



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 171 No. 2 September 2022

Introducing Shabbat Morning Services

Starting Saturday, September 17

10:15am in the East Chapel

Enrich your celebration of Shabbat with an informal Shabbat morning service, approximately twice a month, led by Rabbi Altman. Though similar to the liturgy for Friday night, there are prayers and songs unique to the morning service with their own melodies. Some direct our attention to the simple blessings of waking up to each new day!



We will meet in the East Chapel, following Torah study, and will use *Mishkan Tefillah*. This service will include a Torah reading, providing we have a minyan, and will conclude with a brief Kiddush. Kaddish will always be said, so this will be another opportunity to remember a loved one after a recent death or on a *yahrzeit*. No prior experience with the Shabbat morning service or knowledge of the prayers is necessary. The service will also be accessible via Zoom. We will meet only once in September, but moving forward most months we will meet twice (see the monthly bulletin and weekly email for the schedule).

From the Rabbi's Desk:



In a few weeks we will be together for Rosh Hashanah. This is one of those years where the holidays are "late," so we will have time to transition from summer mode into fall, to better prepare ourselves to welcome the new year.

For some of us, preparations began months ago. It is a given that clergy and musicians spend significant time

preparing for Holy Day services, but our observances would not be possible without the hard work of our volunteers. These dedicated congregants, most working "behind the scenes" and with our small temple staff, spend countless hours managing the myriad logistics involved in planning Holy Day observances. Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for all that they do.

Personally, we prepare in different ways: some may send out greeting cards; others prepare festive meals with holiday foods. Jewish tradition calls on us to take on a different kind of preparation. Although the time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called the Ten Days of Repentance, the tradition doesn't envision that we can initiate and complete the process of repentance within that time frame. Rather, these *Yamim Noraim* serve as the culmination of a process that ought to begin well before the first of Tishrei.

Thus, the practice has evolved that we devote the entire last month of the year, Elul, to *heshbon hanefesh*, literally, an accounting of the soul, a process by which we review our actions of the past year and consider where we have done well and where we have fallen short. It is a time to rethink our

priorities, make amends for hurts we have caused and commit ourselves to striving to be better. Such reflection is the first step in the journey of *teshuvah*, repentance, literally, "return"—returning to the right path, to our best selves, to the Holy One and to being all that the Divine calls upon us to be.

A 16th century rabbinic scholar, Rabbi Moshe ben Avraham of Przemyśl, taught that during Elul, "every person [should] scrutinize their actions with a view to mending them. Let them exclude themselves for one hour every day and examine themselves." Imagine taking an hour daily just to reflect on your life! That is probably not realistic for most of us. What about 15 minutes? Can we find 15 minutes every day for *heshbon hanefesh*? There is no set format for such a process. It could be while taking a walk, meditating, listening to music, just sitting still, or even while exercising! Rabbi Alan Lew, teacher of mindfulness, recommends that if this process sounds overwhelming, "Just choose one simple and fundamental aspect of your life and commit yourself to being totally conscious and honest about it for the thirty days of Elul."

One of the most beautiful practices of Elul is that of Selichot, the evening service of prayers of forgiveness, held on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah (at least four days before, however). As with the traditions of Elul, the service includes the sounding of the shofar, our reminder to turn towards repentance. Appropriate to this season of reflecting on our priorities, we will present the Arnold Award before the service, recognizing someone who has dedicated much time and energy to service to our community. I do hope that you will join us to honor this year's recipient, Gail D'Alessio, and to focus your attention on your process of *teshuvah* as we near Rosh Hashanah.

Sept 1 is the 5th of Elul. 24 days remain to prepare ourselves for the New Year. May you and your loved ones be written for blessing in the coming year. *L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu.*

Rabbi Renni Altman

President's Message:



The High Holy days will soon be upon us. It is a time for many of us to strive to be present for the self-reflection necessary to fully embrace the holidays. For myself, I find that there is much preparation leading up to the holidays: scheduling changes, family plans, cleaning and cooking plans. For others there are the actual logistics of the services themselves: written elements, ritual elements, attendance and travel elements. The holidays seem to arrive, one after another. Many of us are

continually looking ahead to the next holiday and not sitting still in the holiday we are in. This tendency to plan ahead and be prepared is looked upon as an essential quality in so many areas of our lives. We want to be ready and to be taking the necessary steps to handle anything that comes our way. This is great for being prepared for life in general, not so great for introspection and self-reflection during the High Holidays.

Taking time planning to be in-the-moment sounds a bit counterintuitive. But it is important to think ahead about how you will stop, look and listen to your mind and body during these times and ask yourself if you are truly present. For some, simply being in the sanctuary has this effect. If that's the case, come a few minutes early to services and get in the right head and heart space to feel present. For others, it requires opening a prayer book and looking for words and prayers that connect you to the present. Arrive a little early. Take some time to peruse the many beautiful readings and prayers found in the front of the prayer book. If you will be participating in our services via Zoom, find a peaceful, non-busy, dedicated place in your home to set up your screen. Turn off other

screens around you. Dress the part. Make your home space into a sanctuary space.

The idea of being present sounds so simple. As a person who prides themselves on always being three steps ahead, I can tell you it is much easier said than done. How do I keep those little voices in my head from reminding me of all the things I still need and want to do? How do I turn extraneous thoughts off and try to be present at services? I am planning on coming to services early, sitting with my prayer book, enjoying the music, centering myself and fully embracing these reflective moments.

I ask that if you see myself or others looking to find their inner peace in preparation for services, that you respect and give us that time. It's not an easy task for many of us. There will be plenty of time after services for warm greetings and good wishes.

Spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle says; "Most humans are never fully present in the here and now because unconsciously they believe that the next moment must be more important than this one. But then you miss your whole life, which is never not now."

May you all be able to find your inner peace and strive to be fully present during these High Holidays. Kurt & I wish you *L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu*.

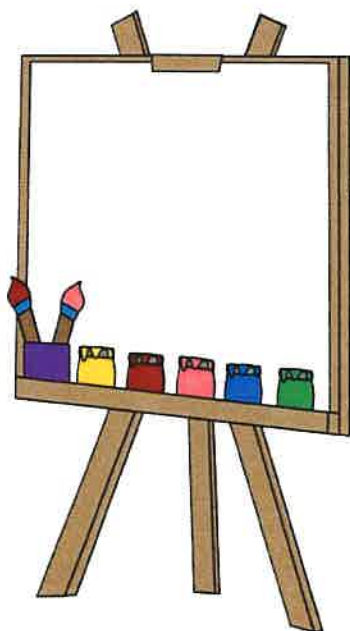


Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Religious School Update

We look forward to opening the doors of the Seth A. Erlebacher religious school on Sunday, September 11 and welcoming back our continuing students and those who are new. An orientation will be held for all parents and children in grades 3—7 at 9am; the K-2 orientation will take place at 10am. The students will go to their classrooms for a full day of learning following the orientations. Hebrew school will return to in-person learning this year and will begin on Wednesday, September 14 at 4:30pm.

We continue to follow the COVID guidelines of the public schools. It is important for the health and safety of our school that parents keep their children home if they are ill or have been exposed to someone with COVID. We had a very healthy school last year thanks to parents' attention to this policy. Masking continues to be optional; people mask for different reasons and we respect the right of each person to do so.



The start of each new school year is like a blank canvas. We can only begin to imagine how our students and teachers will fill it in this year—what colors they will paint with their ideas and interpretations; what pictures they will draw literally and figuratively; how they will implement the values that they learn into action. Like our prayer mural from last year, each will add their voice, their ideas, their enthusiasm to that canvas that is our Jewish community—I look forward to seeing how it comes to life this year!

Rabbi Renni Altman

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 a flower arrangement, please let the office know. Sponsored flowers are fresh floral arrangements.



September 2022 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- September 2: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- September 9: Donated by David Steinberg and Kathy Moloney in memory of Jay Steinberg
- September 16: Selichot: Donated by Ralph & Marian Schwartz in memory of Bill and Sue Barbash
- September 23: Rosh Hashanah: Donated by the Matlin Family in memory of Lila and Melvin Matlin
- September 30: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)

Scriptural Readings

September 3

Shof'tim

Deut. 16:18-21:9; Isaiah 51:12-52:12

September 10

Ki Teitzei

Deut. 21:10-25:19; Isaiah 54:1-10

September 17

Ki Tavo

Deut. 26:1-29:8; Isaiah 60:1-22

September 24

Nitzvavim

Deut. 29:9-30:20; Isaiah 61:10-63:9

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 from 9-10am (no class 9/3). Contact office@vassartemple.org for further information and to be placed on the class e-mail list.

"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from Ancient Texts" taught alternate Mondays from noon to 1:30pm by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Zoom, with occasional in-person sessions possible. All welcome! For more information and to be placed on the class e-mail list: pigolomb@verizon.net

New Paths Service

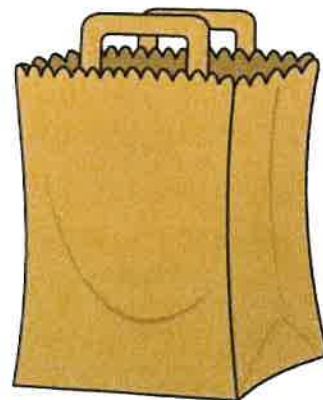
Join us at Vassar Temple for New Paths Sabbath morning service on Saturday September 10 at 10:15am. The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. "We take the time to let the service get through us, 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 meeting "hybrid" (both inside the Temple and on Zoom). Contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 if you want the Zoom link, and for updates. Policies for safe in-person attendance are on our website www.vassartemple.org

Yom Kippur Food Drive

"Is this the fast I seek, a day of self-affliction?... Is not THIS the fast I look for: to unlock the shackles of injustice, to undo the fetters of bondage, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every cruel chain? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house?" (Isaiah 58)

- Please take home a grocery bag on Rosh Hashana September 25, 26, and 27
- Please bring it back full of nonperishable foods on Yom Kippur October 5

When shopping, please select any foods listed here, containers should be unopened and not out of date—peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, coffee, tea, cereal, baby formula, and these canned goods: tuna, soup, fruit, vegetables.



Glenn and Marcia Tanzman Receive Founder's Award

Glenn and Marcia Tanzman received this year's VT Founder's Award. They joined Vassar Temple in 2015 and began attending Shabbat services and Torah study on a regular basis.

For many years Glenn has been co-president and is now president of the temple Brotherhood. Each year he coordinates building the Sukkah with Brotherhood members. He is part of the Brotherhood team that prepares and serves the Purim dinner. Glenn participates in other ways, too. He's been a part of the membership committee in addition to being a board trustee for two years and is now ending his current tenure on the Board as secretary.

It is difficult to find a temple activity where Marcia hasn't been involved. Marcia is a long-time member of the Ritual Committee. She's been involved with planning many Shabbat programs, *Tu B'Shvat* Seders, decorating the sanctuary for Sukkot, been on the High Holy Day planning committee and was a member of the temple board nominating committee for two years.

Marcia is a member of Sisterhood and the current President. She planned three Donor Dinner events. In lieu of Donor Dinners during the first year of Covid, she cooked and delivered food. She planned an online auction for Sisterhood. If all this is not enough, Marcia teaches Hebrew to adult learners in addition to teaching Religious School and currently teaches Hebrew to the 4th grade. She worked on the Temple auction, creating invitations and setting up the online auction site.

No doubt, Marcia and Glenn are well known to the temple family. They have demonstrated their commitment to Vassar Temple.

Gilbert and Arlene Seligman,

Recipients of the award last year





Gail D'Alessio (L) with author, Anita Diamant at local Community Shabbaton

Arnold Award and Selichot Service Saturday, September 17, 7:45pm

Please join us Saturday, September 17 at 7:45pm in the social hall for a dessert reception to honor Gail D'Alessio, who will be presented the Arnold Award in recognition of her contributions to the religious life of the congregation, as well as for her contributions to the local Jewish community. In her role as a Ritual Committee member, Gail has developed programming for Festival, High Holy Day, and special Shabbat services; she especially enjoys helping plan the annual Community Shabbaton. As a Sunday school teacher, Gail challenged and delighted our children with fun, creative learning experiences, and helped develop intergenerational Shabbat programs that united the entire congregation. As a leader of the Adult Education Committee, Gail has facilitated bringing many interesting speakers and courses of study to our congregation. Gail is one of our volunteer song leaders and soloists for Shabbat services, and a regular participant in the Torah study group. Her consistent willingness to give of herself, her hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to Jewish tradition, inspire us all.

After the Arnold Award dessert reception, stay for our lovely Selichot service in the sanctuary at 9:00pm. Congregants will be asked to help change the Torah mantles and lectern cloths from red to white as we welcome the High Holy Days for 2022/5783.

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Luchrezia Sgro
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush's election
as President of Vassar Temple
David Hecht's &
Susan Karnes Hecht's birthday

Jim Robinowitz

Kathy & Kent Mardon

Fern & Dave Wolf

In Memory of:

Katherine Moffit
Dr. Harry Barbash
Dr. Richard Slater Cohen
Frederick C. Tuchmann
Hyman Silverman
Dr. Irving H. Dreishpoon
Zerline Lehman
Lawrence Blumenthal
Perle Scope
Nettie Jacobs
Sara G. Rice
Howard Mayer
Hilda Klausner
Sheila Mardon Suker
Dr. Nathan Bernstein
Irving Revitz
Donald Hulnick
Ethel Graves
Delbert LaLone
Shirley Graves LaLone
Millie Gould
Joseph LaLone
Phyllis Bell
Maurice Goldemberg
Morris Kaufman
Regina R. Olivar
Aaron Silverman
Cora Frances Solomon
Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon
Michael L. Solomon

Kathy & Kent Mardon
William Barbash
Doi Cohen
Doi Cohen
Brian & Helen Silverman
Georgene Dreishpoon
Georgene Dreishpoon
Beth Plotsky
Elaine Lipschutz
Irma Jacobs
Irma Jacobs
Tom & Gloria Mayer
Alfred Scope
Kathy & Kent Mardon
Kathy & Kent Mardon
Martin & Lynn Revitz
Ciminello Family
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
Sandra Mamis
Hecht Family
Charles & Perla Kaufman
Charles & Perla Kaufman
Richard & Linda Cantor
Alan Solomon
Alan Solomon
Alan Solomon

In appreciation & gratitude for:

Susan Karnes Hecht's presidency

Harold & Susan Lesser

With Honor & Appreciation of both the outgoing & incoming Board:

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of:

Melvin Matlin, M.D.

Susie Matlin Piccone & Scott Piccone

LUNCH BOX

In Memory of:

Ethel Graves

Jane LaLone

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Howard S. Abrams

Bob & Marianne Abrams

In Honor of:

Cantor Goldman

Ruth L. Goldfarb

For the rehabilitation and care of the grand piano:

Berlin Family Fund & Joel Kelson
Barbara Lemberger

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Memory of:

Russel Oppenheimer
Miriam Oppenheimer
Steve Wittels
Gloria Schwartz

Jill Oppenheimer Auerbach
Jill Oppenheimer Auerbach
Joel Kelson
Joel Kelson

ENDOWMENT FUND

Charles & Roni Stein

Contributions



September 2

Mildred L. Greller
Maurice Goldemberg
Molly Solomon
David Cohen
Elma S. Rosenberg
Precious Vivianna Rosen
Adolph Milton Fein
Claire Entner Gad
Joseph Samuels
Rose Weisman
Sheila Mardon Sukert
Stuart Dick
Seymour Niesen
Phyllis Mamis Bell
Martha Feinman
Louis Rosen
Jack L. Cohn
Regina R. Olivar
Irving Revitz
Molly Garber
Florence Altman
Rebecca Baskin
Leonard Roth

September 9

Beatrice Plansky
Susan Vance
Joseph W. Sparks
Murray Gordon
Dr. Nathan Bernstein
Ryan Creedon
Jay H. Steinberg
Ida Schwartz
Carl Hoppermann
Allene Braw Baskin
Rebecca Slutsky Cohen
Margaret M. Feldman
June Siegel
Zelda Cohen Swatlo
Karen Kirk
Norman Lesk

September 16

Ada M. Shelton
Solomon Diamond
Kyle Hoppermann
Samuel Feldman
Emilie Scharf
Edward Markum
Donald Hulnick
John Sparks
Herbert Kurz
Celia Levine
Louis Lass
Solomon Dunn
Martin Gross
Philip Finnerman
Eva D. Lippmann
Michael Hanagan
Dora J. Chertock
Sam Brozen
Klara Haas
Saul Heiser
Richard M. Held
Aaron Rabin
Hilda Klausner
Aaron Silverman

September 23

Morris Goldberg
Sally Schaffer
Alan Lemberger
Edward Cohen
Bernard Decovnick
Edna Cohn
A.D. Hoffman
Goldie H. Worona
Barnett Colton
Howard Mayer

September 30

Rose S. Weigert
Charlotte Zuckerman
Louis Altman
Emanuel Aloise
Patricia Kramer
Dorothy Schmukler
Albert D. Kahn
William Falenki
Frances Gray Conrad Dahnert
Susan Alpers
Selma Sobel Lipson
Jason Dlugacz
Dr. Ely Rosenthal
Robert Sachs
Sadie Gross
Fannie Levy
Robin Rayfield

Yahrzeits



Sisterhood News

I have been active in many organizations, both professional and personal, in my life. My tenure as Sisterhood President has been one of the highlights. As I prepared to write my final message, I gave a lot of thought as to why. Vassar Temple Sisterhood is a group of women who work selflessly. The flowers that adorn our sanctuary are sponsored by Sisterhood. The Friday night onegs are sponsored by Sisterhood. The kitchen is stocked and kept in order by Sisterhood. Our Judaica Shoppe is run by Sisterhood. Our Chai Noon luncheons, and Book Club are Sisterhood events. We have had excellent speakers at our Fannie Berlin Lectures set up by Sisterhood. Our rummage, or bargain basement sales are a product of Sisterhood. I could go on, but what I hope you see is that the women of Sisterhood are an incredible team of workers, and my presidency could not have gone as smoothly without them. Our members have baked, cooked, collected, crafted and more to make our events successful. This group is easy to be a part of. I am happy to call these women friends. I hope you will all join Sisterhood this year. If you are able to chair an event, take a one-time or ongoing position, we need you! It's easier than you think, and you will get as much out of it as you put in.

Without you we are one woman short!

Marcia Tanzman

THE SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK:

Honey Cake, a family recipe shared by Polly Lewis: Honey cake is the sweet treat many Jews eat on Rosh Hashanah, aka Jewish New Year. Why do we eat honey cakes during Rosh Hashanah? The holiday celebrates the dawn of the new year according to the Hebrew calendar. It is one of the two High Holy days in Judaism (Yom Kippur is the other) and therefore one of the most important holidays. Honey cakes are traditionally eaten on Rosh Hashanah because honey symbolizes our hopes for sweetness in the year to come. It is also customary to eat apple slices dipped in honey on the holiday. This honey cake recipe is deliciously moist with an alluringly crisp edge.

Honey Cake Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup honey
(you can use any honey you like, I love a good wildflower honey or orange blossom honey)
- 1 cup boiling coffee
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 tablespoons chopped nuts
- Loaf or Bundt pan

Honey Cake Baking Directions

- Beat eggs until thick and light—about 5 minutes.
- Add sugar gradually, beating well.
- Add honey, coffee, and oil. Blend well and add dry ingredients. Beat until blended.
- Bake in oven 375 degrees for 35-40 minutes
- Let stand in pan for 5 minutes



Brotherhood News

During the pandemic we held monthly virtual Happy Hours. The next virtual Happy Hour is scheduled for September 13, 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 September. 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.

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>

Together we are stronger. Be safe and be well.

Glenn Tanzman

2022/5783 HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

All services, with the exception of outdoor and off-site gatherings, will occur in a hybrid fashion, Zoom links will be provided to members and guests via email in advance.

Selichot Service: Saturday, September 17th
7:45pm with presentation of Arnold Award ~ Social Hall
9:00pm Selichot Service ~ Sanctuary

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Sunday, September 25th at 8:00pm

Rosh Hashanah: Monday, September 26th
10:30am – Morning Service
3:00pm – Family Service at Sunset Lake, Vassar College (sanctuary in case of inclement weather)
4:00pm – Tashlich at Sunset Lake, Vassar College (on 9/27 in case of inclement weather)

Rosh Hashanah Second Day Service: Tuesday, September 27th at 10:30am

Shabbat Shuvah Service: Friday, September 30th at 7:30pm

Memorial Service: Sunday, October 2nd at 2:00pm at Vassar Temple Cemetery on LaGrange Avenue

Kol Nidrei: Tuesday, October 4th at 8:00pm

Yom Kippur: Wednesday, October 5th
10:30am – Morning Service
1:00pm (time and location tentative) Study Session with Rabbi Paul Golomb
1:00pm – Family Service (on the temple lawn, sanctuary in case of inclement weather)
4:00pm – Afternoon Service
5:30pm – Yizkor (Memorial) Service
6:00pm – Ne'ilah (Concluding) Service followed by Havdalah and Ritual Break the Fast
Break the Fast meal - TBA

Erev Sukkot Service: Sunday, October 9th at 6:00pm

Erev Simchat Torah Service: Sunday, October 16th at 6:00pm

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Yizkor Service: Monday, October 17th at 10:30am

Please look for details about these services in the weekly email newsletters and our website for changes and updates.

Judaica Art Program, Sunday, September 18 at 3pm

Gifted artist and Judaica historian Frann Addison will visit Poughkeepsie to do a presentation in the Vassar Temple Social Hall Sunday, September 18 at 3pm. All are warmly invited to attend! Frann will illustrate and discuss the history, purpose and meaning of Judaica, the Jewish ceremonial objects that we use on holidays, for celebrations, and in the home. She will also bring some of her one-of-a-kind pieces to display.

Frann combines her artistic vision, exquisite metalworking skills, beautiful calligraphy, and the addition of found objects and antique elements, resulting in the most unique ritual objects. She explains her drive to create in this way, *"I take great pleasure in knowing that my Judaica will be lovingly used by individuals or families as they perform ancient rituals linking past and present."*



Frann has been the recipient of many awards for her work, which has been featured in ten books, the *New York Times*, and the *Boston Globe*. Her Etrog Box is in the permanent collection of the Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, and her mezuzahs are in the permanent collection of the Mizel Museum in Denver, and the Oregon Jewish Museum in Portland. Some of her pieces will be available for sale at our local event, which is sponsored by the Vassar Temple Adult Education Committee.

Preparing for the *Yamim Noraim* with Rabbi Altman Wednesday, September 14 at 7:30pm

Mishkan HaNefesh, the Reform movement's *mahzor*, is still new to many of us. Since we only use it once a year, it may not yet have that familiar feel. In this Holy Day workshop, we will explore some of the key prayers of the Holy Day liturgy, their meaning and message for our lives today, as well as new interpretations provided in *Mishkan HaNefesh*. There will also be an opportunity for personal reflection as we enter into the season of repentance. We will meet in person in the East Chapel as well as via Zoom (see links in weekly e-newsletter). Copies of *Mishkan HaNefesh* will be provided. If you are attending via Zoom, it would be helpful to borrow a copy in advance. Please RSVP to office@vassartemple.org to help in planning and indicate if you are attending in person or on Zoom.

Condolences

To the family of Bernard Beaty—Uncle of Melissa Wall
 To the family of Perle Scope—Wife of Dr. Charles Scope (z"l), Mother of Alfred Scope
 To the family of Ronald Jacobs—Father-in-law of Shaari [Mark] Roland
 To the family of James Alfred Dahnert—Brother of Steven [Jennifer] Dahnert
 To the family of Miles Markowitz—Father of Barbara [Eric] Gillman
 To the family of Leonard Bernard Feld— Uncle of Shira [Daniel] Teich
 To the family of William (Bill) Barbash—Husband of Susan Barbash (z"l), Father of Rachel and Daniel Alan

Civic Engagement—Fighting Voter Suppression

There is an old Jewish story about a man traveling through the countryside who comes upon an old man planting fruit tree saplings. The traveler asks why the old man is planting trees but will probably not live to see any of the harvest. The old man responds saying that his predecessors planted trees they could not harvest, but that he benefited from their foresight. Working towards tikan olam, the repair of the world, can sometimes be like this. The work is always there, but never done.

In the mid 20th century, the vote was so important to Jim Crow supporters that they murdered civil rights workers, and people attempting to vote. These days most people do not want to think of themselves as “racist” so voter suppression efforts now aim to reduce voting by people of color and disadvantaged people by pretending that the issue is preventing “voter fraud.” In most states it is a felony for an individual to cast a fraudulent vote; this makes fraudulent voting almost a nonexistent problem.



The effect of most of the falsely named “election integrity” laws is to make it more difficult (not impossible) for disadvantaged people to vote. Each law is carefully designed so that a higher percentage of “undesirables” will be discouraged from voting. With elections often determined by small margins, this increases the likelihood that politicians not favored by the suppressed groups will win. These “election integrity” laws are all racist in their effects, even though they are disguised as neutral.

The VT Civic Engagement Committee has teamed with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the Center for Common Ground to fight against voter suppression one voter at a time. We are sending postcards to people of color in states where voter suppression is a big problem. These cards encourage voting by reminding people of its importance, and by providing information that makes it easier for the recipient to vote.

Join us. We have already sent about 4,000 postcards just for the primaries this year alone. The November election is coming soon. Contact Howard Susser or Margery Groten at civicengagement@vassartemple.org. We supply you with everything you need. You only need to write the postcards and buy the stamps.

CROP Walk 2022—Ending Hunger One Step At A Time

Hello Potential Walkers and Donors,

The annual CROP Walk is coming up soon—it is scheduled for Sunday, October 30. I will be leading an in-person walk that morning (start times can be from 10:00am to 2:00pm, but I'm tied up after 1:00pm).



We need **WALKERS**! I'm the Vassar Temple TEAM Captain again this year. You can sign up at events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/vassar-temple.

Likewise, we need **SUPPORTERS**! Once we get a few walkers, we'll pass around the donor info! The need this year is higher than ever!

Ron Rosen, Captain

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon, which usually meets on the 18th of the month (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends) will not be meeting in September. However, the Chai Noon Luncheon will be meeting on Tuesday, October 18. Specific details about the restaurant name and address will arrive in Vassar Temple's weekly newsletter just prior to the meeting. Members are asked to RSVP to the link in the email so we can let the restaurant know approximately how many guests to expect. As always, guests get separate checks and the restaurant is wheelchair accessible.

Thank You, Vassar Temple

Thanks to all our congregants who supported our recent Cereal Counts and Protein Plenty drives. In these inflationary times, demand has risen at local pantries by 200%, so your help means more than ever! An extra shout out to Joel Kelson and Ralph Schwartz for their special assistance with these projects.

thank
you!

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
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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



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publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors
reserve the right to edit articles for style,
accuracy and length.

Flexible Feast Success Story

The Vassar Temple Flexible Feast returned with a flourish in June with a selection of six delicious and lovingly prepared meals. This event was not only a financial success—we raised over \$4,000—but perhaps even more important, it took us safely into reconnecting with our community. I am exceedingly grateful to those who stepped up as hosts to help this occur: Susan Fink & Muriel Horowitz, Lisa Rubenstein & Rick DuVall, Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush, Marge & Art Groten, Ellie & Martin Charwat, Linda & Richard Cantor, Gloria & Tom Mayer, and Marcia & Glenn Tanzman. Thank you to all of our attendees and donors, to Arnie Serotsky for his generous donation of wines and to Karen Clark for her support and talent. This proven event will be back, so please contact me if you'd like to host in the future!

Susan Karnes Hecht

We wish to acknowledge those who made donations in lieu of, or in addition, to attending:

Roni & Chuck Stein

Maxine Finkelstein

Jim Robinowitz

Gene Fleischman & Judy Elkin

Jon Wechsler

Sandra Mamis

Mindy & Martin Teich

Brian & Helen Silverman

Arnie & Celia Serotsky

Doi Cohen

Afaa Weaver & Kristen Skedgell

Linda Babas

Lou & Candy Lewis

Susan Karnes Hecht, in appreciation of the hosts

Melissa Wall

Madelyn D'Angelo

Ellen Zelig

Betty Renner

Muriel Lampell

Thomas & Laura Brundage

David Steinberg & Kathy Moloney

Gail D'Alessio

