



# Vassar Temple

## Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 169, No. 1 September 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*Please keep in mind that due to publishing deadlines, some of the information printed in this month's bulletin may be out of date.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 up-to-date information on events.*

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Erev Sukkot:** Friday, October 2

**Erev Simchat Torah:** Friday, October 9

**Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah:** Saturday, October 10

### Polly Lewis Receives Founders' Award

The Vassar Temple Board honored Polly Lewis with the 2020 Founders' Service Award in recognition of her extensive exemplary contributions to Vassar Temple. You have likely attended and enjoyed some of the annual events Polly has organized, such as the Vassar Temple Community Seder and the post-Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast Meal (featuring her famous kugel). And in an entirely different area of Temple life, Polly has developed and carried out successful fundraisers, including the Fall Mum and Pass-over Wine Sales, and is currently Fundraising Chairperson for the Temple Sisterhood. She has served on the Temple Board, made the arrangements for an automatic defibrillator (AED) to be installed at the temple, and she continues to ensure that it's maintained in good order. She even found time to redecorate all the Temple bulletin boards! For all the special things she does to make Vassar Temple a better place, we were pleased to present Polly Lewis this coveted award.

### Civic Engagement Committee Project

As Reform Jews, we believe that democracy functions best when everyone participates. In conjunction with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, we are engaging in a non-partisan campaign to help ensure that American citizens of color are fully able to participate in the voting process. We have joined with the Reclaim Our Vote campaign, which encourages voting by people of color in seven states (North Carolina, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia) that have erected significant barriers to voting and also have a high percentage of people of color. The NAACP and Mi Familia Vota are some of the national partners.

Our committee has purchased postcards and obtained labels and addresses for a postcard campaign. As of this writing (end of July) we have already distributed almost 1,000 postcards. We are looking for more volunteers to join us. All you need are stamps (35 cents) and the willingness to neatly write postcards. Voters are also being reached by phone and text.

We can train you and will try to answer any questions you might have. Please call Howard Susser or Margery Groten, or email us at [civicengagement@vassartemple.org](mailto:civicengagement@vassartemple.org). You can also contribute to the Community Tzedakah fund to support our efforts.

## From the Rabbi's Desk



Connection ... the need for connection. According to social worker and author Brené Brown, "Connection is why we are here; it is what gives purpose and meaning to our

lives." \*

The lack of connection, the isolation from one another, is a significant factor that makes dealing with this pandemic so very challenging. We yearn for connections but protecting our health and well-being -- and that of others -- has necessitated that we remain in relative isolation from one another. For some this time has been especially challenging, whether they have faced illness or loss or have not been able to help care for or visit loved ones. We know how hard this has been on children and their families.

Thanks to the internet and its different platforms, we have been able to make virtual connections and visit with family and friends long distance. We have worshipped, studied and socialized virtually as a Vassar Temple community. Still, it is not the same as being there; we long to hug and kiss one another.

As vaccines are still in development, we are forced to accept the reality that our virtual and safe distance connections must remain in place and that we are not yet at the time to return to a "new normal." Normally, the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, are a time in which we seek to strengthen various connections in our lives: with family, with our Jewish heritage, with our Vassar Temple community, within our deepest selves, and, through all of the above, with God. How can we make all of these connections when we cannot be physically together?

We have reached the scenario that every rabbi, cantor, Temple president and ritual chair have dreaded since the start of the pandemic: High Holy Days when we cannot safely be together for worship in our sanctuaries. Having chosen virtual worship to ensure the safety of all, our next concern became maintaining those important connections. On behalf of our entire congregation, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our High Holy Day Task Force and High Holy Day Visioning Team for their many, many hours of hard work and unwavering devotion to this synagogue in creating what will certainly be meaningful virtual worship experiences.

By virtue of being virtual, worship will feel very different these Holy Days. Some Vassar Temple traditions, while lovingly maintained, will of necessity be altered. At the same time, we will take advantage of this

technology to enhance our worship experiences in new ways. Instructions will be given throughout services so that everyone will be able to follow along. Since our attention span is not the same online as it is in person, the worship will be shorter in length, but I assure you it will be full in meaning. We will also have opportunities for in-person gatherings, following safety protocols -- masks required!! Details were outlined in the annual High Holy Day letter; please read and follow them carefully.

I encourage you to join us with an open mind and sing along, even with muted voices. And by all means, get yourself into the proper mindset by making your home a *mikdash me'at* (a small sanctuary). Set yourself up in a space with limited distractions, put out flowers, turn your phones off, and come to the computer dressed for services! Cantor Goldmann, Joe Bertolozzi and I look forward to connecting with you virtually as we "beam" services from our sanctuary.

Wishing you and your loved ones a sweet, safe and healthy 5781 -- *Shanah tovah!*

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

\*(TED Radio Hour, "Processing the Pandemic", July 31, 2020)

## President's Message



Dear friends,

This month I begin to expand on the priorities highlighted in my summer message.

Vassar Temple has thrived for 170 years by meeting member and community needs and building partnerships. When I joined, we were 400 households strong with a straightforward budget. Like all faith communities, we have been impacted by shifting demographics and economic pressures and can no longer rely on members to support our operations. We must seek new revenue

streams including the wider world of grants.

We have succeeded in obtaining many grants, especially at our own Community Foundations; I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the phenomenal work done on this front, and we will continue to take advantage of these resources. But when we began recently to examine larger-scale - particularly government - grants (e.g., FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grants provided \$90 million in 2020) we learned that we were unprepared to submit such applications (a first step was the February update of our 1851 Articles to current IRS language). Recently the Board initiated an extensive, professionally-guided project to create a secure electronic "document room." This proactive work will enable us to apply

for competitive grants rapidly and accurately. To this end, we are:

- Collecting administrative documents that establish legal and financial standing: legal, financial and budget records; governance; insurance; affiliation; employment; and contracts.

- Gathering non-administrative documents that tell our story: publications; mission and values statements; oral and written histories; fundraising materials; strategic plans.

- Tackling our historic archives to preserve this unique collection, much of which exists as rapidly aging paper, newsprint, and photographs which will be digitized and moved to archival storage. These materials

*(continued on page 4)*

## September Worship Service Schedule

4	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
5	9:00am	Torah Study
11	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
12	9:00am 10:15am 8:00pm 8:45pm	Torah Study New Paths Havdalah and program with Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann Selichot Service with Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann
18	Please refer to HHD service schedule for (Shabbat &) Rosh Hashanah service information	
19	9:00am	No Torah Study Please refer to HHD service schedule for all Rosh Hashanah service information
20	Please refer to HHD service schedule for information for Rosh Hashanah Day 2	
25	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
26	9:00am	Torah Study
27	Please refer to the HHD service schedule for information for Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei Service	

Most of these events will be available virtually. Please refer to the High Holy Day service schedule in this Bulletin issue for times. Up to date information re: Torah Study, New Paths, Shabbat and HHD services will be available in weekly emails or email blasts.

## 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 let the office know. The sponsor's name and remembrance or Simcha will be acknowledged just like with our fresh Bimah flower arrangements.

### September 2020 Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors:

September 4:	Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
September 11:	Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
September 18:	Donated by the Matlin Family in memory of Lila and Melvin Matlin
September 25:	Donated by Vassar Temple High Holiday Fund and Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

## Scriptural Readings

Sept. 5	<i>Ki Tavo</i> Deut. 26:1-29:8; Isaiah 60:1-22
12	<i>Nitzavim/Vayeilech</i> Deut. 29:9-31:30; Isaiah 61:10-63:9
19	<b>Rosh HaShanah</b> Gen. 21:1-22:24; I Samuel 1:1-2:10, Jeremiah 31:2-20 AM
26	<b>Shabbat Shuva</b> <i>Haazinu</i> Deut. 32:1-52; Hosea 14:2-10, Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27

## Arnold Award: Havdalah & Selichot Program to Honor Bob Abrams

Come to our virtual Havdalah and Selichot program Sat., Sept. 12 at 8pm, when Bob Abrams will be presented the Arnold Award. This award, named for Rabbi Emeritus Stephen A. Arnold, recognizes outstanding contributors to the religious and spiritual life at the Temple, including the areas of learning, worship and community service.

As a member of the Ritual Committee, Bob has organized our special services and celebrations for Sukkot and Simchat Torah. He is Music Committee Chair and is responsible for the musical enhancements to our worship services year-round. In this capacity he has also coordinated the cantorial program, organized concerts, and developed music-related fundraisers for the Temple. Bob has led singing during virtual Shabbat services, bringing the sound of Shabbat to us in our homes as we sheltered in place. During his years as Men's Club President he worked on Lunch Box, Sukkah construction and take-down, Men's Club Shabbat service, and Purim Dinner, as well as on projects to maintain and beautify our temple home. Over the years, Bob has served in many leadership positions on Temple committees and on the Board, including Temple President. In all of these capacities he has always warded off conflict and brought people together, exemplifying grace and promoting *shalom bayit* in whatever capacity he is serving the congregation. Be there to thank and honor Bob Abrams on Selichot Sept. 12!

## 2020/5781 HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

*Detailed information was provided in the High Holy Day member mailing.  
Links for virtual events will be provided to members and guests via email in advance.*

### **Selichot:** *Saturday, September 12*

- 8:00pm: Selichot program and service - virtual gathering on Zoom.

### **Erev Rosh Hashanah:** *Friday, September 18*

- 6:00pm: Kabbalat Rosh HaShanah B'yachad - Welcoming the New Year Together - a "Tisch style" gathering on Zoom around our own dining tables.

### **Rosh Hashanah:** *Saturday, September 19*

- 10:30am – 12pm: Rosh Hashanah morning service - virtual service from the sanctuary.
- 3:30pm: Family Rosh Hashanah experience at Kaal Rock Park - in case of inclement weather, on Zoom.
- 4:00pm: Tashlikh at Kaal Rock Park - In case of inclement weather, we will observe *Tashlikh* on Second Day Rosh Hashanah at 12:30.

### **Second Day Rosh Hashanah:** *Sunday, September 20*

- 10:30 – 11:45am: Second Day Rosh Hashanah service - virtual service on Zoom.

### **Memorial Service:** *Thursday, September 24*

- 4:30pm: Memorial Service - Vassar Temple Cemetery on Lagrange Avenue. Masks required for in-person attendance. Zoom option will be provided.

### **Kol Nidrei:** *Sunday, September 27*

- 8:00 – 9:00pm: Kol Nidrei service - virtual service from the sanctuary.

### **Yom Kippur:** *Monday, September 28*

- 10:30am – 12pm: Yom Kippur morning service - virtual service from the sanctuary.
- 1:00 – 1:30pm: Family Yom Kippur experience - (in front of Vassar Temple; in case of inclement weather, on Zoom).
- 1:00 – 2:00pm: Study session with Rabbi Golomb - via Zoom
- 2:00 – 3:30pm: Meditations in the sanctuary - sanctuary open with meditation music for 10-minute sittings. Limited capacity. YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE and follow posted directions for entrance and egress. MASKS REQUIRED.
- 4:00 – 5:15pm: Afternoon worship experience - virtual worship/program from the sanctuary.
- 5:30 – 6:00pm: Yizkor (memorial) service - virtual service from the sanctuary.
- 6:15pm: Ne'ilah (concluding) service - virtual service from the sanctuary, followed by Havdalah.

### **Erev Sukkot:** *Friday, October 2*

### **Erev Simchat Torah:** *Friday, October 9*

### **Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah:** *Saturday, October 10*

Please look for details about these services in the October Bulletin.

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## **President's Message** *(Continued)*

materials safeguard our history and memories and document the Temple's impact on its members and community over more than 170 years.

As this project comes to fruition, we will carry out a focused grant search, prioritizing essential budget areas while also considering the value of enrichment activities as drivers of community engagement and membership.

Congregants have assisted with sorting archive materials over the summer, but we seek additional help with this process. This could be as simple as helping to scan, or something more creative such as updating written narra-

tive. Please contact me if you are interested in working with this team.

We need to preserve and celebrate our history while preparing for the future. We need to continue engaging and recruiting members through updated means. There are many ways to contribute to Vassar Temple. We need you in leadership and at our events. We need you as an ambassador to the Jewish and wider community. I believe that, for each of you, there is a mutually beneficial Temple niche. Our Trustees will contact you during the holidays. We want to hear more about what Vassar

Temple can do to meet your needs, what you value, and what you can offer to your temple family.

*L'shana tova tikatevu ug'mar hatimah tova.* As we enter the year 5781, may you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.

*Susan Karnes Hecht*

## Heroes Among Us: Helping People is Her Calling

Before researching this month's article, I did not know anything about our Hero, and it has clearly been my loss. If you've never stopped to talk to Jas Russo, I highly recommend it. This is her amazing story:

Jas was raised in a Southern Baptist family by a single military mom whose work required frequent moves, but Jas considers Greensboro, NC to be her home. Her family got by on very little, though she did not know the difference since she never felt deprived. Out of necessity, she was self-reliant from an early age, and that instilled a "can do" spirit that drives her ambition to this day.

When Jas was a young adult, her mom moved to the Hudson Valley for a job with IBM and the prospect of providing a different life for her family. Jas always contributed to her family's income by working various jobs, but eventually she went to community college to study nursing, making her the first generation in her family to go to college. Helping people was her calling and nursing provided the perfect path for her.

But Jas is no ordinary helper. I would classify her as an "extreme helper," as she has applied her nursing skills to helping those in greatest need. Her positions have included Planned Parenthood and the Psychiatric Unit of the former Benedictine Hospital, and she is now a Nursing Supervisor at Cornerstone Rehabilitation Center in Rhinebeck. She compresses a full work week into three days so she can be present for her two

daughters – ages sixteen and six – the majority of the week. She is an extraordinarily dedicated Mom, exemplified by her vigilant care around her daughters' respective serious asthma and food allergies, not to mention nursing them through recent bouts with coronavirus (everyone is okay now).

Moving to the Hudson Valley exposed Jas to a way of life that she didn't previously know existed. She married into a Jewish family and eventually converted, embracing traditions, practices and values that felt very natural to her. Jas engaged in activities at Vassar Temple with which her children were involved, including Tiny Temple and her older daughter's Bat Mitzvah project. The latter blossomed into The Birthday Project, which remains a thriving enterprise that Jas oversees, bringing joy to children whose families cannot afford birthday presents and celebrations. This project connects to Jas's own humble beginnings, and she aims to "live the rest of her life helping people." She seems to be perpetually asking herself what she can do to make a difference in people's lives, and pay forward the opportunities that have shaped her life.

If that's not a Hero, I don't know what is. Jas Russo, you are remarkable and I hope we can meet for real someday soon.

*Jennifer Sachs Dahnert*

## Religious School Update

The Seth A. Erlebacher Religious School of Vassar Temple will open on Sunday, September 13 and Hebrew School will open on Wednesday, September 16. To protect the health and safety of all, we have developed a hybrid model for the religious school through October, alternating between outdoor sessions, following all safety protocols, and virtual sessions. Hebrew school will meet virtually. In October, our religious school committee will reevaluate and present a plan to the Executive Committee for sessions going forward. I have worked with our faculty over the summer to adapt our curricula and schedules for this new plan. We look forward to learning and being together – safely in person or virtually – as we welcome in the New Year and celebrate the fall holidays.

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

### Condolences

To:  
The family of Marian Bloomgarden DeWitt, beloved mother of Didi Barrett  
  
The family of Barbara Jean Wojcik, beloved sister of Susan Fink  
  
The family of Alice Weinstein, beloved mother of Dr. Janice Weinstein

## New Paths Services

Join us at New Paths sabbath morning service Saturday Sept. 12 at 10:15am. The service 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). For more information, watch weekly e-mails, contact Marian Schwartz [mschwa9882@aol.com](mailto:mschwa9882@aol.com), or call the temple office 845-454-2570.

## Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly Publisher:

Marianne and Bob Abrams

Editor:

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Technical support & understudy

Bob Abrams

Articles for the **Oct 2020 Bulletin** must be submitted by September 1st sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



## Community Solar at Vassar Temple

The Dutchess County Interfaith Council has a partnership with Nexamp Community Solar. New York State's community solar program allows utility customers to subscribe to a share of a local solar farm and receive credits on their utility bill for 100% of the energy produced by that share, while also paying for that electricity at a 10% discount.

The Vassar Temple Board of Trustees was proud to be the first DCIC member to enroll as an organization. We have been realizing this discount on the temple's electric bill for several months, supporting our bottom line as well as the environment.

Congregants also have the opportunity to sign up for residential community solar. For each household that participates, Nexamp will make a significant donation to the temple. This donation has been increased through September 30 as an incentive. There is no cost to join, no equipment installed on your home, no long-term commitment, guaranteed savings, and no cancellation fee. Beginning this month, we are pleased to include these participants on the donations page of the Bulletin as a way to thank them.

For more information about this program please contact Yushi Kawasumi, Nexamp representative, at 201-314-3799 and identify yourself as a temple member.



## With gratitude...

Vassar Temple is indebted to the following individuals for taking on the challenging work necessitated by the pandemic:

### Our phase-in committee:

Rabbi Renni Altman  
Susan Karnes Hecht  
Alan Kaflowitz  
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
David Hecht  
Andy Chernack



### Our High Holy Day Task Force – including Visioning, Technology, Fundraising, Office, Social Action, and Publicity teams:

Rabbi Renni Altman  
Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann  
Susan Karnes Hecht  
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
Alan Kaflowitz  
David Hecht  
Joe Bertolozzi  
Andi Ciminello  
Bob Abrams  
Marcia Tanzman  
Glenn Tanzman  
Kristin Horowitz  
David Lampell  
Ron Rosen  
Brett Colbert

**And our staff,** Karen Clark and Susan Newhouse, without whom none of this would be possible.

## School Supply Collection Deadline Sept. 7

At least 85% of the 600 children at Morse Elementary School in Poughkeepsie live below the poverty level, and the school is in receivership because the population has trouble meeting minimum State standards. But there is something very simple we can do to help! We can help these children reach their full potential by providing them with basic learning tools they will need, whether they are located in the school or doing distance learning at home.

The principal has asked us to assemble for each child an extra-large zip lock bag containing one box of 24 crayons, safety scissors, 1 box of colored pencils, 2 glue sticks, and 2 sturdy plastic pocket folders. Can you make up one or more of these packets, perhaps as your family shops for their own school supplies? Gaily decorating the bag with Sharpie pens, etc. would make a child's first day of school even happier! (Everything will fit in a 1-gallon bag, with the folders sticking out, if you don't have an extra-large bag). Just drop them off at the temple M,T,Th,F between 10am-2pm. (please wear a mask). **Or send a check in any amount made out to Vassar Temple, with School Supplies on the memo line, and we will shop and assemble the bags for you.**

If you need pick up, have questions, or would like to volunteer to help shop for or assemble bags for this project, please contact Banna and Chris at [schoolsupplies@vas-sartemple.org](mailto:schoolsupplies@vas-sartemple.org) or 845-232-5340. This is a Mitzvah Now project co-sponsored by all area synagogues, the Jewish Social Action Coalition, the JFedDC, PJ Library, and the Harding Club.

## Brotherhood News

I hope that you have all been able to enjoy the summer weather during these unusual times. Thank you if you attended our virtual happy hours in June and August. I know we all yearn to see each other face-to-face but it afforded us the opportunity to stay in touch.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate when we erect the Sukkah on Sunday, September 27 at 9am. We need help to get this done for the Holiday that evening. If you're available please come. You can email me at [brotherhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:brotherhood@vassartemple.org) if you have any questions or to confirm

your attendance. Fortunately, this is an outdoor activity. Bring a mask, try to stay socially distant. This is, of course, subject to change due to any Covid-19 guidance we may receive between now and then. If all goes well, we will take down the Sukkah on Sunday, October 11 at 9am.

I look forward to reuniting with you for these events. In the meanwhile, stay strong and stay safe.

*Glenn Tanzman*  
*Brotherhood President*

## New Jewish Community Preschool Comes to Your Home

Vassar Temple has been participating on the advisory board of our new Jewish Community Preschool (JCP), together with local congregations and the Jewish Federation. After months of planning to open its doors in September 2020, JCP is postponing its first in-person classes due to the pandemic. While there is great interest and enthusiasm for bringing a Jewish preschool back to Dutchess County, the preschool board felt it could open only when safe to do so. We do not anticipate that September 2020 will be that time.

However, the pandemic will not be keeping the JCP completely closed. We are excited to offer VIRTUAL programs throughout the year for preschool age children, their parents, families and caregivers. We will be offering Zoom/Face-Time programing that will be fun and educational for you and your children. **These programs will be free of charge and open to the community.** We just ask that you sign up to get the link.

Therefore, if you want to be included in our special year of virtual programming for kids and adults, please email us at [jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com).

If you are interested in being a teacher for the JCP, please send a cover letter and your resume to [jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com), attention Karen or Lisa.

We look forward to hearing from you and building our Jewish Community Preschool family. Please feel free to visit our website (currently under construction) at JCPHV.ORG and if you have any questions, please contact us at [jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com).

The JCP will be open to all children, regardless of race or religion with a playful curriculum that is imbued with Jewish values.

Please "like" and "follow" our Facebook page at Jewish Community Pre-School of the Hudson Valley – and share our page with your friends and family.

## Sisterhood News

It is hard to believe that the High Holy Days are upon us. Despite the pandemic, Sisterhood has had a successful year due to your unwavering support. Our virtual Chai Noon lunch at home events have been fun, especially when we had a surprise visit from Cecile Arnold. Our Donor at Home and Goods and Services Auction had a very positive outcome. In addition to plenty of frivolity, we had very eager bidders. For all of you who support us in so many ways throughout the year, I thank you. I look forward to continuing our important work in the coming year. Stay tuned as we continue to come up with ideas to keep us all in touch.

To anyone I may have been slow to respond to, said something to hurt your feelings or committed any other transgression, I ask forgiveness.

All my best wishes for a healthy and sweet New Year to all.

*Without you we are one woman short!*

*Marcia Tanzman*  
*Sisterhood President*

## Help Vassar Temple and Also Our Neighbors in Need!

IT'S EASY! Organizations such as, but not limited to, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, Grace Smith House and Family Partnership, Hudson River Housing are supporting many families who are financially challenged, more so than ever, during these difficult times. If you would like to help, you can purchase scrip (gift cards) to be distributed to the most needy. Cards will be used for food and other non-perishable family and household supplies.

Send your check to the Temple, labeled "donation, scrip". Vassar Temple will make some revenue off of the scrip sales and, at the same time, you will be doing a mitzvah for members of the community who desperately need help.

For any questions please contact Sandra at [scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org).

## Thank You Vassar Temple!

For contributing to our annual Protein Plenty drive to benefit Community Action Partnerships' four food pantries, and to Jonah Ritter for his special assistance.

To Jasmine Russo and helpers for carrying out "Birthday Bags Reinvented," and to all who donated craft kits, toys and games to bring a fun and constructive summer to 75 children in need at Boys and Girls Club of Poughkeepsie.

To everyone who participated in our nonpartisan post card campaign organized by Howard Susser, to help combat voter suppression around the country

To our special Covid Response Lunch Box team led by Paul Ciminello (Eve Gendron, Jacob Moore, Banna Rubinow, Chris Baltus, Danah Moore, Andi Ciminello) which has been working so hard during the pandemic to bring two meals per month to our hungry neighbors, and to our Sisterhood and all those congregants who have been donating the desserts, fruits and funds for this truly life-sustaining project.

TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS!

## Scrip- The Guilty Pleasure

This Pandemic has certainly changed so much of our lives. We are spending much more time at home. That's a fact. Many of us (Kurt) are sprucing up around the house, fixing things and gardening. Many of us (me) are cooking and/or baking more than ever. Some of us, to the chagrin of our postal carriers, (ok-that would be both of us) have upped our online shopping practices. The Pandemic has also changed the fact that we, at Vassar Temple cannot have our typical, Socially Fun, People Gathering, Type Fundraisers. This is a huge blow to the budget, but not unfixable, by any means.

We, as a Congregation, have huge buying power in this community. If we up our Scrip usage for the regular purchases we make, Vassar Temple would greatly benefit by this. It just takes a small amount of planning. If you think about it, there's probably less than a dozen places that you regularly shop. I'll bet we have Scrip for most of them (or we can get it). Shopping from home (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart) and purchasing online? Use Scrip. Grocery shopping (Adams, Hannaford, Price Chopper, Shop Rite, Stop N Shop, Tops)? Use Scrip. Stopping at the drugstore (CVS, Rite Aid) and picking up your Prescriptions? Use Scrip. Buying gas (Mobil, Shell)? Use Scrip. Purchasing home improvement or gardening supplies (Home Depot, Lowes)? Use Scrip. These are just a few of the many Scrip cards that we have. We have a list that's available and we can get you what you need. Order some and keep it on hand to make your regular purchases and try it out. Every Time you use Scrip, you are making money for the Temple. Once you get in the habit of using it, you actually start feeling guilty when you purchase something without it. And honestly, who needs Jewish Guilt on top of a Pandemic? Questions? Contact Sandra at [scrip@vassartemple.org](mailto:scrip@vassartemple.org).

*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*

## 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., Saturdays 9-10am. (No class Sept. 19.) New attendees should contact [rabbis@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbis@vassartemple.org) for the study sheet.

**"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text"**, taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, select Thursdays from noon to 1:30pm. For further information and to obtain the study sheets, please contact [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net).

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



## September Jahrzeits

### SEPTEMBER 4

Joseph Samuels  
Rose Weisman  
Sheila Mardon Sukert  
Stuart Dick  
Seymour Niesen  
Saul Nectow  
Phyllis Mamis Bell  
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Louis Rosen  
Jack L. Cohn  
Irving Revitz  
Molly Garber  
Rebecca Baskin  
Regina Levy-Ribbi  
Joseph W. Sparks  
Murray Gordon  
Dr. Nathan Bernstein  
Ryan Creedon

### SEPTEMBER 11

Richard M. Held  
Ida Schwartz  
Carl Hoppermann  
Allene Braw Baskin  
Rebecca Slutsky Cohen  
Margaret M. Feldman  
June Siegel  
Zelda Cohen Swatlo  
Norman Lesk  
Ada M. Shelton  
Solomon Diamond  
Kyle Hoppermann  
Samuel Feldman  
Emilie Scharf

### SEPTEMBER 18

Edward Markum  
Donald Hulnick  
John Sparks  
Celia Levine  
Louis Lass  
Solomon Dunn  
Martin Gross  
Philip Finnerman  
Eva D. Lippmann  
Saul Herbert Kaufman  
Dora J. Chertock  
Sam Brozen  
Klara Haas  
Saul Heiser  
Aaron Rabin  
Hilda Klausner  
Aaron Silverman  
Richard Wayne Kallman  
Morris Goldberg  
Alan Lemberger

### SEPTEMBER 25

Rose S. Weigert  
Charlotte Zuckerman  
Elio Ribbi  
Raphael Horn  
James Benton  
Edward Cohen  
Bernard Decovnick  
Edna Cohn  
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Emanuel Aloise  
Patricia Kramer  
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### In Tribute to:

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Polly Lewis receiving the Founders'  
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Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
Doris Cohen

Muriel Lampell, Great Grandma  
of Meyer Rufus & Isaac Matthew  
Barbara Scheer

Alan Kflowitz's service to  
Vassar Temple

Susan Karnes Hecht becoming  
Temple President

Gail D'Alessio's daughter, Rebecca,  
receiving her PhD Vivian & Ed Garber

### With Gratitude to:

Susan Karnes Hecht  
Susan (Matlin) & Scott Piccone and  
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### In Memory of:

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#### In appreciation of the honor of

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#### In gratitude to

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### In honor of Susan Karnes Hecht's installation

Margaret & Larry Slomin

### In appreciation of Sam Finnerman's service to Vassar Temple

Susan & David Hecht

### In memory of Lila Matlin

Harriet Fein

**Vassar Temple Bulletin**  
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<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Alan Kaflowitz

**DATED MAIL  
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## September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:30pm Teacher Orientation 6pm Madrichim Orientation	3 7pm Ritual Committee Meeting	4 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann & Joe Bertolozzi	5 9am Torah Study
6 10:30am Lunchbox	7 Labor Day—Office Closed	8	9	10 Opening Sisterhood Program	11 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	12 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 8:30pm Havdalah and Selichot pgm
13 9am Opening Day of Religious School	14	15	16 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance Cmte	17 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb	18 12pm Sisterhood Chai Noon 6pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	19 10:30pm Rosh Hashanah Service 3:30pm Family & Y'ladam service 4pm Tashlich
20 10am Rosh Hashanah 2nd day morning service	21	22	23 4:30pm Hebrew School	24 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board meeting	25 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman	26 9am Torah Study
27 9am Brotherhood Erect Sukkah 7:30pm Kol Nidre Service	28 10:30am Yom Kippur AM service 1pm Study Session 2pm Family & Y'ladam Service 3:30pm Afternoon Service 5pm Yizkor Service 5pm Ne'ilah Service 6:45 Break the Fast	29	30 4:30pm Hebrew School			