



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 171 No. 1 July & August 2022

## The Return of The Picnic Shabbat!



Photos from a recent award program at Dutchess Outreach:  
recognizing Vassar Temple's commitment to Lunch Box



## From the Rabbi's Desk:



"The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space: on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to *holiness in time*. It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation; from the world of creation to the creation of the world... [The Sabbath is] a palace in

time." These words from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel teach us not only about the purpose of Shabbat, but also about its benefits for us: a day to disconnect, to be renewed and refreshed.

Such is the experience of many who participate in our Erev Shabbat services. As our prayer book reads, "Each of us enters this sanctuary with a different need..." Some seek uplift through a difficult time, some bring joyous news to share, while others seek strength to address the challenges of the world. Our warm community enriches and sustains us.

And yet, the palace of time that is Shabbat extends for an entire day beyond Friday evening. To take a day away from professional obligations and the multitude of tasks that demand our attention throughout the week offers a true sense of liberation; even taking part of the day can provide respite.

Shabbat is certainly my palace in time. You may be thinking, "But, Rabbi, don't you work on Shabbat?" In truth, the work is in the preparation that comes before Shabbat. Leading Shabbat worship and teaching Torah are not work for me; they are spiritually fulfilling. On Shabbat, which literally means to stop, I stop working, whether it is professional or running errands. The day is enriched by Torah study and prayer, time

with family and friends, being out in nature, reading for pleasure—and, yes, often by my Shabbat nap!

As with most Reform congregations, we are a community that worships primarily on Erev Shabbat. We do have occasional Shabbat morning services: for *b'nei mitzvah*, Shabbaton programs and healing services. Twice a month there is "New Paths," a Shabbat worship experience created by our Rabbi Emeritus, Stephen Arnold, that invites reflection on poems and readings based on liturgical themes in addition to the main prayers. Approximately once a month we offer *Shabbat Y'ladim*, an introductory service with singing, stories, challah and juice, for families with pre-school children.

Shabbat is also enriched through learning. Every Shabbat morning a group of avid learners gathers, some in person, some on Zoom, to discuss the week's *parsha*. No prior knowledge is necessary. As facilitator, I usually share teachings from rabbinic commentators, while each person brings their own questions and interpretations.

In the fall, we will expand upon our Shabbat morning offerings with an informal "traditional Reform" service using *Mishkan Tefillah*, alternating weeks with New Paths. We will begin at 10:15 and meet in the East Chapel so that we can be hybrid. With a minyan, we will read Torah. No knowledge of Hebrew or prior experience is necessary—just an open heart.

With the addition of this service, we will be able to offer a Shabbat morning worship opportunity each week in addition to Torah study. I invite you to join us for any of these experiences—add joy and uplift to your day and, perhaps, you, too will discover your palace in time.

Summer vacation is also my "palace in time." I am grateful for this extended period away for respite and renewal so that I can return in late July refreshed and strengthened to prepare for 5783.

*Rabbi Renni Altman*



**President's Message:**  
**My First President's Message**



As I write my very first Bulletin article as President of Vassar Temple, I am reflecting on the many roles I have had here since joining at 11 years old. I have been a student in Religious School, a Confirmand, involved in our Youth Group and actively involved in NYFTY (NY Federation of Temple Youth). I have participated and run Tiny Temple (previously known as Cradle Roll). I have been a Religious School teacher of both 3rd and 5th grades. I

have served on various Gala and Program Committees over the 47 years I have been a member here. I have been very active and had multiple roles in Sisterhood, including Past President. I have served on the Temple Board of Trustees a couple of times, including just finishing up my term as First Vice President.

In addition to the "me" stuff there is the "we" stuff. My husband, Kurt, is an active member of Vassar Temple in his own right, participating in Purim Spiels, Pasta Dinners and various Brotherhood projects and programs. He and I have helped our three children in navigating and participating in life at Vassar Temple as well. They were all named here, became *B'nei Mitzvah*, Confirmands and participated in multiple Social Action activities through Vassar Temple. They are incredibly civic minded and productive adults who know that while words are great, action is better. They understand their part in *Tikkun Olam*—repairing the world. They, like myself, learned that in their involvement at Vassar Temple.

As I take on this new chapter and role at Vassar Temple, I am inspired by the leaders of the past to

which I am eternally grateful, honored and privileged to follow, and I reflect upon what is next. What else can I do that will make a difference? What can I do that will inspire others to do more, feel empowered and engaged in Temple life and community? How can I personally, and along with this remarkable and inspiring new Board, take on our part in *Tikkun Olam*?

I'm going with my own personal goal, which I refer to as **ACE**

⇒ **A**ccountability

⇒ **C**onnection and

⇒ **E**ngagement

The first, Accountability, refers to creating long-overdue ethics policies and protocols, with guidance from the URJ, that will ensure the highest level of dignity, safety and protection for every single individual in our congregation. The second, Connection, is to empower and encourage our many Jewish adjacent/connected congregants to become and feel more engaged and connected with Jewish life at Vassar Temple. We already have a dynamic committee established that has been meeting regularly to address this. And lastly, Engagement, refers to my wish to invite members of our LGBTQ+ community to not only feel welcome here (as it says on our front door), but to actively participate in programming and life at Vassar Temple.

I will elaborate on these ideas in forthcoming bulletins. I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas on these, and other topics, regarding Vassar Temple's future. Our 175th Anniversary is just around the corner. I look forward to finding ways to grow this vibrant congregation and continue its long-standing tradition of *Tikkun Olam*.

I can be reached at [president@vassartemple.org](mailto:president@vassartemple.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*

## “Acts of Kindness” Seeks Household Items

Acts of Kindness is a program of Dutchess Outreach that supplies essential household items to individuals and families in need. Their inventory is unusually low right now so they're seeking donated items. Unless otherwise noted, items do not need to be new, but must be in good condition. They will be used to fill the specific requests of local non-profits, assuring you that everything is going to those most in need.

### Most Needed Items:

- **Small appliances:** toasters, coffee makers, microwaves, toaster ovens, crockpots, electric fry pans, fans, small vacuum cleaners, etc.
- **Cookware:** pots, pans, fry pans
- **Cooking and eating utensils and tools:** silverware, spatulas, cooking and serving spoons, can openers, pot holders and oven mitts
- **Bedding:** Twin, Full, Queen and King sheets, blankets, comforters, bed pillows
- **Towels:** bath and hand towels, washcloths, dish towels
- **Other:** rugs (small area and bath rugs), lamps (floor and table), brooms and dustpans, new sponges, mops and buckets, dish drainer sets, small storage units with drawers/doors, small end tables, kitchen chairs, trash cans



They are located at 106A Little Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 and are open for drop-offs on Tuesdays from 10-2, or contact them at [aokdor@gmail.com](mailto:aokdor@gmail.com) or leave a message at 845-454-3792 x3244 to arrange a different drop-off time, for parking information, for home pickup, or with any general questions.

### Civic Engagement Opportunities with Planned Parenthood

If you are interested in serving as an Escort at Planned Parenthood, please reach out to the Civic Engagement Committee for more information. Several Vassar Temple members serve in this capacity and are available to give you more information about training and volunteer opportunities. Please contact: [civicengagement@vassartemple.org](mailto:civicengagement@vassartemple.org).

### Vassar Temple Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon

Vassar Temple's next Chai Noon Luncheon is July 18. Please watch for Vassar Temple communications regarding details for the July luncheon. Stay well everybody.

## Scriptural Readings

### July 2

#### Korach

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

### July 9

#### Chukat

Num. 19:1-22:1;  
Judges 11:1-33

### July 16

#### Balak

Num. 22:2-25:9;  
Micah 5:6-6:8

### July 23

#### Pinchas

Num 25:10-30:1;  
Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

### July 30

#### Matot/Mas'ei

Num. 30:2-36:13;  
Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4

### August 6

#### D'varim

Deut. 1:1-3:22;  
Isaiah 1:27

### August 13

#### Va-et'chanan

Deut. 3:23-7:11;  
Isaiah 40:1-26

### August 20

#### Eikev

Deut. 7:12-11:25;  
Isaiah 49:14-51:3

### August 27

#### R'eih

Deut. 11:26-16:17;  
Isaiah 54:11-55:5 and 66:1-13, 23

## 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, D.D., on Saturdays July 16, July 30, and every Saturday in August from 9-10am. Class is hybrid & follows any current Temple health and safety protocols. Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) to be placed on the class e-mail list.

“**The Talmud: Modern Ideas from Ancient Texts**” Class is on hiatus during July-August. Resumes September 19, meeting alternate Mondays from noon to 1:30pm. Taught on Zoom by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, with occasional in-person sessions possible.

For more information: [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net)

*Join Us!*

*No previous training required*

*No charge to attend*

## New Paths Services

For dates for summer New Path services, watch Temple e-mails.

## Bimah Flowers Donations

Bimah Silk Flowers for July and August donated by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund.



## Update for June 10:

Flowers sponsored by Gail D'Alessio in memory of Charles Simon Steinbuck and Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis in memory of Beatrice and David Horn

# Contributions

## SUSTAINING FUND

Ronald S. Miller & Phyllis Birne

### In Honor of:

The wedding of Gregory Partridge to Brittni on May 30, 2022

The birth of Eleanora to Amy Partridge and her husband Marcia & Glenn Tanzman receiving the Founders Award

Sandra Mamis

Sandra Mamis

Mayda & Alan Clarke  
Sandi & Marty Wertkin  
Barbara & Bruce Alster  
Laurie Topal



### In Memory of:

Mary Louise Goldfarb  
Michael Wrobel  
Jonathan Muehl  
Cecelia Riechman  
Charlotte Wechsler  
Philip Cohen  
Eileen Rosenhaus  
Hillard Mann  
Margot Phyllis Similes  
Frederick Goldsmith  
Carrie Dlugacz

Michael Goldfarb  
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel  
Rick DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein  
Ed & Vivian Garber  
Ed & Vivian Garber  
Linda Babas  
Roslyn Kafowitz  
Barbara Lemberger  
Sandra Similes Mamis  
Madelyn D'Angelo  
The Kurz Family

## LUNCH BOX FUND

Eric & Barbara Gillman

## MUSIC FUND (Cantor Sponsorship)

Gilbert & Arlene Seligman

## MARJORIE GLUCK 21st CENTURY FUND

Nancy Gluck

# Mazel Tov

Happy Updates from the Partridge Family:

The marriage of Amy Partridge, daughter of Evelyn (z"l) and Richard Partridge to Saajan Chana, October 2019.

The birth of Eleanora Chana on April 7, daughter of Saajan & Amy Chana, and granddaughter of Evelyn (z"l) and Richard Partridge.



The marriage of Greg Partridge, son of Evelyn (z"l) and Richard Partridge to Brittni on May 30.



**July 1**

Sandor D. Strauss  
 Dolores Weisman  
 Jonathan Muehl  
 Fred Weiss  
 Frank Sorbello  
 Rosalind Gellert  
 Fay Menken  
 Audrey S. Morgenstern  
 Blanche Weber  
 Matthew Lampell  
 Alice Weinstein  
 Cornelius Saperstein  
 Dr. Camilla Reznikoff Wygan  
 Mary Lou Goldfarb  
 Barbara Jean Wojcik  
 Eva Tofel  
 Nay Wisdom  
 Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon  
 Dr. Jacob Kronman  
 M. Fred Praeger

**July 8**

Lawrence Blumenthal  
 Lillian Lampell  
 Hillard Mann  
 Ann Kahn  
 Marie Robinowitz  
 Eileen Rosenhaus  
 Michael Wrobel  
 Lloyd Fertig  
 Lawrence L. Landau  
 Dora Rosenmann  
 Winona Rosenthal  
 Michael L. Solomon  
 Linda Fertig Waldman

**July 15**

Ludwig Willner  
 Merlin B. Lass  
 Marshall Efron  
 Stephan Harrison  
 Leon R. Bloom  
 Edward Moffit, Jr.  
 Shirley Green Chertock  
 Minnie Lass  
 Sylvia Reifler Silberman  
 Ida Cohen  
 Philip Cohen  
 Marian Bloomgarden DeWitt  
 Morton Bloch  
 Cynthia R. Feldman  
 Dr. Sidney S. Cohen  
 Jerry Bass  
 Norman Matlin  
 Ralph C. Goldman

**July 22**

Sylvia Soirefman  
 Sam Lessin  
 Robert J. Creedon, Sr.  
 Dr. Alan E. Apfel  
 Harold Ewen  
 Flora M. Hoffman  
 David Clarfield  
 Saul A. Lazarus  
 Joshua Aaron Himmelstein  
 Minnie Schudroff Coleman  
 James Efron  
 Martin Brenner  
 Rose Gilbert  
 Susan Newhouse  
 Meta Altman  
 Helen D'Alessio

**July 29**

Siegfried Frank  
 David Krevolin  
 Phillip R. Moselle, OD  
 Gertrude Rosenthal  
 Robert H. Lipschutz  
 Irving Schwartz  
 Cecelia Riechman  
 Charlotte Wechsler  
 Talia Lynn Steckman  
 Louis Gellert  
 Lawrence Paradis  
 Martin L. Dreyfuss, MD  
 Dr. Irving Dreishpoon  
 Hortense Feldman

**August 5**

Saul Lox  
 Jacov Markovitch  
 Carrie Dlugacz  
 Kurt Harlam  
 Melvin Matlin, MD  
 Louis Temlock  
 Jack Wiseman  
 Marjorie Gluck  
 Margot P. Similes  
 Mae Berger  
 Hy Miller  
 Katherine Moffit  
 Louis I. Worona  
 Rosa Pilar Tangredi  
 Muriel Weingart  
 Ruth Adelson

**August 12**

Blanche Adler  
 Alexander D'Imperio  
 Aaron Reifler  
 Dr. Richard Slater Cohen  
 Dr. Burton Katz  
 Evelyn Herman  
 Beverly Groffman  
 Anna Saperstein  
 Eve Canter Goldberg  
 Gloria Berlin  
 Harry Barbash, DDS  
 Minnie Toroker  
 Howard S. Abrams  
 Frances Myer

**August 19**

Zerline Lehman Simon  
 Beatrice A. Goodman  
 Emanuel Zimmer  
 Bernard Reifler  
 Frederick Goldsmith  
 Hannah Keane  
 Edna Z. Kleiner  
 Dorothy Rauh Fogle  
 Nettie Jacobs  
 Mary Louise Parke  
 Lee Schwartz  
 Oscar Charwat  
 Mary Weiss  
 Sonia H. Rubenstein  
 Jeanne M. Payne

**August 26**

Dr. Saul R. Kelson  
 Frederick C. Tuchmann  
 Morris Kaufman  
 Melvin Stolack  
 Max Matlin  
 William Miller  
 Maier Sawyer  
 Sarah Peles Samuels  
 W. Carlton Bernard  
 Tobias Wolfson  
 Anna Dick Kronman  
 Paul S. Waxman  
 Sara G. Rice  
 Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell-Moore  
 Hyman Silverman  
 Rose Ritter  
 Edward J. Newman, MD  
 Rose Markowitz  
 Joseph LaLone



## Sisterhood News

When I was asked to become the President of Sisterhood with the experience of chairing Donor Dinner my only activity, I said, "I can't do this. I don't feel like I know enough." After much reassurance from other past presidents, I said yes. My three years as Sisterhood President have taught me so much about the women of Vassar Temple who make so much happen, even during a pandemic. No matter what needs to be accomplished, there is always someone I can turn to. Many of you are that person. I urge you to take on a job, join a committee, chair an event. You can do it, and there are many who will assist you. The future of Sisterhood depends on you.

Can you make phone calls? Are you competent on the computer? Do you have good organizational skills? Are you full of ideas? Do you have interesting contacts? Do you like to cook or bake? Can you Zoom to a monthly meeting? If you can say yes to *any* of these questions, we have a job that you can do to help. Reach out and let me know and I will have the appropriate person contact you.

We already have activities on the calendar for the upcoming year that excite me. Watch for a mailing regarding membership for the 2022-2023 year.

*Without you we are one woman short!*

*Marcia Tanzman*

## Brotherhood News

During the pandemic we held monthly virtual Happy Hours. The next virtual Happy Hour is scheduled for July 19, and then they are scheduled on the second Tuesday each month at 5pm. We hope that you can join us. The link will be sent in the weekly newsletter. We will also start to plan Brotherhood lunches beginning in late July. I am looking for suggestions for restaurants with ample outside dining like Farmers and Chefs in Poughkeepsie.

Hopefully, the warm weather 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](mailto:brotherhood@vassartemple.org).

The Brotherhood has officially joined the Men of Reform Judaism and have begun to share links to their programming. Here is the first link to programs from the MRJ.

### **The President of HUC-JIR, Andrew Rehfeld, Ph. D., talks to MRJ**

Their latest webinar, on May 3, 2022, was with Dr. Rehfeld. On the heels of the historic vote regarding the Cincinnati campus, it was most timely. <https://www.menrj.org/post/the-president-of-huc-jir-andrew-rehfeld-ph-d-talks-to-mrj>

I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

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

*Glenn Tanzman*



## What is Can Jam?

Can Jam is a Vassar Temple tradition also steeped in Jewish tradition. Year round, you are invited to jam the wooden bin in the hall outside the office with nonperishable foods to be delivered to local food pantries, to assist our neighbors in need.



The bin itself was custom-designed by Temple member Howard Himmelstein to play this very special role in our congregational life. The local community knows that "Vassar Temple Cares About Hunger," and sometimes non-members will bring in food donations as well!

Due to storage space issues, the following food items are what is being requested by the pantries. Please only donate nutritious items, in unopened, undamaged packaging, and which are not approaching expiration date.

**The following items are especially needed:** Peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned soups, canned vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce, tuna, coffee, tea bags, baby formula (Enfamil preferred)






And currently, due to current shortages in their stock, the food pantry at Dutchess Outreach is requesting that we also donate regular-size packages of these essential hygiene products: toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, feminine products.

Please keep your neighbors in need in mind when you shop for yourself or are perusing the supermarket sales flier. And if you would like to help deliver the foods we collect to a conveniently located food pantry, even just once a year, please contact the Kelsons at [canjam@vassartemple.org](mailto:canjam@vassartemple.org), or e-mail Marian at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org)

## Commemorate Tisha B'Av, Saturday night, August 6th




Tisha B'Av, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av is the day that marks the destruction of both the first and second Temples as well as other tragedies that have befallen our people over time. Traditionally it is observed as a day of communal mourning, with fasting and the reading of the Book of Lamentations. The early Reformers rejected the observance of the day as one of mourning for various reasons. Since the 1970s, the day has been reclaimed in much of our movement and invested with new meaning and relevance for our time. This year we will join with Temple Beth-El to observe this memorial day in a program that will include the mournful chanting of portions of the Book of Lamentations along with English passages, as well as contemporary readings and reflections. Look for more information and timing in the weekly e-newsletter.

# Calendar of Events—July 2022\*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30pm Shabbat Service	2 NO Torah Study
3 10:30am Lunch Box  	4 4th of July Office Closed  	5	6	7 7pm Ritual CMTE	8 7:30pm Shabbat Service	9 NO Torah Study
10	11	12	13	14	15 7:30pm Shabbat Service	16 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths
17	18 12pm Chai Noon Luncheon  	19 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour  	20 7:30pm Finance CMTE	21 10:30am Lunch Box  	22 7:30pm Shabbat Service	23 NO Torah Study
24	25	26	27	28 6:30pm Shelter Meal  7pm Board Meeting	29 7:30pm Shabbat Service	30 9am Torah Study
31						

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

# Calendar of Events—August 2022\*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 7pm Ritual CMTE	5 7:30pm Shabbat Service	6 9am Torah Study  Erev Tisha B'Av  Tisha B'Av observance with Temple Beth-El (time TBD)
7 Tisha B'Av  10:30am Lunch Box  	8	9 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour  	10	11	12 7:30pm Shabbat Service	13 9am Torah Study
14	15	16	17 2pm VTS Book Club  7:30pm Finance CMTE	18 10:30am Lunch Box    12pm Chai Noon Luncheon  	19 7:30pm Shabbat Service	20 9am Torah Study
21	22	23 5:30 Endowment Fund	24	25 6:30pm Shelter Meal  7pm Board Meeting	26 7:30pm Shabbat Service	27 9am Torah Study
28	29	30	31			

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



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140 Hooker Avenue  
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[www.vassartemple.org](http://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:** Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

**1st Vice President:** Roni Stein

**2nd Vice President:** Susan Avery

**Secretary:** Marcia Tanzman

**Treasurer:** Maxine Finkelstein

**Sisterhood President:** Marcia Tanzman

**Brotherhood President:** Glenn Tanzman

**Immediate Past President:** Susan Karnes Hecht

**Bulletin Editor:** Jo Schaffel



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

## Jewish War Veterans ~ We Are Live

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 meetings will be held at Schomre Israel pm July 10 and August 14. The meeting format will follow what we used before the pandemic.

Meetings will begin at 9:30am and there will be a half hour schmooze at 9:00am. As we used to, the Post will supply nosh stuff, coffee and it will be strictly kosher.

The use of masks is optional. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Ralph Schwartz*



Jewish War Veterans  
*of the United States of America*