



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 169 No. 7 March 2021

Changing of the (Bulletin) Guard

Dear Readers,

As some of you may already know, after 20 years I will no longer be publishing the Vassar Temple Bulletin. I've enjoyed the job, but now it is time for me to move on. I want to thank my competent and conscientious editors, Doi Cohen, Linda Skolnick, Sue Lesser, Donna Loshin and most recently Jo Schaffel, for their proofreading and formatting advice. I would also like to express appreciation to my husband, Bob, who helped with technical and moral support when things became challenging. I've also enjoyed working with Eric at Dutchess ProPrint, who has provided helpful technical advice on some Adobe InDesign issues, and was so reliable in printing and sending out the monthly Bulletin in a timely fashion.

To all of those who assisted by contributing articles and photos – a hearty thank you!

Sincerely,
Marianne Abrams
(soon to be former publisher)

THANK YOU,
MARIANNE!

The Board of Trustees expresses boundless gratitude to Marianne Abrams for her many years of volunteer service as Bulletin publisher. Beginning with this issue, the Bulletin is being published in the Temple office. You may notice some changes as we transition this responsibility and move to different publishing software.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, May 2, 5pm

Party with a Purpose

Happy Hour & Online Judaica and Goods & Services Auction to benefit Vassar Temple and Vassar Temple Sisterhood. Details to follow.

To assist with the event or donate auction items please contact the Temple office at 845.454.2570 or auction@vassartemple.org





From the Rabbi's Desk

Last year Passover arrived in early April, back when we were in what we now know was an early phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we all struggled to pull together some semblance of Passover

Zoom seders, we fully believed that “next year we will be free” and that we would be back in person with our families and loved ones for this most joyous holiday. Sadly, we aren’t quite there for this Passover, but we are well on our way.

No doubt, last year’s Seder was dominated by the theme of plagues. How could we avoid it? Remembering the suffering of the ancient Egyptians in the plagues of the Exodus by diminishing the joy represented in our kiddush cups was made all too real for us by the suffering from Covid: loss of life, debilitating illness, economic devastation, job loss, family separation, social isolation, Zoom school, fear, anxiety, depression—these were among our modern plagues.

A Jewish calendar year later and the plagues are still with us, but the theme of Passover that speaks to me more loudly this year is freedom: both its promise and meaning.

In Exodus God tells Moses to tell the Israelites: “I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements. And I will take you to be My people and I will be your God.” (Ex. 6:6-7) To remember these four promises, we drink four cups of wine.

As vaccine distribution continues and spring approaches, when we will once again be able to gather more safely outdoors, we see the light at the end of this long dark tunnel; the promise of freedom will soon come true! Freedom to interact

with others in close proximity without masks; freedom to go to school and work; freedom to dine together—in restaurants. Freedom means being able to see our loved ones in person; to embrace one another; to hold the hand of a sick relative or be by someone’s bedside in their final moments; to be with others in times of joy and of sorrow. There are so many aspects of life pre-Covid that we simply took for granted; they are, indeed, freedoms that we will soon to be able to cherish once again.

And yet, we know that freedom does not mean the same thing for everyone. While some may feel imprisoned by the four walls of their homes, others have lost the essential freedom of economic security as unemployment rates continue to rise and businesses are forced to close—many permanently. The challenges with the vaccine roll-out have only served to underscore gross inequities in our society, especially across racial lines.

It has been affirming to see how many in our congregation have continued to give financially and of themselves to help those who are struggling through our monthly social action projects, increased support of Lunch Box, or numerous opportunities to help in our community and beyond.

At this year’s socially distanced Passover Seders we will again diminish the joy in our kiddush cups in remembrance of plagues past and present. So, too, let us raise those glasses for the promise of freedom that will again be ours and recommit ourselves to work for true freedom for all. Next year, indeed, may all be free! Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy, joyous, and *zisen Pesach*—on screen or safely distanced!

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message: Reflections on Our Pandemic Year

Unbelievably, when you read this, about a year will have passed since our first Covid-

driven decision. Clearly this was not what we had in mind. Our community has suffered a number of losses in that year—not all from Covid, but nonetheless made worse by the inability to gather. But it's vital that we also meet this unwelcome anniversary by embracing our successes and recognizing their potential for our future. It's my belief that those members, of blessed memory, would cheer us on.

Foremost is the reinforcement of the importance of this congregation. Our members are relying on the connection and recognizing anew Vassar Temple's centrality in their lives and that of our local community. I am gratified by the individual conversations which have allowed me to forge new relationships. I thank those who share my love of the Temple and have offered moral and practical support, acknowledged the level of challenge, and renewed my determination.

We had started to envision "going remote", although Covid forced our hand. What steps could we take to connect with members unable to attend in person? What impact could technology have on our viability in a changing world? Establishing the Lila Matlin Technology Fund allowed us to meet the first milestone. With the emergency behind us, we now turn to consideration of how we can leverage technology across all of our

pursuits: ritual, educational, and social.

But the Covid tale, for me, is the amalgamation of organizational and personal concerns. For some of us, it's a steady slog; for others, a specific point of tragedy. We each have a unique breaking point where we cross the threshold into true heartache. A recent moment crystallized the experience for me.

Years ago, we purchased yarn for my mother-in-law, an accomplished knitter, to make an afghan for my daughter, who would be getting her own place. One thing led to another; the project landed in the nursing home, her skills regressed with dementia, she took a scissors to it, and we had to take it away. It took me five years, but I finished it last month and excitedly drove to my daughter's new house the very next day to deliver it. At last, I had finished a quarantine project! So many good intentions, so many unforeseen swerves, so few completed.

I set the bag down, along with homemade applesauce, having interacted with my son-in-law from several feet away, prevented by their school exposure from going inside. I sat in their driveway crying, desperately missing my kids.

Remembering the awful course of the dementia. Thinking of my friends whose parents are in that situation—horrible enough without Covid—and can't be with family. Our mutual isolation, fear, worry, and need to get out of the house. All of these threads merged in that moment and left me with a new level of understanding that, above all else, we must be a lifeline for our members.

We will continue to conduct the essential business of Vassar Temple. But first, we will be there for you.

Susan Karnes Hecht

Shabbaton Featuring Panel Discussion: Saturday, March 13

Vassar Temple will be holding a Shabbat morning service on Zoom Saturday, March 13 at 10:00am. The service will be led by Rabbi Altman, assisted by members of the congregation. Following the service there will a presentation and discussion on "The Covid Pandemic: Lessons from the Past and Ethical Challenges for Today." Panelists will include Dr. Anil K. Vaidian, Dutchess County Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, speaking on understanding herd immunity, Dr. Miriam Cohen, Evalyn Clark Professor of History, Vassar College, speaking on lessons from the 1918 pandemic that can guide us today, and Rabbi Altman speaking about Jewish teachings on ethical challenges of the pandemic. Be sure to join us for an inspiring and informative morning! Due to this special programming, there will be no Torah Study that day. Watch temple e-mails for the Zoom link, or contact office@vassartemple.org.



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. every Saturday from 9-10am, **except** March 13 when we will be having a Shabbaton. New attendees should contact rabbi@vassartemple.org for further information and to be placed on the Torah Study e-mail list.

"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text," taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, twice a month on select Thursdays from noon to 1:30pm. For further information and to obtain the study sheets, please contact pigolomb@verizon.net.

All are welcome to come and join 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 Zoom links and updated information office@vassartemple.org.

Religious School Update

As our students prepare for the spring holiday of Passover at the end of the month, they will complete their unit on the value of *Hakarat HaTov*, recognizing the good, and turn towards learning about the value *Koach HaDibur*, the power of speech. Families will join together for a pre-Passover program on Sunday, March 21, singing Passover songs and exploring different aspects and foods of the Passover Seder. As the weather warms up, we look forward to having some sessions outdoors where we can physically be together!

Rabbi Renni Altman

Tiny Temple & PJ Library Celebrate Passover

Tiny Temple and PJ Library are joining for fun and learning to celebrate Passover on Sunday, March 21 from 9:30-10am at Vassar Temple. The program is especially designed for children age 0-6 and their families, and Rabbi Altman is planning on holding it outdoors, weather permitting.

Please contact office@vassartemple.org for further updated information and to RSVP.

March Worship Service Schedule

Date	Time	Service
Fri. 3/5	7:30pm	Community Shabbaton/ HIAS Refugee Shabbat - Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
Sat. 3/6	9:00am 10:15am	Torah Study New Paths
Fri. 3/12	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Gail D'Alessio & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
Sat. 3/13	9:00am 10:00am	NO Torah Study Congregational Shabbaton - service led by Rabbi Altman followed by panel discussion regarding the pandemic with Dr. Miriam Cohen, Dr. Anil Vaidian & Rabbi Altman
Fri. 3/19	6:00pm	Simchat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
Sat. 3/20	9:00am 10:15am	Torah Study New Paths
Fri. 3/26	7:30pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Altman, Elena Collins & Joseph Bertolozzi, keyboard
Sat. 3/27	9:00am	Torah Study

All of these events will be available virtually.
Please see weekly emails for the most up to date
information regarding each service.

Scriptural Readings

March 6	Shabbat Parah <i>Ki Tisa</i> Ex. 30:11-34:35; Ezekiel 36:22-36
March 13	Shabbat HaChodesh <i>Vayak'heil/P'kudei</i> Ex. 35:1-40:38; Ezekiel 45:16-25
March 20	<i>Vayikra</i> Lev. 1:1-5:26; Isaiah 43:21-44:23
March 27	Shabbat HaGadol <i>Tzav</i> Lev. 6:1-8:36; Malachi 3:4-24

New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturdays March 6 & March 20 at 10:15am 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 rabbi@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.

SIMCHA SHOUT OUT



Mazel Tov to the Lampell Family!

Congratulations on the birth of **Isla Mary Kelsay**, born on January 30. Her parents are Dr. Erin McLaughlin and Evan Kelsay, brothers are Finn and Derek Kelsay (*who would have preferred a teenage boy or monkey*). Grandparents are David and Marilyn Lampell, and her Great-Grandmother is Muriel Lampell.

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.

March 2021 Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors:

March 5:

Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

March 12:

Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

March 19:

Donated by Sandra Mamis in memory of Harry Mamis & Kurt Similes, and Jim Robinowitz in memory of Mary Ann Robinowitz

March 26:

Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Erica Robbins & Martin Noble, Sr.

Condolences to:

The family of
Maurice (Maury) Collen,
husband of Lesa Collen

The family of
Elaine (Pat) Newman,
wife of B. Jay Newman, z"l

The family of
Roy Lieberman,
brother of Jon Lieberman
(Fern Lox)

The family of
Stephen Berr,
Father of
Laura (Tom) Brundage

The family of
Harriet Fein,
wife of Richard Fein, z"l

Vassar Temple Bulletin

Published Monthly

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Editor: Jo Schaffel

Articles for the May Bulletin must be submitted to the Temple Office by April 1.

Articles may be sent via email to
publicity@vassartemple.org.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



Help with Registering for Covid Vaccination

If you are eligible to receive the Covid vaccination but you don't have easy access to the internet, Vassar Temple volunteers will go online for you.

Please call the office.

As one volunteer put it,

"We don't have any special in, but we'll get online everyday till we get you an appointment. It will probably take weeks, but we want everyone who's eligible for the vaccine to be able to get it."

Engaging Differences:

A Journey Toward Understanding

A program of the

Dutchess County Interfaith Council

Tuesday, March 16

5:30pm annual meeting / 6:00pm program

All are invited to join with the interfaith community of Dutchess County for an evening of prayer and reflection as we seek to open avenues for dialogue and understanding across differences.

Kenneth S. Stern, Director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate will speak to this topic and there will be an opportunity for interchange among participants as well. The DCIC will incorporate this theme of "Engaging Differences" in its programming throughout the year. Zoom links will follow in the weekly newsletter. Rabbi Altman and Susan Karnes Hecht, Vassar Temple representative on the DCIC board, are on the planning committee for this event.





Elie Wiesel's Lessons for Today with Dr. Ariel Burger

Final Presentation
Sunday March 7 at 7:30pm

Elie Wiesel: What messages would he have for us today?

What would Wiesel say about the challenges we are facing today: living through a pandemic, America's current confrontation with racial injustice, and the polarization that plagues our nation?

Watch for the Zoom link in the Vassar Temple weekly e-mail or contact office@vassartemple.org. Copies of Dr. Burger's book *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom* may be purchased through Temple Beth-El (845.454.0570 or rabbi@tbeny.org). This community program is hosted by Congregation Shir Chadash, Temple Beth-El and Vassar Temple, and generously supported by the Irving & Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the Harding Club, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and generous private donors.

Story Circle in Rectangles

Tuesday, March 16 at 7pm

"Seasons and the Rhythm of Life"



DUTCHESS COUNTY
INTERFAITH COUNCIL, INC.

Join our warm and friendly gathering to share a story or just to listen. Spring is often a time of new beginnings. Let us share stories of renewal from our various faith traditions.

Please contact DCICstory@optonline.net to register, and you will receive the Zoom link. This event is co-sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council.

HUC Connect

The Hebrew Union College (HUC) is offering six stimulating lectures in a Zoom-based series that runs from February-June and are free to all VT members:

- *Judaism & Civil Society*
- *Judaism & Culture*
- *Judaism & History*
- *Judaism & (Grand) Parenting*
- *Judaism & Religions*
- *Judaism & Women's Studies.*



Detailed information can be obtained by clicking on the following link:

<http://huc.edu/huc-connect/huc-connect-2021>.

Once reaching the site, **you must register for the courses in which you are interested.**

Please note that the Vassar Temple Adult Education Committee will also be obtaining recordings of the following three sessions:

- *The Qu'ran and the Jews*
- *Creative Thinking as Our Compass*
- *Chagall and the Bible*

They will be offered Wednesdays at 7:30pm on April 14, June 9 and June 16 followed by a discussion facilitated by Rabbi Altman. Please plan on joining us! Questions?

Please contact office@vassartemple.org.

Jewish War Veterans Meeting

The Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA will hold its monthly meeting Sunday, March 7 on Zoom.

9:00am "Schmooze" 9:30am Business Meeting



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

All are welcome to attend!

For further info & the Zoom link please contact rschwa9881@aol.com.

Heroes Among Us: Powerful Postcards

It began with a visit to the Activist Booth at a Clearwater Festival decades ago when this month's hero wrote a postcard to his local representative lobbying for an important issue of the day. The empowering feeling of writing that single postcard was subsequently fueled by ongoing curiosity about politics and current events, but it wasn't until more recently when his serious engagement with political activism took hold.

With encouragement from a few Vassar Temple members who were already deeply involved with social/political activities (people who have been featured in this column), Howard Susser became a catalyst for one of the most impactful political activism projects our Temple has ever mounted.

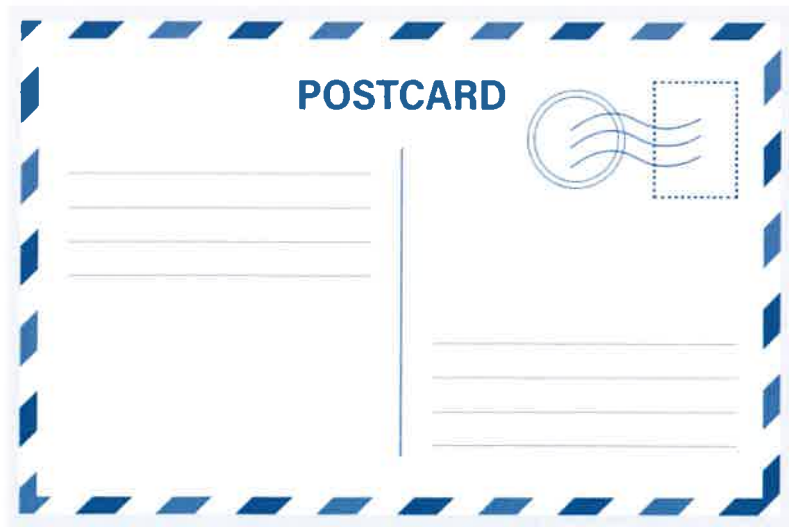
It was the confluence of factors—Howard's introduction to the Reform Jewish Voice, his increased involvement with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, his completion of a JOIN for Justice online class on community organizing, an increasingly precarious political situation in our country, and his greater availability of time afforded by partial retirement—that inspired this Phi Beta Kappa math major from Brooklyn College to turn his attention to serious political action.

With the partnership of Marge Groton and a devoted committee supporting them, Howard mobilized an initiative to reinstate individuals who had been purged from voting registers in several states and/or to facilitate voting among people of color in states fraught with voter suppression issues. Through a well-engineered effort, this committee—and a network of volunteers that evolved in the wider community—ultimately sent nearly 10,000 handwritten postcards prior to the general election and the runoff in Georgia. This initiative is cited as one of the factors that influenced the outcomes of those elections.

Howard always exercised his voting privileges as an American citizen, but organizing this postcard campaign took his democratic rights to a new level. Regardless of one's political affiliation, his work serves as an inspiring example of the power of individual action in a democracy. Sometimes it simply needs an organizer, and in this case, it was our hero, Howard Susser. Rumor has it he's already gearing up for the next election.

Watch your mailbox...

Jennifer Sachs Dahnert



Lunch Box Update for Chili Makers and Bakers!

Thank you to the Vassar Temple family for its ongoing support for The Lunch Box. We have received feedback on our meal donations and are pleased to share with you. Vassar Temple continues its partnership with Mid-Hudson Islamic Society. We are not yet able to return to the kitchen for meal preparation and serving, however, we can continue to support our neighbors in need at The Lunch Box. 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 neighbors 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 contribute to Vassar Temple Lunch Box from the safety of your homes.

Make Chili. The Chili recipe has been modified. The changes are: use only ground turkey and eliminate the corn. **If you want to make chili, please use the recipe found at the bottom of the page.** 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 the freezer at the Temple.

Fruit Donations. Fruit donations are welcome for the first Sunday of the month. Suggested donations include: bananas, apples or oranges.

Donate to Lunch Box!

If cooking or baking is not possible, we have limited opportunities for on-site serving at The Lunch Box and also delivery of food from the Temple to The Lunch Box. The Lunch Box 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.

Vassar Temple Lunch Box Chili Recipe

Note: Please follow this recipe because all individual chili donations will be put together and heated on-site at The Lunch Box. Please deliver your chili to the Temple in disposable containers (either freezer bags or plastic containers). If you want to label your container, we can try to return it to the Temple.



This recipe should serve approximately 15. Please do not make the chili spicy. Use chili powder for flavor and do not add too much spice. Many of the residents/clients will not eat overly spiced food. We want the meal to be nutritious and hearty.

Ingredients:

- 3 lbs. ground turkey
- 2 large onions
- 2 large green or red peppers (sweet peppers not hot)
- 2-3 15 oz. cans beans (kidney or black beans)
- 2 20 oz. can of chopped or crushed tomatoes (or equivalent fresh)
- Extra water or stock if necessary
- Salt/pepper
- Chili powder



March Spotlight on Refugees & Immigration

Spotlight: Refugee Shabbat Service—Friday, March 5

Please join us on Friday night March 5, at 7:30pm, as we observe HIAS Refugee Shabbat during a service co-sponsored by Vassar Temple, Temple Beth El and Congregation Shir Chadash. Hosted on Zoom by Vassar Temple, clergy of all three congregations will participate. Special guest speaker will be Miriam Feffer, HIAS Vice President for Development. All three congregations wanted to hold a joint Friday night service in lieu of the Community Shabbaton that had to be canceled last year due to the pandemic, and our Temple suggested we choose this special Sabbath on which to do it. Vassar Temple has already signed onto HIAS's Welcome Campaign as an affirmative statement of our support in welcoming refugees to the United States. As a HIAS Welcome Congregation, we act within our Jewish tradition to welcome the stranger and protect the refugee in a variety of ways, such as educating others about refugees, building partnerships, helping refugees in our local communities, and advocating with elected officials. Together, HIAS Welcoming Congregations can comprise a powerful Jewish voice in support of refugees worldwide. Watch temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org for the Zoom link to the service.

Spotlight: Welcome the stranger. Protect the refugee

The rampant anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe and Russia prompted the formation of HIAS (Hebrew Immigration Aid Society) in 1881 to aid the victims; the Society offered help to those who had reached the United States. Initially, HIAS did not function overseas. The job of helping persecuted Jews overseas was performed by the JDC (Joint Distribution Committee), formed in 1914 during WWI. But following WWII, HIAS became more active overseas. While the initial purpose of the two agencies was the assistance of Jews, by the 1970's they were doing so for all those in need.

This long history of refugee activity has made HIAS an ideal instrument for continuing their mission today. Following the anti-immigration policies of the past few years, and with the advent of new, more tolerant immigration policies, HIAS is redoubling its efforts to assist all refugees and immigrants worldwide. There will be a kick-off for major new efforts by HIAS as we, along with 450 other congregations throughout the country, celebrate Refugee Sabbath 2021 on March 5-6. At that time, we expect to have a blueprint for future on-going volunteer activities in which we can all participate. Please join us on Refugee Shabbat and stay tuned for further information.

Arthur H. Groten M.D.

Leader, Vassar Temple HIAS Welcome Campaign

Spotlight: In Our Own Communities

Dutchess County has a large and vibrant Latinx community, a community that has and continues to contribute to the health and vitality of our county. The local Latinx immigrant community mainly migrated from Mexico, and those in the City of Poughkeepsie particularly from the state of Oaxaca in Mexico. In the past few years the county has seen an increase of immigrants from Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras. These people have come to the United States for the same reasons that many of our own parents, grandparents, and great grandparents came: they need to support their families and can't do so in their native countries, in order to escape violence to themselves and their children, because their lives were in danger at home, and to secure a better future for their children.

The Latinx community in Poughkeepsie makes up 37% of the Poughkeepsie school population, yet they are often overlooked as a group in need of assistance in school. It is often difficult for recent immigrant parents to attend school meetings or to assist their children with homework because of minimal English language skills or because they were forced to leave school after only completing a few years of elementary school education. In addition, during the past few years many immigrants, whether documented or not, have been afraid to go into schools for fear of being imprisoned or deported.

The local Latinx population has enriched the culture and has contributed much to the economy of Dutchess County. These are hardworking people who are trying to give their children opportunities that they never had. Some work two and three jobs in an effort to support their families. They are a vital part of our landscaping, construction, agricultural and restaurant industries to name a few.

However, as we know from stories in our own families, it is often difficult for immigrants to obtain well-paying jobs—that enable them to support their families. Furthermore, in this time of Covid-19, many of the industries that relied on immigrant labor to keep their businesses going have had to lay off workers or even have shut down. Many of our local immigrant families are having difficulty paying their rent and/or their utility bills. March is Refugee Awareness month at Vassar Temple. Together with HIAS, we will learn more about our local refugee community and how we can best assist them.

Linda Cantor

Spotlight: Clean Sweep Drive

Let's help local Dutchess County migrant families who are currently struggling, and let them know that they are not alone and to not give up. Let's show them the American values of welcome, compassion, and inclusion. By giving our support, they will soon be able to sustain themselves.

To help them now with desperately needed daily necessities that we take for granted, you may make a tax deductible donation on-line at <https://www.granniesrespond.org/supportus>. Under where it says DONATE HERE, at "Where would you like this donation to be used?" click on "Choose One" and be sure to select in the drop-down window "Hudson Valley, NY." Or even better, during the month of March, please bring any of the items listed below to the Temple between 10am-2pm, any weekday except Wednesday. To arrange to make your drop off at other days/times, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org. Our drive is being held in cooperation with the organizations Unite Migrant Families and Grannies Respond.

Requested items: Dishwashing liquid, Laundry detergent (50 oz. or less), Cleaning supplies & disinfectants, Hand sanitizer, Toilet paper, Sanitary napkins, Diapers (all sizes), Baby wipes, Deodorant (unisex), Body wash, Bar soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo/conditioner (all-in-one)

Sisterhood News

I hope that everyone who picked up or received hamantaschen for Purim enjoyed their delicious treats baked with love by Polly Lewis, Sandra Mamis, Marilyn McGaulley Lampell, the tag team of Amy Horn Oclatis and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Judy Rosenfeld, and me. Thanks to all who baked and delivered packages.

Our Judaica Shoppe window has been updated with items for Passover. If you need a seder plate, matzah cover, matzah holder, a dish for saltwater or horseradish, or Elijah or Miriam's cups, or children's items, please contact judaica@vassartemple.org.

I am so excited that Sisterhood and Vassar Temple are joining together to present an online auction at the end of April that will culminate in a Happy Hour on Sunday, May 2. We will be auctioning Judaica items as well as goods and services. I look forward to partying with everyone. Please make sure to mark your calendars.

Without you we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman



Brotherhood News

Thanks to all of you who heeded my plea for dues. I am glad to report we are now over a dozen members. We have renewed our relationships with the MRJ and will be using it as resources for ideas for new programs and opportunities. Let's keep the momentum going.

I hope that you will join us for our next monthly Brotherhood virtual Happy Hour on Monday evening March 15, 2021 at 5:00pm. A dozen men joined us in January and February for the opportunity to connect with Temple friends. Check the weekly newsletter for the link each month or you can write me directly at brotherhood@vassatemple.org and I will sent you the link.

This brings me to another thought. While it is great to see each other virtually, is there anyone we should invite to join us, who might be encouraged by a personal invitation? More importantly, is there anyone else who seems to have gone missing? In this time of Covid, it's easy to fall between the cracks. That is why I'm suggesting a buddy check. If you can make a call to someone you haven't seen in a while, not only will you be doing a *mitzvah* but you'll be surprised how satisfying you will find it. If you know someone, but don't want to make the call, let me know and I will call.

Together we are stronger. Be safe and be well.

Glenn Tanzman

Contributions

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Oliver Mackson
James Robinowitz

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Jacob Aaron Guzman	Ellen Zelig
	Linda Cantor
Norman Blaustein	Susan Fink

LUNCH BOX FUND

Elizabeth Krevolin
Susan Fink
Muriel Lampell

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of:

Lila Matlin	Dr. Aaron & Elaine Blum
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In Honor of:

David Lampell	Janet Lampell Aronson and Kirk & Karen Endicott
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ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLAR'S FUND

In Memory of:

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Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman
Immediate Past President: Alan Kaflowitz

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Racism Reading Group	4 12:00pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb 7:00pm Ritual Committee Mtg	5 7:30pm Community Shabbaton/HIAS Refugee Shabbat Service—Shabbat Service	6 9:00am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
7 10:00am Religious School 12:00pm Confirmation 10:30am Lunch Box 7:30pm Burger Lecture	8	9	10 3:30pm Hebrew School	11	12 7:30pm Shabbat Service	13 10:00am Congregational Shabbaton
14 10:00am Religious School 12:00pm Confirmation	15	16	17 3:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Finance Committee Mtg	18 12:00pm Talmud Study with Rabbi Golomb 12:00pm Chai Noon Sisterhood	19 6:00pm Simchat Shabbat Service	20 9:00am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
21 10:00am Religious School 12:00pm Confirmation	22	23	24 3:30pm Hebrew School	25 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7:00pm VT Board Mtg	26 7:30pm Shabbat Service	27 9:00am Torah Study Passover—1st Seder
28 Passover—Day 1	29 Passover—Day 2	30 Passover—Day 3	31 Passover—Day 4			