



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 164, No. 6 February 2018

BAKERS NEEDED!

Join us for Sisterhood's annual

HAMANTASCHEN BAKING DAY

Hamantaschen will be served at Purim, sent to our college students and delivered as outreach.

Sunday, February 4th
(snow date 2/11/18)

9:00 – 1:00 in the Temple kitchen

R.S.V.P. to Judy Rosenfeld

635-2414 or hamantaschen@vassartemple.org

Please bring a batch of dough and a rolling pin if you have one.

Remaining supplies and fun provided.

Not able to come and help? Dough can be brought in in advance and placed in the Temple freezer - just let Judy know. [See the dough recipe on Page 8.](#)

Purim Pasta Food Drive

Purim Pasta, a simple food drive we have held each Purim for a number of years now, is a special tradition at Vassar Temple, and you are invited to participate! On Feb. 28th, please bring in boxes of pasta to Temple and shake them when wicked Haman's name is mentioned during the Megillah reading (the boxes are the groggers!) Drown out evil and prevail with the noise of victory!

After services, the boxes will be collected and delivered to a local food pantry. Macaroni, ziti, bow ties too -- any will do! Get ready to shake, shake, shake! The opportunity to fight hunger with our Jewish brothers and sisters is



Shin is for Shushan! A Sesame Street Purimshpiel

Join us as we celebrate Purim with Cookie Monster, Bert and Ernie, and of course, Elmo! Come in costume to win a prize (adults too!) and bring boxes of pasta or other dry goods to shake whenever we hear the name....Oscar the Grouch! Our shpiel will take place on **Wednesday, February 28th at 7:30 p.m.**

Pasta Dinner & Purim Shpiel: Feb. 28th

Join us on Wednesday, February 28th at 7:30pm for a most entertaining Purim shpiel--a lively megillah reading featuring parodies performed by our talented Temple teens and adults. Adults, children, everyone---come in costume! Prizes will be awarded to costume-wearers of all ages! Special prizes for the most creative!

And don't forget to bring unopened boxes of pasta to shake as noisemakers during the megillah reading. After Purim, the boxes of pasta will be delivered to a local food pantry.

Prior to the Purim shpiel, at 6:00pm, Men's Club will be serving a pasta dinner in the social hall. Cost for the meal is \$5 per adult, children under 12 free. Please RSVP for the dinner to mensclub@vassartemple.org by February 23rd.

just boxes away. Questions? Contact Marian & Ralph at socialaction@vassartemple.org or 845-849-0025.

Upcoming Events

- February 4 Hamantaschen, p1
- 4 Tiny Temple, p3
- 4,, 13,20,27 AdultEd, p7
- 4 Lunch Box,,p6
- 21 Book Club, p5
- 24 Shabbaton, p6
- 28 PurimShpiel, p1

Shabbat services start at 6:00
during the winter months



The following information was inadvertently missed in preparation of the recent Vassar Temple 2017 Gala Journal. The Gala Committee acknowledges and thanks Hilary and Lewis Wrobel and Cathy and Gabe Bokor for their generous contributions:

From the Wrobels:

In Memory of our fathers and uncles who served in World War II:
Irving Wrobel
Joseph Wrobel
Alvin Kaskowitz
Aaron Olken

From the Bokors:

We salute the heroes who make this a better world.



From the Rabbi's Desk: Esther the Obliger; Vashti the Rebel?

There has been much discussion over which woman in the Purim story is a better role model: Vashti—the powerful queen who says, “No!” to her husband’s drunken decrees, even when it means banishment? Or Esther—the ingénue who plays by the rules of the royal game, until, at her uncle’s urging, she finds the right moment to speak out and save her people?

This debate sets up a false choice, assuming that only one woman can be laudable. Instead, we might ask ourselves: what can we admire about both women? I’ve previously answered this question in terms of how they use their femininity. Vashti insists on modesty and control. Esther is more willing to use her wiles to find favor with the king.

It recently occurred to me that there is another lens through which to view these women. In *The Four Tendencies*, author Gretchen Rubin categorizes people by how they respond to inner and outer expectations, i.e. what you expect of yourself versus what others expect from you.

The Upholder meets both inner and outer expectations with some facility. The Obliger easily meets outer expectations, but struggles to meet inner ex-

pectations. (Most of us fall into this category). The Questioner adheres to inner expectations, but resists outer expectations, particularly if they don’t make sense. The Rebel refuses to meet inner and outer expectations, only doing what they feel is authentic to their identity.

Esther is a classic Obliger. She relies on others to tell her what to do. Mordechai thrusts her onto the national stage by presenting her to the king as a potential bride. Later, Mordechai encourages her to go before the king and plead for the life of her people. It is only with his urging that she summons the courage to speak out. Even then, she is loathe to break protocol by going before the king without being summoned. She has to fast and pray for three days before she can appear before him. Then, instead of stating her case right away, she employs social niceties rather than sharp rhetoric, inviting him and Haman to a dinner party. After revealing her identity and leading the fight against Haman, Esther becomes a more independent leader. But for the bulk of the story, her actions are driven by others’ expectations.

Vashti’s arc in the Purim story is shorter, making it difficult to analyze her character. We don’t see how she responds to inner expectations; we don’t know what she expects of herself. But we know that she is clearly of her own mind when it comes to outer expectations. She refuses to appear before the king when he summons her, even when the result

is detrimental to her. Therefore, I’m going to go out on a limb and call her a Rebel.

I put Mordechai in the Questioner category. He does what he knows to be right, even when it means rejecting the expectations of others, such as refusing to bow before Haman. Ahasuerus is clearly an Obliger, as he does whatever his advisors—and later, Esther—tell him to do.

What do you think Haman would be?

According to Rubin, there is no “best” tendency. Esther is no less heroic for needing a little push! The goal is to determine how we, and those we interact with, respond to expectations so that we can find the right way of working with ourselves and with each other. For instance, Mordechai might realize that Esther can only speak up when she knows that others are counting on her, which is exactly how he frames his plea: “Who knows?” he says. “Perhaps it was for a moment like this that you became royalty!”

As we celebrate Purim, a festival of masks and hidden identities, may we always remember to be true to ourselves.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

From Our President



Dear Congregants,

The Rabbi Search Committee has been formed and has begun the process of finding a new rabbi to propose to the congregation. The Committee is representative of the congregation and will work diligently to complete its task. A good deal of the Committee’s activities must be kept confidential. However, before a new rabbi is selected, all members of the congregation will have an opportunity to provide input.

Below is a brief outline of the selection process as suggested by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR):

1. Alan Kflowitz and Susan Karnes Hecht were asked by me to Co-Chair the Committee.

2. The Temple Board met in a special meeting to discuss the process and make recommendations.
3. The Temple by-laws were reviewed to ensure compliance.
4. A review of our prior self study, goals etc. was conducted.
5. A vision of the new rabbi was discussed and agreed upon.
6. An application was completed and submitted to the CCAR, so that it would provide resumes of interested rabbis to the Search Committee.
7. Resumes are being screened by the Committee to decide which, if any, of the applicants should be interviewed.
8. Interviews will be conducted by the Committee.
9. Our congregation will be given an opportunity to meet the prospective rabbis and provide comments.
10. The Search Committee will select a rabbi and make a recommendation to the Board.
11. The Board will make a recommendation to

the congregation at a special meeting.
12. Congregation will select new rabbi.

It is hoped that this process, or one very similar to what is outlined above, will be completed by the end of March. The process is meant to be transparent, and should you have any concerns or recommendations, please contact Alan or Susan.

In the event there are no candidates that the Committee believes to be appropriate as our next spiritual leader, a selection process for an interim rabbi will be commenced. Please be assured that Vassar Temple will have a rabbi beginning July.

Sincerely,

Mark Metzger
Vassar Temple President

February Worship Services

2	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
3	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Shabbat morning worship
9	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial intern Laura Stein
	7:30pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour
10	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Sophia Grendon
16	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
17	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Shabbat morning worship
23	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi, and cantorial intern Laura Stein
24	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study Mini-Shabbaton
28	6:00pm 7:30pm	Pasta Diner Megillah Reading and Purim Shpiel

Scriptural

Feb. 3 *Yitro* Ex. 18:1-20:23; Isaiah 6:1 – 7:6, 9:5-6

10 **Shabbat Shekalim** *Mishpatim* Ex. 22:4-23:19; II Kings 12:1-17

17 *T'ruma* Ex. 26:1-30; I Kings 5:26 – 6:13

24 **Shabbat Zachor** *T'zaveh* Ex. 28:31-29:18, Deut. 25:17-19; I Samuel 15:2-34

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning services Saturdays Feb 3th and Feb. 17th 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, Rabbi Berkowitz at rabbi@vassartemple.org, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Sharing Our Shabbat Tables: March 9th

Join us on Friday, March 9th for 'Sharing our Shabbat Tables' when members of Vassar Temple share a meal and the warmth of Shabbat in each other's homes. Look for more information throughout February. If you are interested in hosting a Shabbat meal or need more details about the event, contact Melissa Erlebacher at mae62@columbia.edu.

There will NOT be services at Vassar Temple on March 9th – Important Information about Yahrzeits Below

As we celebrate Shabbat together in our homes, there will be no formal services at the temple that evening to allow us to relax and spend time getting to know each other better. If you are observing the yahrzeit of a loved one that week, please note that there will be services on Saturday, March 10th at 10:00am. We will recite the Kaddish and the names of your loved one(s) during the morning service. In addition, you can ask that the name of your loved one(s) be read the following week on Friday, March 16th.

Tiny Temple Purim Party: February 4th

Please join us for Tiny Temple's free Purim Party at Vassar Temple on Sunday, February 4th from 10:30am-11:30am. The tots, along with the Religious School, will learn about Purim through crafts, story, and song in a relaxed and friendly setting, and a special holiday 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 tiny-temple@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 or by calling the Temple Office at 845-454-2570.

L'Hitra-ot
A Letter from Rabbi Golomb

Dear Congregants,

Nearly forty-six years ago, Debbie and I came up to the Hudson Valley. Just a few days after our honeymoon, we took up residence as senior staff at Surprise Lake Camp in Cold Spring. When the summer was over, we found a studio apartment in a residential hotel on the upper west side of Manhattan. And now we are making a full circle.

At the end of December, we will have moved once more from the Hudson Valley to the upper west side; this time into a two bedroom apartment about a mile from our first place in 1972. We treat this move, closer to the children, grandchildren and my 95 year-old mother, as not so much leaving Poughkeepsie and Vassar Temple, but rather as extending our commute to the synagogue.

After over seventeen years in the area,

Poughkeepsie and the Temple continue to be a large part of our lives. The Talmud study will proceed on Tuesdays at noon, usually in the second and fourth week of the month. We look forward to dropping in on services, simchas, special occasions, and an occasional Shabbat morning Torah study... and sometimes just to hang out with old friends and new. If you or a member of your family must spend time in a City hospital, please make sure the office...as well as Rabbi Berkowitz...know, and I will make a point of visiting. My e-address is not changing; it remains rabbigolomb@vassar temple.org.

This is not a time to say Shalom, but rather *l'Hitra-ot* [see you soon]. Our bed and furniture will be in a place above Amsterdam Avenue, but a portion of our hearts and spirit will always remain in Poughkeepsie.

Rabbi Paul Golomb

“Becoming a Soulful Parent”

Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30pm

‘Becoming a Soulful Parent’ is an excellent new, 4-week course, facilitated by VT member, Emma Arnoff, that invites small groups of parents embracing their daily parenting struggles and rewards through the context of Jewish wisdom and community. “The course allows parents to take the time out of their hectic lives to reflect honestly about the challenges and joys of parenting. The course provides participants

with new insights into their role as parents, deepened awareness of their parenting and of their children, appreciation for their spouse’s different parenting style and a community of friends and co-travelers in the journey of parenting.” (Ayeka.org).

The course is open to all Jewish parents in the area.



February 2018 Bimah Flowers Donations

- February 2: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- February 9: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- February 16: Donated by Marilyn McGaully Lampell in memory of her sister, Julie Ann McGaully
- February 23: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

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.

Refuah Shelema

Sara Jane Goldberg
Elaine Lipschutz
Linda and Joel Babas
Barbara Mindel

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 Donna Loshin
Technical support & understudy	Bob Abrams

Articles for the **March Bulletin** must be submitted by **February 1st** sent via email to publicity@vassar temple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

From the Religious School Director



Judaism has more than its share of villains. The example we use most often is Hitler who basically attempted to wipe out all Jewish people from Europe. This tragic chapter of our recent history continues to haunt many Jews today.

There have been plenty of other villains who have made life miserable for the Jewish people. When we open to the first chapters of the Book of Sh'mot (Exodus) in the Torah, we learn about Egypt and find the Pharaoh who enslaved the Hebrews. Later our first temple in Jerusalem is destroyed in 587 BCE by the Babylonians. And then in 70 CE the Romans destroyed the temple. Each of these events changed Judaism in very profound ways. In more recent history, Jews survived the purge from British soil in the Middle Ages and the Spanish Inquisition in the 1400s.

At the end of February, we will be celebrating the holiday of Purim. The

story that we tell during this holiday focuses on a villain (Haman) who works to destroy the Jews of Persia. As we all know, there is a hero (Mordechai) and heroine (Esther) of the story who appear to save the day.

There are specific traditions that play a central role in celebrating the Purim. We read the Megillah of Esther. We are commanded to give Tzedakah to the poor. We give gifts of food (Mishloach Manot) to our neighbors, and we must hold a Seudah or festive meal as part of our celebration.

Purim can be a lot of fun - it's a celebration that is crazy, chaotic and spirited. When we read the Megillah, we focus on the intrigue and heroism of Esther and Mordecai and the humiliation of Haman. But how many of you have read past the point of Esther's big reveal and the downfall of Haman?

In the end of the story we find that the Jews are still subjected to being attacked; but as a reward for Esther's bravery, Jews are given permission to defend themselves. There is still a war you see - we are just allowed to *try* not to

be massacred in this war.

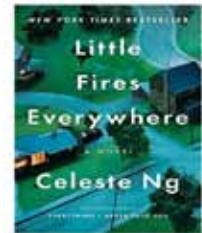
There is definitely value to finding joy and celebration in our Jewish history. But I worry that if we only see the joy and we do not make ourselves aware of the dangers that have followed us through history, that history can and will repeat itself. I ask you to think about how to share this awareness with your children, arming them with knowledge. It is an important conversation that I feel all parents should have with their children.

I also encourage you to continue to celebrate! Join with Vassar Temple on Wednesday, February 28th for the celebration. The Purim Pasta Dinner begins at 6:00pm followed by the Purim Shpiel and reading. Look for details in your weekly emails!

But please don't forget to read the whole Megillah!

Julie Makowsky

Book Club to Discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*: February 21st



Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere* by award winning author Celeste Ng.

In Shaker Heights, a placid suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the color of the houses, to the layout of the winding roads. No one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic single mother, who arrives in this 'idyllic' suburb with her teenage daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Rich-

ardsons. Soon all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When an old family friend of the Richardsons attempts to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that divides the town – and puts Mia and Elena on opposite sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets of Mia's past. But her obsession will result in unexpected and devastating costs.

Little Fires Everywhere is available through the local library system which has multiple copies. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 21st at 2:00pm. in the Community Room at Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Irma Jacobs 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. Your book suggestions for future meetings are always welcome.

Mitzvah Projects Make a Difference!

Hannah Sophia Gendron will be a bat mitzvah at our Temple on Feb. 10th, and in preparation, she has been working on a mitzvah project that reflects her interest in photography. Hannah explains, “*For my mitzvah project, I’m doing photography for Scenic Hudson for their use in public education projects regarding the conservation of Hudson River wetlands. I have been photographing tidal marshes and other low-elevation riverside areas that are at risk from rising water levels. I plan to continue to photograph these places throughout the year to truly capture the beauty of the Hudson Valley.*” Thanks to Hannah for using her special gift at

photography to further the cause of environmental conservation, as well as to help us better appreciate our home in the beautiful Hudson Valley!



Aaron Kaffowitz is collecting diapers, toothbrushes and toothpaste for Grace Smith House through the end of March for his bar mitzvah project. This is an organization that assists women and children who have been impacted by domestic violence. Grace Smith is in need of diapers in sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6. Residents are also in need of toothpaste and toothbrushes. There is a box at the Temple where you can place the items that you wish to donate.

Questions? Please write to Aaron at akaffowitz@gmail.com. Kudos to Aaron for his efforts to help improve the lives of those in need.

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: Feb. 11th

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 February 11th 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.

Queer, Jewish, and in Prison: A Mini-Shabbaton with Evie Litwok

February 24th 10:00am

Evie Litwok never thought that someone like her could end up in prison, much less solitary confinement. She walked out of prison homeless and penniless and committed herself to advocating for prisoners’ rights. Come hear her experience of denied human rights, which millions of incarcerated men and women in the United States continue to suffer from, and how her connection to Judaism became her lifeline to hope. (Ms. Litwok will speak during Shabbat services and then continue her talk at our luncheon).

Please RSVP for lunch by Feb.17th to ritual@vassartemple.org.

Evie Litwok is the founder and director of Witness to Mass Incarceration, a national advocacy and policy reform organization whose mission is to collect oral histories of formerly incarcerated women and LGBTQ people and train them to become storytellers and activists. Litwok has an MA in psychology and is working on a Masters in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

February Lunch Box Needs Your Help!

Our Youth Group is sponsoring Lunch Box Sunday, Feb. 4th and they need your help! Donations of the following food items are needed:

3 lbs. all beef hot dogs, or
1 to 2 dozen pieces fresh fruit/bananas,

Food donations can be dropped off at the Temple beforehand any time the building is open. There will be a bin on the counter near the entry to the kitchen for nonperishable fruits. Please LABEL all food ‘For Lunch Box’ and contact Danah Moore, at danahmoore@hotmail.com or (845) 849-0952 to let her know what you are donating. Any teens in grades 8-12 who would like to volunteer to cook/serve/clean up at Lunch Box that day any time between 10:30am-1:45pm should also contact Danah to sign up.

Study Groups at Vassar Temple: Feb. 2018

“Torah Study” with the Temple’s Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week’s torah portion or haftorah, will be held at 9:00am every Saturday.

“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 (Feb. 13 & 27) 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 or (845)454-2570.

Adult Education

‘*All My Life’s a Circle: The Jewish Life Cycle*’ Rabbi Leah Berkowitz in partnership with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District All Classes will be held at the Boardman Road Branch at 7:00pm.

The Jewish tradition provides a wealth of ways to make life-cycle moments meaningful. Whether we are welcoming a baby into the covenant, celebrating with a couple as they build a home together, or caring for the mourner following the death of a loved one, the Jewish community comes together to support individuals during life’s big transitions. Together we will explore traditional rituals and their meanings, as well as modern interpretations and innovations. No previous knowledge is required.

- 2/13 New Beginnings: From Birth to B’nai Mitzvah
- 2/20 Signed, Sealed, Delivered: The Jewish Wedding
- 2/27 To Be Remembered is to Live Forever: Death and Mourning



The Healing Powers of SCRIP

Did you know that you can use SCRIP [gift cards] for pharmacy purchases? Whether it is at RiteAid, Walgreens, CVS or at the grocery store pharmacies such as Price Chopper, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Hannaford and Tops, the Vassar Temple gift cards can be used for all your healthcare and related needs.

And if you are healthy and don’t need to purchase pharmacy products, us SCRIP for Retail Therapy!!!

So don’t leave home without your gift cards. You will be “injecting” the Temple with a dose of wellness when shopping with SCRIP

Have more questions about our vital SCRIP program? Contact the coordinator, Sandra Mamis at scrip@vassartemple.org or by phone at [914-456-3524](tel:914-456-3524).

Hudson River Housing: What It Does for Our Community

When you provide a shelter meal, donate toiletries, or give to the Wind Chill Fund, you are supporting Hudson River Housing, an agency that shelters the homeless, but that is just the beginning of the story. You may not be surprised to learn that, in the first 11 months of 2017, HRH provided emergency shelter to over 1,000 individuals and families, and provided over 500 runaway and homeless youths age 10-17 emergency shelter, crisis intervention services, and enrichment activities. However, you *may* be surprised to learn of some of the other work done by this fantastic agency! HRH has provided over 850 affordable housing options to individuals and families, including both male and female veterans, senior citizens and the disabled, and has provided transitional

housing along with supportive services toward independence to so many others.

Through real estate development and neighborhood preservation, HRH is not only adding to available housing but revitalizing communities, as with the award-winning Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory building which combines affordable housing, a commercial establishment and an arts hub in a rehabilitated former industrial site. Not only single buildings are renovated, but also rows of houses, which are then rented or sold at affordable prices. Through their Home Ownership Center, anyone can take free or reasonably priced classes or get 1:1 counseling and training to gain the skills to budget, shop for, purchase, maintain and manage a home, to become a successful landlord, or to explore reverse mortgages. There are also grants and other financial incentives available to those

who qualify. Their Veterans Impact Program assists veterans and their families who are at risk of homelessness, or homeless. Follow Through is a program that helps people successfully transition from temporary housing into a permanent housing situation. And in Supportive Permanent Housing, the severely disabled and those with chemical dependencies receive the individual plans and counseling they need to maintain good health, develop life skills, and enhance their employability. For further information about the mission of HRH, visit www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

FEBRUARY YARHZEITS

FEBRUARY 2

Leonard H. Arnold
Jacqueline Sydney Colod-
ner
Alice Davidson
Harold Devorsetz
Pedro Gitler
Alan Pack Greller
Pauline Gross
Jane Kramer
Rabbi Marcus Kramer
Lewis Krevolin
Nancy Levinson
Virginia Newman
Livingston
Susan Matlin
Russell B. Oppenheimer,
DVM
Ronah Gordon Posner
Mark Rosenthal
Gertrude Rothstein
Sara Poley-Rosenberg
Alan S. Rubenstein
Herbert Schiffman
Isadore Shefts
Paul M. Schwartz, MD
Michael Sommerfield
Irving Wrobel

FEBRUARY 9

Leon Alpers
Jeanette Bergman
Evelyn Brown
Timothy Creedon
Joseph Drobner
Aaron Estrin
Lillian Geber
Martha Held
Margit Horowitz
Mary Hyman
Evelyn Slote Kahn
Jon Franklin Katz
Leo Livingston
Arlene Mates
Hon. Henry Morgen -
thau, Jr.
Joseph Moselle
Armand H. Newman
Dorothy Parish
Harold Robinowitz
Owen J. Sacks
Dr. Lawrence
Schuyler
Samuel Warshaw
Dr. M. Alden Weingart
Reuben Wiseman
Gary M. Zimmer

FEBRUARY 16

Goldie Abraskin
David Charles Albert
Anne Alpers
Evelyn Bersak
Marjorie Rubin
Sylvia Cantor
Philip Cochran
Lawrence Edell
Jacob Erdreich, DMD
Pola Fa'gut
Lillian Feldman
Blanche Fertig
Henrietta Greenberg
Jacob Greenberg
Jarrod Harrington
William Hyman
Dr. Irma (Earma) Koltai
Vladimir M. Konheim,
MD
Louis Kovacs
Herman Kraut
Harry Lashinsky
Jules H. Lippmann
Sidney I. Love
Julie McGaulley
Bernard Miller
Walter L. Mock
Wendy E. Newman
Catherine Peluse
Freda Reifler
Louise S. Rosen
Mary R. Scheer
Lewis Schwartz
Ida Scope
Stanley Soirefman
Alec Stall
Robert Toroker
Rosanne Weber

FEBRUARY 23

Stuart Alpers
Irving M. Bloch
Irving Fink
Gloria Fischman
Celia Frank
Jack Frankel
Esther Frances Goldberg
Paul S. Goldberg
David Haber
Robert Joseph
Fannie Kagan
Rose Kahn
Herbert Kallman
Marjorie Kallman
Shirley Kaskowitz
Ida Klein
Ethel Haber Kohan
Milton Kramer
Hinda Lessin
Morris Levine
Ruth Levitt
Harry Lewis
Stanton Lipschutz
Milton Rauh
Michael Rothenberg
David Stephen Satz
Ida Baskin Schwartz
Mary Solomon
Augusta Steinman

HAMANTASCHEN DOUGH RECIPE

4 cups sifted flour	4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt	1 cup butter, softened*
2 cups sugar	2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla	4 tablespoons milk or orange juice

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Cream butter and sugar, add egg and vanilla and beat well. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk or juice, mixing until well-blended. Refrigerate. The dough may seem a bit sticky, but chilling will solidify it, so don't add too much extra flour. This dough freezes well and can be made ahead of Hamantaschen Baking Day. Leave it in the refrigerator to thaw overnight before baking day.

* Please use real butter – the pastries are superior and all batches cook evenly. Thank you.

Contributions

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Rabbi Berkowitz' leadership
& guidance
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FUND FACTS: Reflecting with Gratitude

Every time this moment of the year arrives, it gives me great relief. After the often-chaotic pace of the holidays, beginning with Thanksgiving and continuing through Hanukkah and the New Year, as we hunker down to avoid the seasonal temperatures that January brings (so far this January has been a bit too "seasonal" for my liking), it brings a welcome sense of calm and quiet. This well-earned tranquility, that arrives as we start a new calendar year, is also an opportunity for reflection on the year just passed.

As a fund-raiser by profession, I must admit that part of the year-end exhaustion links to the sometimes stressful efforts to secure gifts before the close of the tax year (particularly important this past year!). With December now closed, reflecting on year-end giving leads me quickly to gratitude. Indeed, Vassar Temple was very fortunate this year to be the beneficiary of many people's generosity. From honorific, celebratory and memorial gifts, to contributions toward established funds, loyal SCRIP buyers, the High Holy Day Appeal, and most recently the November Gala, your voluntary support – above and

beyond dues – has played a key role in helping our Temple balance our budget.

I would like to think that my little monthly columns have inspired some of your monetary contributions (thank you, Roni Stein for telling me that you actually read them!), but whatever your inspiration or motivation for giving throughout the year, I simply want to say *thank you!*

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

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February 2018 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	2 10:30 PJ Library 6pm Shabat Winter Service	3 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
4 9am Religious School 9am 7th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Service run-through 9am Hamantaschen Baking 10:30am Lunch Box 11am Tiny Temple	5	6 10am SEP 7pm Ritual Cmte meeting	7 4:30pm Hebrew School	8 10am SEP	9 10:30 PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Service with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour	10 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah—Hannah Gendron
11 9am Religious School Hamantaschen Snow date Tiny Temple snow date	12	13 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	14 4:30pm Hebrew School	15 10am SEP	16 10:30 PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	17 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
18 No Religious School 9:30am Religious School Committee	19	20 10am SEP	21 No Hebrew School 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Finance Cmte meeting	22 10am SEP 6pm Exec Committee Meeting 7pm Board meeting	23 10:30 PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Service with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein	24 9am Torah Study 10am Mini-Shabbaton
25 Purim Carnival	26	27 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	28 4:30 pm Hebrew 6pm Purim Dinner 7:30pm Purim Shpiel			