



# Vassar Temple

## Where You belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 164 No 1 September 2017



### Stay and Break the Fast at Temple after Yom Kippur!

On Yom Kippur we will pray together as a temple family. Plan to stay and celebrate with each other as the New Year begins by attending a delicious Break the Fast in the Temple's social hall on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> following Ne'ilah, the concluding Yom Kippur service.

Enjoy a traditional dairy meal of salads, kugel, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, fish, bagels, sweets and more!

- Prepaid reservations are a MUST!
- Children under 13 - \$5; Adults - \$15; nuclear family maximum \$36

To facilitate our planning, all reservations, confirmed by receipt of payment, are needed by Sept. 23rd. Mail a check payable to "Vassar Temple" with "Break the Fast" on the memo line to: Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Please indicate the number of adults and children attending. Late reservations will be accommodated if possible.

For more info, or if you'd like to help with planning the event, please contact Polly Lewis at [bella6034@yahoo.com](mailto:bella6034@yahoo.com) or 845-476-9778.

### Upcoming Events

September

8	Shabbat Happy Hour, p7
15	CROP Walk, p6
16	Selichot, p9
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30	Break the Fast, p1 HHD Schedule on page 3

- ### SAVE THESE DATES
- Wed., Oct.4: Sukkot Service and Prayer Book Presentation to 7<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Wed., Oct.11: Simchat Torah Celebration and Consecration of New Students
- Thurs..Oct.12: Yizkor Service 10:00am



### Support VT'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 Hashana Sept. 21st.

Please bring it back full of non-perishable foods for those in need on Yom Kippur Sept. 30th

**The deadline for the October Bulletin is Wed. Aug 30th.**

Please plan ahead. This is a hard deadline. No exceptions !!!



## Summer Reading List: High Holy Day Edition

*L'Shana Tovah* - May We Change for the Better!

Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins points out that the words *shana tovah*—our traditional High Holy Day greeting—actually have a triple meaning. *Shanah* means “year.” When we wish people *shana tovah*, we are, at the most basic level, wishing them a good year. But *shana* also shares its root with the verb *l'shanot*, which means both “to repeat,” “to double” and “to change.”

“In other words,” Elkins writes, “A *shana tovah*, a good year, is a year of *le-shanot*, of change, of doing things differently and better. And it also denotes a year of repetition, of relearning all the old lessons that our tradition of truth and wisdom has been teaching us for many centuries.” (Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins, *Rosh Hashana Readings*, p. 3.)

As we prepare for this Rosh Hashana,

we will encounter many things that are familiar. But every time we approach the words and music of the High Holy Days, our response is different. We might also notice ways in which we are different, as we reflect on the changes of the past year, and contemplate the changes we need to make in the year to come.

The verb *l'shanot* encapsulates this High Holy Days at the synagogue as well. We are repeating something we have done for generations, and also embarking on a new adventure. This fall, we will introduce a new High Holy Day *machzor*, *Mishkan HaNefesh*. We will host our cantorial intern, Laura Stein, for the High Holy Days for the first time. We will introduce a new way of welcoming people into our services, by providing nametags instead of tickets, which will make our synagogue more secure and encourage the people in our community to get better acquainted in the new year!

Change is never easy. The Alter of Novorodok once said that the problem with change was that, “People want to change overnight...and get a good night’s sleep as well!” Every year, we experience feelings of loss as we let go of habits and traditions from our past. We experience

trepidation as we encounter new traditions and opportunities. The High Holy Days, particularly with our new liturgy, will give us a space to wrestle with what we need to leave in the past, and to set our intention for the direction we hope to take in the future.

If you haven’t had a chance to take a look at our new *machzor*, we have two more opportunities before Rosh Hashana. On Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm, our Shabbat service will use *Mishkan HaNefesh*. At our Selichot program on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, Laura Stein and I will lead a journey through some of the poetry and music in the new *machzor* prior to our Selichot service.

I look forward to sharing with you a *shana tovah*—a good year, a year in which we repeat—and double—our joys, and a year in which we change our lives in all the best ways possible.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



## From Our President

The lay lead Friday evening summer services were a great success! Thank you very much to the congregants who spent their time preparing for and leading the services. Each week the members and guests who attended were treated to a meaningful experience and the personal touch of the leaders.

Also during the summer, Rabbi Berkowitz, David Hecht and the Ritual Committee, as well as the Board of Trustees, have been preparing for the high holy days. You will experience a new prayer book resulting in, what we hope, will be very meaningful experiences. Additionally, the beautiful voice

of cantorial student, Laura Stein, will enhance each service. The high holy days schedule is included in this Bulletin.

The new ticket format for the high holy day services, including name tags, is intended to assist in remembering the name of the fellow congregant who you may not have seen recently, and also for security purposes. Please cooperate by wearing your name tag.

Finally, and extremely important, the high holy days are always accompanied by a fundraising appeal. The expenses related to running the synagogue, just as the expenses in all of our lives, seem to keep going up. As you know, the Temple must pay

salaries, maintain the facilities, pay for utilities and repairs, among other costs. Your generosity when making your high holy day contribution will help keep our wonderful temple able to provide the meaningful experiences we expect and continue to be “the place where you belong.” Thank you for your support. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Mark Metzger

## Vassar Temple HHD Service Schedule

### Selichot: Saturday 9/16/17

7:30pm Arnold Award dessert reception & presentation in the Social Hall  
 8:00pm HHD Music & Poetry with Rabbi Berkowitz and cantorial student Laura Stein in the Social Hall

9:30pm Selichot Service in the Sanctuary

### Erev Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday 9/20/17

7:30pm Evening Service

### Rosh Hashanah: Thursday 9/21/17

10:00am Morning Service

2:00pm Family Service

3:30pm Tashlich @ Sunset Lake on Vassar College campus (BYO bread crumbs)

### Rosh Hashanah Day#2: Friday 9/22/17

10:00am Morning Service

7:30pm Shabbat Shuvah Service

### Memorial Service: Sunday 9/24/17

1:00pm @ Lagrange Avenue Cemetery

### Kol Nidre: Friday 9/29/17

7:30pm Evening Service

### Yom Kippur: Saturday 9/30/17

10:00am Morning Service

1:00pm High Holy Day Study

2:00pm Family Service

3:00pm Afternoon Service

5:00pm Yizkor Service

5:30pm Ne'ilah service

6:45pm Break the Fast (Meal in the Social Hall for those who have RSVP'd)

## September Worship Services

1	7:30pm	Lay-led Shabbat evening service
2	9:00am	NO Torah Study
8	6:00pm 7:30pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour Selichot Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist, Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial student Laura Stein
9	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship
15	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
16	9:00am 7:30pm	Torah Study Selichot Services with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial student Laura Stein
22	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Services with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
23	9:00am	NO Torah Study
29	7:30pm	Kol Nidre Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
30	9:00am	NO Torah Study

## Scriptural Readings

Sept.

2	<i>Ki Tetzei</i> Deut. 21:10-21:14; Isaiah 54:1-10
9	<i>Ki Tavo</i> Deut. 26:1-27:10; Isaiah 60:1-22
16	<i>Nitzavim-Vayelekh</i> Deut. 29:9 – 30:14; Isaiah 61:10 – 63:9
23	<b>Shabbat Shuva</b> <i>Ha'azinu</i> Deut. 32:1-52; Hosea 14:2-10, Micah 7:18-20, Joel 2:15-27

## Bring the Family to Sunset Lake: Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> for Tashlich Service

B.Y.O. breadcrumbs and join us in symbolically casting your sins upon the waters at a brief, family-friendly tashlich ceremony to be held Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm at beautiful Sunset Lake, on the grounds of Vassar College.

This event is scheduled to be especially convenient for those attending the Family Rosh Hashana service at the Temple earlier that afternoon, and all in the community are welcome to attend. There will be shelter in case of inclement weather and refreshments will be served. For further information contact the Temple at [845-454-2570](tel:845-454-2570).

## New Paths Service

Join us at the New Paths Shabbat morning service on Saturday, Sept. 9th 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. We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. 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 at [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com), Rabbi Berkowitz at [rabbi@vassar temple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassar temple.org), or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.



Many thanks to Ralph and Marian Schwartz for their donation to have the sanctuary carpet cleaned prior to the High Holidays.

### Elaine Lipschutz Receives Founders Award

The Founder's Service Award is given annually to a person who has provided "consistent, extensive, exemplary service to Vassar Temple over an extended period of time." The recipient of this award is nominated by a special committee and chosen by the Temple Board. This year's Founders Award recipient is Elaine Lipschutz.

*Based on an interview conducted by David Lampell:*

Elaine and her husband, Bob (z"l), came to Poughkeepsie 63 years ago, joining Vassar Temple in 1957. A teacher by profession, Elaine has shared her expertise in the field of education with the Temple over the years as a religious school teacher and as a Religious School Committee member and Chairperson. She has taken that education role beyond where most would by also producing a Jewish educator, her daughter, Karen Goodis, and a touring Jewish musician, her grandson, Alan Goodis. And she herself has never stopped learning as a consistent attendee at Temple adult education courses.

Elaine stated that her most impor-

### College Outreach: Helping Vassar Temple College Students Keep in Touch

The Vassar Temple Sisterhood's College Outreach project sends holiday packages to Vassar Temple college students. If you have a current college student, please email the following information to Melissa Erlebacher at [mae62@columbia.edu](mailto:mae62@columbia.edu) so that we can send them some holiday cheer and treats:

- Student's name and address
- Year in school
- School s(he) attends
- Parent's name and email
- Other pertinent information, such as food allergies, study abroad, or whether the school is on a trimester system.

tant contribution has been "being there." Most Shabbats and holidays she is to be found at the Temple. She has been there during the terms of seven rabbis and has contributed her wealth of experience and wisdom to several Rabbinic Search Committees. Her definition of "being here" includes (but is not limited to) being Temple President (as well as being spouse of a Temple President), serving in several Board positions and on numerous committees, chairing the Temple's 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Rocking Horse Ranch, and playing a variety of leadership roles in the Sisterhood including Sisterhood Membership Chairperson and Sisterhood VP.

As Elaine has been there for us, Vassar Temple has been the social center of her life. Thank You, Elaine, for being there.

### Condolences

Emily Himelstein, beloved member and past president;  
Sylvia Decovnick, mother of Joyce Gally;  
Barbara Stern, long-time member;  
Peter Edman, long time former member

### We need your Help!

We are, once again, asking that you be the eyes and ears in the lies 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.

### September 2017 Bimah Flower Donations



- September 8: Donated by Kristin & Justin Horowitz in honor of their wedding
- September 15: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- September 20: Donated by Harry & Sandra Mamis in memory of their parents, Eli & Katherine Mamis and Kurt & Margot Similes
- September 29: Donated by Chuck and Perla Kaufman in memory of their loved ones

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.

### Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly  
Publisher: Marianne Abrams  
Editors: Sue Lesser  
Donna Loshin  
Carol Nectow

Technical support & understudy: Bob Abrams

Articles for the **October Bulletin** must be submitted to the Temple office by **August 30<sup>th</sup>**. Articles may be sent via email to [publicity@vassar temple.org](mailto:publicity@vassar temple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.





“Summertime and the Living Is Easy....”

As I sit here writing, I find myself humming this tune. The truth is that summer is always a bit slower without Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes. However, it is not always so “easy” as it is a time of intense planning.

With the coming school year, the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School will be filled with a variety of classes, family programs, Shabbat celebrations, a couple of field trips and a year-end holiday celebration that will make you want to keep learning---even throughout next summer!

Let me tell you a bit about what we have planned. Our first Sunday morning, September 10th, we are planning a special field trip to explore Judaism by getting our hands dirty. We are currently working with the Poughkeepsie Farm Project to have a very special kick-off. This special day will also be a designated Open House for interested families to come and get acquainted with our school. We ask that each of you try your best to invite at least one friend/family

## From the Religious School Director

who might be interested in our Religious School program to join us on that morning. More details about this special day will be coming soon. Check your emails and the Temple website for information very soon!!

The Rabbi and I have worked hard to coordinate some other special dates on our School Calendar. This year there are four Sunday mornings that will be dedicated to special experiential learning that corresponds to our Jewish Holidays.

On Sunday morning, April 8th, we are planning a Field Trip to New York City to visit the Tenement Museum. This Field Trip will be open to others in our community to join as well. Our vision is to make this a trip of L’Dor V’Dor - intergenerational learning. I imagine our youngest students looking to our more senior congregants to ask about their experiences while learning about Jewish immigration to the United States.

We have also scheduled three Shabbat Morning Family Programs. These special Shabbat mornings will be in lieu of Sunday morning classes and will correspond with the visit of our Student Cantor, Laura Stein. Each of these programs will also connect to the Torah Portion of that Shabbat. We are incredibly excited to have our families come together to learn in “Jewish Time” while celebrat-

ing with the entire community.

In addition, the Religious School has expanded our Madrichim Program (teen aides). We are very excited to have a cadre of teens that will bring new voices and energy into the planning of our special programs and the experiences of our young students.

Of course the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School will continue to meet regularly on Sundays with our wonderful talented and dedicated teachers. Our Hebrew School will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons and will continue to use the Mitkadem Hebrew Program which was very successful this past year.

Our very dedicated Religious School committee would love to involve some new family members. If you are interested in learning what that entails or would like to be a part of this important committee, please contact Committee Chair, Shaari Roland at shaarirs@gmail.com.

*Julie Makowsky*

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## Teaching Children about Israel

School was out, but instead of whiling away the hazy days of summer in a hammock, Julie Makowsky, Religious School Director of Vassar Temple, was one of 75 Jewish educators from the United States, Canada and Mexico, who rushed to Atlanta to attend an exceptional workshop on teaching children about Israel. Presented by the Center for Israel Education and the Emory Institute for the Study of Modern Israel, the objective of this engaging interactive 5-day summer learning experience was to empower educators and, through them, to empower their students. “Understanding Israel’s past and present helps to provide a glimpse into who we are as a Jewish people. A common history connects us all, regardless of geography, politics or flavor of

Judaism practiced. We need to know Israel’s story and that of its people because Israel is integral to Jewish identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” explains CIE President and Emory University Professor Kenneth W. Stein, who founded the annual program sixteen years ago.

Julie embraced this opportunity to learn with leaders in the field, focusing on Israel’s history, politics and culture, studying primary sources collected from Arabic, Hebrew, German and English archives as well as books and materials from Dr. Stein’s own extensive collection. Specialized learning tracks enabled Julie, and each of the other participants, to leave the workshop laden with notes, strategies, and curriculum ideas they can apply in the specific learning settings where they each teach at home. Julie can’t wait to bring all this exciting learning to the children of Vassar Temple.

For more information about the Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School at Vassar Temple, of which Julie is Education Director, visit [www.vassartemple.org/learning/religious-school](http://www.vassartemple.org/learning/religious-school) and feel free to contact Julie at [vassartempliers@gmail.com](mailto:vassartempliers@gmail.com) or 454-2570. Temple membership is not required to enroll children in Vassar Temple’s Sunday school or Hebrew school programs, and new students are always welcome throughout the year.

The workshop for educators that Julie attended is funded by The AVI CHAI Foundation of North America. For more information about the Center for Israel Education or the annual workshop, contact [Rich.walter@israeled.org](mailto:Rich.walter@israeled.org) or visit [www.israeled.org](http://www.israeled.org).



## 2017 VT Gala: Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

This year's Gala celebrates Vassar Temple entering its 18<sup>th</sup> decade as a congregation. In honor of Veteran's Day weekend, the Gala will highlight the Temple's remarkable history of heroes among us who serve or have served the temple, the community and the nation.

The 2017 Vassar Temple Gala will be held on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-8:00pm at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. Join your fellow congregants for an evening of hors d'oeuvres and dinner by Simply Gourmet, wine pairings, a silent auction, musical performances by cantorial student Laura Stein, DJ and dancing. Ticket sales and further information will be made available as soon as possible.

## Jewish War Veterans Meet September 10<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America will hold a regular monthly meeting at 9:30am on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York.

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

As Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue. For further information please contact the Presiding Officer, Rob Rubin, at [qbee5@optonline.net](mailto:qbee5@optonline.net).

## To My Co-Congregants,

My name is Ralph Schwartz and I have been a Temple member since 1974. I served in the National Guard and Army Reserves for 24 years, retiring in 1999.

Vassar Temple is hosting a Gala on the evening of November 12, 2017. This date is the day after Veterans Day. As such, the organizing has asked me to identify past and present Temple members who have served in the military. We wish to honor their names and service.

I need your help to find these members. If you fall into this group, or know of others who do, please contact me at [VTG-ala2017@aol.com](mailto:VTG-ala2017@aol.com) or (845) 849-0025 or pass this contact information along.

Thank you!

*Ralph Schwartz*

## Protein Plenty Update

*When their shelves run empty, we step up to the plate.*

Dear VT Members,  
Thanks again for helping to reduce hunger in our wider community by responding to our Temple's annual summer Protein Plenty drive. As a result of your generous donations this June to "ProP," multiple cases of protein-charged food were purchased and delivered to the Community Action Partnership which operates established food pantries in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Red Hook and Dover.

That's right! 100% of your donations were used to buy a bulk load of canned overstuffed meat ravioli (yes!), chili, boxes of spaghetti, mini penne pasta, tuna fish and macaroni and cheese. While all of the foods selected can be consumed as is, some recipients/families will use these items as "expanders," adding whatever additional ingredients they have to stretch the portions and feed more people. That's powerful stuff.

Well done, Vassar Temple friends, well done.

*Nancy & Dave Samson  
Social Action Committee*



## CROP Walk!

Vassar Temple is going on the local Interfaith CROP Walk to End Hunger to be held Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in Poughkeepsie. You can start walking any time between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Walk on your own, with family and friends, or with a team from the Temple at 12:30pm. Help us raise money to combat hunger locally, nationally and globally! For info on joining as a walker contact Howard Susser, our Temple CROPWalk Recruiter, at [crop-walk@vassartemple.org](mailto:crop-walk@vassartemple.org) or 471-7820.

## Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour

Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hours will continue this fall from 6:00-7:30pm (schedule below). Join with old and new friends for Happy Hour! Everyone welcome – bring the kids! We'll meet on the patio in front of the Synagogue (weather permitting) or downstairs in the social hall and enjoy wine, beverages, delicious appetizers and small plates before services. Menus are themed and feature a variety of local restaurants and cuisine!

Mark your calendars and join the fun! Invite friends and family to enjoy the Vassar Temple community and participate in our beautiful worship services with prayer and song. If you would like to assist with food or “sponsor” a Happy Hour, please let us know.

Schedule for upcoming Happy Hours is below. Happy Hour schedule for winter services might be adjusted to reflect the earlier services.

- September 8th
- October 20th
- November 17th
- December 1st
- January 12th
- February 9th
- March 16th
- April 6th
- May 4th
- June 1st

For further information, please contact Andi Ciminello at [andi@ecopkny.com](mailto:andi@ecopkny.com).

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### FUND FACTS: The Hero within You

Elsewhere in this month's issue of the Temple Bulletin you read about the upcoming Vassar Temple Gala (and if you didn't, please turn back and read the article!). This year's Gala, which will take place over Veteran's Day Weekend, will appropriately honor the heroes within Vassar Temple – those who have selflessly served our nation, congregation and community. It will be a very moving and memorable occasion; I get verklempt just thinking about it. . . .

One of the most challenging aspects of the planning has been the selection of those who will be honored. As I write this article that matter is still unresolved; but suffice it to say that when it comes to heroes who serve, Vassar Temple has enough individuals to probably fill decades of Galas.

While there will ultimately only be a subset of “heroes” publicly recognized at the Gala, the fact is that EVERY person in the room who has invested their time and resources to support the evening will be a hero. The funds generated by our biannual Galas provide an essential source of income for the Temple; without this, the Temple simply cannot make ends meet in our operating budget. Period...

So when the Gala invitation arrives in the coming weeks, please step up and be a hero in your own right by serving our congregation with your generous support. That gesture is every bit as important as the achievements of those whom we will honor on November 12th.

*Jennifer Sachs Dahnert*



### Tiny Temple: Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

Tiny Temple provides programs for young children up to kindergarten age. We read stories, do crafts and enjoy a snack together in the Vassar Temple social hall. The children have a great time in the easy-going environment, and adults enjoy the ability to meet and greet other parents of young children in the Jewish community. This program is open to the community, regardless of temple affiliation.

Our first Tiny Temple gathering of the season is Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-noon in the social hall at Vassar Temple. We will focus on Rosh Hashanah and begin a sweet New Year together.

To RSVP or to get more information, send an email to Laura Brundage at [TinyTemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:TinyTemple@vassartemple.org)





## From the Ritual Corner ...

Repairing Torah silver is part of our Torah restoration project. Susan and I recently took the Torah silver (breastplates, crowns and yadai'im) from the aron kodesh in our sanctuary to Zimmer Brothers jewelry store for appraisal. We arrived there with 2 bags of carefully wrapped silver and met with the store owner and his staff to clarify our purpose. They photographed and took notes re: each item. The photos have been sent to their silversmith who will provide an appraisal and estimate re: cost of repair.

The owner grew up with some of the VT congregants whose names are associated with some of our silver. Before we could even ask, he offered to do the appraisal free of charge. Our Torah silver will likely be repaired over the course of several months a set at a time (e.g., one breastplate and corresponding yad and crowns for each scroll). We returned all of the silver to VT and each piece is where it belongs.

The restoration of our Torah silver is truly a labor of love. We have a donor in our congregation who has generously offered to cover some of the cost of the silver repair. I urge you to consider making contributions to our Eternal Torah Fund to support the current restoration project (scrolls and silver) in the upcoming months.

Wishing you and yours a sweet and meaningful New Year...

*David Hecht*  
Ritual Committee Chair



## Elementary School Library Volunteers Sought!

NEEDED: Volunteers with library skills, organizers, educators, anyone who enjoys reading and interacting with students.

Why? Elementary schools in the Poughkeepsie City School District have had no librarians for the past three years, and the Jewish Social Action Coalition is now addressing this situation. In collaboration with Morse Elementary School teachers and administrators, we are making plans to organize and improve the existing library offerings in that building, allow students to sign out books on a rotating basis and offer some book readings, storytelling, and other literacy connections as our volunteer pool allows.

If you have a day, an hour a week, an occasional time to volunteer, please let us know. Please spread the word to others who may be interested. Someone with a library background would be especially helpful! You need NOT be Jewish to be part of this wonderful project. Interested? Contact Perla Kaufman at [perlakaufman22@gmail.com](mailto:perlakaufman22@gmail.com).



## Selichot: Bonnie Scheer to be Honored during Evening of Music, Poetry & Prayer

On September 16th, the Saturday before Rosh Hashana, Vassar Temple will hold a **Selichot** program to help us all spiritually prepare for the coming High Holy Days. At 7:30pm, the social hall will be the site of a scrumptious dessert reception and the presentation of the Arnold Award to recognize **Bonnie Scheer** for her contributions to the religious life of Vassar Temple.

When Bonnie served as Music Chairperson, she shared her belief that people connect spiritually through music and facilitated the inclusion of services overflowing with joyful song. Bonnie also worked for over two years to help develop Nachamu ("Comfort"), a key Temple project that prepared materials to spiritually support the dying and their families. Much of this material is available to all on the Temple website. Bonnie truly embodies the spirit of the Arnold Award!

Following the lovely ritual of havdalah to usher out the sabbath, we will be treated to music and poetry of the High Holy Days, presented by Rabbi

Berkowitz and our student cantor, Laura Stein. Then, at approximately 9:30pm, we will move into the sanctuary for a moving service which will draw on the new Selichot prayerbook, Mishkan HaLev (Sanctuary of the Heart). The unique approach of this prayer book does not focus on sin, judgment and despair, but upon compassion, forgiveness, and the joyous life. Featured are a variety of meditations, songs, prayers and poetry, to help us move along the path of return. The lateness of the hour adds to the mood of quiet and introspection that is central to this observance.

Please join us to honor Bonnie, and for the powerful and moving Selichot program and service to follow.



## Yahrzeits

### SEPTEMBER 1

Rachel Barchilon  
David Cohen  
Jack L. Cohn  
Stuart Dick  
Adolph Milton Fein  
Martha Feinman  
Claire Entner Gad  
Molly Garber  
Joseph LaLone  
Rose Markowitz  
Saul Nectow  
Rose Ritter  
Edward J. Newman  
Seymour Niesen  
Beatrice Plansky  
Irving Revitz  
Louis Rosen  
Elma S. Rosenberg  
Joseph Samuels  
Molly Solomon  
Sheila Mardon  
Sukert  
Susan Vance  
Rose Weisman

### SEPTEMBER 8

Allene Braw Baskin  
Rebecca Baskin  
Phyllis Bell  
Dr. Nathan Bernstein  
Rebecca Slutsky  
Cohen  
Ryan Creedon  
Margaret M. Feldman  
Murray Gordon  
Richard M. Held  
Carl Hoppermann  
Nathan Rosenberg  
Ida Schwartz  
June Siegel  
Joseph W. Sparks  
Zelda Cohen Swatlo

### SEPTEMBER 15

Leah Aberman  
Sam Brozen  
Dora J. Chertock  
Solomon Diamond  
Marilyn Dugatkin  
Solomon Dunn  
Samuel Feldman  
Philip Finnerman  
Martin Gross  
Klara Haas  
Saul Heiser  
Kyle Hoppermann  
Anna Katz  
Saul Herbert  
Kaufman  
Louis Lass  
Norman Lesk  
Celia Levine  
Arlene Liebman  
Eva D. Lippmann  
Edward Markum  
Annie Moselle  
Julius Oppenheimer  
Edith Ratner  
Emilie Scharf  
Ada M. Shelton  
John Sparks

### SEPTEMBER 22

James Benton  
Bertha Chazen  
Edward Cohen  
Edna Cohn  
Bernard Decovnick  
William Dorn  
Irene Edell  
Morris Goldberg  
A.D. Hoffman  
Richard Wayne  
Kallman  
Hilda Klausner  
Aaron Rabin  
Sally Schaffer  
Aaron Silverman  
Rose S. Weigert

### SEPTEMBER 29

Emanuel Aloise  
Susan Alpers  
Louis Altman  
Barnett Colton  
Frances Gray Conrad  
Dahnert  
Erna Dorn  
William Falenki  
Sadie Gross  
Raphael Horn  
Albert D. Kahn  
Patricia Kramer  
Dr. Paul Lieberman  
Selma Sobel Lipson  
Lillian Martone  
Bernard Pearlman  
Elio Ribbi  
Dr. Ely Rosenthal  
Robert Sachs  
Dorothy Schmukler  
Sophie Schwartz  
Helen Shapiro  
Joy Sumner  
Goldie H. Worona  
Charlotte Zuckerman

## Weekly Study Groups

“Torah Study” with the Temple’s Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, examines passages from the week’s torah portion and will be held this month on Saturdays Sept.9th and Sept.16th at 9:00am.

“The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text” resumes for the fall on Sept. 5th and will be 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



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## VTS Offers CPR Class

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is sponsoring FREE Family & Friends CPR classes. This is a course that teaches the lifesaving skills of adult Hands-Only CPR, adult CPR with breaths, child CPR with breaths and adult and child AED use. We will also cover airway block for adults and children.

This course is designed for people who want to learn CPR but do not need a CPR course completion card.

We have scheduled two classes to try to accommodate different schedules. The classes will run for 60 to 90 minutes depending on the number of students in the class. You need to attend only one class.

Sunday, September 10th at 10:30am

Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00pm.

Classes will start PROMPTLY, so please try to arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to start times. Space is limited, and you must RSVP by September 5<sup>th</sup> for the September class and by October 12th for the October class in order to attend.

For questions, or to RSVP, contact Marcia Tanzman at [mtanzman16@gmail.com](mailto:mtanzman16@gmail.com)

**Vassar Temple Bulletin**  
**140 Hooker Avenue**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**  
**845-454-2570**  
**www.vassar temple.org**



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

**September 2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30pm Shabbat Service, led by Susan & David Hecht	2 NO TORAH STUDY
3	4	5 7pm Ritual Committee	6	7	8 6pm Shabbat Happy Hour 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Laura Stein	9 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
10 9am R/S Opening Day 10:30 AED training 12:30pm RS Teacher Orientation	11	12	13 4:30pm Hebrew School	14	15 7:30pm Shabbat Service	16 9am Torah Study <b>7:30</b> Selichot Program with Laura Stein
17 9am R/S 9:30am R/S Committee 11am Tiny Temple	18 12pm Chai Noon	19	20 7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah No Hebrew School	21 10am Rosh Hashanah Service 2pm RH Family Service 4pm Tashlich	22 10am Rosh Hashanah 2 <sup>nd</sup> day service 7:30pm Shabbat Service	23 NO TORAH STUDY
24 NO R/S 9am B'nai Mitzvah Parent Orientation 9am Men's Club Sukkah Raising 9:30am VTS Exec Meeting	25	26	27 4:30pm Hebrew School 5:45pm Vassar Temple hosts Geshet Program	28 Shelter Meal	29 7:30pm Kol Nidre Service	30 10am Yom Kippur Service 1pm YK Study 2pm YK Family Service 3pm YK Afternoon Serv. 5pm Yizkor Service 5:30pm Ne'lah Service 6:30pm Break The Fast