



Vassar Temple

Where You belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel Founded 1848 - Bulletin Volume 169 No. 5 January 2021

Reminder: Winter FUNdraiser: "The Wines of Israel"
Sunday Feb. 7 at 4pm
Registration Deadline: Jan. 15

"The Wines of Israel," a two-hour virtual event, will be an introductory-level seminar on Israeli wines with a guided tasting of four Barkan Classic Series kosher wines. It will be presented by VT member Arnie Serotsky, VP and Tasting Advisory Chair of It Was A Good Year, Inc., a local wine education and tasting group.

- Deadline to register is January 15. Send an email to Arnie at wine@vassartemple.org.
- Cost: \$20 per individual participant, to **benefit** Vassar Temple. Please mail a check to Vassar Temple with "wine tasting" in the memo line.
- The four wines will be available for pickup from MyWine at South Hills Mall at a discounted price of \$44.60 including tax. You will be notified when the wine is available.

Arnie will provide a wine tasting note sheet, food pairing recommendations, and will answer questions following the tasting.

Save These Dates!

Rabbi Berger Presentations on Elie Wiesel

Rabbi Ariel Berger, whose memoir, *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom*, offers intimate first-hand moments and lessons from Wiesel's life and teachings, was scheduled to speak at our Community Shabbaton last spring. While the Shabbaton did not happen due to COVID, we will now have an opportunity to hear Rabbi Berger's planned presentations virtually on four Sundays at 7:30pm: Feb. 14, 21, 28, and March 4. Save the dates, and watch your e-mails for additional information!

Calling all Chili Makers and Bakers.... Lunchbox Needs You!



Vassar Temple continues its long-standing commitment to Lunchbox in partnership with Mid-Hudson Islamic

Society. While we are not yet able to return to the kitchen for meal preparation and serving, we can continue to support our neighbors in need at the Lunchbox. We are providing two meals per month. One meal is restaurant-purchased and the other is homemade by our communities. We provide meals for up to 100 local residents on the first Sunday of the month and another 80 the third Thursday. Now, more than ever, we need you! Here is

how you can continue to help Vassar Temple Lunchbox from the safety of your homes.

- **Make Chili.** We will send you the bulk recipe we are using that serves at least 15. Chili can be made anytime during the month and put in the freezer at Vassar Temple.
- **Bake Cornbread.** Any recipe is fine. The cornbread can be baked at home and packaged in individual servings (small zip-lock bags) and placed in freezer at Temple.
- **Bake Cookies or Brownies.** Bake at home and package in individual servings (small zip-lock bags) and placed in freezer at Temple.

- **Make a donation to Lunchbox!**



If cooking or baking isn't possible, we have limited opportunities for on-site serving at Lunchbox and also delivery of food from Temple to Lunchbox. Lunchbox is not offering any sit-down meals. They are packaging and offering guests grab-and-go meals. We assist with distributing food at the door, observing all safety guidelines.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please reach out to Lunchbox@vassartemple.org. We will respond and give all guidance necessary.

From the Rabbi's Desk



Happy (secular) New year! I've always enjoyed the fact that as Jews we get to observe multiple new years. While Rosh Hashanah is my time for

introspection and resolutions, January 1 is primarily a celebratory occasion marking the start of a new secular year, the year around which much of our lives revolves. It, too, has a reflective element as we pause to look back on the year that is ending and anticipate the possibilities that lie ahead in the year about to unfold.

For some time now many have been yearning to turn the page on 2020, to emerge from the depths of the pandemic and the polarization of the election into the hope of a new year. Indeed, as of this writing, we are on the cusp of vaccination approval and distribution. The light at the end of this long, dark tunnel begins to burn brighter even as much of the nation struggles with a second wave of the virus and we huddle apart in the safety of our homes.

This month will also mark a differ-

ent beginning with the inauguration of a new president. Part of this nation will be filled with joy and relief while part will be filled with fear and anxiety. Such divisions are never good for a country, but they are especially dangerous at times such as this when we are fighting a pandemic and its many ramifications on all parts of our society. The need to find a path towards understanding and healing is great. The 18th century Hassidic master, Rebbe Nahman of Bratzlav, offered an interpretation of wholeness that can guide us in this quest:

The essence of shalom is to unite two opposites. Therefore, do not be alarmed when you meet someone whose opinions are diametrically opposed to yours, causing you to believe that it is absolutely impossible to live with him in peace. Similarly, when you see two people of extremely contrasting natures, do not say that it is impossible to make peace between them. On the contrary, the very essence of peace is to strive for harmony between opposites, just as God makes peace in the heavens between the contrasting elements of fire and water. (Likkutei Etzot, Shalom)

It is towards this end of seeking wholeness that I am working with members of the DCIC

to plan an interfaith service of peace and healing. As of this writing the date has not yet been set but we hope that it will be either in late January or early February. I anticipate that we will share teachings from different faith traditions on achieving peace, understanding and harmony. We will offer prayers of hope for our broken nation, healing for its physical as well as spiritual ills. We are also discussing possible programs to follow that will explore dialogue across differences. Stay tuned for details to follow.

In addition to our secular new year, we also celebrate another kind of Jewish new year this month: the new year for trees known as Tu Bishvat. This new year sets the date by which the age of trees was counted so that farmers would know when the fruit was ready to be eaten in accordance with biblical commandments. The mystics of Tzefat created the tradition of a Tu Bishvat Seder, connecting the holiday to the land of Israel by eating the 7 species of foods listed in the Torah. We will celebrate with a Tu Bishvat Tisch Shabbat on Friday, January 29 at 6:00pm.

Even in the midst of winter here, Tu Bishvat reminds us that spring is not far away!

Rabbi Reni Altman

President's Message

I'd like to start a dialog with members about the Vassar Temple cemeteries. This topic typically arises at a sad time; instead, I hope that those who are less familiar with our properties may join me in understanding them as central to temple and community history, and



perhaps express interest in helping to preserve this legacy.

A rundown of these sites begins with our "historic" cemetery on Pershing Avenue in the City of Poughkeepsie. This home to our congregational founders' graves is graced by headstones from the 1800's. Annually on Mitzvah Day volunteers clean up leaves and brush. With the creation of nearby Pershing Avenue Neighborhood Farm, which will include an educational farm and community garden, we have an opportunity to be good neighbors. I've reached out to the City Council to explore making the open

part of the property into a "pocket park" (credit to Roni Stein for seeding this idea!).

Alongside other Jewish sections on LaGrange Avenue (near Vassar College) are our "old" (north side) and "new" (south side) cemeteries. Some of the oldest graves on the north side have exquisite monuments, and many family areas are related to current members. Current burials occur on the south side. Both of these areas are open to visit at any time.

We are also caretakers for the former Hebrew Fraternal Benevolent Society. The older HFBS area is adjacent to our LaGrange Avenue location, while the newer area is on Dutchess Turnpike adjacent to the Temple Beth-El cemetery. The HFBS was a Jewish organization whose members may or may not have belonged concurrently to one of the area synagogues. Members undertook social and community activities and had burial privileges on parcels owned by the HFBS. Over time, HFBS membership waned; in 2003 the HFBS merged with Vassar Temple. Its cemeteries and significant monetary assets were transferred to the Temple. In exchange, we agreed to provide burial privileges and headstones for remaining HFBS members and their spouses on those parcels

and care for the cemeteries in perpetuity. Vassar Temple will also be able to use the remaining space for its own members in the future.

I invite you to visit these locations; you will leave with a heightened sense of our role in community history. (The historic cemetery is locked - please contact me to visit.) I'm in the habit of checking on the properties and often visit my great-great-grandparents and other ancestors whose resting places are in what is now Shomrei Israel space. While it is coincidental that I landed here, I appreciate the continuity with early Poughkeepsie Jews.

We need volunteers for our cemetery committee to care for these properties, a sacred responsibility. There are roles to fit different interests: day to day management - a true mitzvah assisting families in time of need; property management; and historic research, i.e. updating maps and database and looking into technology applications for this purpose. Please contact me if any role appeals to you, and know that you would be doing a great service. Thank you.

Susan Karnes Hecht

January Worship Service Schedule

1	6:00pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
2	9:00am	Torah Study
8	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
9	9:00am 10:15am 10:30am	Torah Study New Paths Shabbat Y'ladim
15	7:30pm	The Charles and Dorothy Wender Music Shabbat, "Chazak ve'ematz – Be Strong and of Courage: Jewish Songs of Protest" with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
16	9:00am	Torah Study
22	6:00pm	Simchat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman and Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
23	9:00am 10:15am	Torah Study New Paths
29	6:00pm	Tu Bishvat Tisch Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann
30	9:00am	Torah Study

All of these events will be available virtually. To obtain the most up to date information regarding each service (including New Paths) or Torah Study please refer to the weekly emails.

Chazak ve'ematz – Be Strong and of Courage: Jewish Songs of Protest

Charles and Dorothy Wender Music Shabbat Friday, January 15 7:30pm

When Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel returned from having joined the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the march in Selma, he reflected upon the experience saying, "For many of us, the march... was about protest and prayer. Legs are not lips and walking is not kneeling. And yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying."

On this Shabbat of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we will celebrate Dr. King's legacy of peaceful protest that mobilized the civil rights movement by exploring songs in the Jewish tradition, both old and new, that illustrate this spirit of protest and hope for change.

Tu Bishvat Tisch Shabbat Fri. Jan. 29 6pm

Join us for a warm and wonderful erev Shabbat service – preferably at your dining table! A tisch is a gathering around a table, and during this Shabbat we'll also be observing the holiday of Tu Bishvat (New Year of the Trees). Led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann, together we'll focus on the gift of trees and nature, explore the special foods and traditions of the holiday, and celebrate with song and prayer. So prepare to dine on fruits of the trees with your temple family at our Tu Bishvat Tisch Shabbat. Watch your e-mail for updates and the Zoom link.

Scriptural Readings

Jan.	2	<i>Va-y'chi</i> Gen. 47:28-50:26; I Kings 2:1-12
	9	<i>Sh'mot</i> Ex. 1:1-6:1; Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23
	16	<i>Va-eira</i> Ex. 6:2-9:35; Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
	23	<i>Bo</i> Ex. 10:1-13:16; Jeremiah 46:14-28
	30	Shabbat Shirah <i>B'shalach</i> Ex. 13:17-17:16; Judges 4:4-5:31

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturdays Jan. 9 & Jan. 23 on Zoom. 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 (BYO wine or grape juice). For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Altman rabi@vassartemple.org, and for the Zoom link see the temple weekly e-reminder or contact the temple office at office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.



Mazel Tov

To:

Ariel Lampell and Bill Ling on the birth of their son Matthew Daniel. Proud grandparents are David and Marilyn Lampell and the great-grandparents are Muriel and Matt z"l" Lampell.



Thank You

We thank the following donors who have generously contributed to Vassar Temple's High Holy Day Appeal during November 2020. There is still time to donate. Please join your fellow Congregants in supporting the financial stability of Vassar Temple. Future donors will be listed in the next Bulletin. Again, our sincere gratitude for your support of our HHD Appeal and your ongoing commitment to the future of Vassar Temple.

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Melissa Erlebacher
Leonard and Barbara Hyman
Ken & Amy Oclatis



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.

January 2021 Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors:

January 1: Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Greta Blaine
January 8: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
January 15: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
January 22: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
January 29: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

Condolences

To:

The family of Jacob Aaron Guzman,
grandson of Linda and Joel (z"l)
Babas

Shabbat Y'Ladim (Children's Shabbat)

All children from birth to first grade are invited to join Rabbi Altman and music teacher, Olivia DiIorio, for a Shabbat celebration at Vassar Temple on **Saturday January 9 from 10:30 -11:00am**. Our stuffed bear friends *Kachol v'Lavan* will be there to take part in the singing, stories, and a brief, child friendly Shabbat service. Tell your friends and neighbors--this event is free and open to the whole community. If we can meet in person in the Temple under the health and safety guidelines in place at that time, masks will be required, we will be safely distanced, and individualized snacks will be served. If meeting in the Temple will not be possible, then we will meet on Zoom. For further information, updates, and information about Zoom, contact office@vassartemple.org or call the Temple 845-454-2570.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

Publisher: Marianne Abrams and
Bob Abrams

Editor: Jo Schaffel

Technical support & understudy
Bob Abrams

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



Certificate awarded to VT by Dutchess Outreach for outstanding LB contributions. Usually, the LB certificates are awarded during an annual breakfast or luncheon, but because of Covid, the certificate was mailed this year. During the pandemic we have increased our efforts, to do Lunch Box twice a month, (along with our partners from the MHIA). This honor would not have been possible without the continuous support of the congregation.

It's Souper Sale Time Again!

With the cold months upon us, let's come together to raise money to purchase hearty soups for local families in need. Between Jan. 1- Jan. 31, please send your tax-deductible donation in any amount to:

Vassar Temple
140 Hooker Ave.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Please put "Souper Sale" on the memo line.

Your donations will be used to purchase scrip which benefits the temple as well. At the end of the fundraising drive, soup will be purchased, and then temple volunteers will make deliveries to various food pantries in the area: Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership, Interfaith Senior Housing, Morse Magnet Elementary School. Please reach out to me to let me know where you'd like to deliver and how many cases you can take. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

Shaari Roland

souperale@vassartemple.org

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

"Torah Study," which examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah, will be led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, D.D., every Saturday from 9-10am. New attendees should contact rabbi@vassartemple.org to be put on the Torah Study e-mail list.

"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.

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

Religious School Update

After a much-needed break for winter recess, students will return to remote Hebrew school on January 6 and religious school on January 10 (with another break for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend on Jan. 17). On Sunday January 24, families will join together for a Tu Bishvat observance as we celebrate trees, focus on concern for the environment and enjoy the biblical seven species of foods of the land of Israel. Though we are still in the midst of winter, Tu Bishvat reminds us that spring is around the corner!

Rabbi Renni Altman

CROP Walk Results!

Thanks to each of you who generously sponsored our team members! Funds are still coming in, and as of press time, the 45th Annual Interfaith CROP Walk Against Hunger has raised close to \$55,000! In a field of 28 teams, Vassar Temple was among the top five teams for fundraising, despite the fact that we only had four team members this year. Our Temple Rabbi has always walked, serving as a wonderful role model for us all. In fact, this year, Rabbi Altman was among the top five individuals for fundraising, bringing in important donations from outside the congregation. The team was rounded out by Ron Rosen, who served as our recruiter and captain, Dave Wolf, and Ralph Schwartz.

This year, like so much else, the CROP Walk was different--in fact, there was no big community walk. Some chose to walk alone or in small groups, to hike or run, to explore new locations like the Rail Trail, Vanderbilt estate, and the Appalachian Trail. The end result was still a remarkable community effort to combat hunger. At the DCIC Annual Concert/Thanksgiving Service, giant checks were presented to Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership, and Fishkill Food Pantry, some of the local beneficiaries of the walk, and the remaining funds will be distributed to programs that help combat hunger nationwide and globally.

Preserve a Piece of VT History

As described in previous Bulletins, we are creating an electronic document room to include core administrative and financial documents, details of professional staff and governance, documents related to the Temple's mission and history, information about our Religious School, cemetery records, and chronicles of our auxiliaries. As part of this enormous project we have been sorting through our physical archives in preparation for digitizing and preserving irreplaceable items. We have a wealth of mementoes and, in many cases, numerous duplicates. While we will retain copies in a safe location, we can offer extra items to our members who might enjoy having them in a personal collection. In particular, we have celebration journals dating as far back as the 90th anniversary (1938). Many of these booklets celebrate honors bestowed upon individuals whose families remain part of our community. We hope to find caring homes for these special items and will greatly appreciate consideration of a voluntary donation of any amount for the honor of performing this mitzvah. Any funds received will be used to offset the costs of the project (archival storage materials, etc.). If you are interested in perusing the list of available items, please contact Susan at president@vassartemple.org or by calling the office.

Sisterhood News

Welcome to 2021. I hope this year will bring us a wonderful, new normal, that sees us together again, stronger than ever. Thank you to everyone who has paid her Sisterhood dues for the 2020-21 year. If this is your first year in Sisterhood, or a number too high to count, we are glad to have you as a member. We continue to provide many services including Chai Noon luncheons, our Judaica Shoppe, Reyut, the Deborah Tannen program, and cookies for Chanukah. Watch the weekly emails for upcoming events.

Roni Stein and I had the pleasure of attending the WRJ – Northeast conference “Celebrating Our Stories” in November. There were many informative sessions that included “Sharing our Jewish Stories,” “Did You Really Just Say That,” “Anti-Semitism and Social Justice,” and Leadership workshops. We hope to bring some of the things we learned to our Sisterhood. Additionally, our Vassar Temple Sisterhood participated in the WRJ-Northeast Social Action project, “Change a Child’s Story.” We purchased five children’s books, each inscribed with a bookplate from Vassar Temple Sisterhood. These books will help build a children’s library at the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, a shelter in Rochester, NY.

Keep your eye out for your 2021 Sisterhood Friendship Calendar. Our calendars are distributed to all who participated in the calendar project. However, if you would like to have a calendar, you may purchase one for ten dollars while supplies last. Contact sisterhood@vassartemple.org.

Without you we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman

Brotherhood News

Let me begin by wishing everyone a happy and healthy and a prosperous 2021. These are difficult times that require patience and flexibility but most of all focusing on all the good things in our lives and not on all the distractions or sacrifices.

We hope that you enjoy our monthly virtual Happy Hours and find this and other ways to stay connected. If you have any suggestions to help us stay connected, please feel free to contact me at brotherhood@vassartemple.org.

Thank you to those of you who have paid your 2021 Brotherhood dues. Dues are \$36 and cover calendar year 2021 and can be remitted now to the Temple Office with the notation “Brotherhood Dues” on the memo line.

I hope that we will soon return to normal and resume activities with the Purim Pasta Dinner on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Obviously, we will be compliant with any of the NY State guidelines in effect at that time, but please save the date in hopes that we will be able to cook and serve this annual dinner. We will keep you posted as time grows nearer including any links if we go virtual for it.

In the meanwhile, be well and stay strong.

Glenn Tanzman

Interfaith Story Circle: “The Wisdom of Humor” Tuesday Jan. 19, 7pm

Come to tell a story, or just to listen, in a warm welcoming interfaith circle. Funny stories often contain deep insight into the human condition. So this time let’s share stories of laughter and insight— personal tales, folk tales, or something from your faith tradition. Please e-mail DCICstory@optonline.net to receive the Zoom link. Co-sponsored each month by Dutchess County Interfaith Council.

Thank You Vassar Temple

All for One Community Food Drive- “We have no words to express how thankful we are to all of you for your participation, generous contributions and overwhelming support, investing your time and kind effort toward the second ‘All For One Drive-Thru Food Pantry.’ The COVID-19 crisis has caused an unprecedented demand for food. ‘All for One Food Drive-Thru Joint Community Effort’ was a great example of us all standing as one community, helping humanity at this difficult time.”
~ Dr. Seema Rizvi and Dr. Rabi Sinha

Trim a Thanksgiving/ Turkey Trot- “Thanks to all of you who donated food and funds to once again enable 10 local families celebrate the holiday. A special shout out to Wendy Marcus and Ralph Schwartz for their help shopping and setting up, to Rabbi Altman for her inspiring lesson on Jewish teachings about tzedakah, and to teens Aaron, Alex, Haley, Isabelle and Matt for preparing everything for home delivery. Tote bags of fixings for Thanksgiving dinner and more were accompanied by family-size turkeys and roasting pans. Any extra donated food went directly to a food pantry on Route 55. We carry out this project every year in collaboration with Hudson River Housing”. ~Marian Schwartz, Project Chairman

Protein Plenty- “Currently, with so many families in need due to COVID-19, your donation of gift cards to buy high protein foods for our food pantries is beyond measure. The request for food has doubled since March ... There is no way to truly express our gratitude ... Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County is continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of donors like you who answer the call to give again and again.” ~Elizabeth Carlton Spira, CEO

Wind Chill Fund- “For nearly 40 years, Hudson River Housing has worked to develop and sustain diverse housing opportunities and provide support services to those in need. Your generosity will help us continue our efforts to strengthen our communities.” ~Christa Hines, Executive Director

An Easy Way to Purchase SCRIP!

SCRIP sales raise a lot of money for the Temple which, in turn, helps to support programming, quality personnel and building maintenance. SCRIP - or gift cards - are available to local and national retailers and make great gifts, as well as being easy to use as payments when making your own regular purchases at the grocery store, pharmacy, coffee shop and so much more. How can you easily get SCRIP? You can instruct your bank to bill pay the temple directly: either a one-time payment for that occasional card you need, or set up monthly recurrent payments for cards that you use regularly. So, for instance, if you spend \$100 a month at Adams, you can have your bank send a check directly from your account to ours for \$100 and we will get you the Adams card. In the case of Adams, the Temple makes 10% which is just AMAZING!

Need help getting started? Either contact Sandra, the SCRIP coordinator at scrip@vassartemple.org or speak with our knowledgeable office staff.

It is so easy to support this initiative and do a wonderful thing for your Temple!



Through the generosity of all who donated food and funds for our annual Thanksgiving projects, Trim a Thanksgiving & Turkey Trot, ten festive holiday tote bags were thoughtfully prepared by Temple teens, and everything was distributed by Hudson River Housing to brighten the holiday for local families in need.



Dave Wolf on the Dutchess Rail Trail, at the Seth Erlebacher Memorial Bench.



Contributions

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Louis Rosen	Ron & Marilyn Rosen
Dorothy Schmukler	David & Joan Posner
Nathan Schmukler	David & Joan Posner
Harold Posner	David & Joan Posner
Albert E. Schwartz	Ralph Schwartz
Helen Wrobel	Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Aaron Slote	Muriel Lampell
Selma Kahn	Muriel Lampell
Joseph L. Kahn	Muriel Lampell
Nathaniel Rubin	Martin & Eleanor Charwat
Kate Hecht	David & Susan Hecht
Anne Richmond	David & Susan Hecht

In Honor of:

The Confirmands:	David & Susan Hecht
Hannah Gendron	
Haley Kaflowitz	
Amanda Moore	
Isabelle Hartman	

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Jacob Aaron Guzman	Susan Fink
	Irma Jacobs
	Edward & Vivian Garber
	Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
	The Ciminello Family
	Harold & Susan Lesser
	Barbara Hulnick
	David & Susan Hecht
	Doris Cohen
	Muriel Lampell
	Ralph & Marian Schwartz

LUNCH BOX FUND

	Susan Fink
	Elizabeth Krevolin

In Honor of:

The Confirmands:	Ralph & Marian Schwartz
Hannah Gendron	
Isabelle Hartman	
Haley Kaflowitz	
Amanda Moore	

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Honor of:

Lila Matlin	Charles & Roni Stein
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Heroes Among Us: Steadfast Leadership

Being featured in this column is the last thing the most recent “Hero Among Us” would expect, but at this moment I can think of no one more appropriate to recognize. Her day-to-day efforts touch virtually every aspect of Vassar Temple and through her work she has provided a steadying force amidst the upheaval and uncertainty of the pandemic. She would probably claim that she is just doing her job, but the way she is doing it has been nothing short of remarkable.

Two and a half years ago, Rabbi Renni Altman made a courageous move to the Hudson Valley to become our Rabbi at Vassar Temple. We knew we were getting a seasoned, smart, compassionate and knowledgeable individual, but it was not until she was faced with the challenges of leading our Temple through a

global pandemic during a year of intense political and economic upheaval that the full extent of her abilities emerged. From the very first virtual services broadcast from the sanctuary, continuing through the High Holidays, her monthly columns in the Bulletin and her ongoing personal contacts with members of our community, she has kept us grounded in faith and guided our Temple family through this unprecedented time.

Clerical life is demanding even in the best of circumstances, but the past year has been extreme. Throughout this time Rabbi Altman has seemingly not skipped a beat, leading with confidence and steadiness in her very genuine manner, practicing what she preaches with her deeds and presence. There is no guide or precedent for navigating circumstances like those we faced during 2020, but thanks to Rabbi Altman’s unwavering leadership, wisdom and accessibility, we did not lose our way;

in fact, she gave us strength and hope.

Now that I am splitting my time between the Hudson Valley and Wyoming, I have found great comfort in knowing that I can log onto my computer at 6:00pm ET on Friday evenings and see the Rabbi at the Bimah, prepared as always, offering stability and inspiring insights. She has been a hero to me, and even though we are living in relative isolation these days, I know I am not alone in feeling this way, or for that matter, feeling alone at all as long as she is our Rabbi. Thank you, Rabbi Altman. Be well!

Jennifer Sachs Dahmert

Yahrzeits

JANUARY 1

Yetta Horn
Jean Ciminello
Frances Rosen
Morris Effron
Meyer Miller
Faye Seif
Rose Brond
Jean Citron
Harry Fogle
Keith Warner Landau
DeWitt Fischman
Donald DeWitt
Dotty Sternberg
Harris Harold Groten
Alma Barbash
Dr. Bertram Katz

JANUARY 8

Clara Dorn
Leo Dorn
Greta Blaine
Betty Israel
John Ciminello
Monte Tate Brown
Ethel Haber
Rae Lipman
Anne Richmond
Beatrice Salit Horn
Gabrielle Soroka

JANUARY 15

Samuel Grand
Carl Tobias
Morris Kahn
Dr. Charles Scope
Leon Krauss
Joan Plotsky
Wendy Ellen
Wolstencroft
Dorothy Vogel
George Meltzer
Gloria Menken
Evelyn Tanzman
Joseph Levinson
Shirley Lipschutz
Gerald Mamis
Andrea Sue Rabin
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

JANUARY 22

Davida Krevolin
Sylvia Mednick
Abraham Ginsberg
Stephen Bokor
Morris S. Rosen
Joseph Solomon
Daniel Russotto
Sarah Sacharoff
Doris Preis Rubinow
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 Walter Seligman
Judel Lampert
Henry Goldstein
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JANUARY 29

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Winter Doldrums...in a Pandemic

Winter is long. Quarantining is getting old. I am getting tiresome and old. It is definitely time to creatively and safely add some pick-me-ups into my day-to-day life. I have tried many of these energy and spirit boosters with great success. Hopefully you will find at least a couple to lift you through this difficult time.

- 1) Buy Fresh Flowers. Pick them up at the Grocery Store or have them delivered from the florist. Split loose flowers into smaller arrangements around your house.
- 2) Read a book outside your comfort zone. If you usually read Romances, try historical fiction or a mystery. Try an Audiobook or Podcast. There's a great big world out there.
- 3) Start binge watching something on Netflix, or Hulu or whatever you

have. Again, a very large world out there.

- 4) Take up a new skill. YouTube and TikTok are all the rage for learning almost anything. You have nothing but time.
- 5) Cook or bake something you have never made before. This is my personal favorite. If you have successes, I want to know about them.
- 6) Cleaning and organizing. Tackle a junk drawer, spice cabinet, linen closet. This is not my favorite, but incredibly satisfying when complete.
- 7) Take a walk around your block or at least around your house and stretch. Movement is a spirit booster.

- 8) Plan your Summer Garden. Even if you've never had a garden, it's never too early to research and dream of green things.
- 9) Phone a friend. Or text. Or email. Or write an old-fashioned snail-mail letter. Connections are important to all of us.
- 10) Have you joined us for a Friday night Service or Saturday morning Torah Study? No time like the present. Check out the Zoom links in the weekly email newsletters.

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

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Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman
Immediate Past President: Alan Kaflowitz

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day—Office Closed 6pm Shabbat Service	2 9am Torah Study
3 10:30am Lunchbox	4	5	6 3:30pm Hebrew School	7 7pm Ritual Committee Meeting	8 7:30pm Shabbat Service	9 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Y'ladim
10 10am Religious School TBD: Brotherhood Football Viewing	11	12	13 3:30pm Hebrew School	14	15 7:30p music Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann	16 9am Torah Study
17	18 MLK Birthday—Office Closed 12pm VTS Chai Noon	19	20 3:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Finance Cmte meeting	21 12pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb	22 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service	23 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
24 9am Tiny Temple / PJ Library Tu B'Shvat 10am Tu B'Shvat Seder in Social Hall 10am Religious School	25	26	27 3:30pm Hebrew School	28 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board Meeting	29 6pm Tu B'ishvat Tisch Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann	30 9am Torah Study
31 10am Religious School						