



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 171 No. 5 December 2022

## Welcome To Our New Assistant Religious School Director

As our religious school has doubled in size in the past year and a half, the administration of the school and student and teacher support needed has also expanded significantly. With the support of the Board of Trustees and funding through the Marjorie Gluck 21st Century Fund, we began a search for an additional person to work with Rabbi Altman in running the school.

We are pleased to announce that the search committee has recommended, and the Board of Trustees approved, hiring Lea Weinstein as Assistant Religious School Director. Lea brings many years of certified public school teaching experience to our school. Though she is new to a synagogue religious school, we are confident that she will quickly acclimate and adapt her educational background to support our teachers and students while also providing administrative oversight to our school.

Here is a little more background about Lea:



Lea-Monica Weinstein attained her Master's Degree in K-12 Education in 2000 and her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and English Literature in 1998. She taught Kindergarten and Grade 6 English, History, and Math in the Bronx, an experience that truly shaped her as an educator, in addition to teaching other grade levels. After relocating to Dutchess County in 2014, Lea served as a substitute teacher with exposure to grades K-12. Lea believes the role of a teacher is facilitation of independent learning through self-awareness, and this can be applied in any educational setting.

Lea began on October 23 and spent her first weeks observing classes, getting to know our students and parents and learning about our school as she steps into her responsibilities. Lea will

be present at the temple on Sundays for religious school and Wednesdays for Hebrew school, reclaiming the desk in the religious school office.

Lea can be reached at [religiousschool@vassartemple.org](mailto:religiousschool@vassartemple.org).

## From the Rabbi's Desk:



One of the ethical maxims of the sage Hillel was "Do not separate yourself from the community." Though there is no context for his teaching, Rashi understands it as a reminder to join with the community in times of sorrow as well as in times of joy. Hillel's teaching re-enforces the core Jewish principle that we are responsible for one another. So many of our *mitzvot*—acts of

loving kindness, visiting the sick, comforting the mourner—are fundamental to being in community. We also know the psychological and emotional benefits of the support community can provide.

Perhaps nowhere in Judaism is the need for community greater than in prayer. Without a *minyan*, a quorum of ten Jewish adults, the gathering is not considered a prayer community. Without a minyan one does not recite certain prayers, such as the *Bar'chu* which serves to call the community together, read from Torah or say Kaddish. Hence, the need for a tenth for shiva.

As with so many changes wrought by COVID, our understanding of community has also shifted. The isolation of early COVID made us acutely aware of our need for connection. How could we have a service if we could not physically be together and constitute a minyan? Guidance from the Responsa Committee of the CCAR, the Reform rabbinic organization has led us:

"... for the duration of this emergency, we permit the convening of a minyan by means of *interactive technology*, i.e., technology that enables all members of the minyan to see and hear each other... When the authorities stop restricting attendance at public functions, this *hora'at sha'ah* (emergency ruling) should be set aside. People should return to the synagogue and the practice of interactive virtual *minyanim* should cease."

It is more than a year since we were able to resume in-person gatherings and entered the uncharted territory of hybrid services. Many of us imagined that the Zoom population would diminish over time, that we would broadcast only to those unable to attend in person. This, in fact, had been our wish before COVID. Much to our surprise, however, this is not the case. Regularly, there continue to be more people on Zoom than in person.

Most weeks it feels as if we have two separate congregations, with little to no interaction between them. The two populations certainly cannot see one another and can't really hear one another. I fear that we are losing our sense of being one community.

Personally, my experience of prayer is heightened in community. I'm beginning to feel that sense of loneliness I felt during the year of Zoom-only services. Then, I spoke to an empty sanctuary, now I speak to a scattering of devoted attendees, I hear just a few voices praying. I feel for our dedicated volunteer singers who shouldn't be singing alone. If folks on Zoom are singing, we cannot hear them. It is as if they aren't there.

Before COVID, Shabbat evening services were our regular gathering time. We would reconnect, share simchas, gain support when needed, laugh over desserts at the oneg. I urge those who are able to attend services in person, to come back—we need you. Our sense of community needs you.

The Board of Trustees has begun conversations about Zoom and how we might optimize its use to foster engagement and community. We are committed to broadcasting services for those unable to attend in person. You will hear more about this in coming weeks; our president, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, and I welcome your input.

Hillel's two-thousand-year-old teaching still calls out to us: "Do not separate yourself from the community." Be part of our Vassar Temple community.

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

## President's Message:



I am the President of Vassar Temple and I have a Christmas tree. It's not a Chanukah bush. I don't hide it. It's hard to hide a nine-foot fresh-cut Christmas tree covered in hundreds of lights and hundreds upon hundreds of unique ornaments. Please don't judge me. This tree makes me no less Jewish than if I did not have a tree.

My husband, Kurt, grew up in a Christian home filled with many happy holiday traditions. As much as we had agreed early on in our commitment to one another to bring up our children in the Jewish faith, we also agreed to always have a Christmas tree. It was important to Kurt, and therefore, important to me. There has never been any "confusion" in our family about our religion because of this tree. And while it can be seen as a pagan, secular and even religious representation of Christmas, it has a very special meaning for our family.

Since Kurt and I started dating, we have collected ornaments from every trip we have ever taken. We have over the years collected ornaments representing every life cycle event, every new job, hobby, interest, child and pet. There are ornaments that our children made in school. And ornaments that Kurt has made, as he loves woodworking. My mother-in-law buys us a new Waterford crystal ornament every year. When I say there are several hundred ornaments, I am not exaggerating. It takes us hours, sometimes days, to decorate as we reminisce over each memory before hanging it on the tree. With these memories illuminated in the hundreds of lights on the tree, it is a glorious thing of beauty that offers us light, and love on some of the darkest days of December.

We also have other sources of light and love in our home during December. Our electric menorah burns bright in our window and our several Chanukiot are

always lit beautifully during Chanukah. We celebrate Chanukah with prayers, songs, playing dreidel and eating latkes. When the holidays overlap, as they often do, the intermingling smells of fresh pine and latkes cooking in oil is not an assault on the senses, but a familiar comfort in our home.

I believe that during the long dark days of December we have so many opportunities to embrace light, life and love and the diversity of culture around us. Whether you light up a Christmas tree, a kinara for Kwanzaa, or a Chanukah menorah, you are illuminating the world and making it just a little bit brighter.

I invite you all to take a moment and enjoy the December lights that surround us, from whatever source they come from. Judaism teaches us to respect diversity and value inclusion. Many Jews think they must compete for their space and representation during this month. I truly believe there is plenty of room for all of us to light up our nights and contribute to making our world a little brighter.

If you are in Rhinebeck during the last half of December, ring our doorbell. We will happily give you a tour through our family memories via our spectacular and beautifully illuminated Christmas tree. And if you know me well, you know there will always be fresh-baked cookies that I will happily share. The cookie jar will be overflowing with a variety of holiday cookies, as I bake nearly every day in December. I may even send you home with some of my famous Chanukah tie-dye sugar cookies.

*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*



## Religious School News

This month our upper grade students will conclude their lessons on the value of Gevurah, strength, culminating with the celebration of Hanukkah. On December 11, Vassar Temple will host a community-wide family Hanukkah celebration with ventriloquist Jonathan Geffen, beginning at 11:00am. We will end the semester on December 18 with our own Hanukkah family activities. Please note the special schedule that day: there will be no regular classes; the Hanukkah program will run from 10:30-12. There will be a variety of fun Hanukkah games, activities and culinary treats! Thanks to our religious school committee, led by Beth Plotsky and Betsy Poole-Di Salvo, for their help in organizing both activities and providing the goodies!



## L'dor V'dor Shabbat, December 9, 6pm

Please join us on December 9 for L'dor V'dor (Generations) Shabbat. We will celebrate members of Vassar Temple who have been with our congregation for decades. We will also welcome new members to our Vassar Temple family. Service will be at 6pm with a celebratory oneg to follow.

## 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.

### December 2022 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- December 2: Donated by Marilyn McCaulley Lampell in memory of John McCaulley
- December 9: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- December 16: Donated by Melissa Erlebacher in memory of Seth Erlebacher
- December 23: Donated by Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis in honor of their grandchildren
- December 30: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)



## Healing Service, December 10

A Healing Service, led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann, will be held Saturday Dec. 10 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 in the community is welcome to attend the service, which will be held both inside the Temple and on Zoom. Please check the website [vassartemple.org](http://vassartemple.org) for our current health policy on in-person attendance, watch Temple e-mails or contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) for the Zoom link, and call us at 845-454-2570.

## Scriptural Readings

### December 3

#### Vayetzei

Gen. 28-10-32:3; Hosea 12:13-14:10

### December 10

#### Vayishlach

Gen. 32:4-36:43; Hosea 11:7-12:12

### December 17

#### Vayeishev

Gen. 37:1-40:23; Amos 2:6-3:8

### December 24

#### Mikeitz

Gen. 41:1-44:17; Zechariah 4:1-7

### December 31

#### Vayigash

Gen. 44:18-47:27; Ezekiel 37:15-28

## 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. Class is hybrid. Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) to be placed on the class e-mail list.

**"The Talmud: Modern Ideas from Ancient Texts"** on Zoom Mondays, December 12 and 19, noon-1:30pm, taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb. For study sheets & link: [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net)

### Join Us

No previous training required

No charge to attend

## New Paths Service

Join us for New Paths Sabbath morning services on Saturdays, December 3 and 17 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 Vassar Temple and on Zoom, but contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) if you need the Zoom link.

## Tiny Temple: Hanukkah Fun and Learning Sunday, December 4, 10:30am

All tots through age five and their grownups are invited to "Tiny Temple", to prepare for Hanukkah on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:30am at Vassar Temple. We'll learn about this holiday of miracles and light with Rabbi Renni Altman, sing with *Morah* Olivia, make a holiday craft, and enjoy a healthy snack. There is never a charge to attend Tiny Temple events, but please help us in our planning by RSVPing to [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org).



## Book Club to Discuss *Little Bee* on December 21



Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *Little Bee* by Christopher Cleave, a book described by critics as "an utterly enthralling page turner, with vividly memorable and provocative characters."

*Little Bee* is the story of two women, whose lives collide one fateful day on a beach in Nigeria. One of these women has to make a terrible choice – the kind of choice one hopes none of us ever has to face.

Two years later, they meet again, and the story begins there. Spanning two continents, and driven by real-life global concerns, *Little Bee* is a psychologically-charged story of grief, globalization, and an unlikely friendship, with what readers describe as a tension-filled dramatic ending with plenty of moral dilemmas.

*Little Bee* is available in paperback, with multiple copies available in the local library system. The meeting will take place through Zoom, on

Wednesday, December 21, at 2:00pm. Barbara Saunders Adams will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact [bookclub@vassartemple.org](mailto:bookclub@vassartemple.org). We look forward to seeing you all for what will be an interesting discussion.

## Brotherhood News—December 2022



I wanted to take this time to thank the men from Brotherhood who took down and put away the Sukkah. The crew that took down the Sukkah in world record time were Bob Abrams, Ron Rosen, Chuck Stein, Kurt Quackenbush, Bruce Gendron, David Steinberg, Jerry Slate, and Glenn Tanzman. I want to especially thank Bruce Gendron for hauling off all the tree branches from the Temple lawn. Thank you all for a job well done.

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

An early reminder that Brotherhood dues for 2023 are \$36/year. Please make your check out the Vassar Temple Brotherhood and send it to the Temple office. We use the funds to support temple activities like the Purim Pasta dinner in the spring and other special events.

*Glenn Tanzman*

## Vassar Temple is Nonpartisan

What is the meaning of *nonpartisan*? It means not promoting a particular political party or political candidate. As a religious organization, Vassar Temple must not take partisan positions. We cannot urge voting for any political party or political candidate.

Does that mean that we cannot advocate for issues that are favored by one party more than the other? No, certainly not. For example, we all know that the Catholic Church advocates against allowing abortions. Although this tends to support the view of one party more than the other, it is still nonpartisan advocacy.

Similarly, when Vassar Temple promotes voting among disenfranchised voters, advocates for other civil rights causes, urges actions to protect our environment, argues that the right to choose to have an abortion is a freedom of religion cause, or promotes generosity toward refugees, we remain nonpartisan. This is true even when we advocate for a particular bill to become law, or to urge voting for positive environmental actions.

Certainly, we would want to ground our advocacy in Jewish values. Differences of opinion have long historical roots in Judaism (see the school of Hillel vs. the school of Shammai).

How do we choose what to advocate for? Sometimes we have guidance from the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism (which results from long consultations and collaborations among a variety of Jewish leaders.) Sometimes we have guidance from our rabbi, and we also chose issues that are important and meaningful to our members. Please join us in the Community Engagement committee, not only to help with our work, but also to help us to choose what work we do.



**To Vassar Temple!** Nathan & Julie Tornow,  
and their daughter, Emmanuelle Fay Tornow

## Jewish War Veterans ~ December 11

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 meeting of Sunday, December 11 will be held live. It will be held at Schomre Israel. The meeting format will follow what we used before the pandemic. Our next meeting will be January 8, 2023. The meeting will begin at 9:30am and there will be a half hour schmooze at 9:00am. Post 625 will supply nosh stuff, coffee, and it will be strictly kosher. The use of masks is optional. We look forward to seeing you there. Email [Rschwa9881@aol.com](mailto:Rschwa9881@aol.com) for more info.

**Ralph Schwartz**  
Senior Vice Commander

**SUSTAINING FUND**

In Honor of:  
Lewis Wrobel  
Rabbi Altman  
Gail D'Alessio receiving  
the Arnold Award

**In Memory of:**

Sadie Breit  
Sandra Lipschitz  
Lillian Friedman  
Len Garber  
Bill Barbash  
Lawrence Slate  
Rose Slate  
Goldie Bleich  
Selma Kahn  
Joseph L. Kahn  
Aaron Slote  
Barbara Hyman

William Robinowitz  
Anna Cairo  
Kate Hecht  
Anna Richmond  
Elsa Brenner Cohen  
Ruth Seegal Cohen  
Marion Himmelstein  
Charles Finnerman  
Ida Finnerman  
Helen Wrobel  
Dotty Sternberg  
Albert E. Schwartz  
Roy Riechman

Gerald Mamis  
Paul Susser  
Molly Susser

In Thanks for:  
Simchat Torah Service

**MUSIC FUND**

In Memory of:  
Our parents

For the rehabilitation and care of the grand piano:

**LUNCH BOX****In Memory of:**

Sandor David Strauss

**PERPETUAL CARE CEMETERY FUND****In Memory of:**

Martin & Beatrice Gross

**COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND****In Memory of:**

Bill Barbash  
Barbara Hyman

Edward S. Gordon  
Lou & Candace Lewis

Polly Lewis  
Linda Senk

Ed & Vivian Garber  
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel

Alfred Scope  
Alfred Scope  
The Friedman Family  
Ed & Vivian Garber  
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel  
Eileen, Jerold, Jacob, Daniel, Emma & Abigail Slate  
Eileen, Jerold, Jacob, Daniel, Emma & Abigail Slate  
Muriel Lampell  
Muriel Lampell  
Muriel Lampell  
Muriel Lampell  
Natalie & Bruce Hyman  
Anastacia & Charles Burge  
Susan Blodgett  
Jim Robinowitz  
Martin & Marilyn Revitz  
The Hecht Family  
The Hecht Family  
Doi Cohen  
Doi Cohen  
Howard Himmelstein  
Samuel Finnerman  
Samuel Finnerman  
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel  
Gloria Mayer  
Ralph Schwartz  
Francine Kaplan  
Elaine Lipschutz  
Muriel Lampell  
Linda Babas  
Dave & Fern Wolf  
Gail D'Alessio  
Sandra Mamis  
Howard & Shirl Susser  
Howard & Shirl Susser

The Lubart Family

Rick Wender & Rabbi Renni Altman

Melissa Wall  
Susan Avery

Ralph & Marian Schwartz

Carol Strauss

Adam & Nancy Belok

Perla Kaufman  
Perla Kaufman

## Thank you for your Contributions

**HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL**

Jesse & Alisha Albinder  
Susan Avery  
Christopher Baltus & Banna Rubinow  
Thomas & Laura Brundage  
Doi Cohen  
Miriam Cohen  
Gail D'Alessio  
Madelyn D'Angelo  
Richard DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein  
Susan Fink  
Maxine Finkelstein  
Ed & Vivian Garber  
Eric & Barbara Gillman  
Sara Jane Goldberg  
Arthur & Margery Groten  
David Hecht & Susan Karnes Hecht  
Barbara Hulnick  
Irma Jacobs  
Francine Kaplan  
Maury & Miriam Lacher  
David & Marilyn Lampell  
Muriel Lampell  
Anne Lescher  
Lou & Candace Lewis  
Sandra Mamis  
Kent & Kathy Mardon  
Gloria Mayer  
Jeremy & Danah Moore  
Kenneth Oclatis & Amy Horn Oclatis  
Elyse Oughton  
Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
Joan Reifler  
Betty Renner  
Martin & Marilyn Revitz  
James Robinowitz  
Ron Rosen  
Gilbert & Arlene Seligman  
Arnold Serotsky  
Brian & Helen Silverman  
Michele Sinn  
Michael & Laura Sperling  
Charles & Roni Stein  
Carol Strauss  
Howard Susser & Shirl David-Susser  
Glenn & Marcia Tanzman  
Martin & Mindy Teich  
Ellen Zelig

## December 2

Hilda Levitan  
Gussie Bernstein  
Charles Hoffman, DDS  
L. Charles Podret  
Ruby Cohn  
Marcia Krandle  
Lee Bronfeld  
Claire M. Trivers  
David F. Schor  
Sidney Horn  
May Kaufman Ettenson  
Ida Finnerman  
Edward Roth  
Solomon Berger  
Bea Russotto  
Marion Himelstein  
Susan Baker  
Sydell Alpers Pannor  
Larry Adler  
Miriam Feitelson

## December 9

Louis Dubler  
Sadie Breit  
Sandra Lipschitz  
Martin Markowitz  
Julius Klein  
Leo Loeb  
Carl Gross  
Minnie Shapiro  
Ruth Bagun  
Elsa Cohen  
Shirley Ernest  
Wilford Wittenberg  
Thomas Nolan  
Daniel Arnold  
Richard Saul Fein (L)  
Herbert Jacobson  
Philip D'Angelo  
Clara Lewin  
Allan E. Dampf  
Jordan Taylor  
Lillian Friedman

## December 16

Kate Hecht  
Seth A. Erlebacher  
Lillian Lox  
Helen Wrobel  
Gladys Steinberg  
Esther Yelsky  
Abe Barnett  
Anna Cairo  
Erna Konheim  
Eileen Dermody  
Aaron Slote  
Harry Migdal  
Ruth Seegal Cohen  
Marilyn Sirkus  
Charles Kovacs, DDS  
Ilse B. Dreyfuss  
Anne Kesselman  
Beatrice Snyder

## December 23

Mildred Tauber  
Elaine Hendricks  
Cynthia Rosenblum  
Leah Michel  
Maurice L. Troeger  
Michael Goldfinger  
Nathaniel Rubin  
Belle G. Adler  
Evelyn Lesser  
Joseph Weber  
Evelyn Luttinger  
William Robinowitz  
Stella W. Renick  
Goldie Bleich  
Dr. Doris Berlin-Acker  
Philip Wolfson  
Louis Rosen  
Selma Kahn  
Leah W. Cohen  
Deborah H. Jacobs  
Celia Kraut  
Joseph L. Kahn  
Barnard Cohen  
Bernie Rader

## December 30

Rabbi Sigmund Israel  
Ida Krevolin  
Herman R. Gross  
Reine Reinhart  
Dr. Joseph R. Levy  
Joseph Fa'gut  
Henry Solomonson  
Len Garber  
Barnet B. Shelton  
Jean Ciminello  
Marcia Kurz  
Norman Blaustein  
Frances Rosen  
Morris Effron  
Meyer Miller  
Faye Seif  
Mitch Stein  
Rose Brond  
Jean Citron  
Harry Fogle  
Keith Warner Landau  
DeWitt Fischman  
Donald DeWitt  
Dotty Sternberg

# Yahrzeits



## Condolences

To the family of Roy Riechman—Brother of Vivian Garber  
To the family of Steven Wasser—President of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

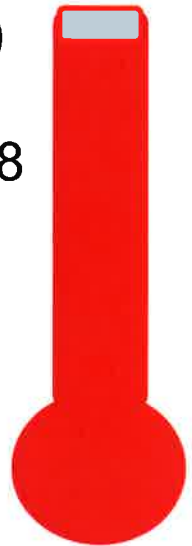
## We are almost there!

*Thank you from VT Sisterhood for your generous contributions to our chair fund!*

Susan Albinder  
Andi Ciminello  
Miriam Cohen  
Judith Creedon  
Gail D'Alessio  
Madelyn D'Angelo  
Barbara Gillman  
Sara Jane Goldberg  
Susan Hecht  
Irma Jacobs  
Muriel Lampell  
Jane LaLone  
Anne Lescher  
Candace Lewis  
Polly Lewis

Sandra Mamis  
Kathryn Mardon  
Gloria Mayer  
Marilyn McGaulley  
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
Judy Rosenfeld  
Charlene Rosenthal  
Lisa Rubenstein  
Marian Schwartz  
Michele Sinn  
Roni Stein  
Marcia Tanzman  
Mindy Teich  
Gloria Turk  
Nadine Zaritsky

Target 120  
  
Achieved 108



## Desserts Wanted for Onegs:

Do you like to bake but don't want to eat it all yourself? Can't resist picking up cakes or cookies in the bakery aisle and then realize you bought too much? We'd love to enjoy your culinary treats at one of our onegs. We're not asking anyone to provide food for an entire oneg (although we wouldn't say no if you wanted to). We just thought people may want to bring their extra desserts in for onegs from time to time. If this sounds like you, email [oneg@vassartemple.org](mailto:oneg@vassartemple.org) to let us know that you're leaving something for an oneg in the kitchen and be sure to label it so we know what you're

## Sisterhood Game Afternoon

**December 4, 1-3pm**

Mahjong for experienced or novice players  
Reserve your spot at the table.  
Limited tables with sets.

Other Games  
Scrabble, Checkers, and more

Refreshments of course

RSVP by December 1 to:  
[sisterhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassartemple.org)



## Visit Sisterhood's Hanukkah Shop in the Library

**Candles, Menorahs, Dreidels, Chocolate gelt and more!**

### Special Sale Days:

Fri. Dec. 9, Sun. Dec. 11,  
Fri. Dec. 16, Sun. Dec. 18  
Hours 10am-Noon



## SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK:

### Crunchy Potato Latkes from Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

#### Ingredients

- 1 sweet potato
- 5 medium white potatoes
- 1 large onion
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 eggs
- 3 tablespoons meal or flour
- 3/4 cup oil for frying

#### Directions

- Peel potatoes and cut into large pieces.
- Shred potatoes in food processor with large shredder. Remove.
- Drain excess liquid.
- Put steel blade in processor. Process onion.
- Add to potatoes along with flour or matzo meal, eggs, and salt.
- Heat 2 to 3 tablespoons of oil in pan. Get very hot.
- Spoon batter into several pancakes. Fry one side until brown and flip and fry other side.
- Drain on paper towels.
- Do the same with each batch.
- Serve with sour cream or applesauce.



Sisterhood's Opening Program  
was a cupcake decorating  
workshop led by Daisy of  
Adams Bakery.

Fun and laughs for all.



## Chai Noon Luncheon

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon, which usually meets on the 18th of most months (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends) will not be meeting until Wednesday, January 18. Specific details about the January restaurant will be emailed to you in Vassar Temple's weekly newsletter a few days prior to the meeting. Members are asked to RSVP to the link in the newsletter 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.

## Lunch Box



Vassar Temple is returning to the Lunch Box kitchen, providing a complete meal to an estimated 150 people on the first Sunday of every month (next meal will be December 4). We will be making a chili meal, providing fruit, and packaging/distributing the food at the Lunch Box entranceway. The Lunch Box kitchen staff will be preparing rice the day before. This is very exciting, as we have not been in the LB kitchen cooking since March 2020.

Please help in one of the following ways:

- Volunteer to help cook. **4 volunteers are needed to cook the meal, starting at 10:15am** in the Lunch Box kitchen.
- Volunteer to help package and distribute the chili meals. **2-3 additional volunteers are needed to package the meals, starting at 11:30am**, and participate in meal distribution from noon until 1pm.
- Help to provide the meat for this chili meal. You can purchase 3 pounds of ground turkey (a total of 30 pounds is needed) and bring it to the Temple freezer by the Friday before the meal (e.g., December 2).
- Help provide the beans, onions and/or tomatoes for this chili meal. You can purchase 1-3-pound cans of black beans or pinto beans (a total of 30 pounds is needed), a five-pound bag of onions (10 pounds in total is needed) and/or 1-pound cans of tomatoes (10 pounds in total is needed) and bring them to the Temple kitchen.
- Purchase 8-10 pieces of fruit and bring the fruit to the Temple sometime in the week prior to the first Sunday. The best fruit is bananas and/or citrus (oranges or clementines). Small bunches of grapes are also in demand. In total, we are hoping to have at least 100 individual pieces of fruit to distribute.

Finally, being back in the kitchen affords us the opportunity to form teams that can organize and carry out this process. In the past, the Temple Board, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and other groups have volunteered to take a month and cook/package/distribute. Please let me know if you have an interest in forming a team for a very worthy cause and a very rewarding experience. **(Please Note: Due to Dutchess Outreach policy, all individuals involved in this activity must be at least 17 years old.)** Whatever you can do is most appreciated. Please contact Paul Ciminello at [lunchbox@vassartemple.org](mailto:lunchbox@vassartemple.org) to let me know what you can do.

## Hanukkah Dinner and Service December 23

Please join us for Vassar Temple's annual pot-luck Hanukkah dinner on Friday, December 23, at 6:00pm in the social hall. Bring a meat or vegetable dish for 12 (no dairy). Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages. Please do not use nuts in your dish.

The cost of the dinner is \$18 per family or \$6 per individual. Reservations for this popular event should be made by Tuesday, December 20 by contacting Roni Stein at [HanukkahDinner@vassartemple.org](mailto:HanukkahDinner@vassartemple.org) or by calling the temple office at (845) 454-2570. Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Ave, POK, NY 12601, with "Hanukkah Dinner" on the memo line.

The dinner will be followed at 7:30 by our traditional, exciting and beautiful family-friendly Hanukkah Menorah Lighting Shabbat service, to which everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a menorah and candles. If you have not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!

# Calendar of Events—December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:30pm Shabbat Service	3 9am Torah Study (tentative) 10:15am New Paths
4 9am Religious School 10:30am Tiny Temple 10:30am Lunch Box  1pm VTS Game Day 	5	6	7 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm JCTF	8 7pm Ritual CTME 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	9 6:00pm L'dor V'dor Shabbat Service 	10 9am Torah Study 10:30am Healing Service 
11 9am Religious School 11am Community Hanukkah Family Program	12 12pm Talmud Study via Zoom with Rabbi Golomb	12 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour 5:30pm Endowment Fund CMTE	14 4:30pm Hebrew School	15	16 7:30pm Shabbat Service	17 9am Torah Study (tentative) 10:15am New Paths
18 First Candle 9am Religious School 	19 Second Candle Hanukkah Day 1 12pm Talmud Study via Zoom with Rabbi Golomb 	20 Third Candle Hanukkah Day 2 	21 Fourth Candle Hanukkah Day 3 2pm VTS Book Club 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE 	22 Fifth Candle Hanukkah Day 4 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting 	23 Sixth Candle Hanukkah Day 5 6pm Hanukkah Pot Luck Dinner 7:30pm Hanukkah Shabbat Service 	24 Seventh Candle Hanukkah Day 6 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service 
25 Eighth Candle Hanukkah Day 7 NO Religious School 	26 Hanukkah Day 8 OFFICE CLOSED 	27	28 NO Hebrew School	29	30 7:30pm Shabbat Service	31 9am Torah Study

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin  
140 Hooker Avenue  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845.454.2570



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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:** To be determined

**Brotherhood President:** Glenn Tanzman

**Immediate Past President:** Susan Karnes Hecht

**Bulletin Editor:** Jo Schaffel



Vassar Temple Bulletin is  
published monthly. Articles for the  
February Bulletin must be

submitted by January 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.

## Dutchess Interfaith CROP Walk

Thank you to all who came out on a glorious autumn day to walk to combat hunger, and thanks to all who sponsored them! A highlight this year was the noontime celebration of the 46th local walk and the 50th anniversary of the DCIC. Gifted folksinger/activist Pat Lamanna led us in songs of justice and hope. Renee Fillette, Director of Dutchess Outreach, shared with us stark figures reflecting the steeply increasing need in our own area. Teresa Cintron from CWS/CROP shared with us the need around the world, and Theresa Giovanniello, DCIC President, shared the vision of the Dutchess Interfaith Council. A special shout-out to our Vassar Temple team of walkers: Rabbi Altman, Ron Rosen, Howard Susser, and Dave Wolf, to Temple member Marian Schwartz who serves on the DCIC CROP Walk Committee, and to Ralph Schwartz who volunteered at the registration desk all day.

