



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 167, No. 6 January 2020

Wender Music Shabbat

*“Mi Shebeirach,” “L’chi Lach,”
“Ahavat Olam...”*

These are some of Vassar Temple’s favorite Debbie Friedman compositions. On Friday evening, January 10, in celebration of the inaugural “Charles and Dorothy Wender Music Shabbat,” we will pray most of our service to the inspiring and joyous melodies of Debbie Friedman. Debbie, a self-taught musician, was writing liturgical songs and leading worship at URJ summer camps as a teenager. She gained momentum, adoration and love throughout her short life, having passed away 9 years ago at the age of 59. Though she was born only 13 years before I was, I don’t remember synagogue music without her music. I sang several of her compositions in my temple’s junior choir including her well-known English setting of the *V’ahavta*.

Debbie’s dedication to bringing Jewish liturgical text to life in the modern era remained vigorous throughout her career as she produced 22 albums of soulful Jewish music. So immense was her influence on Reform synagogue music that our cantorial seminary, Hebrew Union College, was named for her after her death in 2011.

Though I usually pride myself in leading eclectic services with a variety of musical styles, I am particularly excited to focus on the life and music of Debbie Friedman on January 10. I imagine that as we worship with Debbie’s melodies -- some familiar, some new -- we will feel like summer campers ourselves: lifted by the spirit, beauty and passion of these brilliant settings.

I so look forward to singing with you at our first Wender Music Shabbat!!

Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann

Soup & Chili Dinner

Please join us at 6 pm on Friday, January 31, for a soup and chili dinner as part of a wonderful Tisch Shabbat.

Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann will lead the Tisch Shabbat for us in the social hall. A “Tisch” or Table Shabbat is held around the Shabbat table and features lots of singing and stories. By using Visual Tefillah in lieu of prayer books, this joyful worship experience heightens a sense of community and connection.

Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread and salad to be enjoyed during the service.

Donations for the dinner are very welcome and checks should be made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

While reservations are not required, we would greatly appreciate having an idea of how much food to prepare. If possible, please let Roz Kafflowitz know you are coming by January 28 at roslynkafflowitz@gmail.com or 845-297-4320.

Upcoming events

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February

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Jewish Welcome Baby Expo

On January 12 Vassar Temple will join PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley and JFedDC for “A Jewish Welcome” Baby Expo, held at Oakwood Friends School, 22 Spackenkill Road, from 10am until 12 noon. The event will feature different Jewish institutions and vendors who provide services specific to families with young children and expectant parents. This is a great opportunity to showcase our Temple family and our programs that are focused specifically on young families. Our energetic *Madrichim* group and our song leader, Olivia DiIorio, will join us to provide some hands-on activities for young children and their families. We thank Beth Plotsky for her leadership with the Religious School Committee and PJ Library. Thank you also to Perla Kaufman for coordinating the “swag” and for her great photography of these events.

We need some help “staffing” the table from 10-12 that day. Please contact membership@vassartemple.org if you can help.

From the Rabbi's Desk



“More than the Jewish People has kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish People.” This quote from the Zionist thinker and Jewish philosopher Ahad Ha-Am is one

of my favorite teachings about Shabbat. Just as keeping Shabbat sustains me spiritually as an individual, so, too, does Shabbat keep me connected to my Jewish community and to the Jewish people as a whole – past, present, and future.

Shabbat is certainly a centrifugal force at Vassar Temple. Shabbat “regulars” know well the power of community that is bound together through prayer, song, learning and fellowship. Someone is missed when they are not there. There is true joy when recognizing *simchas* in each other’s lives – large and not so large. There is support when we endure challenges. On these dark and cold winter nights, we gather together first to welcome Shabbat with the warmth of Shabbat candles, Kiddush and *motzi*, followed by a nosh and schmooze at our “pre-neg” before our worship begins. The earlier time of winter services give us the opportunity for a more leisurely –

albeit later – Shabbat dinner. If you’re not among the regulars, we would welcome you to come and check it out! If you don’t know the songs, just hum along. We guarantee you will be uplifted by the communal spirit of our Shabbat.

I do want to call your attention to a very special Shabbat service on Friday, January 10 – the first Charles and Dorothy Wender Music Shabbat, named in honor of my in-laws by my sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Marsha and Richard Timmerman, whose generosity made it possible for Cantor Goldmann to be our cantor. As many of you heard during the Shabbat service this summer when we recognized the Timmermans for their generous gift to our congregation, the Timmermans chose to establish a gift fund out of a portion of their earnings from some recent investments as a way to give back for their good fortune. They had already decided to make a gift to my discretionary fund when we learned that we were not matched with a cantorial student for this year. Hiring an ordained cantor would require more funds than we had in our budget. Given the centrality of music to our worship services, it immediately became clear to me how best to apply this gift and Marsha was quite supportive.

Establishing an annual Music Shabbat seemed a natural and meaningful way to recognize this gift within our community. And, rather than have the Shabbat in her

name, my sister-in-law chose to honor her parents.

I hope that you will join us for our first Music Shabbat with Cantor Goldmann which will feature the music of beloved composer Debbie Friedman (ז”ל) when we will, indeed, “Sing a new song unto God.” (see article on p.1)

Even with this generous gift, we still need funds to sustain it over time and we invite contributions to the Music Fund and sponsorships of Cantor Goldmann’s visits. If you would like to help ensure cantorial leadership at Vassar Temple, please contact Music Chair Bob Abrams at music@vassar temple.org.

Shabbat at Vassar Temple would not be complete without opportunities to enjoy an occasional Shabbat meal as well: following the Music Shabbat on January 10, there will be a Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour; and, we will round out the month with our annual Soup and Chili Shabbat – a wonderful communal experience not to be missed! This month we will add to our regular Shabbat morning offerings of Torah study and New Paths with an Intergenerational Shabbat on Jan. 25.

I look forward to spending Shabbat with you.

Religious School Update

I am pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Ann and Abe Effron Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. This grant will enable us to enhance our Hebrew instruction with the purchase of Chrome Books so that our 5th and 6th grade students can access online Hebrew software that coordinates with their material. Students who have passed the primer level of Hebrew instruction, and know all of the letters and vowels, advance to an independent learning program called *Mitkadem*, offered by Behrman House Publishers. With these materials students learn to read and understand the prayers, proceeding at their own pace, with teacher support and assistance as needed. This year we introduced a digital version of the program where they can hear

the prayers being read aloud so that students can more easily practice at home (especially if their parents cannot read Hebrew). Now, with the acquisition of the Chrome Books, students will be able to hear the prayers being read aloud and correct themselves in the classroom without having to wait for the teacher, who may be working with other students. As well, for students who are aural learners, hearing the prayers being read to them will help to re-enforce their learning and correct pronunciation.

We are very grateful to the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and look forward to exploring the many ways in which this new technology will enhance our students’ learning and education.

Rabbi Renni Altman

Thank you from Teen Closet

Vassar Temple received a thank you note from the Teen Closet, which serves students in Poughkeepsie Middle School and Poughkeepsie High School, for our tzedakah donation. On the principle that material need should not impede learning, the Teen Closet preserves the privacy and dignity of the student while providing access to personal hygiene needs, undergarments, winter essentials, and emergency food relief, so that every student can come to school feeling healthy, secure, confident, and ready to learn. We are so pleased to be able to help this wonderful organization!

January Worship Services

3	6:00pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
4	9:00am 10:15am	Torah Study New Paths Service
10	6:00pm	Music Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
11	9:00am 10:30am	Torah Study Shabbat Y'ladam
17	6:00pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
18	9:00am 10:15am	Torah Study New Paths Service
24	6:00pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
25	9:00am	Intergenerational Shabbaton with Rabbi Altman (no Torah Study)
31	6:00pm	Soup & Chili Dinner and Tisch Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman & Cantor Goldmann (in Social Hall)

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Contact [Sandra Mamis, scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org) or 914-456-3524 to place your order, or contact the temple office at 845-454-2570.

Lunch Box Sponsors

We are grateful to our members who have each underwritten the Lunch Box shopping for one month: Dan and Susan Albinder, Howard Susser in memory of Eloise Ross, Brian Silverman, Ed and Vivian Garber, Rabbi Arnold, and the Colodner family in memory of Jesse Colodner and Manuel Darwin.

Scriptural Readings

Jan.	4	<i>Vayigash</i> Gen. 44:18-47-27; Ezekiel 37:15-28
	11	<i>Va-y'chi</i> Gen. 47:28-50:26; Kings 2:1-12
	18	<i>Sh'mot</i> Ex. 1:1-6:1; Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23
	25	<i>Va-eira</i> Ex. 6:2-9:35; Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Study Groups 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 Jan.25--come to Intergenerational Shabbat!).

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text, a monthly class taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will be held Thursday Jan. 16 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, or Rabbi Golomb: pjgolomb@verizon.net

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths sabbath morning service Saturdays Jan. 4 & Jan. 18 at **10:15am** (new time!) 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.

Mazel Tov

Welcome New Members

To:

Joan and David Posner on the birth of their grandson, Max Jackson Posner, born to Michael Posner and Katie Legomsky

Please welcome:

Jenny, Paul and Shea Ward
Sandra Cornell, mother of Jenny Ward

Healing Service Feb. 1

A Healing Service led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann will be held Saturday Feb. 1 from 10:30am until noon. This service is designed for anyone praying for healing of the body, soul and spirit for themselves or others, for caregivers, and for anyone in need of spiritual strength. The service will be held in the round, and will include prayers, reflections and songs that focus on healing and on Shabbat. There will also be a Torah reading. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Altman with any questions at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

Intergenerational Shabbaton

“What’s in a Name?”

On Saturday January 25 at 9am, come learn more about why names matter, and the many names by which we might call God. In that day’s Torah portion, *Vaeira* -- “and I appeared” -- God reveals the Divine Name to Moses, saying, “I am the Eternal. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by my name, YHVH.” Everyone, from young children to adults, is invited to join us in the Social Hall for a light bite, discussion, stories, and activities, based on this theme that are appropriate for every age. Then we’ll have a short Shabbat morning service and lunch. So bring your children, bring your parents, to come and find out “what’s in a name!” To help with our planning, please RSVP to Marcia Tanzman at mtanzman16@gmail.com.

Opportunity to Sponsor Cantor Goldmann

Most of the congregation has heard Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann’s wonderful vocal talents, whether at recent High Holy Day services or during special Friday evening or Saturday morning Shabbat Services. We continue to need the congregation’s financial assistance to defray expenses and to help ensure cantorial leadership at Vassar Temple into the future.

Please consider helping the temple with a contribution to the *Music Fund*. For more information, please contact *Bob Abrams* at music@vassartemple.org.

Bimah Flowers Donations



- January 3: Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Greta Blaine
- January 10: Donated by Gloria Turk
- January 17: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- January 24: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- January 31: Donated by Joan and David Posner in memory of Ronah Posner

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.

Condolences:

To:

Shira Teich, on the loss of her grandmother, Estelle Rozenberg

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, on the loss of her father, David Berkowitz

Men’s Club Update

I hope that you were there for a special moment in the Men’s Club Shabbat when all 14 men who participated put their arms around each other to receive the Rabbi’s blessing. It was truly a spiritual moment. I’d like to thank all of those who participated for a seamless service and an enjoyable evening. Thanks to Sisterhood and Jo Schaffel and Dan Scherrer for sponsoring the Oneg.

We are planning new activities soon, like an afternoon at Buffalo Wild Wings for beer and football. So check the weekly announcements for more info. It’s also not too late to join Men’s Club. You can send your check for \$36 to the temple office. Make it out to Vassar Temple Men’s Club.

Happy New Year and we hope to see you soon at a Men’s Club event.

Glenn Tanzman

Men’s Club President

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams

Editor: Jo Schaffel

Technical support & understudy
Bob Abrams

Articles for the **February 2020 Bulletin** must be submitted by **January 1** sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Sisterhood Bulletin

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2021.

As Reform Jews we strive to improve the world in which we live. Sisterhood will join with the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association on Sunday, January 5 to serve lunch at the Family Partnership in Poughkeepsie. Many thanks to our captain Ronni Jarvis and to everyone who will be helping out.

Thank you to all who donated to our November Rummage Sale and to Roni Stein, Ann Lerman, Ronni Jarvis, Susan Needleman, and Judy Rosenfeld for all their help setting up and working at the sale. It was a monumental task. If I left anyone out, please accept my apologies. Watch for future news as we plan to change the name of our sale and how items will be accepted. It will help us make our fundraising efforts even more successful. We welcome you to attend a planning meeting. Let me know if you can help out.

Hope to see you all at the Challah Baking Program on Sunday, January 26 and at the Soup and Chili Dinner on Friday, January 31. Look for more details on how to RSVP in this Bulletin.

Without you, we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman
Sisterhood President

Challah Baking Program: Sunday January 26

VT Sisterhood invites everyone to learn how to make an easy challah recipe, plain or stuffed, 3, 4 or 6 braids. The fun starts at 9:30am, Sunday January 26.

Come and get dusted with flour, and have a few laughs while you are at it! Leave with your own loaf!

All you need to bring is a baking sheet and a rolling pin, if you have one of each. And if you don't, it is OK; come anyway.

RSVP to mamis@optonline.net by January 18, 2020 IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY so enough materials will be on hand for all who wish to participate. Space is limited.

CROP Walk Results

The results are in, and due to our stalwart walkers and their generous sponsors, the Vassar Temple team raised \$3,025 for the Inter-faith CROP Walk Against Hunger. Thanks to all the sponsors and to our team members: teens Mariel Kelson and Matt Sinn, along with Rabbi Altman (highest pledge amount), Perla Kaufman, Muriel Lampell, Polly Lewis, Ron Rosen and his granddaughter Maya, Ralph Schwartz, George Silverstein, Michele Sinn, and Dave Wolf. Special thanks to Ron for acting as our Temple Recruiter as well as Team Captain, and to Linda Babas and Marian Schwartz for their hard work all day at the registration table. About 25% of the money raised will come back to help in our home community; the rest going to combat hunger nationally and globally.

Challah Recipe

2 pkg. yeast
1 ½ cup warm water
1/3 cup honey
1/3 cup vegetable oil
¼ cup sugar
3 eggs, beaten
1 ¼ tsp. coarse salt
2 pinches saffron, dissolved in 1 tsp. water (optional)
6-7 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside for 5 to 8 minutes. Using wooden spoon, stir in honey, oil, eggs, salt, saffron and sugar. Add approximately 5 cups flour. Stir well. Gradually add remaining flour until dough begins to come away from bowl. Knead on floured board until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes. Place dough in large oiled bowl, turning to grease top. Cover and let rise in warm, draft-free place until doubled, about 2 hours. Punch dough down. Let rise again until doubled. Punch down again. Divide dough into 2 portions. Cut each half into 3 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a strip about 18" long. Place 3 strips on greased baking sheet. Braid, fastening strips securely at both ends. Repeat with second half of dough. Cover; let rise again until doubled. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Lower oven temp. to 350 degrees and continue baking for 30 – 35 minutes. Put on rack to cool.

Adult Education Committee Book Discussion

On January 12, 2020, the Vassar Temple Adult Education Committee will host Rabbi Rena Blumenthal, who will discuss her novel, *The Book of Israela*, at 12:30pm in the social hall.

The Book of Israela is a compelling story about a hapless, faithless, Jerusalem psychologist during the worst of the intifada, as well as a sustained biblical allegory about Israel's volatile relationship with God.

Rabbi Blumenthal is a freelance rabbi based in New Paltz. From 2003-2014 she served as the Assistant Director of the Office of Spiritual Life and Advisor to Jewish students at Vassar College. She received ordination in 2003 from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is a member of the Reconstructionist Rabbi Association, a member of the Rabbin Without Borders network, and a graduate of the Rabbinic training program at the Institute of Jewish Spirituality. Prior to attending Rabbinic school, she served as a psychologist for 15 years in New York City and Jerusalem.

As a freelance rabbi, Rena continues to teach, lead services, and officiate at life cycle events, as well as serving as a consultant for campus Jewish life with a particular focus on campuses with small Jewish communities.

There will be a light lunch and drinks provided at the discussion.

Books will be available for sale at the discussion by Three Arts Bookstore.

Vassar Temple Trims a Thanksgiving

Together we did it! Because of all the trimming foods, turkeys, and financial donations generously made by our members, Vassar Temple once again has enabled 10 local families in need to celebrate a joyous Thanksgiving. In preparing for their roles in this undertaking, special lessons given our Temple children and teens deepened their understanding of Jewish teachings relating to *gamilus chasidim* (acts of loving kindness). Then our religious school children put their hearts and souls into decorating gift baskets, and our teens did an admirable job filling the baskets with the bounty of food everyone had donated. Included were extras, from festive napkins to sturdy roasting pans. Everything was picked up by staff from Hudson River Housing for delivery to the families in time for the holiday. Thanks to ALL our donors, and a special note of appreciation to Rabbi Altman and our religious school teachers, bookkeeper Irene Vasquez, and super *schlepper* Ralph Schwartz, without whom this project would not have been the success that it was.

Vassar Temple Social Action Committee

VT/MHIA Cooperative Lunch Box Project

The Vassar Temple/Mid-Hudson Islamic Association cooperative Lunch Box service project is in full swing, with groups from both communities jointly cooking meals at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie and then serving those meals to between 60 and 90 area residents. Moving into 2020, the following VT/MHIA participants will be serving at the Lunch Box:

- January 5 -- Sisterhood groups
- February 2 -- Religious Schools
- March 1 -- Youth Groups
- April 5 -- Board Members
- May 3 -- Mitzvah Day
- June 7 -- VT/MHIA members

There is a need for volunteers at each and all of the above dates (culinary talent not required). Vassar Temple members who are interested in assisting should contact [Paul Ciminello at Paul@ecopkny.com](mailto:Paul.Ciminello@ecopkny.com).

Contributions

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Elsa Cohen	Doi Cohen
Ruth Seegal Cohen	Doi Cohen
Solomon Berger	Rita Jacobson
Anna Cairo	Marilyn & Marty Revitz
Kate Hecht	The Hecht Family
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Goldie Bleich	Muriel Lampell
Joseph L. Kahn	Muriel Lampell
Selma Kahn	Muriel Lampell
Nathaniel Rubin	Eleanor & Martin Charwat

In Honor of:

Vassar Temple	Lou Lewis
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Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Sabbath)

All children, from birth to first grade, are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to the Temple on Sat. Jan. 11 from 10:30-11am, 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.



Rummage Sale Report

On November 10 Sisterhood ran another successful Rummage Sale. Thank you to everyone who donated merchandise – we raised a great deal of money. We also want to thank everyone who volunteered their time either sorting, setting up, or working at the sale: Betty Renner, Roz Kafowitz, Susan Needelman, Marcia Tanzman, Michele Sinn, Judy Rosenfeld, Ann Harmuth, Roni Stein, Ellen Danziger, Joyce Gally, Lisa Rubinstein, Nadine Zaritsky, Patty Ann Clark, Shannon Clark, and Linda Babas. Hailey Kafowitz, Amanda Moore and the *madrachim* are always helpful. Everything went very smoothly and we appreciated everyone's efforts. We are looking forward to our next sale in the spring on April 19, 2020 – start collecting your donations!

Ann Lerman and Ronni Jarvis

Rummage Co-Chairs

YAHREZITS

JANUARY 3

Rabbi Sigmund Israel
Ida Krevolin
Herman R. Gross
Frances Rosen
Morris Effron
Meyer Miller
Faye Seif
Rose Brond
Jean Citron
Harry Fogle
Keith Warner Landau
DeWitt Fischman
Donald DeWitt
Harris Harold Groten
Alma Barbash
Dr. Bertram Katz
Joseph Robinson
Greta Blaine

JANUARY 10

Ruth Stein
Yetta Horn
Betty Israel
Bessie Trivers
John Ciminello
Monte Tate Brown
Ethel Haber
Rae Lipman
Anne Richmond
Beatrice Salit Horn
Gabrielle Soroka
Dr. Charles Scope
Bess Cluster Kaufman
Leon Krauss
Dorothy Vogel
George Meltzer
Gloria Menken
Evelyn Tanzman

JANUARY 17

Clara Dorn
Shirley Lipschutz
Gerald Mamis
Andrea Sue Rabin
Guiseppe Ribbi
Bella Albert
John Garlock
Stanley Markum
Sally Collen
Hody I. Gellert
Louis Satz
Herbert L. Strauss
Thelma Fival
Herman D. Chertock
Geraldine Geller
Lois Grand
Dr. Donald L. Goldfarb
Betty Golomb
Stephen Bokor
Morris S. Rosen
Joseph Solomon
Daniel Russotto
Sarah Sacharoff
Doris Preis Rubinow
Katherine Mamis

JANUARY 24

Belle Baum Fein
Stanley Krell
Helen Wagner
Miriam Rosenberg
Oppenheimer
Andrew H. Erdreich
Joseph Effron
Ruth Haber
William Haber
Sidney Friedman
Herman Yelsky
Bessie Lipschutz
Henry Seligman
Judel Lampert
Dr. William Feinbloom
Joseph Baskin
Ann J. Miller
Fred I. Siegel
Jennie Yanpolsky
Elizabeth Satz
Joan Golomb
Jesse Colodner

JANUARY 31

Morris Kahn
Davida Krevolin
Joseph Marcus
Walter L. Mock, Jr.
Betty DeGeorge
Melvin Lesser
Shirley LaLone
Naomi Goldberg
Andrew Frederick Mendel
Mark C. Schwartz
Joel Babas
Alan S. Rubenstein
Isadore Shefts
Pauline Gross
Leonard H. Arnold
Virginia Newman
Livingston
Irving Wrobel
Nancy Levinson
Alan Pack Greller
Dr. Russell B.
Oppenheimer
Ronah Gordon Posner
Mark Rosenthal
Lewis Krevolin
Susan Matlin
Gertrude Rothstein
Vernon Leslie Brundage

HEROES AMONG US: THE HIDDEN HEROES

This issue marks eighteen months since my first “Heroes Among Us” article. Eighteen – *Chai* – seems an appropriate moment to think a bit differently on this theme, and I now offer the following to give you food for thought as we turn the page on a new calendar year.

Since the beginning of this column, I have been honored to write about members of our Congregation who, in various ways, have shaped and influenced the life of our community. At the same time, there are scores of others who, in various ways, demonstrate ongoing selfless acts that also make them heroes. It is the gestures these others make toward those near and far, family and friends, acquaintances and strangers – giving a ride, making a meal, dropping a note, lending a hand, speaking up for those who can’t speak for themselves – that make them day-to-day heroes. Their subtle acts of heroism go largely unrecognized, though they are every bit as significant. It is those individuals – the heroes among **and** within us – who I am celebrating this month; and if

you are thinking about yourself as you read this, yes, I mean you. . .

Whether making it a priority to help a family member or friend in need, reaching out to a neighbor with a small act of kindness, volunteering for a community project, providing the leadership that enables our Temple to thrive – the list goes on. . .there are heroes within all of us. These voluntary, unselfish ways of giving by being engaged, thoughtful, compassionate people, constitute the framework of our lives and the community we share.

I hope that you will take a moment to look around you and within yourself to recognize and appreciate these acts of kindness, commitment, generosity and courage. They represent the Heroes Among AND Within Us, giving purpose to our lives and those we touch. This is at once a blessing and the privilege of a full and meaningful life, whether one is the giver or the receiver. *L’Chaim!*

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Jewish War Veterans Meeting: January 5

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 January 5, 2020. 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 poston Facebook. (We have your six.)

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

5788 January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office closed No Hebrew School 10am New Years Day Brunch	2 10am Senior Exercise Program 7pm Ritual Committee Meeting	3 6pm Shabbat Service	4 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
5 9am Religious School 10:30am Lunchbox 12pm Post B'nai Mitzvah Program	6	7 10am SEP	8 4:30pm Hebrew School	9 10am SEP	10 6pm Music Shabbat with Cantor Goldmann 7:30pm Happy Hour	11 9am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Y'ladim
12 9am Religious School 9:30am R/S Cmte 12pm Post B'nai Mitzvah Program 12:30pm Book Discussion by Author Rabbi Blumenthal	13	14 10am SEP	15 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance Cmte Meeting	16 10am SEP 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb	17 6pm Shabbat Service	18 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
19 No Religious School No Post B'nai Mitzvah Program	20 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed	21 10am SEP	22 4:30pm Hebrew School	23 10am SEP 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board Meeting	24 6pm Shabbat Service	25 9am Intergenerational Shabbaton
26 9:30am Challah Baking No Religious School No Post B'nai Mitzvah Program	27	28 10am SEP	29 4:30pm Hebrew School	30 10am SEP	31 Soup & Chili Dinner & Tisch Shabbat with Cantor Goldmann	