



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 166, No. 3 November 2018

### WE'RE ALMOST THERE! The Vassar Temple Gala November 4, 2018, 5:00pm

Hopefully you have by now purchased your tickets to the November 4<sup>th</sup> Temple Gala at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. This very special evening includes:

Hors d'oeuvres and sparkling wine  
Silent Auction  
Buffet Dinner with wine  
Presentation to Honorees  
Dancing

The evening begins at 5:00pm with sparkling wine and hors d'oeuvres and time for socializing and bidding at the silent auction. Guests will then be invited to take their seats in the dining room (with a glass of sparkly and some yummys) for the presentation of this year's honorees.

The theme for this year's Gala is Social Action and is based on Tikkun Olam, a concept of kindness performed to perfect or repair the world. This Jewish value is often used when discussing issues of social policy affecting those who may be at a disadvantage.

We will honor various Vassar Temple committees and projects devoted to social action. We are also honoring two congregants who are involved in endeavors outside of the Temple organization.

Andrea Ciminello (with the Vassar Temple Refugee Leadership Team) has been a committed volunteer with the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance, and Ron Rosen, who has been a champion of conservation and the environment, especially through his roles with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Following the honoree ceremony, there will be a delicious buffet dinner with wine and then an hour of dancing and the opportunity for silent auction bidding.

The Gala is an important event for Vassar Temple. It is the Temple's largest fundraiser, representing a considerable portion of our budget, a very special social and ceremonial event at which we acknowledge the efforts of the congregation to improve our community. And it will be a fun time!

If you have already bought your tickets, I look forward to seeing you on November 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet purchased your tickets, it's not too late! Call the Temple office at (845) 454-2570. Or if you have questions about the Gala, contact me at [arnieser@aol.com](mailto:arnieser@aol.com) or (845) 473 8426.

*Arnie Serotsky*  
Gala Chair and Temple Trustee

Beginning November  
23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday evening  
services will begin at 6:00  
pm



### Upcoming Events

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16	Men's Club Shabbat, p.3
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## From the Rabbi's Desk



The great rabbinic sage Hillel taught “Do not separate yourself from the community” (*Pirkei Avot* 2:5).

During this month, we, as the Vassar Temple community, have at least two meaningful

opportunities to fulfill this essential Jewish obligation.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, thanks to the very hard work of a team led by Arnie Serotsky, we will celebrate Vassar Temple at its annual gala. Our theme this year is one that is central to the mission of Vassar Temple: *tikkun olam*, the Jewish mandate to participate in acts of social justice to help repair our broken world. Whether it is the annual donation of school supplies for the Morse school, numerous programs to feed the hungry in our community and beyond such as the Yom Kippur Food drive, the Crop Walk, LunchBox and Trim a Thanksgiving, or Mitzvah Day, social justice is at the heart of Vassar Temple.

This year we have selected two honorees, Andi Ciminello and Ron Rosen, for their outstanding commitment to *tikkun olam* within our congregation as well as in the larger Mid-Hudson Valley: Andi, for her efforts to care for the stranger through the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance and Ron for his devotion to protecting our environment,

especially through his leadership roles in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We look forward to strong attendance both to celebrate the work of our honorees and to support Vassar Temple. If you are unable to be present physically at the gala, you can certainly make your presence known through various ways to contribute. Your on-going financial support enables Vassar Temple to play a leading role in the community in our efforts for *tikkun olam*, and, of course to fulfill our three-fold mission as a synagogue to be a *Beit Tefillah* (House of Prayer), a *Beit Midrash* (House of Study) and *Beit K'nesset* (a House of Community).

The month of November is also the time when we can fulfill our communal responsibility as American citizens by exercising our right and privilege to vote. This, too, is an act of *tikkun olam* for voting is one of our most powerful means of making our voices heard. This is a significant voting year in the Mid-Hudson Valley on local, state and national levels. While Jews can proudly claim a very strong voting record (studies show Jewish voter turnout averages around 85% in contrast to just 50% for the country overall), turnout is generally much lower in non-presidential years. **Please be sure to include voting in your schedule for Tuesday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.** If you need a ride, please call Marge Groten at 845-380-7074 or Arthur Groten at 845-380-1374.

If you have a young person in your family who is eligible to vote, please encourage them to do so. According to estimates, only 50% of registered young voters actually voted in the 2016 presidential election. It's never too soon for our young people to take on their civic responsibilities...“Do not separate yourself from the community!”

In another teaching in *Pirkei Avot*, Rabbi Chaninah taught “pray for the welfare of the government.” (*Pirkei Avot* 3:2). Thus, a prayer for the government has become a regular part of Shabbat and Holy Day morning worship. As we approach Election Day, I close with some of the words of the prayer for our country in *Mishkan T'filah*:

O Guardian of life and liberty,  
may our nation always merit Your  
protection ...  
Grant our leaders wisdom and  
forbearance.  
May they govern with justice and  
compassion ...  
May our homes be safe from  
affliction and strife,  
and our country be sound in body  
and spirit.

Amen.

Rabbi Renni S. Altman

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## President's Message



With the crisp air with us until next Spring and the Sukkah taken down by the Men's Club, it signals to me that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I always enjoyed the parallels that exist

between Sukkot and Thanksgiving. The idea of a bountiful harvest before the winter and the expressions of the lulav and etrog remind us that we are thankful with our whole being. Sukkot *zman simchateinu*...“the Season of our Rejoicing” when we pause to enjoy our bounty, as well as allowing us to reflect on our vulnerabilities while in the shelter of God.

Similarly, Thanksgiving, when we get together with friends and family, we rediscover what is truly important; love of what's real...family, friends and one's health. I love Thanksgiving on many levels, because my family makes its journey to my sister Nadine's house. My sister being in an interfaith marriage, I truly appreciate Thanksgiving because it is the one holiday that brings us all together around one table for one purpose. To give thanks for what we have, to enjoy each other's company, we recognize the many commonalities that we share.

I am also thankful for my extended family at Vassar Temple, and I appreciate each of you. Perhaps around your Thanksgiving table this year, you can not only give thanks for what you have, also consider supporting those in need. During Sukkot God commands us to rejoice, and one of the most important mitzvot that we can take part in is also to take care of others in need.

Right before Thanksgiving we will have our Gala. We will celebrate those champions of Social Action and Vassar Temple's commitment to supporting social action for years to come. Supporting the Gala financially provides us with an opportunity to strengthen our Temple. I am thankful for to all of you for your continued support. Please join me on November 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the accomplishments of Andrea H. Ciminello and the Vassar Temple Refugee Leadership Team and Ronald Rosen for his participation in a number of Vassar Temple Social Action projects, committees, and support of conservation and environmental projects.

See you at the Gala and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Alan Kaflowitz

## November Worship Services

2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Torah Study New Paths Service
9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Jacob Niemi and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 10:00	Torah Study Selamu Gendron Bar Mitzvah
16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service led by Men's Club (with Rabbi Altman, Cantorial Intern Ilana Goldman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard)
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Torah Study New Paths Service
23 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service (lay led)
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	No Torah Study
30 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard

## New Paths Services

Join us at New Paths sabbath morning services Saturdays, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the informal setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel. The moving liturgy of the New Paths prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com), Rabbi Altman [rabbi@vassar temple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassar temple.org), or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

## Shabbat Happy Hour Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Please join us for Happy Hour in the Temple Social Hall on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, hosted by Jas Russo and Melissa Wall. With the weather turning cold, our Happy Hour events move from the Patio to the Social Hall. We'll enjoy food, wine and good company before services. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. Guests are always invited and welcome!

Happy Hours are generously sponsored by Sisterhood; we suggest a \$10 per person donation to help defray expenses.

If you've been attending Happy Hours and enjoy these events, please consider hosting one! It's easy and fun to host a Happy Hour get-together. We have setup and kitchen support as well as easy-to-follow directions. Contact Elena Collins at [bellavioli@gmail.com](mailto:bellavioli@gmail.com) if you would like to host an upcoming Happy Hour. Cheers!

## Scriptural Readings

Nov. 3	<i>Chayei Sarah</i> Gen. 24:53-25:18; I Kings 1:1-31
10	<i>Tol'dot</i> Gen. 27:28-28:9; Malachi 1:1 - 27
17	<i>Vayetze</i> Gen. 31:17-32:3; Hosea 12:13 - 14:10
24	<i>Vayishlach</i> Gen. 35:16-36:43; Obadiah 1:1-1:21

## Organ Donor Sabbath: Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>

Organ Donor Sabbath is a time for our congregation to learn about Jewish views on organ donation, celebrate life, and pray for those affected by the health crisis created by the shortage of organ donors. Our special guest speaker will be Susan Senk, who successfully received a heart transplant over 10 years ago. Susan, who is related to our rabbi, will share with us her personal story as well as the facts of organ donation and what we can do to help. Be sure you are here at 7:30pm for this special shabbat.

## Men's Club News

We will have our Annual Men's Club Shabbat on November 16<sup>th</sup>, when members of the Men's Club will participate in the service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Glenn Tanzman at [gtr714@yahoo.com](mailto:gtr714@yahoo.com). Readings are in English or Hebrew. We would love to include as many men as possible in this service. Thank you to Sisterhood who will be providing the Oneg after the service.

Many thanks, too, to the crew who helped put up the Sukkah: Dan Teich, Marty Teich, Ron Rosen, Dave Lampell, Jonah Ritter, Chuck Stein, Glenn Tanzman, and Bob Abrams

It's that time of year to renew your Men's Club dues which are \$36 for the year. Please make your check out to 'Vassar Temple Men's Club.' Your dues support our activities throughout the year including the Purim Pasta Dinner and the Sisterhood Shabbat.



## Mazel Tov

to:

Joan & David Posner on the birth of their grandson, Leo Nathan Tillman, son of Elizabeth Posner and Seth Tillman;

Selamu Gendron on his Bar Mitzvah.

## New Members

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

Elizabeth & Greg Carr  
Mike Chuney  
Faith & Katelyn Jo Fina  
Betsy Poole-DiSalvo



## Condolences

to the families of..

Joan Erdreich Kotz, long time member of Vassar Temple;

Michael Hanagan, Miriam Cohen's husband;

Donald Hulnick, Andi Ciminello's father  
Joan Engel, Richard Levien's cousin.

## Looking for Children/Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors

If you are, or know anyone who is, the child or grandchild of a Holocaust survivor, we are trying to determine whether there is enough interest in the community to form a support/discussion group for second or third generation Holocaust Survivors.

If you are at all interested, please contact Mihai Grunfeld at 845-505-0618 or email him at [grunfeld@vassar.edu](mailto:grunfeld@vassar.edu)

Feel free to extend this invitation to anyone who might be interested.  
Warm regards,

*Paula Reckess*  
(Temple Beth El)

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Gift cards purchased through our SCRIP program help the Temple and you at the same time...your participation generates funds needed by the Temple and provides the shopping convenience that you deserve!

Don't use SCRIP yet? Never have? This is a great time to start!

Do you shop at Adams Fairacre Farms? If you answered 'yes,' pick up your Adams card first. Every \$100 spent earns \$10 for the Temple and costs you nothing extra. You don't need to carry cash, fill out a check or use credit. It is so easy. SCRIP last year earned \$11,000.00 for the Temple and it was because of people just like you .

Also, the holidays are fast approaching with gift giving made easy if you get gift cards from the Temple; they are available for hundreds of nation-wide retailers too. By the way, gift cards purchased through VT SCRIP can be used in-store *and* online!

Need to know more? Contact the SCRIP Coordinator, Sandra Mamis at [scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org) or 914-456-3524 or by speaking with our Temple office staff.

Non-temple members can buy SCRIP gift cards from us as well, so spread the word!

## November Bimah Flower Donations



- November 2: Donated by Allen & Susan Budson Fink
- November 9: Donated by Bruce & Eve Gendron in honor of their son Selamu's Bar Mitzvah and Lew & Hillary Wrobel in honor of U.S. Military Veterans
- November 16: Donated by Sandra Mamis in honor of the birthdays of Rachel, Steven and Michelle Mamis
- November 23: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- November 30: Donated by Melissa Erlebacher in memory of Seth Erlebacher

## Past Bimah Flower Donations Updates:

- September 28: Donated by Michele Sinn in memory of her grandfather, Abe Kohl
- October 19: Donated by Sandra Mamis in memory of her parents, Kurt & Margot Similes, and in honor of Rabbi Altman

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.

## November Tzedakah Box Collection

Your donations to the Temple tzedakah boxes until November 16<sup>th</sup> will help formerly homeless families celebrate their first Thanksgiving in their new homes with a holiday turkey and all the trimmings.



## Selamu Gendron's Mitzvah Project

Selamu loves to play sports, especially soccer, and currently plays on Todd Middle School's modified soccer team and in the Town of Poughkeepsie Soccer Club. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Selamu collected new and gently-used soccer cleats, uniforms, and gear for donation to kids in impoverished communities through a charitable organization called Samba 360. Their mission is to provide kids with a healthy activity, a positive peer group, and the feelings of accomplishment that offer a sense of hope. Selamu began by presenting the idea to the Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie Soccer Club for their approval and support. This past spring, he and his friend and teammate, Barak Tucker, collected and sorted well over 400 items, and they are now being distributed to youth in Haiti, Brazil, Columbia and Panama!

### High Holiday Thanks

Yom Kippur services ended with the blowing of the shofar. The Break-the-Fast started downstairs in the Social Hall.

Many thanks to the Committee for donations of set-up, of time, blintzes, kugels, salads, lox and more:

Marianne Abrams, Susan Colodner, Gail D'Alessio, Claudia Kelson, Eleanor Charwat, Sara Jane Goldberg, Marge Groten, Sandra Mamis, Susan Karnes Hecht, Susan Needleman, Amy Oclatis, Jim Robino6witz, Kamil Wisniewski, Irene and Michelle, and, of course, Rabbi Altman.

*Polly Lewis*

Chair, Break the Fast Committee

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: Nov. 18th

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held this year on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at Temple Beth-El (118 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie) at 4:00pm. Our theme, "Welcome and Inclusion," will be expressed in a variety of ways by the faith communities participating. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the service. Come and make this an annual tradition! (Sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council)

### LunchBox: Nov. 4th

LunchBox on Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> will be a joint effort between the men of Vassar Temple and the men of the Masjid al Noor in Wappingers Falls. To find out how you can help, contact Paul Cimminello at [pcimminello@wcdgroup.com](mailto:pcimminello@wcdgroup.com).

### Religious School News

The religious school year got off to a very energetic start with our opening pancake breakfast followed by two weeks of holiday celebrations: on Sunday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> we made decorations and hung them in the Sukkah and then made edible Sukkot to enjoy; on Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> the children had a close up and personal look at the Torah scrolls and then made edible ones (out of fruit roll ups and pretzel rods!) and everyone got to put their Hebrew name in theirs. We all have a place in Torah! If you notice an edible theme, that comes from

the creativity of our *madrachim* who bring much enthusiasm and creativity to our school.

In October, a month without holidays, our teachers were able to delve deeply into their curricula. This month, we anticipate focusing on gratitude as we look ahead towards Thanksgiving and the annual "Trim a Thanksgiving" mitzvah project of helping less fortunate families celebrate this holiday. We hope parents will join us on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> to participate in this mitzvah project. More information to come!

### Summer Tzedakah School Supply Fundraiser Success

Due to the overwhelming support of our congregation, we were able to raise enough funds to help hundreds of local elementary school children get off to a good start this school year by providing basic school supplies and backpacks that their families could otherwise not afford.

Please be assured that we hit every sale and made the most of your donated dollars. We were also able to help the art education teacher at Morse School, as well as the Teen Closets at Poughkeepsie Middle School and Poughkeepsie High School. The Teen Closets provide basic hygiene items that all teens need but many in those schools may not be able to afford, and this also helps increase self-esteem and promote school attendance.

THANK YOU VASSAR TEMPLE!

Vassar Temple Social Action Committee

## YAHRZEITS

### NOV. 2

Maurice Olivar  
Benjamin Michel  
Adele Lerman Warshaw  
Benjamin Gen-  
shaft  
Max H. Richter  
Louis Heidelberger  
Edward J. Kovacs  
Samuel W. Gellert  
Esther Mardon Bernstein  
Samuel Garber  
Henry Newman  
Herbert Schenberg  
Arthur Berlin  
Brian Matson  
Bridget Molloy  
Gloria (Golda) Jordan  
Phillip Ritter  
Philip Browner  
Suzanne Seligman

### NOV. 9

Penya Schmukler  
Diane Ruth Shore  
Forrest Graves  
Alice Spitalnik  
Alexander W. Jacobs  
Claire Gersoni  
Alan Abraskin  
Nathan Givner  
Molly Susser  
Michael Aronson  
B. Jay Newman  
A. Louis Rubin  
Kathy Austin  
Larry Kornreich  
Henrietta Burns Subkow  
L. Richard Rosenberg  
Arthur George Hendersson  
Solomon Tanzman

### NOV. 16

Gussie Bernstein  
Henry Rosenmann  
Solomon Charles Cantor  
Evelyn Heidelberger  
Ellen Bernard  
Samuel Saul  
Lena L. Bloch  
William Payne  
Albert E. Schwartz  
Martin Gad  
Shirley Richter  
Rose Jacobson  
Abraham Feuerstein  
Frances A. Victor  
Helen Robinson  
Diane L. Weston, Ph.D  
Paul Susser  
Leopold Scharf  
Jenny Krevolin

### NOV. 23

Louis Dubler  
Robert Feitelson  
Daniel Budson, M.D.  
Lily Fink Schenberg  
Maurice Horn  
Ida Axelrod  
Samuel Reifler  
Elizabeth Bokor  
Samuel R. Rosen  
Myrtle Oclatis  
Marie Fischer Solomon  
Jack Josias  
Arthur Stern  
Hildegard Tuchmann  
Albert Levy Serfat  
Phyllis Zack  
Wallace Berkowitz

### NOV. 30

Seth A. Erlebacher  
Lillian Lox  
Richard H. Satz  
Dorothy M. Haber  
Dr. Sidney N. Miller  
Charles Ernest  
Ada Sigalow  
Charles Hoffman, DDS  
L. Charles Podret  
Ruby Cohn  
Marcia Krandel  
Lester Fries  
Lee Bronfeld  
Claire M. Trivers  
David F. Schor  
Sylvia Mishel Nectow  
Sidney Horn  
May Kaufman Ettenson  
Ida Finnerman  
Edward Roth  
Solomon Berger  
Bea Russotto  
Marion Himmelstein  
Susan Baker

### 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.google.com/maps/place/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](mailto:shaarirs@gmail.com)

## Turkey Collection

During this season of thanksgiving for our bounty, you can bring sustenance of body & spirit, help & hope, and make a world of difference to a struggling local family. If you earn a free Thanksgiving turkey from supermarket points, please consider donating your free turkey to help those in need celebrate.

No free turkey? We'll gladly accept cash, checks, supermarket scrip, gift cards & purchased turkeys. Cash donations may be left in the Temple tzedakah box near the stairs. Any amount will help! Checks should be made out to 'Vassar Temple' with 'Turkeys' on the memo line, and may be tax deductible. We will use your cash and checks, SCRIP and gift cards to provide turkeys to families who otherwise would have none.

If you have a turkey, just trot on down to the Temple, pop it in our freezer, and we will work with Hudson River Housing to distribute the turkeys to those in need!

Please try to bring your turkeys and financial donations **by Friday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Have questions? Need home pick-up? Contact Ralph & Marian Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) or call 845-849-0025.



**Bought SCRIP lately??**

## Trim-a-Thanksgiving Vassar Temple Cares about Hunger

Please drop off non-perishable food items from the list below to complement the Thanksgiving meal of Dutchess County families in need. Just bring food donations to the Temple and place them in the CanJam bin by **Friday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**.



- Canned yams/sweet potatoes/vegetables
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned gravy
- Boxes of instant mashed potatoes
- Boxed Stove-Top style stuffing mix

We will add cookies, juice, and holiday favors. Vassar Temple children and teens will create holiday cards and arrange everything in gift baskets to be delivered to the families in time for the holiday. *Together we can help these families now!* Questions? Please contact Marian at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) or 845-849-0025

## November Study Groups

Torah Study with Rabbi Renni Altman, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, will be held at 9:00am Saturdays (no class Nov. 24). Questions? [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or (845) 454-2570.

*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 (Nov. 13 & 27) at noon. Questions? [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net) or (845)454-2570.

All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes. No previous training required! No charge to attend.

## HEROES AMONG US: Where She Belongs

Sometimes the most inspiring heroes are in our midst and we don't even know it – or them. As I was looking for the subject of this month's article, the answer walked through my front door. Indeed, this afternoon, Temple member, Gail D'Alessio, whom I must admit I had not yet had a chance to get to know, stopped by to borrow some of my folding chairs. After talking to her for just a few minutes, I knew I had found my subject!

Gail is one of the newer additions to our congregation, though she has known many members for years. Growing up in a non-religious Italian family in a Jewish Bronx neighborhood, Gail always identified with the Jews around her. She warmly recounts Friday afternoons when she would stand on the corner with friends waiting for the neighborhood Rabbi to pass by en route to synagogue so that they could say, "Good Shabbos!" Not long after Rabbi Berkowitz arrived at Vassar Temple, Gail decided to convert to Judaism. She joined the

Temple in 2016, completed her conversion the following year, and since that time has become a regular participant in Torah Study, joined the Ritual Committee, organized the 2018 Shabbaton for Anita Diamant, served on the Search Committee that hired Rabbi Altman, became a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in our Religious School, and agreed to organize the upcoming "Golden Gelt Raffle." Oh, and those folding chairs I mentioned above? Gail borrowed them for the gathering she hosted for Rabbi Altman in October. . . .of course!! She is *absolutely* a hero among us!

Gail, WELCOME to Vassar Temple -- we are delighted to have you in our community. As our tagline says, you are "Where you Belong!"

*Jennifer Sachs Dahnert*

# Contributions

## RABBI'S FUND

### In Honor of:

Welcoming Rabbi Altman  
 Bob & Judy Creedon  
 Muriel & Matt Lampell  
 Perla Kaufman receiving the Arnold Award  
 Kathy & Kent Mardon

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Memory of:

Marjorie Gluck Dr. & Mrs. David Gluck  
 Melvin Matlin, MD Lila Matlin  
 May Matlin Lila Matlin  
 Celia Levine Lila Matlin  
 Saul Heiser Lila Matlin  
 Dorothy Schmukler  
 Joan & David Posner  
 Nettie Jacobs Irma Jacobs  
 Sara G. Rice Irma Jacobs  
 Albert D. Kahn Muriel & Matt Lampell  
 Maurice Goldemberg  
 David & Susan Karnes Hecht  
 Mae Berger Rita Jacobson  
 Nathan Bernstein, MD  
 Kathy & Kent Mardon  
 J. Ralph Stein Charles & Roni Stein  
 Susan Doppelt Pearlman  
 Howard & Allison Ravener  
 Bernard Pearlman  
 Howard & Allison Ravener  
 George Tofel Joan Reifler  
 Nathan Schmukler Joan Posner

Harold Posner Joan Posner  
 Lillian Greenman  
 Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz  
 Arthur Peritz Janet Greenman & Robin  
 Peritz  
 Jeanne Loth Rubin  
 Eleanor & Martin Charwat  
 Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell-Moore  
 The Chernack family  
 Jeanne Payne The Chernack family  
 Harold Posner Prue Posner  
 Donald Hulnick (Andi Ciminello's father)  
 Cheryl & Alan Binder  
 Sandra Mamis  
 Elaine Lipschutz  
 Gail D'Alessio  
 Michael Hanagan (husband of Miriam Cohen)  
 Sandra Mamis  
 Susan & Hal Lesser

**In Honor of:**  
 Sally Schaffer James & Mary Ann Robinowitz  
 Edward Markum James & Mary Ann Robinowitz  
 Elaine Lipschutz  
 Perla Kaufman receiving the Arnold Award  
 Doi Cohen  
 Andi & Paul Ciminello  
 Richard Partridge  
 David & Joan Posner  
 Kathy & Kent Mardon  
 Vivian & Ed Garber  
 Marilyn & David Lampell  
 Robert & Judy Creedon

Elaine Lipschutz' birthday  
 Gail D'Alessio  
 Scott & Susan Piccone  
 Lila Matlin  
 In appreciation of Donna Loshin's  
 assistance with the Bulletin  
 Marianne Abrams & Sue Lesser

## TZEDAKAH FUND

### In Memory of:

Florence Altman  
 Rabbi Altman and Richard Wender

### In Honor of:

Perla Kaufman receiving  
 the Arnold Award  
 Linda & Richard Cantor

## LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLARS FUND

### In Memory of:

Gertrude Clarfeld Elaine Lipschutz

### In Honor of:

Ed Garber's birthday Elaine Lipschutz

## ERDREICH FUND

### In Memory of:

Joan Kotz Martin & Ellie Charwat





# November Photo Gallery



**Vassar Temple Bulletin**  
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<b>Religious School Director:</b>	Renni S. Altman
<b>Rabbi Emeritus:</b>	Stephen Arnold
<b>Senior Scholar:</b>	Paul Golomb
<b>Organist:</b>	Joseph Bertolozzi
<b>President:</b>	Alan Kaflowitz
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<b>Men's Club Co-Presidents:</b>	Glenn Tanzman & Dan Teich
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Mark Metzger

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## November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP) 7pm Ritual Cmte	2 7:30pm Shabbat Service	3 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
4 9am Religious School 9am Chanukah Judaica Sale 10am LunchBox 5pm VT Gala	5	6 10am SEP	7 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshet Program at TBE	8 10am SEP 7pm Meet & Greet with Rabbi Altman, Ulster Park	9 6pm Happy Hour 7:30pm Organ Donor Shabbat	10 9am Torah Study 10am Bar Mitzvah: Selamu Gendron
11	12 Veteran's Day Office Closed	13 10am SEP 12pm Torah Study with Rabbi Golomb	14 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshet Program at TBE	15 10am SEP 7pm Meet & Greet with Rabbi Altman, Rhinebeck	16 7:30pm Men's Club Shabbat	17 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths 3pm Meet & Greet with Rabbi Altman, Poughkeepsie
18 9am Tentative Bus Trip 9am Religious School 9am Trim a Thanksgiving Basket 9am Chanukah Judaica Sale 9:30am R/S Cmte Mtg	19	20 10am SEP	21 7pm Finance Cmte Meeting	22 Thanksgiving Office Closed 6:30pm Shelter Meal	23 Office Closed 6pm Shabbat Service	24
25	26	27 10am SEP 12pm Torah Study with Rabbi Golomb	28 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshet Program at TBE	29 10am SEP 7pm Board Meeting	30 6pm Shabbat Service	