



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 170 No. 3 October 2021

Thank You Vassar Temple!

When I and other Social Action Coalition representatives attended a meeting with Morse Elementary School administrators to discuss their needs for the coming year, the last thing I expected to hear was, *"There are things you can donate that are far more fundamental than school supplies."* But that's what I heard! The school psychologist went on to stress that the children required essentials such as underwear, socks and clean pants to wear to school before they could even enter a classroom and begin to learn. Therefore, our annual Vassar Temple school supply fundraiser morphed into a Mitzvah Now fundraiser for those basic clothing items.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase enough underwear and socks for the boys and girls, as well as nice, warm unisex sweatpants in neutral colors. This was supplemented by a donation of children's clothing by United Way, so all the children were adequately outfitted to begin the school year with comfort and confidence. The school will even be able to have clothing on hand for children who require a clean change during the school day. A big, special thanks to all of you whose financial donations, large and small, made that happen!

*Marian Schwartz,
Jewish Social Action Coalition Steering Committee*



Temple members and
Vassar students participate
in the Tashlich ritual at
Sunset Lake on
Rosh Hashanah

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch temple emails for details

October 17, CROP Walk—page 7
October 21, Sisterhood Book Club—page 10
October 23, Shabbat Y'ladim—page 5
October 30, Healing Service—page 8



From the Rabbi's Desk:

This year the beginning of October coincides with the beginning of our Torah reading cycle. The Shabbat after Simchat Torah,

we begin again at the beginning with *Bereshit/* Genesis. In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Sages), a section of the Mishnah which dates back to 200 CE, Rabbi Ben Bag Bag taught: "Turn it over, and turn it over again, for all is in it". While we may chuckle at his funny name, his teaching was very wise. Indeed, this has been our experience. Each year we follow the same pattern, reading through the same *parshiot* in the same order, yet each year these ancient teachings challenge and inspire us anew. We may not always realize it, but we grow and change each year as well and, of course, our world changes, too. So, when we open the scroll, its stories and teachings call out to us differently than they might have the year before.

Every Shabbat morning at 9am a hearty group of Vassar Temple folks (and some friends) join together for an hour of learning, sharing and discussion. Some have been coming for years; others are brand new. Some are even new to Judaism! It doesn't matter if you've never read a verse of Torah before. One of my most favorite aspects of Torah study groups such as ours is the lenses through which each person reads the text. Whether it's the economist, the psychologist, the teacher, the social justice activist, the literature buff or the animal expert, each person brings a unique perspective that enriches us all. I may bring the teachings of our tradition to the discussion, but I love how much I learn from others around the table or the Zoom squares.

As we open our sacred text once again, I invite you to join us. You don't have to make a weekly commitment (though I bet once you start, you won't want to miss the fun!). As of this writing we are meeting solely on Zoom, but I hope that we will be moving to hybrid mode soon so that those who are comfortable can meet in person.

This year we will also be returning to the practice of reading Torah periodically on Friday nights. Traditionally, Torah is only read in the morning, primarily because that was the main obligatory worship service, especially on Shabbat. As Reform Judaism took hold in this country in the 19th century, there was a cultural shift to greater attendance at Friday night services which then came to dominate in our congregations. Out of concern that its members were not hearing Torah read publicly except for holidays, many Reform congregations chose to break from tradition with the innovation of Torah readings on Friday nights. It is important to connect to our sacred scrolls in addition to studying Torah from the printed commentaries. So, keep your eyes open for announcements in the weekly email of those Shabbatot and join us to hear words of Torah!

This month we will also celebrate a new beginning of a different sort as we welcome and honor our new members at Membership Shabbat on Friday, October 29. We are so excited at the influx of new members this year. They represent vitality and growth for Vassar Temple and for our community at large. Please do join us and meet our newest members (along with those who joined last year whom we were not able to honor in this way) as they begin what we pray will be a long meaningful relationship as part of the Vassar Temple family.

Rabbi Renni Altman

President's Message: Our Jewish Federation



One of my new experiences is participating in the recently established synagogue Presidents group facilitated by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County (JFDC). I appreciate this effort to enhance communication and collaboration among the

synagogues. Participants include not only the congregations that we think of as local neighbors (Beth-El, Schomre Israel, and Shir Chadash) but also more distant communities (Beacon Hebrew Alliance, Beth David in Amenia). During our quarterly meetings we've covered a range of topics, but most valuable to me has been the opportunity to meet these individuals face to face (or, screen to screen). We have more in common than might be apparent at first glance, as all of our congregations face similar challenges. It is increasingly important to function collaboratively as part of a local community since, as the expression goes, "a higher tide raises all the boats."

JFDC sponsors and partners on a robust variety of programs including Learn & Lunch, the Medical Lending Closet, Mitzvah Now, and PJ Library. Especially important is a new partnership with the FDR center, "Never Again is Now", which will include working with educators to help them teach about the conditions that allowed the Holocaust to occur. Federation is part of Jewish Federations of North America and participates in efforts on behalf of Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

A spring meeting with the JFDC Board and representatives of other local Jewish organizations resulted in an updated mission statement and a long-term strategic plan which includes the following key points: Jewish community building through coordination, services, and programs; security needs and response to anti-Semitism; supporting interfaith families; general community support services; and

supporting Israel through connections, programs, education, and economic opportunities.

At present we have three Temple members on the JFDC Board, including Past Presidents Sandra Mamis and Jonah Ritter (JFDC officers) and Lewis Wrobel (a trustee). In discussing the experience, Sandra expressed that "that this was the only local Jewish organization that I had not participated in, though asked many times over the decades. I thought it was time to do what I could for Federation; I encourage others who want to contribute to the stability of our Jewish community here and abroad to do likewise." Jonah shared that he "got involved with Federation because I believe in its mission; by contributing my energy I could help strengthen the Jewish community including the temples. Today's Federation is vibrant and creative; we are finding new ways to bring our community together."

We hope to promote this participation and welcome temple members who are interested in working on any of these projects or serving on the Federation Board in the future. JFDC is particularly interested right now in finding interfaith couples (especially younger ones) who would like to assist with related programming.

You can learn more about JFDC at www.jewishdutchess.org. If you are not currently receiving *The Voice*, Federation's monthly newspaper, you can subscribe as well as receive *Jewish in Dutchess* (weekly email) and follow social media.

Susan Karnes Hecht

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 flower arrangements, please let the office know.

October 2021 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- October 1:** Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- October 8:** Donated by Barbara and Eric Gillman in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah
- October 22:** Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund
- October 29:** Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund



Past Bimah Flowers Donation Update:

- Selichot:** Donated by Ralph & Marian Schwartz in honor of Gail D'Alessio

Cantorial Sponsorships Enhance Shabbat Music

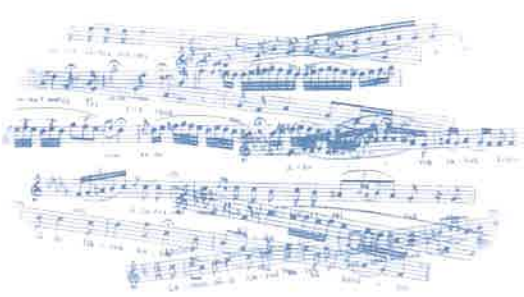
Is music a central part of your spiritual experience during Shabbat and High Holiday services at Vassar Temple?

If it is, please consider assisting the temple by contributing to bring cantorial music to our services. Investing in music immeasurably enhances the religious experience that means so much to our members.

The temple has been fortunate to benefit from a generous gift donated by Marsha and Richard Timmerman to our cantorial fund. Your contribution will extend the life of that gift for cantorial music into the future.

For a suggested contribution of \$250, you can sponsor Cantor Goldmann for a specific service that she's leading this year or next. Your contribution can be acknowledged as a personal or family *simcha* or in honor of whomever you designate.

Please help support cantorial music in the coming year! For more information, please contact Bob Abrams at music@vassartemple.org



New Paths Service, October 2 & 16, 10:15am

A Sabbath morning worship experience including traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English. "We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service." Plan is to be "hybrid." Updates and more info: office@vassartemple.org, rabbi@vassartemple.org, or call the office at 845-454-2570.

Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Shabbat),

Saturday, October 26, 10:30-11:00am

All children from tots through first grade are invited to join Rabbi Altman for a celebration of Shabbat at Vassar Temple on Saturday, October 23 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. For further information, please contact office@vassartemple.org or call the Temple at 845-454-2570.

Scriptural Readings

October 2

B'reishit

Gen. 1:1-6:8; Isaiah 42:5-43:10

October 9

Noach

Gen. 6:9-11:32; Isaiah 54:1-55:5

October 16

Lech L'cha

Gen. 12:1-17:27; Isaiah 40:27-41:16

October 23

Vayeira

Gen. 18:1-22:24; II Kings 4:1-37

October 30

Chayei Sarah

Gen. 23:1-25:18; I Kings 1:1-31

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

"Torah Study" examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah. Led by Rabbi Altman on Saturdays 9-10am (no class on 10/9). May be meeting in "hybrid" format. Please check weekly emails for information.

For further info and study sheets: rabbi@vassartemple.org.

"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text" which is taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 12-1:30pm

October 7 in person

October 21 via Zoom—info and study sheets: pgolomb@verizon.net.

All Welcome—No previous training required

Sisterhood News

I would like to thank Sandra Mamis for hosting a wonderful evening at her home. We had a Salad Supper with delicious food and great company. I surely hope that we will be able to gather in person more frequently in the near future. We are working on upcoming events. Please contact me at sisterhood@vassartemple.org if you can lend a hand or have an idea.

I hope all of you have received your Sisterhood dues flyer in the mail, and have joined, or rejoined, for the 2021-2022 year. Sisterhood has been sponsoring "to-go-negs" by providing food to go at our Friday night services. If you are able to help, please contact Amy Horn Oclatis at oneg@vassaratemple.org.

Our Sisterhood Friendship Calendar is in the works for the 2022 calendar year. You can lend your support by listing a birthday or anniversary, getting a sponsor to advertise, or becoming a sponsor yourself.

Without you we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman



Brotherhood News

I hope that 5782 will be a year of return to the normal activities of our temple life. It is still premature to plan a full schedule of activities, but Brotherhood will be here when the opportunity presents itself.

I encourage you all to participate in our Brotherhood Shabbat on Friday, November 12. There are parts in both English and Hebrew. Please let me know if you want to participate by contacting me at brotherhood@vassartemple.org

We continue to hold Virtual Happy Hours and hope to transition into in-person gatherings this fall. Watch the weekly newsletter and your emails for more information.

An early reminder that Brotherhood dues for 2022 are \$36/year. Please make your check out to the Vassar Temple Brotherhood and send it to the temple office. We use the funds to support temple activities like the Purim Pasta dinner in the spring and other special events.

Together we are stronger. Be safe and be well.

Glenn Tanzman

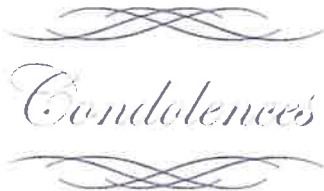


To: Maxwell Benjamin Hecht, son of Susan and David,
on his marriage to Ilyssa Bess Bloch on August 29.

New Members:

Allen & Amy Weinberg
Jeff & Kimberly Karitis
David & Carla Steckman
Dave Feinstein & Lauren Domber-Feinstein
Mark & Sheri Harrison

WELCOME



The family of Beverly Groffman, mother of Peter Groffman (Kay Bishop)

The family of Jay H. Steinberg, brother of David Steinberg (Katherine Moloney)

The family of Leonard Roth, brother of Arlene Seligman (Gilbert)

Support the Crop Walk Against Hunger Now!



Walk, or sponsor an individual walker or the Vassar Temple Team, to support our local interfaith community's CROP Walk Against Hunger. Due to the current health concerns, the walk will be held in the same form as last year. There will not be one big community-wide walk, but everyone is free to create a special walking experience of his/her own. Or on Sunday, October 17 at 1pm, walk with our temple team, led by our team captain, Ron Rosen, along a safe route in Poughkeepsie. Twenty-five percent of funds raised come back to combat hunger at food pantries and soup kitchens in our own communities. The rest goes to projects that empower people to combat hunger nationally, globally, and at disaster sites worldwide. (In terms of disaster relief, currently monies raised in last year's walk are helping Louisiana hurricane victims, earthquake victims in Haiti, and Afghani refugees arriving in Virginia). You can sign up to walk, or you can make a donation to support walkers on our team, including Rabbi Altman, at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/vassar-temple>. However you choose to help, thank you for your support of this life-sustaining project! Please contact Ron Rosen for more information at cropwalk@vassartemple.org

Religious School Update



The religious school year started on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur so we jumped right into teaching about the fall holidays. The ShalomLearning value for the start of the year is, appropriately, *Teshuvah* (repentance) and the children learned about making mistakes, how to make up for them and trying to be better. We decorated our Temple Sukkah and celebrated Simchat Torah. Our seventh graders received their prayerbooks, a gift from the Temple and Sisterhood, on Sukkot. On Simchat Torah we celebrated the Consecration of a large group of new students, some of whom are starting out in Kitah Aleph (K/1), others of whom have just joined our synagogue. It is so exciting to welcome so many new students to our school and synagogue!

With the fall holidays behind us, we look forward to delving into the ShalomLearning curriculum more fully this month as we turn to the value of *B'tzelem Elohim*, being created in God's image, and how that fundamental principle in Judaism guides how we treat others.

Rabbi Renni Altman

Healing Service with Rabbi Altman & Cantor Goldmann Saturday, October 30, 10:30am

This service is designed for anyone praying for the healing of the body, soul, and spirit for themselves, for others, for our nation, and for the world. The service will include prayers, reflections, and songs that focus on healing, as part of a Shabbat morning service. We plan this to be a "hybrid" service; watch temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org for any updates and the Zoom link.



OCTOBER 1

Dorothy Schmukler
Albert D. Kahn
William Falenki
Frances Gray Conrad Dahnert
Susan Alpers
Selma Sobel Lipson
Dr. Ely Rosenthal
Robert Sachs
Sadie Gross
Fannie Levy
Robin Rayfield
Jessie Barker
Alfred J. Bogard

OCTOBER 8

Lisette Goldemberg
Michael Oremus
Daniel L. Cohen
Mary Stolack
Jeanne Loth Rubin
Gertrude C. Clarfeld
Bessie Rabin
Minnie Israel
Ira Greenberg
Arthur Peritz

OCTOBER 15

J. Ralph Stein
Lillian Greenman
Aaron Parish
Margaret Ciminello
Lucilla Albinder
Sarah Pauline Benton
Joseph Sparks Sr
Susan Doppelt Pearlman
Lisa Heidelberger
Norman Kramer
Jean W. Dampf
Gertrude Hines Groten
Jean Strauss
Harold Posner
Maia Scherrer
Marion Bennet Sawyer
Charles Finnerman
Evelyn Locke
Dr. Martin Rabin
Evelyn Gurst
Ida Goldberg
Morris Bronfeld
Abraham Swatlo
Shirley Hope Mann

OCTOBER 22

Albert E. Schwartz
Gertrude F. Troeger
Dr. Barry G. Jordan
Lisa Lemberger
Morris Fertig
Ruth Muraskin
Leo Klausner
Sophia S. Wolfson
Susan Salit Lowe
Henry Cantor
Samuel Scope
Murray Sigalow
Charlotte Konick
Toby Solomon
George Tofel
Joshua Russell Karp
Monroe Robbins
Lawrence Schaffel

OCTOBER 29

Tamar Grand
Herman Katz
Sidney Locke
Bernard Himmelstein
Leo Feinstein
Jacob Haber
Lawrence Slate
Nathan Schmukler
Bessie Rothauser
Benjamin Michel
Adele Lerman Warshaw
Benjamin Genshaft
Edward S. Rubinow
Max H. Richter
Louis Heidelberger
Edward J. Kovacs

Yahrzeits



Contributions

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With Appreciation to:

Rabbi Altman

William Barbash

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Donald Hulnick
Katherine Moffit

Barbara Hulnick
Kathy & Kent Mardon

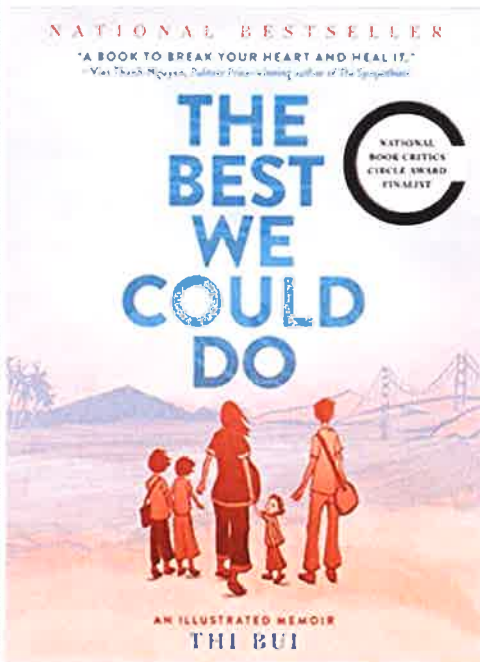
In Honor of:

Judy Rosenfeld receiving the Arnold Award
Sandra Mamis for her kindness

Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Cathy Bokor



Sisterhood Book Club To Discuss *The Best We Could Do* Thursday, October 21, 2pm



Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Best We Could Do*, an illustrated memoir by award winning author Thi Bui. The book chronicles her parents' lives before and during the Vietnam War, their escape from Vietnam when she was a child, and their eventual migration to the United States as refugees. She explores the anguish of immigration, the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family, as well as the strength of family, the importance of identity, and the meaning of home.

This moving graphic novel is available in paperback through Amazon and local book stores, and through the local library system. This book has been chosen as "The Big-Read" selection for this fall, with many related activities to follow. The meeting will take place through Zoom on Thursday, October 21 at 2pm. Betty Renner will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at bookclub@vassartemple.org

Jewish War Veterans

The October meeting of the Pvt. Herman Siegal Post 625 of Jewish War Veterans of the United States will be Sunday, October 3 on Zoom.

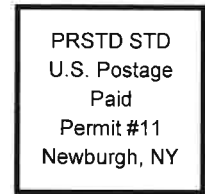
9:00am "Schmooze"—9:30am Business Meeting
Please contact rschwa9881@aol.com for updates and Zoom link.

Calendar of Events—October 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30pm Shabbat Service	2 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
3 9am Religious School 10am / K-1 9am Take down the Sukkah 10:30am Lunch Box	4	5	6 4:30pm & Hebrew School (Zoom) 7pm Ritual CMTE	7 12pm Talmud Study 5:30pm Federation Gala	8 6pm Simchat Shabbat/ Shabbat Noah with Cantor Goldmann	9 NO Torah Study 10am Noah Gillman Bar Mitzvah
10 NO Religious School	11 <i>Columbus Day Office Closed</i>	12	13 Hebrew School (Zoom)	14	15 7:30pm Shabbat Service	16 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
17 9am Religious School 10am / K-1 1pm CROP Walk	18 12pm Chai Noon, Sisterhood	19	20 Hebrew School (Zoom) 7:30pm Finance CMTE	21 12pm Talmud Study 2pm VTS Book Club	22 7:30pm Shabbat Service	23 9am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Y'ladim
24 9am Religious School 10am / K-1	25	26	27 Hebrew School (Zoom)	28 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board Meeting	29 7:30pm Membership Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann	30 9am Torah Study 10:30am Healing Service with Cantor Goldmann
31 9am Religious School 10am / K-1						

Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.454.2570
www.vassartemple.org



Rabbi: Renni S. Altman, DD
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 Kflowitz
Bulletin Editor: Jo Schaffel



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

Thank You:

Thanks to Judy Creedon for once again performing the annual mitzvah of polishing our Torah silver in time for the High Holy Days.

Thank you to the Albinder family of Hudson River Fruit Distributors for their generous donation of apples for Rosh Hashanah.

Thank you to David & Susan Hecht for their donation of sanctuary flowers for the High Holy Days.



Noah Gillman's Mitzvah Project

Noah Gillman will become a bar mitzvah at Vassar Temple this month on Saturday, October 8. For his Mitzvah Project, he will be using his allowance to buy groceries and make chili for The Lunch Box every month during this school year. Noah would have loved to be able to serve and interact with the folks for whom he is preparing the meals, but due to Covid restrictions and his age, he is not allowed. As someone who has always enjoyed helping others, this project fits Noah's personality very well indeed! An eighth grader at LaGrange Middle School, Noah is on the Arlington Crew team, and in his free time also enjoys downhill skiing, gaming, mountain biking and golf.