



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 164, No. 8 April 2018

### Laura's Favorite Things

#### A Concert to Benefit Vassar Temple

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm  
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

For Laura's final concert, she'll be sharing her favorite songs from various genres. Join us as she sings funny cabaret songs, sweet show tunes, jazzy classics and of course, Jewish prayer and folk tunes. As usual, Laura will teach new music, ask for audience participation and bring in Havdalah with familiar tunes. The evening will include a festive dessert table. Tickets are \$18 at the door. RSVPs appreciated to [bobabrams1@gmail.com](mailto:bobabrams1@gmail.com).

### Spring Rummage Sale: April 22

Start cleaning those closets of gently used items and packing your bric-a-brac. The Rummage Sale is coming very soon! We'll start collecting rummage items on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. **Please bring all rummage to the social hall.** No rummage will be accepted after April 20<sup>th</sup>. Two evenings will be available for rummage drop-off: Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm.

When you bring your items to the social hall, please make sure you place them 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! The sale on April 22<sup>nd</sup> runs from 9:30am to 12:30pm; the bag sale starts at 2:00pm and ends at 5:00pm.

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

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

### Mitzvah Day: Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> A Day of Community Service ~ "Be a Part of It"

Pre-register at [jewishdutchess.org](http://jewishdutchess.org) for your project, free breakfast & lunch. Project & registration info on that website or see the April *Voice*.

Check out projects captained by Vassar Temple members:

- Adriance Library Planting (Ellie Charwat)
- Appalachian Trail (Ron Rosen)
- Birthday Bags (Jasmine Russo)
- Cereal Counts (the Samsons)
- Lunch Box (Gil Seligman)
- Historic Cemetery Cleanup

### Upcoming Events

April	
6	Yizkor Service, p.3
13-15	Anita Diamant, p. 2
16	Shabbat Happy Hour, p.4
22	Rummage Sale, p.1
27	Generations Shabbat, p.4
28	Laura Stein Concert, p.1
28	Tiny Temple, p3
29	Fannie & Doris Berlin Lecture, p.5
May	
6	Mitzvah Day, p. 1



2018 Headquarters: Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave. Poughkeepsie (the street "behind" Temple Beth El and the JCC/HVCC)

- Free Kickoff Breakfast/Sign-In starts 9:00am at Headquarters
- Most service projects begin by 10:00am at community sites or HQ, rain or shine
- Sign up for projects right for you, whatever your age/interest/singles/families/teens/kids/tots

Questions? Contact Jewish Federation of Dutchess County at 471-9811 or [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).



## From the Rabbi's Desk: Celebrating Mimouna

Each year, as Passover comes to an end, I'll admit I'm thinking mostly about pizza. Growing up, as the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew to a close, my mother would order from Pizza Hut (I know, I know). The five of us would joyously recite the Motzi over the cardboard box before stuffing our faces with the cheesy *chametz*. I assumed that this was how every family broke Passover. What was more symbolic of the end of Passover's oppressive food restrictions than a greasy slice of non-matzah pizza?

I soon learned that there were many who broke Passover with pasta, or, for those who were more strictly observant, rice. I didn't realize that, for an entire segment of the Jewish community, the end of Passover was its own celebration.

In Moroccan Jewish communities, the end of Passover is marked by the festival of Mimouna, a feast that simultaneously signifies the end of the holiday and the beginning of a new agricultural year. I had the blessing of celebrating Mimouna with one of our families during my first year at Vassar Temple, and it was a beautiful and joyous celebration. It is a time of eating sweet foods—also containing healthy amounts of *chametz*—and asking for blessings in the coming year.

There are several theories as to where Mimouna got its name. Though the festival's name sounds distinctly Arabic, some say that it comes from the Hebrew word *emunah*, meaning "faith." The hymn *Ani Maamin*, "I believe," which refers to waiting for the Messiah to come, might have been rendered in Judeo-Arabic as *ma'amin ana*, which could easily have become *mimouna*. Theologically, this would have made sense, as we end the Passover seder by opening the door for Elijah and saying "Next Year in Jerusalem," expressing the hope that we will soon enter the Messianic Age.

Some say that Mimouna commemorates the yartzheit of Maimonides, also known as the RaMBaM (an acronym for Rabbi Moses ben Maimon), a renowned Jewish scholar who lived in Fez, Morocco. (Others say that the yartzheit was actually for Maimonides' father, Joseph, or that the last day of Passover was his birthday).

It is also possible that Mimouna was the name of an ancient Moroccan goddess of good fortune, who was, oddly enough, wife of the demon Mimoun. Sweet foods were therefore set out as an offering to the goddess, in hopes of good luck for the year. In contrast, one avoided foods that were sour, salty, or black.

Popular Mimouna foods include *mouffleta*—crepes rolled in butter and sugar or honey—as well as sweet jams, pastries, and candied fruits. Because Mimouna comes at an important moment in the agricultural year, most of what we see on the table symbolizes hopes for fertility and prosperity: gold and silver coins, fresh flowers, wheat, dairy, and fish.

Given that the house would have been cleansed of *hametz*, including flour, for the entire holiday, a lovely interfaith custom emerged in the Moroccan Jewish community: Muslim neighbors would bring over supplies—particularly flour—for the cooking, then stay for the festivities. Mimouna was a symbol of good relations between Jews and their Muslim neighbors.

Mimouna has taken on a new life in modern Israel, where it has become a public celebration of North African Jewish culture. Israelis of Moroccan descent—and their friends—host picnics and barbecues in public parks and beaches, making it a good time for local politicians to drop by and meet their North African constituents.

How do you celebrate the end of Passover? This year, I hope you'll celebrate with your Vassar Temple Family.

Please join us for a special Havdalah Service on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We'll offer special prayers, song and readings to mark the end of Passover and beginning of Spring. Following a brief service, we will adjourn to the Social Hall (or our beautiful patio if weather permits!) for Food, Fun and Fellowship.

If you are interested in helping to plan the service, please reach out to Rabbi Berkowitz and Dave Hecht from Ritual Committee.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

### Author Anita Diamant at Shabbaton: Apr. 13, 14, 15

Anita Diamant, NY Times best selling author, will be guest presenter at a Community Shabbaton, April 13-15, co-sponsored by Congregation Shir Chadash, Temple Beth El, and Vassar Temple. Diamant is the author of twelve books including *The Red Tent* (adapted into a mini-series by Lifetime TV) and *The Boston Girl*. She has written six non-fiction guides to contemporary Jewish life, including the recently updated *The New Jewish Wedding Now*, and is an award winning journalist.

#### Friday 4/13 at Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie

- 7:30pm Shabbat evening service with talk at the end: *How I Got to be Standing Here Before You: A Writer's Autobiography*

To donate food for the oneg, contact Marian Schwartz at [Kickman492@aol.com](mailto:Kickman492@aol.com) or 845-849-0025.

#### Saturday 4/14 at Temple Beth-El, 118 S. Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie

- 9:30am Main Sanctuary Service; 10:15am Torah Service
- 11:15am Q&A conversation with Anita Diamant and clergy of the synagogues
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Talk followed by Q & A: *The Jewish Wedding Now: Change is a Constant*

#### Sunday 4/15 at Congregation Shir Chadash, 1168 NY-55, Lagrangeville

- 12:30pm Brunch, Talk: "From *The Red Tent* to *The Boston Girl*: Why I Write Historical Fiction"; Book sale and signing.

## April Worship Services

6	Last Day of Passover 10:30 am Yizkor Service 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
7	9:00am Torah Study 10:00am New Paths Shabbat morning worship
13	7:30 pm Joint Shabbaton with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
14	9:30am Joint Shabbaton at Temple Beth- El
15	12:30 pm Joint Shabbaton at Shir Chadash
20	7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
21	9:00am Torah Study 10:00am New Paths Shabbat morning worship
27	6:00pm VTS Generations Congregational Dinner 7:30pm Sisterhood Generational Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
28	9:00am Torah Study 10:00am Tiny Temple 8:00pm Concert with cantorial intern/soloist Laura Stein

## New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning services Saturdays, April 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am in the informal 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@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org), or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

## Yizkor Service, Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am

Four times a year--Pesach, Shavuot, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot--we gather to recite the Yizkor prayer in memory of our loved ones. Join us for an informal morning service, and be there to support, and be supported by, the members of our sacred community.



## Scriptural Readings

April	
7	<b>Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach</b> Exodus 33:12 - 34:26, Numbers 28:19 - 28:25; II Samuel 22:1-51
14	<i>Sh'mini</i> Lev. 10:12-11:32; I Samuel 20:18-42
21	<i>Tazria-Metzora</i> Lev. 13:40-14:32; II Kings 7:3-20
28	<i>Acharei Mot-Kedoshim</i> Lev. 17:8-19:14, Amos 9:7-15

## Tiny Temple's Special Shabbat



Please join us for Tiny Temple's Special Shabbat at Vassar Temple on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am-11:30am. The tots will participate in an interactive Shabbat service with cantorial intern, Laura Stein. There will be songs, stories and a craft in a relaxed and friendly setting. A special shabbat snack will be served.

Parents, grandparents, families and children ages infant to 5 are warmly invited to join in the fun. Tiny Temple is open to all regardless of temple affiliation, is always free of charge, and is sponsored by Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo at [tinytemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:tinytemple@vassartemple.org). They will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful, free, monthly program and to put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list. Vassar Temple is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, and additional information is available at [www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org) or by calling the Temple Office at 845-454-2570.

## New Member

Please welcome the following new member to our Vassar Temple family:

Betty Renner

## 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.

## Your VT Officers & Board Are Just an Email Away

The Vassar Temple Officers and Trustees are pleased to announce that we have established the following email to facilitate increased communication with members. Please use our new address to send us your thoughts, questions, and concerns. You will receive a prompt reply! Contact us at [board@vassartemple.org](mailto:board@vassartemple.org)

## April Bimah Flowers Donations

- April 6: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- April 13: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- April 20: Donated by Roni and Chuck Stein
- April 27: Donated by Lisa-Sue and Kurt Quackenbush in honor of their anniversary

Please consider commemorating a special occasion or honoring the memory of a loved one by sponsoring the Sanctuary Flowers. The cost is \$55. Checks should be made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood with 'Bimah Flower Fund' in the memo line. For more information call the Temple Office at 454-2570.

## Next Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30pm

Fun, Friendship & Food  
(oh, and good wine too!)

Join the Fun for upcoming Happy Hour events. Watch the calendar for weekly announcements and join with your Vassar Temple friends and family. The agenda is simple: Fun, Friendship and Food!

This year we have featured themed Happy Hours, including Southern Comfort (thanks Jas Russo and Melissa Wall), Mexican (Chef Bob Creedon), Italian (Marty Noble), French (Arnie, our wine guy!) and one of our favorites – Falafel Town! Our Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour Committee (Judy Creedon, Marilyn Lampell, Lisa Rubenstein) have appreciated all of this tremendous support and dedication!

With the warm weather approaching, we'll return to Happy Hours on the patio or in our newly renovated Social Hall. We thank Sisterhood for their ongoing support to underwrite these festive monthly gatherings. If you would like to "host" an upcoming event – just let us know. It's fun and easy.

Andi Ciminello ([andi@ecopkny.com](mailto:andi@ecopkny.com))



## Condolences

Vera Maisel, beloved mother of Gordon Maisel;  
Elaine Bard, beloved wife of Leonard Bard

## Vassar Temple Sisterhood Generations Shabbat Service & Dinner April 27<sup>th</sup>

Be sure to come to Temple for services at 7:30pm on April 27<sup>th</sup> when we will both honor long-time members of our Temple and celebrate the contributions of our Sisterhood. Members of Sisterhood will lead the service, during which everyone who has been a member of the congregation for 40 or more years will be recognized.

Please join us for a special family dinner prior to the Sisterhood/Generations Shabbat service at 6:00 pm. Come enjoy a delicious Shabbat roast chicken dinner (with a vegetarian option). Rather than charge a set amount for the dinner, donations for the cost of the meal are greatly appreciated.

It is important that we know how much food to prepare, so we ask that you please RSVP for the dinner by April 24<sup>th</sup> to Danah Moore at [danahmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:danahmoore@hotmail.com). Those who are being recognized as a 'Generations Member' are invited to be our guests at the dinner, but we ask that you let us know that you're coming.

## Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly  
Publisher: Marianne Abrams  
Editors: Sue Lesser  
Donna Loshin  
Technical support  
& understudy: Bob Abrams

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



# From the Religious School Director



Last June, I spent a week with other Jewish educators from all around the world at the Center for Israel Education (CIE) workshop. The

mission of the CIE program is to provide Jewish educators with the tools and resources for teaching about Israel. After attending, I was expected to bring back to my community some of the teachings and resources that I was given an opportunity to experience.

I decided to re-focus the curriculum for our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class which is taught by our wonderful and creative teacher, Joan Quaderer. Joan was very open and excited to work with me to create something new for her class. We both had noticed lately that students sometimes approached their Bar/Bat Mitzvah forgetting the lessons of the early stories of the Torah, and that integrating an Israel curriculum with a review of the stories from Genesis and Exodus would work well. Joan came up with a format that in-

tegrates lessons about Israeli art and artists with the Torah text as part of the learning process.

Each week, an Israeli artist with a distinct style is presented. Her class then reads the Torah selection for the week and, using the style of the artist that they have learned about, creates their own Midrash (interpretation) of the Torah story through art. It's been amazing to watch what has developed out of this. Joan has a small class this year and is able to give her students a lot of attention. One student was interested in learning about artists who have immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia. The students went online and researched the artist and while doing so, they learned about the Beta Israel community in Israel and some of the details of their immigration to Israel. It's a fascinating story that continues to this day.

Students have created midrash on the Story of Creation while learning about Jo Milgrom, known for her work with collage and handmade Midrash. Judith Yellin, another artist known for collage and torn paper artwork, provided the medium for learning about Noah and the Ark. The Tower of Babel was explored using Avraham Loewenthal's micrography

technique. The Matriarch and the Patriarchs were looked at through the quilting of Beta Israel. Eliana Kotliarker was the basis for the students' midrash about the story of Rebecca at the Well. Yaacov Agam's distinctive three-dimensional style provided a way for students to learn about Esau and Jacob. Students also learned about Jacob's Ladder using Morris Dahan's (my favorite Israeli artist from Tzefat) colorful painting technique. This is just a sampling of the Israeli artists and the stories the students covered this year.

If you are in a meeting at the Temple or have a few moments before or after services, take the time to look at the walls in the classroom next to the library to see all the wonderful art that our students have created.

It is my hope that other teachers from our community have the opportunity to attend the CIE workshop or another similar workshop that can bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the work we do with our students.

*Julie Makowsky*

## Fannie and Doris Berlin Lecture Sunday, April 29, 4:00pm Dr. Deborah Tannen, Guest Speaker

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is proud to announce that this year's Doris and Fannie Berlin lecturer is Deborah Tannen, author of the four-year, #1 New York Times best seller *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. This book brought gender differences in communication style to the forefront of public awareness.

Dr. Tannen, a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University, is a frequent guest on such radio programs as NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered* and TV shows such as *20/20*, *Today*, *PBS News-Hour*, and *Good Morning America*. She is also a featured writer for such newspapers and magazines as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Atlantic*. She will talk about women's friendships as compared to men's--the topic of her recently published twelfth book, *You're the Only One I Can Tell: Inside the Language of Women's Friendships*.

The Doris and Fannie Berlin Lecture will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 4:00 pm at Vassar Temple. The community is invited to join us for this exciting opportunity to hear a uniquely entertaining and engaging speaker.



*Rabbi Berkowitz (aka Cookie Monster) makes remarks during Mens's Club Purim dinner*



*VT actors present the Purim Sesame Street Show*

*More Pictures on page 9*

## Social Action Notes

Heartfelt appreciation to Ronni Jarvis, Ron Rosen, Danah Moore, Craig Gittelman, Arnie Serotsky, Sandra Mamis, Eve Gendron, Youth Group Advisor Fran, Religious School teachers Joan and Yoni, and above all, our stellar Religious School Director, Julie Makowsky, for providing the leadership and logistical where-with-all to make our last three Lunch Boxes such a success. And thanks to all those adults, teens and religious school students who donated food, money and sweat equity to make this vital project possible.

Thank goodness for everyone who donated to our 'Code Blue' campaign to raise funds, food and basic supplies for Hudson River housing's homeless shelters this winter. Your outpouring of support made a great difference in the lives of so many!

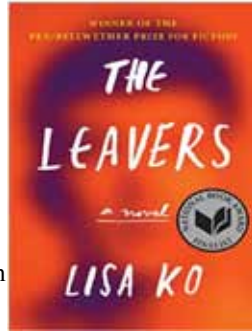
Just a few closing lines to speak about Elaine Bard (z'l), a greatly valued long-time member of our Social Action team... Elaine will especially be remembered for her strong sense of social justice. Elaine fulfilled one of the goals on her bucket list by co-founding the Audrey Morgenstern Knitting Group, which creates warm garments and blankets for those in need. And we share fond memories of the bountiful deli lunches she provided for Vassar Temple's Habitat for Humanity Build teams.

## Book Club to Discuss *The Leavers*: April 12<sup>th</sup>

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss Lisa Ko's *The Leavers*, winner of the 2016 PEN/Bellwether prize for fiction that addresses issues of social justice.

One morning, Deming Guo's mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, goes to her job at a nail salon and never returns home. No one can find any trace of her. With his mother gone, eleven year old Deming is left with no one to care for him. He is eventually adopted by two white college professors who move him from the Bronx to a small town upstate. They rename him Daniel Wilkinson, in their efforts to make him over into their version of the 'all American boy.'

Set in New York and China, *The Leavers* is a story of how one boy comes into his own



when everything he's loved has been taken away – and how a mother learns to live with the mistakes of her past.

This powerful debut novel is available through the local library system. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Colledgeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Muriel Lampell will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome.

To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or [linda.babas.41@gmail.com](mailto:linda.babas.41@gmail.com). As always, your book suggestions for future meetings are welcome.

### Camp Scholarships Available!

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is, once again, accepting applications for Scholarship Awards from the Andrea Rabin and Youth Funds now through May 15<sup>th</sup> to help defray costs for Vassar Temple students attending Jewish summer camp programs in 2018. These Scholarship Awards are stipends and not need-based.

Students are asked to please submit a brief letter with the following information included:

- child name
- camp name
- duration of the camp
- cost
- reason for attending and benefit to self, family, and Vassar Temple.

**Application Deadline: MAY 15<sup>th</sup>. Send to:**

Vassar Temple Sisterhood  
140 Hooker Ave  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Scholarship money used for these students comes from the Andrea Rabin and Youth Funds, which is restricted in its use for our Temple youth and students. Contributions to these funds are always appreciated.

### CEREAL COUNTS!!! 2018

#### ANNUAL DUTCHESS COUNTY-WIDE BREAKFAST CEREAL BOX DRIVE Sunday April 8 - Sunday, May 7

Dear Vassar Temple friends,

Every summer, there are underprivileged children and teenagers who may lack breakfast food at home. They may not be able to get to sites serving free breakfast or go hungry on the weekends. Every summer, there are adults of all ages who need breakfast food. Together we can reduce breakfast hunger.

From April 8<sup>th</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup> (Mitzvah Day!), please drop off a box of cereal to our NEW main collection site: **The Hudson Valley Community Center at 110 Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie.** Hours: Every day, 9:00am-8:00pm except Sundays, 9:00am-5:00pm!

If possible, please consider hosting a "mini-drive" to collect boxes in your office, business, school, with your teams, groups and more. Just invite people to bring in a box of cereal, and then drop off your collection at the HVCC any time during the drive. It's easy and incredibly rewarding.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will count the boxes,

pack them into cartons donated by the Arnoff Moving Company and load them onto a truck. During the week of May 7<sup>th</sup> the boxes will be delivered to Dutchess Outreach, Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers, Community Action Partnership for pantries in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Red Hook and Dover, Reach Out Family Worship Center in Hyde Park, Hudson River Housing/Gannett House, Morse Magnet Elementary School, Interfaith Senior Housing and Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Church.

Every box counts! Thank you!

Questions? 845 235-2860 or [cereal-counts123@gmail.com](mailto:cereal-counts123@gmail.com)

*Nancy and David Samson*

## April Study Groups at Vassar Temple

‘Torah Study’ with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week’s torah portion or haftarah, will be held at 9:00am on Saturdays (NO class 4/14). *The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text*, taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (Apr.10 & 24) 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.

## April Tzedakah:

### The Captain Underpants Campaign

Area synagogues and the Harding Club are collaborating to collect donations of new (preferably packaged) underwear for the children in Morse Elementary School, Poughkeepsie. A drop off bin for the underwear will be located in the temple during the month of April, and money collected in temple tzedakah boxes will also go toward purchasing underwear for the children. You may also donate toward this effort with a check made out to Vassar Temple with ‘underwear’ on the memo line. If you have any questions about this project, please contact [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).

## What is the Mitzvah Day Birthday Project?

Let’s provide birthday parties for local children in need who otherwise would have none: a tote bag filled with birthday cake fixings, a special toy and book reflecting the child’s interests, perhaps a party decoration, and a gift card. Choose from many ways to help:

- Bring boxed cake mix, canned icing, boxed birthday candles, birthday decor to the donation box located in our temple between 4/8-5/3. Donate \$36 to sponsor a bag; receive thank you note from child\*
- Adopt a child’s bag to shop for; receive thank you note from child\*
- Kids & teens, register at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://www.jewishdutchess.org) to decorate and stuff bags, make birthday cards on Mitzvah Day, Sunday, May 6

\*For information on sponsoring or adopting a bag, please contact Jasmine Russo at [jasmainerusso@gmail.com](mailto:jasmainerusso@gmail.com) or 845- 476-4261.

## Jewish War Veterans Meeting: April 8<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, of the Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America, will be holding its monthly post meeting on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Congregation Schomre Israel in Poughkeepsie at 9:30am. There will be an informal coffee and cake ‘schmooze’ at 9:00am. Because Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no edibles may be brought in. All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America are cordially invited to attend and fully participate. Furthermore, all persons of the Jewish faith are invited to attend and participate. We look forward to seeing you at these meetings.

## Rabbis in Conversation: A Learning Series for the Omer

### Tuesdays at Boardman Library

Join rabbis from the Dutchess County Jewish Community as we explore some of the “Big Ideas” of Jewish faith and practice. Each week, two rabbis from different Jewish institutions will discuss a topic they find essential to living a Jewish life. This series is in observance of the *omer*, a seven-week period of reflection and learning between Pesach (Passover) and Shavuot (Pentecost).

All programs will be held at Boardman Road Library at 7:00pm.

- Five Tuesdays in April-May
- No class on April 24<sup>th</sup>

### Program dates/topics:

Daniel Polish (Congregation Shir Chadash) and Rabbi Daniel Victor (Temple Beth El)

**May 15:** “Theodicy: God and the Problem of Evil” with Rabbi Miriam Hyman (Temple Beth El) and Rabbi Michael Fessler (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

**April 10:** “Sacred Memory” with Rabbi Eliezer Langer (Congregation Schomre Israel) and Rabbi Leah Berkowitz (Vassar Temple)

**April 17:** “Practices of Jewish Time and Jewish Eating” with Rabbi Paul Golomb (Vassar Temple) and Rabbi Neal Loevinger (Vassar Brothers Medical Center)

**May 1:** “Teshuvah: Repentance and Forgiveness” with Rabbi Brent Spodek (Beacon Hebrew Alliance) and Rabbi Paul Golomb (Vassar Temple)

**May 8:** “Imitation of God” with Rabbi

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### RITUAL FUND

#### In Honor of:

Rabbi Berkowitz, for her hospitality  
at the Tu B'shevat Seder

Neil Salzman

### SUSTAINING FUND

#### In Memory of:

Martin Lowenthal

Charles, Roni & Joseph Stein

Lewis Schwartz

Robin Peritz & Janet Greenman

Kurt Similes

Harry & Sandra Mamis

Katherine Mamis

Harry & Sandra Mamis

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Roslyn Kaflowitz

Howard Judd

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John McGaulley

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David & Susan Karnes Hecht

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The Feins' 70th Anniversary

The Feins' 70th Anniversary

In appreciation of Linda Cantor

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

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#### In Memory of:

Sol Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

Benjamin Clarfeld

Elaine Lipschutz

#### In Honor of:

The Feins' 70th Anniversary

Elaine Lipschutz

---

## APRIL Yahrzeits

### APRIL 6

Isador Albinder

Herman Baskin

Samuel Baskin

Dolores Marie Brundage

Vera Lisovsky Budson

Pauline Dubler

David H. Ettenson

Joseph Frankel

Hon. Joseph H. Gellert

Dr. Albert Gould

Morris D. Kovacs

Morris Landau

Simi Levy

Hester Lox

Joshua Lowe Posner

Mollie Rosenberg

Eric Samson

Mimi L. Schor

Max Michael Simon, MD

### APRIL 13

Julius Albert

Elias Altman

Elaine F. Bloch

Lorraine Goldberg

Jaime Hecht

Ted Hecht

Jack Jacobson

Martha Katz

Dr. Paul Koltai

David Korobkin

Lillian F. Kovacs

Anne Lacher

Evelyn Lanning

Philip Mardon, MD

Jeannette S. Newman

Herbert Rosand

Morris Rosenberg

Kenneth (Mickey)

Rosenblum

Solomon Salberg

Ida Salit

Louis Schwartz

Nathan "Toolie" Turk

Charles Volkman, Sr.

### APRIL 20

Fannie Bard

Eva Bley

George N. Freedman

Suzanne Hecht

Shirley Ruth Karnes

Doreen Kimmel

Philip Lacher

Delbert LaLone

Eric Mendel

Evelyn Partridge

Paul Plansky

Nathan L. Reifler

Clara Levy Ribbi

Gladys Salberg

Joan Sachs Shassian

Gertrude Rosenmann

Sonkin

Marion Volkman

Dr. Fritz Weigert

Samuel H. Weisman

Rebecca Wolfson

### APRIL 27

Harry Bard

Sidney Cohen

Anna Dreishpoon

Frances R. Finnerman

Dan L. Golomb

Bessie Goldman Lass

Reuben Lewis

Joan Marshall

Claire Troeger Melle

Norman S. Reifler

Lester M. Ritter

Julius Seif

Esther Strauss

Abraham Tavss

Lewis Troeger

Dr. Wolfgang U.

Weigert





## Hamantaschen Galore!

After several years of having our earlier hamantaschen baking day either snowed out or with an iffy weather forecast, it was very nice to *not* have to worry about that this year!

The Temple was buzzing with activity on February 4<sup>th</sup> with so much going on in the kitchen and social hall. It took the efforts of a lot of people to make as many delicious hamantaschen as we did in only 4 hours! There were people in the kitchen rolling and cutting out dough while others were filling and folding them into hamantaschen so they could be baked in our ovens. Out in the social hall others were making packages to send to our college students, for delivery as outreach, and, of course, to serve after our Megillah reading and Purim Shpiel. Our Sunday school students are also very talented bakers who are terrific at making hamantaschen and, thanks to Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo, lots of Tiny Temple kids and their parents and grandparents enjoyed the morning, too.

Thank you to the many people whose efforts helped make this year's hamantaschen baking go as well as it did: Rabbi Berkowitz, Laura Brundage, Andi Ciminello, Jen Dahnert, Gail D'Alessio, Mallory Greenberg (Fern Wolf's niece), Susan Karnes Hecht, Barbara Hyman, Ronni Jarvis, Perla Kaufman, Polly Lewis, Amy Horn Oclatis, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Joan Reifler, Shaari Roland, Melanie Sanchez, Alex Sinn, Michele Sinn, Roni Stein, Marcia Tanzman, Kamil Wisniewski, Fern Wolf and Nadine Zaritsky. Also, a big thank you to Lisa Kaul and Stacy Isaacson for gluten free dough and hamantaschen. We had so many helpers that I'm sure I've forgotten to acknowledge someone. Please know that it was unintentional.

*Judy Rosenfeld*

Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day Chair



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<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 Intern:</b>	Laura Stein
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Mark Metzger
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	Alan Kaflowitz
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Roni Stein
<b>Secretary:</b>	Susan Karnes Hecht
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kenneth Levinson
<b>Sisterhood President:</b>	Judy Rosenfeld
<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Glenn Tanzman & Dan Teich
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Bob Ritter
<b>Youth Group President:</b>	OPEN

**DATED MAIL**  
**PLEASE**  
**RUSH**

### April 2018 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Religious School (Pesach)	2	3 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP) 7pm Ritual Cmte meeting	4 No Hebrew School	5 10am SEP	6 10am Pesach Yizkor Service 7:30pm Shabbat Service	7 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
8 R/S Field Trip 10am VTS Board Meeting	9	10 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb	11 Yom Hashoah Memorial Day 4:30pm Hebrew School	12 10am SEP 2pm VTS Book Club	13 7:30pm Joint Shabbaton with TBE, Cantorial Intern Laura Stein	14 Joint Shabbaton with TBE 10am Torah Study
15 Rummage Drop off 9am Religious School 9:30am R/S Committee	16	17 10am SEP	18 Geshet at VT 12pm VTS Chai Noon 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance Cmte	19 10am SEP	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
22 Rummage Sale 9am Religious School	23	24 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb	25 4:30pm Hebrew School	26 10am SEP 6pm Exec Cmte 7pm Board Meet- ing	27 6pm VTS- Generations Dinner 7:30pm VTS & Generations Shab- bat with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein	28 9am Torah Study 10am Baby Shabbat 8pm Concert with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein
29 9am Religious School with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein 4pm VTS Fannie Berlin Lecture	30					