



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 166, No. 4 December 2018

Chanukah Dinner and Service: December 7th

Vassar Temple's annual pot-luck Chanukah Dinner will be held on Friday, December 7th at 6:00pm in the social hall. Bring a meat or non-dairy dish (anything except dairy) for 12. Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages. Please **do not use nuts** in your dish.

- \$18 per family; \$6 per individual.
- Reservations for this popular event due by Tuesday, December 4th, by contacting Roni Stein at 223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com. Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with 'Chanukah Dinner' on the memo line.

The dinner will be followed at 7:30 by our traditional, exciting and beautiful family-friendly Chanukah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Altman and student cantor Ilana Goldman, to which everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a menorah and candles. If you have not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!



Upcoming Events

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New Year's Day Gourmet Brunch! Tuesday, January 1st - 10:30am to 2:00pm

Vassar Temple wishes everyone a happy New Year's Eve and a safe, healthy and wonderful start to the New Year. To ring in the New Year, we invite the congregation and your friends to join us at a New Year's Day brunch at Vassar Temple from 10:30am until 2:00pm. After your New Year's Eve celebration, don't wake up early and worry about breakfast or lunch. Instead, join us at the Temple, where we will do the cooking for you and you can relax and begin the New Year with good friends. The cost is \$45 per person, \$20 for children under 12, and children 2 and younger are free.

The menu, which is subject to change, will include:

- Bagel bar with Assorted Bagels, Cream Cheese, Butter, Jam, Lox, Tomatoes, Red Onion and Capers;
- Assorted Fruit;
- Chopped Salad of Lettuce, Goat Cheese, Avocado, Dates, Red Onion and Olives in a Champagne Vinaigrette;
- Potato Salad with Lox, Horseradish and Crème Fraiche;
- Blintzes and/or Waffles;
- Mushroom Ragu over Croissant with Fried Eggs;
- Frittata;
- Fish Chowder;
- Swordfish Stuffed with Parmesan, Breadcrumbs and Garlic in a White Wine and Mustard Reduction;
- Eggplant Parmesan; ,
- Assorted Bundt and Coffee Cakes; and
- Juices, Coffee, and Mimosas.

We hope you can all join us. Please RSVP to Cathy Bokor at cathy@bokorlang.com or 845-462-5862 by **December 21st** so we know how many to expect.

From the Rabbi's Desk



I write these words while admiring the beauty of the fall foliage, knowing full well that they will be read when the trees will be bare and the skies will darken early in day. Against that darkness, we will kindle the

lights of Chanukah. How powerful this ancient story is to us this year with the memories of the shooting in Pittsburgh so fresh in our hearts. Over 2,000 years ago, the Assyrian King Antiochus tried to quash the Jewish soul but the Maccabees bravely rose up to defend their nation and the right of the Jews to worship in accordance with their faith. Miraculously, they were victorious; this paltry band of fighters defeated the great Assyrian army. Miraculously, the Jewish people has survived numerous enemies who have risen up against us – from Pharaoh to Nebuchadnezzar to Hitler to the neo-Nazis of our day. Each year we proudly display our *Chanukiot* in windows to fulfill the mitzvah of *pirsum hanes*, publicizing the miracle.

The vigil in Poughkeepsie and those in cities throughout this nation remind us that we do not kindle lights in the darkness alone. The night of the vigil, I thought back to an incident that took place in Billings, Montana in 1993. Hate groups had become increasingly active, attacking Jews and other minority groups. But when someone threw a brick through the window of a 5 year old's room in a Jewish home where the *Chanukah* was set, the town took action. A member of a local church heard that the police chief had suggested to the parents that they not put up Jewish symbols anymore. Recalling the actions of the Danes during World War II who, led by their King, chose to wear yellow stars in solidarity with their Jewish neighbors rather than give them up to the Nazis, this one woman started a campaign to get everyone to put menorahs in their windows. They didn't have enough real ones, so they made paper menorahs. Some say that 3,000-4,000 homes in Billings had menorahs; others say 10,000. Sadly, it didn't stop the acts of hatred completely, but it did have some impact upon them. And the small Jewish community of Billings was uplifted

by everyone who supported them and stood up to those motivated by hate.

We pray that the Jewish community of Pittsburgh will be uplifted during these dark days by those who join them in kindling lights against the darkness of hatred. May they and we be sustained by recalling the promise of religious freedom articulated by George Washington to the Jews of Newport, RI in 1790, that "... *the Government of the United States... gives bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance...*" May his blessing to that congregation sustain us as well: "*May the children of the stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.*"

May the lights of Chanukah burn brightly with joy, hope and peace for you, your loved ones and our beloved country.

Rabbi Renni S. Altman

President's Message



So how do you spell Hanukkah? If you did a Google search.... there are about 16 different ways to spell it and yet 6 different ways seem to come up as being the most common. However,

it does not matter how you spell it, as it universally means the same thing. I prefer Hanukkah spelled this way but you can decide for yourself. The Festival of Lights is a really fantastic holiday especially if you are a kid, or a kid at heart, so enjoy!

The tradition at Vassar Temple when we light all of the hanukiot on the back table just warms my heart. Our Hanukkah tradition has such a strong connection to Judaism and community for many of us, that when I see in

articles or on the internet that Hanukkah does not rank as a really important holiday to the Jewish people, I beg to differ. It seems wrong to rank a holiday. Why not just embrace each holiday with the energy and passion it deserves? The oil that fueled the Hanukkiyah that lasted eight days was a miracle that should be celebrated, though more importantly that we came out victorious over a tyrant king.

To most people that are not connected to the Jewish people, Hanukkah stands out as one of the most recognizable holidays. I am hoping that all of you shine your hanukiot in the windows of your home brightly (safely please) because more than ever we need to show our solidarity to each other and the greater community that we are here, and we are always going to be here. The Jewish people must be profoundly protective of their God given right to pray as they see fit without being ridiculed and having their temples or people hurt or defaced.

There is a huge difference between being scared and afraid. Being scared means that we are smart, we pay attention to the changes in the world, and we respond to it progressively to protect our people. Being afraid means we are weak, that we cower to the reality of current anti-Semitism. We are not weak; we are Jews which defines us as strong and resilient. Embrace the Festival of Lights, show and receive love, and embrace your temple passionately and enjoy Hanukkah. We owe this to ourselves and our people.

Chag Sameach!

Alan Kaflowitz

December Worship Services

1 st	9:00am	Torah Study
7 th	6:00pm	Chanukah dinner in Social Hall
	7:30pm	Chanukah Shabbat Evening Service/Candle Lighting with Rabbi Altman, Cantorial Intern Ilana Goldman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
8 th	9:00am	Torah Study
	10:00am	New Paths Service
14 th	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Jacob Niemi and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
15 th	9:00am	Torah Study
	10:00am	Intergenerational Shabbaton with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Jacob Niemi and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
21 st	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
22 nd	9:00am	Torah Study
	10:00am	New Paths Service
28 th	6:00pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
29 th	9:00 am	Torah Study

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service on Saturdays, Dec. 8th and Dec. 22nd 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 mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Altman rabbi@vassartemple.org, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Intergenerational Shabbat & Lunch: Dec. 15th

Everyone is invited to Vassar Temple's first Inter-generational Shabbat of the year on Saturday, December 15th from 9:00am-noon. Our religious school students, their families, and other members of the congregation will all share special Shabbat interactive learning and worship experiences together. The weekly Torah Study session with Rabbi Altman will be woven into the program, enhanced by the music of guest Cantor Jacob Niemi. Everyone is invited to participate, and to stay and enjoy a light kiddush lunch afterward. For the children, this program will be in lieu of Religious School on Sunday, December 16th and for everyone it will be a very special Shabbat morning of community, prayer and learning.

Scriptural Readings

Dec. 1 *Vayeshev* Gen.39:1-40:23; Amos 2:6 – 3:8

8 **Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah Miketz**
Gen. 43:16-44:17, Num. 7:42-7:47 and
28:9-28:15; Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7

15 *Vayigash* Gen. 46:28-47:27;
Ezekiel 37:15-28

22 *Vay'chi* Gen. 49:27-50:26; I Kings 2:1-12

29 Sh'mot Exodus 4:18-6:1; Isaiah
27:6 – 28:13, 29:22-23

Tiny Temple Hanukkah Party December 9th

Please join us for Tiny Temple's free Hanukkah Party at Vassar Temple on Sunday, December 9th from 10:30am-11:30am. The tots, along with the Religious School, will learn about Hanukkah 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-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 the Sisterhood.

To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo at 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 or by calling the Temple Office at 845-454-2570.

Mazel Tov

to:

Ilana Wolf, daughter of Fern and David Wolf, who recently passed her Doctor of Physical Therapy Licensing exam and landed her first professional position at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains;

Paul & Andi Ciminello on the engagement of their son, Adam Ciminello, to Uriah Johnson;

Jim & Mary Ann Robinowitz on the birth of their new grandson, Landon Samuel Peña, to parents Leah and Emmanuel Peña.

Social Action Spotlight: The Mothers Group

The Mothers Group was started by our member Kay Bishop, a nurse-midwife, several years ago to provide a source of education, support, socialization and networking for young mothers in the City of Poughkeepsie. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Family Partnership from 4:30pm-6:30pm.

Always needed is help with child-care, organizing children's books to give away, or keeping the toys and snacks organized. Or just show up and see what needs doing! Spanish speakers welcome! For more information and to volunteer, please contact Kay at 845-797-4834.

HEROES AMONG US:

A Force in Music Education and the Arts, Beyond Measure

For nearly all of my 28 years in the Hudson Valley, I have known about several organizations whose names are synonymous with high quality arts programs for youth. These programs prosper from well-earned reputations as some of the best programs of their kind – anywhere. Stringendo, Mill Street Loft, Spark Media (formerly the Children's Media Project). . . you know them. But it was not until my interview with this month's "Hero Among Us" that I realized she and her family are key figures in all of them.

Indeed, Lisa Rubenstein, who has been on the Stringendo Board since 2008 and served as its President for the past six years, is one of the forces behind that decades-old non-profit organization that provides vital music education programs in the Hudson Valley including the Saturday Orchestra Program, Strawberry Hill Fiddlers and Summer Strings. These programs have provided opportunities for area youth to explore the wonders, virtues, lessons and gifts of musical study and performance that otherwise would not be available to them. Lisa's many years and countless hours of passionate work to build and strengthen these programs have had an impact beyond measure (no pun intended) for the nearly 250 children who participate in them every year. If ever there was a person who could be termed a "hero" in music education in our area, it is Lisa.

And the rest of the family, mentioned earlier? Lisa's husband, Rick DuVall, is an a stalwart volunteer for the Mill Street Loft, having served on that powerhouse of an arts organization's Board for more than 15 years, filling various roles including Treasurer at the present time. And many of you will recall that the Rubenstein/DuVall daughters were fixtures in Stringendo/The Strawberry Hill Fiddlers for many years. Most recently, Becky DuVall was involved in one of the projects that inspired the formation of the Spark Media Project (formerly the Children's Media Project), which recently merged with the Mill Street Loft to form The Art Effect, one of the newest, most exciting non-profit arts organizations in the Hudson Valley (if you don't know about it, check it out: <https://feelthearteffect.org/about-us/history/>). Suffice it to say that arts in various forms are more abundant and thriving around here because of Lisa Rubenstein and her family. Being "heroes among us" is simply in the DNA of this family. Thank you all for giving as you do and enhancing the quality of life as we know it in the Hudson Valley!

Jennifer Sachs Dahnert



December Bimah Flower Donations

- December 7: Donated by Sandra Mamis and Ellie & Martin Charwat in honor of Ellie's parents, Nate and Jeanne Rubin
- December 14: Donated by Suzi Stoller in memory of Annette Kleinfeld Katz
- December 21: Donated by Kate, Mark and Anna Metzger
- December 28: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can do so by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers with a donation to the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund. The donation to the Fund is \$55. Just call the Vassar Temple Office at (845) 454-2570.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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

Articles for the **January 2019 Bulletin** must be submitted by **December 1st** sent via email to publicity@vassar temple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Religious School Update

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, in so many ways is really our Festival of Children. As we celebrate this holiday that celebrates religious freedom and our ancestors' victory against a tyrant, we rejoice as each new generation lights the Chanukiah symbolizing the continuity and strength of the Jewish people.

Chanukah is a time of joy and brightness at the darkest time of the year, an opportunity for families to come together and enjoy the holiday treats and festivities. With the ever increasing commercialization of the winter holidays, however, we can lose sight of the real meaning behind our holiday and its lights. We encourage you to deepen the meaning of Chanukah by enriching your home observances by incorporating lessons of *gemilut chassadim* that we celebrate our blessings best by sharing with others. Some ways to do this might be to:

- dedicate one of the nights to giving a gift of tzedakah instead of receiving a gift.
 - talk with your child/ren about different recipients for your tzedakah and make them part of the selection.
 - take your child/ren shopping for a toy or book to donate. (Suggestions for donations: 'Toys for Tots' in the box outside the armed forces recruitment center at 2020 South Road; Vassar Brothers Hospital's pediatric unit: children's books -- board books to elementary age, picture books or story books.)
- December will be a busy month in The Seth A. Erlebacher Re-

ligious School! The children will be making their own creative chanukiot, under the guidance of our madrichim. On December 9th we will celebrate together with the Tiny Temple families and enjoy Chanukah songs, games and treats.

On Wednesday, December 5th, Vassar Temple will host the Chanukah party for Gesher, the community program for Post-B'nei Mitzvah students held in conjunction with Temple Beth-El and Congregation Shir Chadash. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare a scrumptious Chanukah dinner. Great surprise entertainment is in store!

All families are encouraged to come to Temple on **Friday, December 7th** for our annual Chanukah dinner and service – bring your Chanukiot for the great community lighting!

Then, on **December 15th** we will have our first **Intergenerational Shabbaton** of the year on **Saturday, December 15th**. Students from the religious school, their families and other members of the congregation will share in a special Shabbat of interactive learning and worship experiences together. **This program will be in lieu of Religious School on Sunday, December 16th.**

Rabbi Renni S. Altman

Vassar Temple's Annual December Souper Sale!!



Winter is here, and there are children, teenagers and adults of all ages who are hungry and cold and lack nourishing food supplies to sustain them.. YOU CAN HELP! Vassar Temple invites you to make a donation of any amount which, in turn, will be used to purchase cases of large cans of chunky soups. These soups are full of meats, vegetables, potatoes and more. In the beginning of January, a caravan of volunteer members will deliver the load to the following local food distribution sites: Dutchess Outreach, Morse School, Community Action Partnership's pantries in Beacon, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook and Dover, Interfaith Senior Housing and more.

Please send a tax deductible check in any amount made out to "Vassar Temple", with "Souper Sale Donation" on the memo line. Send the check to: Vassar Temple, [140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601](https://www.vassar.org/140-hooker-avenue-poughkeepsie-ny-12601).

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION IN NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2018.

That's it. You will know you are helping feed someone in this county who might otherwise miss a meal.

An added plus: Money collected for the Souper Sale will be exchanged for Stop & Shop scrip at the Temple, which benefits the Temple, too. 100% of your donation will be used to buy the chunky soups. It's a win/win deal! Questions? Please call Shaari Roland 845-494-1365 or email shaarirs@gmail.com

Worship Song Refresher

This year the Temple is hosting a Cantorial musician roughly once a month on Friday evenings. On those other three weeks it's up to us, the congregation, to sing. So, to empower ourselves and enhance our services, Joseph Bertolozzi has offered to lead a session open to the congregation to become more familiar with various songs we use in worship.

He won't be teaching new songs but will reinforce tunes that are known so we can sing with more confidence.

This is not a choir. Its sole purpose is to invigorate congregational singing overall. It may even have a collateral effect to those who don't attend.

The skill of reading music is not necessary, and we will use the Mishkan T'Filah prayerbook for the words.

Please let Bob Abrams (music@vassar temple.org), David Hecht (ritual@vassar temple.org) or Joe Bertolozzi (joseph.bertolozzi@gmail.com) know what days of the week are best for you and we'll try to accommodate everyone interested. We may even schedule this more than once. Available times are generally evenings Monday-Wednesday, or Sunday afternoons.

Bob Abrams
Music Committee Chair

Vassar Temple Participation in CROP Walk a Success!

Thanks to Linda and Joel Babas who volunteered to work at the registration table, and to all who walked in the 2018 CROP walk for hunger, including the following:

Rabbi Altman, Ron Rosen, the Sinn family, Haley Kafowitz, Mariel Kelson, Ralph Schwartz and Jonah Ritter!

And a really BIG thanks to all who donated on behalf of the walkers—all told we raised over \$3,200 towards the fight against hunger both locally and world-wide. Based on early returns, ours may have been the most successful team effort in the entire Dutchess County walk. Also, based on the early returns (especially donations made online), Rabbi Altman and Ron Rosen were in the top five walkers, raising \$1,520 and \$789 respectively.

Ron Rosen

Crop Walk Team Captain

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: Dec. 2nd

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, Dec. 2nd 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 this meeting.

Rummage Sale a Success

On October 28th, 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: Judy Rosenfeld, Ann Harmuth, Roni Stein, Ellen Danziger, Joyce Gally, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Marcia Tanzman, Julie Arbiter, Lisa Rubinstein, Nadine Zaritsky, Elena Collins, Susan Needelman, Jasmine Russo, and Linda Babas. 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 7, 2019.

Ann Lerman and Ronni Jarvis

Rummage Co-Chairs

LunchBox: Dec. 2nd

Our thanks to October LunchBox Captain Ron Rosen, his spirited crew, and everyone who donated hot dogs and fruit for that meal, to Paul Ciminello and his team of men from Vassar Temple and Masjid al Noor for organizing and carrying out LunchBox in November, and our appreciation to all who donated the pasta and fruit.

On **Sunday, Dec. 2nd**, we will be serving frank and bean casserole to our neighbors in need at LunchBox in the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie. We would love to have your help there all or part of the time between 10:30am-about 1:15pm.

We are also asking for food donations of:

- one dozen pieces of fruit or bananas
- 3 lbs. all beef franks

Food may be dropped off in the Temple kitchen anytime the building is open; please label it ‘For Lunch Box.’ If you can come and help, or make a food donation, please contact Marian at socialaction@vassar temple.org or 845-849-0025. Financial donations for this project may also be made by check payable to Vassar Temple with ‘Community Tzedakah Fund’ on the memo line.

Youth Group Happenings

Chanukah Cookie Baking and Party: Sunday, December 2nd, 12:00noon- 4:00pm at VT.

This event is all about having a fun time with other Jewish teens and fundraising. If you can only come for part of it, that is fine too. We will bake the cookies according to the pre-orders the kids collect in advance, play games, make Chanukah cards for our friends and families, put on good music, and eat some chocolate! This event will include snacks.

Please RSVP

Gravity Vault: Sunday, December 9th (times TBD)

The fundraising from the cookies will help offset the cost of our trip to Gravity Vault!

RSVP required. This is our last VTYG event for 2018

As usual for VTYG events, contact Magdalena for more info or RSVP: (631)377-0264 or mschneiderman@vassar.edu

Yahrzeits

DEC. 7

Mildred Tauber
Elaine Hendricks
Cynthia Rosenblum
Leah Michel
Maurice L. Troeger
Albert Barchilon
Michael Goldfinger
Larry Adler
Miriam Feitelson
Lillian Friedman
Sadie Breit
Sandra Lipschutz
Martin Markowitz
Julius Klein
Leo Loeb
Carl Gross
Minnie Shapiro
Ruth Bagun
Elsa Cohen
Shirley Ernest
Wilford Wittenberg
Thomas Nolan
William Schwartz
Judith Siegel
Rhea Sumner

DEC. 14

Clara Lewin
Allan E. Dampf
Jordan Taylor
Rabbi Sigmund Israel
Ida Krevolin
Herman R. Gross
Helen Wrobel
Esther Yelsky
Abe Barnett
Anna Cairo
Erna Konheim
Eileen Dermody
Aaron Slote
Ruth Seegal Cohen
Marilyn Sirkus

DEC. 21

Ruth Stein
Louis Satz
Yetta Horn
Charles Kovacs, DDS
Ilse B. Dreyfuss
Beatrice Snyder
Nathaniel Rubin
Belle G. Adler
Evelyn Lesser
Joseph Weber
William Robinowitz
Stella W. Renick
Goldie Bleich
Doris Berlin-Acker, MD
Philip Wolfson
Louis Rosen
Selma Kahn
Leah W. Cohen

DEC. 28

Clara Dorn
Deborah H. Jacobs
Celia Kraut
Joseph L. Kahn
Barnard Cohen
Reine Reinhart
Joseph R. Levy, MD
Joseph Fa'gut
Henry Solomonson
Barnet B. Shelton
Frances Rosen
Morris Effron
Meyer Miller
Faye Seif

Memorial Tablets

The memorial tablets in our sanctuary provide us with the means to honor and remember loved ones, not only when their names are graced by lights on their yahrzeits and on Yom Kippur, but also throughout the year as permanent reminders of our personal and congregational histories.

While we prefer that the tablets be filled as slowly as possible, the reality is that we are now in need of additional space. Although donations for the individual plaques repay the cost of the board over a long time period, the significant initial expense is prohibitive.

Therefore, the Board of Trustees wishes to acknowledge a generous gift from Sandra Mamis which has made this purchase possible and, in turn, secured a stream of future donations as individual plaques are added. These donations go into the Temple's Sustaining Fund to support our operating costs. Sandra is donating the new board in memory of her beloved husband Harry Mamis, MD, z'l, and it will be inscribed accordingly.

Please consider donating a plaque to honor the memory of a loved one as well as our temple home. To learn more please contact Perla Kaufman at brandaliz5@optonline.net or the Temple office.

Book Club to Discuss *The Hate U Give* on December 19th

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, the authentic depiction of a teenage girl, her loving family, and her attempts to reconcile what she knows to be true about their lives with the way those lives are depicted, and completely undervalued, by society at large.

Sixteen year old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Protesters are taking to the streets in defense of Khalil's name. Some police and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What



everyone wants to know is what really went down that night? And the only person who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community, as well as endanger her life.

Beautifully written in Starr's authentic first person voice, this timely and profoundly moving novel is available through the local library system. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 19th, at 2:00pm in the Community Room of Collegeview 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. Your book suggestions for future meetings are always appreciated.

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

No Happy Hour in December

There is NO HAPPY HOUR scheduled in December. Happy Hours will resume on **January 11th** at 7:15pm in the Social Hall. Stay tuned for more information about great get-togethers and fun menus as our 2019 Happy Hour season gets underway!

If you've been attending Happy Hours and enjoy these events, please consider hosting one in 2019! It's easy to host a Happy Hour. We have setup and kitchen support as well as easy-to-follow directions. Contact Elena Collins at bellaviol1@gmail.com if you would like to host an upcoming Happy Hour. Cheers!

'Torah Study,' which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, will be led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, at 9:00am every Saturday this month except Dec. 15th, on which date you are invited to participate in an intergenerational shabbaton from 9:00am-noon.

"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text", taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held the third Thursday of the month (Dec. 20) from noon to about 1:30pm. 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 Altman at rabbi@vassartemple.org or Rabbi Golomb at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Memory of:

Donald Hulnick Paul & Andi Ciminello

In Honor of:

Rabbi Altman's first HHD at Vassar Temple Jonah Ritter

Rabbi's Altman's care & support Paul & Andi Ciminello

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Philip Browner Mariam Browner Lacher
Sol Tanzman Glenn Tanzman

Paul & Molly Susser Howard Susser

Michael Aronson Lila Matlin

Phillip Ritter The Ritter family

Margaret Ciminello

Paul & Andi Ciminello

In Honor of:

Perla Kaufman receiving the Arnold Award
David Hecht & Ritual Committee for all they do
Richard Cantor to wish him well

Aaron Parish Sue & William Barbash
Hildegard Tuchmann Doi Cohen

TZEDAKAH FUND

In Honor of:

Installation of Rabbi Altman Lila Matlin

MADRICHIM FUND

In Memory of:

Leo Feinstein The Kflowitz family

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Gertrude F. Troeger Margery Mann

In Honor of:

Elaine Lipschutz' birthday Jonah Ritter

SCRIP for Holiday Gifts

Good cheer, hopes for peace and gift giving mark many of our December holiday traditions. Are family, friends, co-workers, service employees in your home or others on your gift giving list? SCRIP gift cards are the answer!

Everyone loves the joy of getting a gift card to a favorite store! And nothing is easier than purchasing those gift cards through the Vassar Temple SCRIP Program. Cards are available to hundreds of local and national retailers. And your gift card purchases provide much needed funding for Vassar Temple programs at no extra cost to you!

Here are some examples of the potential profit from your card buying: Buy a:

- Lands End card and the Temple earns 18%
- Regal Cinema: 8%.
- Adams: 10%
- Macy's 10%

- Crazy8: 13 %
- J Crew: 13%
- GAP/Banana Republic/Athleta: 14%
- Express: 10%
- Finish Line: 10%
- Lord & Taylor: 8%
- Longhorn Steakhouse: 8%and the list goes on!

Don't know what to get for those hard-to-select-for folks or perhaps out of town recipients? SCRIP gift cards fit the bill!

Contact our SCRIP Coordinator, Sandra Mamis, for more info: 914 456 3524 or scrip@vassartemple.org. You can also speak with Vassar Temple office staff: 845 454 2570 or office@vassartemple.org.



The Grand Event: The 2018 Vassar Temple Gala

On the evening of Sunday, November 4th, the 2018 Vassar Temple Gala was held at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. The evening program began with hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling rose wine, music, and the opportunity to bid on 40+ lots at the Gala Silent Auction. Auction items included art, wines, restaurant certificates, sports collectibles, jewelry, Judaica, and other treasured and useful items.

This year's Gala theme was *Tikkun Olam*, "repairing the world." It was our congregation's opportunity to honor the many members who give their time and energy to social action projects under the auspices of the Vassar Temple Social Action Committee, chaired by Marian Schwartz. During the evening, two members of the congregation were individually honored for their efforts: Andrea Ciminello for her work with the Temple's Refugee Leadership Team and the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance, and Ron Rosen for his work in Environmental Conservation, especially through his long association with the Appalachian Trail.

A buffet dinner, prepared by local caterer Farmers & Chefs, was enjoyed by the 100 attendees, followed by dessert, more bidding on the silent Auction, and dancing.

This event played several important roles in the life of our Temple. It gave us a chance to again welcome Rabbi Altman to our community, it was an opportunity to socialize with our fellow congregation members, it provided the Temple with necessary financial resources, and especially, it served as a stage for recognition of the members of our Temple who devote themselves to the sacred work of Tikkun Olam, for a world that once again will be whole.

Arnie Serotsky
Gala Chair and Temple Trustee



Bought SCRIP
lately??

Gala 2018 Photo Gallery



Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
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Religious School Director:	Renni S. Altman, DD
Rabbi Emeritus:	Stephen Arnold,
Senior Scholar:	Paul Golomb
Organist:	Joseph Bertolozzi
President:	Alan Kafowitz
1st Vice President:	Susan Karnes Hecht
2nd Vice President:	Martin Charwat
Secretary:	Michele Sinn
Treasurer:	Brett Colbert
Sisterhood Representative:	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Men's Club Co-Presidents:	Glenn Tanzman & Dan Teich
Immediate Past President:	Mark Metzger

**DATED MAIL
 PLEASE
 RUSH**

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Torah Study
2 Chanukah—1st Candle 9am Religious School 9am Chanukah Judaica Shop 11am LunchBox	3 Chanukah	4 Chanukah 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	5 Chanukah 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshher Chanukah Party at Vassar Temple	6 Chanukah 10am SEP 7pm Ritual Committee	7 Chanukah, 6th Candle 6pm Chanukah Dinner and Service	8 Chanukah 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
9 Chanukah Tiny Temple Chanukah Party 9am Religious School	10 Chanukah	11 10am SEP	12 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshher	13 10am SEP	14 6pm Shabbat Service	15 9am Torah Study 10am Shabbaton
16	17	18 10am SEP Chai Noon	19 2pm VTS Book Club 6:30pm Geshher 7pm Finance Cmte	20 10am SEP Noon: Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb	21 6pm Shabbat Service	22 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
23	24 Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27 10am SEP 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting	28 6pm Shabbat Service	29 9am Torah Study
30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed					