

Vassar Temple Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 167, No. 3 November 2019



Beginning November 29th Shabbat services will begin at 6:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you at the

Vassar Temple Gala November 2nd, 6:00 -10:00pm Mill Creek Caterers Hopewell Junction, NY

Gala invitations were mailed the first week of September. If you have not received your invitation please contact gala@vassartemple.org or the Temple office at 845-454-2570

	Οp	coming Events
Nov.	1	Shabbat Noach, p.3
	2	Gala, p.1
	10	Rummage Sale, p.1
	22	Men's Club Shabbat
	23	Shabbat Y'ladim

Fall Rummage Sale: Nov.10

Start cleaning those closets of gently used items and packing your bric-a-brac; the Rummage Sale is November 10th. We start collecting rummage items as of Sunday, November 3rd.

All Rummage must be brought to the lounge on Sunday, and after that to the social hall. No rummage will be accepted after November 8^{th} .

Two evenings will be available for rummage drop-off: Wednesday, November 6^{th} and Thursday, November 7^{th} from 6:00-8:00pm.

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 build-ing! The sale on Nov. 10^{th} runs from 9:30am to 12:30pm; the bag sale starts at 2:00pm and ends at 5:00pm.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed!! To volunteer, or for questions or further information, you may contact rummage@vassartemple.org, or the Vassar Temple office.

***Please note:** We <u>CANNOT</u> 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



This year there are just over 5 weeks between Sukkot, the Jewish Fall harvest festival, and Thanksgiving, the American fall harvest festival. Both holidays are an expres-

sion of gratitude for the bounty in our lives. It is commonly believed that the pilgrims, being people of faith, may well have turned to the Bible for the basis of their harvest festival and modeled their celebration after Sukkot. Whether or not that is true or simply wishful thinking, our fall calendar is dominated by these two expressions of Thanksgiving. First, we have the opportunity to join with Jews all over the world in this annual fall harvest festival and then, a few weeks later, we again express our thanks for our blessings as Americans.

Though both Thanksgiving holidays had their origins in celebrating the bounty of their harvest, today we understand these celebrations as opportunities to give thanks for the many blessings of our lives. In his book about the Musar movement in Judaism, *Everyday Holiness*, Alan Moranis points out that "the Hebrew term for gratitude is *Hakarat Hatov* which means, literally, 'recognizing the good.' The good is already there. Practicing gratitude means being fully aware of the good that is yours."

Judaism helps us to develop that awareness in a number of ways. One way is through prayer: we offer a prayer of thanksgiving daily as part of the *Amidah*; we pause to say a blessing before we eat and then after we have eaten, we say *Birkat Hamazon*, a prayer of thanksgiving for our sustenance.

Another important way to develop an awareness of and appreciation for the goodness in our lives is by helping those who are less fortunate through acts of *tzedakah*. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that in the midst of the chapter in Leviticus that is all about the biblical festivals (including Sukkot) we are reminded of the commandment not to "reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger..." (Lev. 23:22)

Throughout the year, the Vassar Temple Social Action Committee provides numerous ways for us to engage in acts of tzedakah and help those in need in our community. We began the year with the annual High Holy Day Food Drive between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. How fortuitous it was that this year's CROP Walk for Hunger took place during Sukkot (thank you to the walkers and to their sponsors who helped raise money to feed the hungry in Dutchess County). And, each month, our members volunteer at Lunch Box, making and serving a hot meal to the hungry.

I invite you to deepen the meaning of your American Thanksgiving celebration by helping to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for formerly homeless families who, thanks to the good work of Hudson Valley Housing, Inc., will be celebrating Thanksgiving in their own homes for the first time. Our program, Trim-a-Thanksgiving, depends upon your donations of the 'Thanksgiving fixins' (including turkeys) which our teens will then place into baskets, to be decorated by our religious school students, and then delivered to these families. (Please see article on page 6 for more details.)

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time for family and friends to gather together, to recognize the good in our lives and to celebrate this great country in which we are blessed to live. May we carry the gratitude of this holiday with us each and every day and may we always share of our bounty with those in need.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving!

Rabbi Renni Altman

Study at Vassar Temple

Torah Study: examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah, will be led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, 9:00-10:00am every Saturday.

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text: a monthly class taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held Thursday, Nov. 21st from noon to 1:30pm.

All are welcome to come and join in all the classes--no previous training required! No charge to attend. Questions? Contact Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vas-sartemple.org or Rabbi Golomb at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

November Worship Service Schedule

29:00am 10:00amTorah Study New Paths Service87:30pmShabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard99:00amNo Torah Study157:30pmShabbat Service lay-led with Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard169:00am 10:00amNo Torah Study227:30pmMen's Club Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard239:00am 10:00amTorah Study Shabbat Y'Ladim with Rabbi Altman296:00pmShabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard309:00amTorah Study	1	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
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Bertolozzi, keyboard	23		
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	30	9:00am	Torah Study

Shabbat Noach: Nov. 1st

We are told several times in Torah that it is our responsibility to take care of and protect animals. However, increasingly we find that animals are protecting people!

So, this Shabbat Noach it will be our good fortune to honor one local agency that has law enforcement teams made up of humans *and* their canine companion: the City of Poughkeepsie K-9 Division. We will have an opportunity to hear about how this program in the police department evolved, how they work to keep us safe and more. If we are lucky, we will also get to meet one or more officer/ canine teams during our oneg!

Please join us for this very special Shabbat Noach on Friday evening, November 1, 2019.

Sandra Mamís



2 *Noach* Gen. 6:9-11:32; Isaiah 42;5-43:10

Nov.

Scriptural Readings

- 9 *Lech L'cha* Gen. 12:1-17:27; Isaiah 40:27-41:16
- 16 *Vayeira* Gen. 18:1-22:24; II Kings 4:1-37
- 23 *Chayei Sarah* Gen. 23:1-25:18; I Kings 1:1-31
- 30 *Tol'dot* Gen. 25-19-28:9; Malachi 1:1-2:7

Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Shabbat)

All children, from birth to first grade, are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to the Temple on Saturday, Nov.23rd from 10:30-11:00am, to join with Rabbi Altman and our music teacher, Olivia Dilorio, for a Shabbat celebration. 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! Tell your friends and neighbors--this event is FREE and open to the whole community. For questions about this program and to RSVP, please contact rabbi@vassartemple.org.

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays, Nov. 2 & Nov. 16 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@vassartemple.org, or the Temple office at 845-454-2570.



Banna Rubinow Christopher Baltus Barbara (Bobbi) Hulnick, mother of Andi Ciminello Susan Avery

Thank You Vassar Temple!

Thank you, one and all, for your strong support of our annual school supply fundraiser. This enabled us to get tons of basic school supplies and backpacks for the children at Morse Elementary School, in addition to providing them with art supplies. We were also able to make a generous donation to the Poughkeepsie Middle School/High School Teen Closets toward the purchase of basic hygiene items, underwear, etc., for their students in need. Our special thanks to Temple Bookkeeper Irene Vasquez and Super Schlepper Ralph Schwartz for their invaluable assistance! Together we have helped hundreds of at-risk children and teens get off to a good start this school year. ~

Vassar Temple Social Action Committee



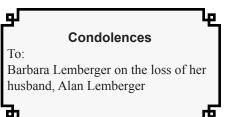
November Bimah Flower Donations:

- November 1: Donated by Allen & Susan Budson Fink
- November 8: Donated by Lew & Hilary Wrobel in honor of U.S. Military Veterans
- November 15: Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Rose Noble
- November 22: Donated by Jo Schaffel & Dan Scherrer in memory of Joseph Scherrer
- November 29: Donated by Marilyn & David Lampell in honor of John McGaulley

Past Bimah Flowers Donations Updates:

September 27:	Donated by David & Joan Posner in memory of DorothySchmukler			
October 11:	Donated by Bob & Judy Creedon in memory of Susan Livingston			
	Alpers			
October 18:	Donated by David & Joan Posner in memory of their fathers, Harold			
	Posner & Nathan Schmukler			

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.



From the Ritual Corner

The High Holy Days are over, and so we look ahead to our November worship services. For Shabbat Noach, on November 1 we welcome officers (human and canine) of the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department's K-9 Unit. The officers will speak during the service and will also be present during the oneg. Thanks to Sandra Mamis for making this arrangement.

The VT Men's Club's annual Shabbat service will occur on November 22. Thanks to Glenn Tanzman for putting this together.

Please be aware that as of November 29 our Friday evening Shabbat services begin at 6:00pm. This information is also listed in the worship service schedule in each issue of the VT Bulletin as well as on our website calendar. May the New Year bring you and your families good health, happiness, awareness and peace.

> David Hecht Ritual Committee Chair

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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

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



Lunch Box News

Vassar Temple is coordinating Lunch Box services with the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association (MHIA) and will provide a meal every first Sunday of the month, starting with October 6th and proceeding through to June 7th of 2020.

Meals will be both cooked and served at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie by a team of five volunteers from VT and five volunteers from MHIA. Menus will be simplified, with either baked ziti in meat (turkey) sauce or turkey chili.

Anyone interested in assisting with these efforts should contact Paul Ciminello at Paul@ecopkny.com. The anticipated schedule for these services (through January 2020) is as follows:

- Nov. 3: MHIA lead (captain to be determined), VT will support
- Dec. 1: VT lead (Men's Club to captain), MHIA to support
- Jan. 5: MHIA lead (captain to be determined), VT Sisterhood to support.

A second schedule for the remaining months in 2020 will be provided in the January Bulletin.

From the Religious School Director

September and October were filled with learning about and preparing for the Fall Holy Days. Thanks to the leadership and creativity of our Madrichim, the children made wonderful decorations for the Temple Sukkah and banners to carry at Simchat Torah services. A group of our teens walked in the CROP Walk with Rabbi Altman under the 'sub-team' Vassar Vashty with the Vassar Temple team.

With the fall holidays behind us, teachers can turn all of their attention to individual curricula. This year, for their Torah studies, the $1^{st}/2^{nd}$ graders are studying stories from Exodus, the 5^{th} graders are learning about holiness from the book of Leviticus and the 6^{th} graders are studying the Prophets, starting with Samuel.

Our major *Gemilut Chassadim* project for the month will be the Trima-Thanksgiving Project, a highlight of the year.

Rabbi Renni Altman

Volunteer Opportunities Abound at Morse School!

The Jewish Social Action Coalition, of which we are a member, is continuing its support of Morse Elementary School in Poughkeepsie. The school is in receivership and needs us more than ever. Volunteering at Morse is very rewarding, and you can literally change lives! Both English and Spanish speakers are needed as "Book Buddies." For more information about this program, please contact Judy Connolly at 845-452-8670 or Bookbuddies@literacyconnection.org.

Spanish speakers interested in tutoring at the school should contact Perla Kaufman at perlakaufman22@gmail.com. Also, volunteers are needed in the school library on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to help the eager students find books, check books in and out, shelve returned books, and possibly to read to groups of students. Each shift serves 3 classes scheduled for their weekly library time.

- Morning shift: 9:20-11:20am
- Afternoon shift: 12:25-2:30pm

You can sign up for one shift a week or more at www.morsevolunteers.org. If you have any questions about helping in the library, and to arrange for training, please contact Roberta Tracy at tracyajrs@aol.com or 914-456-5266. And if there is some sort of special presentation that you would like to do for the children, please contact Muriel Horowitz at murielhorowitz@gmail.com.

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: November 3

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, will be holding its monthly post meeting at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie at 9:30am on November 3, 2019. All persons of the Jewish faith are cordially invited to attend and participate. At each meeting we host an informal coffee and cake schmooze at 9:00am. Because the congregation is strictly kosher no food or drink may be brought into the facility. Follow our post on Facebook.

Turkey Trot Food Collection

During this season of thanksgiving for our bounty, you can bring sustenance of body and 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 and 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 or turned in to the office. Any amount will help! Checks should be made out to 'Vassar Temple' with 'Turkeys' on the memo line, and may be tax deductible.

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 Thursday, Nov. 21**st. Have questions? Need home pickup? Contact Ralph & Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org or call 845-849-0025.

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND In appreciation of Rabbi's support of the wedding The Hecht family SUSTAINING FUND In Memory of: Michael Kevin Oremus Linda Babas Celia Levine Lila Matlin Dr. Saul Heiser Lila Matlin Maurice Goldemberg The Hecht family Margaret Ciminello Andrea & Paul Ciminello Lisa Heidelberger Bob & Marianne Abrams Howard Abrams Bob & Marianne Abrams Ida Goldberg Dr. Sara Jane Goldberg Carl Schwartz James Robinowitz Lillian Greenman Janet Greenman & Robin Peritz Arthur Peritz Janet Greenman Robin Peritz Lucila Albinder Dan & Susan Albinder Judy & Bob Creedon Susan Alpers Gail D'Alessio & Val Matthew Lampell Carlisle

Marilyn Levine

Regina Levy-Ribbi

Judy & Bob Creedon Ralph & Marian Schwartz Dave & Fern Wolf Muriel Lampell Kathy & Kent Mardon Vivian & Ed Garber Richard & Linda Cantor Polly Lewis Judy & Bob Creedon Marilyn & David Lampell

Muriel Lampell

In Honor of:

Muriel Lampell's grandson's (Joshua) wedding Lila Matlin

Muriel Lampell's special birthday Andrea & Paul Ciminello Elaine Lipschutz's special birthday Andrea & Paul Ciminello Louise & Chuck Benjamin

SOCIAL ACTION - LUNCH BOX

In Honor of: The Turk family's gracious hospitality for the Chai Luncheon The September Chai Luncheon attendees

ROBERT LIPSCHUTZ FUND In Memory of:

Marilyn Levine, Lila Matlin's sister- in-law Elaine Lipschutz

Matt Lampell Gertrude C. Clarfeld Elaine Lipschutz Elaine Lipschutz

In Honor of: Elaine Lipschutz's special birthday Lila Matlin David & Marilyn Lampell

MUSIC FUND In Memory of: Regina Levy-Ribbi

Arlene & Gilbert Seligman

Trim-a-Thanksgiving

Vassar Temple Cares About Hunger

Please drop off non-perishable food items from the list below to help provide Thanksgiving dinner gift baskets for Dutchess County families in need. Just bring them to the Temple and place them in the Can Jam bin by Thurs. Nov. 21.

- 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. Our religious school children will create holiday cards and decorate festive holiday baskets. VT teens will sort all the donated foods and arrange everything in the gift baskets to be delivered to families in need in time for the holiday. Together we all can help these families now! Questions? Please contact Marian at socialaction@ vassartemple.org or 845-849-0025



NOVEMBER 1

Lisette Goldemberg J. Ralph Stein Bessie Rothauser Abraham Zack Benjamin Michel Adele Lerman Warshaw Benjamin Genshaft Edward S. Rubinow Max H. Richter Louis Heidelberger Edward J. Kovacs Samuel W. Gellert Esther Mardon Bernstein Samuel Garber James Connelley Henry Newman Herbert Schenberg Arthur Berlin Brian Matson Bridget Mollov Gloria (Golda) Jordan

YAHRZEITS

NOVEMBER 8

Lillian Greenman

Ida S. Miller

Phillip Ritter

Philip Browner

Forrest Graves

Alice Spitalnik

Claire Gersoni

Alan Abraskin

Nathan Givner

Michael Aronson

B. Jay Newman

A. Louis Rubin

Larry Kornreich

Kathy Austin

Molly Susser

Suzanne Seligman

Alexander W. Jacobs

NOVEMBER 15

Amor Levy Gertrude F. Troeger Tamar Grand Henrietta Burns Subkow L. Richard Rosenberg Arthur George Henderson Solomon Tanzman Henry Rosenmann Solomon Charles Cantor Evelyn Heidelberger Ellen Bernard Samuel Saul Lena L. Bloch William Payne Albert E. Schwartz Martin Gad Rose Slate Shirley Richter Rose Jacobson Abraham Feuerstein Frances A. Victor Helen Robinson Dr. Diane L. Weston Paul Susser Leopold Scharf

NOVEMBER 22

Maurice Olivar Jenny Krevolin Robert Feitelson Dr. Daniel Budson Lily Fink Schenberg Maurice Horn Ida Axelrod Samuel Reifler Elizabeth Bokor Myrtle Oclatis Marie Fischer Solomon Jack Josias

NOVEMBER 29

Penya Schmukler Diane Ruth Shore Hildegard Tuchmann Albert Levy Serfaty Phyllis Zack Wallace Berkowitz Richard H. Satz Dorothy M. Haber Dr. Sidney N. Miller Charles Ernest Dr. Charles Hoffman 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



Gas Up with SCRIP!

A message from Susan Karnes Hecht...

As I write this, local gas prices are hovering around \$2.75 per gallon, but I just filled my tank for \$2.18. How? With Vassar Temple SCRIP!

If you're like us, your shopping routines are predictable. Once a month, we contact the Temple office to request SCRIP (gift cards) for grocery stores and gas that we know we)ll use. Using Stop & Shop SCRIP we collect fuel points. When the tank is low we head to a Shell station, where we not only redeem points but also get an additional \$0.10 discount per gallon on the cash price for using the gift card.

We're saving a lot on gas! This is on top of the benefit to the Temple, which costs us nothing. Our congregation has the potential to raise significant funds at no cost to members. At our house, SCRIP is a no-brainer. Please join us in supporting this program. **We deliver!** Contact the Temple office or scrip@vassartemple.org





David Hecht receiving the Arnold award during the Selichot service.



The participants in the VT trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in NYC on September 15th



VT Sisterhood Chai Luncheon at Rocking Horse Ranch

Many thanks to our generous hostess, Gloria Turk.

The attendees made contributions to the Temple Lunch Box in honor of the Turk family in appreciation of the delightful time enjoyed by all!

Marianne Abrams, Linda Babas, Helen Brandonisi, Andi Ciminello, Gail D'Alessio, Susan Fink, Susan Hecht, Bobbi Hulnick, Roz Kaflowitz, Jane LaLone, Muriel Lampell, Anne Lescher, Polly Lewis, Elaine Lipschutz, Yvonne Lowenthal, Marilyn McGaulley, Lila Matlin, Barbara Mindel, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Betty Renner, Judy Rosenfeld, Jo Schaffel, Marian Schwartz, Roni Stein, Marcia Tanzman and Ellen Zelig



Vassar Temple Sisterhood Opening Dinner on September 24th

Vassar Temple Bulletin 140 Hooker Avenue Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 845-454-2570 www.vassartemple.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Rummage Sale Setup 9am Religious School 10:30am	4 Rummage Sale Setup	5 Rummage Sale Setup 10am SEP	6 Rummage Sale Setup 4:30pm Hebrew 6:30pm Gesher at Temple Beth El	7 Rummage Sale Setup 10am SEP 7pm Ritual Committee	1 7:30pm Shabbat Service 8 Rummage Sale Setup 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann	2 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths 6pm Vassar Temple Gala 9 Torah Study Cancelled
Lunch Box 10 Rummage Sale 9am No Reli- gious School	11 Veteran's Day Office Closed	12 10am SEP	13 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher at Temple Beth El	14 10am SEP	15 6pm Happy Hour 7:30pm Shabbat Service	16 Torah Study Cancelled 10am New Paths
17 9am Religious School 9:30am R/S Committee Meeting	18 12pm VTS Chai Noon	19 10am SEP	20 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher 7pm Finance Cmte	21 10am SEP 12 noon—Talmud Study 7pm Board Mtg	22 7:30pm Men's Club Shabbat, with Cantor Goldmann	23 9am Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Y'ladim
24 9am Religious School 10am Thanks- giving Bas- kets—Youth Group	25	26 10am SEP	27 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Gesher at Temple Beth El	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 6:30pm Shelter Meal	29 6pm Shabbat Service	30 9am Torah Study