



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 167, No. 8 April 2019

### Community Seder at Vassar Temple: April 19<sup>th</sup>

Vassar Temple's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Seder will be held in the social hall on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (the first night of Passover), and everyone in the community is invited to attend. A short, meaningful, lay-led Seder service, appealing to all ages, will begin at 6:00pm, followed by a delicious kosher-style dinner including matzah ball soup, appetizers, entrée (choice of rotisserie chicken or fish), herbed vegetables, Pesach desserts, ritual wine, juice and soft drinks. Attendees may also bring their own table wines. **Space is limited, so please reserve early.** Fees have been set to cover expenses:

- Adult \$40;
- Age 5-13 \$12;
- Under age 5 free.

If you cannot afford the fee, support funds are available.

The RSVP deadline is April 8<sup>th</sup>; your payment is considered your reservation. Make checks payable to Vassar Temple; in the memo area please note 'Seder' and the number of adults and children. Include your e-mail address and indicate your entrée selection(s) of chicken or fish. Checks should be brought or mailed to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 so that they are received by April 8<sup>th</sup>.

For questions, or if you have any special dietary requirements or would like financial assistance, please email [seder@vassar temple.org](mailto:seder@vassar temple.org) or call one of the co-chairs: Ron Rosen at (845)454-4936 or Polly Lewis at (845) 476-9778.



### Golden Gelt Raffle: Vassar Temple Fundraiser April 28<sup>th</sup> Drawing!

Only 200 tickets will be sold, thus dramatically increasing the odds of winning an all-cash prize.

First prize: \$5,000.00 cash  
 Second prize: \$1,000.00 cash  
 Third prize: \$ 500.00 cash  
 (4) Fourth prizes: \$ 250.00 cash each

The cost of each ticket is \$100.00 (all purchases are tax deductible).

### Upcoming Events

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May	5	Mitzvah Day, p.6,7,8.

### Spring Rummage Sale Is Coming: April 7<sup>th</sup>

Start cleaning those closets of gently used items and packing your bric-a-brac; the Rummage Sale is coming very soon! We start collecting rummage items as of Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. **All Rummage must be brought to the lounge on Sunday, and after that to the social hall.** No rummage will be accepted after April 5<sup>th</sup>. Two evenings will be available for rummage drop-off: Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm.

When you bring your items to the social hall, please make sure you place items on the left side of the room and keep the

area in front of the stage clear, as well as the rest of the building! The sale on April 7<sup>th</sup> runs from 9:30am to 12:30pm; the bag sale starts at 2:00pm and ends at 5:00pm.

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

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



## From the Rabbi's Desk



During Passover 2006, while the US was still heavily involved in the Iraq war and any resolution seemed impossible, *New York Times* columnist, David Brooks, wrote a column

reflecting on the power of the Exodus story and what he termed “*an Exodus frame of mind.*” In the article, Brooks created an imaginary conversation between Mr. Past, the pessimist who believes societies never change and Mr. Future, the optimist, who has hope for tomorrow. Reflecting upon the Passover Seder he attended, Brooks wrote, “*The Exodus story reminds us that human beings can transform themselves and their situations.*”

The Israelites emerged from the experience of slavery and became a people bound in covenant with a God who demanded that they act towards others with justice and righteousness. One might expect a people who suffered such oppression to turn inward, but that is not our inheritance. Rather, thirty-six times, more than any other commandment, we

are reminded of our obligation to care for the stranger. And each year, through the foods and rituals of the Passover Seder, we fulfill the commandment “*And you shall explain to your child on that day, ‘it is because of what the Eternal did for me when I went free from Egypt.’*” (Exodus 13:8) We relive the experience as if we, ourselves, went out of slavery in order that we might sensitize ourselves to the plight of those who are oppressed today.

The Exodus, Brooks reminds us, “... *is not the story of liberation, but of the long, troubled march to freedom.*” The promise of redemption was never a promise of an easy journey; in fact, the journey ended up taking 40 years until the people were ready to face the real challenges of freedom.

As we gather around our Seder tables in a few weeks (and, so, too, around the Seder table at Vassar Temple), I would imagine that many of your families and guests, like mine, will discuss issues of current concern. Sadly, examples of those who are oppressed and hungry seem to grow every year. With rising anti-semitism in this country and around the world, we have begun, once again, to feel the plight of the stranger. As we celebrate spring by dipping our parsley in salt water, we can speak of the tears of mother earth,

suffering from the devastations of climate change. We pray “*next year in Jerusalem*” knowing that our beloved Jerusalem is in crisis and far from the ideal for which we pray.\*

In these frightening times, let us remember “*the Exodus frame of mind.*” After all, it was the rabbinic sages who, 2000 years ago, had the audacity to create the Passover Seder, to celebrate and dream of freedom, while living under the cruel oppression of Rome.

Ours is a legacy of hope. Thus, Brooks wrote: “*There are times amid the journey when the Promised Land can seem a long way off, when the words ‘Next year in Jerusalem’ seem unrealistic. But those are the times when the words mean the most.*” (David Brooks, “The Past Meets the Future,” *New York Times*, 4/13/06)

Wishing you and your loved ones a *zissen Pesach*, a joyous Passover holiday that inspires you to live and act with “*an Exodus frame of mind.*”

Rabbi Renni S. Altman

\* Recommended Resources: [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org); [www.reformjudaism.org](http://www.reformjudaism.org) and [www.truah.org](http://www.truah.org)

## From Our President: An Organ Called the Rodgers Model 205

If you have recently been to service, you surely noticed that the Rodgers organ, Model 205, which has served the congregation since about 1982, is no longer against the wall in the Sanctuary. It was purchased by the NY Theater Organ Society (NYTOS) in December 2018 and removed by them in February 2019.



It turned out that the cost of repairing the organ and maintaining it annually was not worth it. NYSTOS gave us a modest amount of money to remove it and they enjoy repairing organs, so it made sense. I cannot thank Joe Bertolozzi enough for his time, expertise and energy, along with the Music Committee's careful consideration and decision, on the necessary removal of our Temple Organ.

A service call from a professional organ tuner costs VT \$500-\$650 per visit. The Temple had just had it serviced before the High Holy Days in 2018 when it failed. We had the technician return to work on it after

that and then later while organist Joseph Bertolozzi was practicing, all went wrong with the regulation of the organ sound. At that moment, we knew it was time to move forward.

The Rodger's organ company has been sold a few times since it was installed (c.1982), and replacement parts for this analog instrument were going to become harder and harder to find, if not altogether unavailable, in the near future. We were literally on borrowed time. Joe Bertolozzi shared that three major things went wrong with the organ:

- When sustaining a note on the keyboard, the pitch fluctuated up and down or dropped out altogether. This was intermittent, and he could not anticipate when it would happen.
- The “Tuner” no longer worked - the organ has some pipes but the rest of its sounds, most of it, is electronic. When the temperature in the room goes up or down, the pipes expand or contract while the electronic sounds remain steady. The Tuner allows one to adjust the electronics to the pipes.
- Less important, the *Tremulant*, which can be added or retired as needed to give an undulating effect, was no longer working (good thing Joe knows what this is).

So the long and short of this situation is that retaining the organ and using just the pipes was not feasible because the bottom and top notes of

the keyboard are electronic notes not pipes, hence now wildly out of tune with the rest of the keyboard, and achieving a full sound on the organ requires the use the bass pedals which...you guessed it...are electronic.

All that said we will continue to have musical accompaniment in our worship. We have moved to a model, voted on by the Music Committee, where we will use the piano keyboard and percussion (thank you Elaine Lipschutz).

As an aside, the donors of the organ, Dr. & Mrs. Feinbloom, hired Joseph Bertolozzi as a consultant when VT was shopping for an organ 14 years before he was hired at VT. Joe and Dr. Feinbloom visited a few different local houses of worship to hear their organs. Joe counseled against getting this organ, as did Neil Gould, Joe's predecessor but Dr. Feinbloom chose this organ anyway, and that is how we ended up with the Rodger's model 205 which served VT well for 36 years (thank you to the Feinbloom family) Thank you, Joe Bertolozzi, for the history of the organ... it was great to collaborate with you on this article.

Alan Kaflowitz

(pictures of the organ are on page 4)

## April Worship Services

5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman, cantorial intern, Ilana Goldman, and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:30am	Torah Study Healing Service with Rabbi Altman and cantorial intern, Ilana Goldman.
19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	Temple Seder (lay-led) (no Shabbat Evening Service)
20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	(no Torah Study)
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am 7:30pm	Yizkor Service Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am 10:30am	Torah Study New Paths Service Tot Shabbat

### Healing Service: April 13<sup>th</sup>

A Healing Service led by Rabbi Altman and cantorial intern, Ilana Goldman, will be held Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am -noon. This service is designed for anyone praying for healing of the body, soul and spirit for themselves or others, for caregivers, and for anyone in need of spiritual strength. The service will be held in the round and will include prayers, reflections and songs that focus on healing and on Shabbat. There will also be a Torah reading. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Altman with any questions at [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org) or 454-2570.

### Tot Shabbat: Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30-11:00am

All in the community are invited... A new monthly introductory worship experience specially designed for toddlers and their families, led by Rabbi Altman and our music teacher, Olivia DiIorio... Singing, a story, healthy snacks, and engaging with other families with young children. RSVPs appreciated to 845-454-2570. Walk-Ins welcome!

## Scriptural Readings

April	6	<b>Shabbat HaChodesh</b> <i>Tazria</i> Lev. 12:1-28; Numbers 28:9-15; Exodus 12:1-20; Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
	13	<b>Shabbat haGadol</b> <i>Metzora</i> Lev. 14:33-15:33; Malachi 3:4-24
	20	<b>Pesach</b> Exodus 12:21 - 12:51, Numbers 28:16 - 28:25; Joshua 5:2 - 6:1
	27	<i>Acharei Mot I</i>

### Tiny Temple Celebrates Passover: April 7<sup>th</sup>



Please join us for TinyTiny Temple's *free* Passover event on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30am. The tots, along with the Religious School students, will learn about Passover through crafts, story, and song in a relaxed and friendly setting, and a special holiday snack will be served.

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

To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo at [tinytemple@vassartemple.org](mailto:tinytemple@vassartemple.org). They will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful, free, monthly program, and to put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list.

### New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<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:MarianSchwartzmschwa9882@aol.com), Rabbi Altman [rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbi@vassartemple.org), or the Temple office 845-454-2570.

## Thank You!

To My Wonderful Vassar Temple Family:

I can't begin to thank you enough for all your support – the visits, phone calls, beautiful cards, and, of course, the delicious meals. After being married for more than 54 years, the loss of my beautiful husband, Joel, has been devastating. But your friendship and knowing that so many of you care has helped to lessen the pain and fill in the void that Joel's passing has left in my life.

...A very special thanks to Rabbi Altman. I'm so grateful that Joel got to know you. Your hospital visits, comforting words and prayers, and especially your warmth, meant so much to both of us. My family still talks about your beautiful eulogy in honor of Joel that included so many fond memories from family and friends. Thank you, Rabbi Renni. We are so blessed to have you as our Rabbi.

With love,  
*Linda Babas*



## Judaica Shoppe Passover Sale

We will start this year's Passover sale on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:30am-12:30pm. in the East Chapel during the Shabbaton hosted by Vassar Temple. We will also be waiting for you on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12 noon. Seder plates, matzah plates, kiddush cups and much more...

## Office Thanks

The office and Board would like to give a BIG thank you to Hilary Wrobel for her volunteer assistance this past year with office tasks. Kudos to Hilary for helping us stay current with much-needed tasks!! Volunteers are always welcome to assist the office; if you're interested, please call the office at 845-454-2570.

## Condolences

to:  
the Brundage family on the passing of Tom's father, Vernon Leslie Brundage;

Donna Loshin on the passing of her mother, Arlene Loshin;

Shelley Turk & family on the passing of her mother, Theresa Ryan;

Paul Ciminello & family on the passing of his father, Vito J. Ciminello, MD.



## April Bimah Flowers Donations:

- April 5: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- April 12: Donated by Cathy Bokor in memory of her father, Paul Koltai, MD
- April 19: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- April 26: Donated by Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush in honor of their anniversary

Please consider commemorating a special occasion or honoring the memory of a loved one by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers. The cost is \$55. Checks should be made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood with 'Bimah Flower Fund' in the memo line. For more information call the Temple Office at 845-454-2570.

## Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

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Bob Abrams

Articles for the **May 2019 Bulletin** must be submitted by **April 1<sup>st</sup>** sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



## Religious School Update

*And in the future when your child asks, saying, "What is this?" You should say to them: "With a strong hand the Eternal brought us out of Egypt from the house of slavery." (Exodus 13:14)* It is in response to this (and three other similar ones) commandment in the Torah that the rituals of the Seder were created.

Through recounting the story in the Haggadah (which means "the telling"), we fulfill this obligation to tell our children of the Exodus from Egypt, the fundamental origin story of the Jewish people as a people. The special foods

and rituals of the Seder serve as a time machine of sorts, recreating that experience as if we ourselves went out of Egypt. Most important, we recall the Exodus to remember our obligation to care for the stranger having been strangers ourselves, to redeem those who are oppressed today.

In these weeks leading up to Passover, our children will prepare for this important holiday through study, songs and hands-on experience. Our *madrichim* (teaching assistants) will create and lead a special school-wide program on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

We begin the Passover Seder with the invita-

tion, "*Let all who are hungry come and eat.*" On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Religious School will sponsor LunchBox, and the older classes, together with their parents and some of our madrichim, will have the opportunity to respond to this fundamental lesson of the exodus experience by helping to provide a hot meal to hungry people. I look forward to joining with them at LunchBox. Donations of franks and beans will be greatly appreciated.

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

## HEROES AMONG US: Saving the World One Family at a Time

The subject of this month's 'Heroes Among Us' presented me with my biggest challenge yet: how can I do justice in a 350-word article to someone who has dedicated her entire career to achieving justice?

Hers is a career characterized by integrity and impact. Drawn to law as a tool for effecting positive social change, that objective remained central to her endeavors, first at Mid-Hudson Legal Services, then at Prisoners' Legal Services and ultimately serving Dutchess County Family Court as the Principal Court Attorney to the Hon. Damian Amodeo for twenty years and then a decade as an elected Family Court Judge before retiring in December. As you probably know by

now, this month's 'Hero' is the Honorable Joan Posner!

Joan's passionate dedication to her work is key to her impact. During her thirty years in Family Court, she addressed Dutchess County's once-notoriously slow adoption process, driving initiatives and legislation to radically expedite adoptions of children in foster care. She also helped to establish an integrated domestic violence model court over which she presided as Acting Supreme Court Justice, bringing continuity and coordination to domestic violence cases, especially those involving families with recurring patterns of domestic violence. Known among colleagues for her openness with a particular penchant for working with juveniles, Joan worked tirelessly to insure effective Court response to cases that typically involved multiple offenses.

Though now retired, Joan plans to continue volunteering on a committee addressing family law legislation, something that is extremely important to her. She is proud of the team she assembled while on the bench and has confidence in their ability to support her successor, Jeffrey Martin, and sustain her goal of "one family, one judge" and "saving the world one family at a time." Joan did all of this as a working mom raising a son and a daughter with her husband, David. They are now the proud grandparents of four grandsons, whom she plans to visit often. Joan Posner, you are a true hero – case closed!

*Jennifer Sachs Dahnert*

## Study Groups at Vassar Temple

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

- **Torah Study** with the Temple's Rabbi Renni Altman, DD, examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, and will be held at 9:00am every Saturday this month **except April 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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 once a month at noon (often on the third Thursday). For this month's schedule, or if you have other questions about the Talmud class, please contact Rabbi Golomb [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net) or call the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

## Mitzvah Day Birthday Bag Project

Let's provide birthday parties for local children in need who otherwise would have none---a tote bag filled with birthday cake fixings, a special toy and book reflecting the child's interests, perhaps a party decoration, and a gift card.

Choose from many ways to help:

- Bring boxed cake mix, canned icing, boxed birthday candles, birthday decor to the donation box in our temple **between April 27- May 2**.
- Kids & teens, adults & preschoolers, register at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://www.jewishdutchess.org) to help sort all the birthday fixings, decorate and stuff bags, make birthday cards on Mitzvah Day, Sunday, May 5. (Sign up by 4/15 and you could win a gift card!)
- Donate \$36 to sponsor a bag or adopt a child's bag to shop for.\*

\*For information on sponsoring or adopting a bag, or if you have any questions, please contact Jas Russo at [jasmainerusso@gmail.com](mailto:jasmainerusso@gmail.com) or 845- 476-4261. This project benefits children of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Poughkeepsie.

## VT's Annual Passover "...from chametz-to-table" Food Drive

As you clear your cabinets of canned and non-perishable chametz foods in preparation for the holiday of Passover, please consider dropping them off at our temple and placing them in the CAN JAM bin. We would so appreciate these items which, in turn, will be delivered to an area food pantry. Help us lend a hand to our hungry neighbors during this season as we prepare to celebrate our own freedom.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Passover. . .

The Kelson family [canjam@vassartemple.org](mailto:canjam@vassartemple.org),  
Marian Schwartz [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org)

## Captain Underpants Drive 2019

During the month of April, we are collecting new underwear for boys and girls in need, ages 6-10, who attend Morse Elementary School. Please leave your donated items in the Captain Underpants collection box in the temple. Money collected in our tzedakah boxes this month will also go for this purpose.

If you cannot shop, checks in any amount made out to Vassar Temple with 'Underwear' on the memo line are also appreciated and will be used to purchase these items.

Thank you for your support of this essential project, which is sponsored by the Jewish Social Action Coalition (a collaboration of area synagogues, including Vassar Temple, and the Harding Club).

## Adult Education: April 11<sup>th</sup>

### "Reform Judaism: Why We Do What We Do"

This spring marks the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rabbi Isaac Meyer Wise, the founder of Reform Judaism. The last of a 3-part series tracing the development of the movement, Reform Judaism, that Wise initiated will be held Thursday, **April 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9pm**, and will be taught by Rabbi Altman. Everyone is encouraged to attend this free class to find out how the movement got to where it is today and why "we do what we do."

For further info or to RSVP, contact the Temple at 845-454-2570.



## The "Cabaret Rabbi" to Perform at Vassar Temple: May 19<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, Rabbi Deborah Zecher, also known as "The Cabaret Rabbi," will perform her critically successful "Broadway Bible" show in the Vassar Temple social hall.

Rabbi Zecher had been a lifelong singer, but as an adult, she sang primarily in the synagogue. In 1995, she was invited to do a presentation at another local temple, and asked if she could do a musical program. This opportunity led to a new passion, and she created "Broadway Bible," a program linking familiar Bible stories with beloved Broadway show tunes, which she presented across the Northeast for synagogues, Elderhostels, and other community organizations. She became a member of the Cabaret Workshop at the Berkshire Music School in 2002, in 2006 was accepted to the National Cabaret Conference at Yale University, and in 2017 was accepted as a Cabaret Fellow at the Eugene O'Neill Cabaret Conference. She has performed for various synagogues and community organizations throughout the country, several times at Don't Tell Mama's in NYC, and as an invitee, at a concert of Jewish women composers in Berlin, Germany.

Tickets for Rabbi Zecher's May 19<sup>th</sup> Cabaret performance, which include a dessert and glass of wine, are on sale for \$36 at the Vassar Temple office. For further information please contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or 845- 454-2570.

We hope that our congregation and others in our community will join us for this entertaining social event, and to see why we say that Vassar Temple is "Where We Belong!"



## End Hungry Summers: Cereal Counts!!!

At every age, breakfast is essential for sound physical and mental health. But in homes where financial resources are limited, simple items like cereal can be hard to afford. Hunger does not take a vacation, especially for those children and teens who are not able to attend free breakfast and lunch programs when school is out. This is when Cereal Counts!

Join in this very special boxed cereal drive that has become an annual tradition! Just bring a package of cereal to the collection box in the Temple between April 27- May 3, or on the morning of Mitzvah Day, Sunday, May 5, bring cereal to Mitzvah Day headquarters (Congregation Schomre Israel).

The cereal will be distributed to food pantries throughout the county to alleviate summer hunger for those in need around us. And even better, maybe there is somewhere you could conduct a mini-drive to collect cereal--- your book club, office, team, gym, school, community center. Together we can fight summer hunger. Every box of Cereal Counts! For more information, or helpful ideas on how to start a mini drive, please contact Marian Schwartz [socialaction@vassar-temple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassar-temple.org) or 845-849-0025.



## Donate Life Month

As we celebrate National Donate Life Month in April, we celebrate the great strides being made in organ donation and transplantation in New York. 2018 saw a record number of lives saved through transplantation in New York. 879 organs were transplanted thanks to 313 selfless donors. 604,000 New Yorkers registered as lifesaving organ donors, the most ever for the state. With increased focus on organ donation from hospitals, legislators, the press and our community, great progress is happening.

But there is still work to be done. There are approximately 114,000 people waiting for a lifesaving transplant and nearly 10,000 of those are right here in New York. One organ donor can save up to eight lives and improve the lives of up to 75 people through tissue donation. In support of Donate Life Month, have that donation conversation and engage others to do the same.

Learn more and sign up as a lifesaving organ donor at [www.LiveOnNY.org](http://www.LiveOnNY.org).

## Jewish War Veterans Meeting: April 7<sup>th</sup>

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America, is scheduled to hold their monthly meeting on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am (with coffee/cake schmooze at 9:00) at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York. If you are Jewish and have served in any branch of the Regular Military, Guard or Reserve, in wartime or peace, you are welcome to come and attend. Non-veterans are also welcome to attend. Questions may be directed to Rob Rubin, Presiding Officer at [qbee5@optonline.net](mailto:qbee5@optonline.net).

## Book Club to Discuss *The Magic Hour* on April 18<sup>th</sup>



Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss *The Magic Hour* by New York Times bestselling author, Kristin Hannah, on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

From the rugged Pacific Northwest lies the Olympic National Forest. Out of this vast forest, a six year old girl emerges. Speechless and alone, she offers no clue as to her identity, no hint of her past.

Having retreated to her western Washington hometown after a scandal left her career in ruins, child psychologist Dr. Julia Cates is determined to free the little girl she calls Alice from a prison of unimaginable fear and isolation. To reach her, Julia must discover the truth about Alice's past – although doing so requires help from Julia's estranged sister, a local police officer. The shocking facts of Alice's life test the limits of Julia's faith and strength even as she struggles to make a home for Alice – and for herself

This deeply emotional story about the resilience of the human spirit is available in paperback and through the local library system. Myrna Rubinstein will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 845-323-0702 or [linda.babas41@gmail.com](mailto:linda.babas41@gmail.com). As always, your book suggestions for future meeting are greatly appreciated.



## Hamantaschen Baking: Another Big Success!

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

The Temple was buzzing with activity on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with so much going on in the kitchen and social hall. It took the efforts of a lot of people to make as many delicious hamantaschen as we did in only 4 hours! There were people in the kitchen rolling and cutting out dough while others were filling and folding them into hamantaschen, so they could be baked in our ovens. Out in the social hall, volunteers were making packages to send to our college students, plates for delivery as outreach and, of course, to serve after our Megillah reading and Purim Shpiel. Our Sunday School students are also very talented bakers and terrific at making hamantaschen!

Thank you to the many people whose efforts helped make this year's hamantaschen baking go as well as it did: Rabbi Altman, Jill Auerbach, Cathy Bokor, Laura and Emily Brundage, Liz Carr, Andi Ciminello, Elena Collins, Susan Colodner, Jen Dahnert, Gail D'Alessio, Janet Greenman, Rose Hartman, Susan Karnes Hecht, Barbara Hyman, Ronni Jarvis, Polly Lewis, Danah Moore, Amy Horn Oclatis, Betsy Poole-DiSalvo, Beth Plotsky, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Shaari Roland, Lisa Rubenstein, George Silverstein, Michele Sinn, Roni Stein, Marcia Tanzman, Kamil Wisniewski, and Fern Wolf. We had so many helpers that I'm sure I've forgotten to acknowledge someone. Please know that it was unintentional.

*Judy Rosenfeld*

Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day  
Chair



## Next LunchBox: Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

The Religious School is sponsoring our next LunchBox, and you can support them by donating:

- 3 lbs. all beef hot dogs, OR
- one or two dozen pieces fresh fruit. (Favorites are soft fruits such as bananas, citrus fruits and washed grapes in snack size baggies)

Please contact us at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) to let us know what you can donate.

Food may be dropped off in the VT kitchen beforehand any time the Temple is open. Non-perishable fruits should be left in the bin on the counter just inside the door. Please label everything 'For Lunch Box.'

Financial donations to Vassar Temple with 'Community Tzedakah Fund' on the memo line are also essential and deeply appreciated. Thank you for whatever you can do to help us provide our hungry neighbors a tasty hot nutritious meal each month at LunchBox!

## Naked, You Said!!!

Yes, a congregant was overheard saying, "I feel naked when shopping at Adams without my Adams SCRIP [gift] card." DO YOU???

Your fellow Temple members raised \$4,500 just by shopping at Adams last year and paying with gift cards purchased through the office. \$11,000 in profit was raised in total from the sale of all our other gift card.\* If you are not a participant and have questions about how to help make this initiative even more successful, let me (Sandra Mamis; 914 456-3524) or the office staff (Irene and Michelle; 845- 454 -2570)] know.

[\* See the entire list of options at [www.shop-withscrip.com](http://www.shop-withscrip.com), click on the link at the bottom that says, 'Retailer list.']

## Mitzvah Day Registration Opens April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mid Hudson Valley Mitzvah Day, that amazing day each year when the local Jewish community joins together to do a day of service projects, will be held Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> rain or shine.

Information about all the mitzvah projects you can choose from and register for is in the centerfold of the April *Voice*, and starting April 2<sup>nd</sup> you can also access project info along with links to register for projects, free breakfast and free lunch, at [www.jewishdutchess.org](http://www.jewishdutchess.org). You'll find projects for all, from tots to seniors, located at our HQ, at other sites in Poughkeepsie and other Hudson Valley locales. Come with family, come with friends, come on your own.

**Sign up by April 15<sup>th</sup> and be eligible to win a gift card!**

**New This Year:** PJ Library Drop-In Zone: Pre-register your child age 3-8 to do supervised mitzvah activities at HQ while you go to do the project of your choice.

Free kickoff breakfast starts at 9:00am at Mitzvah Day HQ (Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave., Po'k)—come eat, meet your project captain, get driving directions; late registration for walk-ins. Then it's off to do your mitzvah. Lunch will be provided for volunteers at HQ from 11:00am-1:00pm as well as at the remote project sites.

Be sure to check out all the projects, including those captained by Vassar Temple members:  
Historic Pershing Ave. Cemetery Clean Up (Rabbi Altman)  
Birthday Bags (Jasmine Russo)  
Appalachian Trail (Ron Rosen)  
Dutchess Outreach LunchBox (the Seligmans)

Mitzvah Day is generously underwritten by a grant from the Bertha Effron Fund and sponsored by Jewish Family Services of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. Questions? Call the JFedDC at 845-471-9811 or e-mail [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).



# APRIL YAHRZEITS

## APRIL 5

Max Solomon  
Idane Evan Salenger  
Vawn Jennifer Salenger  
Morris S. Rosenmann  
Milton Levitt  
David H. Ettenson  
Hon. Joseph H. Gellert  
Herman Baskin  
Samuel Baskin  
Mimi L. Schor  
Albert Gould, DDS  
Joshua Lowe Posner  
Morris Landau  
Dolores Marie Brundage  
Morris D. Kovacs  
Mollie Rosenberg  
Max Michael Simon, MD  
Isador Albinder

## APRIL 12

Elsie H. Albert  
Joseph Frankel  
Vera Lisovsky Budson  
Martha Katz  
Lorraine Goldberg  
Morris Rosenberg  
Jeannette S. Newman  
Lillian F. Kovacs  
Jack Jacobson  
Herbert Rosand  
Evelyn Lanning  
Kenneth (Mickey)-  
Rosenblum  
Charles Volkman, Sr.  
Paul Koltai, MD  
Solomon Salberg  
Nathan "Toolie" Turk  
David Korobkin  
Anne Lacher  
Louis Schwartz  
Elias Altman  
Ida Salit

## APRIL 19

Alfred Kaplan  
Elizabeth "Libby"  
Horowitz  
Fritz Weigert, MD  
Philip Lacher  
Evelyn Partridge  
Marion Volkman  
Eva Bley  
Doreen Kimmel  
Rebecca Wolfson  
George N. Freedman  
Eric Mendel  
Gladys Salberg  
Nathan L. Reifler  
Samuel H. Weisman  
Belle Lescher

## APRIL 26

Pauline Dubler  
Hester Lox  
Harriet Drucker  
J. Louis Sumner  
Simi Levy  
Delbert LaLone  
Gertrude Rosenman-  
Sonkin  
Jesse Barbash  
Joan Sachs Shassian  
Norman S. Reifler  
Lester M. Ritter  
Julius Seif  
Sidney Cohen  
Esther Strauss  
Marion Volkman  
Bessie Goldman Lass  
Anna Dreishpoon  
Frances R. Finnerman

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### SUSTAINING FUND

#### In Memory of:

Dorothy Parish	Sue & Bill Barbash
Evelyn Kahn	Muriel & Matt Lampell
Elizabeth Satz	Sara Jane Goldberg
Louis Satz	Sara Jane Goldberg
Naomi Goldberg	Sara Jane Goldberg
Irving Rosenthal	Charlene & Loren Rosenthal
Joel Babas	Irma Jacobs
	Sandra Mamis
	Matt & Muriel Lampell
	Polly Lewis
Esther Reingold	Irma Jacobs
Harry Mamis	Sandra Mamis
Kurt Similes	Sandra Mamis
Ruth Parky	Kathy & Kent Mardon
Goldy Abraskin	JoAnn Abraskin & family
Morris Abraskin	JoAnn Abraskin & family
Judith Newman	JoAnn Abraskin & family
Alan Abraskin	JoAnn Abraskin & family
Martin Turk	Steven, Shelley, Samantha & Stefanie Turk
Tessie Turk	Steven, Shelley, Samantha & Stefanie Turk
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John Ciminello

Harold Kahn

Dr. Vito Ciminello

Francis Lewis

Martin Lowenthal

Simon Reichman

Louise Rosen

#### In Honor of:

Wishing Elaine Lipschutz a speedy recovery

Bill & Sue Barbash

The naming of Chloe Margulies

The Margulies family

#### TZEDEKAH FUND

##### In Memory of:

Joel Babas

Judy Harkavy & Stanley Israel

Ralph & Marian Schwartz

Andi & Paul Ciminello

Andi & Paul Ciminello

Gail D'Alessio

James & Mary Ann Robinowitz

Lou Lewis

Roni & Charles Stein

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Ron & Marilyn Rosen

Theresa E. Ryan

James & Mary Ann Robinowitz

### MUSIC FUND

#### In Memory of:

Joel Babas

Linda Babas

### WIND CHILL FUND

#### In Memory of:

Joel Babas

Lila Matlin

Susan & Allen Fink

### ROBERT LIPSCHUTZ FUND

#### In Memory of:

Lenore "Lenne" Wurtzel

Lila Matlin

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Elaine Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

Shirley Sigalow

Harold Kahn

Betty Golomb

#### In Honor of:

Wishing Elaine Lipschutz to

get well soon

Matt & Muriel

Lampell

**Vassar Temple Bulletin**  
**140 Hooker Avenue**  
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**www.vassartemple.org**



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

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

**April 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Rummage Dropoff	2 Rummage Dropoff 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	3 Rummage Dropoff 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshet at TBE	4 Rummage Dropoff 10am SEP 7pm Ritual Committee Meeting	5 Rummage Dropoff 7:30pm Shabbat Service	6 Rummage Dropoff 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
7 Rummage Sale 9am Religious School 9am Judaica Sale 10:30am Tiny Tots Passover 11am LunchBox	8	9 10am SEP	10 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshet at TBE	11 10am SEP 7:30pm Adult Ed—Why We Do What We Do	12 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Cantorial Intern Ilana Goldman	13 9am Torah Study 10:30am Healing Service
14 9am Religious School	15	16 10am SEP	17 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance Committee	18 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb VTS Chai Noon 12pm-VTS Book Club 2pm	19 Erev Pesach 6pm VT First Night Seder	20 Pesach
21 Pesach	22 Pesach	23 Pesach 10am SEP	24 Pesach 6:30pm Geshet at TBE	25 Pesach 10am SEP 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board Meeting	26 Pesach 10am Yizkor Service 7:30pm Shabbat Service	27 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths 10:30am Tot Shabbat
28 9am Religious School 9:30am RS Cmte Mtg 1pm Golden Gelt Drawing	29	30 10am SEP				