



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 167, No. 4 December 2019

Chanukah Dinner and Service December 27

Vassar Temple's annual pot-luck Chanukah Dinner will be held on Friday, December 27, at 6:00pm in the social hall. Bring a meat or non-dairy dish (anything except dairy) for 12; Sisterhood will provide latkes, apple-sauce, challah, salad and beverages. Please do not use nuts in your dish.

The cost of the dinner is \$18 per family or \$6 per individual. Reservations for this popular event should be made by Tuesday, December 23, by contacting Roni Stein at 845-223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com. Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with "Chanukah Dinner" on the memo line.

The dinner will be followed at 7:30 by our traditional, exciting, and beautiful family-friendly Chanukah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service, to which everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a menorah and candles. Cantor Goldmann will be with us that evening. If you have not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!

Don't forget your menorah and candles!

Upcoming Events

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	15	Chanukah puppet show, p.5
	18	Book Club, p.5
	27	Chanukah dinner and service, p.1

SAVE THE DATES!

Author Talk: Rena Blumenthal

January 12, 2020

Challah Baking

January 26, 2020



From the Rabbi's Desk



This year Christmas will fall right in the middle of Chanukah which begins on December 22. Personally, I prefer when Chanukah falls earlier on the secular calendar, out of the shadow of Christmas, and has its own due in its proper place as the important, but minor, holiday, that it is. I've always felt it was unfair to ask our little *Chanukah* to carry the same weight as the Christmas tree! The two holidays just cannot compare in the significance that each holds within its own faith.

At the same time, this calendar convergence does afford us the opportunity to look at the holidays in a different light (pun intended!) and to see how much they actually do have in common.

It is no coincidence that both Chanukah and Christmas are Festivals of Light, increasing light at the darkest time of the year. Whether the holidays built upon some primitive ritual to ward off the evil spirits that were believed to lurk in darkness or were simply a reaction to a human fear of the dark, they both add light at a time of year when we need it the most.

- Both holidays are times of happiness and joy, opportunities for families and friends to join together in celebration. As such, they are memory-creating occasions as well.
- Though both holidays do fall victim to commercialization, gift giving, when appropriate, is a wonderful expression of love and a way of bringing joy to others.
- Both holidays teach lessons of tzedakah, reminding us to share our joy with those who are less fortunate.
- Miracles and hope are core messages to both, though for very different reasons. For Christians, Christmas celebrates the miraculous birth of the one they believe to be their savior. For Jews, Chanukah celebrates the miraculous victory of the few against the many, of the survival of Judaism and the Jewish people against the tyrant Antiochus, and of the realization of the hope for an independent Jewish nation after some four centuries of subjugation to foreign rule.
- While Chanukah celebrates a military victory, the Haftarah reading for the Shabbat of Chanukah turns the emphasis away from war with the teaching, "Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit says God" (Zechariah 4:6). Thus, Chanukah shares in the Christmas message of hope for peace for the world.

In these ways and more, I'm sure, Christmas and Chanukah share many positive themes. Certainly, for families comprised of Jews and Christians, years such as this are a welcome opportunity to celebrate each other's holidays together.

I hope you will join us for Vassar Temple's annual candle-lit Chanukah celebration on the Shabbat of Chanukah, December 27, as we celebrate the holiday as one Temple family, filling our sanctuary with light.

This year, when we proudly light our *Chanukiot*, let us remember that we are joining with Christians as they light their Christmas trees and with African-Americans as they light the seven candles of Kwanzaa. May these lights, representing different faiths, races, and cultures, burn in unity as a reminder of the blessings of pluralism and diversity that are the bedrock upon which this great nation was founded. Let us pray that they will burn ever more brightly for many, many years to come.

May this holiday season be one of light and joy for you and your loved ones and for our entire Vassar Temple family.

Rabbi Renni Altman

From the President



I would like to use this bulletin article to take the opportunity to say thank you to the congregation. I moved into my second year as President of the Vassar Temple and I am just as excited as the day I took on the role. I'm absolutely delighted with everything that we've achieved through our successful committees and temple community. If I did my math correctly, we have about 13 new members, and a number of children joining the Religious School Program.

We have had two successful Gala events and a number of other fundrais-

ers which worked out very well. When you're the President of the congregation, you have to trust your committee leadership to do what's best. I have always believed if you assign the work out to the valued committees and they run with it, you get the best product. And, (knock on wood) we have no major problems with our physical plant.

Our most recent Gala was fun, and I enjoyed the everyone's company. The Gala was in memory of Mary Moody for her exemplary service to the community for feeding the hungry, especially her involvement in Crop Walk. The Gala committee did an amazing job on a tight budget. Though the Gala did well for Vassar Temple, our attendance was lower than expected.

I have received feedback about how we are doing the Gala and other fundraisers. I hear you and we will be hosting a meeting to discuss new ideas and different *fundraising* methods for the Temple that realistically match the needs of our

congregation. Please let me know if you have ideas that you feel would be amazing fundraisers for the Temple, and, as always, you can email or call me.

We are heading into Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's 2020. What I appreciate at Vassar Temple is that we are a diverse group of people who love and value all of our families and individual members regardless of religious beliefs, political affiliation or sexual orientation. You are all Temple family to me and I appreciate you.

Lastly, we have our amazing Hanukkah service coming up in December which is a visually beautiful holiday that warms my heart. A number of years ago, my son Aaron peeled/picked up all of the

continued on page 3

December Worship Services

6	6:00pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
7	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
13	6:00pm	Shabbat Service (lay led) with Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
14	9:00am	No Torah Study
20	6:00pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
21	9:00am 10:00am	Torah Study New Paths Service
27	7:30pm	Chanukah Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
28	9:00am	Torah Study

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays Dec. 7 & Dec. 21 at 10am in the informal setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel. The moving liturgy of the New Paths prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. Each New Paths service, whether lay led or rabbi led, provides a unique and thoughtful shabbat morning experience. A brief mini-kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com, Rabbi Altman rabbi@vassartemple.org, or the temple office 845-454-2570.

President *continued from page 2*

dripped wax from everyone's hanukiah. We took the pieces home at his request and melted them down to create one new Temple family candle. His symbolic gesture was palpable, and, at that point I realized that Aaron's sense of Jewish identity was deeply rooted as a result of our Jewish community. I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.

That said, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the many active committees, thank you for your continued support, love and kindness.

Alan Kaflowitz
845-392-8660

Vassartemplepresident@gmail.com

Scriptural Readings

Dec.	7	<i>Vayetzei</i> Gen. 28:10-32:3; Hosea 12:13-14:10
	14	<i>Vayishlach</i> Gen. 32:4-36:43; Hosea 11:7-12:12
	21	<i>Vayeishev</i> Gen. 37:1-40:23; Amos 2:6-3:8
	28	Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah <i>Mikeitz</i> Gen. 41:1-44:17; Zechariah 4:1-7; Samuel 20:18, 42 or Isaiah 66:1, 23

December 13 Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour: Plant-Based Whole Foods

Join your Vassar Temple community for a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat Happy hour on Friday, December 13. Services in the winter begin at 6pm, so join us for Happy Hour immediately following Shabbat worship. Marilyn Lampell and Andi Ciminello are hosting this month's Happy Hour featuring plant-based whole foods. Suggested donation is \$10. We thank the Vassar Temple Sisterhood for their ongoing support of these gatherings.

Mark your calendars for the January 10 Soul Food Happy Hour hosted by Melissa Wall and Jas Russo!

Interested in hosting a future Happy Hour? Hosting is fun and easy. We have an easy step-by-step guide. If you would like to host an upcoming Happy Hour, contact Melissa Erlebacher (maerlebacher@gmail.com) or Andi Ciminello (andi@ecopkny.com).

From the Ritual Corner

Chanukah will be here before we know it. The first night is on Sunday December 22. Mark your calendars for our annual Chanukah Shabbat celebration on Friday December 27. Dinner begins at 6:00pm in our Social Hall and features scrumptious potato latkes. The candle-lit Chanukah Shabbat service begins at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Bring your appetites, a Chanukah menorah, and candles to light during the service. Candles for your Chanukah menorahs are available in our Judaica shop. This is a warm, beautiful, family-friendly event. Please join us!



Mazel tov!

to

Lilli Weigert on the marriage of her son Alex, to Zachary Bloom.

Hannukah Judaica Sale

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Judaica Shoppe would love to help you with your Hannukah needs. Visit our special holiday display in the East Chapel for menorahs, candles including the Safed line from Israel, dreidels, gelt candy, holiday items, gift bags and more. Special hours Sundays Dec. 8 and Dec. 15 from 9:30am - 11:30am, in addition to regular hours Mon. - Thurs. from 10am - 2pm. For further information, to make a special appointment, or place a special order, please contact Perla Kaufman 914-456-7309.

Thank you Sue!

Many thanks to Sue Lesser, the Bulletin editor for the past 7 years. Sue's eagle eye helped to ensure the accuracy of the Bulletin.

Jo Schaffel has bravely taken over the role of Bulletin editor. We're looking forward to working with Jo and welcome her enthusiasm in taking on this important role.

Bob & Marianne Abrams

Condolences

to:

Murray Solomon on the passing of his sister, Toby Solomon

Men's Club News

I want to take a minute to thank the crews who put up and took down the sukkah, especially Dave Lampell and Ron Rosen who know how to assemble this erector set in the most efficient way. A special thanks to those who took it down in the rain.

Crew erecting the Sukkah

David Lampell chief engineer
Ron Rosen assistant engineer
David Hecht morale officer
Jeff Brenner
Alan Kafflowitz
Bob Abrams
Jonah Ritter
George Silverstein
Eric Rosenfeld
Glenn Tanzman

Crew taking down the Sukkah (in the rain!)

David Lampell wet engineer
Chuck Stein
Kurt Quackenbush
Jonah Ritter
George Silverstein
Gil Seligman
Alan Kafflowitz
Glenn Tanzman
Chuck Stein
Jerry Slate

I also want to thank all those who participated in the Men's Club Shabbat: Rabbi Golomb, Jeff Brenner, David Hecht, David Lampell, Ron Rosen, Howard Susser, Richard Levien, Jerry Slate, Bob Abrams, Jonah Ritter, and Paul Ciminello.

Just a quick reminder, you can be part of all this fun. Please pay your Men's Club dues which are \$36. Your check should be made out to Vassar Temple Men's Club and sent to the Temple office.

Glenn Tanzman

Bimah Flower Donations



- December 6: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- December 13: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- December 20: Donated by Bobbi Hulnick in honor of her grandchildren & great-grandchildren, & Melissa Erlebacher in memory of Seth Erlebacher
- December 27: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams
Editor: Jo Schaffel
Technical support & understudy: Bob Abrams

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

Religious School Update

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is always a highlight of our religious school year. Although the holiday itself falls at the end of December while we are on break, we will be preparing and having some early celebrations during religious school, as our Madrichim lead the children in making special creations to add to their home Chanukah celebrations.

This year we have a very special opportunity for families and anyone who loves puppet shows: on Sunday, December 15th we will join with Temple Beth-El, PJ library and other local congregations in sponsoring Master Puppeteer **Len Levitt and his Levity Puppets** (as seen on Shalom Sesame, the Israeli Sesame Street) for a Chanukah Puppet Show. Len Levitt has performed with

the Muppets and worked on various films including *Batman Returns* and *Men in Black*. Levitt is the creator and writer of *Alef... Bet...Blast-Off!*, which won the award from UNIMA U.S.A. for excellence in television puppetry. Along with the puppet show there will be various Chanukah games and festivities for families and children of all ages. The activities will take place at Temple Beth-El; this will include Religious School and Tiny Temple. Stay tuned for more details.

With Chanukah and Christmas overlapping this year, commercialization of these holidays will be at its height. It's easy to lose sight of the real meaning behind our holiday and its lights, with its message of religious freedom. We encourage you to deepen the meaning of Chanukah and enrich your home observances by incorporating lessons of *gemilut chasadim*; that we celebrate our blessings best by

sharing with others.

Some ways to do this might be to:

- dedicate one of the nights to giving a gift of tzedakah instead of receiving a gift.
- talk with your child/ren about different recipients for your tzedakah and make them part of the selection.
- take your child/ren shopping for a toy or book to donate. (Suggestions: Many local supermarkets collect toys; Vassar Brothers Hospital's pediatric unit welcomes new children's books -- board books to elementary age, picture books or story books.)

I hope you will join the congregation for our annual Candle-lit Chanukah Shabbat service and dinner on Friday, December 27.

Book Club to Discuss *Educated* December 18

Educated by Tara Westover, an unforgettable memoir about a young girl, kept out of school, who leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an educa-

tion, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge took her over oceans and across continents to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Educated is available in paperback through Amazon, with multiple copies available in the local library system. The meeting will take

place on Wednesday, December 18 at 2:00pm, in the Community Room of Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Barbara Mindel will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at 845-473-7931, or linda.babas.41@gmail.com. Your book suggestions for future meetings are always appreciated.

Community Organizing at Vassar Temple

The Social Justice Team at Vassar Temple is beginning the process of community organizing among our membership in order to engage in Tikkun Olam. What does this mean to you? We will talk to everyone interested either in one-to-one meetings or small groups.

Our goals are twofold. First, we are interested in your views about making the world a better place. What is really important to you and what motivates you to act in accordance with your views? Listening to your concerns is our first priority. Even if you might not be able to actively participate in actions that we

might collectively decide to pursue, your views are important.

Second, we would like to form a team that can take these concerns and motivations and find actions that can systematically move us toward accomplishing the goals we set. We might join with other local Jewish organizations, perhaps the Interfaith Council, or other organizations that support the same goals. Our purpose is not just to make noise and get noticed, but to find ways that can effectively make real change. If you want to get involved you can contact me at hssusser@gmail.com or call me at 845-206-8496.

Howard Susser

Study at Vassar Temple

Torah Study, which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah, will be led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, D.D., 9-10am Saturdays (no class Dec. 14).

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text, a monthly class taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held Thursday Dec. 19 from noon to 1:30. Please call us at 845-454-2570 to confirm the date.

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

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood Recipe Corner

Four members of the Sisterhood Executive Board attended a Kallah of the Women of Reform Judaism's Northeast District during the last weekend in October. We spent the weekend with about 60 Sisterhood members from New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. It was inspiring to see all of the positive things that are being done and to know that our Sisterhood is in the thick of it in terms of ideas, fundraising, and programming. We returned home energized with new ideas, and proud that our presentation of our successes garnered the most enthusiasm of the day.

We have some exciting events coming up, including the Hanukkah dinner on December 27, at which point we will be drawing the raffle ticket for the lap quilt. If you have renewed your annual commitment to Sisterhood for the 2019-2020 year, you are automatically entered in the drawing. If not, there is still time to support us. If you are not sure, just ask!

Watch your weekly emails or the Sisterhood Facebook page for the location of our December Chai Noon Luncheon, on Wednesday the 18th.

Starting with this issue of the bulletin, Sisterhood will be including a recipe, space permitting. Please see our latke recipes in this issue. If you have a recipe to share in a future issue, please send it to sisterhood@vassartemple.org for all to enjoy.

Coming up on January 26, 2020 is a Challah baking program. Learn to make Sandra Mamis' incredible stuffed challahs. If you have tried them at any of the Happy Hours, I know you will want to be there. Watch for details.

*In Sisterhood,
Marcia Tanzman*

HIAS Welcome Campaign

Last month the Vassar Temple Board of Directors passed a resolution to join other area Jewish congregations to become a Welcoming Congregation to support the work of The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), a 136-year-old refugee organization of the Jewish Community. The HIAS Welcome Campaign is a network of congregations across the United States who are advocating for refugees, raising awareness about the refugee crisis, and welcoming refugees into their local communities. While it is unlikely that additional refugees will be settled in Dutchess County through HIAS, Vassar Temple and a strong network of congregations throughout the Hudson Valley can advocate, volunteer, donate and educate to support the important work of HIAS. More details about this project will be in upcoming Bulletins and Temple communications. For further information about this important effort, please see www.HIAS.org/welcome-campaign.

As Hanukkah approaches, the latke debate starts up once again. Do you grate your potatoes, or do you blend them? Do you use matzoh meal or flour? What kind of potatoes do you use? Do you prefer sour cream or applesauce?

Here are both versions for you to choose from. No matter how you prepare them, wishing you peace and joy during the Festival of Lights.

Crunchy Potato Latkes – Submitted by Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

1 sweet potato
5 white potatoes
1 large onion
2 tsp. salt
3 eggs
3 T. matzoh meal or flour
¾ cup oil for frying

Peel potatoes and cut into large pieces. Shred potatoes in food processor with shredder. Remove and drain excess liquid. Put steel blade in processor and process onion. Add to potatoes along with salt, eggs and matzoh meal or flour. Heat 2-3 tablespoons of oil in a pan and allow oil to get hot. Add mixture by tablespoons into pan. Fry until golden brown and then flip and fry other side. Drain on paper towels. Do the same with each batch, adding oil as needed. Serve with sour cream or applesauce.

Estelle's Potato Latkes – Submitted by Marcia Tanzman

4 white potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
2 medium onions, peeled and cut into chunks
2 eggs
1 ½ tsp. salt
Dash pepper
¼ cup matzoh meal
2 Tbs. oil
Additional oil for frying

Crack one egg into the blender and add half the potatoes and onions. Blend until no longer lumpy, but don't overprocess. It should not be too smooth. Pour into a bowl and repeat with the remaining egg, potato and onion. Add that to the same bowl and mix in salt, pepper, matzoh meal and oil. Heat 2-3 tablespoons of oil in a pan and allow oil to get hot. Add latkes to pan and fry until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Continue until all latkes are cooked. Serve with sour cream or applesauce.

Community Solar at Vassar Temple

Judaism, like many other faiths, teaches that we have a moral responsibility for stewardship of the earth. In response to the urgent reality of global warming, faith leaders are increasingly taking actions that conserve and protect our environment.

The Dutchess County Interfaith Council has taken action by entering into a partnership with Nexamp Community Solar. Nexamp's solar farms are part of New York's community solar program, which allows electric utility customers to subscribe to a share of a local farm and receive credits on their utility bills for the energy produced by that share. Member congregations will receive a discount on electricity costs, and Nex-

amp will make a donation to the DCIC in proportion to the organization's allocation.

The Vassar Temple Board of Trustees is proud to be the first DCIC member to enroll. We will save on electricity, support renewable energy generation in New York State, reduce use of fossil fuels, support the DCIC (of which we are a charter member), and demonstrate environmental leadership in the community. This decision reflects the URJ's 2017 resolution encouraging congregations to work with community interfaith partners to advocate for and work to implement climate change solutions.

Congregants also have the opportunity to sign up for residential community solar with Nexamp. For each household that participates, Nexamp will make donations to both Vassar Temple and the

DCIC. If you have been wondering how to "go solar" without installing rooftop panels, or if this is not feasible on your home, this is an ideal option. There is no cost to join, no equipment installed on your home, no long-term commitment, guaranteed savings, and no cancellation fee.

For more information about the temple's participation please contact our VP, Susan Karnes Hecht at skarneshecht@gmail.com. If you would like specific program information, please contact Yushi Kawasumi, Nexamp representative, at 201-314-3799 and identify yourself as a temple member.

Security Updates

There have been recent upgrades to Temple security.

An intercom and a remote magnetic lock system have been installed at the front door. It is now possible for the staff to identify visitors to the Temple and allow them entry from their desks. Please note that the **left-hand door** is the one with the magnetic lock which can be unlocked remotely. In combination with the cameras already in place, this provides an extra level of security for the staff, students, and congregants.

We want to thank Vassar Temple Sisterhood for funding these improvements. Upon arrival at the Temple:

- Please ring the white doorbell located on the left-hand door.
- Staff will ask for your name and purpose of your visit via intercom. Push the intercom button (to left of doors) to speak. Release it to listen.
- When you hear the sound of the door being released, enter through the left-hand door.

You may have noticed the City of Poughkeepsie Police presence at our recent outdoor events including celebrations in our Sukkah and monthly

Happy Hours. This is in addition to our existing practice of having professional security during the High Holy Days.

Thanks to a generous donation, our social hall windows were replaced and are more resistant to tampering.

We continue to review sensible ways to upgrade security at the Temple and will keep you informed of further improvements.

The Vassar Temple Board of Trustees

Upcoming DCIC Events

Story Circle

Wed. Dec. 4, 7pm

Explore this house of worship, share a story, or just come to listen. Refreshments. Kagyu Thubten Chöling Buddhist Monastery (245 Sheafe Rd., Wappingers Falls)

DCIC Fair Trade and Handmade Bazaar

Sat. Dec. 7, 11am- 5pm & Sun. Dec. 8, 11am-3pm

An international marketplace of distinctive handmade and Fair Trade crafts, gifts, jewelry, food, live music and more!

At the Hellenic Center (54 Park Ave., Poughkeepsie)

For further information, visit dutchesscountyinterfaith.org or call 845-471-7333

Contributions

RABBI'S FUND

In Memory Of:

Matthew Lampell

Susie Matlin & Scott Piccone

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Altman

Oliver Mackson

Muriel Lampell

Irma Jacobs

Sandra Mamis

Lila Matlin

Susie Matlin & Scott Piccone

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Lester W. Fries

The Metzger Family

Albert E. Schwartz

Ralph Schwartz

Alan Lemberger

Susan & Allen Fink

Regina Levy-Ribbi

Susan & Allen Fink

Philip Browner Lacher

Miriam Browner Lacher

Esther Mardon Bernstein

J. Ralph Stein

Bernard Himmelstein

Solomon Tanzman

Nathan Givner

Lawrence Slate

Rose Slate

Hildegard Tuchmann

Michael Aronson

Toby Solomon

Matt Lampell

Alan Lemberger

In Honor of:

Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann

Janice Goldfarb

Ruth Goldfarb

Rabbi Altman, Sandra Mamis,

Susan & David Hecht The Lemberger Family

Richard Cantor, wishing him well Lila Matlin

Kathy & Kent Mardon

Charles & Roni Stein

Howard Himmelstein

Glenn & Marcia Tanzman

Roslyn Kaflowitz

Jerold Slate

Jerold Slate

Doi Cohen

Lila Matlin

Irma Jacobs

Vivian & Ed Garber

Tomasina Schneider

Sheryl Miller

SOCIAL ACTION - LUNCH BOX

In Honor of:

Thank you to The Turk Family for

Chai Noon Luncheon

The October Luncheon Attendees

MILDRED GOULD

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of:

Toby Solomon

Ralph & Marian Schwartz

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Marty Shenman

Jim Robinowitz

LIGHTING FOR OUR NEW SIGN

In Memory of:

Mary Ann Robinowitz

Jim Robinowitz

Souper Sale Time



With the cold months upon us let's come together and purchase hearty soups for families that aren't able to purchase for themselves. Send in your tax-deductible donations of any amount to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Ave Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Please put "Souper Sale" on the memo line. Your donations will be used to purchase scrip which benefits the temple as well.

Soup pickup will be at Vassar Temple this year in conjunction with the soup/chili dinner on January 31, 2020. I will be picking up the cases and bringing them to the temple to make pick up easier.

Deliveries will be made to the various food pantries in the area: Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership, Interfaith Senior Housing, and Morse Magnet Elementary School.

Please reach out to me to let me know where you'd like to deliver and how many cases you can take.

Thank you in advance for your donations.

Shaari Roland

shaarirs@gmail.com

845-494-1365

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: Dec. 1

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 December 1, 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. (We have your six.)



YAHREZEITS

DECEMBER 6

Gussie Bernstein
Solomon Berger
Bea Russotto
Marion Himelstein
Susan Baker
Larry Adler
Miriam Feitelson
Lillian Friedman
Sadie Breit
Sandra Lipschitz
Martin Markowitz
Julius Klein
Leo Loeb
Carl Gross
Minnie Shapiro
Ruth Bagun
Elsa Cohen
Shirley Ernest
Wilford Wittenberg
Thomas Nolan
Judith Siegel

DECEMBER 13

Louis Dubler
Rhea Sumner
Clara Lewin
Allan E. Dampf
Jordan Taylor
Helen Wrobel
Esther Yelsky
Abe Barnett
Anna Cairo
Erna Konheim
Eileen Dermody
Aaron Slote

DECEMBER 20

Kate Hecht
Seth A. Erlebacher
Lillian Lox
Ruth Seegal Cohen
Marilyn Sirkus
Dr. Charles Kovacs
Ilse B. Dreyfuss
Beatrice Snyder
Nathaniel Rubin
Belle G. Adler
Evelyn Lesser
Joseph Weber
Evelyn Luttinger
William Robinowitz
Stella W. Renick
Goldie Bleich
Dr. Doris Berlin-Acker
Philip Wolfson
Louis Rosen

DECEMBER 27

Mildred Tauber
Elaine Hendricks
Cynthia Rosenblum
Leah Michel
Maurice L. Troeger
Albert Barchilon
Michael Goldfinger
Selma Kahn
Leah W. Cohen
Deborah H. Jacobs
Celia Kraut
Joseph L. Kahn
Bernard Cohen
Reine Reinhart
Dr. Joseph R. Levy
Joseph Fa'gut
Henry Solomonson
Barnet B. Shelton

HEROES AMONG US: Didi Barrett: The Embodiment of *Tikkun Olam*

A new program for post B'nei mitzvah students

Starting December 8, Rabbi Altman will be leading an informal program of learning and discussion for post B'nei Mitzvah students from 12 -1 on days that religious school is in session. Topics will vary from current issues to Jewish themes in movies to Israel. The program is still in formation but we expect to have guest teachers throughout the year as well. Topics will change every few weeks so even if students cannot make it every week, they can still participate and gain something from the experience. All teens are encouraged to check it out! For more information and to register, please contact Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vassartemple.org.

I would venture to guess that there are few aspects of life in the Hudson Valley that have not been influenced by this month's "Hero Among Us." Whether it involves education technology, development of agricultural, natural, historical and cultural resources, women's advocacy, environmental conservation, health issues, tourism or economic development, our Hero's work has had a tremendous impact. I am delighted to feature our distinguished fellow congregant, New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett, as this month's Hero.

Didi's Hudson Valley roots were planted before WWII when her grandfather and great-uncle purchased a farm in Ancramdale. Didi was born in the Hudson Valley, and her family moved to California where she was raised and went to college. She returned to NYC for several years before moving back to the Hudson Valley with her own family. Didi's engaged presence has been instrumental to the region's growth and prosperity over the past three decades since she returned. As an elected Assemblymember serving constituents in more than 700 square miles within Columbia and Dutchess Counties, Didi has demonstrated exemplary service through her successive terms since 2014.

But with innate modesty, Didi does not

classify herself as a "Hero." She says the real heroes are those for whom her most recent endeavors advocate. Those include programs to support war veterans through the Veterans Affairs Committee and collaborations with the Posse Foundation, as well as initiatives to help those coping with mental health issues. Didi is serving on the Mental Health Committee and works with Outdoors Rx, a collaboration with the Sierra Club that combines environmental advocacy with wellness, health, and well-being. Driven by compassion, Didi is pursuing in these programs in order to normalize and destigmatize the challenges these individuals confront on a regular basis.

While Didi declined to offer a preview of her talk at the December 6 Shabbat services, her many endeavors are certain to produce informative and inspiring content. Through her work, this proud member of the Vassar Temple community fulfills the core Jewish obligation of *Tikkun Olam*. Didi Barrett, the world you inhabit in the Hudson Valley is a better place because you are in it, and for that, we thank you.

Jennifer Sachs Dahnert

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December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Religious School 10:30am Lunchbox	2	3 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	4 4:30pm Hebrew School	5 10am SEP 7pm Ritual Committee Meeting	6 6pm Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann	7 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
8 9am Religious School 9am Judaica Sale 12pm Post B'nei Mitzvah program	9	10 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	11 4:30pm Hebrew School	12 10am SEP	13 6pm Shabbat Service 7:30pm Happy Hour	14 No Torah Study
15 9am Religious School 9am Judaica Sale 10:30am Tiny Temple Chanukah 12pm Post B'nei Mitzvah program	16	17 10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	18 12 noon Chai Noon 2pm VTS Book Club 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance Cmte	19 10am SEP 12 Noon Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb 7pm VT Board Meeting	20 6pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths
22 Erev Chanukah No Religious School No Post-B'nei Mitzvah program	23	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed No Hebrew School	26 10am SEP 6:30pm Shelter Meal	27 6pm Chanukah Dinner 7:30pm Chanukah Shabbat Service	28 9am Torah Study
29 No Religious School No Post-B'nei Mitzvah program	30	31 New Years Eve				