

Vassar TempleWhere You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 168, No. 1 July-August 2020

A note to our readers: Please keep in mind that due to publishing deadlines, some of the information printed in this month's bulletin may be out of date. Please refer to Temple emails or the website for upto-date information on events.



Sisterhood Presents Pocketbook Bingo

Sunday, August 23 Details to follow Buy SCRIP lately?

It's easy and doesn't cost anything extra!

Go shopping and help the Temple!

If you have any questions about,or would like to buy, SCRIP,

please call the Temple office.

From the Rabbi's Desk



Summer is here! I would imagine that most of us have eagerly anticipated its arrival, though for many different reasons.

For those of whose lives revolved around

the academic year calendar, summer brings a much-needed break, an opportunity for rejuvenation of body and soul. For our children, summer brings the fun of outdoor activities; it might mean camp or simply the freedom to enjoy long days in warm weather. For many, summer is a slower time with favorite outdoor activities and, perhaps the chance to travel and get away.

For many in the Hudson Valley, in contrast, summer is typically the "busy season," exhausting but eagerly anticipated nonetheless.

Even as I write this column at the start of June, the nature of this summer is still somewhat of a mystery. Safe distancing and masks at the beach – it's hard to imagine. Will camps open? Will people travel?

We are all trying to figure out how to refigure our normal summertime activities in ways that will be safe. All we know is that this summer will be like none other and significant plans must be rearranged. We try to see opportunity in lieu of disappointment.

At this time of year we are well into the Book of Bamidbar. The wilderness is a powerful metaphor for our struggles with this brave new world of Coronavirus. On the one hand, the wilderness is a frightening place -- unchartered territory, with new challenges that unfold on a daily basis. At the same time, it can be full of potential. It was in the wilderness that we received Torah. It was in the wilderness that the Israelites were transformed from former slaves into a people. Faith development was not easy and numerous rebellions against Moses and against God are part of this people's growth. Through it all is the Divine promise that they would reach the Promised Land.

The wilderness of Coronavirus is, indeed, overwhelming and frightening. For far too many, it is deadly. Even as we go through the phases of re-opening, we must be careful not to move too quickly or engage in risky behavior; *pikuah nefesh*, saving lives, must remain at the forefront of all of our decisions.

Like the ancient Israelites, we have a choice of how we move through this wilderness. We can let it overwhelm us or we can seek out opportunities for growth; we can see only darkness or we can open our eyes to the light of creativity.

Over this summer, Cantor Goldmann and I will be working closely with our temple leadership to prepare for what will surely be a very different High Holy Day experience. As of this writing, it is not yet clear to what extent we will be able to be together in our sanctuary. Regardless, we are committed to connecting virtually as well. I welcome your thoughts as we plan for this unusual holiday season.

I will be taking some vacation time this summer -- a chance to disconnect and reboot, to reconnect with family and friends. I hope that you will all find the time for whatever you need to recharge. Let us not forget in the course of some carefree summer time the many for whom the summer is not carefree – let those of us who are fortunate and, perhaps slightly inconvenienced, continue to reach out to those who are truly suffering and lend a hand where we can. As we read in our prayer book, "there is a better place, a promised land: ... the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness... there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together."

Rabbi Renni Altman

President's Message



Dear Vassar Temple family,

It is an immeasurable honor to be entrusted with the care of our beloved congregation. Having collected thoughts to share at this juncture

for a long time, I didn't anticipate a global pandemic necessitating reenvisioning everything we do. The past few months have demonstrated how much more Vassar Temple means than gathering in our building. We are not defined by this crisis, so my initial message will not be defined by it either.

I've been thinking over the presidents that I have known. Each was in the right place at the right time, well-matched to congregational needs of

the moment. It is my fervent hope to bring that accomplishment to my own term and its unique challenges. One past president told me that being in that role requires an agenda. Initially, I felt disconcerted but, over time, realized that I had one about which I was already passionate: quite simply, to advance the already-stellar reputation of Vassar Temple as a moral compass by supporting our individual and collective journeys on the ethical path charted by the Reform movement. I remain convinced that this is the route to remaining relevant, sustaining engagement and membership and creating opportunities for individuals to express Jewish values through personal action ranging from private ritual to social justice.

After several years on the Executive Committee, my idealistic vision has been tempered by the realities of running the Temple. There is work to be done if we are to achieve those heights. Some personal priorities:

- -- Upping our organizational game to be prepared to respond quickly to new opportunities, especially outside revenue streams. We must be ready to meet the challenges common to communities of faith in our changing world, one that is redefining membership and engagement and presenting new economic pressures.
- -- Reaching into our congregation to learn what you need and value and what you can offer. We need you.
- -- Enhancing our participation in the values-driven work of the Reform movement
- -- Supporting excellence in religious education. Our school is small but mighty!
- -- Providing a compelling ritual experience that meets a diversity of needs.
- -- Strengthening our interfaith partnerships.
- -- Initiating a discussion of the role of our Jewish-adjacent members.

	July Worship Service Schedule							
2	7.20							
3	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with lay leaders						
4	9:00am	No Torah Study						
10	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman						
11	9:00am	Torah Study						
17	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with lay leaders						
18	9:00am	No Torah Study						
24	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with lay leaders						
25	9:00am	No Torah Study						
29	7:30pm	Tisha B'Av observance with Rabbi Altman						
31	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman						
August Worship Service Schedule								
1	9:00am	Torah Study						
7	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman						
8	9:00am	Torah Study						
14	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman						
15	9:00am	Torah Study						
21	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman						
22	9:00am	Torah Study						
28	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman						
29	9:00am	Torah Study						
		ation these events will continue virtually. To obtain						
		formation regarding each service (including New						
Paths,	or Ioran Study	please refer to the weekly emails.						

Scriptural Readings

July	4	Chukat/Balak Num 19:1-25:9; Micah 5:6-6:8
	11	Pinchas Num. 25:10-30:1; Jeremiah 1:1-2:3
	18	Matot/Mas'ei Num. 25:10-30:1; Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4; 4:1-2
	25	Shabbat Chazon <i>D'varim</i> Deut. 1:1-3:22; Isaiah 1:1-27
Aug.	1	Shabbat Nachamu Va-et'chanan Deut. 3:23-7:11; Isaiah 40:1-26
	8	Eikev Deut. 7:12-11:25; Isaiah 49:14-51:3
	15	<i>R'eih</i> Deut. 11:26-16:17; Isaiah 54:11-55:5
	22	Shof tim Deut. 16:18-21:9; Isaiah 51:12-52:12
	29	Ki Teitzei Deut. 21:10-25:19; Isaiah 54:1-10

President's Message (continued fron page 2)

I'd like you to know who I am with a quick bio. My husband, David, and I have been members for about 30 years. Our children, Samantha and Max, were raised in Vassar Temple. They have their own lives and careers. We are exceedingly proud of them and now blessed to add their partners, Travis and Ilyssa, to our family. I'm a speechlanguage pathologist by vocation and recently retired from a long career at the MidHudson Regional (formerly St. Francis) special needs preschool program. Over the years I served on numerous Temple committees, my role evolving with my family. Highlights: coordinating Cradle Roll (now Tiny Temple), serving as President of the Community Hebrew School, advising Youth Group, working with Social Action, running Hamantaschen Baking, doing Publicity, chairing Reyut. I became Bat Mitzvah at age 45 with a group of incredible Vassar Temple women and now look forward to weekly Torah Study for intellectual nourishment. I served as Second VP, then Board Secretary before becoming First VP and recently began to represent Vassar Temple on the Interfaith Council board. In a coincidence of fate, because we moved here for our jobs, my maternal family history lies in Poughkeepsie; my great-great-grandfather was a local Torah

scholar. I feel rooted by and want to honor this history. When I'm not occupied with the Temple, my other driving passion is environmental advocacy. I chair the Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Task Force, serve on the Conservation Advisory Commission, and work with Citizens' Climate Lobby on federal carbon pricing legislation.

As the new executive terms begins, I'm indebted to Alan Kaflowitz for his partnership, to Lisa-Sue Quackenbush for stepping up as a new partner, to our trustees and amazing committees, and to Rabbi Renni Altman for absolutely everything that she does. Finally, I want to thank Gil Seligman and the Nominating Committee for a Board that cuts across temple demographics and brings a wealth of experience. Some of us have worked together in the past; we've agreed and disagreed, but we share the love of our community. Yes, we are dealing with a daunting health crisis. Nevertheless, I'm holding on to the vision.

Wishing you good health,

Susan Karnes Hecht

To:

Rebecca Dibennardo, daughter of Gail D'Alessio and Robert Dibennardo (*z'l*), on receiving her PhD in Sociology.

Max Hecht, son of Susan and David Hecht, on receiving his Masters in Chemistry and being listed on two new patents.

Jonah and Mary Ritter on the birth of their granddaughter Sophia Margaret Marino. The proud parents are Sarah and Michael Marino.

A Note from the Office

We want to express our gratitude to a few folks doing tedious but important behind-the-scenes work to support our day to day operations.

- ...to Shira Teich, who on a monthly basis sees to it that everyone receives yahrzeit reminder cards for their loved ones. We work very hard to get this right and done well in advance. Please contact the office if you need any dates adjusted or changes in this mailing.
- ...to Marcia Tanzman, who has spent an untold number of hours populating the information in our new database.
- ...and to Past President Jonah Ritter, who designed and provided that new database.

Each member household will receive a mailing containing a report of the information we have for you. You can assist us by reviewing the information and letting us know of any updates or corrections. Going forward we'll be using the new database to increase efficiency of a range of administrative tasks, so accuracy will be important. Thank you for your support!

Thank You, Vassar Temple

We received the following thank you from Dr. Seema Rizvi and Dr. Rabi Sinha, organizers of the All For One Food Drive:

"This success is due to tremendous effort put forth. Every one that helped, participated, contributed was incredible and amazing. We saw so much compassion, enthusiasm, support and outpouring of generosity from people of religious and cultural communities and institutions, elected officials and candidates. All these efforts truly show we were all one community for humanity. This COVID-19 Pandemic crisis food drive joint effort is an example of us getting closer and stronger. We will continue by grace of God feeding hungry people. We are blessed with this beautiful community."

New Paths Service

Join us at New Paths sabbath morning services on select Saturdays during July and August at 10:15am. The services will be held on Zoom, and the readings will be displayed on the screen. Always different, the moving liturgy 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 (BYO wine/grape juice). Watch the weekly temple e-mails for our summer calendar. For more information, service dates, instructions to attend on Zoom, or a copy of the next service, please contact Marian Schwartz, mschwa9882@aol.com or the temple office at 845-454-2570.

Do you have a Simcha you would like us to include in the Bulletin? Please let the office know! We would love to hear your good news!

Bimah Flowers Donations

Just as Shabbat Services help brighten our weeks, so do the Bimah flowers which brighten our Sanctuary. If anyone would like to make a donation to sponsor our silk flower arrangements while services are being held virtually, please call the office at 845-454-2570 or email office@vassartemple.org. The sponsor's name and remembrance or Simcha will be acknowledged just like with our fresh Bimah flower arrangements.

May 2020 Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors Update:

May 29: Donated by Bill Barbash in memory of his wife Sue Barbash

June 2020 Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors Update:

- June 5: Donated by Judy Rosenfeld in honor of Polly Lewis receiving this year's Founders' Service Award
- June 19: Donated by David and Susan Hecht in honor of the incoming and outgoing trustees and of their 39th anniversary.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams Editor: Jo Schaffel

Technical support & understudy

Bob Abrams

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

Sisterhood News

As our new Vassar Temple year begins, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. During this unprecedented time, Sisterhood is still active and passionate about continuing our temple work. We hope you will watch your mail for the Sisterhood membership form for the coming year. By joining Sisterhood, you join a network of dedicated women who support our projects, programs and Vassar Temple. I encourage you to check out our activities and programs, or better yet, suggest an activity for us

to try. I encourage you to volunteer to help with an event, or come to a board meeting to learn more about us. I would love to hear ways we can provide events that meet your needs.

Our Opening Program is scheduled for September 10. Let me know if you have any creative suggestions on the type of program you would like this to be.

Without you, we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Recipe Corner Marinade for Grilled Chicken

 $1/3 - \frac{1}{2}$ cup olive oil, depending on preference

3 Tbs. fresh lemon juice

3 Tbs. soy sauce

2 Tbs. balsamic vinegar

1/4 cup brown sugar

1 Tbs. Worcestershire sauce

3 garlic cloves, minced

desired. Grill, and enjoy.

Salt and pepper

Mix all ingredients together. Marinate chicken for at least 30 minutes. (4-5 hours is ideal)
You can use chicken breasts or thighs, as

Brotherhood News

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented many challenges. Vassar Temple adapted early by initiating live stream services, virtual Torah study, and phone check-ins with the congregation. Since it looks like this may be the new normal for a while, Brotherhood has joined the bandwagon and has begun to host virtual Happy Hours. We will have held our first one in early June when you receive this and since it hasn't happened yet, I can't tell you how it turned out.

However, I can alert you that we will be holding more of them throughout the summer, or until we can get together in person. Please be looking out for the links in the weekly email and email blasts as the date draws near. We are looking for topics and any suggested alternative ways to get together that will keep our members engaged and provide some options to maintain contact with all of you and each other. Please feel free to contact me at any time at brotherhood@vassartemple.com. As we have all discovered, keeping in contact is very important to our physical and mental health.

Hopefully, we will be able to gather for the High Holidays and we will need ushers and greeters to help manage the service. More will follow on this when we know which direction the Temple is taking for the services. We will contact you then and request volunteers.

Let me close by wishing you all that you stay healthy and stay strong.

Glenn Tanzman
Brotherhood President

Commemorate Tisha B'Av Wednesday, July 29 7:30 p.m.

Tisha B'Av, the 9th of Av, is the day that marks the destruction of both the first and second Temples as well other tragedies that have befallen our people over time. Traditionally it is observed as a day of communal mourning, with fasting and the reading of the Book of Lamentations. The early Reformers rejected the observance of the day as one of mourning for various reasons. Since the 1970s, the day has been reclaimed in much of our movement and invested with new meaning and relevance for our time. We will commemorate this day with a program on *Erev Tisha B'Av* that will incorporate some of the traditional elements, study, and exploration of its message for our time. If possible, we will meet at the temple in person; if not we will gather virtually on Zoom (look for weekly newsletter for details).

Lunch Box

Thanks to the Vassar Temple (VT) and Mid-Hudson Islamic Society (MHIA) partnership, we purchased and delivered 130 meat and chicken burritos from La Cabanita as part of the Lunch Box "Thankful Thursday" program in May. The restaurant generously donated 130 fresh salads to accompany the meal. The burritos and salads, along with our baked goods and fruit that were delivered earlier in the week, provided a delicious and nutritious hot meal for Poughkeepsie neighbors who receive meal support from Lunch Box.

July & August Yahrzeits

July 3

Lawrence Blumenthal Cornelius Saperstein Dr. Camilla Reznikoff Wygan Mary Lou Goldfarb Eva Tofel Nay Wisdom Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon Dr. Jacob Kronman M. Fred Praeger Lillian Lampell Hillard Mann Anne Kahn Marie Robinowitz Eileen Rosenhaus Michael Wrobel

July 10

Ludwig Willner
Samuel E. Trivers
Lloyd Fertig
Lawrence L. Landau
Dora Rosenmann
Winona Rosenthal
Michael L. Solomon
Linda Fertig Waldman
Merlin B. Lass
Marshall Effron

July 17

Sylvia Soirefman Sam Lessin Siegfried Frank David Krevolin Leon R. Bloom Edward Moffit, Jr. Shirley Green Chertock Minnie Lass Sylvia Reifler Silberman Ida Cohen Philip Cohen Morton Bloch Cynthia R. Feldman Dr. Sidney S. Cohen Jerry Bass Robert J. Creedon, Sr.

July 24, 2020

Phillip R. Moselle, OD
Yetta Prisansky
Saul Lox
Flora M. Hoffman
David Clarfield
Saul A. Lazarus
Joshua Aaron Himelstein
Minnie Schudroff Coleman
James Effron
Martin Brenner
Meta Altman
Gertrude Rosenthal
Robert H. Lipschutz
Irving Schwartz

Cecelia Riechman

July 31, 2020

Jacov Markovitch Charlotte Wechsler Louis Gellert Lawrence Paradis Martin L. Dreyfuss, MD Dr. Irving Dreishpoon Hortense Feldman Kurt Harlam August 7, 2020 Blanche Adler Melvin Matlin, MD Louis Temlock Walter B. Goldfinger Jack Wiseman Marjorie Gluck Margot P. Similes Saul Norman Nectow Mae Berger Hy Miller

August 7

Blanche Adler
Melvin Matlin, MD
Louis Temlock
Walter B. Goldfinger
Jack Wiseman
Marjorie Gluck
Margot P. Similes
Saul Norman Nectow
Mae Berger
Hy Miller
Katherine Moffit
Louis I. Worona
Muriel Weingart
Alexander D'Imperio
Aaron Reifler

August 14

Dr. Richard Slater Cohen Dr. Burton Katz Evelvn Herman Anna Saperstein Eve Canter Goldberg Gloria Berlin Harry Barbash, DDS Minnie Toroker Howard S. Abrams Frances Myer Zerline Lehman Simon Beatrice A. Goodman **Emanuel Zimmer** Bernard Reifler Jeanne M. Payne Hannah Keane Edna Z. Kleiner Dorothy Rauh Fogle Nettie Jacobs Mary Louise Parke

August 21

Lee Schwartz Oscar Charwat Mary Weiss Anna Baum Dr. Saul R. Kelson

Dr. Alan E. Apfel

August 28

Mildred L. Greller Regina R. Olivar Maurice Goldemberg Molly Solomon David Cohen Beatrice Plansky Susan Vance Morris Kaufman Frederick C. Tuchmann Melvin Stolack Max Matlin William Miller Maier Sawyer Sarah Peles Samuels W. Carlton Bernard **Tobias Wolfson** Anna Dick Kronman

August 28 continued

Paul S. Waxman
Sara G. Rice
Mary Elizabeth O'DonnellMoore
Hyman Silverman
Rose Ritter
Edward J. Newman, MD
Rose Markowitz
Joseph LaLone
Elma S. Rosenberg
Adolph Milton Fein
Claire Entner Gad

Study Groups at Vassar Temple



Vassar Temple is overflowing with love and sweetness. We asked for 150 packages of desserts for The Lunchbox and we received over 500!! Proud and honored to collaborate with the Mid-Hudson Islamic Society to fund and serve meals for our community at The Lunchbox.

"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 during July & August. (No class July 4,11) New attendees should contact rabbi@vassartemple.org for the study sheet. Watch the weekly temple e-mail for any schedule changes.

"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text", taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, will continue during the summer this year, one Thursday per month from noon to 1:30. Dates TBA. For further information and to obtain the study sheets, contact rabbigolomb@vassartemple.org.

All are welcome to come and join in all the classes--no previous training required! No charge to attend. As long as the building is closed for public health reasons, all classes will be conducted on Zoom. Watch the weekly temple e-mails or contact the temple for updated information at 845-454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.

Contributions

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Albert & Elma Rosenberg Carl, Peter & Robert Rosenberg Eva Tofel Joan Reifler Cynthia R. Feldman Robert Feldman & Family Annie Givner Roslyn Kaflowitz Edward Moffit, Jr Kathy & Kent Mardon Charlene & Loren Rosenthal Gertrude Rosenthal Polly Lewis & Kamil Wisniewski Reuben & Dorothy Lewis Mary Lou Goldfarb The Goldfarb Family George Plotsky Beth Plotsky Lawrence Blumenthal Beth Plotsky Michael Wrobel Lewis & Hilary Wrobel Cecelia Riechman Vivian & Ed Garber Charlotte Wechsler Vivian & Ed Garber Dr. Sidney S. Cohen Doi Cohen

In appreciation of

the Temple's efforts at outreach

during the Pandemic: Ralph & Marian Schwartz

Donation from: Wayne Cochran

Graduation Congratulations

to Judy Creedon & Dan Creedon: The Ciminello Family

MUSIC FUND In appreciation of

Cantor Goldmann's participation in the DCIC healing service:

Susan Karnes Hecht
THE LUNCH BOX FUND
Greg & Sally Buttinger
COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND
Ralph & Marian Schwartz

David Hecht and

5780 August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:30am Lunchbox		10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)		10am SEP 7pm Ritual Cmte Meeting	7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	9am Torah Study
9	10	11 10am SEP	12	13 10am SEP	14 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	15 9am Torah Study
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		10am SEP	2pm VTS Book Club	10am SEP	7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	9am Torah Study
		12pm Sisterhood Chai Noon	7pm Finance Committee Meeting	12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1pm Hold for Pock- etbook Bingo		10am SEP		10am SEP 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board Meeting	7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	9am Torah Study
30	31					

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Religious School Director: Renni S. Altman, DD
Cantor: Elizabeth Goldmann
Rabbi Emeritus: Stephen Arnold
Senior Scholar: Paul Golomb
Keyboards: Joseph Bertolozzi
President: Susan Karnes Hecht

1st Vice President:
2nd Vice President:
Shaari Roland
Secretary:
Glenn Tanzman
Brett Colbert
Sisterhood President:
Brotherhood President:
Glenn Tanzman
Glenn Tanzman
Glenn Tanzman
Alan Kaflowitz

DATED MAIL PLEASE RUSH

5780 July 2020 Calendar

			1	2	3	4
				10am Senior Exercise Program (SEP)	7:30pm Shabbat Service	
				7pm Ritual Committee Meeting		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30am Lunchbox		10am SEP		10am SEP	7:30pm Shabbat Service	Taste of VT— Weekend 2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Taste of VT—Weekend 2		10am SEP	7pm Finance Cmte Meeting	10am SEP	7:30pm Shabbat Service	
				12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		10am SEP		10am SEP 6::30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board Meeting	7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	9am Torah Study
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		10am SEP	7::30pm Tisha B'Av Service	10am SEP	7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	

The August calendar can be found on page 7