



Where You Belong

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהלים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 161 No.2 September 2014

Back by Popular Demand...Vassar Temple's *Break the Fast!!!*

The 6th Annual Vassar Temple *Break the Fast* will be offered at the conclusion of our Yom Kippur services on Saturday, October 4th, following Ne'ilah. (concluding service ends about 6:15 p.m.) You are invited to join with your Temple family and friends in the Social Hall for a traditional dairy meal as we welcome in the New Year. Enjoy salads, kugel, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, fish, bagels, sweets and more

Prepaid reservations are a MUST!

RSVP BY September 26th

Children under 13 - \$5

Adults - \$15

Family unit- max. \$36



A check made payable to Vassar Temple with *Break the Fast* on the memo line can be mailed to the Temple office at 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. If you'd like to help plan this event, we'd love to have you involved! For more info about any aspect of the event, contact Sandra Mamis at 463-2678 or mamis@optonline.net

Lunch Box Needs Your Help

- Prepare and serve food for the needy on Sundays September 7th and/or October 5th
- Help plan Lunch Box coverage. (done at your convenience via e-mail)

Please contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org if you can help with either.

Upcoming Events

Sept 5 CAN JAM
 Sept 7 Lunch Box, p1
 Sept 14 Tiny Temple, p7
 Sept 16 Adult Ed. p 6,7
 Sept 20 Selichot Service, p3
 Sept 24 Family Service, p3
 Sept 24 Evening Service, p3
 Sept 25 Morning Service, p3
 Sept 25 Children's Service, p3
 Sept 25 Tashlich Service, p3
 Oct 1 Break the Fast, p1
 Oct 9 Book Club, p5

Save the Date

CROPWALK Sunday Oct. 19

For further info or to help, contact
Dave Wolf davewolf@optonline.net
229-8038.

Spring Rummage Sale Success

When I took over the Rummage sales from Joan Reifler, I thought it would be fun, as well as good, for Vassar Temple. Well, now it is years later and I am running the sales with co-chairs, Ann Lerman, and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush.

What would we do without Emily Himelstein, Joan Reifler, Nadine Zaritsky, Susan Needelman, Linda Babas, Ann Harmuth, and now Jasmine Russo? Much thanks, also, to our intrepid Rummage Crew which includes: Judy Rosenfeld, Michelle Sinn, Joyce Gally, Howard Himelstein, Sue Barbash, Perla Kaufman, Wendy Giangrasso, Lisa Rubenstein, Nancy Sampson, and others who help when they can. The office support from Sherrie and set-up/take-down services provided by Alvin also give us essential help in hosting these sales. Our crew and support people spend approximately two weeks for each sale preparing, selling and then clearing the social hall. It is a feat of wonder that we take the social hall from clear before sale day to full of Rummage and back again in less than two weeks!

Sales generate over \$3,000 per year for Sisterhood which translates into events and programs, while providing funds for Temple projects. One project has been the upgrade of the kitchen which continues this summer with new cabinets.

We have many customers who are in need and we provide a necessary source for clothes and household items that would not otherwise be affordable to them. Our donations come from mostly Temple members, but now are also coming from Temple friends. Many people are downsizing these days and see the Rummage sales as a convenient way to donate items and clear their homes. We always look for new members for the Rummage Crew. If you'd like to join us, just let us know.

The next Rummage sale is mid-fall. More information will be in the October Bulletin.

Roni Stein, Anne Lerman, & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Rabbi's Message: Service



The building that is Vassar Temple was built with rather permanent walls. Actually, this is an ongoing problem. The walls are so permanent that it is very difficult to run new wiring or pipes through them. Buildings that house synagogues should be sturdy, true enough; but one would like them to be more flexible.

The Temple is constructed with rigid materials, but the congregation is built from something more dynamic and fluid. The two intertwine. At especially busy times, such as Sunday mornings, Friday evenings, and the numerous days and nights when programs are taking place, the walls literally hum with sounds, both voices and music. On quieter occasions, the numerous photos and plaques adorning the building's walls visually reflect names and faces of individuals who have become part of the very fabric of the synagogue. Inanimate walls transform into a living entity, a thriving congregation with a long history, a lively present and a hopeful future.

For the last few years I have made a point of devoting my summer Bulletin column to acknowledging and expressing personal thanks to individuals who breathe life into the walls of the synagogue. Vassar Temple is uncommonly rich in the level of volunteer service provided by members.

I would like, however, to begin with the

small paid staff: Maria Munzo, the kitchen manager whenever we have an Oneg Shabbat, Kiddush, or dinner; Alvin Rosen, the Temple's custodian; Sherrie Geisler, office manager, and; Joel Hoffman, Religious School Director. These vital members of our Temple community do not merely show up and execute their tasks, they exhibit care and concern for the congregation that includes actions and activities that go beyond the remuneration they receive. Maria, Alvin and Sherrie began their duties this year, and all have had to deal with the steep learning curve that must be navigated when dealing with new systems and circumstances. They have not only taken to their responsibilities but also have done so with good humor, calm demeanors and overall warmth to congregants with whom they have come in contact.

Joel Hoffman is a nationally-renown speaker, author and consultant. Indeed, he is capable of receiving generous compensation for appearances before congregations (Jewish and Christian) and organizations around the country. He has, however, freely given of his scholarship and erudition to Vassar Temple as a part of the congregation itself.

* * *

Every summer, Debbie and I make a point of attending the plays, workshops and readings presented by Vassar College's Powerhouse Theater. This annual festival is principally designed to give playwrights an opportunity to develop works for production

on New York City stages or elsewhere. One of the overall producers will usually address the audience before a presentation. In addition to the usual caution about turning off your cell phones, she will tell us how important our presence is to the creative process. And we thought we were there just to experience a play!

Organist Joe Bertolozzi and Soloist Elisa Dugatkin have enhanced and inspired worship at Vassar Temple for over a decade. They bring talent and expertise, to be sure, but more than that, they bring their very souls toward making services moving and meaningful. They are "on stage," so to speak.

I would personally like to acknowledge and thank the "Jews in the pews," the Shabbat evening regulars who are as important to the quality of Vassar Temple worship as the audience is to Powerhouse Theater productions. They include: Matt & Muriel Lampell, Doi Cohen (whose spirit will continue to float in from Philadelphia), Elaine Lipschutz, Ron Rosen, Melissa Wall, CJ Kelley, Mark Metzger, Eleanor Pupko, Ed & Vivian Garber, Joel Kelson and Gloria Turk. They, and many others who come often, but less frequently, are the life and spirit that pulsate through the walls of the synagogue.

I hope you all had a peaceful and fruitful summer.

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message: Choice

One of the privileges of having a regular column in the VT Bulletin is that it offers a special means for the president to share his/her opinions. In this issue I'd like express my personal thoughts relating to interfaith marriage, but in the broader sense, choice.

Love may not be choice, but entering into an interfaith marriage is. Do any of us want the choice to marry a non-Jew to mean that Vassar Temple is not a place for them? Of course not! But by not welcoming interfaith couples, who have chosen to create a Jewish home together, to marry at Vassar Temple, are we pushing those individuals away from Vassar Temple? The Rabbi Search Committee has heard a clear message from the congregation on the need for welcoming interfaith couples at the time of marriage.

With all the attention given to lineage in the Jewish tradition, it should not be overlooked how much significance choice plays in becoming a Jew, by Jews and non-Jews. Several years ago, I was on the treadmill at the gym next to a Jewish acquaintance from Vassar Temple. This individual asked, "How are you raising your children since they're not Jewish?" I said, "What do you mean they're not Jewish?" I was told, "Your wife, their mother, is not Jewish, so your children are not Jewish." Besides hurting my feelings, this person illustrated a misperception and a stigma faced by interfaith families.

Our children were raised Jewish and they are Jewish but that was a choice my wife and I made as parents. Now our children are adults, and as adults, they each have a personal choice to make: do

they wish to practice as a Jew or not?

It's fair to say that the exodus from Egypt is the quintessential defining moment of Jewish choice, beginning with the choice of freedom over slavery, and ultimately, the choice to accept the Torah. This choice made thousands of years ago, defines Jews today. This may be the most significant choice in Jewish history, and it was made by a "mixed multitude," meaning Jews and many non-Jews.

Religion is an individual choice. Our hereditary background sets us on a course. But through our lives, we step on, and walk off, paths set before us. Consciously or subconsciously we are making choices. At times in our life we need to affirm and reaffirm who we are, choosing who we wish to be. When something is not right for us, it takes courage to make a big change. Or when we may have lost our way and

President continued on page 6

September Worship Services

5	7:30pm Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
6	9:00am Torah Study
12	7:30pm Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Golomb
13	9:00am Torah Study; 10:00am New Paths Service
19	7:30pm Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Golomb and Elisa Dugatkin
20	9:00am Torah Study 7:30pm S'lichot program and worship
24	Rosh Hashanah: 6:30pm Family service; 8:30pm Evening service
25	Rosh Hashanah: 10:00am Morning service; 2:30pm Children's service
26	Rosh Hashanah: 10:00am Second Day service 7:30pm Shabbat evening worship with Rabbi Golomb
27	9:00am Torah Study

Scriptural Readings

Sept. 6 **Ki Teitzei**
Deut. 21:10-23:7
Isaiah 54:1-10

Sept. 13 **Ki Tavo**
Deut. 26:1-27:10
Isaiah 60:1-22

Sept. 20 **Nitzavim-Vayelekh**
Deut. 29:9-30:14
Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Sept. 27 **Ha'azinu (Shabbat Shuva)**
Deut. 32:1-52; Hosea 14:2-10
Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27

S'lichot Program and Service Sept. 20th

New Paths Service

New Paths Service will be held Saturday, Sept. 13th at 10:00am in the East Chapel. The focus is on letting the service get through you, rather than on getting through the service. The atmosphere has been described by participants as spiritual, uplifting, and thought provoking. The moving liturgy of the New Paths prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. Each New Paths service, whether lay-led or rabbi-led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief informal kiddush follows. The community is invited to join us. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

The Saturday before Rosh Hashana, we meet for a s'lichot program in order to begin to spiritually prepare for the coming High Holy Days. At 7:30pm on Saturday, Sept. 20th, we will join together in the social hall for a dessert reception and the presentation of the Arnold Award to Joel Kelson. Following the lovely ritual of havdalah to usher out the sabbath, we will move upstairs for brief and moving commentaries from two of our congregants, one from the sciences and one from the humanities, on the topic, "This I Believe," to encourage us all to reflect on our own guiding values as the New Year begins. The s'lichot service (penitential prayers) will begin at approximately 10pm. The lateness of the hour adds to the mood of quiet and introspection that is central to this observance.

Rabbi Golomb provides us with this

teaching on s'lichot. Jewish tradition, which appreciates tasks well done, has a special genius for setting up opportunities for preparation. These occasions are usually given the Hebrew name, *tikkunim*. The term, *tikkun* is especially clever for it connotes two meanings. First, there is "preparation." The second meaning, however, is "reparation," "making whole." For the Jewish mystics, *tikkun* referred to a collective act of worship, study and the doing of good deeds that would repair the vessels of Creation and usher in the age of Redemption. *S'lichot* is one of the *tikkunim*.

The s'lichot service is devoted to a reaffirmation of our personal and collective resources that permit us to regret our errors and turn us toward the ideals we hold for ourselves and our community. Please join us in this powerful and moving act of preparation for the days that will follow.

Tashlich Ceremony Sept. 25th

B.Y.O. breadcrumbs and join members of Vassar Temple in symbolically casting your sins upon the waters at a brief family-friendly tashlich ceremony to be held 4:00pm on Thursday, Sept. 25th at Sunset Lake on the beautiful grounds of Vassar College. Shelter will be provided in case of inclement weather and refreshments will be served. This informal event is held shortly after the Rosh Hashana Children's Service, for the convenience of young families. For further information please contact the Temple office office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.



Mazal Tov

to:

Max Samson on receiving Dutchess Outreach's *Youth Volunteer of the Year* Award for his year-round volunteer activities at the Lunch Box and Cereal Counts;
 Bob and Mary Ritter on the wedding of their son, Alex, to Melissa Clark;
 Steven and Margot Peter on their son Samuel's Bar Mitzvah;
 Joanne and Bob Dyson on the May 16th birth of their granddaughter, Lucrezia Tumminello, who joins parents, Pam and Joey, and big sister, Rayna.

Refuah Shelemah

to: George Rugar

Pulpit Flowers

Sept 5: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood
 Sept. 12: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood
 Sept. 19: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood
 Sept. 26: Donated by 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 the Temple office at 454-2570. The donation to the Shrub Fund is \$55.

Vassar Temple Board Recognizes Marianne Abrams

At the May 21st congregation meeting, Marianne Abrams received a citation from the Board of Trustees in appreciation of publishing the Temple Bulletin for the past 12 years. Bob Ritter presented the citation to Marianne, noting that some Temple members who volunteer their time on a regular basis do so cheerfully, quietly and efficiently. Their contributions become a regular part of Temple life!

The Board citation highlights Marianne's efforts in producing the Bulletin in a clear, easily readable format with color graphics. This responsibility is incredibly time-consuming and has a monthly dead-

Arnold Award Goes to Joel Kelson

The Arnold Award, named to honor Rabbi Emeritus Stephen A. Arnold, is presented annually to honor a congregant for outstanding contributions to the religious/spiritual life of the congregation, specifically in one or more of the three realms that are described in the Pirke Avot as the foundations of the world: study, worship, and acts of loving kindness. This year's recipient of the coveted award is Joel Kelson.

Joel is a familiar figure at Temple events, most often accompanied by his young children. In this way, he is a great role model not only for his children but for other Temple families. As a member of the Ritual Committee, Joel can always be counted on whether it is with technological expertise, musical expertise, knowledge of Hebrew and conducting religious services, or the donation of refreshments to enhance any event. He helps lead summer services and is bringing the joy of music to our services year round as chairman of the Music Committee. Joel is also a constant supporter of all Temple social action/community service/tzedakah projects. Additionally, he is part of the Nachamu (Comforting) Commit-

Condolences

Herb & Suzi Stoller and family, on the recent passing of Herb's older brother, Eddie;

Sherrie Geisler, on the recent passing of her partner, Thomas (Tucker) McGrath;

Jeff Brenner and his family, on the recent passing of Jeff's father, Martin Brenner;

Eleanor Albenda, on the recent passing of her son, David Albenda.

tee, which helps our congregants deal with issues surrounding terminal illness, death and mourning. In his "spare time," Joel ably serves as the Temple's webmaster, helping to foster communication among the congregation, and sharing information about Temple life with the public on-line. Come and help honor Joel when he is presented with the Arnold Award during a dessert reception to be held in the social hall, Saturday, Sept. 20th, at 7:30 p.m. This will be followed by a beautiful, brief havdalah service to usher out the sabbath. You are invited to stay for an inspiring Selichot program and service, which follows in the main sanctuary, to help us all spiritually prepare for the High Holy Days.



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

From the Religious School Director



One of Judaism's earliest and most long-lasting contributions to the world was the radical suggestion 3,000 years ago that all people have inherent rights:

rich and poor, land-owners and servants, men and women, Jews and pagans. This simple message was encoded in theological language. While other nations made the populace serve royalty, we insisted that king and subject alike serve God.

Not surprisingly, it took some time for us to work out the details. We've recognized that slavery is incompatible with our mission, for instance. And to this day there are large swaths of the world that haven't read the memo, as it were, places where people's destinies are purposefully limited by the circumstances of their birth.

But we haven't given up on the ideal that every human being should be treated as no less than a creature of God. Indeed, we have worked tirelessly to realize it, which is why Jews helped lead the anti-slavery movements of last century, and why Rabbi Stephen Wise helped establish the NAACP. It's also why the State of Israel was founded with the principles of universal suffrage and equal rights written directly into its declaration of independence.

Among the most important rights that accompany this nearly divine status is an invitation to help shape society, whether in the form of voting, speaking, writing, or acting. These necessarily entail an almost unbelievable burden, because, left to their own devices, who knows what people will do?

The fact that we have empowered each individual to change the world is one of the primary driving forces behind our Jewish devotion to learning: If we're going to give people power --- and we have already committed to do so --- we have an obligation to give them the tools they need to decide well: education, compassion, and a sense of the divine. Or, in Hebrew, Torah ("education"), Avodah ("service to God"), and G'milut Chasadim ("acts of kindness"), a trio from the Talmud now immortalized in song.

And this is why we have a school at the Temple.

It's not just that our children have to learn Bible stories or ceremonial rituals or religious history or Hebrew letters, though all of those are valuable. We have a more fundamental and pressing reason. We'll soon be handing the next generation the very keys to God's realm.

On a small scale, it's in our own personal interest to make sure they handle the responsibility well, for most of us will live to see them running things. On a larger scale, we have a responsibility to the Jewish people, not just to the future, but also to our ancestors who bequeathed this glorious tradition to us and our children. And on a larger scale yet, we have long recognized our ongoing responsibility to all of God's creatures, wherever and whenever they may live.

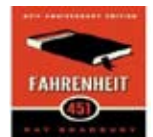
I write this in summer, a perfect time for such lofty matters as these. Yet, this morning I also finished proofing the school calendar (so yes, it's my fault if there's a typo). Soon the year will begin, the carefree days of summer dreams will yield to cold winter nights of practicality. From experience I know that as the summer ends, the vision tends more and more to hide behind the details of its implementation.

So even though I know I'll fail, I, for one, will try not to let the daily grind detract from the divine glory of fulfilling a promise to ancestors past and building for millennia hence.

I hope you'll join me.

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman

Book Club to Discuss *Fahrenheit 451* on October 9th



Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel, *Fahrenheit 451*, a masterpiece of twentieth century literature, set in a bleak, dystopian future. The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 9th, at 2:00pm, in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, controlled by a totalitarian regime, television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction. Firemen start

fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce until he meets Clarisse, an eccentric, young neighbor who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. He begins to hide books in his home; and when his

pilfering is discovered, the fireman finds himself running for his life.

First published in 1951, *Fahrenheit 451* is the Poughkeepsie Library System's Big Read selection for 2014. It is available in paperback and through the local library system. Elaine Lipschutz 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.

New Finance Committee Chairman

Welcome aboard to Sam Finnerman who is our new Finance Committee Chairman. Sam and Treasurer, Jeff Brenner, will work hand in hand to manage Temple finances, along with Executive Officers and the Temple Board. Jeff will prepare the Treasurer's Reports and Sam will cover the Finance Reports at our monthly Board meetings. Assisting them is Cathy Bokor who continues to serve on the Finance Committee and will handle matters of outstanding dues and relief issues.

In the coming months, Sam and Jeff will work with Sherrie, as well as Brian and Cathy, to get up to speed with their new duties. Thanks and much appreciation to Sam, as well as Cathy and Jeffrey, for accepting their roles and for their service to Vassar Temple!



Birthright Video

Seth Oclatis, son of Temple members Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis, produced a superb short video about his experience traveling to Israel on Birthright. The video is not only enjoyable, but also a great introduction to Birthright for anyone considering the trip. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw41ZD6UJgg>

President's Message *(continued from page 2)*

wandered off a path which was meaningful to us, we may choose to find our way back and reclaim it. For others who are not Jewish, those who are searching, if given the right exposure, the richness of Judaism can be a discovery.

Judaism is a choice. And people knowingly put themselves on its path, just as others wander off. Judaism doesn't see proselytizing the same way as other religions do. According to the Talmud, righteous gentiles have a place in the World to Come (Sanhedrin 105a). As a result, there's less of an incentive for Jews to encourage conversion, and for non-Jews to join up. But that doesn't mean we can't rejoice when people make the choice of Judaism. And why not make that choice? After all, a very large percentage of Jews who are not practicing Jews still identify themselves, proudly I believe, with being Jewish. And, a more recent study by the Pew Research organization found that Judaism is a highly-liked religion by people of all religious beliefs.

At Vassar Temple, we have very active Jews-by-choice. They are regulars at services, teach in our religious school, perform vital committee functions, attend adult education, and serve as trustees who shape the direction of our Temple. Their passions for Judaism inspire everyone. Jews-by-choice are a reminder to Jews-by-birth how magnificent the gift of Torah and the traditions of Judaism really are. In every interfaith marriage there is potential for choice. In every heart & mind, there is the potential for that choice, too. Inclusion at Vassar Temples also applies to the LGBTQ community.

For everyone seeking a spiritual path there is the potential for choice. What happens to the potential for choosing Judaism if from the start of a marriage or when considering whether to become a Jew, that individual or family feels welcome or unwelcome at Vassar Temple?

Bob Ritter

Note: Vassar Temple is offering "Taste of Judaism" and "Introduction to Judaism" free adult education classes this year which are open to the public and all faiths. Email me at president@vassar temple.org if you'd like me to send you information once it is available.

Weekly Adult Study

Weekly Adult Study with Rabbi Golumb includes:

- "Torah Study," which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, Saturday mornings at 9:00am
- "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*", which is now being held on Tuesday mornings at 11:45am (no class Sept. 23rd).

All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! Questions? rabbi@vassar temple.org or (845)454-2570

VTS Judaica Shoppe

Be sure to stop in and see the beautiful new arrivals in the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Judaica Shoppe:

Hand painted silks from Israel ~ Tallitot, Challah & Matzah covers, scarves and more....

BenZion Yemenite jewelry
Gary Rosenthal wall art
tzedakah boxes and mezuzot

Supplies are limited so you might want to contact Perla Kaufman at 463-2838 or at brandaliz5@optonline.net for a private showing.

Wishing all our faithful supporters a Happy and Healthy New Year!

הגש ~ SHANAH TOVAH



Lifelong Learning

(Rabbi's complete comments are at <http://vassartemple.wordpress.com>)

Do not say: I will study when I have leisure. You may never have leisure! ~Hillel

I do have leisure, you might say, but what should I study? Vassar Temple's Lifelong Jewish Learning is an answer. The 2014-15 program is among the broadest and most varied ever. Classes and sessions will be held on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, some in the morning or midday, and some in the evening. Some programs will involve classic Jewish texts (in translation), some informed presentations, and some interactive, an opportunity to learn from each other. Some will be more basic and general and some will be more specific in subject matter. I encourage you to take advantage of the offerings. It is among the most accessible high quality adult Jewish learning anywhere in the Hudson Valley. Leisure or not, it is time to study.

New Fall Offerings

All Vassar Temple Adult Ed courses are free of charge and open to all in the community.

The Jewish Idea of Time: An Introduction and Guide to the Celebration of Festivals
Here is an opportunity to learn about the religious foundations, liturgy, customs and practices that go into the observance of the major holidays as we move through the Jewish year. Every session will be on a Sunday morning starting at 9:15am. The first 2 sessions will be Sept. 21-Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur, and Oct. 5-Sukkot/Simchat Torah.

The (Un)Changing Borders: The latest in a series of talks on the socio-political history of places in the news where tensions and clashes impact on Jewish communities. This year the presentations will be given on three regions where border lines are being contested. All sessions are on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Sept. 16 -*Syria/Iraq/Kurdistan* with

Martin Charwat

Sept. 30 - *Israel/Palestine* with Rabbi Golomb

Oct. 7 - *Russia/Ukraine* with David Woolner, Resident Historian at the Roosevelt Institute and Professor of History at Marist.

The ABCs of the Talmud An introduction to the definitive book of Judaism. We will look each week at a selection (in English) that highlights classic rabbinic thinking, but also points toward insights into modern Jewish life. Tuesday evenings at 7pm, Oct. 14, 21, Nov. 4 and 11, with Rabbi Golomb.

Future Offerings include *Taste of Judaism, Jews Talking to Jews, How's & Why's of Mysticism, Judaism 101, and Maimonides & Spinoza*. Visit www.vassartemple.org for a complete schedule.

Hineni Fund: Here I Am

Our Temple President, Bob Ritter, has asked me to make the High Holiday Appeal, an honor that was given to Susan Karnes Hecht last year. Together with the Executive Committee, we have agreed to focus the High Holiday Appeal on Hineni.

In Hebrew, Hineni means, "Here I am." In 2012, Vassar Temple launched The Hineni Fund to support youth programs and the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School of Vassar Temple. We named the fund to remember Seth's dedication to Vassar Temple and to, also, recognize our extraordinary Vassar Temple community in the many activities, projects, events and funding that our members support. Support for this fund says "We are here" as a community for Vassar Temple's education and youth programs.

The Hineni fund was launched with generous donations and culminated with a joyous gala honoring Art & Carol Menkin, Lou Lewis and Seth A. Erlebacher (z"l). This was a great accomplishment for our community ... but Hineni continues.

Along with the High Holiday Appeal, you can make contributions to this fund through outright gifts and memorial donations. You can also designate planned

gifts through estate planning towards this fund. Marking special events in the life of your family and friends acknowledges them, while at the same time says Hineni – "Here I am" for Vassar Temple youth and Jewish education.

Andi Ciminello

Volunteers Needed for VT Office Help

ARE YOU RETIRED? If you have some time and you'd be willing to give some of it to help Vassar Temple, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you! Even if you only have a few hours a week or month, we could use help with various office tasks to keep our Temple functioning and serving our community: covering phones, help with mailings, filing, etc. No previous experience is required! Please let us know by calling Bob Ritter or the Temple office at 454-2570. Leave a message and Bob will get back to you.

Tiny Temple Resumes on September 14th

Do you have a child 5 and under?

Please mark your calendars and come to Tiny Temple on September 14th from 11:00am-12:00pm. We'll welcome the new school year and the Jewish New Year with a celebration of Rosh Hashana. Enjoy crafts, stories and song as well as a healthy snack of apples and honey and other goodies! Tiny Temple is open to our Temple members as well as interested families in the community. Please invite your neighbors and friends. Contact Laura Brundage or Fern Wolf at tinytemple@vassartemple.org for more information.



Squeaky Clean Sanctuary

If you have been in our beautiful sanctuary recently, you may notice a small improvement. Over the summer, the curtains surrounding the organ were cleaned and repaired by a Temple member. We are hoping to raise \$100 to cover this long-delayed expenditure. If you would like to contribute, please send a check made out to Vassar Temple with "Curtains" on the memo line. Thank you from the House Committee!

Rabbi Search Committee: Update

The Rabbi Search Committee has been working actively over the summer. The first phase of our effort – collecting input from our congregants – was completed by June. We received a good deal of guidance from your collective comments; these will, of course, provide the basis of the competencies we will be looking for in the candidates.

As of July 20th: initial resumes have been received. One of the rabbis did sign a contract with another synagogue subsequent to submitting his application to us. Each of the rabbis was contacted by telephone giving both the candidate and the Committee an opportunity to: engage in a casual conversation related to the individual's interest in Vassar Temple; discuss some of the needs of the Temple, and; touch on general information about the community. It is important that a rabbi

who ultimately accepts an offer to serve our Temple has his or her professional aspirations met and knows that his/her family will be suited to living in the Hudson Valley which, thankfully, has a great deal to offer, as we all know! All of these conversations were well received by the rabbis who clearly appreciated a chance to 'schmooze.'

The next step in our process will be to have more formal interactions with the viable candidates utilizing visual electronic media. In depth questions regarding worship style, engagement with members, scholarly endeavors and outreach are but a few of the topics that will be on the table.

The intensity of the Committee's work in September and October will

depend, in part, on the outcome of our summer activity and on the availability of candidates to interact with us, especially as some who currently have a pulpit must attend to the obligations of High Holy Days in their current temples during the early Fall.

The Rabbi Search Committee remains committed to identifying and recommending to the Trustees that individual who will help make Vassar Temple an inviting place of spirituality, learning, social consciousness and extended family wholeness to keep Vassar Temple the place "Where You Belong."

*Sandra Mamis, Chair
Rabbi Search Committee*

Jewish War Veterans: September Meeting

The Private Herman T. Siegel Post #625 of The Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2014 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The meeting begins at 9:30am.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces (Active, Reserve, or National Guard) are cordially invited to attend and participate in the activities of this JWV Post.

As Schomre Israel is strictly Kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the Synagogue. If you need a ride or for further information, please contact Post Commander Robert L. Morrison at ROBL56@aol.com or 845-462-3614.

Giant Thank You

Dear Men's Club,

I apologize for the delay in sending you this well overdue "Thank You" for the wonderful mitzvah you all helped with back in mid-June. Rather than take the chance of missing anyone's name, Lesa and I are sending out a GIANT THANK YOU to the entire Vassar Temple Men's Club for the major amount of assistance you provided with helping clear out overgrown shrubs, trim back gardens, pull weeds, etc. during a major yard revitalization project.

There was work needing to be done since I first took ill back in the summer of 2012. Over two years of build up GONE in under three hours. Now that I am back on my feet again with a partial blessing on the functionality of my hip from my surgeon, I look forward to returning as an active member of the Vassar Temple congregation.

We want to thank everyone who helped in any way: emotionally, generously, physically or spiritually during the rough times we have endured during my periods of chronic illness, especially these past 18 months when things were at their lowest during my fight with cancer and the massive infection discovered inside the new hip prosthetic. I may never walk normally again or tan in the sun like I used to enjoy, but at least I am still able to take a walk in the sunlight.

Once again I wish to express our appreciation. Todah Rabah.

Regards,
Maurice L Collen

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Gayle Margolin
Erica Robbins
Dave, Nancy, Adam & Max Samson
Doi Cohn The Kelson Family
Daniel Cheffec The Kelson Family
In Honor of Vassar Temple
Eugene & Avis Robinson

In Memory of:

John R. LaLone, Vietnam Veteran
John LaLone, WWII Veteran Jane LaLone

TREE OF LIFE

In Honor of:

Muriel Lampell's and Elaine Lipschutz's Birthdays
Joel & Linda Babas
Matt & Muriel Lampell
William and Susan Barbash
Hal & Susan Lesser
Gabe & Cathy Bokor
Elaine Lipschutz
Richard & Linda Cantor
Richard & Marsha Lowry
Paul & Andrea Ciminello
Harry & Sandra Mamis
Doi Cohen
Lila Matlin
Robert & Judith Creedon
Ethel Mund
Rich Duvall & Lisa Rubenstein
Elaine Newman
Rich & Harriet Fein
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Jeff & Nan Genshaft
Ralph & Marian Schwatz
Rabbi & Debbie Golomb
Gil & Arlene Seligman
Art & Marge Groten
Patricia Shampine & David McNair
Adrian Gruszko
Brian & Helen Silverman
Carol Strauss
David & Susan Hecht
Angela Stultz
Howard & Emily Himmelstein
Gloria Turk
Irma Jacobs
Lewis & Hillary Wrobel
Catherine (CJ) Kelly
Lenore Wurtzel
Maury & Miriam Lacher

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Bob Abrams and his years of service to Vassar Temple;
Bob Ritter on his incoming presidency of Vassar Temple;
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Doi Cohen and her contributions to Vassar Temple
William & Susan Barbash
Howard & Emily Himmelstein's 1st grandchild
Robert & Mary Ritter
Chuck & Perla Kaufman
Matt & Muriel Lampell
Doi Cohen
Brian Silverman's many years of service
Kent & Kathy Mardon
Lila Matlin
Dr. Howard & Rochelle Friedman's grandchild
Robert & Mary Ritter
Matt & Muriel Lampell's 65th Wedding Anniversary
Lila Matlin
5774 / 2014 Confirmands
Allison Brundage
Olivia DiIorio
Brianna Erlebacher
Wayne Hartman
Charles & Roni Stein
Harry & Sandra Mamis
Chuck & Perla Kaufman
Art & Marge Groten receiving the "Founders Award"
Joel Kelson receiving the "Arnold Award"
The New Vassar Temple Board
Harry & Sandra Mamis
Steven Mamis's engagement to Michelle Davis
Alex Ritter's marriage to Melissa Clark
Sara Frankel's Bat Mitzvah
Molly Gillman's Bat Mitzvah
Lila Matlin's birthday
Chuck & Perla Kaufman
Gayle Margolin's life
Erica Robbin's life
Dave & Fern Wolf
Jeff Genshaft's speedy recovery
Harry & Sandra Mamis
Maurice Collen's good heath
Dave & Fern Wolf
Power House Theater
Stephen & Jen Dahnert
Muriel Lampell's birthday
Dawn Effron

In Memory Of:

Samuel Blaine
Martin Noble & Jessica Robbins
Isador Dreishpoon
Lucile Endreich
Irving & Georgene Dreishpoon
Morris Schwartz Ruth Kapner
Gilda Charwat Martin & Eleanor Charwat
Pearl Goldstein
Howard & Rochelle Friedman
Seymour Scheer Ken & Bonnie Scheer
Alfred Geber Robert Feldman
Jonathan Muhl
Richard Duvall & Lisa Rubenstein
Ellen Rosenfeld
Howard Smith Eric, Judy, Lisa & Adam Rosenfeld
Joseph Wrobel Lewis & Hillary Wrobel
Paul Kraut Nick & Nina Kraut
Robert Weinberg
Michael Weinberg Miriam Weinberg
Irene Weiner Lila Matlin
Harriet Lipson Lewis & Hillary Wrobel
Ed & Vivian Garber
Eva Tofel Joan Reifler & Family
Sol C. Present Debbie Tierney & Brian Landesman
Michael Wrobel Lewis & Hillary Wrobel
Thomas "Tucker" McGrath
David Walderman
Harry & Sandra Mamis
Pauline Slode Sandra LoGiudice
Ann Kahn
Lillian Lampell Mat & Muriel Lampell
Harriet Lipson Lewis & Hillary Wrobel
Edward Moffit Jr. Kent & Kathy Mardon
Philip Cohen Joel & Linda Babas
Margaret Poston Gretchen Gould

(Contributions continued on page 10)

Contributions (Continued)

Sylvia Soirefman Mark & Elaine Plansky
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Dr. Loren & Charlene Rosenthal

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Morris Silberman
Saul Morris Marjorie Lazarus
Max Kapner
Gertrude Krugman Ruth Kapner
Sidney Slater Cohen, MD Doi Cohen

LIPSCHUTZ FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Arthur Lipschutz
Irma Manheim
Robert Lipschutz Elaine Lipschutz

In Honor of:

Muriel Lampell's Birthday
Kent & Kathy Mardon

HINENI FUND

In Honor of:

5774 / 2014 Confirmation Class
Allison Brundage
Olivia DiIorio

Brianna Erlebacher
Wayne Hartman
Paul & Andrea Ciminello
Robert & Judith Creedon
Lila Matlin

ERDREICH FUND

In Memory of:

Lucile Erdreich Herb & Joan Kotz

GRANDMOTHER FUND

In Honor of:

The Birth of
Howard & Emily Himelstein's 1st grandchild
Elaine Lipschutz

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of:

Max Samson for taking 1st Place

Yahrzeits

SEPTEMBER 5

Dr. Nathan Bernstein
Rebecca Baskin
David Cohen
Jack L. Cohn
Ryan Creedon
Stuart Dick
Martha Feinman
Murray Gordon
Carl Hoppermann
Florence Marks
Saul Nectow
Seymour Niesen
Beatrice Plansky
Irving Revitz
Louis Rosen
Nathan Rosenberg
Ida Schwartz
Molly Solomon
Joseph W. Sparks
Alan Taubenkimmel

SEPTEMBER 12

Allene Braw Baskin
Phyllis Bell
Rebecca Slutsky Cohen
Solomon Diamond
Marilyn Dugatkin
Margaret M. Feldman
Samuel Feldman
Richard M. Held
Kyle Hoppermann
Norman Lesk
Edward Markum
James Mrazek
Edith Roizen
Ada M. Shelton
Samuel Wallace

SEPTEMBER 19

Leah Aberman
Sam Brozen
Bertha Chazen
Dora J. Chertock
Solomon Dunn
Philip Finnerman
Morris Goldberg
Martin Gross
Klara Haas
Saul Heiser
Richard Wayne Kallman
Anna Katz
Saul Herbert Kaufman
Hilda Klausner
Louis Lass
Celia Levine
Eva D. Lippmann
James Lowry
Fannie Moselle
Julius Oppenheimer
Aaron Rabin
Edith Ratner
Aaron Silverman
John Sparks

SEPTEMBER 26

Emanuel Aloise
Louis Altman
James Benton
Edward Cohen
Edna Cohn
Barnett Colton
Frances Gray Conrad Dahmert
Bernard Decovnick
Erna Dorn
William Dorn
Irene Edell
William Falenki
A.D. Hoffman
Albert D. Kahn
Harriet Kramer
Patricia Kramer
Celia Levine
Dr. Paul Lieberman
Lillian Martone
Dorothy Schmukler
Rose S. Weigert
Goldie H. Worona

Vassar Temple Cemetery Update

Vassar Temple members who have been in good standing for at least five years have burial rights in the Vassar Temple cemeteries, located at the end of Lagrange Avenue and on Route 44, both in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Our cemetery on Lagrange Avenue has reached a point where space has become an issue. In light of this situation, the following policies have been put into place:

1. Double headstones will no longer be allowed – precise recording of burials are kept by the Cemetery Committee and Behan Bros. cemetery maintenance.
2. Perpetual care requires a one-time fee of \$ 1,800.
3. Prior to planting, please contact the cemetery chair at cemetery@vassartemple.org
4. No artificial flowers are allowed.

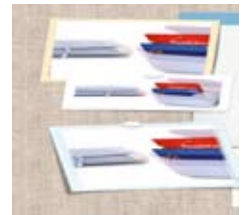
The Vassar Temple Cemetery Committee manages the upkeep of both cemeteries. Decisions related to gravestones and private landscaping require prior approval of the Committee. Please direct any questions to the Cemetery Committee at cemetery@vassartemple.org

Summer Service Leaders

Once again we had a remarkable bevy of volunteers who provided us with wit and wisdom, prayer and song, warmth and inspiration at our Friday night services this summer. Each leader undertook special training beforehand and provided his/her special talents and perspective to the service. And each service was followed by a joyful oneg, most often featuring that summertime favorite, ice cream. Thanks to all our volunteer service leaders (who provided the refreshments as well): Ron Rosen, Bob Ritter, Emily Brundage, Rachel Erlebacher, Marissa Gally, Ilana Wolf, Wayne Cochran, Gene Fleishman, Kristin Judd, Joel & Sam Kelson, Jane Lalone, Richard Levien, Marian Schwartz, Rabbi Shoshana Hantman, Joel Hoffman, Olivia Dilorio, Sandra Mamis and Ben Krevolin.



Thank you to those who got on the
SCRIP bandwagon this summer and received a
FREE CARD CARRYING CASE
as a gift for making SCRIP purchases!



The offer is being extended!

Be a first time purchaser of SCRIP in the next 3 months and you will receive a handy card carrier as our gift too.

You will be benefitting the temple with your purchases which won't cost you any extra.

Your fellow members helped to raise an amazing

\$14,000 for Vassar Temple last year.

Plan to be a part of that success.

USE SCRIP for all your regular purchases

You Can Make a Difference.

Contact me for more info: Sandra Mamis

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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Religious School Director: Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist: Elisa Dugatkin
Organist: Joseph Bertolozzi
President: Bob Ritter
1st Vice President: Jen Dahnert
2nd Vice President: Susan Karnes Hecht
Secretary: Len Greenberg
Treasurer: Jeff Brenner
Sisterhood Co-Presidents: Jennifer Dahnert
Men's Club Co-Presidents: Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President: Bob Abrams
Youth Group President: Rachel Marcus



September 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 10am SEP	3	4 10am SEP	5 CAN JAM 7:30pm Shabbat Service	6 9am Torah Study
7 11:30am Lunchbox	8 7pm VT Exec Committee meeting	9 10am SEP 12:00pm Talmud Class	10 6:30pm Religious School, grades 8-12	11 10am SEP	12 7:30pm Shabbat Service	13 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
14 9am R/S, grades K-7 11am Tiny Temple 11am Shalom on Grand at HVCC	15 7pm Finance Committee 7:15pm Ritual Committee	16 10am SEP 12:00pm Talmud Class 7pm Adult Ed w/ Martin Charwat	17 6:30pm Religious School, grades 8-12	18 10am SEP	19 7:30pm Shabbat Service	20 9am Torah Study 7:30pm Slichot Service
21 9am R/S, grades K-7	22 7pm Board of Trustees meeting	23 10am SEP 12:00pm Talmud Class	24 6:30pm Family Service 8:30pm Rosh Hashanah Evening Service	25 10am Rosh Hashanah morning service 2:30pm Children's Service 4pm Tashlich at Vassar College	26 10am Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Service 7:30pm Shabbat Service	27 9am Torah Study
28 9am R/S, grades K-7 9:30am Men's Club Sukkah Building 1pm Service at VT Cemetery Lagrange Ave	29	30 10am SEP 12:00pm Talmud Class 7pm Adult Ed, Israel, Palestine w/ Rabbi Golomb				