



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 169 No. 10 June 2021



We Partied with a Purpose!

The Party planning team extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this a successful event and helped us prove that we can pivot to something new to overcome the challenges of being limited to a virtual fundraiser this year!

We thank our auction donors, auction bidders, cash donors, party attendees, paddle raise pledgers, video stars, Finance team, and hosts! And especially the amazing Vassar Temple Sisterhood for partnering on this important event.

Thanks to our community coming together around this new initiative, we raised over \$18,000 to support Vassar Temple's operations and programs. These funds will play a crucial role in the FINAL MILE of our temple year.

If you did not participate, but would still like to give, we welcome donations at any level. Send a check to the office marked "Party with a Purpose" or contact the office for credit card authorization. Thank you!

Annual Congregational Meeting Wednesday, June 2, 7pm

Please join us for the annual meeting on Zoom. The link will be provided in congregational email. Watch your snail mail for the annual mailing and contact the office if you have not received your notification.



From the Rabbi's Desk:

For most synagogues the arrival of June means the end of our programmatic and fiscal year. We mark this time at Vassar Temple with two important events: the annual

meeting on Wednesday, June 2 that includes, among other things, presentation of the Founders' Award, and votes on the budget and the slate of temple leadership; and, our Installation Service on Friday, June 11 when we will recognize those board members who are completing their terms and "install" our newly elected leaders. Please join us for both events! The first requires a quorum of the membership; the second is an opportunity to express our appreciation to those who dedicate their time and energy to leading this congregation.

It is also in June that you will receive your annual dues statement. Your financial support of Vassar Temple is essential for our functioning; payment of synagogue dues is also a statement of your commitment to the Jewish community and, especially through the education of our children, to the future of Judaism. Whether you are a regular Shabbat service attendee, adult learner, activist in our social justice efforts, or an occasional participant in temple life, your financial support enables Vassar Temple to be there for everyone. As synagogue dues do not meet our financial obligations, the on-going support of so many throughout the year to our fundraising efforts is crucial. Words cannot adequately express our sincere appreciation for your generosity.

You will notice something additional with your dues statement this year. Vassar Temple is proud to join with Reform congregations in support of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, enabling you to become an ARZA member simultaneously with paying your temple dues. As an ARZA congregation, we receive a small portion of those dues.

What is ARZA and why is becoming a member so important? As its mission states, ARZA "is the Zionist arm and voice of the Reform Movement... [and] acts as the vehicle for the collective participation of American Reform Jews in the Israel engagement agenda with an emphasis on advocacy, travel, and Zionist education in North America."

With ARZA's support, our Israeli Reform Movement now celebrates the existence of more than 50 Reform/progressive congregations and communities, more than 45 preschool classes, summer camps, a youth movement, and two Reform kibbutzim. Its legal advocacy arm, the Israel Religious Action Center, advocates for religious pluralism and civil rights, including the struggle for egalitarianism at the Western Wall. This year, the Supreme Court granted a victory in our 30-year battle for recognition of Conservative and Reform conversions. Another statement of our movement's acceptance within Israeli society was the recent election of Reform Rabbi Gilad Kariv to the Knesset.

In nearly every facet of Israeli life, ARZA partners with the Israeli Reform movement to improve people's lives and strengthen Israeli society. ARZA is also the voice of Reform Judaism within Israeli "National Institutions" that oversee funding, such as the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency.

At this time of political turmoil in Israel, where ultra-Orthodox and extremist parties may gain power if included in a coalition government, the urgency for support of our Reform movement in Israel is great. "As Reform Zionists, we strive to make the State of Israel a true inheritor of the prophetic tradition of the Jewish people: a nation devoted to pursuing justice and creating a complete world. Our love for Israel is channeled into efforts that advance the vision of what we believe Israel can—and must—yet be."*

For just \$50 you can become a member of ARZA. Won't you join me in this sacred effort?

Rabbi Renni Altman

* <https://urj.org/what-we-do/israel-engagement>

President's Message: Looking back and ahead, with thanks



When I got my 2021 calendar (something that still doesn't work for me digitally – I must flip pages and scribble), I marked the 15th of every month as my self-imposed deadline to select a column topic. The hard part settled, the

content flows rapidly to my keyboard. I've used a number of topics saved up against this two-year responsibility and privilege. Yet, when stuck, something timely always presents itself. It's June and hard to believe I'm halfway through my term. A crazy year in review, made extreme by Covid. It's time to mark this milepost with a dose of gratitude.

I want to acknowledge our amazing trustees, both leaving and arriving. We could not function without the members who step up for this sacred responsibility.

Kristin Horowitz is completing a three-year term. Having spent most of her professional career in non-profit roles related to fundraising and community engagement, her guidance as Fundraising Chair has been vital in re-envisioning how we accomplish this vital work.

David Lampell stepped up to fulfill a one-year term after decades of temple service including as President. His advice has been invaluable as I learned my job. He has taken on the new role of Technology Chair, guiding our upgrades as we navigate the new world of online temple.

Adriaan Finnerman is also finishing a one-year term. She brought the thoughtful perspective of a business owner and a desire to make decisions that will meet our current and future needs. Adriaan will be lending her talents to our newly revitalized Cemetery Committee.

Thank you to our incoming trustees for saying "*hineni* – here I am." Please join us for our Installation Shabbat service on June 11 to honor *Maxine Finkelstein, Banna Rubinow, and Sandra Cornell*. And please, when you're asked to serve, say yes!

I am indebted to *Rabbi Renni Altman* for her collaboration, wisdom about the life of a temple president, and personal support and to *Lisa-Sue Quackenbush* for her steadfast partnership. When asked who I thought would make a great First VP, I named her, never dreaming she would say yes, to our collective benefit. Barring emergencies, I try to do everything in consultation with her and have a keen appreciation of how different we are; a good recipe.

There isn't enough space to thank every person who has offered support and encouragement. I hope that I've done so individually. I'll close this round with a shout-out to our office staff, *Karen Clark* and *Susan Newhouse*, both of whom arrived just as the pandemic started. They have been there 100% even when remote, helping, caring, and teaching. I, and the temple, could not have come through this year without them.

The year ahead will also fly as I continue to support every aspect of Vassar Temple. But I'm in it for the long haul. Just as my Temple experiences evolved over the past decades, I look forward to focusing on things that are most meaningful to me and important to the future of the congregation. Get ready, because by the time we ring out 2021, we'll be talking about celebrating the impending 175th anniversary of this historic congregation. Here's to the next 175.

Susan Karnes Hecht

♥ gratitude ♥



Bimah Flowers Donations

June 2021 Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors:

June 4:

Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

June 11:

Donated by Susan and David Hecht in honor of the incoming and outgoing trustees and their 40th Anniversary

June 18:

Donated by Susan Fink in memory of her mother Rose S. Budson and grandfather Benjamin Budson

June 25:

Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund

Past Bimah Silk Flowers Sponsors:

May 7:

Also donated by Quackenbush Family in memory of Gayle Margolin

May 21:

Donated in honor of Aaron Kaflowitz and Matthew Sinn becoming Confirmants with love from their parents Alan & Meredith Kaflowitz and Craig & Michele Sinn

Please contact the office if you would like to make a donation to sponsor our silk flower arrangements while services are being held virtually.

Protein Plenty—June 1-30



Every summer, our temple has assisted local pantries throughout the county in providing protein-rich foods to those in need. Why protein-rich? Proteins fuel and strengthen the mind and body. Why in June? During this season, donations to food pantries generally diminish everywhere. School children may not get free lunch over the summer, and in these times so many of all ages are in desperate need, truly depending upon food pantries as a lifeline for their families' basic sustenance.

Therefore, you are invited to donate to Protein Plenty during the month of June—any amount will do! Just mail a check made out to Vassar Temple, with Protein Plenty written on the memo line, and send it to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. 100% of your tax-deductible donation will be used for supermarket scrip to purchase high protein foods for clients of the Community Action Partnership food pantries in Poughkeepsie, Dover, Beacon and Red Hook. An added plus: The purchase of scrip will benefit our temple as well. Thank you—together we can beat summer hunger!

Questions? Contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.

June New Paths Services

Join us at the New Paths Sabbath morning services Saturdays, June 5 & June 19 at 10:15am on Zoom.

For more information, please contact:

Marian Schwartz mschwa9882@aol.com
or Rabbi Altman rabbi@vassartemple.org, and watch temple emails for the Zoom link

Scriptural Readings

June 5 **Sh'lach L'cha**
Num. 13:1-15:41; Joshua 2:1-24

June 12 **Korach**
Num. 16:1-18:32; I Samuel 11:14-12:22

June 19 **Chukat**
Num. 19:1-22:1; Judges 11:1-33

June 26 **Balak**
Num. 22:2-25:9; Micah 5:6-6:8



Study Groups at Vassar Temple

Torah Study led by Rabbi Renni S. Altman, DD, Saturdays 9-10am (no class 6/19, 6/26). New attendees should contact rabbi@vassartemple.org for the study sheet.



The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text, is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, alternate Thursdays noon to 1:30pm (6/10, 6/24). Contact pigolomb@verizon.net for further information and study sheets.

All are welcome at all the classes—no previous training required! As long as necessary for public health reasons, all classes will be held on Zoom.

Jewish War Veterans Meeting—June 6



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Until notified otherwise, the monthly meeting of the Private Herman Siegel Post 625, Poughkeepsie, Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America, is being held remotely. It is on the 1st Sunday of each month. This month's meeting will be on June 6. The meeting starts at 9:30am, however we have an informal "schmooze" at 9:00am.

Sisterhood News

As the winter weather is behind us, and the outdoors is blooming, I am looking forward to seeing people more in person and less on Zoom. If you are interested in an in-person Chai Noon luncheon on June 18 please contact me at sisterhood@vassartemple.org. We can picnic on the temple lawn, or go to an outdoor space. Any and all suggestions are welcomed.

Sisterhood had a wonderful Judaica auction in partnership with the temple auction and sold many beautiful items. We are ready to restock and are looking to you for ideas about what items you would like to see on our shelves. Please contact us with your ideas or what items you might be interested in purchasing at judaica@vassartemple.org.

Without you we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman



Brotherhood News

As the weather gets warmer, our thoughts turn to being outside and being together again with all the people we have been missing for much of the past year.



Our next activity is a Brotherhood hike for Sunday, June 13 at 9:00am. By then most of us should be vaccinated and comfortable being with others outdoors. We will follow the Covid guidelines in effect at that time. We will meet at The Locust Grove parking lot and hike the Lane Loop. This beautiful historic wooded property is just off Route 9 and the 1.6-mile hike includes views of the Hudson Valley. Please contact me at Brotherhood@vassartemple.org if you plan to attend. We have rejoined the

Men of Reform Judaism which will give us access to their programming and resources. If you are interested in finding out what they provide, here is the link to their website at <https://menri.org/>. If anything catches your interest and you think might work for us, please contact me. Wishing you all good health and an enjoyable summer.

Together we are stronger. Be safe and be well.

Glenn Tanzman



Do you shop at the Christmas Tree store or at Harmons? If so, did you know that you can use Bed, Bath & Beyond gift cards at both of those locations? Shopping with SCRIP helps support the temple! It is easy; cards can be picked up at the temple or delivered to you! And no worry about identity theft when using gift cards. It is a win-win. Do you have questions about how you can become a SCRIP supporter? Contact Sandra Mamis, SCRIP Coordinator scrip@vassartemple.org

Contributions

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Memory of:

Annie Schultze

Marian Schwartz

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of:

Lila Matlin

The Piccone Family

ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLAR'S FUND

In Memory of:

Irma Manheim

Elaine Lipschutz

Dr. Arthur Lipschutz

Elaine Lipschutz

HINENI FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Altman

VT Religious School Staff

SUSTAINING FUND

In Appreciation of:

The wonderful, helpful office staff

James Robinowitz

In Memory of:

Paula Landau

Ralph & Marian Schwartz

Susan Barbash

William Barbash

Gilda Charwat

Martin & Eleanor Charwat

Ruth Browner

Miriam Browner Lacher

Joseph Kofman

James Robinowitz

Pearl Goldstein

The Friedman Family

Annie Givner

Roslyn Kaflowitz

Eugene Jacobs

Irma Jacobs

Bernard Rheingold

Irma Jacobs

Dorothy & Ruben Lewis

Polly Lewis & Kamil Wisniewski

Joseph Wrobel

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Alvin Kaskowitz

Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Gayle Quackenbush

The Quackenbush Family

Jack Quackenbush

The Quackenbush Family

Maurice Margolin

The Quackenbush Family

Kurt Lemberger

Barbara Lemberger

Eva Revitz

Martin & Lynn Revitz

Gilbert Harrison Keane

Susan Avery

Frieda Kazachin

Susan Avery

Jonathan Muehl

Lisa E. Rubenstein

Sarah Chernack

The Chernacks

Eugene Jacobs

Fran Jacobs

Harry L. Levitan

Charles & Joan Blanksteen

Harriet Lipson

Brian & Helen Silverman

Isador Albinder

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Albinder

Samuel Cohen

Glenn & Marcia Tanzman

Estelle Cohen

Glenn & Marcia Tanzman

Emily Z. Himelstein

Howard C. Himelstein

George Plotsky

Beth Plotsky

Lawrence Blumental

Beth Plotsky

Josephine L. Kahn

Muriel Lampell

Pauline Slote

Muriel Lampell

Sandra LoGiudice

Muriel Lampell

Joe Scherrer

Daniel Scherrer

Charlotte Cohen

Linda Babas



Condolences to

the family of Annie
Schultze, mother of
Michele (Jeff) Brenner

Create Your Legacy

With a Gift that Costs You Nothing Today

A gift through your will or estate plan can support Vassar Temple.

Sample language:

“I give, devise, and bequeath [an amount, a percentage, or the rest, remainder, and residue of my estate] to Vassar Temple, a New York nonprofit corporation, (Tax ID #27492986).”

You can also leave a gift to Vassar Temple *without having to revise your will* through beneficiary designations on your accounts.

These include:

IRA or other retirement plans:

You can designate your retirement fund to **Vassar Temple** as the beneficiary of all or a portion of the plan.

Life Insurance:

You can make **Vassar Temple** the owner and the beneficiary of a fully paid up policy now, and receive a tax deduction today,

You can name **Vassar Temple** as the beneficiary of all or part of a policy, or

You can make **Vassar Temple** the owner and beneficiary of a policy and make tax-deductible gifts to **Vassar Temple** each year to continue the payments.

Bank and/or Brokerage Accounts:

You can designate Vassar Temple as the account beneficiary.

Create Your Legacy

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs):

You can designate Vassar Temple as the account beneficiary.

Check or Credit Card:

Mail your tax-deductible gift or donate online at vassartemple.org.

Securities and Closely Held Stock:

Avoid capital gains taxes and receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the assets you give.

Gifts from Your IRA:

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give up to \$100,000 of your required minimum distribution (RMD) by directly transferring your RMD from your IRA to **Vassar Temple**. The amount is not counted as income to you for Federal or State income tax purposes.

Tributes in Honor or In Memory:

You can make a gift in honor or in memory of a friend, family member, colleague, or member of the community.

Real Estate and Other Marketable Assets:

Donate a home, building, land, car or other marketable assets.



MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

*Martin Charwat,
Chair,
Endowment Committee*

Yahrzeits

JUNE 4

Gertrude Lashinsky Ginsberg
 Seymour Bersak
 Margaret "Honey" Sylvester
 Bernard Rheingold
 Ann Feinstein Drobner
 Catherine Creedon
 Pauline Abrams
 Dr. Arthur Lipschutz
 Shirley K. Loeb
 Irma Manheim
 Sandra LoGiudice
 Gertrude Tavss
 Dr. Albert A. Rosenberg
 Samuel Berlin
 Irene Weiner
 Charles Simon Steinbuck

JUNE 11

Sallie Cohen
 Anna Dunn
 Jack Quackenbush
 Moe Scheer
 Irving J. Richman
 Robert Rosenthal
 Frank Silverstein
 Joseph B. Weisman
 Gilda Charwat
 Joseph Wrobel
 Raymond Ross
 Edward Plimack
 Jack Turk
 Harriet Lipson
 Lillian Kozik
 Bertie S. Levy
 Alfred Geber
 Morton B. Lehman, DDS
 Paul Kraut
 Emily Himmelstein
 Estelle Cohen
 Samuel Cohen



JUNE 18

Harry Kaltwasser
 Beatrice Gross
 Miriam Gellert
 Terry Teich
 Carol Casiero
 Lillian Freda Gross
 Arthur Richter
 Rose Swatlo Budson
 Henry Sylvester
 Alan Scot Colodner
 Dr. Kurt Holzer
 Sylvia Arnold
 Sylvia K. Weisman
 Benjamin Budson
 Sylvia Decovnick
 Nathan Weiss
 Joseph W. Scherrer
 Paul Douglas Fa'gut
 Frieda Kazachin

JUNE 25

Lawrence Blumenthal
 Ludwig Willner
 Pauline Rosenson Slote
 Joseph Gross
 Joseph Kofman
 Albert J. Eisenberg
 David Menken
 Jacob Lass
 Ethel Saul
 Shirley B. Love
 Maurice Albert Margolin
 Muriel Landesman
 Lucile Erdreich
 Rose Feuerstein
 Annie Blaweiss
 Pearl Goldstein
 Joseph Dunn
 George Luttinger
 Jean Goldman
 Betty Garber Lyons
 Joseph Berlin
 Joseph J. Kleiner
 Isador Dreishpoon
 Sandor D. Strauss
 Dolores Weisman
 Jonathan Muehl
 Fred Weiss
 Frank Sorbello



Calendar of Events—June 2021

Please see weekly emails for the most up-to-date information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7pm Annual Congregational meeting	<i>3</i> 7pm Ritual CMTE	<i>4</i> 6pm Shabbat Service on the lawn, weather permitting (Cantor Goldmann)	<i>5</i> 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
<i>6</i> 10:30am Lunch Box	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7:30pm Adult Ed	<i>10</i> 12pm Talmud Study	<i>11</i> 7:30pm Board Installation Shabbat Service (Cantor Goldmann)	<i>12</i> 9am Torah Study
<i>13</i> 9am Brotherhood Hike	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 2pm VTS Book Club 7:30 Adult Ed 7:30 Finance CMTE	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 12pm Sisterhood Chai Noon 6pm Shabbat Service on the lawn, weather permitting	<i>19</i> 10:15am New Paths
<i>20</i> Father's Day	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 12pm Talmud Study 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7:00 VT Board	<i>25</i> 7:30pm Shabbat Service (Cantor Goldmann)	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>			

Vassar Temple Bulletin
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Religious School Director: Renni S. Altman, DD
Cantor: Elizabeth Goldmann
Rabbi Emeritus: Stephen A. Arnold
Senior Scholar: Paul Golomb
Temple Musician: Joseph Bertolozzi
President: Susan Karnes Hecht
1st Vice President: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
2nd Vice President: Shaari Roland
Secretary: Glenn Tanzman
Treasurer: Brett Colbert
Sisterhood President: Marcia Tanzman
Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman
Immediate Past President: Alan Kaflowitz
Bulletin Editor: Jo Schaffel



Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly. Articles for the September Bulletin must be submitted by August 1 sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Sisterhood Book Club To Discuss *The Yellow Bird Sings* Wednesday, June 16, 2pm



Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner, a book described by critics as "gripping and heart-rending"—a tale of an unbreakable bond between mother and child.

Jennifer Rosner, the author, will spend the first 15 or so minutes sharing with us what inspired her to write this book, how she conducted research, themes, decisions she made during the writing process and, of course, there will be ample opportunity for us to comment, discuss, ask questions. Jennifer has offered a signed bookplate to anyone who purchases the book. Please let us know if you would like one!

The Yellow Bird Sings is available in paperback through Amazon, with copies available in the local library system. The meeting will take place on Zoom. To RSVP or get more information, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.