



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 Bulletin Volume 164 No. 5 January 2018

HAMANTASCHEN BAKERS NEEDED!



Please join us for Sisterhood's annual Hamantaschen Baking Day on Sunday, February 4th (snow date 2/11) from 9:00am-1:00pm in the Temple kitchen.

Make friends while making hamantaschen for our Purim service and for outreach to congregants and our out-of-town college students. Please RSVP to Judy Rosenfeld, 635-2414 or hamantaschen@vassartemple.org

Please bring a batch of dough (and your favorite rolling pin if you like). Remaining ingredients will be provided. The recipe is available from Judy, the Temple office or website, and the Sisterhood Facebook page.

Not able to come and help? Please make a batch of dough and leave it in the Temple freezer in a Ziploc bag - just let Judy know.

Judy Rosenfeld

Upcoming Events

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Soup & Chili Dinner: Jan 26th

Please join us at 6:00pm on Friday, January 26th for a soup and chili dinner as part of a wonderful Tisch Shabbat.

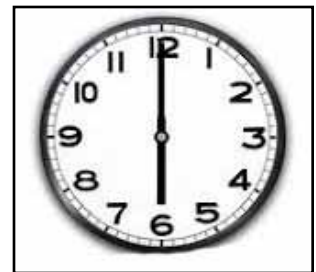
Our cantorial intern, Laura Stein, will help lead a Tisch Shabbat for us in the social hall. A "Tisch" or Table Shabbat is held around the Shabbat table and features melodies and stories and highlights community. The service will include Shabbat prayer and liturgy as well as a spirit of learning and singing.

Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread and salad to be enjoyed during the service.

Donations for the dinner are very welcome and checks should be made payable to 'Vassar Temple Sisterhood.'

While reservations are not required, we would greatly appreciate having an idea of how much food to prepare. If possible, please let Cathy Bokor know you are coming by January 24th. (catherine.bokor@gmail.com or 462-5862).

**Shabbat services start at 6:00
during the winter months**



From the Rabbi's Desk: How to Bless Your Loved Ones



I was blessed to celebrate my “double-chai” birthday at our first Intergenerational Shabbat Morning Service. With help from our wonderful Education Director, Julie Stein-Makowsky, Olivia DiIorio, and our Ritual and Religious School Committees, we brought together our Torah Study group, our Religious School students, and assorted members of our community to learn and pray together.

The theme of our Torah portion, Toledot, was Blessings. In Torah study, we acted out the story of two brothers fighting over their father's blessing. At the service, we spoke about how we might make sure that *everyone* gets a blessing in families today.

In Toledot, one child receives a blessing at the end of his father's life. However, in the Jewish tradition, we bless every child, every Shabbat. The traditional blessing for boys is, “May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe,” after Joseph's sons, the first set of siblings that didn't have to fight each other for a blessing. The traditional blessing for girls is, “May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah,” after our biblical matriarchs.

While I love the idea of encouraging our children to embody the best qualities of our ancestors, we also want them to become the best versions of themselves. This is why I love Marcia Falk's blessing over

children from her *Book of Blessings*,

*“Be who you are
And may you be blessed
In all that you are.”*

Nowadays, it is important to remember that every household and family is different. While we might look at these prayers and imagine a parent blessing a young child at the Shabbat table, we can say a blessing over anyone we love, whether that is someone living in our house, a grown child that lives far away, or a circle of friends that makes our lives richer and more meaningful.

At our service, we looked at many different blessings to say over our loved ones on Shabbat. Then we wrote our own blessing:

*“Dear God,
Thank you for opportunities to be the best
people we can be,
For good health, patience and tolerance,
For freedom to worship as we choose,
For the world and all of its beauty.
Please give us the ability to see all of these
things, and appreciate them.
Give us strength and courage to face evil in
our world.
Help us to be more compassionate, understanding,
and loving.
Hear our prayer, help us to be good,
And help the poor to get what they need to live
a happy life.”*

I also discovered this beautiful blessing while

reading Rabbi Naomi Levy's new book, *Einstein and the Rabbi*:

*“May all the gifts hidden inside you
find their way into the world.
May all the kindness of your thoughts
be expressed in your deeds.
May all your learning lead to wisdom.
May all your efforts lead to success.
May all the love in your heart be
returned to you.
May God bless your body with health
and your soul with joy.
May God watch over you and protect
you from harm.
May all your prayers be answered.
Amen.”*

As we begin a new secular year, 2018 (a chai year!), consider making a resolution to say a blessing over your loved ones on Shabbat—whoever and wherever they are! You can use one of the blessings above, or you can write your own. Start with “Dear God, please...” or “May God bless us with...” or, “Thank You, God, for...” Please share what you come up with: I'd love to see your prayers!

This year, may all of our prayers be answered. Amen.

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



From Our President

As we begin this new year, I am thinking back to the new year we began in the fall. I made resolutions and promises to myself. I am still working on accomplishing many of them. Once again, I look forward with anticipation to all the goodness that lies ahead for us. We all accomplished so much last year. Hopefully, this year will be even better. One of my resolutions for this coming year has been to continue to work as diligently as I can to help Vassar Temple move forward and grow.

New families have joined our congregation. I hope they feel welcomed, have participated and will continue to take advantage of the religious and social offerings of Vassar Temple. We welcome them and as we increase the number of member families, our vitality continues to improve. After all, our members make Vassar Temple the place to be.

Rabbi Berkowitz did a wonderful job leading us on Friday nights, holy day celebrations, helping prepare our young people for their b'nai mitzvah and in so many other special wonderful ways. I am confident that during the months

ahead, rabbi will continue to provide her leadership, inspiration and warmth to our congregation and leadership throughout our community.

Our members support our synagogue and our community through gifts and volunteer work which are essential to our well-being. I wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and ask that you continue to support Vassar Temple in as many ways as you can. Thank you.

Mark Metzger

January Worship Services

5	6:00pm	Shabbat Winter Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
6	9:00am	Torah Study
12	6:00pm	Shabbat Winter Service with Rabbi Berkowitz, organist Joseph Bertolozzi and cantorial intern Laura Stein
	7:30pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour
13	9:00am	Torah Study
19	6:00pm	Shabbat Winter Service with Rabbi Berkowitz and organist Joseph Bertolozzi
20	9:00am	Torah Study
	10:00am	New Paths morning service
26	6:00pm	Shabbat Shira Soup & Chili Dinner with cantorial intern, Laura Stein
27	9:00am	Intergenerational Shabbat Shira/Tu B'Shevat event with cantorial intern Laura Stein

Scriptural

Jan.	6	<i>Sh'mot</i> Exodus 3:1-4:17; Isaiah 27:6 – 28:13, 29:22-23
	13	<i>Va'era</i> Ex. 7:8-8:15; Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
	20	<i>Bo</i> Ex. 11:4-12:28; Jeremiah 46:13-28
	27	Shabbat Shirah <i>B'shalach</i> Ex. 14:15-16:10; Judges 4:4 – 5 :31



New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning services Saturdays Jan. 6 and Jan. 20 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.

Jan. 12th Happy Hour....Join the fun!

Last Spring, Vassar Temple started The Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour pilot project. With great enthusiasm, this has turned into a monthly gathering of Vassar Temple friends and family just prior to or following evening services. When the weather is warm, we gather outside and enjoy our beautiful patio. We offer food, drink and good company. We thank Vassar Temple Sisterhood and Men's Club for their dedication and support for the Happy Hour Project! From Falafel Town, to Kristin & Justin Horowitz' sour-dough feast, to Bob Creedon's fiesta plates, to Jas Russo and Melissa Wall's Southern Delights – these gatherings have given us a new venue to socialize and engage with our Temple Community. If you haven't come yet, join the fun. Better yet, jump in and "host" an event. It's super easy. Contact Andi Ciminello (andi@ecopkny.com) for details.

The schedule for upcoming Happy Hours is below. Happy Hour schedule for winter services is 7:30 PM following early service:

January 12	7:30pm Social Hall
February 9	7:30pm Social Hall
March 16	6-7:30pm Social Hall or Patio
April 6	6-7:30pm Social Hall or Patio
May 4	6-7:30pm Social Hall or Patio
June 1	6-7:30pm Social Hall or Patio

A Vassar Temple Tikkun Olam Dialog

* RESCHEDULED *

Tikkun Olam: Healing the World

In these challenging times, the Union for Reform Judaism is asking all congregations to make an increased commitment to social justice.

We are inviting the congregation to come together to identify a social justice issue that we can all agree to support. Please join us to focus our attention and energy on making our world a better place.

Thursday, January 11th at 7:00pm
(Snow date: January 18th)

Together, we will prepare for consensus-building and engaging in Tikkun Olam. It is important for all of us to participate in this conversation and for varied voices and viewpoints to be heard.

Please RSVP and direct any questions to socialaction@vassartemple.org by January 6th.

The Wind Chill Fund

As we relax in our warm, secure homes, let's think of those who don't share these comforts by dropping a donation in the Temple tzedakah box. This month's donations to the tzedakah box (located near the staircase) will benefit Hudson River Housing's Wind Chill Fund, which supplements their emergency overnight shelter when that facility is overflowing. HRH provides the homeless not only a warm, clean, safe place to sleep, but also dinner, breakfast, a hot shower, transportation to and from the shelter, and perhaps most importantly, referral services.

Your tax deductible checks, made out to 'Vassar Temple' with 'Wind Chill Fund' on the memo line are also appre-



ciated, and may be dropped off or mailed to the Temple. Any and all donations will help, and if you can see your way to donate \$36 (Chai), that amount will provide one person blessed space in a shelter for one night.

To learn more about what the amazing agency known as Hudson River Housing, Inc. does, visit <http://hudsonriverhousing.org>, and thank you for your support of the Wind Chill Fund drive at our Temple this winter.

Reminder: we also have a collection box in our Temple's East Chapel for donation of personal hygiene items and unopened toiletries of any size for the shelter. And if you have men's PJs, bath towels, or washable bedding/pillows in good condition to donate, please contact

Judy Harkavy of our Social Action Committee at judystan@verizon.net.

Condolences

To:
Jim Robinowitz on the passing of his aunt, Mildred Aronoff

Marilyn Lampell on the passing of her father, John McGaulley

Refuah Shelema

Leila Garlock, mother of Sue Lesser

Linda and Joel Babas

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.

January 2018 Bimah Flower Donations

January 5: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
 January 12: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
 January 19: 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.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

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 Donna Loshin

Technical support
 & understudy: Bob Abrams

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

Talmud Study at Vassar Temple

'The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text,' taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held at Vassar Temple Tuesdays at noon on Jan. 9, Jan.30, Feb. 13, and Feb. 27. All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions--no previous training required! No charge to attend. Questions? pjgolomb@verizon.net



West Point Cadets with member veterans of military service at the Vassar Temple Gala



Laura Stein entertained everyone with a variety of songs from different genres on Dec. 2

Vassar Temple Celebrates Its Heroes at Veterans Day Weekend Gala

Vassar Temple honored its members, past and present, who are veterans of military service, and welcomed as special guests three West Point cadets. Presenter was Ralph Schwartz; Cpt. John Martin of West Point spoke about the history of Jews in the American military. (left)

Rabbi Paul Golomb, who served for many years as the Temple's spiritual leader, recognized Gloria Turk for promoting Hudson Valley tourism at Rocking Horse Ranch, and honored her for being a special presence at sabbath observances every week at Vassar Temple.

Presenter Assemblywoman Didi Barrett recognized Temple member Molly Katz for her leadership role in the local arts community including the development of the Half Moon Theater. Dr. Daniel Katz was recognized by presenter Lila Meade for his humanitarian work with the Haiti Project.

Howard Himmelstein accepted the honors for his (late) wife Emily Himmelstein (z"l) from Brian Riddell, director of Dutchess Outreach. Emily was a leader in many capacities at the Temple including social action, and was one of the originators of the Lunch Box program. Her daughter, Rachel Follari, shared reminiscences, both humorous and touching.



Men's Club enjoyed working at the Lunch Box on Nov. 5



Rabbi Paul Golomb presents award to Gloria Turk at the Vassar Temple Gala



Didi Barrett, Molly Katz, Dan Katz, Lila Meade at the Vassar Temple Gala



Howard Himmelstein, Brian Riddell and Rachel Follari at the Vassar Temple Gala



Rabbi Berkowitz and students working on the Trim-a-Thon Thanksgiving

Welcoming New Families to Vassar Temple

Do you love being part of the Vassar Temple family? Do you want to help build and strengthen connections within the Vassar Temple community? Would you like to share your enthusiasm with someone new to Vassar Temple?

The Membership Committee has begun an initiative that matches new members with current members who serve as their mentors. The mentors are bridges to the Vassar Temple community as our new members attend events, meet people, and learn about our traditions. When possible, we try to match mentors with folks who are at similar stages in their lives.

We are currently piloting a small mentoring program for some new members, and we hope to expand the program so everyone who joins Vassar Temple will have a mentor. A mentor's major responsibilities are to welcome and get to know the new member, as well as to help the new member feel comfortable at events, services, etc. We are asking mentors for a one-year commitment, and the hours are extremely flexible.

Curious? Interested? If being a mentor is something you might like to do, please contact Andrea Ciminello at andi@ecopkny.com. The Membership Committee will provide a training session for all who are interested. Anyone can do this, even if you are shy! Being a mentor is a mitzvah!

Fern Lox

Torah Study 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 Saturdays at Vassar Temple. All are welcome to come, learn, and join in the lively discussions---no previous training required; no charge to attend. Questions? rabbi@vassar temple.org or (845)454-2570

Cold Days, Empty Shelves, Warm Hearts

Dear Vassar Temple Friends,

Donations of canned and non-perishable foods are abundantly provided to food pantries in our county during the holiday season. These generous donations stock pantry shelves and help support the food needs of disadvantaged children, families and individuals of all ages who might otherwise go hungry. But supplies run short in the winter. "We are cold. We are hungry. Help us." Time to respond: **Hineni**.

At Vassar Temple we have well-established, year-round food drives that help sustain our neighbors in Dutchess County:

SOUPER SALE: We hold this fundraiser every December enabling us to purchase then deliver cases of chunky soups for the pantries. Hats off this year to Shaari Roland and the VTRS Committee who have agreed to now spearhead our annual Souper Sale event. She will let you know about the winter delivery date and when volunteers are needed to deliver to a pantry nearby. What a great

feeling that is!

CAN JAM: The handsome CAN JAM bin in the Temple foyer (thanks to the craftsmanship of Howard Himelstein!) is open year-round. Drop offs of canned and sealed non-perishable foods are always welcome. One can, two cans, three... whatever you bring means meals. We aim to deliver monthly. Please call us (Dave or myself) if you would like to deliver one reasonable carload to a pantry, school or low income senior housing site this year.

PURIM PASTA: On Purim at Vassar Temple, we encourage you to bring in boxes of pasta, shake them like groggers during the Megillah reading and leave them at Temple (great noise!). Hats off to Mighty Marian and Ralph Schwartz who are now spearheading this fantastic annual drive. More from them to come!

CHAMETZ-TO-TABLE: As you clear cabinets in March and April for Passover, we hope you'll drop off canned and non-perishable foods to the CAN JAM bin which will replenish the pantries with needed goods.

CEREAL COUNTS!!!: Our Temple does a fantastic job collecting and donating boxes of cereal to this incredible all-county food drive which ends on Mitzvah Day each May. We hope you'll drop your boxes (and if you like, consider

running a mini team drive at work or school beforehand to collect more!) Pack up is amazing fun for all ages.

PROTEIN PLENTY: Throughout June, our Temple once again fundraises so that we can purchase cases of protein-based foods and deliver them in July. Think mac n'cheese, canned fish, canned ravioli and more which help keep people fed, including school aged children and teens who may not be able to get to free lunch sites in the summer and may not have enough to eat at home; and seniors who have been known to forfeit meals like lunch to afford other needed supplies.

We hope you'll continue to join us in our shared quest to reduce hunger. Indeed these food drives are golden opportunities to act on it and to live... **Hineni**. Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy New Year.

Nancy and Dave Samson



From the Religious School Director

It's that time of year when we typically begin counting the days until spring...at least I am. Each year, it seems, I tolerate winter with less enthusiasm than the year before. When I lived in Israel, spring came a bit earlier and it was marked by the celebration of Tu B'Shevat on the 15th of the Jewish month of Shevat. This year, it will fall on January 31st. Why so early? According to one source, it is when the winter rains have stopped in Israel, the beginning of the growing things in that region of the world. Tu B'Shevat is also known as Jewish Arbor Day or the New Year of the Trees.

The Jewish year has a number of New Years; in fact, there are four New Years on the Jewish calendar. The first we celebrate on the 1st of Tishrei, the date we celebrate Rosh Hashanah; then there is Tu B'Shevat; the next is on the first day of Nisan; and finally on the 1st of Elul.

Each of these New Years has a

different intent. Rosh Hashanah (on the 1st of Tishrei) literally means "head of the year" when the official Jewish calendar changes to the next year. And according to one source I found, it is also considered a measure for counting the years of a foreign king.

On Tu B'Shevat, literally the 15th of Shevat, we consider this a holiday to celebrate trees. But the true intent of this holiday is two-fold. First it measures the year for some of the halakhic regulations about when you can eat certain fruits. It is also when it is customary to separate fruits for tithing. So the main intent is that this is the time when we are to make obligated donations to the temple. (Of course I am referring to the temple in Jerusalem back in the day; however, if this encourages you to make donations to Vassar Temple – feel free!)

The first of Nisan falls two weeks before Passover. The Torah states that Nisan is the first month of all the months. It marks the beginning of the redemption of the Jewish people from Egypt and slavery.

And finally, we have the 1st of Elul. This Jewish month is one month before Rosh Hashanah. We mark this month in many ways. It is customary to blow the Shofar every morning (except Shabbat) as a way to awaken us to

reflecting on the past year and preparing for the year ahead. I found that the intent of this New Year was actually to mark the tithing of livestock. Basically it was the time to figure out what each household would be giving to the temple.

This year Tu B'Shevat falls on January 31st. During the Shabbat morning prior to the holiday, January 28th, the Religious School will be holding a **Shabbat Morning Family Program** where they, along with the rest of the Vassar Temple Community, will be celebrating the trees with a special Tu B'Shevat seder. This is an inter-generational program and is considered to be a day of Religious School.

I hope that the Vassar Temple community will join us in this celebration on Saturday morning, January 28th at 9:00 am. And in the meantime, please accept my wishes for a Happy (secular) New Year. May 2018 bring you and your family lots of health, joy and prosperity!

Julie Makowsky

Lunch Box News

Thanks to Gil Seligman, Kurt Quackenbush, and Dave Wolf for stepping up to take leadership roles, and to everyone who donated food or money, or helped cook and serve at our Lunch Box days in November and December.

Sisterhood is sponsoring our next Lunch Box on **Sunday, January 7th**, and we will need donations of the following foods, which can be dropped off at Temple beforehand any time the building is open:

- 1 to 2 dozen pieces fresh fruit/bananas, or
- 3 lbs. ground beef or turkey browned with 1/2 cup onions

We also need volunteers to help cook and serve at the Family Partnership Center between 10:30am and 1:15pm that Sunday.

Please label all food 'For Lunch Box.' There will be a bin near the entry to the kitchen for your donations of nonperishable fruits. For questions, to volunteer or to donate food, please contact January Lunch Box Captain Roni Jarvis at ronni@clcp.com or 845-797-3380. (P.S. Your tax deductible check made out to 'Vassar Temple' with 'Community Tzedakah Fund' on the memo line also helps our Lunch Box project!)

Refugee Resettlement Project Update

Last year, Vassar Temple joined with Vassar College and other faith-based communities to form the Mid-Hudson Refugee Resettlement Project. There was much excitement about the possibility of multiple families from refugee communities across the world joining our community. While the numbers have not been what we anticipated, this group has achieved much success over the year.

On **January 28th from 3:00-5:00pm**, Vassar Temple will host a meeting to update the community on the Mid-Hudson Refugee Resettlement project. The meeting will feature brief presentations from leadership from Vassar Temple, Masjid Al Noor, Christ Episcopal Church and Vassar College on the accomplishments of this project over the past year. Key achievements have included the resettlement of two families, one from Congo and another from Egypt. The group has also provided financial support for Syrian and Iraqi refugee families in Albany.

Following the presentations, we will gather downstairs for refreshments and socializing.

Andi Ciminello & Lisa Rubenstein

Vassar Temple Refugee Resettlement Team Co-Captains

Men's Club

On Friday November 17th we held our annual Men's Club Shabbat. It was a great evening that coincided with the Membership Committee's Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour. The two events together made for an enjoyable and meaningful evening and those who participated felt a strong and rewarding sense of community.

I want to take a moment to thank our cantorial soloist Laura Stein and our organist Joe Bertolozzi for enriching our lay lead service with their participation. We look forward to supporting the Sisterhood Shabbat in April. I also want to thank Paul Ciminello, our bartender and Kabbalat organizer, Arnie Serotsky our libation coordinator and Bob Creedon, our chef extraordinaire, for enhancing our service by putting everyone in a good mood.

Finally, I want to thank all the participants in the service including Jerry Slate, Richard Levien, David Hecht, Dave Samson, Ron Rosen, Jonah Ritter, Arnie Serotsky, Bob Abrams, Dan Teich, Rabbi Golomb, and Judy Rosenfeld. Dan and I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Glenn Tanzman

Rummage Sale Big Success!

On November 5th Sisterhood ran another successful Rummage Sale. Thank you to everyone who donated merchandise – we raised a great deal of money. We also want to thank everyone who volunteered their time either sorting, setting up or working at the sale: Roni Stein, Ellen Danziger, Ann Harmuth, Patty Ann Clark, Perla Kaufman, Judy Rosenfeld, Claudia Kelson, Lisa Rubenstein, Nadine Zaritsky, Elena Collins, Susan Needelman, Jasmine Russo, and Joe Stein. Everything went very smoothly and we appreciated everyone's efforts. We are looking forward to our next sale in the spring – mark your calendars for April 22, 2018.

Ann Lerman & Ronni Jarvis
Rummage Co-Chairs

FUND FACTS: Charitable Pre-SCRIP-tion

If my Fund Facts article this month does *nothing* else (assuming you're reading this at all!), I hope it will inspire you to stop for a moment and think about SCRIP. Yes, SCRIP. Not "script" as in cursive writing, but "SCRIP" as in the amazing opportunity we have at Vassar Temple to support the Temple whilst we make any number of consumer purchases.

Thanks to Sandra Mamis' persistent and creative marketing, you are no doubt familiar with SCRIP. It is a gift card-purchasing system that enables you to buy cash credit at your favorite retailers and **simultaneously make a charitable contribution to Vassar Temple**. This is a classic "win-win" or a "no-brainer" as my kids would say! But it gets even better: Sandra has made it *beyond* easy to acquire SCRIP (she even delivers it to your doorstep!) and the SCRIP program now includes nearly 500 national retailers. There truly are no excuses for not being regular SCRIP buyers.

Please do the Temple and yourself a favor and check out the following link to learn more about the SCRIP program <http://vassartemple.org/donate-to-vt/scrup-program>, or, you can write to scrup@vassartemple.org for further information.

Whether it's to pay for weekly grocery shopping, gas fill-ups, gift cards for others, or simply dropping into your favorite Starbucks or Marshall's, SCRIP offers the ideal pre-SCRIP-tion for satisfaction. It's a gift to Vassar Temple that gives back to you. If you haven't yet tried it, please make this the month that you do.

Jennifer Sachs Dahnert

Jewish War Veterans Meet Jan. 14th

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, of The Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America has a scheduled meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. The meeting starts at 9:30am.

Persons of the Jewish faith who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces are cordially invited to attend and fully participate. Persons of the Jewish faith are also invited to attend and fully participate. At 9:00am there will be an informal "schmooze" with coffee and cake, so come and socialize with your fellow comrades.

Because Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought in to the building.

Don't Forget SCRIP!!



Intergenerational Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shabbat Shira Service Honoring Debbie Friedman Jan. 27th ALL INVITED!

9:00am: Celebrate the Jewish holiday Tu B'Shevat when we honor trees and all nature by feasting on a wide variety of luscious fruits at an intergenerational Tu B'Shebat seder!

10:00am: Rabbi Berkowitz, cantorial intern Laura Stein, and our religious school students will lead a service in honor of Shabbat Shira (the Sabbath of Singing), the shabbat when Jews all around the world chant from the Torah, remembering the joyful occasion of Moses and Miriam leading the Israelites across the Red Sea. This year Shabbat Shira also marks the 7th yearzeit of Debbie Friedman, an innovator in Jewish music, worship and culture. Cantorial intern Laura Stein will celebrate the legacy of Debbie Friedman with a 'sermon in song' and teach us some Debbie Friedman melodies that you may never have heard before!

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Berkowitz for guiding by example
Gail D'Alessio

In appreciation of High Holidays at Vassar Temple
Susan Kleinfeld-Stoller

Nathan "Norman" Schmuckler
George Rugar

Sandra Mamis

Anna Cairo Lynn & Marty Revitz

In Memory of:

George Rugar Kent Mardon
Jenny & Lewis Krevolin
Elsa Cohen Elizabeth Krevolin
Doi Cohen

In Memory of:

Rose Slate Jerold Slate
Ira Greenberg Fern & Dave Wolf
Lillian Greenman
Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz
Arthur Peritz
Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz
Solomon Tanzman Glenn & Marcia Tanzman

William Robinowitz Jim Robinowitz
Ruth Stein Charles, Roni & Joseph Stein

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

To celebrate Alan Kafowitz's special
birthday
David & Susan Karnes Hecht

In appreciation of Vassar Temple
Ellen Plotsky

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

Julie Makowsky Fern Lox

Yahrzeits

JANUARY 5

Alma Barbash
Greta Blaine
Donald DeWitt
Clara Dorn
Harris Harold Groten
Mort Hollinger
Yetta Horn
Betty Israel
Dr. Bertram Katz
Evelyn Laks
Joseph Robinson
Nicholas Stern
Evelyn Tanzman
Bessie Trivers

JANUARY 12

Monte Tate Brown
John Ciminello
Leo Dorn
Irene Goldstein
Samuel Grand
Ethel Haber
Beatrice Salit Horn
Bess Claster Kaufman
Leon Krauss
Rae Lipman
Shirley Lipschutz
Gerald Mamis
George Meltzer
Gloria Menken
Marion Present
Anne Richmond
Dr. Charles Scope
Harold Sherwin
Gabrielle Soroka
Evelyn Tanzman
Marion Tierney
Dorothy Vogel

JANUARY 19

Bella Albert
Moise Barchilon
Stephen Bokor
Herman D. Chertock
Joseph Effron
Andrew H. Erdreich
Belle Baum Fein
Thelma Fival
Sidney Friedman
John Garlock
Hody I. Gellert
Dr. Donald L. Goldfarb
Lois Grand
Ruth Haber
William Haber
Morris Kahn
Hy Kohan
Stanley Krell
Stanley Markum
Miriam Rosenberg
Oppenheimer
Andrea Sue Rabin
Guiseppe Ribbi
Morris S. Rosen
Daniel Russotto
Sarah Sacharoff
Joseph Solomon
Herbert L. Strauss
Carl Tobias
Helen Wagner

JANUARY 26

Rafael Barchilon
Joseph Baskin
Fay Scheer Chazen
Jesse Colodner
Betty DeGeorge
Rose Dorfman
William Feinbloom, OD
Abraham Ginsberg
Naomi Goldberg
Joan Golomb
Davida Krevolin
Shirley LaLone
Judel Lampert
Eugenia Lenger
Melvin Lesser
Bessie Lipschutz
Joseph Marcus
Sylvia Mednick
Andrew Frederick Mendel
Ann J. Miller
Walter L. Mock, Jr.
Rose Plotkin
Elizabeth Satz
Mark C. Schwartz
Henry Seligman
Theresa Wang
Herman Yelsky

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Rabbi:	Leah Berkowitz
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen Arnold
Senior Scholar:	Paul Golomb
Religious School Director:	Julie Makowsky
Cantorial Intern:	Laura Stein
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Mark Metzger
1st Vice President:	Alan Kflowitz
2nd Vice President:	Roni Stein
Secretary:	Susan Karnes Hecht
Treasurer:	OPEN
Sisterhood President:	Judy Rosenfeld
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Glenn Tanzman & Dan Teich
Immediate Past President:	Bob Ritter
Youth Group President:	OPEN

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Ritual Cmte meeting	3 No Hebrew School	4 10am SEP	5 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	6 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
7 9am Religious School 9am 7th Grade Parent-Student Learning 10:30am Lunch Box	8	9 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	10 4:30pm Hebrew School	11 10am SEP 7pm Tikkun Olam Dialog	12 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Services with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour	13 9am Torah Study
14 No Religious School	15	16 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	17 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:00pm Finance Cmte meeting	18 10am SEP 12pm VTS Chai Noon 7pm Tikkun Olam Dialog Snow Date	19 10:30am PJ Library 6pm Shabbat Winter Service	20 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Service
21 9am Religious School 9am 7th Grade Parent-Student Learning 9:30am R/S Cmte	22	23 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	24 4:30pm Hebrew School	25 10am SEP 6pm Exec Cmte Meeting 7pm Board Meeting	26 Shabbat Shira Soup & Chili Dinner; Tisch with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein	27 9am-12 noon Intergenerational Shabbat Shira/Tu B'Shevat Service
28 No Religious School Afternoon Refugee Event	29	30 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study	31 Hebrew School Tu B'Shevat Event			