



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 171 No. 9 April 2023



Israel Shabbat Service

Israel at 75: A Milestone with Mixed Emotions

Friday, April 21 at 7:30pm

Seventy-five years ago, the State of Israel was founded. Born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, fulfilling a two-thousand-year-old dream, the new State held great promise for the Jewish people. Immediately, Israel was attacked on all sides. Multiple wars and eruptions of violence have followed, while peace treaties and alliances have been formed with some of her Arab neighbors. Israel literally made the desert bloom and has built a thriving democracy, a literal “start-up nation,” leading the world in technology and scientific discoveries. A safe haven for Jews worldwide, Israel airlifted Jews from Yemen and Ethiopia and welcomed thousands from the former Soviet Union.

At the same time, the challenges this still young nation faces are overwhelming. For more than half a century now, the horrific situation for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza remains unresolved; hopes that were so high after Oslo for peace have been dashed time and again, support for a two-state solution, for two peoples finding a way to live in peace and security, has all but vanished.

Our Reform movement has planted deep roots with more than 50 synagogues and communities throughout the country, yet we continue to fight for recognition and equal treatment by the government. A negotiated agreement to guarantee full equal access to the Western Wall as a sacred site for ALL of the Jewish people has yet to be implemented.

Following the most recent election, Prime Minister Netanyahu has formed the most right-wing government in Israel’s 75-year history, bringing its very democracy into question. Advocates for increased Jewish settlement in the West Bank, and a further diminution of rights for Palestinians, now hold positions of power in the government. Open homophobes and anti-pluralists have the power to control many areas governing Israeli society.

As we reach this milestone anniversary, what should be a time of great joy and celebration, our hearts are torn.



There is so much in Israel of which we can be proud; yet the current leadership and proposed changes to Israeli law that will impact so much of Israeli society—including our sister congregations—are cause for great concern.

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant, PhD will help us navigate this mix of emotions as our guest speaker as we mark *Yom Ha’Atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day (5 Iyar, April 26) on Israel Shabbat, Friday, April 21 at 7:30pm. Rabbi Grant is the New York Rabbinical School Program Director, Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service Professor in Jewish Education and Coordinator of Special Seminary Projects at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. A primary area of her research and teaching is the place of Israel in American Jewish life. The service will have an Israel focus in our prayers and songs.

From the Rabbi's Desk:



I'm writing this column having just returned from Israel, where I spent eight days in intense programming, first with the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), then with the Women's Rabbinic Network (WRN). As an expression of its support for Israel, the CCAR holds its annual convention there every seven years. This was not typical convention, sitting in meetings rooms for hours on end. Rather, we participated in a variety of field trips to experience

first-hand the challenges and accomplishments of current life in Israel. I visited Lod, a mixed Jewish-Arab city, one of the poorest in the country, and site of riots in May 2021. I traveled to Sderot and nearby kibbutzim and was inspired by the resilience of their residents living eight kilometers from Gaza where, despite rocket attacks, (of which there were three in the early hours of that morning), life continues and the mayor of the regional council has received initial government funding for a project that will employ Gazans to try to improve their lives. We met with political leaders, including Labor party Knesset member Reform Rabbi Gilad Kariv, for conversations about the current political situation, especially, the legislative attempt to overhaul the

Supreme Court, taking away an essential check to executive and legislative powers. On Saturday night we joined 160,000 Israelis in protest in Tel Aviv, where Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, was the first non-Israeli to speak at a rally.



On Rosh Chodesh Adar, we participated with Women of the Wall in their monthly service of protest for equal access, where we were heckled, spat upon and, in some cases, shoved by those who view our worship as a desecration.

The Reform movement has made great strides in Israel,

now with 54 synagogues and communities, introducing native Israelis to an alternative expression of Jewish religious life. Two years ago, we won a 30-year battle in the Israeli Supreme Court for partial recognition of our conversions, which have attracted thousands over the years. Agreements of the current government will undermine our movement's work, not only cutting back on the less-than-equal funding our synagogues receive from the government, but impacting the important work the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) spearheads in areas of civil rights, support for immigrants, pluralistic Jewish education in public schools, women's rights and LGBTQ rights.

In his remarks at the rally, Rabbi Jacobs promised that we, North American Reform Jews, will continue to stand with Israel, that we are family and we will not turn our backs. How can you help our Reform movement in Israel? Here are some ways:

- Financial support of our Reform Movement in Israel: the IMPJ has just established an emergency appeal in anticipation of **losing more than \$1.5 million in government funding that provides critical support for Reform rabbis and congregational activities.** Learn more about this campaign and donate at <https://reform.org.il/en/campaign-2023/>
- Become a member of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA). Vassar Temple is proud to be an ARZA congregation, including the opportunity to join ARZA on your temple membership statement. Through their weekly newsletter and other learning opportunities, you can stay connected to the latest in Israel. Join ARZA via your temple membership and Vassar Temple receives some funding back.
- Attend Israel Shabbat on Friday, April 21 with guest speaker Rabbi Lisa Grant (see page 1).
- Help Vassar Temple plan more activities around Israel and take part in efforts of the Reform movement. Contact Rabbi Altman if you are interested.

Our liturgy includes a prayer for the State of Israel, asking for God's protection and blessings upon it. It concludes with the following: "Establish peace in the land and fullness of joy for all who dwell there." May it be so.

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message:

February 25, 2023 was advertised by many as a Day of Hate, with Jewish houses of worship being clearly targeted as sites to disperse anti-Semitic flyers and propaganda. It was in the news and trending on multiple social media sites for weeks ahead of this day. Many were horrified. Many were scared. Many wanted to believe it just wasn't so, but were

planning on being careful just the same.

Our local law enforcement took this very seriously. They increased patrols the day before, the day of, and the day after. They assured us they had our backs. Many community and political leaders, both Jewish and non-Jewish stood side-by-side to denounce this disgusting show of intolerance.

I have to confess that I had very mixed feelings on how to handle this day as it approached. There was a piece of me that wanted to cancel all Temple activities that day and to stay as clear and far away from our Temple building as possible. I wanted to not antagonize anyone and I wanted to be safe. There was also a piece of me that wanted to camp out on our Temple front lawn all day and hold a large crowd-drawing, very visible event; communicating our strength as a congregation.

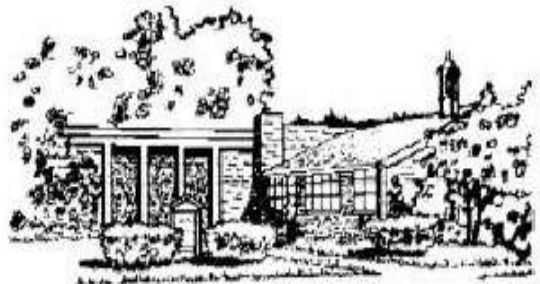
In consultation with our leadership, we chose to have our scheduled Torah study that day remote only. This was a conscious attempt at maintaining the safety of our congregants on a day that honestly made me act somewhat out of fear. I saw later that evening on the news that some congregations like Temple Emanu-El in NYC, stood literally out in front of their building and

openly had programs and services for all to see. I was honestly envious of the strength and conviction of that leadership and their congregants. When I saw them singing in unity, openly in front of their building, I felt like I had failed our congregation in my leadership or lack thereof. I thought that if I was a stronger leader, I would have insisted on changing nothing that we typically do on Shabbat. I would have said, "This is who we are and this is what we do! We will not be intimidated by the likes of you!" Hindsight... Would have, should have, could have...

I will never apologize for taking the health and well-being of our congregation seriously and ultimately putting your safety needs first. We live in a world where we have to balance being loud and proud with being careful and vigilant. I honestly hate that we actually have to do this, but as I've said to my grown children on numerous occasions, "Adulting is hard."

I want to share that as well as our law enforcement, there were individual Temple members who did drive by our Temple that day and reported to me that all was ok. Our front doorway camera was checked periodically by members for anything out of the ordinary. I see and respect the humanity, dedication and leadership of our congregants and our community and I promise you that I will continue to work proudly side-by-side in safety and strength, ever in pursuit of just the right balance.

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush



New Paths Services ~ April 2023

Join us at Vassar Temple for New Paths Sabbath morning services Saturdays April 1 & April 15 at 10:15am. The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English. "We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service." Time is allowed for questions and discussion, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share. Each New Paths service, whether lay-led or rabbi-led, provides a unique, thoughtful, spiritually oriented 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 need the Zoom link, if you are attending remotely but do not have a New Paths prayer book, or if you have any questions. Policies for safe in-person attendance are on our website www.vassartemple.org.

Yizkor, A Time of Remembrance ~ Wednesday, April 12 at 10:30am

In Reform Judaism, a Yizkor Service is held the morning of the seventh day of Passover. At this time of joy, we pause to remember our departed loved ones. It can be comforting to remember them in the context of community, whether you choose to attend in person or virtually. Join Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldmann, and your Vassar Temple family for Yizkor on Wednesday, April 12 at 10:30am. For the Zoom link, watch Temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org.

Tiny Temple ~ Sunday, April 23 at 10:30am

All young children up through kindergarten are invited to bring their grownups to Vassar Temple for "Tiny Temple," a program of fun and learning designed just for them. This event is free and open to the community, and will feature hands-on activities, stories, songs, and a healthy snack. For more info or to RSVP, just call the temple office 845-454-2570.

Bimah Flowers Donations

Just as Shabbat Services help brighten our weeks, so do the Bimah flowers which brighten our Sanctuary. If anyone would like to make a donation to sponsor our flower arrangements, please let the office know. Should there be more than one sponsor for a Shabbat, a larger flower arrangement will be provided. Sponsored flowers are fresh floral arrangements.



April 2023 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- April 7: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 14: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 21: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 28: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)

Scriptural Readings

April 1

Tzav

Leviticus 6:1-8:36; Malachi 3:4-24

April 8

Chol HaMo-eid Pesach

Exodus 33:12-34:26; Ezekiel 37:1-14;
Song of Songs is read

April 15

Sh'mini

Leviticus 9:1-11:47; II Samuel 6:1-7:17

April 22

Tazria/M'tzora

Leviticus 12:1-15:33; II Kings 7:3-20

April 29

Acharei Mot/K'doshim

Leviticus 16:1-20:27; Amos 9:7-9:15

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

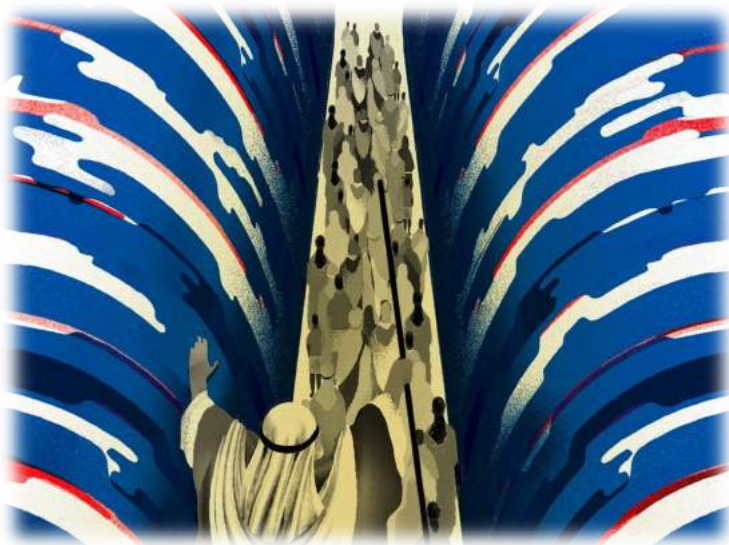
- **“Torah Study”** examines passages from the week’s Torah portion or haftarah. Led by the Temple’s Rabbi Renni S. Altman, D.D., on Saturdays from 9-10am.
- Class is hybrid. Contact office@vassartemple.org to be placed on the class e-mail list.
- **“The Talmud: Modern Ideas from Ancient Text”** on Zoom Mondays, April 3 & 17, noon-1:30pm, taught by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb. To verify dates, for study sheets, and the link: pjgolomb@verizon.net

All welcome!

No previous training required ~

No charge to attend

Religious School Update ~ April 2023



Parents joined their children to prepare for the upcoming Festival of Passover in two separate family education programs, one for the K-2 class and one for the upper grades. The upper grades had to “escape from Egypt” by completing a number of tasks related to the Passover story and Haggadah, a collaborative program created in consultation with our wonderful teachers. Kitah Aleph learned the basic lessons of the holiday and its symbols.

This month the upper school completes the unit on *koach hadibur*, the power of speech, and then begins our final unit on *Shalom*, peace. These

units include learning about Passover and about *Yom Ha’Atzmaut*.

Spring recess begins on April 2 and will conclude on April 12. Religious school classes resume on April 16 and Hebrew school on April 19.

Rabbi Renni Altman

Advice and Support for Givers in *Mishkan T'filah*

With the Endowment Fund campaign nearing its half-way point, I sought inspiration in *Mishkan T'filah* to share with those of you who have already contributed and those who have yet to do so. Several passages moved me. Hopefully, you will feel the same way and take action to make our Endowment a reality.

“May this synagogue be for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.”

“On Shabbat, we seek not to acquire, but to share.”

“We stand quietly on the border of light.

What lies before us?

Shall we draw back, my brother, my sister,

Or cross over?”

“Pray as if everything depended on God,

Act as if everything depended on you.”

I couldn't have said it any better...



*Martin Charwat,
Endowment Committee, Co-Chair*

Vassar Temple's Scrip Program

Last year...
Member participation generated \$11,000!

Do you shop at Adams?
For every \$100 you spend the temple earns \$10!

Shop with Scrip. Support the temple at no additional cost to you!

To order scrip or if you need more info?
CONTACT:
845.454.2570
sCrip@Vassartemple.org
or
OffiCe@Vassartemple.org

Some cards
Are available as e-cards on an app for immediate purchase



COMMUNITY SHABBATON May 19-20, 2023

A Sabbath of Music & Worship with Composer-in-Residence
Noah Aronson & Joint Community Choir

Friday, May 19, 7:30pm
Shabbat Evening Service at Vassar Temple

Saturday, May 20, 9:30am
Shabbat Morning Service at Temple Beth El

Saturday, May 20, 7:30pm
Concert at Congregation Shir Chadash

“Noah Aronson performs with joy, passion and a rich musicality that connects with audiences, heart-to-heart and soul-to-soul.” – Anita Diamant, author of *The Red Tent*

This program is made possible through the support of the Irving and Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

Lunch Box

Dutchess Outreach is continuing to see an increase in the number of people receiving free meals at the Lunch Box. Over the past few months, over 200 weekday meals have been served and over 150 meals on the weekend (up from less than 100 a year ago).

Vassar Temple is currently making a chili meal serving over 200 people on the first Sunday of every month. Congregants have provided the ingredients and volunteers from the Temple have both prepared the meal at the Dutchess Outreach kitchen and have distributed that meal. Thank you to all Temple members who have taken the time on these Sundays to do this. And thank you to members of the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association who have, every month, helped us with this important project.

Here are specific ways for you to help:

- Purchase a small portion of the ingredients needed for the meal. Buy extra ground turkey and/or canned beans and bring them to the Temple (turkey goes in the freezer; the canned beans should be placed in a marked box on the counter). Every month we need 30 pounds of turkey and 30 pounds of canned beans to make our chili meal.
- Volunteer on the first Sunday of the month to either prepare the meal (a 1-1/2-hour commitment) or distribute the meal (a 2-hour commitment).
- Make financial contributions to the Temple earmarked for the Lunch Box program so that other ingredients (onions, peppers, tomato paste, etc.) can be purchased.

To help, please email: lunchbox@vassar temple.org.

Special Event: Sunday, April 30 at 4pm Meet Congressman Pat Ryan at Vassar Temple

Please join us on Sunday, April 30 at 4pm to welcome Congressman Pat Ryan to Vassar Temple. This event, open to the Jewish community, will provide a forum to meet the Congressman and learn more about important local and community issues. Details will follow in email and social media communications.



Temple Musician Joseph Bertolozzi stands proudly next to our newly restored 1923 Mason & Hamlin piano, with our brand new Jansen Artist Bench

Climate Corner ~ April update from our Dayenu Circle

Celebrate Earth Day (April 22) and Month by asking your state legislators to support two important pieces of legislation.

Ask your Senator to support the Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (HEAT) (Senate Bill S2016). Burning natural gas is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. NYS must reduce the role of natural gas in providing energy. Currently, the Public Service Law requires and subsidizes the continued expansion of natural gas infrastructure. The HEAT Act would change New York law to help reduce natural gas infrastructure in an orderly, affordable, and just manner.

Ask both your Senator and Assembly Member to support the All-Electric Building Act (AEBA) (Senate Bill S562-A, Assembly Bill A920-A). The use of fossil fuels in buildings accounts for one-third of NYS greenhouse gas emissions and is a leading cause of air pollution, resulting in increased childhood asthma, heart disease, and other negative outcomes. The majority of NYS electricity already comes from zero-emission sources, and the State has committed to continue increases. The AEBA will prohibit new construction from using fossil fuel power on a gradual basis. The grid can support the additional capacity. Electric buildings have less impact on demand in the summer and more impact in the winter, due to the current role of fossil fuels in heating. NYS has the time and resources to continue expanding electricity generation to accommodate this change. AEBA also commits the State to ensure that electricity does not exceed 6% of a residential customer's income. Currently incentives make low-carbon buildings financially competitive for developers. Prices will continue to fall as new technologies become more common. Electrification of heating and hot water systems has one of the largest projected impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, even more than that of moving toward electric vehicles.

Vassar Temple members live in a variety of NYS districts. If you're not sure who your legislators are, find their names and contact information by entering your address at www.openstates.org.

For more information please email dayenu@vassartemple.org.



DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Do you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting?

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is looking for volunteers who love to knit and/or crochet to assist Dutchess Outreach. We need 50 (or more) scarves and hats by the end of October 2023. Please put finished items in plastic storage bags labelled adult or child-size on the outside.

Let us know if you can assist! sisterhood@vassartemple.org



RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**In Memory of:**

Stanley Israel
Lois Mendel
Sondra Chertock

Susan Fink
Susan Fink
Susan Fink

SUSTAINING FUND**In Appreciation of:**

Our Vassar Temple family

In Memory of:

Anne Lacher
Philip Lacher
Ruth Rabinowitz Browner
Harriet Drucker
Cynthia Blumenthal
Philip Mardon, MD
Edward Moffit
Stanley Israel

David & Susan Hecht

Maury & Miriam Lacher
Maury & Miriam Lacher
Miriam Browner Lacher
Beth Plotsky
Beth Plotsky
Kent & Kathy Mardon
Kent & Kathy Mardon
Linda Babas
Jerry & Sandy Goldberg
Evan & Dana Kurz
Charles & Perla Kaufman
Charles & Perla Kaufman
David Ellicott & Wendy Valteau
David Ellicott & Wendy Valteau
Steve & Laurie Chertock
Gilbert & Arlene Seligman
Edward & Vivian Garber
Irma Jacobs
Bob & Anita Morrison
James Robinowitz
James Robinowitz
Muriel Lampell
Karnes Hecht Family
Karnes Hecht Family
Karnes Hecht Family
Karnes Hecht Family
Bob & Judy Creedon
Bob & Judy Creedon
Bob & Judy Creedon
Bob & Judy Creedon
Bob & Judy Creedon
Bob & Judy Creedon
Bob & Judy Creedon
The Friedman Family
Richard Partridge
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
Jane LaLone
The Quackenbush Family
Madelyn Goldsmith D'Angelo
Daniel & Susan Albinder
Elyse Oughton
Elyse Oughton

Efrem Dlugacz
Clara Levy Ribbi
Faye Kaufman
George Freedman
Elizabeth Freeman
Sondra Chertock

Evelyn Lanning
Steve Ganeles
Doreen Kimmel
Shirley Karnes
Jaime Hecht
Suzanne Hecht
Ted Hecht
Virginia Newman Livingston
Timothy Creedon
Leo Livingston
Leon Alpers
Anne Alpers
Jarrod Harrington
Stuart Alpers
Sadie Lieberman
Evelyn Partridge
Shirley LaLone
Mildred Gould
Delbert LaLone
Ethel Graves
Gayle Margolin
Selma Goldsmith
Isadore Yahrzeit
Shirley Kornhauser
Melvin Kornhauser

VASSAR TEMPLE PERPETUAL CARE**In Memory of:**

Sondra Chertock

Deborah Stephan

MUSIC FUND

**For the rehabilitation and
care of the grand piano & bench**

Jon Lieberman & Fern Lox

LUNCH BOX FUND**In Memory of:**

Stanley Israel
Sondra Chertock

Chuck & Perla Kaufman
Chuck & Perla Kaufman

Thank you for your Contributions

ENDOWMENT FUND

Christopher Baltus & Banna Rubinow
Ronald Rosen

In Memory of:

Lila and Melvin Matlin, who served the
Temple and cherished the community it provided them
The Matlin Family

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND**In Loving Memory of :**

Lila Matlin on her third yahrzeit:
Barbara & Alan Aronson

Our Condolences:

To the family of Flora Silverman,
mother of Brian (Helen) Silverman

To the family of Sondra Chertock,
wife of Herman Chertock

To the family of Phyllis Marilyn Ritter,
mother of Jonah (Mary) Ritter

Jewish War Veterans April 9 ~ 9am schmooze & 9:30am meeting

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 meeting of Sunday, April 9 will be held live. It will be held at Schomre Israel. 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

April 7

Alfred Kaplan
 Elizabeth "Libby" Horowitz
 Pauline Dubler
 Hester Lox
 Harriet Drucker
 Paula Landau
 Samuel Baskin
 Mimi L. Schor
 Bob DiBennardo
 Dr. Albert Gould
 Joshua Lowe Posner
 Paul Goldberg
 Dolores Marie Brundage
 Morris D. Kovacs
 Mollie Rosenberg
 Max Michael Simon, MD
 Isador Albinder
 Joseph Frankel
 Vera Lisovsky Budson
 Eli Mamis

April 14

Jaime Hecht
 Martha Katz
 Lorraine Goldberg
 Morris Rosenberg
 Jeannette S. Newman
 Lillian F. Kovacs
 Jack Jacobson
 Herbert Rosand
 Evelyn Lanning
 K. "Mickey" Rosenblum
 Charles Volkman, Sr
 Dr. Paul Koltai
 Solomon Salberg
 Nathan "Toolie" Turk
 David Korobkin
 Anne Lacher
 Paula Rosner-Schwartz
 Louis Schwartz
 Elias Altman
 Ida Salit
 Sadie Lieberman

April 21

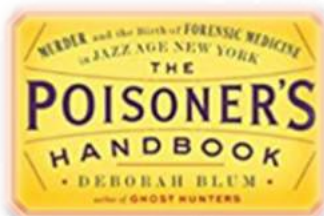
Julius Albert
 Elaine F. Bloch
 Philip Mardon, MD
 Ted Hecht
 Dr. Fritz Weigert
 Philip Lacher
 Evelyn Partridge
 Marion Volkman
 Eva Bley
 Gilbert Harrison Keane
 Annie Schultze
 Doreen Kimmel
 Rebecca Wolfson
 George N. Freedman
 Eric Mendel
 Gladys Salberg
 Nathan L. Reifler
 Samuel H. Weisman
 Belle Lescher
 Delbert LaLone
 Gertrude R. Sonkin
 John J. Moloney
 Norman S. Reifler
 Susan Getty

April 28

Paul Plansky
 Suzanne Hecht
 Shirley Ruth Karnes
 Reuben Lewis
 Lester M. Ritter
 Julius Seif
 Matilda "Mattie" Jukofsky
 Joan Budson Cohen
 Sidney Cohen
 Clara Levy Ribbi
 Bessie Goldman Lass
 Anna Dreishpoon
 Frances R. Finnerman
 Abraham Tavss
 Dr. Wolfgang U. Weigert
 Jacob Ettenson
 Gertrude Fink
 Faye Prisansky Kaufman
 David F. Kaplan

**April Jahrzeits****Book Club to Discuss “*The Poisoner’s Handbook*”**

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss “*The Poisoner’s Handbook*” by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Deborah Blum. The book has been described by critics as a fascinating Jazz Age tale of chemistry, detection, poison, and murder. In early 20th century New York, poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. The author explores how scientists Charles Norris and Alexander Gettler laid the foundation for the modern field of forensic science. They set the justice system on fire with their trailblazing scientific detective work, becoming the pioneers of forensic chemistry.



The “*Poisoner’s Handbook*,” equal parts true crime, twentieth-century history, and science thriller, is available in paperback through local book stores, as well as in various formats through the library system. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 20, at 2:00pm. Betty Renner and Marian Schwartz will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome. We hope to resume meeting in person, instead of on Zoom. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at bookclub@vassartemple.org.

Hamantaschen Baking Day Was a Huge Success

What a great time making hamantaschen this year! Not only did we not have to worry about whether we'd need to postpone baking due to the weather, but this may well have been our fastest hamantaschen baking ever.

Over the past few years we've been adding things to make baking day easier for everyone. This year it was the addition of a new electric can opener that doesn't make jagged edges and, of course, the new ovens. We were all extremely pleased with how baking went with the new ovens. In fact, we used them for all the baking and the hamantaschen all came out perfectly. Not only that, we were actually done and cleaned up before our expected 1pm end time!



The Religious School students had fun making lots of chocolate hamantaschen. Parents, you have some terrific bakers! Tiny Temple also made hamantaschen as well. It was a very busy morning, but everything went very well. We worked, we talked, we ate. What could be better?

My thanks to everyone who made dough and/or came in to help with the advance set up, on baking day, and delivering the hamantaschen. Please forgive me if I forgot to include someone. It was definitely unintentional.

A huge thank you to Cathy Bokor, Andi & Paul Ciminello, Susan Colodner, Sandy Cornell, Maddy D'Angelo, Ronni Jarvis, Ann Lerman & her friend Megan Gelber, Jessica & Lilly Gold, Susan Karnes Hecht, Marilyn Lampell, Sue Lesser, Polly Lewis, Sandra Mamis, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Arlene & Gil Seligman, Michele Sinn, Laura Sperling, Roni Stein, Marcia Tanzman, Melissa Wall, Jenny Ward and Nadine Zaritsky.

Judy Rosenfeld

Seventh Day Passover Dessert "Seder"

Tuesday, April 11 ~ 7:30pm—9:00pm

Celebrate the last day of Passover (which is a festival)! Bring your leftover *Pasadic* desserts (or bake new ones). While not a full Seder, we will have an order of fun activities, including four cups of wine/dessert pairings.

Please RSVP to ritual@vassartemple.org



SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Easy Festive Chicken & Rice

This recipe was submitted by Amy Horn Oclatis, who originally obtained it from Helen Klein, of blessed memory, long-time Vassar Temple and Sisterhood member some years ago. She described it as “A wonderful combination. The family will love it, and so will your guests. Can be doubled or tripled easily.”

Ingredients

- 1 6 ¼-ounce package fast-cooking long grain and wild rice mix with herbs and seasonings
- 1 3-pound chicken, cut into serving size pieces
- 1 16-ounce can whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 3 Tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 Tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced almonds

Directions

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.
- Sprinkle rice in buttered 13” x 9” oven-proof casserole.
- Spread package of seasonings over rice.
- Arrange chicken, skin side up, on top.
- In a saucepan, combine cranberry sauce, butter, soy sauce, and lemon juice. Heat, stirring until melted.
- Pour over chicken.
- Cover tightly with aluminum foil. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Uncover, sprinkle with almonds, and bake 10 minutes more.
- The casserole will keep warm for 30 minutes.



Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ Tuesday, April 18, 2023

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, as was the case in March) will be meeting Tuesday, April 18 at noon. Specific details about the April restaurant will be emailed 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.

Genizah Service

Sunday, April 23 at 1pm, at the Vassar Temple Cemetery

Vassar Temple members are invited to participate in a Genizah Service (ritual burial of sacred texts).

We are *Am HaSefer, the People of the Book*. Our reverence for the written word dictates that sacred items that can no longer be used as intended be lovingly buried, so that they will not fall into further disrepair or be subject to desecration.

The service will take place Sunday, April 23 at 1pm (backup date April 30; please watch the weekly email) at the Vassar Temple Cemetery on Lagrange Avenue (north side).

Congregants have the opportunity to bring personal items that require burial. Rabbi Altman will lead a brief Genizah service.

Sacred texts are books or ritual items (e.g., tefillin, klaf from a mezuzah, Haggadah) that have the name of God in Hebrew (photocopies do not require burial). We have a significant amount of Temple materials (particularly obsolete prayer books) that will be buried, with space for member needs as feasible. Please RSVP to cemetery@vassartemple.org telling us what you'd like to bring and how much space is required.

Donations to our Cemetery Fund for the opportunity to perform this mitzvah will be gratefully accepted.

Healing Service




Saturday, April 29 at 10:30am, at the Vassar Temple Cemetery



A Healing Service, led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann of Vassar Temple, will be held Saturday April 29 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 hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). Watch

temple e-mails, contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 for the link if you'd like to attend on Zoom, and for any current health protocols for in-person attendance.

Calendar of Events—April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					7:30pm Shabbat Service	1 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
2 NO Religious School 10:30am Lunch Box 1pm VTS Centerpiece Training 	3 12pm Talmud Study 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour 	4	5 Passover Eve First Seder NO Hebrew School	6 Passover Day 1 Second Seder OFFICE CLOSED	7 Passover Day 2 7:30pm Shabbat Service	8 Passover Day 3 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
9 Passover Day 4 NO Religious School	10 Passover Day 5 12pm Talmud Study	11 Passover Day 6 <i>7:30pm</i> <i>Passover Dessert</i> <i>Seder</i>	12 Passover Day 7 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am Yizkor Service NO Hebrew School	13 7pm Ritual CTME	14 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service 	15 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
16 9am Religious School	17 Yom HaShoah Eve 6pm Community Yom HaShoah Observance DCC	18 Yom HaShoah 12pm VTS Chai Noon Luncheon 5:30pm Endowment Fund CTME	19 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	20 2pm VTS Book Club	21 7:30pm Israel Shabbat with guest speaker, Dr. Lisa Grant	22 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
23 9am Religious School 10:30am Tiny Temple 1pm Genizah Service at VT Cemetery	24 12pm Talmud Study 7pm Presentation by Susan Evans	25 Yom HaZikaron	26 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Joint Choir Rehearsal for Shabbaton	27 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting	28 7:30pm Sisterhood Shabbat Service	29 9am Torah Study 10:30am Healing Service
30 9am Religious School 1pm (Backup) Genizah Service 4pm Rep. Pat Ryan						

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



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

DATED MAIL
PLEASE
RUSH

www.vassartemple.org

Rabbi: Renni S. Altman, DD

Religious School Director: Renni S. Altman, DD

Cantor: Elizabeth Goldmann

Rabbi Emeritus: Stephen A. Arnold

Senior Scholar: Paul Golomb

Temple Musician: Joseph Bertolozzi

President: 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 June Bulletin must be

submitted by May 1 sent via email to

publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors

reserve the right to edit articles for style,

accuracy and length.

Dear Vassar Temple Family,

Cecile and I were overwhelmed by your wonderful celebration of my 90th birthday! We knew you were planning something, but the evening was beyond our imagining!

The beautiful and loving tributes woven through the service by Rabbi Altman, Martin Charwat's voice leading the music, and the wonderful oneg prepared under the leadership of Sandra Mamis all gave us such a warm feeling.

Did you know that Sandra even arranged for a box of yummy baked goods to be delivered to our home that day, so that we could have our own oneg? In her usual thoughtful way, Sandra saw to every detail!

The leaf on the Tree of Life was a special gift, and we express our thanks to all who participated in this tribute. It's nice to know that the memory of this special event is now a permanent part of Vassar Temple!

We know that there was a small army of folks helping to put the celebration together, and we're grateful to each of you for such a wonderful Shabbat. We loved seeing so many of you during the oneg. We've been away from Poughkeepsie for as many years as we were there, and it was deeply moving to be so remembered.

The donation that we're making to Vassar Temple is but a token of our love for and appreciation of all of you!

Fondly,
Stephen Arnold