

Vassar Temple

Weekly Newsletter

Please join us for a special Shabbat!

[Friday, January 10th](#)

6:00 pm

The First Annual

Charles and Dorothy Wender Music Shabbat

with Cantor Goldmann

featuring the music of Debbie Friedman

followed by

Soul Food Happy Hour

hosted by Melissa Wall and Jas Russo

[Saturday, January 11th](#)

9:00 am – Torah Study

10:30 am – Shabbat Y'Ladim

See information below

PBS presents [check out your local PBS station]:
TONIGHT!! Thursday, January 9 at 8:30 pm

Hugs & Knishes: A Celebration of Jewish Foods and Traditions
This documentary celebrates the importance of food and how traditions are kept alive in Jewish families.

Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour Tomorrow!
Friday, January 10 at 7:30 PM
immediately following Shabbat Worship

Join your Vassar Temple community for a joyous soul food festivity hosted by Jas Russo and Melissa Wall

The suggested donation is \$10.

We thank the Vassar Temple Sisterhood for their ongoing support of these gatherings.

Mark your calendars for the next Happy Hour on March 13 at 6:00 pm

Interested in hosting a future Happy Hour? Hosting is fun and easy.

We have a 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)*

Shabbat Y'lاديم (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 DiIorio, 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

The Adult Education Committee welcomes you
this Sunday, January 12th
12:30 pm at Vassar Temple

for a discussion led by Rabbi Rena Blumenthal,
who will be giving a presentation of her
novel, The Book of Israela.

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.

Prior reading of the book is not required!

Light lunch and drinks provided.

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

RSVP appreciated to Gail D'Alessio
gaildalessio@yahoo.com

I would like to invite you to join the **Men's Club at Buffalo Wild Wings**

to watch Divisional Playoff football.
The Kansas City Chiefs will be playing one of the winners of this
weekends Wildcard games.

Beer and wings will be provided by Men's Club and we hope that you
can come and share football and conversation with friends.

Please RSVP to me at gtr714@yahoo.com if you plan to attend, so
that I can secure a space big enough for all of us.

When: Sunday January 12 at 3:00 pm

**Where: Buffalo Wild Wings, Route 9 Wappingers - near
Kohl's**

Have a Happy and Healthy New Years

Glenn Tanzman

**On January 12, Vassar Temple will join PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley and
JFedDC for " A Jewish Welcome, Baby Expo"at Oakwood School**

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 Diorio, will join us to provide some hands-on activities for young
children and their families. We thank Beth Plotsky for her leadership with 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.

Intergenerational Shabbaton – “What’s In A Name?”

Join us on

Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 9 AM to 12 Noon

to learn why names matter and the many names we call God. There will be discussion, stories and activities appropriate for every age, followed by a short Shabbat morning service and lunch.

Please RSVP to Marcia Tanzman at mtanzman16@gmail.com

Challah Baking

Come 'Knead" with me!

Want to learn how to make challah?
We will take out the mystery and put in the fun on

Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 9:30am -
to when we are finished [probably by noon]

Learn the basics of making dough: easy!
Learn how to braid a different number of ropes: fun!
Learn how to stuff with you favorite filling: delish!

Just bring a sheet pan and a rolling pin
[come even if you don't have one]
Ingredients will be provided by Sandra Mamis

Expect to go home with your own 'ready to bake' challah

RSVPs are a MUST, so there are enough ingredients for everyone.

RSVP to Sandra Mamis, mamis@optonline.net **by January 16, 2020**

Everyone can bake challah like an expert: no prior experience necessary.

Have questions? Contact Sandra Mamis at (text or phone): 914-456-3524 or email at mamis@optonline.net

Hope to see you there.

[No snow date scheduled, so pray for dry weather!]

**Join us at 6 pm on Friday, January 31st
for
Soup and Chili Dinner**

as part of a wonderful Tisch Shabbat
featuring our Cantor, Elizabeth Goldmann

Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah 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 Kaflowitz know you are coming by **January 28** at roslynkaflowitz@gmail.com or 845-297-4320



IT'S SOUP DELIVERY TIME

Soup pickup will be at Vassar Temple. This will be in conjunction with the soup/chili dinner on January 31.

I will be picking up the cases and bringing them to the temple to make pickup easier.

**** Deliveries will be made to the various food pantries in the area.**

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

Thank you for your donations!

Shaari Roland
shaarirs@gmail.com
845-494-1365 (cell)

Take action against hate.

Jewish Women International provides individuals with a concrete means of responding to the rise in hate speech and violence in which Jews have been targeted. Please read this call to action from JWI:

*Tens of thousands of people marched against **Hate and Fear**. The rise of white supremacy and anti-Semitism is an undeniable threat to the safety of our communities, and we must stand together in solidarity. There is legislation, at the local and federal levels, that can help stem the tide of hate crimes. The [NO HATE Act](#) and the [Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act](#) would improve hate crime reporting, expand resources to victims of hate crimes, and require federal law enforcement to regularly assess threats and provide training to local law enforcement. Call your Senators and Representative and urge them to co-sponsor these two bills!*

JWI affiliation is not necessary in order to participate. It's no longer enough to chant "never again"; take action to ensure that "never again" is more than simply a slogan.

Are you shopping with Scrip??

REMEMBER....Supporting the **SCRIP Program is easy and great for the temple's bottom line.**

Shopping with gift card also eliminates the risk of identify theft that comes with credit card use and doesn't require you to carry around cash.

So many reasons to SHOP WITH SCRIP!

We can also obtain cards for over 500 national stores!!
To see the full list, visit <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>
and scroll down and click "retailer list".

Contact Sandra Mamis, scrip@vassartemple.org or
914-456-3524 to place your order, or contact the temple office
at 845-454-5270

Support Community Solar!

The Dutchess County Interfaith Council has taken action on the moral imperative of caring for our earth by entering into a partnership with Nexamp Community Solar. Council members can subscribe to a share of a local solar farm and receive credits on their utility bills for the energy produced.

The Vassar Temple Board of Trustees is proud to be the first DCIC member congregation to enroll. We'll receive a discount on our electricity, support renewable energy, and demonstrate environmental leadership in the community. DCIC will receive a donation from Nexamp as a result. This decision reflects the URJ's 2017 resolution encouraging congregations to work with community interfaith partners 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 this program please contact Yushi Kawasumi, Nexamp representative, at 201-314-3799 and identify yourself as a temple member.

A message from Social Action:

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT! HELP HUDSON RIVER HOUSING!
HELP YOURSELF!

For each reusable shopping bag you purchase at the Stop 'n Shop located at 59 Burnett Blvd for \$2.50, \$1.00 will go to HRH. Just in time for the Dutchess County plastic bag ban, which went into effect January 1st!

Opportunity for Recent College Grads Begins in August!

The Eisendrath Legislative Assistant Fellowship is an amazing opportunity for recent college graduates who are interested in social justice, policy, and Judaism. Being an LA at the RAC means getting involved and playing a pivotal role in legislative advocacy, programs, communications, organizing, and supporting the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. You will also be increasing your skills, gaining valuable work experience, and expanding your network. There is a salary, and program dates are August 25, 2020 - August 13, 2021. Deadline for applying is Feb. 14. For more information, visit <https://rac.org/eisendrath-legislative-assistant-fellowship>

