There is a certain sweetness to all of that.

But the sweetest thing that happens in *Cheshvan* is the beginning of all our learning programs here at Vassar Temple. While Religious School, Torah Study and Talmud Study are well underway, in *Cheshvan* we begin our Wednesday Hebrew School and our Adult Learning classes.

What makes learning sweet? Throughout our tradition, Torah is referred to as both milk and honey: milk because it sustains us, and honey because it makes our life sweeter. In medieval times, children starting school for the first time would place a drop of honey on each letter of the Hebrew *alef-bet*--or, in other communities, write the whole letter in honey--so that they could taste the sweetness as they learned each letter. My mother fulfilled this tradition with a candy bar on the first day of school every year. It was certainly sweet to get to eat chocolate first thing in the morning!

In our morning *tefillah*, we pray that

God will "let the words of Torah be sweet in our mouths." Not everything we learn will be entirely sweet, but by engaging in study as a community, we are able to search for the sweetness in our sacred tradition, and we are able to find sweetness in the experience of learning together.

As we enter *Mar Cheshvan*, we hope that you will join us in making a bitter month sweet with study! Opportunities to learn together appear on page 7 of this Bulletin. Take a look!

Another sweet moment in *Mar Cheshvan* will be the DCIC CROPWalk for Hunger on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Sign up to walk with me or donate by contacting Howard Susser at [cropwalk@vassartemple.org](mailto:cropwalk@vassartemple.org) or visiting <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/VassarTemple>.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



## President's Message: You're My Inspiration

Back at the end of August, Mary and I had just returned home from a super weekend with Temple friends. We went up to Saratoga to see the band Chicago in concert at the Performing Arts Center. It was a special moment to dance standing at our seats to our wedding song, "You're My Inspiration." As the music and lyrics went through me, I felt an enormous sense of gratitude.

Here is the opening verse to help you remember.

*You know our love was meant to be  
the kind of love to last forever  
And I want you here with me  
from tonight until the end of time.  
You should know, everywhere I go,  
always on my mind, in my heart, in my  
soul.*

The song goes on with praises for our love with the following lyrics:

*You're the meaning in my life.  
You're the inspiration.  
You bring feeling to my life.  
You're the inspiration.*

God and Judaism are also sources of

meaning, feeling, and inspiration. In Judaism we praise God in song, daily prayers, and prayers for special occasions. In prayer we rejoice in life's gifts and blessings, and life itself. When prayer goes through me, I also feel an enormous sense of gratitude.

Like everyone, I know it is easy to get caught up in our disappointments, life's bad turns, and people who upset us. Prayer can break that pattern; it is hard to smile and be unhappy at the same time. Prayer can lead to a feeling of gratitude. And, gratitude is a powerful medicine.

Two psychologists, Dr. Robert A. Emmons, University of California- Davis, and Dr. Michael E. McCullough, University of Miami, have done much of the research on gratitude. An article in the Harvard Mental Health Letter, by Harvard Medical School, said this about their findings: "Gratitude is a way for people to appreciate what they have instead of always reaching for something new in the hopes it will make them happier, or

thinking they can't feel satisfied until every physical and material need is met. Gratitude helps people refocus on what they have instead of what they lack. And, although it may feel contrived at first, this mental state grows stronger with use and practice." The Rabbis say the same thing about prayer -- it gets stronger with use and practice. We're just coming through the High Holy Days, where you may have done more praying than you do during the rest of the year. It is also a New Year. And with a New Year, we can make changes in our lives and start a new pattern. I hope that my year includes more prayer and gratitude. And, I hope yours does, too! As we were leaving Saratoga we made a stop at the gardens at Yaddo, where I noticed the following anonymous inscription on a sundial dated 1901:

*Time is too slow for those who  
wait, too swift for those who fear, too long  
for those who grieve, too short for those  
who rejoice. But for those who love, time  
is eternity.*

Bob Ritter

## October Worship Services

October 2	7:30pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz
October 3	10:00am	New Paths service
October 4	7:00pm	Simchat Torah service; consecration of new Religious School students
October 5	10:00am	Simchat Torah and Yizkor service
October 9	7:30pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz
October 16	7:30pm	Shabbat Noah service with Rabbi Berkowitz and animal-themed speaker (Family Shabbat Dinner at 6:00pm) Shabbat service followed by Oneg and guest dogs
October 17	10:00am	New Paths service
October 23	7:30pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz
October 30	7:30pm	Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Berkowitz

## Scriptural Readings

Oct. 10	<i>B'reisheet</i> Genesis 5:1-6:8; Isaiah 42:5 – 43:11
17	<i>Noah</i> Gen. 11:1-32; Isaiah 54:1 – 55:5; 66:1, 24
24	<i>Lekh L'kha</i> Gen. 16:1-17:27; Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16
30	<i>Vayera</i> Gen. 21:1-22:24; II Kings 4:1-37

## Sukkah Open House

The entire community is invited to Vassar Temple's sukkah on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00am -1:00pm. We'll gather in the sukkah on our front lawn to schmooze, meet Rabbi Berkowitz, learn about the holiday, and enjoy some light refreshments. Please swing by!

### Family Shabbat Dinner: Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is sponsoring a vegetarian shabbat dinner at 6:00pm, prior to the Shabbat Noah service. The dinner will feature both gourmet and “down home” pasta dishes including pumpkin ravioli, baked ziti, and mac’ n’cheese, accompanied by a special salad, challah, and beverages.

- \$10 adult
- \$5 ages 5-12
- under age 5 free

Pre-payment is requested. To be certain we have enough food available, please RSVP for the dinner to [sisterhood@vassar temple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassar temple.org) by **Monday Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>**.

### Shabbat Noah for Animals: Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>



Shabbat Noah, the sabbath when we read about Noah's ark in the Torah and a special time to appreciate our animal friends, will be observed Friday evening, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> at Vassar Temple, and everyone is warmly invited to join us for any or all of the evening's events. Jewish ethics teach that we have a moral responsibility to provide for the welfare of animals, and Shabbat Noah provides the perfect opportunity to highlight the important role animals play in our own lives.

During the family-friendly shabbat service that starts at 7:30pm, Nancy Hill of Greyhound Rescue Rehab will be our special guest speaker. Her organization places retired 2-6 year old greyhounds into foster homes where they are acclimated to being part of a normal household and then placed in adoptive “forever homes” in our local area. Greyhounds make smart, docile, well-mannered and affectionate pets, and everyone will have the opportunity to meet some of the greyhounds after services during the oneg shabbat in the social hall. For more information about GRR, visit [www.greyhoundrescuerehab.org](http://www.greyhoundrescuerehab.org).

### Celebrate Simchat Torah Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

Come to schmooze and enjoy a free pizza and salad dinner in the Temple sukkah on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. At 7:00pm the festivities move inside for a joyous Simchat Torah service with Rabbi Berkowitz including a parade of torahs, the unfurling of the torah scroll around the room for all to see, and Israeli folk dancing led by Mary Ritter. All students new to our religious school will be blessed (*Birkat Talmidim*) and presented with their own mini torahs that they can carry in the parade (*hakafot*).

This is a Vassar Temple event not to be missed, so mark your calendars and come celebrate the holiday of Simchat Torah with your Temple family on Oct. 4th!

RSVP by 9/27 with the number in your party to [office@vassar temple.org](mailto:office@vassar temple.org) or 454-2570 to insure that we order enough food!



## Mazel Tov

to:

Ed Garber on his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday;

Zoe Weinstein on the Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Betty Gibbs;

Harry & Sandra Mamis on their daughter, Rachel, being admitted into the Washington DC Bar

## Judaica Shoppe News

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Judaica Shoppe offers a wide selection of Judaica at reasonable prices, including BenZion Yemenite jewelry and Gary Rosenthal's wall art, tzedakah boxes and mezuzot, talismisim, a wide variety of jewelry including the work of local artists such as Inna Kudria, ritual items, gift items, spa products from Israel, and framed art. Many items are on display, with more in stock, and we do special orders. We also have a special line of painted silk religious items from Israel that can be seen by appointment. The Shoppe is open Mon.-Thurs. from 9:30am-2:30pm or by appointment. Contact Perla at [914-456-7309](tel:914-456-7309) or [membership@vassartemple.org](mailto:membership@vassartemple.org) with any questions or to schedule an appointment.

## Condolences

Michele Klein on the passing of her mother, Helen Goldman

## Refuah Shelemah

Emily Himelstein recovering from hip surgery;

Paula Landau recovering from a hospital stay

## Pulpit Flowers

- October 2: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- October 9: Donated by Zoe Weinstein in honor of daughter Betty Gibbs' Bat Mitzvah
- October 16: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- October 23: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- October 30: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund



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.

### Correction:

Sept 18: Chuck and Perla Kaufman  
**In Memory** of all their loved ones.

## 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 November Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple office by October 1st. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

## How Can Aging Be a Good Thing?

Aging all too often feels like a downhill drift to a place we don't want to go. But each year new doors open with opportunities, even while others close with loss. We have the power to prepare, to become stronger, more resilient, and navigate these challenges. Will we turn toward the opportunities and find new joy and meaning in life? How will we make the most of this time and develop into deeper and wiser people? (from the back cover of *Wise Aging*)

*Wise Aging, Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit*, a new proj-

ect developed by the Institute of Jewish Spirituality, will start on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at Vassar Temple. Linda Cantor and Deborah Golomb, trained leaders and ongoing participants, are the co-facilitators.

Although *Wise Aging* has a text, written by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal, it is not a traditional class. Rather it is intended to be a gathering of men and women who develop a sharing community as we focus on the complexities of growing older. We join in group discussion and study, meditation, journaling, worship and song.

Because we are a community-in-

the-making and not an open series of classes, we ask that participants commit to attending as many sessions as possible. We will not be able to accept new members after the second meeting. We will meet for at least eight sessions: Nov. 4, 11, 18; Dec. 2, 9, 16; Jan. 6 and 13.



## Religious School Director: Tikkun Olam



For some people, it's never enough. Whatever you do, they want more. And it turns out they may be right.

Our morning liturgy quotes a section of the nearly 2,000-year-old Mishnah that puts the following into a group: leaving part of the harvest for the poor, bringing first fruits for offerings, bringing pilgrimage offerings, practicing kindness, and studying Torah. What these activities have in common, say our great Rabbis, is that the more you do, the better. That it, there is no point at which you can say you've done so much Torah study that you don't have to study any more, just as you can never be too kind, and you can never leave too much of your harvest for the poor.

I was thinking about this as I reflected on the prayer that almost always concludes our worship services: *Aleinu*. The first part of that text focuses on our obligation to worship God, while the second part turns our attention to the value of *Tikkun Olam*, literally, "repairing the world," a phrase commonly associated with our modern concept of social action.

In the context of *Aleinu*, *Tikkun Olam* actually means establishing God's dominion over the entire world, a meaning based on another sense of the word *Tikkun*, namely, "establishing." *Aleinu* is not about social action, at least, not

directly.

The Rabbis, in the middle of the first millennium CE, also have a notion of *Tikkun Olam*, which they record in the Talmud. For them, *Tikkun Olam* is the broad idea that some laws that are good for society don't come directly from the Bible. For instance, you're not allowed to pursue legal shenanigans that circumvent the spirit of the law, like traveling from your home city to a new one, and hiding your background as you find a rabbinical court to annul your home court's ruling; and you're not supposed to ransom a captive for an excessive amount of money, because that might encourage hostage taking.

The mystical movement known as *kabbalah* further refined the idea of *Tikkun Olam* about 500 years ago, adding a notion that the world we currently inhabit is broken as a result of a cosmic shattering of holy vessels. We humans have an *kabbalistic* obligation to work with God to repair the world.

Then last century the phrase *Tikkun Olam* was appropriated for what we now call social action: working in soup kitchens, raising money for tzedekkah, and pressing for legislation that safeguards the downtrodden. In a sense, this was a new way of understanding *Tikkun Olam*, but it certainly has its roots in tradition.

More to the point, it was actually the prophets --- long before *kabbalah*, the Talmud, or even Jewish prayer services --- who emphasized the value of helping others. Isaiah, for instance, lashes out against those who fast only to humble themselves. Instead, says the great prophet, would-be fasters should work to "loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords" that oppress people. They should share food with the hungry, provide shelter for the poor, clothe the naked, and take care of one another.

It was the Reform Movement that rediscovered the centrality of this prophetic Judaism, moving sentiments like these back into the mainstream. We didn't invent the idea of gathering food for the poor on Yom Kippur. Isaiah did. We didn't first voice the importance of calling out our leaders when they behave badly. Micah did. And it was Amos who said that religious festivals are insufficient without justice rolling like a mighty stream.

All of which brings us back to *Aleinu* and the Mishnah. Part of our obligation to worship God entails working to bring about a better society. And --- like it or not --- whatever you've already done, it's not enough. It never is.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

### Tzedakah for the Living Room

The Living Room, located in the Family Partnership Center, is open in the daytime, seven days a week, to provide a safe haven, hot food, showers, laundry facilities and more to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and who struggle with mental health and/or substance abuse. Professional support and referrals are available for housing, employment, addiction, health care, and veterans' benefits. It also affords a safe place for persons to wait for transportation to an overnight shelter.

Money donated in the tzedakah box by the staircase this month will be used to purchase essential basic items needed at the Living Room such as: coffee, bath towels, toiletries, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. For more info visit <http://mhadutchess.org/who-we-help/homeless-individuals/>.

Thanks to all who donated food, funds, and/or came out to work on Labor Day weekend to feed our hungry neighbors. Our next Lunch Box, Sunday, Oct. 4th, will be captained by Michele Brenner. The menu will feature homemade chili. We need the following donations:

3 lb. ground beef or ground turkey (browned, with 1/2 c. chopped onion)  
Fresh Fruit (1-2 dozen bananas, pieces of fresh fruit, or snack size baggies of washed grapes)

**Please clearly label food donations "For Lunch Box"**

Food can be dropped off in the Temple kitchen beforehand, any time the building is open. There is a bin on the kitchen counter for non-perishables. Perishables go in the fridge. If you can come to

### Lunch Box Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

Lunch Box on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> to help set up, cook and serve, plan to be there from 11:30am-2:15pm (latest). Family, friends and neighbors are welcome, and teens can earn community service credit. Lunch Box is located in the rear of the Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie.

To donate food or volunteer to work, or if you have any questions, please contact Michele at [11mimi61@gmail.com](mailto:11mimi61@gmail.com) or call her at 845-463-4036. To make a monetary donation to help us purchase the other food necessary to prepare the meal, please make your tax deductible check payable to Vassar Temple with "Community Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line. And a special thank you to whomever anonymously dropped off a load of silverware to be donated to Lunch Box!



## Vassar Temple's New Musical Addition

## Weekly Study Groups at Vassar Temple

One of Vassar Temple's key attractions has been music accompaniment during Shabbat and holiday services. The Temple's pipe organ has been a regular complement to our services for many years. One of our goals has been to modernize Temple music by including new instruments, as some of us have seen at other temples in the region.

Thanks to Elaine Lipschutz' generosity via the Lipschutz Fund, I am delighted to announce that the Temple has purchased an electric piano for use in services. The piano is portable enough to use in different parts of the building. The KORG keyboard, and accompanying amplifier/speaker, is a wonderful addition to our music component! Initial experiments with the

keyboard have been impressive, with a variety of sounds ranging from piano sound to strings (as in part of an orchestra), bass and other tones. Our organist, Joe Bertolozzi, is looking forward to introducing new melodious sounds to our services, alternating the organ and piano, and even using the two together, producing some very exciting variations on our Shabbat melodies!

We are very excited to add the electric piano (keyboard) as a component of the Temple's music offerings. Thanks, again, to the Lipschutz Fund for helping us to bring modern, contemporary melodies to Temple ritual music.

*Bob Abrams*  
*Music Committee Co-Chair*

Torah Study with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah and is held Saturday mornings at 9:00am. "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*," is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays at 12:00noon. All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous experience required! Questions? Contact [rabi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabi@vassartemple.org) or (845)454-2570.

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## Adult Education Courses

### ***Making the Torah Come Alive: Reading and Writing Creative Midrash***

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

Six Tuesdays at 7:00pm: October 20, 27; November 10, 17; December 8, 15

Why was Abraham chosen to be the first Jew? How did Sarah feel about the Binding of Isaac? Since the Bible first appeared on the scene, rabbis and artists have used creative writing, art, music and dance to fill in the gaps in biblical stories and to search for modern meanings in ancient texts. *Midrash* is the process of searching for contemporary meaning in an ancient biblical text and of using creative methods to convey one's values to a modern audience. Although this process is as old as the Bible, it is also the essence of what we are trying to do as modern Jews: make the ancient stories of our people come alive, even though we live in an entirely different world.

We will explore various types of ancient and modern *Midrash*, and try our hand at creating our own interpretations of the

Bible!

### ***The Cockpit of the Middle East: No Easy Answers, No Easy Exit***

Martin Charwat

Rabbi Paul Golomb

Three Wednesdays at 7:00pm: Oct 21, 28, November 3

When World War I ended, the Kurds, an ancient people spread over five countries in the Middle East, were denied a country of their own. The Jews were promised a homeland in Palestine by the British, who tried to balance their rights with those of the Palestinian Arabs. In Lebanon, France put the interests of the Christians above that of the Muslims, especially the Shia, many of whom later joined Hezbollah. A three-week session will examine each of these historical events and see where these decisions have led.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21st, at 7:00pm, Martin Charwat of the Mid-Hudson Valley World Affairs Council will lead a discussion on the Kurds.

On Wed. Oct. 28th, at 7:00pm, the Temple's Senior Scholar, Rabbi Paul Golomb, will speak on "Israel/Palestine – Dealing with Fire and Ice: The Dual Challenges of a Palestine Authority Divided between Fatah and Hamas".

The course concludes on Tuesday, Nov.3rd at 7:00pm when Martin Charwat speaks on Hezbollah.

The public is invited to attend any of the sessions, which are offered free of charge. For further information please contact [macharwat@yahoo.com](mailto:macharwat@yahoo.com).

### **Weekly Study Opportunities**

**Torah Study:** Shabbat morning, 9:00am with Rabbi Berkowitz.

**Talmud Study:** Tuesday, 12:00 noon with Rabbi Golomb



## Pick Apples for Dutchess Outreach

The first gleaning project of the Jewish Social Action Coalition will be held Sunday, Oct.11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the joy of giving as we pick apples and donate them to Dutchess Outreach. The exact location will be announced well in advance but was not available at the time of Bulletin printing. For further information, please contact [kaybishop@gmail.com](mailto:kaybishop@gmail.com).

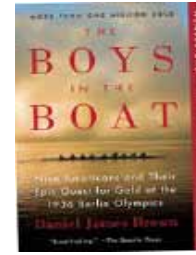
## Book Club to Discuss *The Boys in the Boat* on October 8<sup>th</sup>



Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss *The Boys in the Boat*, Daniel James Brown's inspirational story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times. The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

The author tells the dramatic story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated "elite" rivals, first from eastern and British universities, and finally, the German crew rowing for Adolph Hitler in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The emotional heart of the story lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or

prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-esteem, but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories, Brown has created an intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, remind the country of what can be done when there is commitment, determination, and optimism.



This book is available in paperback and through the local library system. Myrna Rubenstein will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or [linda.babas.41@gmail.com](mailto:linda.babas.41@gmail.com).

### Have a Child in College?

VT Sisterhood maintains a college care package list. Chanukah and Purim goody packages are sent annually to our college students in undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs. Help us keep the connection between our college students and Vassar Temple. New ideas are always welcomed!

Please send the following information to Fern Wolf, VTS College Liaison, at [FernW@optonline.net](mailto:FernW@optonline.net) :

- Name of Student:
- Name of College:
- Year in school:
- Student's address:
- Student's email:
- Parents' names:
- Parents' email:
- Parents' phone number:

### DCIC Story Circle

The theme of the October story circle, sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, is "Memorable Rites and Rituals." Many of us attend weekly observances in our faith communities or mark special occasions with solemn ceremonies. Specific observances or ceremonies are often noteworthy because of unique characteristics that range from excellent to poignant to comic. Come share your memories of a remarkable worship service, or just listen and enjoy. For the date, time and location of this evening event, visit <https://www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org>. For questions contact Muriel Horowitz at [murielh@optonline.net](mailto:murielh@optonline.net).

### Jewish Heritage at Dutchess Stadium

Vassar Temple joined other area temples and Hudson Valley Jewish organizations to celebrate our Jewish Heritage at an event organized by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. Members and their families gathered at Dutchess Stadium on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in August for America's favorite pass time, baseball. Bob Ritter, Vassar Temple President, stepped up to the plate and threw out one of the "first pitches" . . . high & wide, but without a bounce.

### 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, October 11<sup>th</sup> at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The meeting begins at 9:30am.

(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 further information, please contact the Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison, at [OBL56@aol.com](mailto:OBL56@aol.com).

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces

The advertisement is a rectangular graphic with a dark background and white text. At the top, it says "EISNER AND CRANE LAKE" and "6 POINTS SCI-TECH". Below that, it says "New & Prospective Camper Weekend" in large, bold letters, followed by "For current 2nd-5th graders". There is a small photo of a child in a boat. The text continues: "Hiking, Arts & Crafts, Celebrate Shabbat, Sleep in Heated Cabins, Sports & Games, Wild Science Experiments and Activities, Campfire & S'mores, and Lots of New Friends!". It then lists the cost: "Cost: \$100 includes all meals, lodging, and activities. If you register for camp by January 1, 2016 the cost of the weekend will be credited to your summer tuition." It also provides arrival and departure times: "Arrival: Fri, Oct 2nd, 4:30 pm @ Eisner Camp" and "Departure: Sun, Oct 4th, 12:30 pm @ Crane Lake Camp". At the bottom, it says "THREE GREAT URJ CAMPS AND A SUMMER THAT LASTS A LIFETIME" and provides contact information: "201-722-0400 | [eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org](http://eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org) 857-246-8677 | [scitech.urjcamps.org](http://scitech.urjcamps.org)".

# Contributions

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Honor of:

Emily Himelstein's recovery;  
Lila Matlin  
Joan Posner being appreciated;  
David & Marilyn Lampell  
Bob & Mary Ritter's great BBQ;  
Cathy Bokor  
Sandra Mamis, on receiving the Founders  
Award;  
Ed & Vivian Garber  
Ed Garber's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Hal & Sue Lesser  
Murray & Linda Garber  
Art & Margery Groten  
Matt & Muriel Lampell  
Harry & Sandra Mamis

### In Memory of:

Dr. Irving Dreishpoon  
Jack & Rita Effron  
Lila Matlin  
Michael & Debbie Gold & Family  
Hyman Silverman  
Brian & Helen Silverman  
Maurice Goldemberg  
The Hecht Family  
Lisette Goldemberg  
The Hecht Family  
Melvin Matlin  
Lila Matlin  
Max Matlin  
Lila Matlin  
Dr. Harry Barbash  
Bill & Sue Barbash  
Sally Schaffer  
James & Maryann Robinowitz  
Edward Markum  
James & Maryann Robinowitz  
Howard S. Abrams  
Bob & Marianne Abrams  
Hilda Klausner  
Perle Scope  
Ruth Kapner  
Gabe & Cathy Bokor

Carl Hoppermann  
Loren & Charlene Rosenthal  
Kyle Hoppermann  
Loren & Charlene Rosenthal  
Dr. Richard Slater Cohen  
Doi Cohen  
Frederick C. Tuchmann  
Doi Cohen  
Ruth Kapner  
Bruce Kapner  
Kenneth Scheer  
Ed & Vivian Garber  
Anna Baum  
Nick & Nina Kraut  
Albert D. Kahn  
Matt & Muriel Lampell  
Aaron Silverman  
Richard & Linda Cantor  
Nettie Jacobs  
Irma Jacobs  
Sara G. Rice  
Irma Jacobs  
Irving Revitz  
Marty & Lynn Revitz  
Mae Berger  
Herb & Rita Jacobson  
Dorothy Schmukler  
David & Joan Posner  
Nathan Rosenberg  
Jill Oppenheimer Auerbach  
Julius Oppenheimer  
Jill Oppenheimer Auerbach

## RABBI'S FUND

### In Memory of:

Rose Ritter  
Bob & Mary Ritter  
In Honor of:  
Rabbi Berkowitz  
Bob & Marianne Abrams  
Joel & Claudia Kelson  
Ed Garber's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Jon, Joan & Jeffrey Ollendorf  
John & Arlene Russo

## COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

### LUNCH BOX FUND

#### In Honor of:

Linda Cantor's mother Gertrude's  
95<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Elaine Lipschutz  
Lila Matlin

#### In Memory of:

John Flowers  
Chuck & Roni Stein  
Dr. Irving Dreishpoon  
Matt, Elisa & Eric Auerbach

## MUSIC FUND

### In Honor of:

Vassar Temple  
Zoe Weinstein  
Ed Garber's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Larry & Brenda Schaffer

## ERDREICH FUND

### In Memory of:

Irene Edell  
Gene & Fran Isert  
Dr. Irving Dreishpoon  
Herb & Joan Kotz

## HINENI FUND

### In Honor of:

Ed Garber's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Melissa Erlebacher & Family

## Fund Facts: Tzedakah

For years, as we were running out the door to get the kids to religious school, we'd invariably ask, "Do you kids have your Tzedakah money?" Giving back through weekly Tzedakah began early with our kids as a way of introducing them to Tikkun Olam, our responsibility as Jews to "repair the world" with gestures and generosity toward people in need.

Through the **Community Tzedakah Fund (CTF)** as well as the **Tzedakah Box** located near the stairwell in the lobby, we can all continue to uphold this

core value of our faith and help people in our community and the world at large. The CTF, administered through the Social Action Committee, is allocated to support various social action and community outreach initiatives and to purchase essential items that people cannot otherwise afford. Contributions to the CTF also help offset expenses associated with the monthly Lunch Box beyond in-kind donations of food from Temple members. Previous Tzedakah Box collections have provided socks for the homeless, household items for the local teen shelter following a fire that destroyed those items at the shelter, disaster relief to communities ravaged by natural disasters (hurricanes, earth-

quakes), school supplies for children in need, DSCPCA support and the Wind Chill Fund, to mention a few.

Congregants are invited (and encouraged!) to recommend CTF beneficiaries and also to make personal donations on the occasion of simchas, memorials, or simply to practice ongoing Tikkun Olam. And parents of children in the Religious School – make sure you send your students to school with their weekly contributions for Tzedakah! In doing so, they, too, are helping to fulfill our collective responsibility to those in need in our community and developing their own good habits of Tikkun Olam.

*Jen Dahmert*



## Yahrzeits

### OCTOBER 2

Joseph Albenda  
Susan Alpers  
Jessie Barker  
Alfred J. Bogad  
Frances Gray Conrad  
Dahnert  
William Falenki  
Sadie Gross  
Albert D. Kahn  
Fannie Levy  
Selma Sobel Lipson  
Michael Oremus  
Bernard Pearlman  
Robin Rayfield  
Dr. Ely Rosenthal  
Robert Sachs  
Sally Schaffer  
Helen Shapiro  
Joy Sumner  
Hymy Worona

### OCTOBER 9

Bernat Ackerman  
Lucilla Binder  
Margaret Ciminello  
Gertrude C. Clarfeld  
Judith Faria  
Ira Greenberg  
Bonnie Gordon  
Minnie Israel  
Aaron Parish  
Arthur Peritz  
Bessie Rabin  
Haim Ribbi  
Jeanne Loth Rubin  
Aleeyah Yankajtis  
Sansola  
Mary Stolack  
Joan E. Tulin

### OCTOBER 16

Morris Bronfeld  
Jean W. Dampf  
Milton Entner  
Charles Finnerman  
Lisette Goldemberg  
Ida Goldberg  
Gertrude Hines Groten  
Lisa Heidelberger  
Dr. Barry G. Jordan  
Norman Kramer  
Evelyn Locke  
Marion Miller  
Susan Doppelt Pearlman  
Albert Plotkin  
Harry Plotkin  
Harold Posner  
Dr. Martin Rabin  
J. Ralph Stein  
Joseph Sparks  
Jean Strauss

### OCTOBER 23

Henry Cantor  
Morris Fertig  
Arthur Fink  
Murray Sigalow  
Sidney Goldberg  
Dr. Lawrence Gould  
Lillian Greenman  
Murray Gutnick  
Bernard Himelstein  
Sidney Horowitz  
Claryce Jordan  
Howard Kapner  
Joshua Russell  
Karp  
Herman Katz  
Leo Klausner  
Charlotte Konick  
Max Eli Kosstrin  
Dr. William J. Lazarus  
Lisa Lemberger  
Sidney Locke  
Susan Salit Lowe  
Rose Maisel  
Ida S. Miller  
Ruth Muraskin  
Carl Nicholson  
Monroe Robbins  
Samuel Scope  
Murray Sigalow  
Ethel Solomon  
George Tofel  
Sophia S. Wolfson

### OCTOBER 30

Esther Mardon Bernstein  
Mollie Daniels  
Annie Erdreich  
Leo Feinstein  
Samuel Garber  
Samuel W. Gellert  
Benjamin Genshaft  
Tamar Grand  
Lisa Graney  
Jacob Haber  
Louis Heidelberger  
Edward J. Kovacs  
Amor Levy  
George Marcus  
Benjamin Michel  
Max H. Richter  
Bessie Rothausen  
Lenore Schiffman  
Fred Sisselman  
Lawrence Slate  
Gertrude F. Troeger  
Adele Lerman Warshaw  
Abraham Zack  
Mark Zatzkis

### 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 (Vassar Temple Youth) News

**VaTY** (grades 8-12) and **VaTY Jr.** (grades 5-7) always find ways to participate in Tefillah prayer, Tikun Olam social action and K'hillah community! We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events:

- **October 4** - VaTY BBQ: our kick-off event with food, lawn games and fun! We'll plan some events such as a service, shul-in, rock climbing, movie night, lunch box, bowling, skiing/tubing etc.
- **October 18** - VaTY Jr. Pizza Lunch after religious school/right before CROPWalk

- **October 18** – CROPWalk: Let's walk together to fight against hunger. Sign up and/or donate at <http://t.co/xJzmtjiq83>
- **November 13-15** - NFTY-NAR Fall Kallah at URJ Kutz Camp Warwick, NY

A weekend camp 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.

Events are more fun when everyone participates! Make sure you are in the loop by following us on Twitter **@VassarVaTY**. Updates will also be on the Vassar Temple Facebook page, in the Bulletin and in the mail. If you want to participate, please make sure we have your contact information. We want to hear *your* suggestions!!!

B'Shalom  
Shira and Dan

[youthgroup@vassartemple.org](mailto:youthgroup@vassartemple.org)

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Rabbi:</b>	Leah Berkowitz
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen Arnold
<b>Senior Scholar:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
<b>Cantorial Soloist:</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>1st Vice-President</b>	Mark Metzger
<b>2nd Vice- President:</b>	Ron Rosen
<b>Secretary:</b>	Susan Hecht
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Len Greenberg
<b>Sisterhood Co-Presidents:</b>	Laura Brundage & Danah Moore
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Bob Abrams
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	Brianna Erlebacher

## October 2015 Calendar

**Sunday                      Monday                      Tuesday                      Wednesday                      Thursday                      Friday                      Saturday**

				1 10am SEP	2 7:30pm Shabbat Services	3 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
4 9am R/S K-7 12pm Lunchbox 12:30 Youth Group BBQ 5:30 Pizza & Salad 7pm Simchat Torah Srv	5 Simchat Torah— Office Closed 10am Yizkor Service	6 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Ritual Cmte meeting	7 4:30pm Hebrew School, Gr 5-7 6:30pm R/S, Gr 8-12	8 10am SEP 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm VT Exec Cmte meeting	9 7:30pm Shabbat Services	10 9am Torah Study 10am 7th Grade Shabbaton 10am Gibbs Bat Mitzvah
11 Men's Club—Take down Sukkah NO R/S 1:30pm Apple picking	12	13 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	14 4:30pm Hebrew School, Gr 5-7 6:30pm R/S, Gr 8-12	15 10am SEP	16 6pm Family Dinner 7:30pm Shabbat Services	17 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
18 Shalom on Grand 8am Crop Walk 9am R/S K-7 9am Tentative B'nai Mitzvah date selection 12:30p Jr. YG Pizza	19	20 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Making the Torah Come Alive, w/ Rabbi Berkowitz	21 4:30pm Hebrew School, Gr 5-7 6:30pm R/S, Gr 8-12 7pm Martin Charwat lecture on Kurds 7pm Finance Cmte	22 10am SEP 7pm Board meeting	23 7:30pm Shabbat Services	24 9am Torah Study
25 Board Retreat 9am R/S K-7	26	27 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Making the Torah Come Alive w/ Rabbi Berkowitz	28 4:30pm Hebrew School, Gr 5-7 6:30pm R/S, Gr 8-12 7pm Rabbi Golomb lecture on Israel	29 10am SEP 6pm VTS Opening Dinner	30 7:30pm Shabbat Services	31 9am Torah Study