



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 171 No. 8 March 2023

Purim at Vassar Temple

Monday, March 6

Dinner 5:30pm ~ Program 7pm (Hybrid)



Vassar Temple's 2023 Purim celebration will feature a megillah reading, a family service, and a Purim spiel set to the familiar music of "Fiddler on the Roof." Follow our "Fiddler" theme, or dress as a character from the story of Purim, or in any favorite costume, whether you're coming in person or participating on Zoom! There will be prizes for all who come in costume, and homemade hamantaschen treats ("Tradition!").

Don't forget to have a box of pasta handy to shake like a grogger and drown out the name of the villain Haman when it is read. Following the holiday, we'll deliver all your boxes of pasta to a local food pantry. So join us for a fun and entertaining evening on this joyous holiday!

The Temple Brotherhood will be sponsoring a vegetarian pasta dinner prior to the spiel, at 5:30pm. There is no charge for the meal, but donations to help defray expenses are appreciated. Please contact brotherhood@vassartemple.org by Thursday, March 2 to RSVP for dinner and to let us know of any special dietary needs. Watch Temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org for the Zoom link.

From the Rabbi's Desk:



The cold, dark days of winter are bookmarked in Jewish tradition by two holidays that bring light and joy: Hanukkah and Purim. Hanukkah adds light as we descend into the darkest, shortest days of the year and Purim, with its feasting, drinking and raucous behavior, brings winter to an end with a bang! At first glance, the two holidays seem

completely disconnected, but there are, in fact, many common threads that bind them together even as both serve to lift our spirits through the doldrums of winter.

Both of these holidays are of later biblical origin and were initiated by people (Judah Maccabee and Mordecai) as opposed to being ordained in Torah. Both holidays involve gift giving: *Shalach Manot*, the sending of gifts to one another, is one of the three required observances of the holiday. Hanukkah gifts originated with gelt, chocolate or real coins, which may have been given to children in remembrance of the Maccabees minting their own coins and are often used to play dreidel.

As minor holidays, both are normal workdays and share a common addition to the daily liturgy: the *Al Hanissim*, a prayer thanking God for the miracle of the Jews' deliverance. In neither case is God an active player in the story, however. The miraculous victory of the Jews is due to human agency, though God is assumed to be "behind the scenes."

Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees who dared to defy the Assyrians and who broke ranks with the traditionalists, defending themselves on Shabbat, surprising the great Assyrian army and overpowering them. The miraculous victory of the Jews against the evil Haman is hardly a miracle at all; the Purim story is aspirational, a fictional expression of the deepest hopes of a people living

under foreign rule, with no basis in history. Within the story, however, the victory is attributed to Esther's courage and ingenuity in gaining the king's support and trapping the evil Haman.

Biblical scholars disagree as to the dating of the Book of Esther. One school of thought is that it was written at the time of the Maccabees to inspire hope among the Jews in their battle against the Assyrians, thus tying to the two holidays more closely together.

Hanukkah and Purim both tell stories of good conquering evil, Jews acting to defeat antisemites: Antiochus wanted to wipe out Judaism; Haman wanted to wipe out Jews. While Haman was defeated, unfortunately his words to King Ahasuerus have continued to resound throughout the ages: "There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all of the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them." (Esther 3:8)

Sadly, antisemitism has reared its ugly head again in the hate that is manifesting itself in attacks against Jews and others who are perceived of as "different" in our country. Like the Maccabees and Esther, we must rise to defend ourselves—not by violence, but by speaking out wherever we see hate, by joining with allies, by educating and building bridges of understanding, by living proudly as Jews.

Each year as winter approaches, we kindle lights against the darkness. And we celebrate the end of the dark days with a fantasy holiday that envisions a time of great joy when hate will truly be defeated. The rabbis taught that when the Messiah arrives, the only holiday celebrated will be Purim—a time of pure joy. Let us continue to kindle lights of hope and act to bring this day about. *Chag Purim Sameach!*

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message:

My commute to and from work consists of a 40-minute drive on a rural part of Route 9, predominately in Columbia County. It is a lovely and relaxing drive filled with farms with beautiful views and interspersed with occasional homes and small businesses. My favorite part of my drive each morning, however, has nothing to do with the scenery. It has to do

with an elderly gentleman, whom I've never officially met, who I refer to as "my man."

There is a small stretch of road in Livingston or Greenport - near Hudson, that I encounter my man walking on the shoulder, nearly every morning, rain or shine. I can tell he is older by the gray hair and the

way his back is a bit hunched over as he walks. He has nothing to aid him; no walker or cane, just his own strong legs. He walks at a very good clip and waves at every single vehicle that passes him. This is not just a half-hearted, sort of extend-the-arm-in-the-air wave. This is a very enthusiastic, full-on-energy, "I love life" kind of a wave. He does this to every car that passes him by, in either direction.

I look forward to seeing him each morning on my drive to work. His enthusiasm for life and his gift of hello, quite honestly makes my morning. After seeing

him, and always waving back, I have a smile on my face the rest of my journey to work. I would even say, there is an added spring to my step when I arrive at work. I don't think my man has any idea how much he brightens my day. I'm sure that he has no idea that on the days that I don't see him, I'm annoyed at myself for either being too early or too late to have caught my wave. Or that I very much worry that something may have happened to him. But on most of the days, when I do see him and receive my energetic "Good Morning" from my man, I am simply thrilled.

I am well aware that waving to cars is just his thing, his routine. It's what he does. It's such a simple, friendly and anonymous act that while on the surface, seems insignificant, is truly so much more. This small act has a ripple effect. His good mood puts me in a good mood and I know these days I am inclined to share my good mood with others. I'd like to hope that it doesn't stop there, but that random acts of kindness just keep building from person to person all day long.



We all have the capability to do this for others every day, and maybe multiple times a day. Some acts can be small, like smiling at someone or helping to bring someone's packages to

their car. Some can be larger, like paying for the groceries of someone behind you in the grocery store. No matter the type or size of the act of kindness, we should all aim to start that happy little chain of happiness and good feeling. It doesn't take much effort but has immense and long-lasting rewards. Let's all strive to be a little more like "my man" and spread a little kindness.

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

New Paths Services

Join us at Vassar Temple for New Paths Sabbath morning services Saturdays March 4 and March 18 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 want the Zoom link, and for updates. Policies for safe in-person attendance are on our website www.vassartemple.org.

Shabbat Y'lاديم (Children's Sabbath) Saturday, March 18 ~ 10:30am

All young children up to first grade are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to Vassar Temple on Saturday, March 18 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! 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.



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. Should there be more than one sponsor for a Shabbat, a larger flower arrangement will be provided. Sponsored flowers are fresh floral arrangements.



March 2023 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- March 3: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- March 10: Donated by Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- March 17: Donated by Sandra Mamis in memory of Harry Mamis
- March 24: Donated by Martin Noble in memory of Erica Robbins and Martin Noble, Sr. and Sandra Mamis in memory of Kurt Similes and Katherine Lerner Mamis
- March 31: Donated by Gail D'Alessio in memory of Bob DiBennardo

Scriptural Readings

March 4

T'tzaveh/Shabbat Zachor

Exodus 27:20-30:10; Deut. 25:17-19
Special Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-34

March 11

Ki Tisa/Shabbat Parah

Exodus 30:11-34:35; Numbers 19:1-22
Ezekiel 36:22-36

March 18

Vayak'heil/P'kudei/Shabbat HaChodesh

Exodus 35:1-40:38; Exodus 12:1-20
Special Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25

March 25

Vayikra

Leviticus 1:1-5:26; Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

"Torah Study" examines passages from the week's Torah portion or haftarah. Led by the Temple's Rabbi Renni S. Altman, D.D., on Saturdays 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, March 6 and 20, 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 Update

Last month we began to look towards the end of winter as we celebrated Tu B'shevat with our fun-filled Seder and then baked Hamantaschen the next week.

This month we will celebrate Purim, which really brings winter to a close with a bang, and then move into preparing for spring and Pesach. All religious school families are encouraged to attend the Community Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 5 from 10am-11:15, hosted by Temple Beth-El. There is no religious school that day to encourage all to attend. There will be entertainment, carnival games and a costume parade—so come in costume! Some of our teens will be there running Vassar Temple's booths—Knock Day Haman and Fish for Hamantaschen!



On Sunday, March 26 parents are invited to join their children for a special Passover Family program. Teaching about the holiday on age-appropriate levels is integrated into the values units of the ShalomLearning curriculum: Purim is part of the unit on Hakarat Hatov (appreciation for the good) and Passover is part of Koach haDibur (the power of speech). We look forward to celebrating these holidays together.

Rabbi Renni Altman

Thank you, Vassar Temple

Thanks to everyone at Vassar Temple for your support of our 2023 Wind Chill Fund Drive. We really demonstrated our determination not to see anyone turned away from Hudson River Housing's overnight shelters during this winter's freezing nights! Additionally, our Community Tzedakah Fund recently provided gift cards for warm, decent clothing for Ukrainian refugee children in Europe, and supermarket scrip for another group of refugees that is residing in our local area. Despite the demand at soup kitchens and food pantries doubling, your contributions of food and labor, along with financial donations to the Lunch Box Fund, are enabling us to continue to help provide two nutritious meals per month for our neighbors in need. And we were able to take a big load of food that you dropped off in our Can Jam Bin, and deliver it to a local food pantry. Finally, from Taylor Holbrook, DCIC CROP Walk Committee Chairman: "Thank you so much for your help in making our 2022 Dutchess Interfaith CROP Walk such a success. Checks are still coming in, but we can now say that we raised over \$52,000. That is a fantastic help in fighting hunger! We will be mailing out checks to Dutchess Outreach, Fishkill Food Bank, Beulah Baptist Soup Kitchen, St. Paul's Food Pantry and Community Action Partnership soon." If you have any questions, would like to suggest a social action project, or join us in our work, we'd love to hear from you at socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Purim Pasta "Plus:" Food and Hygiene Drive for March



It is Jewish tradition to give gifts of food and to donate to charity on Purim, and it is Vassar Temple tradition always to help our neighbors. Bring a box of pasta to the Purim Spiel on March 6 to shake like a gragger, and then drop it in the collection box to be donated to our neighbors in need. Given the sharply increased need this year, we invite you to bring any of the following items which were specially requested by Dutchess Outreach's Food Pantry to the temple during the month of March, in addition to your boxes of Purim pasta:

Food: spaghetti sauce, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned soup, canned vegetables, instant coffee, tea bags, cereal, mayo, baby formula—and pasta

Personal hygiene products: toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, body lotion, feminine hygiene products

Please do not donate unrequested items, previously opened containers, or outdated packages. You can drop items off in the temple Can Jam bin any time the office is open. If you must drop off at a different day or time, you can drop off at Marian's home near the Temple—just contact her at socialaction@vassartemple.org.

If you would like to donate to Purim Pasta "Plus" but cannot shop, you may make a financial donation to Vassar Temple, designated for the Community Tzedakah Fund, and we will shop for you. Thank you for helping any way you can!

*Marian Schwartz,
Social Action Chair*

*Joel Kelson,
Can Jam Project Coordinator*



Save the Date—You're Invited!
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, 8:00pm
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***



Mazel Tov!

**To Nathan & Julie Tornow
on the birth of their son,
Micah Dean Tornow on
January 22, 2023**

Brotherhood News—March 2023



This year we celebrate Purim on Monday evening March 6. As is our tradition, the Brotherhood provides a pasta dinner at 5:30pm before services.

We need volunteers to cook and serve the dinner. Please contact Glenn Tanzman at brotherhood@vassartemple.org if you can help. We look forward to seeing you there. Reservations for the Purim Dinner may be made through the office or by contacting Glenn at brotherhood@vassartemple.org. Donations are appreciated.

Glenn Tanzman
Brotherhood President

Annual Kedem Passover Wine & Products Sale

Vassar Temple is once again sponsoring a Kedem Winery sale for Passover with a huge variety of Kedem and other kosher wine labels at a range of price points. Juices, gefilte fish, olive oil and vinegar are also available. Shop from the convenience of your home! Orders and payment are due by March 20, and your order will be at the temple by March 31. If you need assistance, we can arrange delivery. The complete list and order form is available from the temple office (office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570), from our fundraising team (fundraising@vassartemple.org), or on our website (www.vassartemple.org). Don't see what you're looking for? We can contact Kedem with your inquiry. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Vassar Temple Reimbursement Form

If you have temple expenses to submit for reimbursement, please use the new Reimbursement Form which was sent in January to all committee chairs and is available at the office. Thank you.

Welcome to Climate Corner, a monthly update from our Dayenu Circle

In keeping with our commitment to the NYS Religious Action Center's Climate Covenant, we will advocate for two bills in the current legislative session in Albany: the "All Electric Buildings Act" (prohibits the use of emitting fuels in new construction) and the "Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act" (gives NYS government the power to gradually transition our energy systems off natural gas). Both bills would make a substantial impact on the state's green transition without negatively impacting underserved communities. Both offer the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with allies who are making these bills a priority. And, both need a push over the legislative finish line, since they face opposition from well-funded special interest groups that are resisting the energy transition. Despite support from many state leaders (including the governor), they will not be passed without significant support. Advocacy from faith-based organizations contrasts with traditional climate groups and helps to demonstrate a wider coalition. Watch your temple publicity for more information about how you can support these efforts.

We are also planning a community "decarbonizer" workshop to help you make changes at home (learn about solar, electric vehicles, and heat pumps from those who have taken the plunge). Finally, contact us to be on Vassar Temple's building Green Team. We are at dayenu@vassartemple.org.



DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Floral Arrangement Class—Sunday, April 2, 1-3pm

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is offering a class on Floral Arrangement on Sunday, April 2, 1pm—3pm taught by Marianne's Floral Garden. The class will be held in the Social Hall with limited space. You will leave with an actual centerpiece for Passover!

The cost for the class is \$50. **Please pay by March 24.** Make out your checks to Vassar Temple Sisterhood and email Polly Lewis at sisterhood@vassartemple.org to let her know when you sent payment. Your check will confirm your seat and pay for supplies for the centerpiece. Sorry, no walk-ins. Hope to see you all there!



SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Altman
Rabbi Arnold's 90th Birthday
The Mendel Family
In Memory of:
Lois Mendel

Stanley Israel

Flora Silverman

Stephen Berr
Vernon Brundage
Julie McGaulley
Anna Frankel
Charles Frankel
Frances Wrobel
Peter Luttinger
Geraldine Geller
Ruth Parry
Martin Lowenthal
Gloria Schwartz
Dr. Edward B. Goldstein
Sam Karnes
Evelyn Kahn
Milton Levitt
Greta Blaine
Erica Robbins
Marjorie Rubin Brody
Harry Mamis
Kurt Similes
Katherine Lerner Mamis
Annemarie Teutsch
Sylvia Cantor
Gertrude Silverman
Esther G. Rheingold
Herman Jacobs
Ann R. Margolin
Bettina DeVescovo
Simon Riechman
Eli Mamis
Chris Brown
Eleanor Katz

Paul & Andi Ciminello
Kent & Kathy Ciminello
Ralph & Marian Schwartz

James Robinowitz
Ralph & Marian Schwartz
The Bucknell Herd
Kari Wallace
The Gertrude Trbovich Family
Friends & Colleagues of Jackie Mendel
Gilbert & Arlene Seligman
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Howard & Pamela Spilke
Yvonne A. Polito
Edward & Vivian Garber
Paul & Andi Ciminello
James Robinowitz
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Edward & Vivian Garber
Paul & Andi Ciminello
Thomas & Laura Brundage
Thomas & Laura Brundage
Marilyn McGaulley Lampell
Dave & Fern Wolf
Dave & Fern Wolf
Lewis & Hilary Wrobel
Jayne Baumbach
Jayne Baumbach
Kathy & Kent Mardon
Charles & Roni Stein
Ralph Schwartz
The Friedman Family
Karnes Hecht Family
Muriel Lampell
Ellen Zelig
Martin Noble
Martin Noble
Martin & Eleanor Charwat
Sandra Mamis
Sandra Mamis
Sandra Mamis
Doi Cohen
Richard & Linda Cantor
Richard & Linda Cantor
Irma R. Jacobs
Irma R. Jacobs
Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Edward & Vivian Garber
Sandra Mamis
Paul & Andi Ciminello
Paul & Andi Ciminello

Thank you for your Contributions

MUSIC FUND

In Honor of:
David Eli Robinowitz's
47th Birthday
In Memory of:
Mary Ann Robinowitz
Flora Silverman
For the rehabilitation and
care of the grand piano &
piano bench

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Memory of:
Lois Mendel
Sandi Rugar
Stanley Israel

Ruth Joy Orner

James Robinowitz

James Robinowitz
Robert & Marianne Abrams

Susan Fink
Gilbert & Arlene Seligman

Judy Harkavy
Judy Harkavy
Muriel Lampell
Ellen Zelig
Muriel Lampell (*Correction from the February Bulletin*)

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Memory of:
Stanley Israel

Jon Lieberman & Fern Lox

Doi Cohen
Joan Kimmel

ENDOWMENT FUND Maury & Miriam Lacher

RABBI PAUL GOLOMB ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of:
Stanley Israel Angela Stultz

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

In Memory of:
Flora Silverman Brian & Helen Silverman

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of:
Lila Matlin Susan Matlin Piccone

March 3

Morris Levine
Cynthia Blumenthal
Hinda Lessin
Shirley E. Reifler
Matilda Banchek
Morris Haas
Frances Lewis
Francesca Vadersen
Lena Lath
Betty Ewen
Saul Marks
Frank Devan
Irving M. Rosenthal
Irving Schechtman
Lila Matlin
Rose Landau
Gilbert Feinman
Geraldine N. Leeds
Howard Perry
Norman Steinberg

March 10

Mildred Gould
Victor Fein
David Blanksteen
Samuel Karnes
Rae Jacobs Rauh Brown
Miriam Genshaft
Rabbi Robert Rozenberg
Gertrude Silverman
Esther G. Rheingold
Edward B. Goldstein
Tessie Turk
Ruth Parry
Morris Lessin
Gertrude M. Plimack
A. Alfred Podell, MD
Bee Plimack
Ralph Partridge
Dr. Simon Riechman
June Heiser Shub
Morris Abraskin
Silvia Domes
Meyer Harold Bagun
Dr. Louis Shub

March 17

Bessie Kaplan
Sonya Markovitch
Max Solomon
Idane Evan Salenger
Vawn Jennifer Salenger
Kaye Roth
Lewis Acker
Anna Frankel
Howard Smith
Gloria Schwartz
Svetlana Beckerman
Ethel Graves
Bettina DeVescovo
Belle Weiss
Fred Lehman
Reuben Temlock
Sara Leslie Goldman Fite
Joseph Feuer
Meyer A. Wolfson
Judith Newman
Esther Temlock
Lillian Schwarz
Lena Baskin
Scott Buxbaum
Harry Mamis
Elaine Mayer
Ann R. Margolin
Bruce Weber
Pearl Bettigole Goldberg
Eli Gellert
Mary Ann Robinowitz

March 24

Louis D. Dampf
Sol G. Lipschutz
Kurt Similes
Sarah Singer
Gary Feder
Michael Feder
Gary Schischa
Erwin Schischa
Katherine Lerner Mamis
Claire Sherwin
Gwendolyn Harlam
Ruth Kovacs
Matalie Hamburg
Mae Miller Klampert
Annemarie Teutsch
Etta Simon Podret
Benjamin Clarfeld
Herman Jacobs
Fannie Berlin
Lee Rosenthal
Charles Frankel
Martin Lowenthal
Harold Rosen
David Jordan
Kathi Winchock
Isaac Mendel
Harvey Kflowitz
Erica Robbins
Chris Brown
Patricia Adler
Esta Feder
Chanie Solomon

March 31

Elsie H. Albert
Zoey Rachel Gillman
Rose Baum Kraut
William M. Rothstein
Pearl Teperman
Martin Turk
Cora Frances Solomon
Dorothy Esner
Morris Domes
Jeanette Ada Cohen
Morris S. Rosenmann
Milton Levitt
David H. Ettenson
Hon. Joseph H. Gellert
Herman Baskin
Betty Mead

Yahrzeits



A New Look at Ancient Stories

A three-part series with Rabbi Altman, Wednesdays at 7:30pm
(Format TBD) ~ Please bring a copy of the Bible to class



March 1: Esther—a biblical fantasy of good conquering evil and a beauty queen's clever plot towards victory



March 8: Ruth—a short story about love, loyalty and loving kindness



March 15: Job—the biblical writers' answer to the eternal question: why do bad things happen to good people?

COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL
2023

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
10:00-11:45AM
TEMPLE BETH EL
118 SOUTH GRAND AVE
POUGHKEEPSIE

CARNIVAL GAMES
LIVE "BUBBLE SHOW PLUS"
FACE PAINTING - BALLON ARTIST
COSTUME CONTEST

SUGGESTED DONATION
\$5PP/\$18 PER FAMILY

RSVP PJLibrary@JewishDutchess.org
BRING NON-PERISHABLE ITEM
FOR LOCAL FOOD BANK DONATION

PJ Library • **PJ** • **The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County**
Vassar Temple • **Chabad of Poughkeepsie** • **Temple Beth-El**

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: The Esterito Mojito

From Sisterhood member Marcia Tanzman: A person is obligated to drink on Purim until he or she does not know the difference between “cursed be Haman” and “blessed by Mordechai.”

Ingredients

- 1 ½ fluid ounces white rum (can use ginger ale or flavored sparkling water for non-alcoholic drink)
- 12-15 mint leaves
- ½ lime
- ¾ ounce simple syrup
- Club soda
- Sprig of mint



Directions

- Add the mint leaves, the juice of half a lime and simple syrup to a highball glass
- Muddle the ingredients in the glass
- Fill the glass halfway with ice, add rum, and stir
- Fill the rest of the glass with ice, top with club soda, garnish with spring of mint and stir

SAVE THE DATE

Vassar Temple's First 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)
While not a full Seder, we will have an order of fun activities
Four cups of wine/dessert pairings

Mark your calendars and join us!! Details and RSVP to follow



Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon, which meets on the 18th of most months (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends) will not be meeting until **Tuesday, April 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.



We invite you to participate in planning for Vassar Temple's incredible 175th anniversary this year. We intend to celebrate this historic milestone over the course of the 2023-24 temple year (July 2023-June 2024). We envision (in addition to a traditional gala event) a full year of activities that will engage all facets of the Temple and include collaboration with community partners. Ideally, we will have at least monthly activities highlighting some feature of the Temple, Jewish or Reform history, and multiple ways for members and others to engage. Our milestone coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Union for Reform Judaism and follows closely on the heels of Israel's 75th anniversary. A big year! We already have numerous ideas and welcome as many voices as possible in planning.

The Endowment Campaign, off to a fabulous start, is the centerpiece of our anniversary fundraising, and we are so grateful for the efforts of the Endowment Committee to secure the Temple's future. But this celebration is about so much more than fundraising.

We are exceedingly proud to be part of this historic congregation that has served its members and community for so long. Please reply to vassar175@vassartemple.org to tell us that you are interested in helping and to contribute your ideas and interests.

*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush,
President*

*Susan Karnes Hecht,
Immediate Past President*

SAVE THE DATE

Genizah Service

(ritual burial of sacred texts)

Sunday, April 23 at 1pm

at the Vassar Temple Cemetery

(backup date April 30)

Congregants will have the opportunity to bring personal items that require burial.

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

Please watch the April Bulletin and weekly email for more information and send inquiries to cemetery@vassartemple.org.





To New Members of
Vassar Temple.

Arnold Cohen

Gene Fleishman & Judy Elkin

Calendar of Events—March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Adult Ed Part 1 ~ Esther	2 7pm Ritual CTME	3 7:30pm Shabbat Service	4 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
5 NO Religious School 10-11:45am Community Purim Carnival At TBE 10:30am Lunch Box	6 Purim Eve 12pm Talmud Study 5:30pm Purim Pasta Dinner 7pm Purim Service & Spiel	7 Purim	8 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Adult Ed Part 2 ~ Ruth	9 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	10 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
12 9am Religious School	13	14 5pm Brotherhood Happy Hour 	15 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Part 3 ~ Job	16	17 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service 	18 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Y'lاديم
19 9am Religious School	20 12pm Talmud Study	21	22 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	23 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting	24 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25 9am Torah Study
26 9am Religious School Passover Family Program	27	28	29 4:30pm Hebrew School	30	31 7:30pm Shabbat Service	

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin
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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

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Treasurer: Maxine Finkelstein

Sisterhood President: To be determined

Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman

Immediate Past President: Susan Karnes Hecht

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A Message from the Fundraising Team...

Unfortunately, Amazon has decided to discontinue the Amazon Smile program. We are very grateful to those of you who took the time to enroll in Smile in order to benefit the Temple through your purchases. However, we have a new opportunity! We are now enrolled with GoFundMe, and anyone can set up a personal online fundraiser to benefit the Temple. Please consider doing this in honor of a special event or occasion, reaching into your own network to ask for support for your Temple community in lieu of tangible gifts. Fundraisers can provide general support or be earmarked to support music or ritual programming, youth and adult education, accessibility improvements, technology upgrades, care of our cemeteries, social action, or any aspect of Temple life that may hold particular significance for you. For more information on how to set up a fundraiser please contact fundraising@vassartemple.org.

