



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel    Founded 1848    Bulletin Volume 162    No. 12 September 2016

### Fall Rummage Sale: Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

Start cleaning those closets of gently used items and packing your bric-a-brac; the Rummage Sale is coming very soon! We start collecting rummage items as of Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

**All rummage collected from that date through September 2<sup>nd</sup> MUST be placed in the first classroom downstairs. From September 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> rummage may be brought to the social hall.**

No rummage will be accepted after the 9<sup>th</sup>. Two evenings will be available for rummage drop-off: Tuesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.

When you bring your items to the social hall, please make sure you place items

on the *left* side of the room and keep the area in front of the stage clear, as well as the rest of the building!

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Rummage Sale: 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Bag Sale: 2:00pm- 5:00pm.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed!!! For questions or further information, contact [rummage@vassartemple.org](mailto:rummage@vassartemple.org) or the Vassar Temple office (845-454-2570).

**\*Please note:** We CANNOT accept: textbooks, old TVs or old computers or heavily damaged goods. For large items, please contact us *before* you bring them!

### Upcoming Events

Sept.	11	Rummage Sale, p.1
	24	New Paths Service, p.3
	24	Selichot Program & Awards, p.3
	25	Challah Baking, p.1
Oct.	16	CROPWalk

### SAVE THE DATE!!!!

*Annual CROP Walk Against Hunger*

OCT. 16, 2016

Contact Howard Susser at  
[cropwalk@vassartemple.org](mailto:cropwalk@vassartemple.org)

### Challah Baking Workshop: Sept. 25th

Sisterhood members (and those interested in Sisterhood!) are invited to participate in a challah baking workshop on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to start off the Jewish and Sisterhood year. The class, which will be taught by Susan Karnes Hecht, will run from 9:30 - noon in the Temple kitchen, including time for schmoozing, coffee, snacks, and a brief Sisterhood meeting. Everyone will produce a batch of dough from the same recipe, rise and shape it, then take it home for baking. Ingredients will be provided courtesy of Sisterhood.

For planning purposes, it is vital that you **RSVP to Susan by 9/15** at [skarneshecht@gmail.com](mailto:skarneshecht@gmail.com) or 845-518-2687 (voice or text). It is also essential that you bring your own mixing bowl and baking sheet. We look forward to seeing you!

### VTS New & Prospective Member Dinner

**Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>,  
6:00pm**

Join us for a traditional Shabbat Dinner. Sisterhood will provide a delicious roast chicken dinner with a vegetarian option also available.

- \$10 per adult, \$5 kids ages 5-13, kids under 5 free
- Maximum \$30 per family
- RSVP by Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> to Laura Brundage at [Lbrundage001@gmail.com](mailto:Lbrundage001@gmail.com), 227-1962, or
- Danah Moore at [danahmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:danahmoore@hotmail.com), 849-0952.

Service, led by Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, will follow the dinner at 7:30pm.

## Rabbi's Message: Opening the Doors to our Hearts



"Rosh Hashana is a moment of opening. The gates of repentance swing wide; the Book of Life is turned to a new page. For a few precious days the portals are unlocked and open.... But even as the gates of repentance are closing, others begin to open: the gates of prayer, the gates of tears, the gates of righteousness. Our challenge is not merely to enter the New Year, but to discover the many openings to a better life." (Rabbi Laura Lieber, *Mishkan HaNefesh*)

As we prepare for our second High Holy Days together, I am struck by the image of doors opening. I am grateful to all of you who made me feel welcome as I walked through the doors of Vassar Temple and made it my home. Now, my life's work is opening our doors to others; making sure people feel welcome in our community, and helping them unlock meaningful experiences of prayer, learning, and service.

There are many doors to open as we enter the High Holy Days. Our liturgy imagines that God opens the gates of

repentance, allowing us to enter a "sacred portal" to self-examination and transformation. But nothing is more important than opening the doors of our hearts.

We open the doors to our hearts as we invite the community to join us for the High Holy Days. This will be our second year providing entrance to our worship experiences by recommended donation, opening Vassar Temple's doors to those with financial constraints. How will we open our hearts to make members, newcomers, and guests feel a part of our family when they walk through our doors?

We open the doors to our hearts as we experience the High Holy Day liturgy. Each year, we savor familiar words and melodies, and also search for new meanings, as Rav Kook said, "to make the old new, and the new sacred." This year is our last year celebrating High Holy Days with *Gates of Repentance*, before we transition to the new Reform *machzor*, *Mishkan HaNefesh* (Sanctuary of the Soul). This year we will incorporate elements of this dynamic, powerful new prayer book into our Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, as well as moments of reflection throughout the High Holy Days. How will we

open our hearts to experience these new prayers?

We open the doors to our hearts as we consider the experience of those seeking entrance to our country, through what poet Emma Lazarus called "the Golden Door." How will we open our hearts to those seeking a new life in our great nation?

In that vein, we are delighted to welcome the Honorable Judge Robert D. Weisel, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge for the United States Department of Justice, to our Selichot observance on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 pm. Between the presentation of the Arnold Award and our Selichot service, Judge Weisel will discuss how the court has responded to migration crises throughout our nation's history.

Opening doors—in ourselves, in our community, and in our nation—is sacred and difficult work, and I can't do it alone. Please join with me as we strive to fulfill the words of our new *machzor*, "let none be excluded from our community of prayer...let all find a place in this sacred assembly."

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

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## From Our Temple President



Summer is just about behind us but the inspiration and enjoyment many of us gained from the lay led services remain. Many thanks to the members

of our congregation who took the time to lead Friday night prayers and share their insights and wisdom with us. Thank you to Rabbi Golomb for leading a service in July and to Sandra Mamis for organizing and scheduling the lay leaders. I hope many of you were able to attend, participate and enjoy.

The Temple Board of Trustees met twice during the summer to conduct Temple business. Our finances continue to be a focus for the Board. Membership dues are not sufficient to pay all the overhead.

Generous contributions are very helpful as are the fundraising events throughout the year. Additional dues paying members will also aid in meeting the Temple's obligations. A gala is being planned for this year. You will soon hear more about the gala from the chairpersons. Should you wish to assist in making the gala a success, please volunteer.

With the help of our members, Rabbi Berkowitz and the Temple staff, we will continue to build on our congregation's past successes. We hope to grow the membership this year and provide opportunities for members to become more involved. We are exploring ways to offer our congregants even greater benefits. The Board of Trustees and committee chairs will participate

this month in a daylong retreat led by a URJ facilitator. I look forward to sharing with the congregation our plans on moving forward. I also ask for your help and welcome your suggestions.

We now look forward to the beginning of religious school with our new Director, Julie Stein-Makowsky. Shortly after school starts, Rabbi Berkowitz will lead us through the High Holy days. I look forward to sharing the New Year with you at Vassar Temple, "where you belong."

Mark Metzger

## September Worship Services

2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Krumholtz Bat Mitzvah
9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Peter Bar Mitzvah
16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm 7:30pm	New and Prospective Member Dinner; Sisterhood Family Shabbat; Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Barlow Bar Mitzvah
23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am 7:30pm	Torah Study New Paths Service Arnold Award and Selichot Services
30 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Shabbat Services with Rabbi Berkowitz organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial soloist Elisa Dugatkin

## Scriptural Readings

Sept.3	<b>Shabbat Rosh Chodesh</b> <i>Re'eh</i> Deut. 15:1-16:17, Num. 28:9-15; Isaiah 66:1-24
10	<i>Shoftim</i> Deut. 19:14-21:9; Isaiah 51:12 – 52:12
17	<i>Ki Tetzei</i> Deut. 24:14-25:19; Isaiah 54:1-10
24	<i>Ki Tavo</i> Deut. 27:11-29:8; Isaiah 60:1-22

## New Paths Saturday Morning Worship

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the informal, intimate setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel. 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 mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com), Rabbi Berkowitz [rabbib@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbib@vassartemple.org), or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

## Selichot Program: Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>

As we enter a season of *cheshbon hanefesh* (accounting of the soul) both for our community and our nation, we are delighted to host the Honorable Robert D. Weisel, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge for the United States Department of Justice, as guest speaker during our Selichot program, to be held in the social hall Saturday night, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

The evening's events begin at 7:30pm with a scrumptious dessert reception to honor **Linda Cantor** as she is presented the Arnold Award in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the religious life of the Temple, following which the lovely ritual of havdalah will usher out the Sabbath.

Afterward, Judge Weisel will be speaking on how the Court has responded to various migration crises in our nation's history.

The Selichot service (penitential prayers) will begin at approximately 9:30pm in the main sanctuary. The lateness of the hour adds to the mood of quiet and introspection that is central to this observance. Selichot helps us reflect on our guiding values and turns us toward the ideals we hold for ourselves and for our community. Please join us in these powerful and moving acts of preparation for the High Holy Days that will follow.

## Mazel Tov to...

David Lampell on receiving the Founders Service Award;

Linda Cantor on receiving the Arnold Award;

Amy Horn Oclatis and Danah Moore on receiving the Evelyn Kahn Award;

Dr. Jason & Pramila Krumholtz on their daughter Rachel's Bat Mitzvah;

Steven & Margot Peter on their son Robert's Bar Mitzvah;

Darren & Marilyn Barlow on their son Jack's Bar Mitzvah;

Glenn & Marcia Tanzman on the wedding of their daughter, Johanna Blair, to Derek Jozef;

Howard & the late Susan Doppelt Pearlman on the wedding of their daughter, Allison Pearlman, to James Ravener;

Rebecca Strauss on her new job as Studio Art Technician for the Fine Arts Dept. of Brandeis University.

## Congratulations to our college graduates:

Emily Brundage  
Molly Duvall  
Rachel Erlebacher  
Michael Horowitz  
Ben Marcus  
Lisa Rosenfeld  
Ilana Wolf

## Condolences to...

Elisa Dugatkin and family on the loss of her mother, Cantor Elaine Favor.

## Refuah Shelemah

James Robinowitz recovering from surgery;

LisaSue Quackenbush recovering from surgery.

## September Pulpit Flowers



September 2: Donated by Jason & Pramila Krumholtz for Rachel's Bat Mitzvah

September 9: Donated by Steven & Margot Peter for Robert's Bar Mitzvah

September 16: Donated by Darren & Marilyn Barlow for Jack's Bar Mitzvah

September 23: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

September 30: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

## Pulpit Flowers Donors Update

June 12: Donated by Lila Matlin in memory of Dr. Melvin Matlin and Marty & Bea Gross

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.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles may be sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

## Follow Rabbi Berkowitz!

Rabbi Berkowitz is on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, and Instagram. Follow her and join the conversation!

Twitter/Instagram: @RabbiLRB

Facebook: [RabbiLeah Berkowitz](#)

Read Rabbi Berkowitz's blog at:

<http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com>



Help the Temple  
Buy SCRIP  
Help Yourself





## Protein Plenty!!! Summer 2016

Thank you VT members for, once again, working together to reduce hunger in our community by responding to our Temple's annual summer Protein Plenty!!! drive. As a result of your generous donations, an abundant load of protein-based food was purchased and delivered to both the Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry and Dutchess Outreach. Both of these pantries are well established and effectively serve Poughkeepsie residents in need of food supplies. 100% of your donations resulted in the purchase of foods in bulk supply like beef and chicken ramen, canned chili, canned frank 'n' beans, peanut butter, tuna, boxes of mac'n'cheese, canned lasagna and ravioli, canned spaghetti and meatballs and more!

A lovely added joy to share: Shortly after we arrived at Beulah Baptist Church and began unloading their share to the pantry, a deacon who delivers donated breads to them each week drove up to unload his bounty as well. As we helped each other in, we also realized together the beauty and power of Vassar Temple's efforts and his own to reduce hunger. A gorgeous handshake and hug said it all.

Well done, Vassar Temple friends, well done.

*Nancy and Dave Samson  
Social Action Committee*

## Sisterhood News

As the new president of Vassar Temple Sisterhood, I'd like to invite all Sisterhood members and any women interested in Sisterhood to join us for one of our many activities. Our officers this year are: myself as President, Perla Kaufman as Vice-President, Nadine Zaritsky as Treasurer and Roni Stein as Secretary.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> Ronni Jarvis and Ann Lerman are co-chairing our popular Rummage Sale and then on September 25<sup>th</sup> Susan Karnes Hecht will be leading a Challah Making workshop. We'd love to have you join us.

Be sure to check out our newly revised membership brochure for more about who we are. Hope to see you at a Sisterhood event soon!

*Judy Rosenfeld,  
VTS President*

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## 2016 Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold Award Recipient

**Linda Cantor** will be the 2016 recipient of the Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold Award, given annually by the Ritual Committee to recognize an extraordinary contributor to the religious life of the Temple, embodying the realms of study, worship, and acts of loving kindness.

Linda has long been involved on the Adult Ed and Ritual Committees, was an original leader of New Paths, organizer and facilitator of the Jewish Meditation group, and most recently of the Wise Aging group. And she extended all these spiritually oriented activities not only to Temple members but to the entire community. Linda has brought numerous inspiring speakers to Temple programs and to the annual Fanny Berlin Lectures. She chaired this year's joint shabbaton, and has helped plan, staff, and even teach numerous adult ed courses at the Temple.

As a member of the Nachamu Committee, she helped put together a booklet, available on our website, designed to help those dealing with the difficult situation of death and dying. And she has contributed to the success of Sisterhood's Women's Seders, the annual Sisterhood Shabbat, and our lay led summer services. Linda also organized the social action Solar Cooker Project, which again was shared with other groups in the local community, increasing awareness and empowering others to conduct their own fundraising drives for this life preserving project.

Come to honor Linda as she receives this award... for all her wonderful contributions... during the festive dessert reception that will open our Selichot program **Saturday evening, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>**.



## Vassar Temple Social Action: What We Do

We feed those in need at Lunch Box in the Family Partnership Center the first Sunday of the month and those at the overnight shelter the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

We record "Talking Books" for use by local children's agencies.

We are working to help a refugee family resettle successfully in our community.

We collect and deliver food for those in need year round thru our CanJam initiative and in conjunction with special annual drives.

We respond to local, state, national, international, and environmental issues.

We glean extra food from restaurants and farms and bring it to local food pantries.

We get people the info they need to be able to vote in general elections.

We participate in community projects such as the fall CROPWalk, Mitzvah Day in the spring, and we are a charter member of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council.

We collect tzedakah money to benefit many worthy causes.

We are the Vassar Temple Social Action Committee, and we can do so much more with your participation. To learn more about these current projects, or to suggest a project of your own, please contact us at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) !



## From the Religious School Director: Lifelong Jewish Learning



Recently one of my Bat Mitzvah students asked me to help her understand her Torah portion as she was soon to write her D'var To-

rah. Instead of looking at the individual verses and trying to glean meaning from each one, I asked her to step back from her portion and to look at what led up to the portion. Earlier in the summer we read Parshat Chukkat. It is in this portion that Moses is denied the privilege of entering the Promised Land with his Kehilla (the community of Israelites that he had lead across the Red Sea and through the desert.) There is much written and said about why he earned this punishment but what I find most important is how he dealt with this denial.

In the final book of the Torah, Deuteronomy, we are treated to a retelling of many of the things that had come before. A rendition of the important points for the Israelites to remember as they were about to depart from their beloved leader and enter a new life. No longer a nomadic

people, the Israelites needed to have the details on how to conduct themselves as Jews. Moses is the narrator of this retelling. He becomes the teacher that many of us strive to be as he creates a structure of understanding for the Israelites to follow.

As I was weighing these thoughts and discussing them with my student, I realized that Moses is one of my most important mentors. Upon this realization, I suddenly understood why I felt driven to studying and then working in the field of Jewish Education.

I believe that one of my roles as Vassar Temple's Education Director is to help create a structure of understanding for our students as they embark on their journeys of lifelong Jewish learning. In creating the foundation for this structure, it is important to learn about and understand how we came to be in this place.

This year my role will be to begin to build this structure. I intend to introduce a new Hebrew Curriculum, *Mitkadem*, developed by the Union of Reform Judaism. The curriculum engages students in reading, chanting and singing prayers while also teaching the concepts of grammar, giving the students an understanding of how Hebrew is built on a root system.

*Mitkadem* is designed for supplementary Hebrew schools with an understanding that students start their Hebrew education at various ages and abilities.

**Sunday morning Religious School program begins on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Wednesday afternoon Hebrew program will now include Grade 4.**

I look forward to meeting all of our Religious School families!

One of the most rewarding things I have done as a Jewish Educator is to prepare students for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. The role I get to play in helping students begin to understand their own connections to our people and heritage is very fulfilling. I am so blessed that I have role models like Moses and others to help me to understand that what is most important is building a structure of understanding – one that our students and their families can turn to and rely on as they continue along their journeys.

Julie Makowski

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## Vital Chapter of Holocaust History Revisited at Vassar Temple

On June 15, 2016, approximately 150 individuals, including a group of 30 educators from Long Island, gathered at Vassar Temple to examine one of the most significant refugee events in world history. *Complicit*, the documentary film featuring the story of the SS Saint Louis, was shown. A discussion with the film's director, Robert Krakow, who traveled to Poughkeepsie from his home in Florida for this event, as well as Sonja Geismar, a survivor of the SS St. Louis, and local resident Debbie Sylvester, the daughter of another survivor, followed the screening.

*Complicit* chronicles the story of the SS Saint Louis, the ship that sailed from Hamburg, Germany in 1939 with 937 Jews aboard trying to escape Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution" and

seeking entry into the United States via Cuba. Upon arrival, the ship's passengers' visas were rendered invalid and they were denied entry. After several weeks at sea pleading with the US, Canadian and Cuban governments, the SS St. Louis was forced to return to Europe where it is estimated that nearly one-third of the passengers perished in German concentration camps.

The film explores the Roosevelt administration's role in the series of events that transpired. Through historical film footage, survivor interviews and dramatic interludes, *Complicit* recounts the story of this ill-fated voyage. Included in the film is a mock trial that confronts the Roosevelt Administration's flawed WWII refugee policy, based on a play written by Krakow. In addition, the film documents the US State Department's formal apologies to the surviving passengers of SS St. Louis.

This was an extraordinarily rare and moving event in our community as it included the film's director, Robert Krakow, participating in a discussion with a survivor and family members of survivors after the film. Robert Krakow is the Executive Director of the SS St. Louis Legacy Project Foundation, a nonprofit organization that uses education through drama to enlighten audiences on events in world history, including the story of the voyage of the SS St. Louis.

The event was organized in partnership with the Long Island Temple Educators (LITE) with support from the Irving and Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District. Vassar Temple organizers were Bob Ritter, Jennifer Sachs Dahnert, and Cathy Bokor.

# Yahrzeits: September

## SEPTEMBER 2

Rachel Barchilon  
Rebecca Baskin  
Jack L. Cohn  
Stuart Dick  
Claire Entner Gad  
Adolph Milton Fein  
Martha Feinman  
Molly Garber  
Saul Nectow  
Seymour Niesen  
Irving Revitz  
Louis Rosen  
Elma S. Rosenberg  
Joseph Samuels  
Sheila Mardon Sukert  
Rose Weisman

## SEPTEMBER 9

Allene Braw Baskin  
Dr. Nathan Bernstein  
David Cohen  
Rebecca Slutsky Cohen  
Ryan Creedon  
Margaret M. Feldman  
Maurice Goldemberg  
Murray Gordon  
Mildred L. Greller  
Carl Hoppermann  
Norman Lesk  
Regina R. Olivar  
Nathan Rosenberg  
Ida Schwartz  
June Siegel  
Molly Solomon  
Joseph W. Sparks  
Zelda Cohen Swatlo

## SEPTEMBER 16

Leah Aberman  
Phyllis Bell  
Sam Brozen  
Dora J. Chertock  
Solomon Diamond  
Marilyn Dugatkin  
Solomon Dunn  
Samuel Feldman  
Philip Finnerman  
Martin Gross  
Klara Haas  
Saul Heiser  
Kyle Hoppermann  
Saul Herbert Kaufman  
Anna Katz  
Hilda Klausner  
Louis Lass  
Celia Levine  
Eva D. Lippmann  
Edward Markum  
Julius Oppenheimer  
Beatrice Plansky  
Aaron Rabin  
Edith Ratner  
Aaron Silverman  
Ada M. Shelton  
John Sparks  
Susan Vance

## SEPTEMBER 23

James Benton  
Bertha Chazen  
Barnett Colton  
Edward Cohen  
Edna Cohn  
Bernard Decovnick  
William Dorn  
Irene Edell  
Morris Goldberg  
Richard M. Held  
A.D. Hoffman  
Richard Wayne Kallman  
Sally Schaffer  
Goldie H. Worona

## SEPTEMBER 30

Emanuel Aloise  
Susan Alpers  
Louis Altman  
Conrad Dahnert  
Erna Dorn  
William Falenki  
Frances Gray  
Sadie Gross  
Albert D. Kahn  
Patricia Kramer  
Fannie Levy  
Dr. Paul Lieberman  
Selma Sobel Lipson  
Lillian Martone  
Fannie Moselle  
Bernard Pearlman  
Robin Rayfield  
Dr. Ely Rosenthal  
Robert Sachs  
Dorothy Schmukler  
Helen Shapiro  
Joy Sumner

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## Reform Jewish Voice of NYS Celebrates Victories!

Our first victory was the passage of an ethics and campaign finance package that prevents public officials who have been convicted of corruption from collecting their pensions and further restricts coordination between political campaigns and organizations making independent expenditures. We will continue to urge the legislature to act to close the LLC (Limited Liability Company) loophole.

We also saw this year's session end without passage of legislation to support the Education Tax Credit. RJV advocated tirelessly against this legislation, which seemed to have strong support in the Senate, and which would have diverted tax dollars from public education to private and religious schools, raising First Amendment concerns and giving New York's wealthiest taxpayers a substantial break on their state income tax. RJV will keep opposing this harmful proposal, fight to preserve separation of church and state, and strengthen public education.

Finally, the legislature passed a bill we strongly supported that expands the powers and responsibilities of the State Education Commissioner to oversee the fiscal activities of the East Ramapo School Board, continues independent monitoring of the Board, and provides additional funding to enable restoration of academic programs for public school students in that district. However, the legislation is only effective for one year, so we will continue to work with East Ramapo community advocates for long-term solutions that serve the district's public school students.

To find out more about RJV's priorities visit [www.rjvnys.org](http://www.rjvnys.org). To join with a local group to call, write to, or visit local offices of your state legislators to discuss important social and economic justice issues such as these that are facing our state, contact [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).

## 2016 Founder's Service Award Recipient

The Temple Board has awarded this year's Founder's Service Award for providing "consistent, extensive, exemplary service to Vassar Temple over an extended period of time" to **David Lampell**.

David grew up at our temple, became an outstanding president of our Youth Group, and went on to become NFTY president as well as a youth group advisor. In more recent years, David has been Temple President, First VP, Second VP, and a valued advisor to sitting leaders of the Temple, as well as serving in a wide variety of other capacities over the years including: Chair of the House Committee, Head Usher, Rabbi Search Committee member, electronics and phone system consultant and Skype expert, while also offering major support with our A/V and lighting systems during innumerable Temple events. An active member of the Men's Club, David has worked on Sukkah building, numerous remodeling projects at the Temple over the years, and dealt with building repairs. He also helped on Temple social action projects including Mitzvah Day, local Habitat for Humanity builds, and rebuilding a church down South.

David is truly a man of many talents, and this award expresses how grateful we are that he has unselfishly shared so much of his time and expertise with Vassar Temple over the years.



## Jewish War Veterans Meet September 11<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, 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.

For further information, please contact Rob Rubin, Presiding Officer, at [qbee5@optonline.net](mailto:qbee5@optonline.net).



*This photo was taken by Len Greenberg of Rabbi Berkowitz's Shavuot blessing, which was bestowed on the Matlin, Gross, and Himelstein families, and all those involved in the stained glass windows and the new patio, including multiple generations. Rabbi spoke to the value of legacy.*

## Talking Books

*Talking Books* creates a library of books with accompanying recordings for the use of local organizations. With the support of the Groten Fund, we have donated a total of 90 preschool and elementary books! Our current recipient is Grace Smith House. Thanks go to our newest participant, Mariel Kelson, who recorded *Curious George* and Dr. Seuss books for the children living at the domestic violence shelter.

*Talking Books* volunteers donate and record books which are presented as a gift from Vassar Temple. Recording equipment is provided. I am seeking suggestions for book recipients. Individual and group reading efforts are welcome! Book donations are appreciated even if you prefer not to read. To create a "double mitzvah" please consider making book purchases using Vassar Temple SCRIP. For further information, please contact me at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org). Thank you for your interest!

*Susan Karnes Hecht*

## Weekly Study Groups

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

## Thanks to the Nominating Committee

I would like to thank the following members of the Nominating Committee for doing a wonderful job in finding the newest Board of Trustees leadership for Vassar Temple. Their professionalism and caring is truly appreciated:

Alan Kaffowitz, Melissa Erlebacher, Kristin Judd, Mark Metzger, Bob Ritter, Advisory-Rabbi Leah Berkowitz.

*Roni Stein, Chair*

## Temple Receives "Travel Justly" Grant

Registration at every major Reform Movement event since 2008 has included an option for participants to donate to Travel Justly, the Reform Movement's environmental sustainability fund. And since 2008, 100% of the funds collected through Travel Justly have been allocated to greening and sustainability projects in Reform congregations, camps, kibbutzim, and local communities, to help reduce carbon footprints such as those we create in our travels.

In 2016, Vassar Temple was selected to receive a Travel Justly grant in the amount of \$500, to help defray the expense of our Temple's energy saving lighting project. Thanks to the Vassar Temple Social Action Committee (and to Sherrie Geisler) for all their help in obtaining the grant!





# Contributions

## RABBI'S FUND

### In Honor of:

Rabbi Berkowitz's 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary  
Lila Matlin

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Honor of:

Mark Metzger being VT's new President;  
Bob Ritter's successful conclusion of his term as VT President;  
Susan Karnes Hecht for all her hard work For VT;  
Rabbi Berkowitz for her caring;  
Harry & Sandra Mamis  
David & Susan Hecht's 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;  
Bernard & June Rader  
Martin & Ellie Charwat's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;  
Mark & Anabella Charwat  
Michael Marino & Sarah Ritter's marriage;  
Mom & Dad Ritter  
Vassar Temple community's love & support;  
Tamara & Adrian Gruszko & family  
Mark Metzger as new VT President;  
Alan Kaflowitz as new VT 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President;  
Judy Rosenfeld as new VTS President  
Bob & Mary Ritter

### Congratulations:

#### to our recent college grads

Emily Brundage  
Molly Duvall  
Rachel Erlebacher  
Michael Horowitz  
Ben Marcus  
Lisa Rosenfeld  
Ilana Wolf

### In Honor of:

Jeremy Frankel's Bar Mitzvah  
Itai Teich's entry to the world and VT  
Chuck & Perla Kaufman

### In Memory of:

Edward Moffit, Jr.  
Kent & Kathryn Mardon  
Alan E. Apfel, MD  
Irmgard Apfel  
Bernard Rheingold  
Irma Jacobs  
Richard S. Cohen  
Frederick C. Tuchmann  
Doi Cohen  
Hyman Silverman  
Brian & Helen Silverman  
Howard Abrams  
Bob & Marianne Abrams  
Harry Barbash  
Bill & Sue Barbash  
Paul Kraut  
Nina & Nick Kraut  
Sheila Mardon Sukert  
Ken & Kathy Sukert  
Samuel Cohen  
Estelle Cohen  
Glenn & Marcia Tanzman  
Lila Matlin  
Melvin Matlin  
Cynthia R. Feldman  
Margaret Feldman  
Samuel Feldman  
Robert A. Feldman  
Evelyn Herman  
David & Joan Posner  
Martin Brenner  
The Brenner Family

Cantor Elaine Faver  
Harry & Sandra Mamis  
Bob & Mary Ritter  
Maurice Goldemberg  
The Hecht Family

## HINENI FUND

### In Honor of:

Brianna Erlebacher's graduation;  
Doi Cohen  
In appreciation of Bob Ritter's Presidency  
Lila Matlin  
Paul & Andi Ciminello  
Rabbi Berkowitz's 1st Year Anniversary  
Howard & Emily for their generosity & Vassar Temple's beautiful patio  
Paul & Andi Ciminello  
Julie Stein-Makowsky as new RS Director  
Bob & Mary Ritter

## MUSIC FUND

### In Honor of

David & Susan Hecht's 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;  
Bob & Marianne Abrams

### In Memory of:

Howard Abrams  
Bob & Marianne Abrams  
Bertha Troeger  
Clair Troeger Moselle  
Alzar Troeger  
Phillip Moselle  
Lewis Moselle  
Joseph Moselle  
Margery Moselle Mann  
Cantor Elaine Faver  
Doi Cohen  
Jim & Marianne Robinowitz  
Bob & Judy Creedon

## LIPSCHUTZ FUND

### In Honor of:

David Lampell on receiving the Founders Award  
Kent Mardon on celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Elaine Lipschutz

## Words from Wayne Cochran

*Life is lessons, not in "getting what you need"  
instead of "getting what you want"—you may not—  
but in GIVING.  
If nobody noticed, Adonai does.*

*~Wayne Norman Cochran~*

*When justice and fairness seem a world away, we  
turn to Adonai like the cold earth at dawn turns  
toward the freshening sun. Even in the presence  
of deep disappointment or a dire threat, God will  
love us and warm us so we, too, may be loving  
and warm to others.*

*The bitter seed we toss out; it shall not take root  
in us.*

*~Wayne Norman Cochran~*

# Vassar Temple Bulletin

140 Hooker Avenue  
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www.vassartemple.org



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Rabbi:</b>	Leah Berkowitz
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen Arnold
<b>Senior Scholar:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Julie Makowsky
<b>Cantorial Soloist</b>	Elisa Dugatkin
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Mark Metzger
<b>1st Vice-President</b>	OPEN
<b>2nd Vice- President:</b>	Ron Rosen
<b>Secretary:</b>	Susan Karnes Hecht
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Len Greenberg
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Judy Rosenfeld
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Dave Samson & Dave Wolf
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	OPEN

## September 2016 Bulletin

				1 10am SEP	2 7:30pm Shabbat Service	3 9am Torah Study 10am Krumholtz Bat Mitzvah
4	5 Office Closed	6 10am SEP 12 noon Talmud Study begins 6:30pm Ritual Cmte meeting	7	8 10am SEP	9 7:30pm Shabbat Service	10 9am Torah Study 10am Peter Bar Mitzvah
11 9am R/S Teacher Orientation 9am VTS Rummage Sale 10am Board Retreat	12	13 10am SEP 12 noon Talmud Study	14 4:30pm First day of Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher High School program at Temple Beth El	15 10am SEP	16 6pm New & Prospective Member Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm Shabbat Service	17 9am Torah Study 10am Barlow Bar Mitzvah
18 9am Opening Day Religious School 9:30am B'nai Mitzvah Orientation for 7th Grade Parents	19	20 10am SEP 12 noon Talmud Study	21 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher @ TBE 7pm Finance Cmte	22 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	23 7:30pm Shabbat Service	24 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service 7:30pm Selichot Service & Arnold Award
25 9am Religious School 9:30am VTS Opening Program—Learn how to bake Challah	26	27 10am SEP 12 noon Talmud Study	28 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher @ TBE	29 10am SEP	30 7:30pm Shabbat Service	