



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 171 No. 6 January 2023

Vassar Temple's Piano Gets a Makeover

Vassar Temple's Mason & Hamlin grand piano is about to get a much-needed makeover. The piano, an AA Grand, has a rich pedigree—which many experts say puts it in a class with Steinway. Time, varying temperatures and humidity, and playing, however, took their toll on this beautiful instrument. To bring it back to near-original tone requires a major makeover, including a new soundboard, pin block, strings, damper felts, hammers, and many other things. It is now getting the restoration it needs under the supervision of master restorer, Mark Moriarty, to produce the concert-like sound for which it was created. The restoration should be completed soon, after which the piano will be returned to the sanctuary. Not only will it greatly enhance our worship experience, but a range of concerts for both the congregation and community members can be planned for this extraordinary instrument. Two additional things are needed to complete the "ensemble:" a humidifier, to keep the piano properly humidified throughout the year, and a new bench for Temple musician, Joe Bertolozzi, who has "made do" for many years and deserves better. The additional cost is \$1,250. Your contribution—in any amount—would be very much appreciated. Checks should be made payable to "Vassar Temple" with the memo line indicating "piano account." Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the piano's restoration.



See pages 6-9, featuring
photos & fun facts from our
Generation to Generation Service
December 9, 2022

From the Rabbi's Desk:



As we prepared for Hanukkah last month, I told our older religious school students the story of the “Christmas Menorahs” of Billings, MN. It was during Hanukkah in 1993 when a group of white supremacists threw a rock through the bedroom window of 5-year-old Isaac Schnitzer where his Hanukiah was displayed. This act followed a year of hate speech and acts of

vandalism against Jews, Blacks and Native Americans. Members of a local church decided that enough was enough and devised a plan. The *Billings Gazette* published a full-page menorah and 10,000 residents put them up in their windows. The town came together in other acts of solidarity and ran the white supremacists out of Billings.

Almost 30 years later, we are saddened by the continued relevance of this true story. Antisemitism, perhaps the oldest expression of hate, will not disappear. It is, as Deborah Lipdstadt, US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, has written, an “unending saga,” persisting for thousands of years, morphing in different forms from its religious origins to race-based prejudice to its many social and political manifestations.

The Anti-Defamation League recorded 2,717 antisemitic incidents in the US in 2021, a 34% increase from 2020 and the highest number since 1979, when ADL began tracking them. The FBI reported that 54.9% of all religious bias crimes in 2020 were against Jews.

The horrific events of Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, Poway and Coleyville, the physical attacks on Jews in Brooklyn, reflect different manifestations of the new antisemitism, especially the rise of white supremacism and the impact of social media in enabling hate and conspiracy theories to flourish.

What can we do about it? Combatting antisemitism is not an isolated endeavor; it is part of a struggle against all forms of hate. As Lipdstadt has taught us,

“It is axiomatic that if Jews are being targeted with hateful rhetoric and prejudice, other minorities should not feel immune; this is not likely to end with Jews. And, conversely, if other minority groups are being targeted with hatred and prejudice, Jews should not feel immune... Antisemitism flourishes in a society that is intolerant of others...”

In his book, *It Could Happen Here*, Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of ADL, calls upon all of us to act against hate. He offers a simple framework: “Speak Up, Share Facts, Show Strength.”

Speak up—whenever and wherever you hear or see something, even if you feel uncomfortable. If we don’t speak up, we are complicit in our silence.

Share facts—ground your response in evidence and data. If engaging online, be respectful—don’t get pulled into the emotions.

Show strength—defend yourself as well as others who need protection. Be an ally, join in coalitions and stand with others, whether or not you are directly affected by that hate.

When I spoke with our students, Kanye West was still in the headlines. I asked them what we can do to combat hate. Immediately hands went up: speak out for someone being bullied; report what you hear to authorities; stand with someone being targeted. Our students get it. We need our elected officials to get it and to have the courage to condemn hate in all forms. We need those whose fame gives them public platforms to be held accountable for their words and their deeds.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav taught: “The whole world is but a narrow bridge; the most important thing is not to be afraid.” We should not have to live in fear. By building bridges of understanding and walking in solidarity with others, we can build a world in which none need be afraid. May we be united and strengthened in our efforts!

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message:

How lucky are we as Jews that we get two New Years?! We welcome our Jewish New Year in the fall and go through the process of identifying our sins, asking for forgiveness and, most importantly, attempting to pivot and change so that we don't make the same mistakes again. Let's face it. By

Back in the fall, Maddie Karitis spoke about second chances and the opportunities for 'do-overs' in her Bat Mitzvah sermon. I was struck by her maturity and the maturity of this concept. I truly believe that having the insight of accepting our own failures and having the grace to pivot and move on from them is a mature and progressive process.

This process makes us stronger and continues our growth as human beings and productive people. To evolve and change is to grow and thrive.

Let's take a moment this month and reassess where we are with our fall plans for bettering ourselves. Have we drifted off the path we charted? Let's not give up and throw in the towel. Let's use this January 1st as a regrouping and a resetting of our goals.

This New Year, may you be inspired to make the

January, despite our best intentions and efforts, many of us have not been able to make and/or keep all those promises and changes.

The secular New Year provides us with a redo or a second chance at getting it right. It's a restart, a do-over, if you will. It's another opportunity to succeed in making ourselves just a little bit better.



changes that are necessary for you to succeed at your goals. Embrace the opportunity for a second chance and a redo. Canadian writer, Robin Sharma writes, "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end."

Happy New Year!

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

New Paths Services

Join us at Vassar Temple New Paths Sabbath morning services on Saturdays, January 7 and 21 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). Contact office@vassartemple.org if you want the Zoom link, and for updates. Policies for safe in-person attendance are on our website vassartemple.org.

Shabbat Y'lاديم (Children's Sabbath) January 21 at 10:30am

All young children, from birth to first grade, are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to Vassar Temple on Saturday, January 21 at 10:30am, for a celebration of Shabbat. Rabbi Altman and her stuffed bear friends Kachol v'Lavan will be there to help us greet the Sabbath and learn about Tu B'Shevat, a holiday celebrating nature and the environment. Tell your friends and neighbors—this short Shabbat morning service, specially designed for young children, is free and open to the whole community.



For questions and to RSVP, please contact office@vassartemple.org with any questions.

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.

January 2023 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- January 6: Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Greta Blaine
- January 13: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- January 20: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- January 27: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)



Past Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- December 9: Donated by Kurt and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush in honor of our longtime and new members

Scriptural Readings

January 7

Vaychi

Gen. 47:28-50:26; I Kings 2:1-12

January 14

Shmot

Ex. 1:1-6:1; Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

January 21

Vaeira

Exodus 6:2-9:35; Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

January 28

Bo

Exodus 10:1-13:16; Jeremiah 46:13-28

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 to be placed on the class e-mail list.

“**The Talmud: Modern Ideas from Ancient Texts**” on Zoom Mondays, January 9 and 23, noon-1:30pm, taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb. For study sheets & link: pjgolomb@verizon.net

Join Us!

No previous training required ~ No charge to attend

Religious School News

The religious school community celebrated Hanukkah in fine fashion. On Sunday, December 11 we hosted a community Hanukkah program featuring ventriloquist Jonathan Geffen. Jewish Federation, PJ Library, Congregation Shir Chadash, Congregation Schomre Israel and Temple Beth-El came to Vassar Temple for this lively program. It was wonderful for the Jewish community to come together in this way—we are looking forward to the Purim Carnival in March.

On Sunday, December 18 we held our own family Hanukkah celebration as parents came with their children for a morning of Hanukkah activities including a Hanukkah craft project, edible dreidels, human dreidel, Hanukkah bingo, Hanukkah jeopardy, singing and, of course, LATKES!



After a well-deserved winter vacation, Hebrew school will resume on January 4 and Religious School on January 8. This month, the older students will study the value of *achrayut*, responsibility. One focus will be on our responsibility for our environment as we prepare to celebrate Tu B'shevat and our congregational Tu B'shevat Seder on February 5, from 10-12. All are invited!!

Rabbi Renni Altman

Generations Shabbat—December 9, 2022

The temple community came together on December 9, to recognize Generations Members for their dedication and membership to Vassar Temple for at least 40 years (collectively over 2000 years), to celebrate those who grew up in the temple and are still members, and to welcome our “freshman class” of new members. If we did not include your name, we apologize, the office is doing its best to fill in gaps of missing information.

Recognizing “Alumnae Classes” of 1953-1982:

Muriel Lampell

Joan Reifler

Georgene Dreishpoon

Jack & Fredrica Goodman

Elaine Lipschutz

Dawn Effron

Phyllis Ritter

Irma Jacobs

Stanley Israel & Judy Harkavy

Len Hyman

Gloria Turk

Art Gellert

Kent & Kathy Mardon

Lois Mendel

Murray Solomon

Carl & Ronnie Wolfson

Charles & Barbara Volkman

Rita Jacobson

Susan Fink

Doi Cohen

Elaine Rice

Arlene & Gil Seligman

Rabbi Stephen & Cecile Arnold

Barbara Mindel

Richard & Linda Cantor

David Lampell

Lou & Candace Lewis

Marty & Eleanor Charwat

Art & Marge Groten

Ralph & Marian Schwartz

Herman & Sondra Chertock

Ellen Zelig

Art & Carol Menken

Sara Jane Goldberg

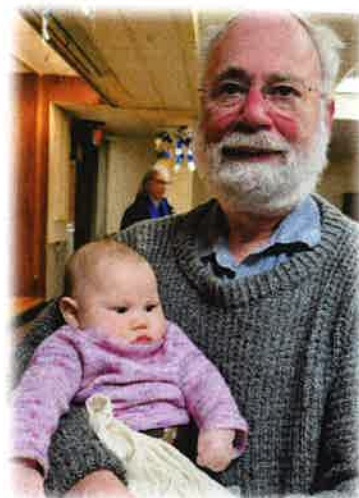
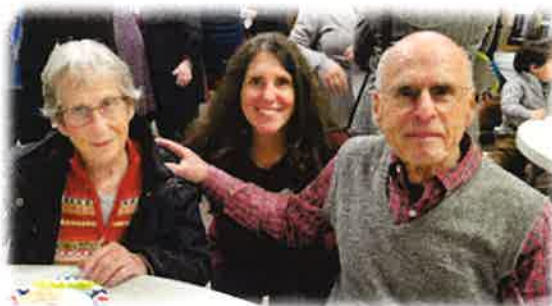
Howard & Rochelle Friedman

Howard Himmelstein

Jim Robinowitz

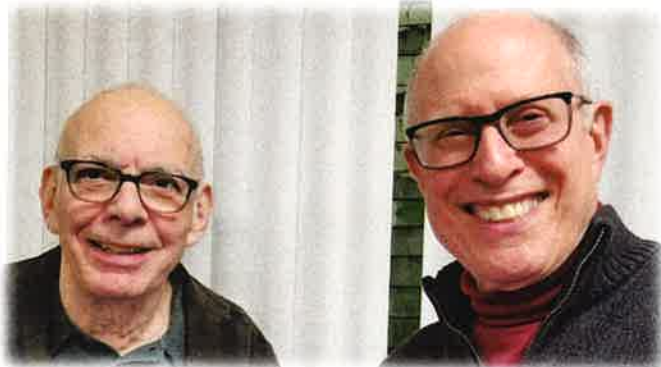
Ed & Vivian Garber

Bernard & Jill Loeb



Celebrating those who grew up in the Temple and are still members:

Nancy Belok
Sam Finnerman
Suzy Garcia
Joel Kelson
Amy Horn Oclatis
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Jonah Ritter
Steve Turk
Lew Wrobel



Generations Shabbat—December 9, 2022

In preparation for this service, the Membership Committee reached out to the honorees to find out what they think is special about Vassar Temple and to share memories and stories. The conversations were fun, and we thank those of you who took the time to speak with the committee. Below are some of the “fun facts” that were gleaned from both old and new members:

Generations Members ~ did you know?

- Some of the most frequently used words describing Vassar Temple are: Warm, Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Friendly.
- “It’s my family” was echoed by many of you. Vassar Temple became an anchor and an important source of connection— it was my community and social life, a place where I met some of my best friends.
- B’nai Mitzvah weddings and baby naming are the most special memories for our family. Plus the “Wall of Honor” downstairs where we proudly showcase our Confirmation Classes.
- Vassar Temple has always been there for me and my family.
- Many of you recall “Shimon the Shul Mouse!” one of Rabbi Arnold’s favorite visitors!
- The Generations group includes at least six past presidents of Vassar Temple. (We learned that one of the most important responsibilities of that role is to answer the alarm calls and chase bats from the building... check with Ed Garber on that one!)
- When asked the question: What comes to mind when you think about Vassar Temple, one of you said: “The Sump Pump is Broken” (can you guess who gave us that fun tidbit).
- Did you know that Muriel Lampell has taught generations of family and Vassar Temple members to make Gefilte Fish?
- Muriel’s Grandmother, Josephine Kahn, served as the first Woman President of Vassar Temple.
- David Lampell (who also served a term as Temple President) ran a night club stage crew in the Catskills in his youth, before lending his expertise to the Vassar Temple Tech Team.
- Lew & Candy Lewis are active members of the Baker Street Irregulars Society—a Sherlock Holmes Fan Club.
- Vivian & Ed Garber are globe-trotting scuba divers.
- Doi Cohen and her family have sustained lifelong relationships with AFS, hosting legions of foreign students.
- In their spare time, Arlene Seligman creates embroidery masterpieces and Gil Seligman builds scale boats.
- Art Groten is a nationally and internationally recognized philatelist and Marge Groten has been a driving force behind most of the beautiful Scenic Hudson Parks that we all enjoy.
- Fritz Goodman who served in many prominent political and philanthropic positions, including Chief of Protocol for the late Governor, Mario Cuomo, says that some of her favorite moments are when she has her grandchildren with her at Vassar Temple.
- Gloria Turk, an avid world traveler takes daily rides on her horse (who she says is as old as she is!)

- Barb Volkman reminded us that she once served as the Temple Librarian and knew all the new families.
- Ralph Schwartz is an active member of Jewish Veteran's group and Marian Schwartz has kept Vassar Temple on the forefront of Community Social Action projects.
- Elaine Lipschutz remembers the joy of the 50th Anniversary Bar Mitzvah Service for her and Mert Lampell's late husbands, Bob Lipschutz & Matt Lampell (who also served as Temple presidents). Elaine joined one of the first B'Nai Mitzvah classes led by Debbie Golomb.
- Ronnie Wolfson cherishes her Vassar Temple Red Cookbook—filled with Sisterhood Recipes.
- Along with her many talents, Linda Cantor, is a fantastic listener and with this skill, she organized and led a very successful group on "Wise Aging."
- For at least a decade—Art & Carol Menken led the "off Broadway" productions of the Vassar Temple Purim Spiel, featuring Star Wars, Lion King and Wizard of Oz themed extravaganzas.
- Howie Friedman, a recognized ski bum, brought many smiles to this community and Shelley bravely led the Vassar Temple Youth Group for many years.
- Georgene Dreishpoon reminded us that she has been a member of Vassar Temple for 92 years... and one of her favorite classmates from Religious School was Muriel Kahn Lampell! Georgene and her late husband, Irv, were married at Vassar Temple as were her two daughters, Lisa and Nancy.

New Members ~ our "Freshman Class"

- Muriel Horowitz & Marlene Straus are longstanding members of Temple Beth El. They have chosen to add their support to Vassar Temple as Associate members, and we welcome them.
- Francine Kaplan has come "home" to Vassar Temple after returning to the Hudson Valley from Florida. Her late husband, Dave, served as President of Vassar Temple.
- Nathaniel & Jessica Gold, and their children Libby & Myer have jumped right in, with Libby working in our Temple Religious School.
- Evan & Dana Kurz have just welcomed a new, beautiful baby girl, Carly Rachel, joining Harry & Hannah to their busy home.
- Ryan & Haniya Mee and their children, Trotter & Capucine have joined of our Vassar Temple celebrations and programs over the years and we're thrilled they are now official members.
- Nir & Kathryn Naaman and their boys, Ben & Lev, joined last winter in one of our Covid surges and were not able to be fully welcomed into Vassar Temple. Nir is an accomplished musician, and we look forward to learning more and sampling his music in the future.
- Paul & Rebecca Ostrovsky have jumped right into our social action programs, with Rebecca's experience at Lunchbox.
- Nathan & Julie Tornow, and their daughter Emmanuelle have joined our Tiny Temple programs and are getting ready to welcome a new family member in January.
- Garrett & Brittany Weiss, along with their two boys, Gavin & Caden, are part of a new generation of Vassar Temple members. It is so very special that Garrett's grandmother, Georgene Dreishpoon, is a generations member. Four Generations at Vassar Temple!

Brotherhood News—January 2023

The Brotherhood Shabbat on November 18 was a huge success thanks to the participation of the 12 men who helped lead the service. I want to thank the spouses and family in attendance for supporting the event and for filling the sanctuary with love and community that evening.



Our next event is the Purim Pasta Dinner on Monday evening, March 6, 2023.

To the Brotherhood, your help with the cooking and serving will be appreciated and needed to make the event successful. Please let me know if you can help by responding to me at Brotherhood@vassartemple.org.

To our Temple family, please come and enjoy a celebratory meal with us that evening.

Gentlemen, please pay your Brotherhood dues for 2022-2023, which are \$36/year. Please make your check out to 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
Brotherhood President

Jewish War Veterans ~ January 8

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 meeting of Sunday, January 8, 2023 will be held live. It will be held at Schomre Israel. The meeting format will follow what we used before the pandemic. 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 for more info.

Ralph Schwartz
Senior Vice Commander

Thanksgiving Thank You

Thanks to all our congregants who shared their bounty with those in need in our community through our Trim-a-Thanksgiving Social Action project. This is truly an effort that relies on each and every one of us to make our own special contribution. So many members donated nonperishable holiday foods, frozen turkeys, and funds! Our children, under the guidance of the religious school staff, enthusiastically decorated gift baskets and made holiday greeting cards. Then temple teens filled the baskets with foods and trimmings to grace the tables of formerly homeless neighbors who will now be celebrating their first Thanksgiving in a “real” home. Top this off with a plump turkey in a festive holiday tote bag, accompanied by a sturdy roasting pan, and there you have Vassar Temple’s Trim-a-Thanksgiving! Thanks also to our partners at Hudson River Housing for picking up everything and delivering it to the families in advance of the holiday.

Marian Schwartz
Social Action Chair

What is the Poughkeepsie Community Fridge?

Many people suffering from hunger do not want to visit a food pantry because of the stigma attached, and the bureaucracy involved in applying can be daunting and humiliating. Or perhaps there is no pantry located nearby, or it's not accessible when they can go. For all these reasons, three teenaged students at Oakwood Friends School founded the Poughkeepsie Community Fridge. The ideal site would have been centrally located, outdoors, and accessible 24/7, but after a prolonged search, they were gratified to be given space in the Adriance Memorial Library in the City of Poughkeepsie, where they have placed donated refrigerator/freezers and have open shelf space to formulate a food pantry. The capability of refrigeration allows them to stock milk, cheese, eggs, fresh produce, and other perishables, as well as the usual nonperishables. They will also accept cooked foods if wrapped/packaged and labeled. Everyone can simply enter the pantry facility any time the library is open, go in, and donate or pick up food. The Fridge instantly became popular and quickly runs out of food every time it is restocked.

Vassar Temple Social Action has already donated food to the Fridge, and you can, too, as an individual. To make a monetary donation, e-mail poughkeepsiecommunityfridge@gmail.com or message them on Instagram @poughkeepsiecommunityfridge. The Poughkeepsie Community Fridge is open during library hours, Monday through Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm, and Sunday 2pm-5pm. There is a parking lot and entrance off Noxon Street, behind the library. The public can drop food off or pick something up any of those times, and the Oakwood students bring a load of food to the fridge every Wednesday. They are seeking a suitable local site for a second Community Fridge, so if you can help with that, please contact them as well.



Trim-a-Thanksgiving Baskets

RABBI'S FUND

In Appreciation of:
Carol, Simon, Christine Rebecca
and Sandor Strauss

Carol Strauss

**Thank you for your
Contributions**

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:
Anna Kofman
Stanley Markum
Naming of Sandor Robert Strauss

Lou & Candace Lewis

James Robinowitz
James Robinowitz
Carol Strauss

In Memory of:
Ruth Stein
Evelyn Tanzman
Joel Babas
Thelma Fival
Donald L. Goldfarb, MD
Louis Satz
Naomi Satz Golderg
Elizabeth Satz
Henry Goldstein
Sidney Friedman
Roy Riechman

Charles, Roni & Ashley Stein
Glenn & Marcia Tanzman
Linda Babas
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Michael G. Goldfarb
Sara Jane Goldberg, DDS
Sara Jane Goldberg, DDS
Sara Jane Goldberg, DDS
The Friedman Family
The Friedman Family
Martin & Grete Finkelstein
Ellen Zelig

Sandor David Strauss
Susan Baker
John Ciminello
Jean Ciminello
Dr. Vito Ciminello
Sandi Rugar

Carol Strauss
Carol Strauss
Paul & Andi Ciminello
Paul & Andi Ciminello
Paul & Andi Ciminello
Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Brian & Helen Silverman
Ralph & Marian Schwartz
Doi Cohen

MUSIC FUND

For the rehabilitation and care of the grand piano:

David & Susan Hecht
Barbara Vanitallie

In Honor of:
Cantor Goldmann

David & Susan Hecht
Ruth Goldfarb

ENDOWMENT FUND

Muriel Lampell
Madelyn D'Angelo
Jonathan Wechsler
Martin & Ellie Charwat
Lou & Candace Lewis
Anne Lescher
David Steinberg & Katherine Maloney
Eric & Barbara Gillman
Paul & Andi Ciminello
David Hecht & Susan Karnes Hecht
Georgene Dreishspoon

HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

Martin & Ellie Charwat
David Steinberg & Katherine Moloney
Linda Babas
Paul & Andi Ciminello

If you haven't sent in your High Holiday appeal
donation, please take a moment to send in your
check. Muriel Lampell, "The Temple appreciates
your generosity and participation so very much."

January 6

Ruth Stein
Yetta Horn
Joan Plotsky
Harris Harold Groten
Alma Barbash
Dr. Bertram Katz
Greta Blaine
Betty Israel
Dorothy Dlugacz
John Ciminello
Monte Tate Brown

January 13

Clara Dorn
Ethel Haber
Rae Lipman
Beatrice Salit Horn
Gabrielle Soroka
Dr. Charles Scope
Leon Krauss
Wendy Ellen Wolstencroft
Dorothy Vogel
George Meltzer
Gloria Menken
Evelyn Tanzman
Joseph Levinson
Shirley Lipschutz
Gerald Mamis
E. Pat Newman
Anna Kofman
Andrea Sue Rabin
Bella Albert
John Garlock
Stanley Markum
Sally Collen
Maurice Collen

January 20

Leo Dorn
Samuel Grand
Carl Tobias
Hody I. Gellert
Louis Satz
Herbert L. Strauss
Thelma Fival
Herman D. Chertock
Geraldine Geller
Lois Grand
Dr. Donald L. Goldfarb
Betty Golomb
Stephen Glasser
Stephen Bokor
Morris S. Rosen
Alvin Turk
Joseph Solomon
Daniel Russotto
Sarah Sacharoff
Doris Preis Rubinow
Irving Jukofsky
Belle Baum Fein
Stanley Krell
Helen Wagner
Miriam Rosenberg Oppenheimer
Andrew H. Erdreich
Joseph Effron
Ruth Haber
William Haber
Sidney Friedman
Herman Yelsky
Bessie Lipschutz
Henry Walter Seligman
Judel Lampert
Henry Goldstein
Roy Lieberman
David Teich

January 27

Morris Kahn
Davida Krevolin
William Feinbloom, OD
Joseph Baskin
Ann J. Miller
Jennie Yanpolsky
Elizabeth Satz
Joan Golomb
Jesse Colodner
Joseph Marcus
Walter L. Mock, Jr.
Melvin Lesser
Shirley LaLone
Andrew Frederick Mendel
Mark C. Schwartz
Naomi Goldberg
Joel Babas
Alan S. Rubenstein
Ray Fox



Yahrzeits



We hit our mark, 120 chairs on the way!

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

Mariane Abrams
Susan Albinder
Andi Ciminello
Miriam Cohen
Judith Creedon
Gail D'Alessio
Madelyn D'Angelo
Barbara Gillman
Sara Jane Goldberg
Susan Karnes Hecht
Irma Jacobs
Miriam Lacher
Muriel Lampell
Jane LaLone
Anne Lescher
Candace Lewis
Polly Lewis
Sandra Mamis
Kathryn Mardon
Gloria Mayer
Marilyn McGaulley
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Jonah Ritter
Judy Rosenfeld
Charlene Rosenthal
Lisa Rubenstein
Marian Schwartz
Michele Sinn
Roni Stein
Marcia Tanzman
Mindy Teich
Gloria Turk
Nadine Zaritsky

Soup and Chili Dinner

Friday, January 27



Join us at 6pm on Friday, January 27 for a soup and chili dinner as part of a wonderful back-in-person Tisch Shabbat.

On Tisch Shabbat Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann will lead a service modeled on the "Rebbe's Tisch" as we sit around tables in the social hall, using Visual Tefillah (slides of the prayers) with lots of singing and stories.

Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread and salad to be enjoyed during the service.

Donations for the dinner are very welcome and checks should be made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

While reservations are not required we would greatly appreciate having an idea of how much food to prepare.

If possible, please let Judy Rosenfeld know you are coming by January 25 at TischShabbat@vassartemple.org or call the temple at 845-454-2570.

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 meet on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Specific details about the restaurant will be sent 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.

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Salsa Couscous Chicken from Judy Rosenfeld

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive or vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped almonds
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 8 chicken thighs, boneless & skinless
- 1 cup salsa
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons raisins
- 2 tablespoons dried apricots, chopped into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup uncooked couscous
- Water

Directions

- In 10-inch skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot. Cook almonds in oil 1-2 minutes, stirring frequently, until golden brown. With slotted spoon, remove almonds from skillet, set aside.
- Add garlic to skillet; cook and stir 30 seconds. Add chicken; cook 4-5 minutes or until browned, turning once.
- In medium bowl, mix remaining ingredients. Add to chicken in skillet, mix well. Reduce heat to medium; cover and cook about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until chicken is fork-tender and juices run clear.
- Stir in almonds.
- When chicken is almost done cooking, cook couscous in water as directed on package.
- Serve chicken mixture over couscous.



Dana & Evan Kurz welcomed their new daughter, Carly Rachel on November 7, 2022 ~ big sibs, Harry & Hannah are enjoying their new sister!

Mazel Tov to the family of Lucille Stark-Jordan who became a Bat Mitzvah on November 19, 2022 at Kol Tzedek, in Philadelphia. Lu is the daughter of Ben Jordan and Katherine Kiefer-Stark, and the granddaughter of Temple members Lillian Weigert & Joseph Ambash, and the late Barry Jordan.



Please Support the Wind Chill Fund

Early on in the pandemic Hudson River Housing sought to shelter as many homeless area residents as possible in an environment that could provide for more social distancing than was possible in the regular overnight shelter facilities. They successfully created this sort of housing by utilizing vacant PODs (trailers) once used to house overflow inmates at the County jail, not just overnight but around the clock. The homeless population they house, double in size since before the pandemic, remains there today, while plans are being formulated for a permanent, adequately-sized facility. Currently a safe, dry, warm place to stay, hot showers, access to food and water, and most important, supportive and referral services are provided. As a harsher than usual winter settles in, more always come to seek shelter, and expenses rise. Please help HRH maintain this truly life-enabling program for all who need it by sending a check made out to Vassar Temple, with "Chill Fund"; on the memo line, through the month of January. Let's not have anyone be turned away, out into the cold. Your donation will bring help and hope to someone in dire need, and is tax deductible to the extent of the law.




Hudson River Housing is about more than homeless shelters; Hudson River Housing is about building communities. They literally create affordable decent housing through both rehabbing buildings and new construction. They promote housing equity through giving people the opportunity, knowledge and skills to achieve home ownership, to rise all the way from homelessness to transitional support, providing down payment saving incentives and classes on home ownership skills. They also operate two job training programs and assist small business startups. In regard to shelters, HRH provides emergency housing described above as well as specialized supportive housing programs for teens, youth, adults, homeless families, veterans, and the disabled. They work with neighborhoods to develop community pride and solidarity. In the time of Covid, they helped with emergency rental assistance and voucher programs, as well as emergency aid to landlords. The end goal is viable, vibrant, prosperous, self-empowered neighborhoods throughout the region. To find out more about this remarkable agency visit hudsonriverhousing.org, and to help provide meals for those in the overnight shelter contact socialaction@vassartemple.org. This remarkable agency truly deserves our support, especially now during the Wind Chill Fund campaign.

Hudson River Housing, Inc.



Rabbi Steven Arnold will be honored for his 90th birthday during the Shabbat Service on January 6. There are several simple ways you can participate, if you would like to know more, contact Arnold@vassartemple.org and Sandra will be in touch.

Calendar of Events—January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NO Religious School	2 New Year's Day observed OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 4:30pm Hebrew School	5 7pm Ritual CTME	6 7:30pm Shabbat Service Celebrating Rabbi Arnold's 90th Birthday	7 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
8 9am Religious School	9 12pm Talmud Study	10 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour 	11 4:30pm Hebrew School	12 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	13 7:30pm MLK, Jr Shabbat Service	14 9am Torah Study
15 NO Religious School	16 MLK, Jr Day OFFICE CLOSED 	17	18 12pm Chai Noon, VTS 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	19	20 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Y'lاديم
22 9am Religious School	23 12pm Talmud Study	24	25 4:30pm Hebrew School	26 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting	27 6pm Soup & Chili Dinner & Tisch Shabbat Service 	28 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
29 9am Religious School	30	31				

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

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

Save the Date! *Tu B'Shevat* Seder

Sunday, February 5 from 10am to 12noon

Celebrate nature, the environment, and the Birthday of the Trees, at Vassar Temple for *Tu B'Shevat*! Everyone mark your calendar for Sunday, February 5, from 10am to noon. There will be fun for all—"seder" featuring fruits of the trees and symbolic of the holiday, singing, and *Tu B'Shevat*-related activities to appeal to all ages and generations. Everyone is welcome—watch temple publicity for further details.

See you there!

