



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 162 No. 1 September 2015

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

The 7th Annual Vassar Temple *Break Fast* will be offered at the conclusion of our Yom Kippur services on Wednesday, September 23, 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 11th

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 Polly Lewis or Kristin Judd by calling the Temple office at 454-2570

Upcoming Events

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Support Vassar Temple's Yom Kippur Food Drive

"Is this the fast I seek, a day of self-affliction?... Is not THIS the fast I look for: to unlock the shackles of injustice, to undo the fetters of bondage, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every cruel chain? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house?" (Isaiah 58:5-7).

- **Please take home a grocery bag on Rosh Hashanah**
- **Please bring it back full of nonperishable foods for those in need on Yom Kippur**

Yom Kippur Meditation

Please join Linda Cantor downstairs at 1:30 for a period of meditation/contemplation. We have chanted, prayed and studied Torah together in preparation for the final hours of Yom Kippur. This meditation/contemplation period is a time for inward reflection, a time of letting go and moving forward with a sense of peace and renewal. No prior experience in meditation is needed in order to participate.



Tiny Temple: September 20th

Mark your Calendar - September 20th at 11:00am in the Social Hall at the Temple. Celebrate the High Holidays and Sukkot, create a craft together, hear a story and enjoy snack.

Do you have young children? Tiny Temple is a program that provides young children and their parents an opportunity to come together and learn about Jewish holidays and customs. It is open to anyone in the community, as well as Temple members, and is free of charge.

Contact Laura or Fern at TinyTemple@Vassartemple.org. Our link on the website can be found if you scroll down the home page to "popular links." Hope to see you at Tiny Temple!

Rabbi's Message:

Putting Our Hearts in Order



There is a story about a great rabbi who passes his student on the road to the synagogue,

running in the opposite direction from the rabbi.

The rabbi asks the student, "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

"I am leading services for the High Holy Days," the student says. "I need to get my prayers in order."

The rabbi answers, "The prayer book is the same as it was last year. You need to take this time to put your heart in order."

I've been thinking about this story a lot as I prepare for my first High Holy Day season at Vassar Temple. I've spent a lot of time in these first few weeks arranging books on shelves and files in drawers, loading contacts into my phone and software onto my computer. Our staff and leadership have been indispensable in helping me navigate all of our prayer books and programs as we begin to put our prayers in order for the High Holy Days. We are working together to ensure that our musicians and service participants know their cues and that there is ample seating, parking, and babysitting for everyone who wishes to attend services.

With all of these logistical decisions and demands, it is easy to forget that the High Holy Days are not about putting our prayers—or our chairs—in order. The High Holy Days are about looking deep

inside our selves, and putting our hearts in order.

In the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah—the Hebrew month of Elul—we are asked to engage in a process called *chesbon ha-nefesh*, literally an "accounting of the soul." During this time, we ask ourselves difficult questions: Who did we try to be this year? Where did we succeed? Where did we fall short? How would we like the answers to these questions to change next year?

Most years, we ask that question to ourselves as individuals. This year, I am asking these questions to you as members of the Vassar Temple community: Who have we been? Who are we now? Who do we hope to become?

In my conversations with members of our community thus far, I have learned how much people love the feeling of being a part of a community like ours. No matter the order of our prayers, the relationships we build in the synagogue help each of us to put our hearts in order.

As we look forward to welcoming the year 5776, we hope that the High Holy Day experiences we provide reflect the kind of community that we want to be.

In that spirit, this year we will be hosting one evening service on each of the

High Holy Days, so that we can welcome the holidays together as one community. These services will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Erev Rosh Hashana and Erev Yom Kippur.

We will also make our tickets available for a recommended donation, so that we might open our doors to people wishing to join our community regardless of their membership or financial status.

These are big changes, and we will be sure to take the time to do some *chesbon ha-nefesh* about them after the High Holy Days. In the meantime, let us use this time leading up to Rosh Hashanah to consider how we can continue to be a warm, welcoming, caring, and open community as we celebrate the High Holy Days together.

As we put our prayers in order, we are grateful to those of you who contribute to our High Holy Day experience, whether by making a donation, helping us with logistics, taking part in leading the service, or simply by being there. Each one of you helps us to put Vassar Temple's heart in order for the coming year.

Shana tova!

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

President's Message: A Dream Come True



Mirrors and windows are both made of glass, but what a difference. A mirror reflects our image back to us. Reflection is important as it helps us to grow. A window...it's an entirely different thing!

The magnificent stained glass windows in our sanctuary were clouded over, diminishing their beauty and the ability of light to travel through them. Because these windows represent both the great history of our Jewish heritage and the story behind this wonderful gift to our temple, it was upsetting to many of us to see them this way.

For several years, the Temple leadership has wanted to bring the windows back to their full glory. Restoring and eventually rededicating our sanctuary windows seemed to me to be a perfect way to mark the transition from one Rabbi to another.

As I see it, the windows are a metaphor

with important meaning. They represent our past, present, and our future. The light of the heavens that reaches us may be thousands of years old like the Jewish people. The light of the fixtures inside our temple is the present, our Reform temple today. But the light of our Ner Tamid, we pray, is never extinguished. As we look out the windows, we know there is a world that needs our healing. As people look in through the restored windows, they see the soul of Vassar Temple.

To achieve the goal of restoring our windows without using Temple funds, I turned to my childhood family friends and religious school classmates, the Effron's. Craig, Blair, Drew, and Brooke gave gladly and generously in honor of their father, James Effron. On the evening of Rabbi Berkowitz' very first service, after the windows were just restored, a little

miracle happened. It fell on the yahrzeit of their father and I was there on the bimah to witness it all, standing to say Kaddish for beloved "Jimmy." It was a dream come true.

We were short some funds so I contacted the family of Bea & Marty Gross, who led the effort to create and install the original stained glass windows in memory and honor of Dr. Melvin Matlin, Lila Matlin's late husband. (A photo of Dr. Matlin is shown.) Nancy Belok, their daughter, said the family was more than happy to put us over the top. Lila was most willing to help, too. But what happened the night before our call was another miracle as I see it. As Nancy was going through and cleaning out her parent's home, she came across an old cassette tape. It was a recording of her parents expressing their love of Vassar Temple and why they gave

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High Holy Days and Regular Worship Services

September 5	7:30pm	Selichot
September 13	7:30pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Evening Service
September 14	10:00am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
	2:30 pm.	Family Service
	4:00 pm	Tashlich at Sunset Lake, Vassar College
September 15	10:00am	Rosh Hashanah – 2 nd day Morning Service
September 18	7:30pm	Shabbat Shuvah
September 20	1:00pm	Memorial Services, Lagrange Avenue Cemetery
September 22	7:30pm	Kol Nidre Evening Service
September 23	10:00am	Yom Kippur Morning Service

Immediately following Rosh Hashanah services:

- High Holy Day Study with Rabbi Berkowitz in the Social Hall
- 1:30pm Meditation and Contemplation with Linda Cantor
‘A time of letting go and moving forward with a sense of peace and renewal’
- 1:30 pm Family Service
- 2:45 pm Afternoon Service
- 4:45 pm Memorial Service
- 5:30 pm Ne’ilah

Scriptural Readings

- Sept.5 *Ki Tavo* Deut. 26:12 – 28:6;
Isaiah 60:1-22
- 12 *Nitzavim* Deut. 29:9 – 30:20;
Isaiah 61:10 – 63:9
- 19 **Shabbat Shuvah** *Vayeilekh*
Deut. 31:1-30;
Hosea 14:2-10, Joel 2:15-27
- 26 *Ha’azinu* Deut. 32:1-52;
II Samuel 22:1-51

Bring the Family to Tashlich Sept. 14th

B.Y.O. breadcrumbs and join members of Vassar Temple in symbolically casting your sins of the old year upon the waters at a brief tashlich ceremony to be held Monday, **Sept. 14th** at 4:00pm at beautiful Sunset Lake on the grounds of Vassar College. Come on over with your kids after the Rosh Hashanah family service! Refreshments will be served, grown-ups can schmooze and children can romp. Shelter will be provided in case of inclement weather.

New Paths Service: Sept. 19th

Join us at the next New Paths service Saturday, Sept. 19th at 10:00am in the East Chapel. 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, mostly in English, 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. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at: mschwa9882@aol.com or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Selichot Program and Service: Sept. 5th

The Saturday before Rosh Hashanah, we meet for a Selichot program to spiritually prepare for the coming High Holy Days. At 7:30pm on Saturday, Sept. 5th, we will join together in the social hall for a scrumptious dessert reception and the presentation of the Arnold Award to Melissa Erlebacher for her contributions to the religious life of our temple. Following the lovely ritual of havdalah to usher out the sabbath, we will be treated to moving commentaries from two of our congregants on the topic “This I Believe,” to encourage us all to reflect on our own guiding values as the New Year begins. The Selichot service (penitential prayers) will begin at approximately 9:30 pm. The lateness of the hour adds to the mood of quiet and introspection that is central to this observance.

Rabbi Berkowitz offers us this Selichot teaching:

“In the days leading up to the High Holy Days, it is customary to recite penitential prayers called Selichot in the early hours of the morning. While Ashkenazi Jews recite these prayers beginning on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashana, Sephardic communities begin saying Selichot prayers on the first of the Hebrew month of Elul. This brings the total number of days that penitential prayers are recited to 40, a significant number in the Jewish tradition. According to the Torah, Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai, receiving the Torah directly from God. However, when Moses comes down the mountain, he saw the Israelites worshipping the Golden Calf and shattered the tablets on the ground. According to the rabbis, Moses and the Israelites then spent 40 days and 40 nights

atoning for their sins before God forgives them. Then, God invites Moses to ascend the mountain again, where he stays for another 40 days and 40 nights, receiving the commandments anew. This last 40 day period corresponds to the 40 days between the first of Elul and the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Reciting the prayers of Selichot for 40 days thus reminds us of these three ancient periods of spiritual preparation, atonement, and forgiveness. Whatever our Selichot tradition, we, too, have the opportunity to spend these 40 days in study, prayer, and contemplation.”

The Selichot service helps 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.



Mazal Tov

to:

Natalie Frankel whose beautiful art was exhibited at Cuneen-Hackett;

Sue & Hal Lesser on the engagement of their son, David, to Abigail Potts;

Amy & Ken Oclatis on the birth of their 1st grandchild, Hudson Oliver, born to Jeremy & Chelsea Oclatis;

Judy Rosenfeld & Nadine Zaritsky on receiving the Evelyn Kahn Award;

Peggy Sisselman on the marriage of her daughter, Amanda Sisselman, to Richard Borgia, Jr.

Melissa Erlebacher on receiving the Arnold award

Floral Donation from Robinowitz Family

Many thanks to Jim and Maryann Robinowitz for donating an "offspring" from their beautiful "Festival of Lights" daylily to Vassar Temple's front flower bed. What a beautiful donation created from Jim's many hours of master gardening cultivation!



Refuah Shelemah

Maryanne Robinowitz
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Emily Himmelstein

Condolences

to:

Georgene Dreishpoon and family on the death of Dr. Irving Dreishpoon

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.

Pulpit Flowers

Sept 18: Chuck and Perla Kaufman in honor of all their loved ones.

Pulpit flowers for the rest of the month donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund.

Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can do so by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers with a donation to the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund. The donation to the Fund is **\$55**.

Just call the Vassar Temple Office at 454-2570.



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love of Vassar Temple and why they gave a gift of a window, as well!

Love, like light, can travel for a very long time, if we let it. Removing the cloud over our stained glass windows will hopefully help us to see the light of God's love, and, in turn, shine on our love of Vassar Temple and one another. That would truly be a dream come true!

Bob Ritter

New Committee Chairs

At its July meeting, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve several new Temple committee chairs:

Religious School: Shaari Roland
Reyut: Judy Rosenfeld
Ritual: Sandra Mamis
Library: Michele Sinn
Music: Bob Abrams and Joel Kelson
Outreach: Kristin Judd

The Officers and Board are grateful to both incoming and outgoing chairs for their many efforts on behalf of Vassar Temple.



Melvin Matlin

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 1. 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.

Lunch Box News

We have a larger than ever commitment to feed our hungry neighbors a hot, tasty nutritious meal the first Sunday of every month from September thru June at Lunch Box, in the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie. If we each play a part, it can be done!

Our first Lunch Box of the year takes place Sunday, Sept. 6th (over Labor Day weekend). If you, your family, friends or neighbors can help set up, cook and serve any time between 11:30am-2:15pm, and/or if you can donate 3 lb. all beef hot dogs or 1 to 2 dozen bananas or pieces of fresh fruit (can be dropped off at Temple be-

forehand), please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org right now.

Financial donations to Vassar Temple with "Community Tzedakah Fund" on the memo line also help since we spend at least \$200/month from this fund on the other foods we serve there.

We will be at Lunch Box again Sunday, Oct. 4th. If you'd like to help on that date, we'd love to hear from you too! And volunteering with us at Lunch Box is a very rewarding way for teens to earn community service credits.

Weekly Adult Study at Vassar Temple

Torah Study with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah and is held Saturday mornings at 9:00am (no class 9/19). "*The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*" is taught by Rabbi Paul Golomb on Tuesdays at noon (no class 9/1 or 9/15). All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! Questions? Contact rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845)454-2570.



New Advisors to Vassar Temple Youth Groups!

I was a very shy 8th grader and my mom forced me to go to a regional NFTY event. I knew no one, and while waiting for the bus to take us to Camp Harlam for the weekend, my mom walked over to another girl and her mom and said, 'Here, you will be friends'. As completely EMBARRASSING as this was for me, especially during teen years where *everything* is embarrassing, I actually did sit with her on the bus and I arrived at the weekend with at least one friend. I had a wonderful time that weekend and made many more friendships that have lasted to this day.

Youth group provides a safe and accepting atmosphere for Jewish teens to develop their identity, spirituality, and sense of community... and it's tons of fun! In my case, being the daughter of a Rabbi and always having a strong involvement in Jewish activities, I didn't need Youth Group to form my Jewish identity. However it did give me a place to feel comfortable in being myself. NFTY events were a place where being silly, singing at the top of your lungs, and dancing crazy were the cool thing to do. More importantly to me, in contrast to

high school, NFTY was a place where participating, studying and challenging each other intellectually and philosophically was encouraged.

Although he might not admit it today, Dan was a cool kid in high school and, unlike me, his involvement in Youth Group was important to him in different ways. There were only one or two other Jews in his school and Youth Group provided a place where it was cool to be Jewish and you could hang out with peers without having to explain all of your "weird and different" customs. Dan formed a relationship with Judaism and his community that has helped him through tough times and rejoiced with him through simchas.

Our youth group, VaTY (rhymes with "great" not "cat": I learned that the hard way) is an exceptional group of teens. We are so pleased to be advisors for VaTY (8th-12th grade) and VaTY Jr. (5th-7th grade).

Please contact us or Rabbi Berkowitz if you can help with any of these events.

September 14: Rosh Hashanah Family Services

We need volunteers to work with Rabbi Berkowitz to help lead/participate in Family services.

September 24: Yom Kippur Food Drive

We need volunteers to help prepare the bags, and load the truck. Please contact us.

October 4: VaTY BBQ- Kick-off event for the year; begin planning a service, shul-in, rock climbing, movie night, lunch box, bowling, skiing/tubing etc.

October 18: VaTY Jr. BBQ- Kick-off event for the year.

November 13-15 - NFTY-NAR Fall Kallah at URJ Kutz Camp Warwick, NY

A weekend camp retreat, Fall Kallah features an immersive, Jewish camping experience for teens, by teens. A strong focus is



See **Advisors** continued on pg 6



Religious School Director: Fair is Fair

I write this in the summer, but the High Holidays are not far off. Soon God will once again ask us to examine our lives, ask what we have done well, what we have done poorly, and what we have left undone.

In fact, the Rabbis envision God literally weighing our good deeds against our transgressions. The good deeds go on one side of a balance scale, the transgressions on the other. If the good deeds outweigh the bad, we are judged meritorious. If the bad deeds outweigh the good, we are judged unworthy. But what if it's a tie?

What if our good deeds and our transgressions weigh in equally? In that case, the Talmud teaches, God tips the scales in favor of the good. The Rabbis even ask how God does this. Some think God presses down on the side of good, others

that God presses up on the side of bad. Neither one, it turns out, as the prevailing opinion is that God removes one transgression from the scale, as if to say the first transgression doesn't count.

It's almost as though God gives us the benefit of the doubt, except that there's no doubt here. Another High Holiday metaphor depicts God as not just the final, ultimate, all-knowing judge. God is also the prosecution, the defense, and the expert witness testifying to the nature of our lives. It doesn't get more certain.

So it's not a matter of doubt. Rather, it's a subtle repudiation of "fair is fair." God even has a special throne set aside for the High Holidays. During most of the year, God reigns from a throne of justice. But when God hears the shofar blasts of the Jews that signal their willingness to enter

the High Holidays, God moves to a throne of kindness.

The High Holidays address what really matters: life, death, family, the nature of our stay on this earth, God's role in our lives, our interactions with each other, the way we treat ourselves. In all of these, we learn, kindness trumps justice.

Our tradition speaks of three kinds of relationships: with God, with each other, and with ourselves. As the High Holidays approach, I for one will take a moment --- actually, much longer --- to focus on each on these and on the ways in which one is sometimes harder than the others. Am I kind to God? Am I kind to the people I meet? Am I kind to myself?

I hope you'll join me.
Shanah Tovah.

Dr. Joel Hoffman

Sisterhood Generations Shabbat

Our Sisterhood/Generations Shabbat in May was a lovely evening! What a meaningful opportunity to honor our long time members of 40+ years and also celebrate the contributions of our Sisterhood. Readings were conducted, blessings made and songs beautifully sung by our sisterhood members.

A special thank you to Ellen Smith and Lisa Rubenstein who shared their personal thoughts about change, its effect on their lives and the life lessons learned. We gained an understanding of how women grappled with traditional roles and found the wisdom learned when goals were not attained, but opportunity continued. Ellen and Lisa created a bridge between past, present and future in a message relatable to both personal and professional life.

Thank You from River Haven Teen Shelter

Dear Vassar Temple,
Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity! The blender and microwave are wonderful additions to the shelter and our residents are getting lots of use out of both. Our staff and residents really appreciate the support from within the community.

Thank you,
Courteney Heller
Assistant Shelter Manager

CROPWalk to Combat Hunger

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

The walk is a safe, 6-mile route with 3 rest stops along the way. Walk alone, with family and friends, or as part of a Vassar Temple team. You may walk all or part of the route, whatever is comfortable for you, you can use your social media to help get your sponsors, and your sponsors can donate on-line as well as in person.

For more information about being a walker and to get your walker materials, please contact Howard Susser, our Vassar Temple CROPWalk recruiter, at cropwalk@vassartemple.org or 471-7820.

If you cannot walk, please sponsor Rabbi Berkowitz and other Temple members as they walk. With your support, our

local CROPWalk has become one of the most successful in the New England Region, and last year over 450 walkers from over 50 groups in Dutchess County raised \$55,685. With hunger needs greater than ever, we must exceed that total this year, so please help in whatever way you can to make this year's CROPWalk our greatest success ever!

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is placed on new members. Grades 9-12. More information at <http://www.nfty.org/nar/> Contact us if you are interested; there may be some assistance with registration fees.

Events are more fun when everyone participates! Make sure you are in the loop by following us on Twitter @Vassar-VaTY. Updates will also be on the Vassar Temple Facebook page, in the Bulletin and in the mail. If you want to participate, please make sure we have your contact information. Email us at youthgroup@vassartemple.org if you have questions, suggestions or want to participate!

B'Shalom
Shira and Dan Teich



EISNER AND
CRANE LAKE

6 POINTS
SCI-TECH



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM CAMPS



New & Prospective Camper Weekend

For current 2nd-5th graders

Hiking, Arts & Crafts, Celebrate Shabbat, Sleep in Heated Cabins,
Sports & Games, Wild Science Experiments and Activities,
Campfire & S'mores, and Lots of New Friends!

Cost: \$100 includes all meals, lodging, and activities
If you register for camp by January 1, 2016 the cost of the weekend will be
credited to your summer tuition

Arrival: Fri, Oct 2nd, 4:30 pm @ Eisner Camp

Departure: Sun, Oct 4th, 12:30 pm @ Crane Lake Camp

THREE GREAT URJ CAMPS

AND A SUMMER THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

201-722-0400 | eisnercranelake.urjcamp.org
857-246-8677 | scitech.urjcamp.org

Tzedakah for Socks

Thanks to your generosity, with funds collected in our tzedakah box by the staircase during the month of June, we were able to purchase 117 pairs of new men's socks as well as 4 bath towels, all of which were desperately needed at Hudson River Housing's Hillcrest overnight homeless shelter. (And thanks to Ralph Schwartz for making the delivery!)

Donations of used (in good condition) bed linens, bath towels, men's pajamas and socks are always welcome and can be dropped off at the shelter box in the Temple. Also needed: unopened shampoo and soap (travel size welcome and larger sizes appreciated), deodorant, toothbrushes, tooth paste, and shaving needs.

If you have questions about donating goods for the shelter or donating sandwiches or hot food for those staying there, please contact Judy Harkavy of the Vassar Temple Social Action Committee at judystan@verizon.net or 471-4973.

America's Journey for Justice

During August and September, the Reform Movement and the NAACP are conducting an 860-mile march from Selma, Alabama, to Washington, D.C., to advocate for the right of every American to a fair criminal justice system, uncorrupted and unfettered access to the ballot box, sustainable jobs with a living wage, and equitable public education. More than 100 rabbis will participate in this Journey for Justice, carrying a Torah, thus carrying the Jewish values that compel us to stand with our neighbors and to fight for racial equality. Rallies and teach-ins will be held in cities along the way, culminating with the final Rally for Justice and Equality in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 16. The historic Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed at the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism 50 years ago. Even if you can't attend the rally, you can raise your voice today by going to http://action.rac.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=16324 and urging your Senators and Representative to support robust voter protections and restore the vital protections of this Act. For more information and to register for the rally go to www.rac.org.

SCRIP
So many choices,
So little
effort!
No extra expense!



Erev Shabbat at Vassar Temple

by Wayne Norman Cochran

Organist Bertolozzi plays,

Cantor Dugatkin sings,

Rabbi Golomb leads the
congregation in Hebrew verses.

The prayers aren't new, but I think
anew.

I am brought to newness,
refreshed.

How often I forget Adonai during
the week

when I have had need to
remember!

How much there is to bless, if we
could only all join in the blessing!

(Gazelle)
Together let our hearts jump,

(Kite)
Let our dreams ride the wind,

(Mensch)
And let our worthy hands bear
sweet fruit to the table!

Fair Trade and You

Around Vassar Temple you are going to be hearing a lot more about 'Fair Trade,' a movement that promotes economic activity based on equality, justice and sustainable environmental practices. Fair Trade puts the spotlight on fair wages and equitable prices, environmental protection, human rights, and workers' rights. Hence, fair trade products are grown or manufactured in settings where there are healthy, safe and fair working conditions, economic justice for the native workers and small business or small farm owners, and environmental protections in place. Many of the agricultural products are organic, which is a plus for the consumer.

The cornerstones of the Fair Trade movement actually rest strongly upon Jewish values. Among basic Jewish teachings are the concepts: that all are created in

the image of the Divine, that all workers must be treated fairly, principles for fair and proper business dealings, the pursuit of economic justice for all, and our sacred role as stewards of the earth.

During the coming months our Judaica Shoppe will feature more fair trade merchandise and you will have the opportunity to purchase fair trade coffee, tea, chocolates and handcrafted items through the newly formed social action coalition of local synagogues.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to live Jewish values and promote justice worldwide at the same time as you are availing yourself of some wonderful products that will enhance your life! And if you would like to work on Fair Trade issues at our Temple, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Fund Facts: Rabbi's Fund

Have you ever stopped to think about the funds listed in the Contributions section of each month's Bulletin? If you are like me, it may leave you feeling curious about the purpose of those various funds. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce a new series of articles entitled "Fund Facts" that will become a regular feature of our Temple Bulletin. In each issue, we will provide information about a specific fund's purpose and what the fund supports.

As we welcome Rabbi Leah Berkowitz to Vassar Temple as our new spiritual leader, it seems fitting to inaugurate this series with a focus on the **Rabbi's Fund**. According to the Temple web site, the Rabbi's Fund is allocated at the Rabbi's sole discretion and defined with quite a bit of latitude so that our rabbi may administer the fund to reflect her personal priorities.

Rabbi Berkowitz explained that her goal will be to use the Rabbi's Fund primarily to help members of the community connect with their Judaism or aid them through a difficult personal situation that can be ameliorated with modest financial support. A top priority for Rabbi Berkowitz is to provide support for young members to attend Jewish summer camps, an experience she believes to be especially impactful. Another priority

might be providing funds to help members participate in a course or program that may enrich their connection to or understanding of their Jewish identity. While these purposes will be Rabbi Berkowitz's priorities, she may sometimes choose to direct resources from the fund to support an important project or national organization that furthers her or the congregation's Jewish beliefs and values.



So how does the Rabbi's Fund get replenished? Contributions are often made to the fund by non-members of the congregation in exchange for the Rabbi's services for life-cycle events. Rabbi Berkowitz does not accept payment on these occasions; rather, she directs donations to the Rabbi's Fund. Similarly, members of the congregation who observe or celebrate important milestones at the Temple, such as Bar/Bat Mitzvot, weddings, baby namings, milestone birthdays or memorials, also make donations to the Rabbi's Fund in lieu of a fee to the Temple, which is not required of members on these occasions.

The next time you want to recognize an occasion with a contribution to the Temple, consider the Rabbi's Fund. It is a wonderful way to assist our Rabbi in supporting people – often people in need – in our community.

Jen Dahnert

Contributions

SUSTAINING FUND

In honor of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz
 Bob & Judith Creedon
 Bob Ritter on a successful
 1st year as President
 Sandra Mamis
 Harry & Sandra Mamis on the wedding
 of their son, Steven Mamis, to
 Michelle Davis
 Barbara Stern
 Richard DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein
 Carol Nectow
 Bob & Judith Creedon
 Rabbi & Debbie Golomb on their retirement
 Barbara Stern
 Rabbi & Debbie Golomb & Vassar Temple's
 community with gratitude Bonnie Sheer
 Sandra Mamis, wishing a speedy recovery
 Lila Matlin
 Daniel Teich on joining the VT Board of
 Trustees
 Rabbi Bob & Cindy Rozenberg
 Kenny Sheer for the kindness you showed
 our mother & family
 Jill & Ira Auerbach
 Ken & Amy Oclatis on
 becoming grandparents
 Bob & Mary Ritter
 Chuck & Perla Kaufman
 on the bar mitzvah of Brandon Fong
 Bob & Judith Creedon
 All 2015 / 2016 bar / bat mitvah children
 Bob & Mary Ritter

In memory of:

Kenneth Scheer
 Janie Feinberg
 Fred & Janet Braun
 Lila Matlin
 Kent & Kathy Mardon
 Richard DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein
 Justin & Debra Scheer
 Wallace & Wallace, LLP
 Richard & Harriet Fein
 Mary Ann Lohrey
 Martin & Marilyn Revitz
 Martin & Eleanor Charwat
 Ethel Graves
 Joseph Wrobel
 Dorothy Lewis
 Polly Lewis & Kamil Wisniewski
 Lillian Lampell
 Matt & Muriel Lampell
 Anne Kahn
 Pauline Rosenson Slote
 Matt & Muriel Lampell
 Gertrude Rosenthal
 Loren & Charlene Rosenthal
 Joshua A. Himelstein
 Howard & Emily Himelstein
 Dr. Sidney S. Cohen
 Sol C. Present
 Debra Tierney & Brian Landesman
 Eva Tofel
 Joan Reifler

Margaret Paston
 Suzanne Hecht
 Jonathan Muehl
 Paul Kraut
 Pearl Goldstein
 Howard & Rochelle Friedman
 Saul A. Lazarus
 Michael Wrobel
 Lucile Erdreich
 Adolph Fein
 Belle Baum
 Anna Dick Kronman
 Jacob Kronman
 Richard & Harriet Fein
 Irmgard & Lisa Apfel
 Joel & Linda Babas
 Alan E. Apfel
 Philip Cohen
 Ida Cohen
 Barry & Carole Horowitz
 Lloyd Fertig
 Linda Fertig Waldman
 Edward Moffit, Jr.
 Martin Brenner
 Phyllis Ritter
 Kent & Kathy Mardon
 Jeff & Michele Brenner

Cora Frances Solomon
 Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon
 Dr. Alan Solomon
 Dr. Irving Dreishpoon
 Martin & Eleanor Charwat
 Oscar Charwat
 Martin & Eleanor Charwat

RABBI'S FUND

In memory of:

Dr. Irving Dreishpoon
 Bob & Mary Ritter
 Joel & Claudia Kelson
 Kenneth Sheer
 Joel & Claudia Kelson

In honor of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz
 Steve & Jen Dahnert

RABBI GOLOMB ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In honor of:

Rabbi & Debbie Golomb's retirement
 Sue & Hal Lesser
 Bob & Judith Creedon
 Rabbi Golomb & his incredible Talmud class
 Ann Gross

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH LUNCH BOX FUND

In honor of :

River Haven Youth Shelter
 Richard & Harriet Fein
 Jane LaLone
 Rabbi Golomb's retirement
 Judith Harkavy
 Chuck & Perla Kaufman on the
 Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Fong
 Lila Matlin

GROTEN FUND

In memory of:

Kenneth Scheer
 Arthur & Marge Groten
 Ronald & Mayda Podell
 Leslie Badaines
 Ken & Amy Oclatis

MUSIC FUND

In memory of:

Kenneth Scheer
 The Hecht Family
 David & Nancy Samson
 Bob & Judith Creedon
 "The Special Friends Group"
 Amy, Carol K., Carol P., Janet,
 Joanne, Ligija, Lillian, Robin,
 Roz and Shirl

ERDREICH FUND

In memory of:

Dr. Irving Dreishpoon
 David, Haley Morse & family

HINENI FUND

In honor of:

Our 2015 high school graduating class &
 best wishes
 Ali Dahnert
 Evan Gally
 Andrew Hartman
 Kassie Lerman
 Rachel Marcus
 Jacob Morgenstern
 Sarah Nathanson
 Kiley Quackenbush
 Rachel Rosenfeld
 Jordan Stein
 Lewis Schyler
 David & Nancy Sampson

RESTORATION OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

In memory of:

James Effron
 Drew, Blair, Brook, &
 Craig,
 children of Dawn and
 James Effron
 Bea & Marty Gross

Margaret Greif
 Nancy Belok
 Barbara Aronson
 Scott & Susan Piccone
 Wallace & Elizabeth Schwartz

Yahrzeits

SEPTEMBER 4

Rebecca Baskin
Dr. Nathan Bernstein
Jack L. Cohn
Ryan Creedon
Stuart Dick
Martha Feinman
Molly Garber
Murray Gordon
Richard M. Held
Celia Levine
Florence Marks
Saul Nectow
Seymour Niesen
Irving Revitz
Louis Rosen
Nathan Rosenberg
Joseph Samuels
Joseph W. Spark
Sheila Mardon Sukert
Alan Taubenkimel
Rose Weisman

SEPTEMBER 11

Allene Braw Baskin
Rebecca Slutsky Cohen
Solomon Diamond
Margaret M. Feldman
Samuel Feldman
Carl Hoppermann
Kyle Hoppermann
Norman Lesk
Fannie Moselle
James Mrazek
Edith Roizen
Ida Schwartz
Ada M. Shelton
June Siegel
Samuel Wallace

SEPTEMBER 18

Leah Aberman
Sam Brozen
Bertha Chazen
Dora J. Chertock
Marilyn Dugatkin
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
Edward Markum
Julius Oppenheimer
Aaron Rabin
Edith Ratner
Elio Ribbi
Aaron Silverman
John Sparks
Rose S. Weigert
Charlotte Zuckerman

SEPTEMBER 25

Emanuel Aloise
Louis Altman
Mary Bell Barrett
James Benton
Edward Cohen
Howard Cohen, MD
Edna Cohn
Barnett Colton
Bernard Decovnick
Erna Dorn
William Dorn
Irene Edell
A.D. Hoffman
Raphael Horn
Harriet Kramer
Patricia Kramer
Faye Korn
Dr. Paul Lieberman
Lillian Martone
Dorothy Schmukler
Sophie Schwartz
Elizabeth Troeger
Goldie H. Worona

Memorial Board Plaques

Honor the memory of your loved ones with a plaque on the Memorial Board in the sanctuary.
For information, call the Temple office at 454-2570.

Recipients of Awards

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 10th, The Founders' Service Award was presented to Sandra Mamis by 2014 recipients Art and Marge Groten. Board Proclamations were presented to Ron Rosen for his extended service as Ritual Chair and to Lisa-Sue and Kurt Quackenbush for their numerous contributions to the congregation. Temple President Bob Ritter spoke about Rabbi Golomb's influence on him.



Vassar Temple Bulletin

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rabbi:	Leah Berkowitz
Rabbi Emeritus:	Paul Golomb
Religious School Director:	Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
Cantorial Soloist:	Elisa Dugatkin
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Bob Ritter
2nd Vice- President	Susan Karnes Hecht
Secretary:	Len Greenberg
Treasurer:	OPEN
Sisterhood Co-Presidents:	Laura Brundage & Danah Moore
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
Immediate Past President:	Bob Abrams
Youth Group President:	Brianna Erlebacher

**DATED MAIL
PLEASE RUSH**

September 2015 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am SEP 6:30pm Ritual Committee	2	3 10am SEP	4 7:30 Shabbat Service	5 9am Torah Study 7:30pm S'lichot
6 12pm Lunch Box	7 Office Closed— Labor Day	8 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	9 6:30pm Religious School, Gr. 8-10	10 10am SEP 7pm Exec Cmte Meeting	11 7:30 Shabbat Service	12 9am Torah Study
13 7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	14 Rosh Hashanah 10am Morning Service 2:30pm Family Service 4pm Tashlich	15 NO SEP NO Talmud Study 10am Second Day Rosh Hashanah morning Service	16 6:30pm Religious School, Gr. 8-10 7pm Finance Cmte Meeting	17 10am SEP	18 7:30 Shabbat Service	19 NO Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
20 Memorial Svce at Cemetery Sukkah Setup 9am R/S Gr. K-7 11am Tiny Temple	21	22 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7:30pm Kol Nidre	23 Yom Kippur 10am Morning Svce 1:30pm Family Svce 1:30pm Meditation w/ Linda Cantor 6:30pm Break Fast No R/S	24 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	25 7:30 Shabbat Service	26 9am Torah Study
27 9am 7th Grade Parents B'nai Mitzvah orientation 9am R/S Gr. K-7 7pm Erev Sukkot Svcs	28 Office Closed 10am Sukkot Morning Service	29 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	30 6:30pm Religious School, Gr. 8-10			