



# Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהדים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 158 No. 9 September 2012

## Selichot Program on September 8<sup>th</sup>

This year we will begin our High Holy Day observances the weekend after Labor Day since Selichot falls on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The evening will begin at 7:30 with a festive dessert buffet in the social hall, followed by a Havdalah service.

After we move upstairs to the sanctuary, the Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold Award for contributions to the spiritual life of the congregation will be awarded to Susan Karnes Hecht. Before the brief and moving Selichot service, our members Eleanor Pupko, a math teacher, and Gil Seligman, an appreciator of the arts, will each share brief reflections on the theme "This I Believe..." to encourage all of us to consider our own guiding values as another new year begins.

You will find this evening an excellent way to get into the mood for the upcoming Days of Awe, as well as to honor Susan and our speakers.



*Susan Karnes Hecht is the efficient and compassionate chair of our Reyut Committee, an excellent Torah reader, the organizer of our Talking Books program, and a beautifier of our bimah and grounds.*

## Upcoming Events

- Sept 2**  
Lunch Box, page 2
- Sept 8**  
Selichot Service, page 1
- Sept 9**  
Tiny Temple, page 4
- Sept 13**  
Holy Rollers, page 9
- Sept 17**  
Tashlich Service, page 4
- Sept 23**  
Put up Sukkah, page 4
- Sept 26**  
Break Fast, page 1
- Sept 30**  
Sukkot Service, page 3
- Oct 2**  
Meditation Group, page 10
- Oct 4, 11, and 18**  
Adult Education classes, page 4
- Oct 7**  
Lunch Box, page 9
- Oct 21**  
CROP Walk, page 9

## Break Your Fast at Temple Again This Year



At the conclusion of our Yom Kippur services, join with your Temple family and friends for a traditional dairy meal

at the sixth annual Vassar Temple Break the Fast in our Social Hall. After praying together as a congregation, let's celebrate the beginning of the New Year with each other on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> around 6:15 p.m., following *Ne'ilah*, the concluding Yom Kippur service, and the traditional Havdalah service led by our Youth Group.

In order to enjoy salads, kugel, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, fish, bagels, sweets and more on September 26<sup>th</sup>, you must prepay your reservation by September 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child under 13, with a maximum of \$40 per family unit. Just send a check made payable to Vassar Temple, with Break the Fast on the memo line, to 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 before September 21<sup>st</sup>.

To contribute food, or to be part of the fun of preparing for the Break the Fast, contact Sandra Mamis at 463-2678 or [mamis@optonline.net](mailto:mamis@optonline.net).

## High Holy Days Home Hospitality Needed

Vassar Temple has a long tradition of inviting college students in the area to share *Yom Tov* with us at Temple and at home. This is a wonderful way to enrich their High Holy Days experience—and your own. Please call the office at 454-2570 to let us know how many guests you would be willing to add at your table.

# Rabbi's Message: YOU ARE HERE



I am sure that virtually all of us have encountered a map that includes a prominent arrow with the caption, "You Are Here." Well, duh! Of course,

you are here! Wherever you go, there you are! No matter how hard you try, you can never get away from yourself.

Some of you may be thinking about now that I am missing the point. The arrow might point to where "you" are, but its real purpose is to exhibit the surrounding area; to put "here" in a context. The word "here" therefore only makes sense when you know its relation to elsewhere.

It is all a matter of emphasis. Put the

focus on "you" and the concept of "here" virtually disappears. Everywhere you are is here! Put the focus on "here" and context becomes critical. You are now defined by that which is around you.

I invite you to think about "You Are Here," as you sit in the synagogue during the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In the midst of the liturgy, the music, the teaching and moments of meditation, the simple assertion will cut both ways. At times, you will think about yourself: who you are, what is your purpose, what gives meaning to your life. And at these times of introspection, the "here" of Poughkeepsie, of the Temple and of the sanctuary in which you sit will disappear. You are in the presence of yourself.

At times, however, you will be aware

of place; not only the place of a synagogue, the gathering place of the people Israel, but also of the place of time: this day made sacred by Israel's history and heritage.

Who you are is deeply personal and ineluctable. It is nestled within your own soul. Yet, who you are is also defined by where you are: among friends and family, in a particular place and at a particular time, made special by the You who you are.

Debbie and I wish to extend to you our fondest blessings for a happy and fulfilling New Year. May you find your place – within your heart, among friends and family, within the community of Vassar Temple and the people Israel.

*Rabbi Paul Golomb*



September is a time of transition. The summer is fading into a recent memory, and regular activities are now resuming.

Our younger kids are returning to school, and the older ones are leaving to commence or continue their education at college. The Olympics are over, and many marveled at Aly Raisman's (whose family are members of Temple Beth Avodah in Newton, MA) performance in floor exercise, done to a jazzy version of Hava Nagilah.

September also brings the High Holy Days and the restart of Vassar Temple's programming, such as the Religious School, Sisterhood activities, Adult Education and the myriad of other activities. Our students in Grade 8 and up are about to experience a new Religious School format organized by Dr. Joel Hoffman.

Here are some ideas for you to ponder. Many of these events are coordinated by groups of Temple members, and there are many ways you can participate. Many of them don't require a lot of time, if any. Roll a Torah during Holy Roll-

## President's Message

ers, the temple program where we learn a little about our Torah scrolls and rewind them to allow the parchment and lettering to "breathe", and extend their life. It's a great time to start thinking about getting involved in one or more activities: be a greeter or an usher during the High Holiday services. Bring a food-filled shopping bag for the temple's Yom Kippur food drive. Help the Men's Club construct the Sukkah in front of the Temple building on Sunday September 23. This year's After Hours event, originally scheduled for July, will be rescheduled soon and promises to be a huge fun evening!

I hope to see everyone at Rosh Hashanah services, my first as Vassar Temple's president! Erev Rosh Hashanah starts this year on Sunday, September 16. Enjoy the High Holiday season with your family and friends. Whomever you choose to spend the High Holiday Season with, we hope that you enjoy the holidays. During this High Holiday Season, I wish all of you the best of health in the new year, and hope to see you frequently in the coming year.

*L'Shana Tova Tikatevu!!!  
Bob Abrams*

## Lunch Box Requests for September 2<sup>nd</sup>

It's not too late to contribute food, money, and/or your help for the Lunch Box Vassar Temple is sponsoring on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Because it's the Labor Day weekend, people who can cook and serve will be specially appreciated.

We also need donations of 3 lbs. of all-beef hot dogs and/or a dozen pieces of fresh fruit (soft fruits are best; grapes should be in small bags). You can drop off your donations in the temple refrigerator, marked with your name and "9/2 Lunch Box" beforehand, because the building will not be open that Sunday morning. Contributions to the Community Tzedakah Fund are used to supplement our food donations.

Let Marian Schwartz know how you will participate at 845-849-0025 or [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).

## Worship & High Holy Days Services

**Saturday, September 1**

NO Torah Study

**Friday, September 7.**

7:30pm Shabbat Service

**Saturday, September 8 Selichot**

9:00 a.m. Torah Service

7:30 p.m. Selichot Program  
& Service

**Friday, September 14**

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

**Saturday, September 15**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

**Sunday, September 16 Erev Rosh Hashanah**

6:30 p.m. Early Service (Family)

8:00 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Service

**Monday, September 17 Rosh Hashanah**

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

1:30 p.m. Children's Service

4:00 p.m. Tashlich Ceremony

**Tuesday, September 18 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah**

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

**Friday, September 21 Shabbat Shuvah**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

**Saturday, September 22**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

**Sunday, September 23**

1:00 p.m. Memorial Service at Cemetery

**Tuesday, September 25 Kol Nidre**

6:30 p.m. Early Service (Family)

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

**Wednesday, September 26 Yom Kippur**

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

High Holy day Study with Rabbi Golomb  
in the social hall

1:30 p.m. Children's Service

2:45 p.m. Afternoon Service

4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service

5:30 p.m. Ne'ilah

Please note: No tickets are required for any  
afternoon service, the Tashlich Ceremony, or  
for the second day of Rosh Hashanah

**Friday, September 28**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

**Saturday, September 29**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

**Sunday, September 30 Erev Sukkot**

7:00 p.m. Service

**Monday, October 1**

10:00 a.m. Sukkot Morning Service

**Friday, October 6**

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

**Saturday, October 7**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

## Scriptural Readings

**August 31 & September 1 Ki Tetzei**

Deuteronomy 23:8-24:13

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

**September 7 & 8 Ki Tavo**

Deuteronomy 26:12-28:6

Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

**September 14 & 15 Nitzavim**

Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

**September 21 & 22 Vayelekh (Shabbat Shuvah)**

Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10, Joel 2:15-27

**September 28 & 29 Ha'azinu**

Deuteronomy 32:1-52

Haftarah: II Samuel 22:1-51



## Guest Speaker and Therapy Animals at Shabbat Noach on October 19<sup>th</sup>

“Unsaid” is a novel about animals, afterlife, and the power of love. Its author, Neil Abramson, is an attorney; his wife is a veterinarian. Living with her and her 29 animals motivated him to write the book, as well as set up an animal welfare foundation. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of “Unsaid” is being donated to 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.

Neil Abramson will be the guest speaker at our Shabbat Noach service on Friday evening, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Thanks to Walter Effron of the Three Arts Book Shop in Arlington, his book will be available for purchase 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.

As part of our celebration of the animals in our lives, we will welcome some live therapy animals and their human partners to our social hall during the Oneg Shabbat after the October 19<sup>th</sup> service. Be sure to mark your calendar now for this special evening and plan to bring your whole family!

## Sukkot Services for the Whole Family on September 30<sup>th</sup>

After the solemnity of Yom Kippur, it always feels good to celebrate the harvest festival of Sukkot with your temple family. At our Erev Sukkot service at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> a *Chumash* (the Torah in book form in both Hebrew and English, with commentaries) will be presented to each of our students who are preparing for their B'nai Mitzvot this year. After the service we will enjoy refreshments under the stars in the *sukkah* on our temple lawn.

## Tashlich Service at Vassar College on September 17th

We read in Micah 7:20, “And You will cast into the depths of the sea all their sins.”

So Jewish communities have for many generations gathered on the First Day of Rosh Hashanah at bodies of water and recited the *Tashlich* Prayer to symbolize our wish to rid ourselves of our sins and errors and to be forgiven by God. In recent years, *Tashlich* is becoming an increasingly popular and meaningful Jewish practice for people of all ages, enabling them to start the new year with a clean slate.

As part of our own High Holy Day observances, we will be able to “cast our sins” (in the form of bread) into the water after the Children’s Service for Rosh Hashanah. Plan to join us with your family on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at beautiful Sunset Lake on the Vassar Campus. Bring your own bread crumbs; refreshments and shelters will be provided.

Driving directions: After driving through the Main Gate of Vassar College from Raymond Avenue, turn right at the second stop sign in front of Main Building. At the next stop sign turn left and then make an immediate right. The Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film will be on your left and Mudd Chemistry Building will be on your right. Proceed around the bend and down the hill. At the base of the hill, Sunset Lake will be on your right. Cross over the bridge and park either along the road or in the gravel area on your left.

## New Paths Service on September 22<sup>nd</sup>

A New Paths service will be held Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in the intimacy of the East Chapel. Please join us!

Most of this shabbat morning service is in English and everything is open to thoughtful contemplation and discussion. The focus is on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. The liturgy of the P’nai Or siddur includes both traditional and contemporary writings, and the service leader or those attending often bring supplemental materials to share. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique, thoughtful and spiritual Shabbat morning experience. A brief informal kiddush follows.

For more information about New Paths services, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com or 845-849-0025, or Rabbi Golomb at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.



### Pulpit Flowers

August 10	In honor of their 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary from Joel and Nadine Zaritsky.
September 7	Vassar Temple Sisterhood
September 14	Vassar Temple Sisterhood
September 16	In memory of Dr. Richard Slater Cohen from Doi Cohen.
September 21	Vassar Temple Sisterhood
September 25	In memory of our loved ones from Charles and Perla Kaufman.
September 28	Vassar Temple Sisterhood

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

## Have Fun Helping to Put Up Our Sukkah

On Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. the Men’s Club will put up a *sukkah* on the lawn in front of the temple. Our new light-weight *sukkah* is easy to handle and helpers are always welcome!

**Sisterhood Art Calendars** for 2012-13 are available for \$15 through Elaine Lipschutz, 452-1582.

## Tiny Temple Program for Young Children

Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
“Bringing in a Sweet New Year”



with crafts, 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](mailto:tinytemple@vassartemple.org).

## Mark Your Calendar for “Tinderbox Triangle: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria”

Our annual fall adult education course on the Middle East will consist of three classes at the temple on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. On October 4<sup>th</sup> the focus will be on Jordan. On October 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. Mouannes Hojairi of the Africana Studies Department at Vassar College will speak about Lebanon. And on October 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.vassartemple.org).



## Welcome to New Members of Vassar Temple

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

**Peter Groffman and Kay Bishop**

## Mim Oppenheimer Celebrates 95 Years!



*Mim Oppenheimer, the oldest member of our congregation, was surprised to see so many Vassar Temple friends when her daughter, Jill Auerbach, brought her to the Table Talk Diner as part of her birthday celebration at the end of July.*

*Among those who were able to celebrate with Mim were (left to right around the table) Elaine Lipschutz, Susan Hecht, Lila Matlin, Jill Auerbach (hidden), Mim, her son-in-law Ira Auerbach and granddaughter Lisa, Rabbi Golomb, Sandra Mamis, Muriel Lampell, Art Groten, and (not pictured) Debbie Golomb and Doi Cohen.*



## 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.

## 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!

To see more photos, go to [www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org) and click on Photo Gallery on the left.

## In Remembrance

Vassar Temple suffers in the loss of our members:

**William Laks**

Cousin of Robert Kraus

**Joshua Aaron Himmelstein**

Son of Howard & Emily Himmelstein

Vassar Temple shares in the grief suffered by the families of:

Edward Kleban,  
father of Richard Kleban

Emil M. Zullo,  
uncle of Joseph Carbo

## Refuah Sheleimah

...to our Temple members, **Bernice Edman, Gayle Margolin and Irma Jacobs**, 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](mailto:jfs@jewishdutchess.org), or phone Patty Weathers at 845-471-9811. JFS will be happy to provide you with a receipt for

## Vassar Temple Bulletin, published monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

Editor: Doi Cohen

Technical Support: Bob Abrams

Articles for the October bulletin must be submitted to the temple office by September 4. Sorry, we cannot take Bulletin articles over the phone! Articles may be sent to Sandi Rugar via e-mail, at [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or faxed to (845)452-5161.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

## Religious School Director's Column



“Who shall die by fire, and who by water?” For many people, that question --- part of the haunting Unetaneh Tokef prayer that marks the High Holidays --- is reason enough to boycott the Days of Awe. After all, the text of that famous medieval poem offers a simple, clear answer to why people suffer: it’s their own fault. They were given a perfectly fair trial (conveniently featuring God as prosecutor, defense attorney, witness, and judge), and every last chance to return to the right path, but they stubbornly refused God’s lifeline. So they were killed as punishment.

Particularly this fall, as we at Vassar Temple look back on a year singed with sorrow, the prayer seems not just unhelpful, but overtly offensive: How dare we even suggest that God metes out punishment in the form of personal tragedy?

In this sense, the prayer is a poetic rendition of the classical doctrine of reward and punishment: good things happen to good people, and bad things happen to bad people. This simple world-view is featured in the Torah, where we find passages like the famous one from

Deuteronomy that ties crop-nourishing

rain and sustenance to following God’s commandments, and, similarly, drought and famine to straying from God’s ways.

But the people who compiled the Bible knew something important about classical reward and punishment. They knew it wasn’t true! And they wrote a whole book to tell us.

The Book of Job --- the Bible’s only full-length treatise on human suffering --- is a nearly total rejection of the idea that we are punished in response to sin. Deuteronomy is wrong, says Job. The righteous suffer just like everyone else, because misery is not a punishment, and it’s not deserved. The Book of Job explains to the reader --- though not to Job himself --- that Job’s own suffering has come in spite of his perfect devotion to God. There was literally nothing Job could have done better.

Vexingly, though, the end of the book rejects any possibility of our understanding why bad things do happen. “Were you around when I made the sea?” God chastises Job in response to his attempt to understand his suffering. If you can’t understand how I spoke the world into existence, God says, what makes you think you could ever understand the nature of human pain? But one thing is clear: Suf-

fering isn’t sent as punishment.

This is the real power of Unetaneh Tokef. While at first glance it seems to support the idea of reward and punishment, it quotes the Book of Job more than any other source! Its biblical quotations, therefore, remind us not to take the simplistic doctrine of Deuteronomy too seriously. In other words, the text reflects what we may be tempted to believe; then the subtext reminds us not to succumb to those temptations.

It’s as if our tradition is shouting at us in the form of a voice from the past: On our own, we’re lost, leaping to conclusions that lead us astray. When we embrace our heritage and study our texts seriously, every so often we find a hidden jewel whose glow brightens even the darkest path.

Happy New Year.

[Adapted from my “How Was Your Flight?” in “Who By Fire, Who By Water: Un’taneh Tokef,” edited by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Ph.D.]

*Dr. Joel Hoffman*

---

### College Corner

It’s that time of year...time to update our list so that college students in the congregation can receive holiday packages, the online bulletin, messages from the Rabbi, etc. We love to keep our students connected to the congregation, but we need your help! After several years chairing this committee, I am passing it into the capable hands of Fern Wolf, who can be reached through [college@vassartemple.org](mailto:college@vassartemple.org).

**If you have a college freshman in your family** please provide Fern with the following information:

student’s name and preferred email  
parents’ names and preferred email  
name of college  
student’s school mailing address

**If you have a continuing student in your family** please notify Fern if his/her

school or mailing address has changed. Otherwise we will use the information from last year. If your student has taken a leave of absence from school, is studying abroad, or has an unusual semester calendar it would be helpful to know this as well so that packages can be timed appropriately. If you prefer that your student not be on the list for any reason, please notify us and your wishes will be respected.

**If you have a graduate student** we are happy to keep him/her on the list and need the same information listed above. We will remove the 2012 college graduates from the list unless notified that they have entered grad school.

Thank you, and we wish a happy and productive year to all of our wonderful students.

*Susan Karnes Hecht*

### JWV Plans September Meeting

The Jewish War Veterans, Post 625, will hold its monthly meeting on September 9, 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 of 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.

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](mailto:RSCHWA9881@aol.com) or (845) 849-0025.

## Support the *Hineni* Fund and the Gala on December 1<sup>st</sup>

A major fund-raising campaign is under way to develop the new *Hineni* Fund to provide long-term support for Vassar Temple's religious school operating expenses and youth programs. The temple's Board of Directors recently renamed the school The Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School as a lasting tribute to our beloved temple president, who passed away unexpectedly while attending the Biennial convention of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) in Washington, DC, last December.

During that time of inconceivable sadness, our congregation was lifted up by the words of Rabbi Richard Jacobs, URJ President, who spoke at Seth's funeral and described how "over and over again throughout his life, Seth Erlebacher said *Hineni* (here I am) to those around him." At the same time, Rabbi Golomb wrote about "Seth's innate integrity; a sense of internal oneness; the ability to meld together the distinct and diverse elements of one's life into a consistent and reinforcing whole." Because of his integrity, Rabbi continued, "Seth was truly a *tzaddik*. His presence in our lives, however brief in the greater scheme of things, has made a profound impression. Each one of us is better off for the blessing his life bestowed upon us."

*Hineni*, a Hebrew word translated literally as "here I am," is a deeply meaningful expression used in the Bible by individuals responding to God's call to take on a challenging or vital role at a crucial time. It makes its first appearance in Genesis in the story of the binding of Isaac, when Abraham's loyalty is tested by God. Later, it's Jacob's response to God when asked to go down into Egypt. The final biblical use of *Hineni* occurs in Isaiah, when God in turn promises to sustain the individual who makes a commitment. It's also the name of the prayer used to start the Kol Nidre service on Yom Kippur. *Hineni* was cho-



sen as the Fund's name to reflect Seth's enduring commitment to service.

In all things, Seth exemplified faith, readiness, and availability. In their early years as temple members, Seth and his wife Melissa served as advisors to our Youth Group, and they always maintained a strong commitment to Jewish

education in their family. He knew that a strong religious school and youth programs would lead to a more vibrant, robust temple community. Melissa reminisced that "most of the sessions Seth planned to attend at the Biennial centered on the URJ's Campaign for Youth Engagement. He truly felt that strong youth programming was the key to sustaining the future of Judaism and congregational life. He wanted kids to love being Jewish as much as he loved being Jewish. He wanted them to love coming to temple. We had planned, once his term as temple president was over, to once again serve together as youth group advisors." She continued, "In 2010 Seth helped chaperone the confirmation class's RAC [Religious Action Center] trip to Washington, DC. He loved that the kids thought he was cool and wanted to 'friend' him on Facebook. In between the fun and kidding around, he was also able to help them think more deeply about the Jewish values and advocacy issues they were exploring."

Seth was a devoted and loving husband and father for whom Jewish education was inextricably bound up with parenting. His two daughters have inherited the commitment modeled by their parents. As his younger daughter Brianna recalled, "sometimes my Dad had to push me to go to services, attend religious school, or practice for my Bat Mitzvah when I really wanted to hang out with my friends or watch TV. But once at temple, I was glad to be there. I liked seeing people I had known all my life. I liked trying to help my Dad, while he sat on the bimah, to stay with the beat of the music as he

shook his egg. I'm glad he pushed me to do more for my Bat Mitzvah, because I felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment afterwards. My Dad loved the temple, which made me love it too."

Seth's dedication to Vassar Temple as his primary volunteer activity not only expressed his core values, but was also his way of promoting a stronger overall community. In addition to serving on the temple board and in other internal capacities, he served on the board of the Community Hebrew School. Seth put his ideals into practice through his dedication to the Jewish community and particularly to its youth. We now have the opportunity to honor his legacy by coming together to further those ideals through the *Hineni* Fund.

The Fund will benefit from major and planned gifts solicited from the congregation, friends, and private foundations as well as more modest individual contributions. The fund raising goal for this initiative is at least \$150,000, of which over \$50,000 has been raised to date.

It will include the proceeds of *Bright Lights & Miracles*, a Gala event planned for Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 to 11:00 p.m., at the beautiful Locust Grove estate on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie. The honorees for *Bright Lights & Miracles* are Temple members Lou Lewis, Esq. and Dr. Arthur and Carol Menken, a few of the many bright lights in our congregation and community. Drs. Richard and Janice (Weinstein) Friedland will serve as honorary co-chairs for the event. The party committee, headed by Marilyn Lampell, Judy Creedon, and Lisa Rubenstein, is planning a delicious and celebratory evening that you will not want to miss, so mark your calendar now for the 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@ecosystemstrategies.com](mailto:andi@ecosystemstrategies.com)) or Jen Dahnert (226-1158; [jedah-nert@vassar.edu](mailto:jedah-nert@vassar.edu)).



## Thinking about purchasing an appliance?

TV - COMPUTER - REFRIGERATOR - FREEZER - MICROWAVE - RANGE - DISHWASHER - VACUUM - WASH-  
ER - DRYER - SOUND SYSTEM - SNOW BLOWER - LAWN MOWER

Your purchases can make huge amounts of money for the Temple!  
All you need to do is shop with SCRIP [Gift Cards]!

Purchases at SEARS net the Temple 16% in profit  
[that's \$16 for every \$100 you spend... and it doesn't cost you any extra!]

Purchases at Best BUY net the Temple 5% in profit

Purchases at LOWE'S net the Temple 5% in profit

Purchases at HOME DEPOT net the Temple 5% in profit

Purchases at OVERSTOCK net the Temple 8% in profit



It is so easy to help.  
In these tough economic times,  
make every dollar you spend count for more.

***Shopping with SCRIP Makes Lots of Cents!***

Questions on becoming a SCRIP Program Supporter?  
Contact the VASSAR TEMPLE SCRIP COORDINATOR TODAY:

SANDRA MAMIS, 463-2678  
[SCRIP@VASSARTEMPLE.ORG](mailto:SCRIP@VASSARTEMPLE.ORG)



## Join us at the Interfaith CROP Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>



The Dutchess County Interfaith Council will sponsor the annual community CROP Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:cropwalk@vassartemple.org). If you can help at the registration table any time between 9:15 and 3:00 on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).

---

### Holy Rolling at Doi Cohen's House on September 13th

The next Holy Rollers session will take place on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the home of temple member Doi Cohen, 45 Wildwood Drive in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Everyone is welcome to help unroll and re-roll our scrolls and enjoy light refreshments and each other's company.

While we are doing this mitzvah to help preserve our scrolls, Rabbi Golomb will tell us how to "look for the signs." Without either vocalization marks (the

Hebrew equivalent of vowels) or punctuation, the Torah can be difficult to read even for a practiced Hebrew reader. There are, however, some clues. By rolling through a Torah scroll, we can learn to identify them.

Please let Doi know that you are planning to be a Holy Roller on September 13<sup>th</sup> by contacting her at [dcohen1230@gmail.com](mailto:dcohen1230@gmail.com) or 462-6193. She will be glad to give you driving directions, since it's a bit tricky to find her house, even with a GPS.



---

### October 7<sup>th</sup> Lunch Box Needs Your Help

Our hungry neighbors are counting on us. Your assistance is needed when we are scheduled to cook and serve at the Lunch Box (in the Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie) on Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Helpers are sorely needed from 11:30 a.m. until about 2:15 p.m. Friends, relatives, and neighbors are all welcome to join in this mitzvah, and teens will be given community service credit.

Donations of one dozen pieces of fresh fruit and other ingredients specific to the day's menu may be dropped off beforehand in the Temple kitchen, at your convenience, during hours when the Temple is open. Financial donations to our temple's Community Tzedakah Fund help us purchase other needed food items.

Once again we are there on a holiday weekend (Columbus Day) so good help

will be hard to find-- please come and help, or if you can't, then do whatever you can to support this vital project! To find out what food items are needed, to sign up to donate an item, or to volunteer to help cook and serve, please contact Marian Schwartz now at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) or 845-849-0025.

## Meditation Group Resumes 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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](mailto:office@vassartemple.org).

## The Reform Jewish Voice

Although the Orthodox represent the minority of New York State's Jewish populace, "Before 10 years ago, the only [Jewish] voices [heard in the halls of the State Capitol] were the men in the black hats. And they were here frequently," said Honey Heller, co-chair of the Reform Jewish Voice of New York State. "And our views on virtually all issues were very, very different." Thus the Reform Jewish Voice of New York State was formed.

Last year RJV was the only Jewish lobby involved in the successful drive for Marriage Equality. Now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the advocacy group held its annual lobbying day in Albany this spring when fifty members of Reform synagogues from around the state met with key legislators and provided them with a progressive Jewish perspective on

the issues surrounding campaign finance reform, raising the minimum wage, and the Reproductive Health Act.

Now RJV is taking on the controversial environmental and economic issue of fracking. Rabbi Jennifer Jaech, another co-chair of the group, fears that the progressive voice is often lost, and that generally, "Lawmakers hear from religious groups advocating against legislation. We want the progressive voice to be heard." To keep informed and lend your voice to theirs, visit their website and subscribe to their newsletters and action alerts at <http://rac.org/advocacy/rjv>

*Your Vassar Temple Social Action Committee*

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

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

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

## From the Finance Committee

With the conclusion of fiscal year 2011/12 (June 30, 2012) it is time, once again, to recognize and thank those members who chose to contribute dues at the Special Category levels that were established several years ago... Guardian (\$5,500+), Benefactor (\$4,000 - \$5,499), and Patron (\$2,500 - \$3,999). **These generous contributions, over the minimum dues levels, were especially welcome and are gratefully acknowledged by the entire congregation.**

### Guardian

Steven & Linda Lant  
Steve & Shelley Turk

### Benefactor

Art & Marge Groten  
David & Marilyn Lampell  
Brian & Helen Silverman  
Gloria Turk

### Patron

Dan & Susan Albinder  
Charles & Joan Blanksteen  
Doi Cohen  
Richard DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein  
Bob & Doris Feitelson  
Howard & Rochelle Friedman  
Jeff & Nan Genshaft  
Jack & Fredrica Goodman

Matt & Muriel Lampell  
Harry & Sandra Mamis  
Stan & Wendy Marcus  
Art & Carol Menken  
Loren & Charlene Rosenthal  
Justin & Deborah Scheer  
Ralph & Marian Schwartz  
Charles & Roni Stein

In addition, we wish to thank those members who contributed dues above the minimums established, although below the special categories listed above.

Finally, our thanks to all members who paid their dues in a timely manner; contributed to the various special funds, endowment funds, Capital Fund, and/or High Holy Day appeal; and supported the many fund raising events (especially our on-going retail SCRIP program) during the past year. All of these contributions help us to keep Vassar Temple running and help to fund the programs and events that we all want and expect.

# Contributions

## RABBI'S FUND

Steven & Linda Lant

## IN MEMORY OF

Joshua Aaron Himelstein

Stephen & Jo Ann Greller

## SUSTAINING FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Sol Present

Debra & Kevin Tierney

Sylvia Soirefman

Mark & Elaine Plansky

Cecelia Riechman

Vivian & Ed Garber

Irving Schwartz

Steve, Shelley, Samantha & Stefanie Turk

Gertrude Rosenthal

Charlene & Loren Rosenthal

Ida Cohen

Carole & Barry Horowitz

& Family

Phillip Moselle, OD

Jonathan Moselle

Dr. Sidney S. Cohen

Doi Cohen

Dr. Richard Slater Cohen

Joshua Aaron Himelstein

Muriel & Matt Lampell

Richard & Linda Cantor

Doi Cohen

Marianne & Bob Abrams

Ed & Vivian Garber

Marsha & Richard Lowry

Buddy & Jill Loeb

Linda & Joel Babas

Sandra & Harry Mamis

Gayle & Sandor Margolin

David & Francine Kaplan

Alan E. Apfel, MD

Irmgard Apfel

Ethel Marcus

Eleanor Albenda

Hillard Mann

Barbara & Alan Lemberger

Margot Similes

Sandra & Harry Mamis

## IN HONOR OF

The birth of Cooper Jacobson Reinfeld

Kathy & Kent Mardon

Susan Hecht receiving the Arnold Award

Marsha & Richard Lowry

Marianne & Bob Abrams

## ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLARS' FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Robert H. Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

David Clearfield

## COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Joshua Aaron Himelstein

Diane & Phil Sterdt



## Yahrzeits

### September 7

Rebecca Baskin

Murray Gordon

Nathan Rosenberg

Dr. Nathan Bernstein

Ryan Creedon

Ida Schwartz

Carl Hoppermann

Ailene Braw Baskin

Rebecca Slutsky

Cohen

James Mrazek

Richard M. Held

### September 14

Norman Lesk

Ada M. Shelton

Solomon Diamond

Samuel Wallace

Kyle Hoppermann

Edith Roizen

Samuel Feldman

Edward Markum

Marilyn Dugatkin

John Sparks

Leah Aberman

Julius Oppenheimer

Louis Lass

James Lowry

Solomon Dunn

Philip Finnerman

Eva D. Lippmann

Sheila Polkes

Dora J. Chertock

Sam Brozen

Klara Haas

Saul Heiser

Anna Katz

Edith Ratner

Martin Gross

Fannie Moselle

Celia Levine

### September 21

Aaron Rabin

Hilda Klausner

Aaron Silverman

Bertha Chazen

Richard Wayne

Kallman

Morris Goldberg

James Benton

William Dorn

Edward Cohen

Bernard Decovnick

Edna Cohn

A.D. Hoffman

Irene Edell

Rose S. Weigert

Charlotte Zuckerman

Elio Ribbi

Faye Korn

### September 28

Goldie H. Worona

Barnett Colton

Louis Altman

Emanuel Aloise

Patricia Kramer

Lillian Martone

Dr. Paul Lieberman

Dorothy Schmukler

Erna Dorn

Albert D. Kahn

William Falenki

Frances Gray

Conrad Dahnert

Joseph Albenda

Susan Alpers

Selma Sobel

Lipson

Bernard Pearlman

Sally Schaffer

Hymy Worona

Joy Sumner

Dr. Ely Rosenthal

Robert Sachs

Sadie Gross

Helen Shapiro

Raphael Horn

Sophie Schwartz

Howard Cohen,

MD

Elizabeth Troeger

Irving J. Wurtzel

### 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.

## Home Service for Rosh Hashanah

The New Year, like the Sabbath and Festivals, is welcomed in the home with prayer and festivity. Congregational worship at the Temple is enriched when preceded by a family Kiddush service. Family members and guests should plan to be home earlier on the Eve of Rosh Hashanah. The table should be given a festive appearance: fresh flowers and an attractive table setting will help everyone feel the significance of the occasion. At each plate there is a bit of **honey**, a slice of **apple** and a cup of **wine**. A round **Challah** is set in a prominent place.

(Kindle the Candles and pray:)

**Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, A-sher kid'-sha-nu  
b'-mitz-vo-tav v'taz-va-nu l'had-lik nayr shel Yom Tov.**

Praised be You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us by Your commandments and bidden us kindle the Festival lights.

May our home be consecrated, O God, by Your light. May it shine upon us all in blessing, the light of love and truth, the light of peace and good will.

(Lift the Kiddush cup and pray:)

Let us praise God with this symbol of joy and give thanks for the blessings, which this New Year's Day brings to us. Happy are we that God has granted us another year of life; and may it be God's will to inscribe us for the coming year in the Book of Life, Happiness and peace.

**Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam bo-ray p'-ri ha-ga-fen.**

Praised be You, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

May the New Year bring increasing peace and harmony to our home. As we eat honey and the apple, we hope that the year upon which we have entered will be sweet in well being and fruitful in well doing.

**Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, bo-ray pri ha-etz.**

Praised be you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruits that grow on trees.

**Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu  
v'-ki-y'-ma-nu v'-hi-gi-ya-nu la-z'-man ha-zeh. Amen.**

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, for the privilege of beholding once more the dawn of the New Year. May it be for us, for Israel and for all people a year of health and happiness, a year of love and peace.

**Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz.**

Praised be You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.

Amen.

(Complete Kiddush, other prayers can be found on pp. 80-86 of **ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE, Prayers & Ceremonies in the Jewish Home**. Available at our Judaica Shop.)

## Home Service for Yom Kippur

The solemn, soul-searching mood of **Kol Nidre Eve** begins **at home**, late in the afternoon. The final meal before Yom Kippur is simple--rich and spicy foods are avoided. There is no Kiddush; the meal itself is not part of the Holy Day. At the **conclusion of the meal**, one inaugurates the fast and the Holy Day by kindling the lights and offering this blessing and prayer:

**“Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam a-sher  
kid’-sha-nu b’-mitz-vo-tav v’-tzi-va-nu l’-had-lik ner shel  
Yom Hakippurim.”**

“Praised be You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has sanctified us by Your commandments and bidden us kindle the lights of the Day of Atonement.”

“God of mercy and forgiveness, open the gates to heaven unto our prayers on this Sacred Day, and pardon our transgressions. Create in us a pure heart; and make me worthy to (rear my children so that they) walk in the way of righteousness before You, loyal to Your Torah, and clinging to good deeds. Keep far from us all shame, grief, and care; and send healing for all our sorrows. Remember us unto life, O Ruler, Who delights in life; and inscribe us in the Book of Life, for Your sake, O God of Life.”

(Everyone together)

**“Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu, v’-ki-y’-ma-nu v’-hi-gi-ya-nu  
laz-man ha-zeh.”**

“We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has kept us in life and permitted us to reach this Holy Day.”

(If there are children present, a parent, with hands upon the head of each child in turn, silently asks such blessing as the heart may prompt, or may use this prayer.)

“May the God of our Ancestors bless you; May the One Who has guided us into this day lead you to be an honor to our family. May the One Who has protected us from all evil make you a blessing to Israel, and all people.”

Amen.

(In many families it is also the custom to kindle a Yahrzeit Light at this time, to be kept burning throughout the Holy Day in remembrance of the departed.)

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



PRSTD STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Permit # 11  
 Newburgh, N.Y.

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Rabbi:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen A. Arnold
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
<b>Cantorial Soloist:</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Robert Abrams
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Marge Groten
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Brenner
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Silverman
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Jeff Brenner & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Sandra Mamis



## September 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NO Torah Study
2 11:30am Lunch Box	3 LABOR DAY Office Closed	4 October Bulletin deadline 10am SEP	5 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	6 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	7 CAN JAM Weekend 7:30pm Shabbat Service	8 SELICHOT 9am Torah Study 7:30pm Program & Service
9 9am-12pm RS K-7 10:30am Tiny Temple	10 Flyers Deadline	11 10am SEP	12 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	13 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud 7pm Holy Rollers	14 7:30pm Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	15 9am Torah Study
16 EREV ROSH HASHANAH NO RS 6:30pm Early Service (Family) 8pm Rosh Hashanah Service	17 ROSH HASHANAH 10am Morning Service 2:30pm Children's Service 4pm Tashlich Ceremony	18 ROSH HASHANAH Office Closed 10am Morning Service	19 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-12	20 10am SEP 11:30am Talmud	21 7:30pm Shabbat Service	22 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
23 9am-12pm RS K-7 9am Put up Sukkah 1pm Memorial Ser- vice at Cemetery	24 7pm Board Meeting	25 KOL NIDRE 6:30pm Early Ser- vice Service (Family) 8pm Kol Nidre	26 YOM KIPPUR 10Morning 1:30 Children's 2:45pm Afternoon 4:45pm Yizkor 5:30pm Closing 6:15pm Break Fast	27 11:30 Talmud	28 7:30pm Shabbat Service	29 9am Torah Study
30 EREV SUKKOT  9am-12pm RS K-7 7pm Sukkot Service						