



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 170 No. 9 April 2022

Please attend an important
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Monday, April 4 at 7pm on Zoom

Meeting information was mailed on 3/15
Zoom information will be provided by email

Topics:

- ⇒ Proposed 2022-2023 Cantorial Contract
- ⇒ Proposed Amendments to Constitution

Healing Service—Saturday, April 2 at 10:30am, Hybrid

A Healing Service, led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann will be held Saturday, April 2 at 10:30am. This beautiful service is designed for anyone praying for healing of the body, soul or spirit for themselves or others, for caregivers, and for anyone in need of spiritual strength. The service will include prayers, reflections, and songs that focus on healing and on Shabbat. There will also be a Torah reading. Everyone is welcome to attend the service, which will be held in person and on Zoom. Watch temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 for more information.





From the Rabbi's Desk:

We read in the Haggadah, "In every generation, each of us must see ourselves as if we, ourselves, came out of Egypt, as it is written 'And you

shall tell your child on that day, saying, This is what God did for me, when I came out of Egypt' (Exodus 13:8)."

It was in response to this commandment that about 2,000 years ago, in one of their greatest ritual innovations, the rabbis created the Passover seder. Reading the Haggadah (literally, "The Telling") we tell our children the story of the Exodus. But it is the rituals and special foods that turn seder into a time machine, transporting us back into slavery in Egypt so that we, too, might experience the miraculous journey into freedom.

We rise from the seder table knowing the feelings of the stranger, having ourselves been strangers in Egypt. We rise from the seder table with a deeper appreciation for freedom. Hopefully, we also rise from the seder table with renewed commitment to help those who today are not truly free.

It amazes me how each year, unfortunately, we find new applications of this ancient message. As I write this article, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is into its second week, with rising numbers of dead and injured, cities being bombed, Russian troops are approaching the capital city Kyiv. With increasing sanctions, nations of the world are trying to stop this tyrant, while avoiding further bloodshed. A million Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes and seek safety as refugees in neighboring countries. We stand in awe of the determination of the Ukrainian people as they fight to defend their homeland, even as we are terrified regarding their plight. They fight for freedom against a modern-day Pharaoh who, not unlike the biblical figure, has

hardened his heart not only to the plight of the Ukrainian people but to any suffering of his own people, guided solely by his arrogant need for conquest.

I pray that by the time this bulletin appears peace will reign, Ukrainians will have returned to their homes, reunited with loved ones, in their democratic, independent country, and healing from this horrific time will have begun. Let us continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and do what we can to help alleviate their suffering. There are numerous organizations that are providing aid, including the World Union for Progressive Judaism (there are six progressive congregations in Ukraine), Jewish Federation and HIAS.

The Passover seder continues to be a timeless experience, on the one hand taking us back in time while conveying a message that resounds for all times. Each year my family's seder plate expands as we add new symbols to address contemporary issues. This Pesach, let us add to our seder plates something blue and yellow to honor the freedom fighters of Ukraine.

We end the Seder with the words, "Next year in Jerusalem." Jerusalem – literally, "City of Peace." The rabbis spoke of both a heavenly and an earthly Jerusalem. Some understand this closing statement as a reference to the earthly Jerusalem, a prayer for the fulfillment of God's fifth promise to the enslaved Israelites to bring them into the land promised to our ancestors (Exodus 6:8). Others, relate it to the heavenly Jerusalem, a prayer that next year will bring to fulfillment that Messianic vision of a world at peace.

May this year's Passover inspire us to do all that we can to help bring about that time when peace will reign in the earthly Jerusalem, in Ukraine, and our world.

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message: Judaism and the Planet

As many of you know, when I'm not busy with temple business, family, and local politics, I'm wearing my environmental advocacy hat, serving in volunteer roles in the

Town of Poughkeepsie, the DC Interfaith Council, and Citizens' Climate Lobby. Yet, my passion for this work is rooted in Jewish values, and it's to Judaism that I return to be re-energized and find optimism when things seem bleak.

This month, in honor of Earth Day, I want to share highlights of the incredible work occurring in the Jewish community and hope that you may be inspired to engage with one or more of the following efforts.



Hazon: The Jewish Lab for Sustainability weaves sustainability into Jewish life for a healthier and more equitable world. Hazon offers a range of programs and tools including the *Brit Hazon* (a six-week program for personal change) and the *Hazon Seal of Sustainability* (a one-year program for organizations). Hazon also founded the *Jewish Youth Climate Movement*.

Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action is a grassroots organization working to secure a just and sustainable world through a multi-generational American Jewish movement reflecting both spirituality and bold political action. There is a growing network of *Dayenu Circles* across the country and partnership both within and beyond the Jewish community.

The Jewish Climate Action Network provides education, activism, and organizing with an urgent and visionary Jewish voice. JCAN has nodes in various states, and our neighbors in the Massachusetts organization are especially active. They offer a *Decarbonizer* program for groups and individuals, a powerful peer-to-peer approach to implementation of photovoltaics, electric vehicles, and heat pumps.

The Big Bold Jewish Climate Fest is an annual online collaborative festival anchored in the holiday of *Tu B'shevat* and includes the organizations above as well as smaller community-produced events.

Our own **Religious Action Center, RAC-NY**, has deemed climate a priority and has launched the multi-year *Climate Covenant: A Campaign to Combat Climate Change*. The campaign is based on the concept that individual sustainability actions are no longer adequate, and that Reform Jews must act collectively and in collaboration with others to end fossil fuel dependence. I am proud to share that our Board of Trustees adopted a resolution in support of this campaign at our February meeting. Our Civic Engagement Committee is taking the lead on keeping us connected with this campaign, and opportunities for you to participate will be forthcoming.

Finally, Jews are leading in the interfaith community through their active involvement in organizations such as **Interfaith Power & Light** and **Greenfaith**. Our DCIC Green Team is working on dissemination of these resources.

I have great pride in Jewish leadership on climate change. Our tradition compels us to respond on behalf of all. The array of advocacy options can be overwhelming, but I urge you to explore and choose and especially to participate through Vassar Temple, where we can pool and amplify our efforts.

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.



April 2022 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- April 1: Donated by Gail D'Alessio in memory of Bob DiBennardo
- April 8: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 15: No temple services – First night of Passover
- April 22: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

“Torah Study” examines passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah. Led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, DD on Saturdays from 9-10am in person and on Zoom (no class 4/30). Contact office@vassartemple.org for more information, and to be placed on the class e-mail list.

“The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text” taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, Thursdays, April 7 and 21, noon to 1:30pm on Zoom. Information and study sheets: pjgolomb@verizon.net.

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

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family of William Schultze, father of Michele (Jeff) Brenner

The family of David Teich, brother of Martin (Mindy) Teich

The family of Gloria Schwartz, mother of Ralph (Marian) Schwartz

Eleanor Buxbaum, Sister-in-law of Gloria Turk

Alvin Turk, Brother-in-law of Gloria Turk



Scriptural Readings

April 2

**HaChodesh & Rosh Chodesh
Tazria**

Lev. 12:1-13:59; Ezekiel 45:16-25;
Isaiah 66:1, 23

April 9

**HaGadol
M'tzora**

Lev. 14:1-15:33; Malachi 3:4-24

April 16

Yom Rishon shel Pesach

Ex. 12:37-42; 13:3-10; Isaiah 43:1-15;
Song of Songs is read

April 23

Acharei Mot I

Lev. 16:1-17:16; Ezekiel 22:1-14

April 30

Acharei Mot II

Lev. 18:1-30; Ezekiel 22:6-19

New Paths Service

April 9 & 23, 10:15am

Join us for New Paths Sabbath morning services
Saturdays, April 9 & April 23 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.

We expect to be on Zoom, but contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 to see if there will be an in-person option, and to get a Zoom link.

Religious School Update

This month will begin with a hands-on family education program for parents and students on April 3 as we prepare for Passover. Parents are invited to join their children at 10:30am for a variety of activities that will engage their senses and test their Passover knowledge. We'll bake matzah, make *haroset*, unscramble the four questions, sing Passover songs and have a little fun family competition with Passover Jeopardy! Kitah Aleph parents should just arrive with their children at 10:30am.

School will be on spring break April 10 and April 17. When the students return, we will move into our last value unit for the year: Shalom. How appropriate it will be that on our first day back we will be painting our mural of the *Oseh Shalom* prayer with mural artist and educator, Jennifer Levine!

Rabbi Renni Altman

MUSIC FUND	
In Honor of:	
Joe Bertolozzi	Vassar Temple Sisterhood
Paula Berg's 75th Birthday	James Robinowitz
SUSTAINING FUND	
Suzanne Mackson	
Weaver/Skedgell Family	
In Memory of:	
Doreen Kimmel	Muriel Lampell
Jaime Hecht	Karnes Hecht Family
Ted Hecht	Karnes Hecht Family
Paul Goldberg	Dr. Sara Jane Goldberg & Dr. George Papageorge
Lorraine Goldberg	Dr. Sara Jane Goldberg & Dr. George Papageorge
Edward Moffit	Kent & Kathy Mardon
Harriet Drucker	Beth Plotsky & Family
Paula Landau	Steven Landau
Gabriel Pasquale	Jim Robinowitz
Dolores Marie Brundage	Thomas & Laura Brundage
Norman Steinberg	David Steinberg & Katherine Moloney
George & Elizabeth Freedman	David & Lynn Ellicott
Isador Albinder	Albinder Family
Steve Ganeles	Jim Robinowitz
Gayle Margolin	Quackenbush Family
William Schultze	Marian Schwartz
Clara Levy Ribbi	Charles & Perla Kaufman
Howard Smith	Eric & Judy Rosenfeld
Ellen Rosenfeld	Eric & Judy Rosenfeld
Ruth Rabinowitz Browner	Miriam Browner Lacher
In Honor of:	
The birth & naming of Rissa Sophie Teich	Gail D'Alessio
	Cynthia Rozenberg
	James Robinowitz
LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND	
In Memory of:	
Lila Matlin's 2nd Yahrzeit	Barbara & Alan Aronson
	Susie Matlin Piccone
MILDRED GOULD RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND	
In Memory of:	
David Teich	David & Pam Levine
LUNCH BOX FUND	
In Memory of:	
Clara Levy Ribbi	Charles & Perla Kaufman
Faye Prisansky Kaufman	Charles & Perla Kaufman

Contributions



Vassar Temple First Night Seder, Friday, April 15 on Zoom, 5:30pm

Vassar Temple's Ritual Committee will host a Zoom first-night Seder on Friday, April 15. If you plan to attend, please respond to seder@vassartemple.org and we will forward a copy of the Vassar Temple hagaddah that we will be using and provide a Zoom link.

Ron Rosen has agreed to host the Zoom event, but we will also be recruiting others to do some of the reading. We plan to open the Zoom link around 5:30, with some introductory entertainment. The hagaddah reading will start around 5:50. We plan to do all the reading BEFORE your dinner. You can choose to stay online and chat after we're done with the reading (estimated to be about 6:30), and you are welcome to begin eating the meal at that time. We're also looking for people willing to lead some of the singing!

April 1

Max Solomon
Idane Evan Salenger
Vawn Jennifer Salenger
Zoey Rachel Gillman
Rose Baum Kraut
William M. Rothstein
Pearl Teperman
Martin Turk
Cora Frances Solomon
Dorothy Esner
Morris Domes
Jeanette Ada Cohen
Morris S. Rosenmann
Milton Levitt
David H. Ettenson
Hon. Joseph H. Gellert
Herman Baskin
Paula Landau

April 8

Elsie H. Albert
Samuel Baskin
Mimi L. Schor
Bob DiBennardo
Dr. Albert Gould
Joshua Lowe Posner
Paul Goldberg
Dolores Marie Brundage
Morris D. Kovacs
Mollie Rosenberg
Max Michael Simon, MD
Isador Albinder
Joseph Frankel
Vera Lisovsky Budson
Eli Mamis
Martha Katz
Lorraine Goldberg
Morris Rosenberg
Jeannette S. Newman
Lillian F. Kovacs

April 15*

Alfred Kaplan
Elizabeth "Libby" Horowitz
Jack Jacobson
Herbert Rosand
Evelyn Lanning
Kenneth (Mickey) Rosenblum
Charles Volkman, Sr.
Dr. Paul Koltai
Solomon Salberg
Nathan "Toolie" Turk
David Korobkin
Anne Lacher
Paula Rosner-Schwartz
Louis Schwartz
Elias Altman
Ida Salit
Sadie Lieberman
Dr. Fritz Weigert
Philip Lacher
Evelyn Partridge

**The evening of
April 15 is First
Seder ~ April 15th
Yahrzeits will be
read on either
April 8 or 22*

Yahrzeits

APRIL 22

Pauline Dubler
Hester Lox
Harriet Drucker
Marion Volkman
Eva Bley
Gilbert Harrison Keane
Annie Schultze
Doreen Kimmel
Rebecca Wolfson
George N. Freedman
Eric Mendel
Gladys Salberg
Nathan L. Reifler
Samuel H. Weisman
Belle Lescher
Delbert LaLone
Gertrude Rosenmann Sonkin
Jesse Barbash
Joan Sachs Shassian
John J. Moloney
Norman S. Reifler
Lester M. Ritter
Julius Seif

APRIL 29

Jaime Hecht
Julius Albert
Elaine F. Bloch
Philip Mardon, MD
Ted Hecht
Matilda (Mattie) Jukofsky
Sidney Cohen
Clara Levy Ribbi
Bessie Goldman Lass
Anna Dreishpoon
Frances R. Finnerman
Abraham Tavss
Dr. Wolfgang U. Weigert
Jacob Ettenson
Gertrude Fink
Faye Prisansky Kaufman
Edward Moffit

Sisterhood News

It is hard to write an article when an event is planned for the first day of the month. Do you remind everyone that the Sisterhood Shabbat is taking place, or do you thank everyone for participating in the service? Since Jo Schaffel and Karen Clark are so efficient in getting the bulletin to arrive before the first of the month, I invite you all to attend our Sisterhood Shabbat on April 1. Please come in person or tune in on Zoom.

Thank you to everyone who came out to roll dough, fill and fold or pinch (a debate that is ongoing), bake, sort and assist the children from Religious School and Tiny Temple in making about 1,000 hamantaschen. It was wonderful to have everyone back in the kitchen and social hall. I continue to be in awe of all the women of Sisterhood who never miss a beat, even throughout a pandemic. There are so many of you!

Now that it is spring, we are getting ready to celebrate Passover. I hope when you hear the Passover story this year, you are able to take new meaning from it. Perhaps you will add an orange or Miriam's Cup to your seder table in order to recognize our disadvantaged communities. When doing spring cleaning, think about donating items you no longer want or need (and if you can save them until the fall, we hope that Bargain Basement will be back). May we all have the strength and courage to seek out what we need in the coming year.

Hag Pesach Sameach.

Without you we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman



Brotherhood News

In the year before Covid-19 threw our world off-kilter, Brotherhood was beginning to build some momentum. Membership was increasing and more activities were planned. Unfortunately, the pandemic limited our opportunities to meet face-to-face. Somehow, we gathered to build the Sukkah and held a Brotherhood Shabbat on Zoom. We continue to stay in touch via Zoom for monthly Happy Hours which we are planning to transition to outdoor meetings when the weather permits.

Hopefully, the coming of Spring and the progress that has been made towards limiting the spread of the virus will give us the opportunity to have more events together. Therefore, I am requesting your feedback as to the types of events you would like us to plan. In the past we have held hikes or bike rides, gone to Renegades games, and gathered for a cookout. Please feel free to suggest new ideas as well.

Please respond to brotherhood@vassartemple.org. I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Together we are stronger. Be safe and be well.

Glenn Tanzman

Lunchbox Update

Just two years ago at the start of the pandemic, we changed our Vassar Temple Lunch Box food preparation and delivery. With health and safety the most important considerations, we never abandoned our commitment to feeding our hungry neighbors. At first, we were purchasing restaurant meals to share with the community. Later, we began our Chili Project, which has been a huge success. (In fact, the staff at Dutchess Outreach has told us that Vassar Temple Chili is one of the favorite meals of the month). Month after month, the Vassar Temple family has continued to prepare and supply chili meals for 80-100 clients who attend Lunch Box. Together with our friends from Mid-Hudson Islamic Association, we also support another monthly meal of chicken boxes from Crown Chicken that we always serve with fresh fruit. It seems that Thank You might not be enough to express the appreciation and pride we feel in knowing that we have not only continued to feed our hungry neighbors...we've expanded our commitment to two monthly meals. For those of you who make chili regularly, we thank you and ask you to continue this important support. Anyone who wants to join the chili group...please let us know and we will give you the recipe. You can email us at: lunchbox@vassartemple.org.

Andi & Paul Ciminello

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.

This year a generous anonymous member is offering to match Cantorial sponsorships up to \$500! Your \$250 contribution will become a \$500 contribution toward funding cantorial music.

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



Fannie and Doris Berlin Lecture

~ Sunday, May 15 at 4pm

First Woman Rabbi in USA to speak: Rabbi Sally Priesand



Please join us Sunday, May 15, at 4pm, for the Fannie and Doris Berlin Lecture, when we are honored to present special guest speaker Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, the first American woman rabbi, on the 50th anniversary of her ordination by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Priesand was a genuine trailblazer, as there were no precedents for female students following this track at the seminary, being ordained as a rabbi in the USA, or embarking upon the career path of a congregational rabbi. She will speak about her challenging journey, as she helped shape and reshape attitudes from academia to the rabbinate to grassroot congregations, and became a role model for Jewish women of the future.

You can choose to view Rabbi Priesand's Zoom presentation on the large screen in Vassar Temple, where refreshments will be served, or you can participate at home on Zoom. A discussion, led by Rabbi Altman,

will follow. Please RSVP to priesand@vassartemple.org, indicate if you plan to attend in person or remotely, and further information will be sent to you. The Fannie and Doris Berlin Lecture is brought to the community under the auspices of Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

Upon ordination in 1972, Rabbi Priesand accepted a position at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City where she served first as Assistant Rabbi, then as Associate Rabbi, finally becoming the rabbi of smaller congregations in New Jersey, and retiring as Rabbi Emerita in 2006. Rabbi Priesand's commitment to the cause of justice and peace, to equal opportunity for women, and to the survival of Israel is reflected in her many organizational affiliations. Additionally, she was a Founding Member of ARZA, has served on the Executive Board of both the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism, and as a member of the Board of Governors of HUC-JIR. She has contributed to many publications and received many honors. In 2010, Rabbi Priesand was named by Good Housekeeping magazine as one of 125 women who changed our lives and our world.



Hamantaschen Baking Day

Last year we weren't able to bake hamantaschen at the temple. Instead volunteers made them at home and brought them in so they could be delivered and given as *to-gonegs*. This year was a very different story. The temple was once again buzzing with activity with so much going on as we spread out in the kitchen and social hall. There were people in the kitchen rolling and cutting out dough while others were filling and folding them into hamantaschen so they could be baked in our ovens. Joining those in the social hall were our religious school teachers Chloe Mengden, Fern Wolf and Paige Kowalski and our Madrichot Lana Lieberman, Amanda Moore, Isabelle Hartman and Hadami Gendron along with all our Religious School students—a very talented group of bakers and terrific at making hamantaschen! While all this was going on Andi Ciminello and Laura Brundage were in another room helping the families who came for Tiny Temple to make delicious hamantaschen as well.

Thank you to the many people whose efforts helped make this year's hamantaschen baking go as well as it did: Laura and Emily Brundage, Andi Ciminello, Elena Collins, Sandra Cornell, Laura Domber Feinstein, Susan Karnes Hecht, Barbara Hyman, Ronni Jarvis, Claudia Kelson, Marilyn Lampell, Ann Lerman, Polly Lewis, Sandra Mamis, Amy Horn Oclatis, Betsy Poole-DiSalvo, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Lisa Rubenstein, Arlene Seligman, Roni Stein, Marcia Tanzman, Jenny Ward, Fern Greenberg-Wolf and Nadine Zaritsky. We had so many helpers that I'm sure I've forgotten to acknowledge someone. Please know that it was unintentional.

Judy Rosenfeld

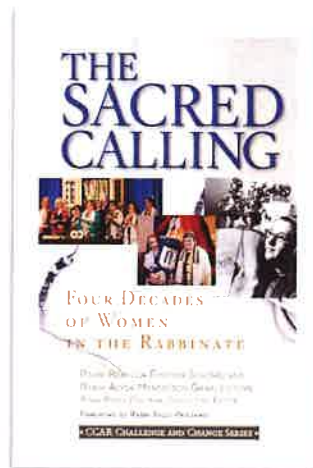
Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day Chair



“Scouts, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Explorers: A History of Women Rabbis”

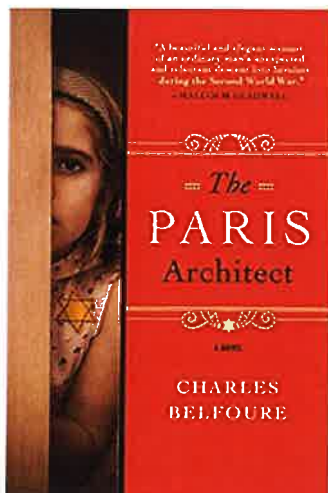
***Adult Education course taught by Rabbi Altman on Zoom
Every other Wednesday, April 6 through May 4 at 7:30pm***

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Sally J. Priesand, the first woman publicly ordained as a rabbi. In commemoration and celebration of this auspicious occasion, we are presenting an adult education series which spotlights significant women from earlier times who held quasi-rabbinic status in their communities, examines the ordination of Rabbi Sally Priesand, 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 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 or contact office@vassartemple.org for the Zoom link.



Book Club to Discuss *The Paris Architect* on April 21

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *The Paris Architect*, by Charles Belfour, a book described by critics as "an extraordinary novel" about a gifted architect who reluctantly begins a secret life devising ingenious hiding places for Jews in World War II Paris.



In 1942 Paris, Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money, as well as a tremendous risk to his life. All he has to do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible, that even the most determined German officer won't find it. But when one of his hiding spaces fails horribly, and the problem of where to hide Jews becomes terribly personal, Lucien can no longer ignore what's at stake. The story asks us to consider what we owe each other, and just how far we will go to make things right.

The "Paris Architect" is available in paperback through local book stores, as well as the public library system. The meeting will take place through Zoom, on Thursday, April 21, at 2:00pm. Muriel Lampell will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.

Paint-A-Prayer Project Part 2 ~ Sunday, April 24



How exciting it will be to see what mural artist and Jewish educator Jennifer Levine created from our artistic interpretations of *Oseh Shalom*. All those who attended the March 20 session will have the opportunity to paint in part of our mural. Religious school families will take part in the first part of the day, followed by the rest of the congregation. Participants will receive sign-up information in advance. Small groups will paint for approximately

15 minutes at a time so that all will be able to participate. Any questions—contact Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vassartemple.org.

Vassar Temple Refugee Resettlement Project Update

I am happy to report that our family has been here about a month and is securely ensconced in their new home. Many folks were involved during this first phase.

My CEO has been Andi Ciminello who took on the daunting job of finding affordable housing, facilitating Mohammad's job search and acting as general factotum. Her experience with our previous resettlement efforts has helped in making the process as painless as possible. She has been assisted by Vivian Garber and Eve Gendron whose knowledge and logistical expertise have been critical.

Any effort like this requires a lot of coordination with various bureaucracies. Without the expertise of Rick Wender dealing with legal matters; Marilyn McGaulley dealing with Social Services and Sandy Corwin dealing with the schools, we would not be as well along in the process.

As the family settles in and more of the daily nuts and bolts become apparent, Sandy will be aided by Linda Cantor, Muriel Horowitz and Val Carlisle. Medical and health issues will be attended to by Lisa-Sue Quackenbush. The critical function of a viable transportation system, until they can supply their own, will be handled by Marty Charwat who has already prepared a cadre of volunteers.

I must acknowledge the invaluable help of Adil and Shaheen Ameer, our dear friends from the Hudson Valley Islamic Association, for arranging language assistance during the early days and providing appropriate Halal foods and introducing them to nearby sources for their needs.

Thank you to all who have helped either with gift cards in the form of scrip and monetary or in-kind assistance. They will need help for necessities for, we expect, the next couple of months so please continue your generosity.

Art Groten

Tiny Temple—Sunday, April 3 at 10:30am

Toddlers through children age five are invited to bring their parents, grandparents, and/or care givers to Tiny Temple to learn all about Passover through hands-on activities, songs and stories. Weather permitting, we will meet outside. If not, we will meet in the Temple. Please RSVP to office@vassartemple.org

THE PASSOVER STORY



Annual Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Wednesday, April 27 at 6pm

"Recovering Our Stories: A Second Generation Perspective"

Keynote address: Mihai Grunfeld, Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies, Vassar College. In person in the James & Betty Hall Theater at Dutchess Community College. Check weekly newsletter for safety protocols, registration and livestream information.

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, April 3 at 9:30am (schmooze at 9am). If you wish more information, please contact Senior Vice Commander Ralph Schwartz at rschwa9881@aol.com.






Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Chametz to Table

Prior to Passover, bring to the Can Jam Bin in the Temple any **unopened** chametz foods you want to dispose of (and any other nonperishables you'd like to donate), and we'll deliver them to a local food pantry. Win! Win!



Calendar of Events—April 2022*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30pm Sisterhood Shabbat Service	2 9am Torah Study 10:30am Healing Service
3 9am Religious School 10am / K-1 10:30am Tiny Temple 10:30am Lunch Box 	4 7pm Congregational Meeting via Zoom	5	6 Hebrew School (on-line) 7:30pm Adult Ed Session 2 <i>"Scouts, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Explorers: A History of Women Rabbis"</i>	7 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Ritual CMTE	8 7:30pm Shabbat Service	9 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
10 NO Religious School	11	12	13 NO Hebrew School	14	15 Passover Eve First Seder 	16 Passover Day 1 Second Seder 
17 Passover Day 2 NO Religious School	18 Passover Day 3	19 Passover Day 4	20 Passover Day 5 Hebrew School (on-line) 7:30pm Adult Ed, Session 3 <i>"Scouts, Trailblazers, Pathfinders, Explorers: A History of Women Rabbis"</i> 7:30pm Finance CMTE	21 Passover Day 6 12pm Talmud Study 2pm VTS Book Club	22 Passover Day 7 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am Yizkor Service 7:30pm Shabbat Service	23 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
24 9am Religious School 10am / K-1 "Paint-A-Prayer" Mural Project Painting Day 	25	26	27 <i>Erev Yom HaShoah</i> <i>Hebrew School (on-line)</i> 6pm <i>Yom HaShoah Evening Program</i>	28 Yom HaShoah 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting	29 7:30pm Shabbat Service	30 NO Torah Study

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.454.2570



UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

PRSTD STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #11
Newburgh, NY

DATED MAIL
PLEASE
RUSH

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 June Bulletin must be submitted by May 1 sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Mazal Tov!

Simon Strauss and Christine Reale-Strauss on the birth of Sandor Robert Strauss, and grandson of Sandor Strauss, z"l and Carol Strauss

Daniel and Shira Teich on the birth of Rissa Sophie Teich, and granddaughter of Martin and Mindy Teich



DUTCHESS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Martin Charwat is being honored by DCC with the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award