



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 170 No. 8 March 2022

## COMMUNITY SHABBATON

*Judaism and the Mysteries of Life, Death and the World Beyond*  
March 25-26 on Zoom



Congregation Shir Chadash, Temple Beth El, and Vassar Temple invite the community to worship with us, and join in fascinating discussion of *The Mysteries of Life, Death and the World Beyond* with guest scholar Reb Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. The Shabbat evening service and program will be hosted by Vassar Temple on Friday, March 25 at 7:30pm on Zoom, and the Shabbat morning service and program will be hosted by Temple Beth El on Zoom Saturday, March 26 at 10am. The clergy of all three sponsoring congregations will be participating. A series of colorful graphics will be utilized to highlight the texts we will be studying with Reb Raphael.

Friday night, Reb Raphael will lead us in *Exploring Jewish Views of the Afterlife: Contemporary Perspectives*. Through study, story-telling and discussion, we'll enter the worlds of Kabbalah and Hasidism and discover what the Jewish mystics had to say about the journey of the soul after death. We'll also discover the practical connection between afterlife teachings and our contemporary Jewish death rituals.

On Saturday we will study *Jacob's Legacy: End-of-Life Wisdom for Our Times*. In the spirit of Torah study, we'll investigate deathbed narratives at the end of the Book of Genesis, which provide profound wisdom for dealing with end-of-life issues, and learn from Jacob and Joseph ways of dealing with the reality of death and mourning in this most challenging pandemic time.

Reb Simcha Raphael, founding director of the DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, was ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, and is a Fellow of the Rabbis Without Borders Network. He has taught Religion at LaSalle and Temple Universities, and is the author of numerous publications. His website can be found at [www.daatinstitute.net](http://www.daatinstitute.net). Mark your calendars for this special Shabbat.

**Register at <https://www.jewishdutchess.org/events>**



## From the Rabbi's Desk:

"Remember what Amalek did to you to on your journey ... how... he surprised you on the march, when you were famished and weary, and cut

down all the stragglers in the rear. Therefore... you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!" (Deut. 25:17-19)

We read this Torah passage on the Shabbat immediately preceding Purim as a reminder of the approaching holiday. What's the connection? Haman is a descendant of Amalek. When we boo Haman, it's as if we are blotting out the memory of Amalek.

I've always been puzzled by this Deuteronomy passage: how can we remember Amalek if we are to blot out his memory? The 15<sup>th</sup> century commentator, Don Isaac Abarbanel offers a helpful explanation: When you are scattered throughout the world in exile, you will have no opportunity to "remember what Amalek did to you... and blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." But you must not forget to tell the story of what they did to you even if you have no physical power to blot out their memory.

As we approach this year's Purim celebration with memories of Colleyville still fresh in our hearts, we are reminded, yet again, of the insidious nature of antisemitism which we have yet to blot out. According to the Secure Community Network, while Jews are just 2% of the US population, 60% of religiously-based hate crimes are against Jews. There are still too many people who carry the hatred against Jews expressed by Haman in a story written

over 2,500 years ago. When seeking the King's permission for his plan to annihilate the Jews, Haman offers a classic statement of antisemitism: "There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them." (Esther 3:8) This and 10,000 talents of silver convinces the king to agree. In this fantasy, Esther rises to defend her people, Haman is hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai and the Jews are victorious in attacking tens of thousands of Persians.

Yes, we must continue to tell the stories of the Amaleks and the Hamans, to speak out against all acts of antisemitism, take steps to protect ourselves and strive to educate and build bridges of understanding. We also know that antisemitism never stands alone, that where antisemitism exists so do other forms of hatred and vice versa. It is only when good people stand united to combat the forces of hate that we will come nearer the day when the memory of Amalek will be blotted out.

We blot out the memory of Amalek by living proudly and joyfully as Jews. Please join us for this year's Purim festivities as we travel to a galaxy far, far away where, as with the Book of Esther, good conquers evil. Whether in person or on Zoom join in this one day of absolute fun and silliness—costumes do not have to be Star Wars, but extra points will be awarded!

Purim is still our fantasy, our hope that one day antisemitism will be no more and all forms of hate will be banished from our world. We hold onto the hope expressed in the Talmud that the time of the Messiah will be one of only joy, when "all the festivals will cease, but the days of Purim will not cease."

*Rabbi Renni Altman*



## President's Message: A letter from January 16, 2022

Dear friends,

Today, 24 hours out from the frightening events in Colleyville, I want to share personal reactions. In our note to the congregation we alluded to vulnerability being desirable for personal prayer, not for personal safety. At the risk of making myself vulnerable by sharing, I'm finally taking this opportunity to vent about what has gone on in our world since my term began. A recurring thought yesterday was just how incredibly tired I am of composing crisis messages to the membership. I also have to keep thanking all of you for the incredibly supportive responses that are sustaining me and us through the craziness.

With the news yesterday I began to hear from you, a tide of messages on every communication channel. It was important to count to ten and consider next steps carefully after the obvious one of reaching out to local law enforcement. Just because so many organizations were making statements of solidarity on social media did not mean that we had to follow suit; frankly I wasn't sure what good it would do considering that the situation was unresolved. After taking a breath I was able to recognize that, whether statements or inquiries, it all spoke to the need for reassurance that we were paying attention and double-checking our own precautions. I am indebted to our leadership team for setting aside everything else to help process and respond. We don't always agree on details, but we always come to the right consensus. Through every challenge, I have endeavored to make decisions this way to make sure that they do not reflect only my personal lens.

Many of you commented on similarities between Beth Israel and Vassar: a small, progressive Reform congregation, a caring community, an emphasis on social action, interfaith cooperation. On how it can happen anywhere. Yes. With each of these awful situations I've pictured it being Vassar Temple and have had to imagine how I would respond as President, whether inside or waiting outside. I like to think that I would find the strength to model bravery, resist evil, comfort others, project the right message. Bottom line, I have no idea if I'd be able to do so and feel fortunate not to have been tested. I do know with certainty that our leadership and community partners would be there for us, as we would for them.

Last night a few of us attended a hastily-planned URJ leadership vigil. With one hour's notice, over 1,000 clergy and lay leaders gathered on Zoom to amplify a single prayer. I have come to believe in the power of prayer as a means of connection to each other and to our shared heritage, regardless of personal content. The many extreme challenges we face make it more important than ever to build on the strength of our congregation and wider Jewish family. Whether it's prayer or other action that works for you, this can be your safe harbor.

We will continue to review our safety precautions, to increase them where appropriate, and to do what we do best: be the incredible community that is Vassar Temple.

With warm regards and appreciation,

*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.



### March 2022 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- March 4: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- March 11: Donated by the Quackenbush family in memory of Sandor Margolin
- March 18: Donated by Sandra Mamis in memory of Harry Mamis and Kurt Similes
- March 25: Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Erica Robbins and Martin Noble, Sr.

## Religious School Update

We are looking forward to two very special events this month for our religious school students: the return of the Community Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 13 at Congregation Schomre Israel; and, the first session of the Paint-A-Prayer project with mural artist Jennifer Levine on Sunday, March 20. As we enter spring, the Jewish holiday calendar begins to build, marking the end of winter with Purim and celebrating the arrival of spring with Passover. We begin the month in our value of *hakarat hatov*, recognizing the good, where our students learn about the importance of gratitude, celebration and joy, and then we will move into the value of *koach hadibur*, the power of speech, as our students discuss the power of our words, how we should use our words and our obligation to speak up for ourselves and for the rights of others.

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

## Study Groups at Vassar Temple

**"Torah Study"** examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftarah. Led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, DD on Saturdays from 9-10am on Zoom (no class March 26). New attendees: contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) to be placed on the class email list.

**"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text"** taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, Thursdays March 3, 17, and 31, noon to 1:30pm on Zoom. Information and study sheets: [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net).

*All are welcome—No previous training required—No charge to attend*



**TO:**

**The family of Anna Kofman, mother-in-law of Jim Robinowitz**  
**The family of Stephen Glasser, cousin of Linda Cantor**  
**The family of Ray Fox, partner of Jo Schaffel's mother**

## Scriptural Readings

### March 5

#### P'kudei

Ex. 38:21-40:38; I Kings 7:51-8:21

### March 12

#### Zachor

#### Vayikra

Lev. 1:1-5:26; Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17 or  
I Samuel 15:2-34

### March 19

#### Tzav

Lev. 6:1-8:36; Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 9:22-23

### March 26

#### Parah

#### Sh'mini

Lev. 9:1-11:47; Ezekiel 36:22-36

## New Paths Service

### March 12, 10:15am

Join us for a New Paths Sabbath morning service on Zoom Saturday, March 12 at 10:15am. The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. "We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service". Each New Paths service, whether lay-led or rabbi-led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. For updates and more information, please contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or 845-454-2570.

**Welcome to our New Member:**

**Marlene Straus**

## *A Star Wars Purim ~ Wednesday, March 16 at 7pm ~ Hybrid*

This year's Purim spiel, megillah reading and family Purim service will follow a Star Wars theme, so dress as a Star Wars character or in any favorite costume, whether you're coming in person or participating on Zoom! There will be prizes for all who come in costume, and hamantaschen treats. Don't forget to have a box of pasta handy to shake like a grogger and drown out the name of the villain Haman when it is read.



Following the holiday, we'll deliver all your boxes of pasta to a local food pantry. When you come to drop off your pasta at the temple, or on any day in March, you are also invited to bring in other much-needed items requested by the pantry at Dutchess Outreach for our Purim Pasta "Plus" Drive. So join us for a fun and entertaining evening on this joyous holiday! Watch Temple e-mails for health policy and other updates (dinner TBD).

**MAY  
THE  
FORCE  
BE WITH  
YOU**

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Oliver Mackson

#### In Memory of:

Anna Kofman

Susan Fink

### MUSIC FUND

#### In Honor of:

Cantor Goldmann

Madelyn D'Angelo

### SUSTAINING FUND

#### In Memory of:

Elaine Mayer

Irving M. Rosenthal

Bettina DeVescovo

Ann R. Margolin

Ruth Parry

Annemarie Teutsch

Harvey Kaflowitz

Martin Lowenthal

Dr. Edward B. Goldstein

Sam Karnes

Cynthia Blumenthal

Frances Lewis

Mary Ann Robinowitz

Ronah Gordon Posner

Esther G. Rheingold

Herman Jacobs

William Schultze

Tom & Gloria Mayer

Charlene & Loren Rosenthal

Quackenbush Family

Quackenbush Family

Kent & Kathy Mardon

Doi Cohen

Roslyn Kaflowitz

Charles & Roni Stein

Friedman Family

Karnes Hecht Family

Beth Plotsky

Lou Lewis

James Robinowitz

David & Joan Posner

Irma Jacobs

Irma Jacobs

Dave Wolf & Fern Greenberg-Wolf

Ed & Vivian Garber

Sandra Mamis

Maury Lacher

Joan Reifler

Gillman Family

Richard Partridge

Eli Mamis

Anne & Philip Lacher

Norman Reifler

Zoey Rachel Gillman

Evelyn Partridge

#### In Honor of:

Ron Rosen

Gabe & Catherine Bokor

### ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLAR'S FUND

Elaine Lipschutz

## Contributions



## PASSOVER WINE & JUICE SALE

**Let us save you a trip to the store...order your Kosher-for-Passover wine and juice now!**

Kedem has a huge selection of kosher products. In addition to the traditional sweet varieties, you can find a range of reds and whites from around the world, sure to suit all tastes. Gefilte fish and various kinds of vinegar are also available.

- **Just print and complete the order form**  
(available in the weekly newsletter, on our website, or contact the office)
- **Return your form and payment to the temple office by March 25**



We'll deliver the orders to Kedem and have your purchase back at the temple by April 4th for pickup before the holiday. It's that simple! (If you need assistance with pickup or cannot make it to the temple during office hours, please let us know.) Kedem will donate a percentage of the proceeds to Vassar Temple. Thank you very much for your support!



### March 4

Louis D. Dampf  
 Sidney Greenman  
 Morris Haas  
 Frances Lewis  
 Francesca Vadersen  
 Lena Lath  
 Saul Marks  
 Frank Devan  
 Irving M. Rosenthal  
 Irving Schechtman  
 Lila Matlin  
 Rose Landau  
 Gilbert Feinman  
 Geraldine N. Leeds  
 Howard Perry  
 Norman Steinberg  
 Rae Jacobs Rauh Brown  
 Miriam Genshaft  
 Rabbi Robert Rozenberg  
 Gertrude Silverman  
 Betty Ewen

### March 11

Esther G. Rheingold  
 Edward B. Goldstein  
 Tessie Turk  
 Ruth Parry  
 Morris Lessin  
 Gertrude M. Plimack  
 A. Alfred Podell, MD  
 Bee Plimack  
 Ralph Partridge  
 Dr. Simon Riechman  
 June Heiser Shub  
 Morris Abraskin  
 Silvia Domes  
 Meyer Harold Bagun  
 Dr. Louis Shub  
 Kaye Roth  
 Lewis Acker  
 Anna Frankel  
 Howard Smith

### March 18

Victor Fein  
 David Blanksteen  
 Ethel Graves  
 Bettina DelVescovo  
 Belle Weiss  
 Fred Lehman  
 Reuben Temlock  
 Sara Leslie Goldman Fite  
 Joseph Feuer  
 Meyer A. Wolfson  
 Judith Newman  
 Esther Temlock  
 Lillian Schwarz  
 Lena Baskin  
 Scott Buxbaum  
 Harry Mamis  
 Elaine Mayer  
 Ann R. Margolin  
 Bruce Weber  
 Pearl Bettigole Goldberg  
 Eli Gellert  
 Mary Ann Robinowitz  
 Sol G. Lipschutz  
 Kurt Similes

### March 25

Samuel Karnes  
 Sarah Singer  
 Gary Feder  
 Michael Feder  
 Gary Schischa  
 Erwin Schischa  
 Katherine Lerner Mamis  
 Claire Sherwin  
 Gwendolyn Harlam  
 Ruth Kovacs  
 Matalie Hamburg  
 Mae Miller Klampert  
 Annemarie Teutsch  
 Etta Simon Podret  
 Benjamin Clarfeld  
 Herman Jacobs  
 Fannie Berlin  
 Lee Rosenthal  
 Charles Frankel  
 Martin Lowenthal  
 Harold Rosen  
 David Jordan  
 Kathi Winchock  
 Isaac Mendel  
 Harvey Kaflowitz  
 Erica Robbins  
 Chris Brown  
 Patricia Adler  
 Esta Feder  
 Chanie Solomon  
 Howard Judd



# Yahrzeits

## Sisterhood News

I would like to start with a special Thank You to Judy Rosenfeld, who makes everything she does seem so effortless, when the rest of us know just how much work goes into organizing an event. When I called her to ask if she thought we could make the Soup and Chili Dinner a "to-go" event she gave me ten reasons why not, and then turned it into a successful event. From ordering containers, to arranging for soup makers, and making soup, to finding someone to coordinate RSVPs, to making sure everyone who asked for soup got what they wanted, her organizational skills are impeccable. Thank you also to Jo Anne Abraskin, Susan Avery, Andi Ciminello, Polly Lewis, Marilyn Lampell, Sandra Mamis, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Banna Rubinow, Roni Stein, and Nadine Zaritsky for your participation. We could not have done it without you!

*Hag Purim Sameach* (Happy Purim). I am happy that we again did our Hamantaschen baking in person at the temple, and were able to include the Religious School students in our baking. Thank you to all who made dough, and to those who rolled, filled, pinched, baked, and sorted the Hamantaschen.

Shabbat gives us the opportunity to connect with our community, to celebrate our accomplishments and to invigorate our souls. Our Sisterhood Shabbat will be held on Friday, April 1. Please contact me at [sisterhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassartemple.org) so you can be included in the service. Please let me know if you would like an English or Hebrew part.

*Without you we are one woman short!*

*Marcia Tanzman*



## Brotherhood News

Due to Covid concerns, the Purim Pasta Dinner is "to be determined". The m'gillah will still be read but please stay tuned as to whether or not we gather together for a meal before the service.

Purim is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history. Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only biblical book in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Hanukkah, is viewed as a minor festival according to Jewish custom but has been elevated to a major holiday because of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman has come to symbolize every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance of Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become: a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival. So, enjoy the reading and we will hope gather again next year for a celebratory meal.

Given the current Covid climate, we will continue our Zoom Brotherhood Happy Hours. The next one is scheduled for March 15, at 5pm. I have blocked out two hours, so feel free to join us in progress if the 5 pm start is too early.

*Together we are stronger. Be safe and be well.*

*Glenn Tanzman*





The poster is divided into two main vertical sections. The left section has a blue background and features a cluster of five balloons (green, red, purple, pink, and blue) at the top. Below the balloons, the text reads 'Sunday March 13' in large, bold, black letters, followed by '10:30am-12:00pm' in a smaller font. At the bottom of this section, it says 'Kindly RSVP:' followed by the email address 'pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org'. The right section has a dark blue background. At the top, the title 'Community Outdoor Purim Carnival' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, the location is given as 'Congregation Schomre Israel Parking Lot' and 'Enter at 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie'. A list of activities follows, including 'Walk Through Purim Carnival Games & Prizes', 'To Go Purim Crafts & Activities', 'Popcorn Booth', 'Mask Painting', 'Tzedakah "Bean Haman" Booth' (with a note to bring soft boxes of beans/rice/pasta), 'Costume Contest Photo Booth', 'To Go Coffee & Hot Chocolate Station with Purim Treats', 'Socially Distanced Fire Pits', and a 'Live Magic Show by Zaritsky Family' at 11:00-11:30am. At the bottom of the right section, it says 'Come In Costume! Wear a mask! And wear a mask!' in yellow, accompanied by two cartoon masks: one with a white face and one with a mustache and glasses.

**Community Outdoor Purim Carnival**

Congregation Schomre Israel Parking Lot  
Enter at 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie

- Walk Through Purim Carnival Games & Prizes
- To Go Purim Crafts & Activities
- Popcorn Booth
- Mask Painting
- Tzedakah "Bean Haman" Booth  
Please bring soft boxes of beans/rice/pasta to throw at Haman!  
All collections will be donated to a food pantry.
- Costume Contest Photo Booth
- To Go Coffee & Hot Chocolate Station with Purim Treats
- Socially Distanced Fire Pits
- Live **Magic Show** by Zaritsky Family  
Magic at 11:00-11:30am

**Come In Costume!  
Wear a mask!  
And wear a mask!**



CHABAD OF  
MID-HUDSON VALLEY



## Please help support cantorial music in the coming year!

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 & 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](mailto:music@vassartemple.org).

## Soup and Chili Tisch Shabbat 2022

We all had such hopes for an in-person Soup and Chili Tisch this year, but it didn't work out that way. Fortunately, our Sisterhood was able to figure out a way for our congregants to still enjoy our delicious soups and chilies even though we couldn't be together at the temple.

There was quite a variety of vegetarian chilies and soups to choose from. Chili was made by Susan Avery and Marilyn McGaulley Lampell. Our soup makers were Jo Anne Abraskin, Andi Ciminello, Polly and Kamil Lewis, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Judy Rosenfeld, Banna Rubinow, Roni Stein and Marcia Tanzman. Nadine Zaritsky contributed the Xochitl chips (which I learned is pronounced sow cheel and are gluten-free and taste delicious). Sandra Mamis made Mandel Brot which was the perfect dessert to end our Tisch.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the delicious food. It truly was a group effort. In addition to making soup, Jo Anne Abraskin also handled the requests for our soups and chilies.

Hopefully next year we will all be able to join together again for our in-person Soup and Chili Tisch Shabbat.

*Judy Rosenfeld*

**Save the Date ~ Fannie and Doris Berlin Lecture ~**

**First Publicly Ordained Female Rabbi: Rabbi Sally Priesand**

Sunday, May 15 at 4pm

View her live presentation on Zoom or on the big screen at Vassar Temple

*Watch for more exciting details to come!*



### Jewish War Veterans

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the U.S. Military (Active, Reserves or National Guard) or any person who wishes to support veterans are invited to attend Post meetings. Due to the pandemic, all of our meetings are on Zoom. Meetings can also be reached by telephone but with audio only. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 13 at 9:30am (schmooze at 9am). If you wish more information, please contact Senior Vice Commander Ralph Schwartz at [rschwa9881@aol.com](mailto:rschwa9881@aol.com).



**Jewish War Veterans**  
of the United States of America

### "Fiddle for Food"

With Jack Poole-DiSalvo

Sunday, March 20 at noon

Vassar Temple Sanctuary



For his Mitzvah Project as part of becoming a Bar Mitzvah, Jack Poole-DiSalvo will perform a short concert (about 20 minutes) to include a variety of Jewish, pop, and folk tunes on violin to support Dutchess Outreach Food Pantry.

Entrance free: canned goods or monetary donation to Dutchess Outreach Food Pantry.

## Hamantaschen Bakers Needed!

We are hopeful that by following the appropriate Covid precautions needed, including wearing masks, that Sisterhood will be able to once again have our Hamantaschen Baking Day.

Make friends while making Hamantaschen for our Purim service and for outreach to congregants and our out-of-town college students. **We will be making Hamantaschen on Sunday, February 27 from 9am to 1pm in the temple kitchen (if our baking is delayed by inclement weather, our snow date for making Hamantaschen will be Sunday, March 6).**

RSVP to Judy Rosenfeld at [hamantaschen@vassartemple.org](mailto:hamantaschen@vassartemple.org).

Please bring a batch of dough (and your favorite rolling pin if you like). Remaining ingredients will be provided. Not able to come and help? Please make a batch of dough and leave it in the Temple freezer in a Ziploc bag during temple office hours Monday-Friday from 10am to 2pm—just let Judy know. In case we need to limit attendance or make any other changes, please let Judy know you plan on coming and/or making dough. Be sure to check your email as it gets closer for any updates.

## Hamantaschen Dough Recipe

- 4 cups sifted flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter, softened\*
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 tablespoons milk or orange juice

**\*Please use real butter—the pastries are superior, and all batches cook evenly regardless of dough source.**

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Cream butter and sugar in separate larger bowl. Add egg and vanilla and beat well. Add dry ingredients alternating with juice to the butter and sugar mixture, mixing until well blended. The dough will seem a little soft (not like bread dough). Refrigerate. This dough freezes well and can be made ahead of Hamantaschen Baking Day. Leave it in the refrigerator to thaw overnight.





## Meet Chloe Mengden, Vassar Temple Youth Group Advisor

We are thrilled to welcome Chloe Mengden as our Youth Group Advisor at Vassar Temple. Chloe is from northern New Jersey, and currently attends Vassar College studying psychology and math. She worked at her home temple as a Madricha for kindergarten classes and as a camp counselor for preschool for five years before coming here, where she teaches Kitah Gimmel in our religious school.

Outside of work and school, she plays the flute and is slowly teaching herself to crochet. Chloe says, "I've really loved working as the youth group advisor so far and doing our two community service events in the fall. After we've all been strictly online for so long, I'm excited to plan more bonding events to get everyone back together and revive the sense of community in the temple teens."



## Volunteer at Morse School

If you have even just a few hours a month to give, you can change the life of a child. The children at Morse Elementary School, Poughkeepsie, are excited to learn, but they need extra help. Opportunities abound for volunteers to read to classes in the library, as well as to do one-on-one or small-group tutoring in the classroom. Subject areas of most urgent need are math and reading. You can select the grade level(s) you want to work with, and, in many cases, the days and hours. There are also openings for volunteers to help children check out books in the library (training provided).



However you choose to help, you will make a difference. For further information about tutoring, please contact temple member Chris Baltus, himself a volunteer math tutor, at

[schoolvolunteer@vassartemple.org](mailto:schoolvolunteer@vassartemple.org). To find out more about volunteering in the library or to read to children there, contact Muriel at [socialaction@tbeny.org](mailto:socialaction@tbeny.org). Library volunteers must commit to 40 minutes to two hours, once a week or every other week.

## Paint-A-Prayer Project Part 1 ~ Sunday, March 20, 11am-noon



Please join us as we move one step closer to our Paint-A-Prayer project. Mural artist Jennifer Levine will lead us through an exploration of our chosen prayer and invite our creative interpretations, which she will then take back to her studio to begin to create our mural. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 24 when you will have a scheduled time to paint part of our mural. We do need to know how many people will be attending on March 20; please RSVP to [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) by March 14.

Please support the Vassar Temple Fabulous February



Fundraiser

One winner receives 50% of the proceeds, and 50% directly supports current-year operating expenses

—Sales close on March 15

—Drawing on March 16 following the Purim Spiel

- \$20/ticket
- 6 tickets for \$100
- Babka Baker's dozen (13) for \$200

### Purchase options:

- 1) Cash
- 2) Check made out to Vassar Temple with 50/50 on the memo line
- 3) Contact the office to use your credit card for purchases of \$100 or more only  
Email: [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) Phone: 845.454.2570

**You've got  
to be in it  
to win it.**

Tickets are available from the office, we can mail, deliver if needed—no in-person contact is necessary

## Urgent Need for Shelter Meals!

For many years, the local Jewish community and friends, under the wonderful volunteer leadership of our own Judy Harkavy, has provided a meal on the 4th Thursday of every month for the homeless staying at the overnight adult shelter run by Hudson River Housing. Currently, due to the pandemic, Judy drops off already-prepared food at the shelter, to be served by their staff. The number of homeless served each night has more than doubled, currently averaging about 130 guests. Hence many more volunteers are urgently needed right now to prepare menu items for the meal!

Usually the menu consists of a casserole, salad and bread. Each volunteer is generally asked to make either the hot dish or a salad, enough for 25 people. The food should preferably be dropped off at Judy's house, and she and a helper will transport it to the shelter, which currently consists of housing PODs located behind the Dutchess County Jail. If you can help even just once a year, please contact Judy at [shelter@vassartemple.org](mailto:shelter@vassartemple.org) to get more details and to be put on the schedule.

## Purim Pasta "Plus" ~ Food and Hygiene Drive for March

It is Jewish tradition to give gifts of food and to donate to charity on Purim, and it is Vassar Temple tradition always to help our neighbors. Given the increased state of need this year, we invite you to bring any of the following items which were specially requested by Dutchess Outreach's Beverly Closs Pantry to the temple during the month of March, in addition to your boxes of Purim pasta:

Food: spaghetti sauce, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned soup, canned vegetables, instant coffee, tea bags, baby formula (especially Enfamil), and pasta

Personal Hygiene: toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, body lotion



Please do not donate unrequested items, previously opened containers, or outdated packages. You can drop items off at the temple any time the office is open (Mon-Fri 10am-2pm).

If you must drop off at a different day or time, you can drop off at my home near the temple—just contact me at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org). If you would like to donate to Purim Pasta "Plus" but cannot shop, you may make a financial donation to Vassar Temple, designated for the Community Tzedakah Fund, and we will shop for you. Thank you for helping any way you can!

*Marian Schwartz*



## Get Social with Us!

Vassar Temple has a growing social media presence! By gradually adding people who like and follow our pages, we will see more engagement on our posts, which can increase our credibility as an online resource for events and information for families in the community, especially younger families that are crucial to our future. It's also a great source for members to see quick updates. Please help us with this important goal! Direct links to all of our media can be found at the top right corner of web pages as well as at the bottom of our email. Find us at:

WORD PRESS (Blog) [vassartemple.wordpress.com](https://vassartemple.wordpress.com)  
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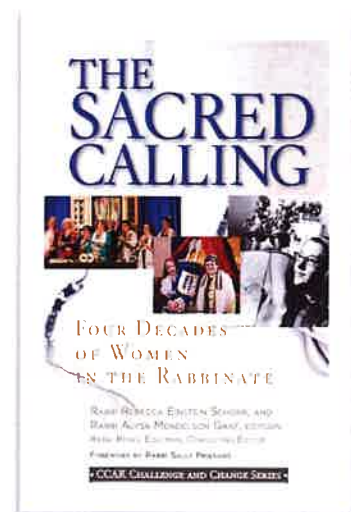
## *“Scouts, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Explorers: A History of Women Rabbis”*

*Adult Education Course taught by Rabbi Altman on Zoom  
 Every other Wednesday, March 23 through May 4 at 7:30pm*

The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Sally J. Priesand, the first woman publicly ordained as a rabbi. Yet, her groundbreaking ordination, which opened the door for subsequent generations of women, was preceded by the impactful lives of other, lesser-known female scholars and community leaders. In commemoration and celebration of this auspicious anniversary, we are presenting a four-session adult education series which spotlights some significant women from the 1500's to the early modern period who held quasi-rabbinic status in their communities, compares and contrasts the ordinations of Rabbis Sally Priesand and Regina Jonas (Who? Come find out!), explores the challenges faced by the first generation of women in the rabbinate, and reflects on how women's leadership has changed both the rabbinate and the Jewish community as a whole. We'll be utilizing a curriculum created by the Women's Rabbinic Network, integrating short video presentations. It is recommended, but not required, to attend all four sessions.

For further study, you may be interested in reading the book *The Sacred Calling, Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*. Watch temple e-mails for any updates, and contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) for the Zoom link.

Special note: The timing of this series was designed to lead into our special Fannie and Doris Berlin Speaker on Sunday, May 15: Rabbi Sally Priesand!



## Calendar of Events—March 2022\*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Hebrew School (on-line)	3 12pm Talmud Study  7pm Ritual CMTE	4 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service	5 9am Torah Study
6 Hamantaschen Baking (snow day)  9am Religious School 10am / K-1	7	8	9 Hebrew School (on-line)	10	11 7:30pm Shabbat Service	12 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths
13 NO Religious School  10:30am Community Purim Carnival at Schomre Israel	14	15 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour  	16 NO Hebrew School  7pm Purim Service and Star Wars the Purim Spiel (dinner TBD)	17 12pm Talmud Study	18 12pm Chai Noon Sisterhood  7:30pm Shabbat Service	19 9am Torah Study
20 9am Religious School 10am / K-1  11am Paint-A-Prayer Mural Project Part 1  12pm Fiddle for Food with Jack Poole-DiSalvo	21	22	23 Hebrew School (on-line)  7:30pm Adult Ed, Session1 "Scouts, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Explorers: A History of Women Rabbis"  7:30pm Finance CMTE	24 6:30pm Shelter Meal  7pm Board Meeting	25 7:30pm Community Shabbaton (1): <i>Judaism and the Mysteries of Life, Death and the World Beyond</i> with Reb Simcha Raphael, Ph.D and community clergy via Zoom	26 NO Torah Study  10am Community Shabbaton (2): <i>Judaism and the Mysteries of Life, Death and the World Beyond</i> with Reb Simcha Raphael, Ph.D and community clergy via Zoom (Temple Beth El)
27 9am Religious School 10am / K-1	28	29	30 Hebrew School (on-line)	31 12pm Talmud Study		

Please see weekly emails for the most up-to-date information regarding changes to in-person events

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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  
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**Bulletin Editor:** Jo Schaffel



Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly. Articles for the May Bulletin must be submitted by April 1 sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

## Calling All College Families!

Do you have an undergrad or grad student who would appreciate a periodic care package from Vassar Temple? Thanks to our generous Gluck Fund donor, who places a high priority on keeping our youth engaged, we can maintain a robust program of mailings containing holiday goodies and a special message from the Rabbi. This is also for our commuter students living at home! To have your student placed on the list please write to Claudia Kelson at [college@vassartemple.org](mailto:college@vassartemple.org) with the following information:

- Name of student
- School
- Year in school
- Anticipated graduation date
- Lives on campus/at home
- Email address
- Mailing address
- Food allergies

