



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 166, No. 9 May 2019

Please join us for the 2019 Flexible Feast!

Hosted by Paul and Kathy Colbert

Saturday, June 1st at 6:00pm

A Gourmet Dinner at the Colberts'

Pleasant Valley Home

A tax-deductible fundraiser for Vassar Temple

Please refer to the flyer enclosed in this Bulletin
for menu and reservation details.

Upcoming Events

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Join us at Vassar Temple of Poughkeepsie

Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 PM for

Broadway Bible

An evening of Cabaret!

With Deborah Zecher - the "Cabaret Rabbi"

Acclaimed for her performances by both the Manhattan Association of Cabarets and by BroadwayWorld.com, Rabbi Zecher has performed for synagogues and community organizations throughout the country.

Tickets for Rabbi Zecher's performance, which include a dessert and glass of wine, are on sale for \$36 at the Vassar Temple office.

(845) 454-2570



From the Rabbi's Desk

Throughout the month of May, we will be in a Jewish period of counting called Sefirat HaOmer. This tradition has its origins in the Torah regarding the daily elevation offering of an omer (measure) of barley that was made from Pesach until the wheat harvest.



Since the wheat harvest festival was determined

by counting seven weeks from Pesach, it became known as Shavuot, which literally means "weeks." With the destruction of the Temple, the focus of the festivals shifted from their agricultural origins to historical events and Shavuot came to celebrate the giving of Torah. As such, Sefirat HaOmer marks the journey from Pesach, celebrating our redemption from slavery in Egypt, to Shavuot, celebrating the revelation at Sinai.

You may be familiar with this period of time as one when, in more traditional Jewish communities, weddings do not take place. This practice evolved in Talmudic times when it became a period of semi-mourning to commemorate the deaths of Rabbi Akiba's students from a plague in the second century CE. Exceptions are made on days such as

Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the omer, when the plague supposedly lifted.

In more recent times, Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) were added to the calendar during this counting period. While it is coincidental that these observances should fall during Sefirat HaOmer, as observances that are rooted in Jewish peoplehood, they do connect back to the biblical origins of this counting period in a way that can infuse it with new meaning.

An important element of the journey from redemption to revelation was the transformation of this population of former slaves into a people. Although Pharaoh was the first to call them "Israelites," it is during the time in the wilderness that a true sense of peoplehood was forged. Standing at Sinai, the Israelites entered into a brit (covenant) with God and committed to following these laws to become "a kingdom of priests and a holy people." The Israelites may have left Egypt as a massive group of former slaves, but they stood together at Sinai as a people, making that commitment in one voice.

We have a number of opportunities during this year's Sefirat HaOmer to celebrate that sense of peoplehood as part of the greater Jewish community: **Thursday, May 2nd** the annual **Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration** will take place at **Dutchess Community College**. In this year of

Pittsburgh and Christchurch, of resurgent anti-Semitism and rising hate speech, the imperative to learn from history is even more important.

Sunday, May 5th, we will join with the larger Jewish community for **Mitzvah Day**. Everyone of all ages and abilities can take part in activities on this important day of putting Jewish values into practice and performing acts of social justice locally.

While we will celebrate **Yom Ha'Atzmaut** during Shabbat services on **May 10th**, we also have the opportunity to celebrate Israel as a Jewish community when we will welcome an **Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan on Tuesday, May 28th** for a festive dinner and concert.

I hope you will stand with the greater Jewish Community for these important events; please see articles in this Bulletin for more details.

With these community events and our own full calendar of activities, May is, indeed, a very busy month, but that is in concert with the Jewish flow of time that builds in excitement from Pesach to Shavuot, from leaving Egypt to standing at Sinai. As we count the days of the omer period, let it remind us of the gift with which we are blessed to be part of this Jewish people.

Rabbi Renni Altman

From Our President: Membership Has Its Benefits

There are so many reasons why people come to Vassar Temple, and many of those reasons are demonstrated by congregants each and every day. Maintaining a personal connection to our temple does not



just start with membership dues, it starts with a need to connect. What you are about to read is a collage of the Board of Trustees' thoughts about the value, benefit and importance of being a member at Vassar Temple. Think about it...

what are *your* reasons for being a member?

One of the most significant benefits of Temple membership is that it links you with a group of fellow Jews, all committed, in different ways, to preserving an unbroken, yet evolving, spiritual tradition stretching back thousands of years. Having a temple family provides extra support in the hard times and reaps extra joy in the good times. Being a member gives you a

way to pool your energy and resources with others to do good for the community. Being a member amplifies your voice as part of the Reform movement, which is standing up for what is moral and ethical in the world.

Temple sponsors social and educational events. Vassar Temple members are part of a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community. Membership provides opportunities for personal and spiritual growth, for meeting new people and making friendships that last a lifetime. The Temple is where that tradition is reaffirmed, strengthened, and supported - through teaching, prayer, and mutual support. It also provides reinforcement for ethical behavior and social action on behalf of those in need.

An important benefit of Temple membership includes burial rites in our cemetery. To be assured of a final resting place is important and reassuring to all. In times of critical need, Rabbi Altman is there for us as our spiritual leader to provide support and guidance and the gift of pastoral care.

As in many worthwhile endeavors, what you put into it is what you get out of it. The more one engages with Vassar Temple, the more benefits are

derived, and the happier one is to be part of a wonderful, supportive group of people. Membership provides opportunities for learning: speakers, Torah study, Rabbis' classes, and a place to educate and provide a Reform Jewish experience for our children in Religious and Hebrew School.

I really appreciate the Board's thoughts and feelings about 'Membership Has Its Benefits.' When put together, it creates a collective experience that expresses several thoughts about membership. Being a member of Vassar Temple comes with responsibility. Nurture your house of worship and congregation with the love and care that is needed for sustainability.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank you as a member of the Temple, thank you for paying your dues and being there for all of us. And thank you to the vibrant Membership and Engagement Committee, and our dynamic Rabbi for their hard work to bring in new and prospective members to our Temple.

Alan J. Kaflowitz
845-392-8660

May Worship Services

3 rd	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Shabbat Happy Hour Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman, cantorial intern Ilana Goldman, and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard (Teachers' Appreciation Service)
4 th	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
10 th	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
11 th	9:00am 10:30am	Torah Study Shabbat Y'ladim with Rabbi Altman
17 th	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
18 th	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
24 th	7:30pm	Shabbat Evening Service lay-led with Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
25 th	9:00am	No Torah Study
31 st	6:00pm 7:30 pm	Sisterhood Generations Dinner Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning services on Saturdays, May 4 & May 18 at 10:00am in the informal setting of Vassar Temple's east chapel. The moving liturgy of the New Paths prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vassar-temple.org, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.

Introducing Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Shabbat)

All young children, from birth to first grade, are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to join with Rabbi Altman and our music teacher, Olivia DiIorio, for this new Shabbat celebration (replacing what had been "Tot Shabbat"). Rabbi Altman's stuffed bear friends Kachol v'lavan will be there to take part in the singing, stories and marching with the Torah. After this brief, child friendly Shabbat service, we will celebrate with yummy challah and juice!

Scriptural Readings

May	4	<i>Acharei Mot II</i>
	11	<i>edoshim</i> Lev. 19:15- 20:27, Amos 9:7-15
	18	<i>Emor</i> Lev. 23:23-24:23; Ezekiel 44:15-31
	25	<i>B'har</i> Lev. 25:1-28: Jeremiah 32:6-27

Shabbat Happy Hour: May 3rd 6:00pm on the Patio

Welcome Shabbat with an evening of food, wine and good company, hosted by Andi and Paul Ciminello, on Friday, May 3rd at 6:00pm. Weather permitting, Happy Hour will be held on the patio! 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.

And, mark your calendars for the last Happy Hour of the year on Friday, June 7th at 6:00pm. Our wonderful hosts are creating a delicious seasonal menu!

If you've been attending Happy Hours and enjoy these events, please consider hosting one! 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!

Our Last Lunchbox?

We currently do not have enough money left in the Community Tzedakah Fund to continue to serve a monthly meal at LunchBox after April. Beyond donations of meat and fresh fruit from congregants, there is a cost of \$100-\$150 per month to purchase the various foods such as beans, rice, milk and salad, that we need to prepare the monthly meal.

If you do not want to see this vital program end, please make a donation in any amount to Vassar Temple with 'Community Tzedakah Fund' on the memo line. Those who can may opt to donate \$100 to "adopt" a month's LunchBox, or to dedicate it in honor or memory of a loved one.

Please feel free to contact me for more information at socialaction@vassar-temple.org or 845-849-0025.

Marian Schwartz
Social Action Chairperson

Anti-Semitism: Then & Now Annual Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration

Dutchess Community College
Thursday, May 2nd 6:30pm –8:30pm

The theme for this year's Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration, 'Anti-Semitism: Then & Now,' was recommended by the students from the Gesher Hebrew High School as a result of their studies on the Holocaust and the comparison with the current rise in hate speech and anti-Semitic incidents. The students will make a presentation on this theme during the program, which will also include the lighting of memorial candles by Holocaust survivors and children of survivors, participation of local clergy and musical accompaniment. The speaker for this year will be Kenneth S. Stern, Director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate. He is an attorney, author, and one of the country's leading experts on anti-Semitism and hatred. Please join us for this important evening of remembrance and commemoration.

VTS Annual Donor Dinner: May 16th

The Vassar Temple Sisterhood Annual Donor Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 with hors d'oeuvres starting at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm in the Temple's social hall.

Please join us for an exciting evening of African-inspired cuisine and a program by Vassar Temple's own Shelby Quackenbush. Shelby is the Development and Communications Manager for Indego Africa. From genocide survivors, to youth, to refugees, Indego Africa is helping women in Rwanda and Ghana thrive as global entrepreneurs. Come and learn about Indego's most recent initiative to empower female refugees through employment opportunities and education. As an added bonus, you can shop home décor and accessories handcrafted by artisan women in Africa. For more information on this organization, visit indegoafrica.org.

To RSVP, or if you have any questions, please contact Marcia Tanzman at tanzco@aol.com, or at 845-471-6643. RSVP's appreciated by May 8th.

Mitzvah Day: Sunday, May 5th

HQ at Congregation Schomre Israel
18 Park Ave., Poughkeepsie

Mitzvah opportunities abound for all ages from tots to senior citizens! Great family projects, too! Go To www.jewishdutchess.org for complete details and to (1) sign up for the community service project of your choice, (2) reserve your free breakfast and lunch, and (3) pre-register for the free childcare activities.

May Bimah Flowers Donations:



May 3: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
May 10: Donated by the Quackenbush family in memory of Gayle Margolin
May 17: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
May 24: Donated by Elyse Oughton in memory of Eliot and Melvin Kornhauser
May 31: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood in honor of our longtime members

Past Bimah Flowers Donations Update:

April 5: Donated by Elyse Oughton in memory of Nikki & Shirley Kornhauser;
Donated by Gail D'Alessio in memory of Bob DiBennardo

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.

Condolences

To:
Jim Robinowitz & family on the passing of Mary Ann Robinowitz

Arnoff Family Honored

Mazal tov to the Arnoff family on being honored by Family Services with the Quality of Life Award presented at the 2019 Family of the Year Awards held on April 25, 2019. The Arnoff's are most deserving recipients of this honor for the good work that they do in this community.

Mitzvah Day Collections

You may bring anything listed below to the designated collection boxes at temple starting 4/28, or to Schomre Israel on Mitzvah Day. Also: On-going drop off for Cereal Counts only at HVCC, 110 S. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie.

- **Boxed Cereal**-- Cereal Counts to combat summer hunger!
- **Cake mix, canned frosting, birthday candles** for Birthday Bag project
- **New packaged men's and women's underwear** for veterans at Castle Point (large sizes preferred).

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

Editor: Sue Lesser

Technical support & understudy
Bob Abrams

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

Announcing the Y'ladim (Children) Team!

The first meeting of the 'Y'ladim' (Children) Team (Task Force on Engaging Young Families) was very productive! Based on feedback from our young families, we will have one event per month for young families and their children. These events will include Tiny Temple, Y'ladim Shabbat and other special events. Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo will continue to run Tiny Temple. Shira Teich and Beth Plotsky will coordinate Y'ladim Shabbats (led by Rabbi Altman) for the preschool and Religious School groups. We welcome input and support from families who can assist with special events focused around young families.

Our Baby Shabbat group is no longer happening as our babies have grown up! If you know anyone who is pregnant, or has



a young child, please reach out to them and we can rebuild this fun community.

Here is the Y'ladim Calendar for upcoming events:

May 11:	Shabbat Y'ladim 10:30-11:00am
July TBD:	Yoga on the Lawn at Vassar

Upcoming events and programs might also include a Youth-Group sponsored babysitting event with young families, Madrachim and parents. We love hearing about new ideas for socializing and building bonds among young families in our Vassar Temple Community.

Please let us know if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns. We are hopeful this new team will help with the engagement of young families with support from the Vassar Temple community as we move forward.

Emma Arnoff
Shira Teich
Co-Chairs, Y'ladim Team

Sisterhood Generations Shabbat Service & Dinner: May 31st

Be sure to come to Temple for services at 7:30pm on May 31st when Vassar Temple Sisterhood will both honor long-time Temple members and celebrate the contributions of our Sisterhood. Members of Sisterhood will lead the service, during which everyone who has been a member of the congregation for 40 or more years will be recognized.

Please join us at 6:00pm for a special Family Dinner prior to the Sisterhood/Generations Shabbat service. Come enjoy a delicious Shabbat roast chicken dinner (with a vegetarian option). Rather than charge a set amount for the dinner, donations for the cost of the meal are greatly appreciated.

It is important that we know how much food to prepare, so we ask that you **please RSVP** for the dinner **by May 24th** to Susan Colodner at sacolodner@gmail.com or 845-896-9502. Those who are being recognized as a 'Generations Member' are invited to be our guests at the dinner, but we ask that you let us know that you're coming.

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, examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah and is held at 9:00am every Saturday. Questions? rabbi@vassartemple.org or (845) 454-2570.

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text: taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, is held once a month at noon (generally on the third Thursday). For this month's Talmud class schedule, or if you have other questions about this class, please contact Rabbi Golomb pjgolomb@verizon.net or call the Temple office at (845) 454-2570.

HEROES AMONG US: We Are Better Because of You!

If you are like me, you might not give a second thought to the features and enhancements in our Temple building, such as the newly-painted Social Hall, the sukkah that magically appears on the lawn every fall, the new amazing dishwasher in the kitchen, and the refurbished downstairs classrooms. The inspiration – and much of the effort – to complete those projects is the result of two individuals whose dedication to Vassar Temple truly makes them ‘Heroes Among Us.’

In the 25 years that Roni and Chuck Stein have belonged to Vassar Temple, they have been ready, able and willing

to give of themselves. Their contributions are many: Board service, Sisterhood leadership, Rummage Sale organizing, Kitchen Committee and Board Nominations for Roni, and co-chairing the Finance Committee, Board service, overseeing classroom renovations and perpetual sukkah construction duties for Chuck, just to mention a few, and they are a consistent presence at many Temple activities. Their service extends beyond the Temple itself, through Roni’s involvement with the Vassar Hospital Auxiliary and Chuck’s long-standing role as Treasurer of the Carmel Rotary.

Ever modest and unassuming, however, they are quick to discourage credit and recognition, instead insisting that *they* are the ones who benefit from their relationship with the Temple. Roni speaks passionately about the life-changing experiences of attending the 2007 WRJ/URJ Biennial Conference and participating in

the adult B’nai Mitzvah class taught by Debbie Golomb. Roni and Chuck focus on how much *they* get in return for what they give: a sense of belonging to a great community, lifelong friends (their ‘second family’), and the gratification of knowing that their efforts make the Temple a better place. Their selfless giving from the heart exemplifies what it means to be a ‘hero.’

Roni and Chuck looked for a Temple when they moved to Dutchess County in the early ‘90s, and we are so fortunate that Vassar Temple ended up being the right place for them. We are certainly a better place because they are a part of it. Thank you, Roni and Chuck, for all you do!

Jennifer Sachs Dahnert

Teacher Recognition Shabbat: May 3rd

As a congregation, we thank those who provide precious education and loving guidance to the next generation at Vassar Temple during the Teacher Recognition Shabbat service on Friday, May 3rd at 7:30pm. Come and take this opportunity to honor our dedicated and talented religious school staff: teachers Gail D’Alessio, Olivia DiIorio, Tessa Rudnick, Marcia Tanzman, and Fern Wolf, and our indispensable cadre of hard working teacher assistants (madrachim) Selamu Gendron, Isabelle Hartman, Aaron Kflowitz, Haley Kflowitz, Mariel Kelson, Lana Lieberman, Amanda Moore, Jordan Russo, Alex Sinn, and Matt Sinn. (Plan to arrive early... family friendly Happy Hour starts at 6:00pm!)

Religious School Update

It is hard to believe that our religious school year will come to an end this month! It has been a great year of learning, personal growth and hands-on fun! We are creating wonderful memories for our children of Chanukah games, making baskets of Thanksgiving fixings for poor families and baking challah and hamantaschen! In their classrooms, the children are learning about their heritage, how to read Hebrew and the Jewish values around tzedakah and acts of loving kindness. We gather in the chapel for basic prayers, learning to give thanks and sing songs – always with a story or an opportunity to “ask the rabbi.” It is always amazing to see what questions they will

come up with!

At services on Friday May 3rd and at our end of the year celebration on May 19th, we will have the opportunity to thank our incredible teachers: Gail D’Alessio (5th grade), Olivia DiIorio (music), Tessa Rudnick (4th grade), Marcia Tanzman (Hebrew) and Fern Wolf (K/1). We are so fortunate to have this committed group of teachers who are so devoted to our children.

We will also thank and recognize our mighty team of *madrachim*: Selamu Gendron, Isabelle Hartman, Aaron Kflowitz, Haley Kflowitz, Mariel Kelson, Lana Lieberman, Amanda Moore, Jordan Russo, Alex Sinn and Matt Sinn. These young people have brought their own unique, positive spirit to our school whether

they were helping in the classroom, overseeing snack, categorizing supplies or creating programs. They are such positive role models for the students and we are so grateful for their involvement.

Finally, I could not run the school without the on-going assistance of members of the Religious School Committee, led by Shaari Roland: Alan Kflowitz, Michele Sinn, Marian Schwartz, and our newest parents Beth Plotsky and Betsy Poole-DiSalvo. I am indebted to them for their advice and very hands-on support, most especially in my first year with the congregation.

Renni Altman

YAHREZEITS

MAY 3

Jaime Hecht
 Julius Albert
 Elaine F. Bloch
 Philip Mardon, MD
 Ted Hecht
 Wolfgang U. Weigert, MD
 Jacob Ettenson
 Faye Prisansky Kaufman
 Edward Moffit
 Irving D. Kraut
 Shirley Kornhauser
 Stanley Shapiro
 Wilfred Sumner
 Naomi Berkowitz
 Sarah Chernack
 Nathan Lescher
 Walter Kallman
 Samuel Blaine
 Toby U. Cederbaum
 Ida Albinder

MAY 10

Jeanette E. Shapiro
 Paul Plansky
 Suzanne Hecht
 Clara Levy Ribbi
 Shirley Ruth Karnes
 Edna Gibell
 Eva Revitz
 Ruth Myer
 Helen Danilin Klein
 Louis Lipp
 Eugene Jacobs
 Mary Kovacs
 Paul Reznikoff
 Gayle Margolin
 Manuel Darwin
 Martin Frankel
 Samuel Cederbaum
 David Lawrence Wolfson
 Charlotte Miller
 Kurt Lemberger

MAY 17

Reuben Lewis
 Claire Troeger Moselle
 Dan L. Golomb
 Bernard "Paul" Buchalter
 Bernice D. Rabin
 Josephine Lion Kahn
 Joseph Markoe
 Marjorie F. Katz
 Nathan Landau
 Samuel Sigalow
 Charlotte Cohen
 Charles Kagan
 Henry Feder
 Hyman Hoffman
 Louis Diamond
 David M. Horn
 Royden Parke

MAY 24

Betty Fein
 Jack Rubinstein
 Victor Collen
 Hyman Fink
 Selma Friedman Satz
 Rose S. Podell
 Bernard Lesk
 Eloise Ross
 Norman Prisansky
 Ruth Browner
 Ellen Rosenfeld
 Harold Jacobs
 Mary B. Sparks
 Martin Cohen
 Leonard Margolin
 Ken Richter
 Martin Gally
 Iris Krause
 Miriam Niesen
 Joseph H. Goodman
 Franklin H. Littell
 Annie Givner
 Goldie Simon
 Therese Lehman
 Stuart Chertock

MAY 31

Leo Tauber
 Abraham J. Salit
 Alvin Kaskowitz
 James Burns
 Eugene Seigel
 Louella Cutler
 Bessie T. Mock
 Samuel Lampell
 Rachel Diamond
 Regina Mendel
 Daniel S. Schwartz
 Seymour Bersak
 Margaret 'Honey'
 Sylvester
 Ann Feinstein Drobner
 Catherine Creedon
 Pauline Abrams
 Arthur Lipschutz, MD

CONTRIBUTIONS

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SUSTAINING FUND

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 In sincere appreciation of Polly Lewis,
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 Judy Rosenfeld & VT's
 Reyut Committee
 Jackson Fong's Bar Mitzvah

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Ellen Zelig

The Karnes Hecht family

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The Karnes Hecht family

Loren Rosenthal, MD

Adil & Shaheen Ameer

Community Celebration of Israeli Music, Culture and Food

Tuesday, May 28th at Temple Beth El

The Caravan is coming! All are Wel-
come!

- Israeli style dinner at 6:00pm
- Free concert at 6:30pm

For more info on the Caravan check out
the website: <https://www.israelscouts.org/friendship-caravan>



Meet & Greet Success

Over the summer and fall, we welcomed our new Rabbi, Renni Altman, to Vassar Temple. Thanks to Sandra Mamis for organizing 'At Home with Renni Altman,' our very successful a series of Meet & Greets held over several weeks in various homes and neighborhoods throughout our diverse community. We thank all the hosts who worked with us to get these events coordinated and underway.

We are thrilled that over 50% of our membership participated in these gatherings. Along with meeting our new Rabbi, we also had a great opportunity to spend some casual time with each other and maybe even make some new friends and form new connections.

If you did not get an opportunity to attend a program and still want to meet with Rabbi, please reach out! You can contact Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vassartemple.org, or call the office. Or, send an email to membership@vassartemple.org.

Andi Ciminello

Membership Chair

Dutchess Interfaith CROP Walk for Hunger

Despite our small size, our local CROP Walk is one of the most successful anywhere. This year we came in 14th in the U.S.A., raising approximately \$60,000 to combat hunger locally, nationally, and globally.

Our 2019 CROP Walk will be held Sunday, Oct. 20th but preparations have already begun, and right now we are looking for someone to help coordinate Vassar Temple's participation. This will mostly involve getting materials and information to our walkers, and although most donations are made on line, there may be some money to receive and turn in at the end. (You do not have to be a walker.)

If you would like to learn more about how you can help with this important, annual interfaith community event, literally enabling our temple to participate, please contact Marian at socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Memorial Day Ceremony: Sunday, May 26th

Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625 Jewish War Veterans of the USA will hold their annual Memorial Day ceremony Sunday, May 26th at 11:00am in Schomre Hadath Cemetery, Lagrange Avenue, Poughkeepsie. All are invited to come to honor our deceased veterans on this day of remembrance and gratitude for their service. The Post also assures that flags are placed at the grave sites of veterans at Dutchess County's Jewish cemeteries in time for Memorial Day. For further information about the ceremony contact Ron Markowitz at ronmarko@prodigy.net.

A Heartfelt Thank You

... to our amazing congregation who donated 94 boxes of pasta on Purim, and to Ralph Schwartz for delivering it all to Morse School food pantry.

...to all who contributed tzedakah to the Wind Chill Fund, to shelter the homeless during the dead of winter.

... to Fern Wolf for shopping, Dave Wolf for Captaining, our Men's Club for sponsoring, Paul Ciminello for liaising with the men of the MHIA, and to all who donated food and funds for our March LunchBox.

...to everyone who supported our annual Temple drive for the Emergency Fund for Jewish Families. Because of your generosity, we doubled our giving level over last year, thus helping twice as many local families with nowhere else to turn.

Holocaust Memorial Day Program at Wallace Center

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 2:00pm

Film & Discussion: *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today*, with Sandra Schulberg

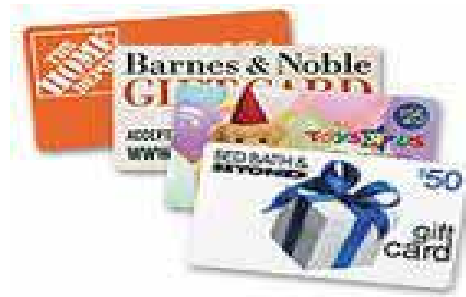
This Morgenthau Holocaust Collections program is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and will be presented at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum. The program is free but **registration is required**. Register at <https://conta.cc/2TLeGXX>. Questions? Contact Clifford Laube at 845-486-7745.

SCRIP: The Easy Option

Do you want to participate in the SCRIP [gift card] Program to help to make shopping easy and help the Temple, but you can't get to the Temple to pick up the cards??

Home or office delivery is a possible option! Just get in touch with the SCRIP Coordinator, Sandra Mamis, at scrip@vassartemple.org or 914-456-3524.

Supporters of SCRIP are so valuable!



Men's Club News

Greetings,

Hope that you had a great Passover Holiday. We are also thinking of a bike ride on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail or the Dutchess Rail Trail. Please let me know if you might be interested in either event or if you would like to propose another activity for Men's Club. You can reach me at gtr714@yahoo.com. We are always looking for new ideas, so please share any ideas you have or might be able to assist in bringing to our Men's Club.

On Sunday May 5th we will participate in Mitzvah Day by cleaning up the historic cemetery. Dan Teich and I will co-captain this project. Please let me know if you can help. Check out this website for Mitzvah Day registration and more information on the other projects at www.jewishdutchess.org.

I want to give a special thanks to the crew that prepared and served the Purim Pasta Dinner and our Captains Kurt Quackenbush and David Hecht. The crew included: Eric Rosenfeld, Ed Garber, Gil Seligman, Ron Rosen, Bob Abrams and Joel Kelson. My apologies to anyone I may have omitted. Thank you to each of you for continuing the tradition and supporting the holiday celebration.

Glenn Tanzman

Men's Club President

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: May 5th

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, May 5th 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.



Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
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President:	Alan Kflowitz
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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
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May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Ritual Committee	2 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP) 6:30pm Yom Hashoah Memorial at DCC	3 6pm Happy Hour 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Cantorial Intern Ilana Goldman, Teacher Appreciation	4 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
5 Mitzvah Day	6	7 10am SEP	8 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Geshher at TBE, Yom Ha'atzmaut Program	9 10am SEP	10 Yom Ha'atzmaut 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11 9am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Y'ladam
12 Mother's Day	13	14 10am SEP	15 4:30pm Hebrew School—Last Day 6:30pm Geshher at TBE—Finale 7pm Finance Cmte	16 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb 6pm VTS Donor Dinner	17 7:30pm Shabbat Service	18 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
19 9am R/S—Last Day 10:30am Tiny Tots 7:30pm Cabaret with Rabbi Deborah Zecher	20	21 10am SEP	22 6:30pm Calendar Meeting	23 10am SEP 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting	24 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25 9am Torah Study
26	27 Memorial Day	28 10am SEP 10am Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan	29	30 10am SEP	31 6pm Sisterhood Generations Dinner 7:30pm Generations Shabbat Service	