



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 172 No. 4 November 2023

PIANO DEDICATION CONCERT

Sunday, November 19 at 3pm

A 175th Anniversary event celebrating our 100-year-old Mason & Hamlin grand piano and honoring donors the Lemberger Family

Featuring Jewish music and composers
and accomplished local pianists
Ruthanne Schempf, Sylvia Buccelli,
James Fitzwilliam and Joseph Bertolozzi



Works by Glass, Copland, Gershwin and more

Reception to follow ~ Open to the community

Donations at the door benefit the Music Fund

SAVE THE DATES

Hanukkah Potluck Dinner followed by our
Shabbat Hanukkah Candle Lighting Service
Friday, December 8, 2023 at 6pm

Vassar Temple Historic Gala with Dancing & Music
Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 5pm

Can you name the Rabbi who was also a social worker and
known to pen humorous limericks of Jewish wit?

The answer will be in the next bulletin.



From the Rabbi's Desk:



"El Na Refah Na La, O God, please heal her" (Numbers 12:13). This spontaneous prayer that Moses uttered when Miriam was struck with leprosy is a rare expression of prayer in the Bible. As the liturgy developed, prayers for healing were included in the daily petitionary prayers of the Amidah and with the *Mi Sheberach* for healing during the Shabbat Torah service.

Theologies around healing are complicated and personal. Some people

believe that illness is under Divine control and prayer can be efficacious in inspiring God's action to heal; others find power in prayer as a way of drawing strength; and others find that saying a prayer on someone's behalf may be one thing they can do to help.

As part of the shift towards greater spirituality within liberal Judaism in the late 20th century, healing prayers became popular, most especially the much beloved *Mi Sheberach* by Debbie Friedman. For a time, many synagogues instituted separate healing services. Once the *Mi Sheberach* healing prayer became integrated into Shabbat services, the need for healing services seemed to end. (In response to a request, we have reinstituted a healing service, twice a year on Shabbat.)

The nature of the healing prayer, whether it is said or sung—and which version—and the way in which names are offered varies among synagogues. In most synagogues, attendees are invited to share names aloud. Vassar Temple is among those who maintain a list of names that are read aloud. People can add names to the list right before services or they can share them aloud at the time of the prayer. Some people prefer to have the rabbi read their loved one's name; others prefer to say the name aloud themselves. Still, others find it most meaningful simply to meditate on the name and not share it aloud. Some people will only ask for a name to be read when they

are attending services; others find it meaningful to know that their loved one's name is being read, even if they are unable to be present. THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG HERE.

Over the years, our list has become rather lengthy (some 50 names) with some names now on the list for many years. For many attending services, the reading of such a litany of names week after week has come to diminish the spiritual experience that the prayer was meant to provide.

The ritual committee spent significant time reflecting on how we might better manage this list, exploring practices in different synagogues and proposing changes that we hope will make the experience of sharing names more meaningful for all.

Going forward, this will be our new procedure:

Names will remain on the healing list for a month from the date they are submitted. After that time, it will be up to the person submitting the name to request that the name remain on the list. Names will remain on the list for as long as the requester desires, but the responsibility is on the requester to follow up each month.

Before adding a name, please make sure that you have that person's permission to include their name, especially if they are member of this community. First and foremost, we must respect a person's privacy and follow their wishes.

We recognize that many people are facing chronic illnesses and prayers can help sustain them. If such a person is fortunate to be in a time of stability, removing their name may actually give them a feeling of strength, knowing that they are not in need of healing prayers. They can be added back at any point.

Names that are currently on the list will remain until **December 1**. Please notify Karen by phone or email (office@vassartemple.org) regarding the current list or to add names. As this is a new system, Karen will send out reminders for the first few months.

It is our hope that this change will enhance the spirituality of our healing prayers for all. May those for whom we pray be blessed with *refuat hanefesh v'refuat haguf*—healing of the soul and healing of the body; may they find wholeness and peace. Amen.

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message:

Welcome to November, the month of Thanksgiving. This is the time of year that I recognize how thankful I am for so many things. I am thankful for my friends, family, and

temple family. I am thankful that I am gainfully employed at a job I love. I am thankful for my health and my ability to think and express my thoughts clearly. I am thankful that I have plenty of food to eat, a roof over my head, and sufficient and appropriate shoes and clothing to keep me warm.

So many of these things that we take for granted, others must think about on a daily or even hourly basis. Far too many people in our community struggle with the daily basics like food, clothing and shelter. Many have little or no support system and struggle with physical or mental health issues. For some, these issues are chronic, and for others the situations are more acute. For all, there is a pride factor, moments of embarrassment, humbleness, depression, and anxiety of how they will make ends meet.

We at Vassar Temple are wonderful at trying to address the many and varied needs of the less fortunate and needy in our community. Our Social Action Committee always has a project or two in our weekly newsletter, our bulletin, and there are always bins for various collections located in our hallways. It's easy to skim over these written articles that have been posted week after week or to no longer even notice or see the collection bins in the hallway.

I ask that during this month of thanksgiving that you pause and reread these articles that are posted and

stop and look to see what these collection bins are truly for. When you are taking those moments to be thankful for what you have, think about how thankful others will be for the small donations that you can make to fill a need and ease another's struggles. A box of tea, a can of soup, warm hats and mittens, basic toiletries like shampoo and lotion, specific needed contributions for Lunch Box, or to fill out our collections for our donated Thanksgiving Baskets; all make such a difference. Let's spread that feeling of thankfulness to others.

For those of you who donate on a regular basis, I thank you. For those of you who get caught up with life and are always meaning to; take a moment and put something extra and useful on your grocery list right now. When you purchase it, and get it home, put it by your door or leave it in your car to remind yourself to drop it at Temple when you get a chance. If you do this enough, it becomes a new habit, and a habit that many in our community will be so thankful for.

My personal thanks to all of you, for making it a priority to take care of the less fortunate in our community. I am so thankful to be a part of such a compassionate, empathetic, and generous congregation.

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush



Bimah Flowers for our Services ~ November 2023

Just as Shabbat Services help brighten our weeks, so do the Bimah flowers which brighten our Sanctuary. Please let the office know if you would like to sponsor a flower arrangement in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.

The donation to sponsor Bimah Flowers is now \$60 and checks should be made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood with Bimah Flowers written on the memo line. Should there be more than one sponsor for a Shabbat a larger flower arrangement will be provided. Sponsored flowers are fresh floral arrangements.

November 2023 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- November 3: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)
- November 10: Donated by Hilary and Lew Wrobel in honor of US military veterans
- November 17: Donated by Ellie and Benjamin Krevolin in memory of Jenny Krevolin and Martin Noble in memory of Rose Noble
- November 24: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)



Study Groups at Vassar Temple ~ November

Torah Study with Rabbi Rennei Altman, D.D. meets at 9am on Saturday mornings (hybrid). Come join our lively discussions. Contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 for details and to be placed on the Torah Study email list.

Talmud Study with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb meets from noon-1:30pm on Zoom select Mondays—this month November 20 and 27. For details, study sheets, and to be placed on the Talmud Study email list, contact him at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

All welcome ~ No prior knowledge necessary ~ No charge to attend

Family Havdalah Service ~ Saturday, November 4, 4-6 pm

Families with young children are invited to come together and celebrate the end of the Sabbath with a beautiful Havdalah ceremony. Parents will have an opportunity to socialize and schmooze over wine and cheese, while Temple teens will entertain the children with games and a pizza dinner. To assist with our planning, please RSVP by November 1 to office@vassartemple.org.



New Paths ~ November

Everyone is invited to join us at Vassar Temple for a New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturdays, November 4 and 18 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. A brief informal kiddush follows. We generally meet "hybrid" (both inside the Temple and on Zoom).

Contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 to be put on the New Paths email list, or if you need the link or to borrow our special prayer book if participating on Zoom.

Scriptural Readings ~November

November 4

Vayeira ~ Genesis 18:1-22:24; II Kings 4:1-37

November 11

Chayei Sarah ~ Genesis 23:1-25:18; I Kings 1:1-31

November 18

Tol'dot ~ Genesis 25:19-28:9; Malachi 1:1-2:7

November 25

Vayetzei ~ Genesis 28:10-32:3; Hosea 11:2-14:10



Dr. Daniel Katz received a Physician Exemplar Award from MidHudson Regional Hospital at their Gala event held at the Culinary Institute of America on September 22, 2023

Religious School Update ~ November

Judaism is basically a rational religion, but like every ethnic group, we have our [fringe] mystical traditions. To me, “Jewish magic” is mainly ornamental—but still interesting.

Magic is the power of apparently influencing the course of events by using mysterious or supernatural forces. Sometimes our ancestors, and some of our contemporaries, too, make and use amulets, maintain superstitious practices, and tell stories of demons and angels. Here are a few.

Judaism officially allowed the use of amulets to heal and to prevent disease, as well as to protect the individual. Toward the end of the Middle Ages, if not earlier, there arose the custom of employing a piece of the Passover *afikomen* as an amulet, hanging it in the house, or carrying it in a pouch, to protect one against evil spirits and against evil men. The *etrog* of Sukkot was also linked to the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden, and was employed as an amulet to help women give birth easily.

Many amulets were written documents. Some employed one of the many Divine names, or the Seal of Solomon (the original six-pointed star). Users were cautioned to include the names of the angels that are in control of the immediate situation, and which have the specialized powers needed. A charm intended to heal or ward off a particular ailment should specify the name of the demon that is responsible, if it was known.



Some of the mysterious figures who populate Jewish folklore include Ashmodai, the King of the Demons; Lilith, the ‘first’ wife of Adam; the clay giant called the Golem, built and brought to life in Prague by Rabbi Judah Loew to protect the Jews; dybbuks, restless spirits of the dead who occasionally possessed the living; the four angels surrounding the Divine Throne, Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael; and even the magical worm Shamir, which was able to cut stone and was indispensable to King Solomon when he built the first Temple in Jerusalem. There are others. So, yes, the Jewish people hold our own in the spookiness department!

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman
Religious School Director

Treasurer's Report

This past year or so, the Vassar Temple Finance Committee has been busy with changes to the procedures used to manage the Temple's money. As Treasurer, I will report to you from time to time on the changes being implemented and our progress in implementing new procedures, updating our records and managing our funds.

Early in the year we hired an accounting firm to conduct an assessment of our records and reports. The assignment was completed during the summer; as a result, our General Ledger has been updated and reformatted to better record information in a manner consistent with VT's current organization and range of activities. This was a big effort, and our (relatively) new Bookkeeper, Daniel Fannon, has made many contributions to the project in implementing the new chart of accounts and reformatting monthly statements. Daniel joined the Temple management team in early spring of this year and brought significant experience in the not-for-profit world. He has been an asset to the team. As a result of this effort, our budget and reporting is more closely aligned with the ongoing activities of the Temple.

As we implemented the new processes, we have identified areas where manual processing in the past meant invoicing and recording hadn't occurred in a timely fashion. We are setting about to correct these issues, and some members may hear from us about receivables for dues or capital fund donations. We appreciate your cooperation and consideration and hope you will work with us as we try to correct for these gaps.

Another major area of focus has been management of VT funds. Several accounts that were used for investment of long term or special purpose funds were closed, and money has been consolidated. Funds needed for near term operations are maintained at our bank, M&T. They have been very helpful to us, in establishing our checking account to avoid fees, enabling remote deposit so that checks can be deposited directly from the office upon receipt, and enrolling VT checking in a program to earn interest on short term deposits. We have also established a credit card processing system at M&T, which will greatly improve our ability to collect payments in a timely and efficient manner.

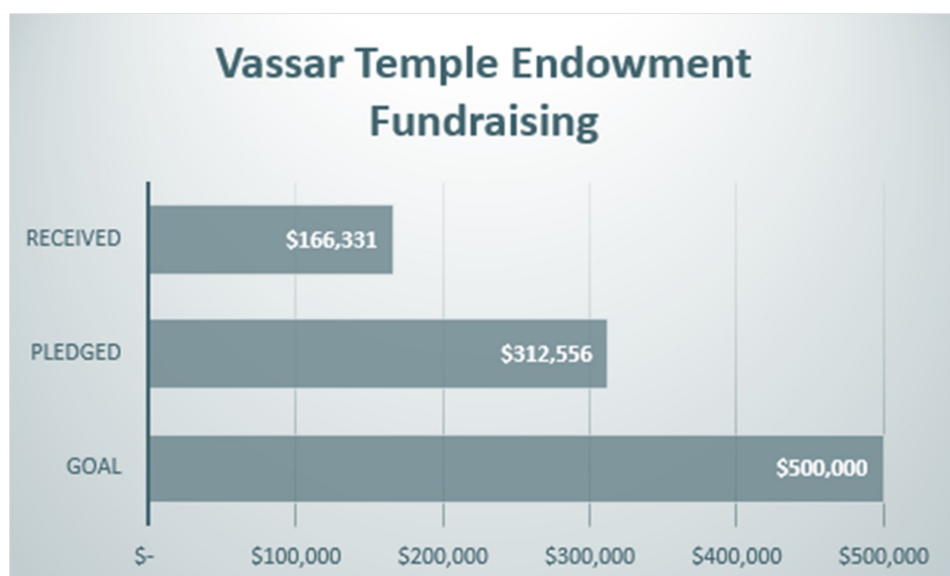
Longer term investments have been consolidated at Fidelity Investments. There is a separate account for Endowment funds, and other funds are in an investment account. Both accounts are invested in accordance with the Board-approved investment plan and asset allocation. The investment account includes funds that are assigned to Special Purposes (formerly referred to as Restricted Funds). These accounts minimize management fees, and are geared for conservative growth, and are overseen by the VT Investment Committee.

There is still much work to be done to update our accounting system, improve our processes, and manage and report on our financial results. I encourage members with the skills and/or interest to join the Finance Committee. As a relatively recent member of Vassar Temple, I have been impressed with the commitment and dedication of the membership as a whole to volunteerism and to advancing the goals of VT for its members and for the Dutchess County community.

Maxine Finklestein

Update from the Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee, co-chaired by Martin Charwat and Lou Lewis, continues to move forward. The goal of establishing a \$500,000 reserve fund for the Temple, in recognition of the Temple's 175th anniversary, is patently within reach with \$312,556 pledged to date and \$166,331 received. A number of donors have opted to commit over a five-year period, but substantial lump sum gifts have also been received. With 38 families and individuals participating in the campaign to date, the Endowment Committee still has considerable work to do to involve the entire congregation in this effort. Under the parameters established by the Board of Trustees the Committee must have \$250,000 in hand before drawing on the interest for the General Fund. Clearly, participation of the entire congregation will be necessary. We look forward to hearing from each of you to guarantee that Vassar Temple will continue to flourish for the next 175 years.



Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Shabbat)

Saturday, November 18 at 10:30am



All young children from tots to first grade are invited to join Rabbi Altman to celebrate the Sabbath on Saturday, November 18, at 10:30am in Vassar Temple. Our stuffed bear friends *Kachol v'Lavan* will be there to take part in the singing, stories, and a brief, child-friendly Shabbat service. Tell your friends and neighbors—this event is free and open to the whole community. Healthy snacks will be served. Vassar Temple is a welcoming, inclusive Reform congregation. For more information and to RSVP contact office@vassartemple.org or call the Temple at 845-454-2570.

PRESERVE DEMOCRACY IN ISRAEL

Support the struggle to preserve democracy in Israel through our Reform movement: Emergency Campaign of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism

<https://reform.org.il/en/campaign-2023/>

Join the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA www.arza.org). Vassar Temple benefits if you join through the temple; you can pay by check or credit card



The Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism



Thank you

Thank you

Thank you

Break the Fast

Thank you all for attending Break the Fast. Special thanks go to the folks who helped with arrangements: Sandra Mamis, Susan Hecht, David Hecht, Jim Robinowitz, Francine Kaplan, Susan Colodner, Nadine Zaritsky, and Kamil Wisniewski. Also, thanks to Vassar Temple Sisterhood for purchasing the hot water system for hot drinks at the last minute. Thanks to Stewart's on Vassar Road for the generous donation for Break the Fast food and Price Chopper for a large reduction in cost.

Yom Kippur Food Drive

Despite the deluge of rain, Vassar Temple families stalwartly brought bags and bags of non-perishable foods to stuff the truck for Dutchess Outreach on Yom Kippur. Thanks to all who participated in this mitzvah, to Stop & Shop on Route 9 for donating the bags, to our youngsters for handing out the bags, to the Gillman family for being sure the truck was loaded, for Jim Robinowitz for underwriting the truck, to Ron Rosen for driving it, and to Ralph Schwartz for all-around schlepping.

Help for Amnesty Seekers

Vassar Temple stepped up to fulfill the winterwear wish list of the amnesty seekers staying at the Red Roof Inn. Every donation was greatly appreciated, and will continue to be appreciated throughout the cold winter! And under the leadership of Linda Cantor and Fern Lox, Vassar Temple is continuing our monthly meal for the amnesty seekers and their classmates in the Wednesday night ENL class. To help provide rides to and from class for them on Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday, or to join in our temple projects to assist these courageous and hard-working men, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Climate Corner ~ an update from our Dayenu Circle

A month ago, we started a robust collaboration with Temple Beth-El and eagerly anticipate participation by other Jewish organizations and individuals in the local community. We completed our first round of postcarding for the Environmental Voter Project and look forward to continuing this important, non-partisan activity to support voter turnout for the 2024 election. We are applying for a new grant program which will provide funding to non-profits for building upgrades to reduce use of fossil fuels. Stay tuned!

As a follow-up to our first event, a home decarbonizer workshop, we want to highlight a very helpful resource for those interested in taking action at home. If you have questions about installing solar, heat pumps or electric vehicles; home upgrades to reduce energy use; tax credits, rebates, or other incentives, visit the NYSERDA website (www.nyserda.ny.gov). It's easy to navigate and offers a wealth of easy-to-understand information. If you need guidance with a home project, or if you are interested in learning about the option of enrolling in community solar, please contact us at DayenuDutchess@gmail.com.

We have people in our Dayenu network who have first-hand experience navigating home projects and are willing to share!



Hanukkah Basket Raffle!

Win a beautiful themed gift basket!



\$18 / \$10 tickets.

Proceeds support Temple operations.

Baskets will be on display at the Temple beginning November 10.

Stop by during office hours to view the baskets and purchase your tickets.

Baskets will also be displayed in temple email.

You can also order tickets by contacting fundraising@vassartemple.org, and we can assist with putting your tickets in your basket(s) of choice.

You may put your tickets in the drawing for your choice of basket(s)—all in one, or as many as you like!

Drawing to be held on Sunday, December 3— you do not need to be present to win!

CONTRIBUTIONS

SUSTAINING FUND

In Honor of:

Our sister, Marcia Tanzman, as this year's Recipient of the Arnold Award

Elaine Lipschutz's 99th Birthday
Vassar Temple's 175th Anniversary Year

In Memory of:

Philip Browner
Dorothy & Charles Wender
Barbara Hyman
Michael Oremus
Solomon Tanzman
Esther Mardon Bernstein
Albert Levy Serfaty
Gertrude Troeger
Rose Slate
Hildegard Tuchmann
Dorothy Schmukler, Nathan Schmukler & Harold Posner
Norman Weiner
Phyllis Mamis Bell
Solomon Charles Cantor & Ellen Bernard
Anna Cairo
Ruth Stein
Helen Wrobel
Marion Himmelstein
Ida Finnerman
Elsa Cohen & Ruth Seegal Cohen

Mayda & Alan Clarke
Sandra & Martin Wertkin
Barbara & Bruce Alster
Barbara Scheer
Rabbi Paul & Deborah Golomb

Miriam & Maury Lacher
Richard Wender & Rabbi Renni Altman
Leonard Hyman
Madeline Oremus Palmese
Marcia & Glenn Tanzman
Kathy & Kent Mardon
Perla & Charles Kaufman
Jonathan Moselle
Jerold Slate
Doi Cohen
Joan & David Posner
Irma Jacobs
Sandra Mamis
Linda & Richard Cantor
Marilyn & Martin Revitz
Roni & Charles Stein
Hilary & Lewis Wrobel
Howard Himmelstein
Adriaan & Sam Finnerman
Doi Cohen

ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLAR'S FUND

In Honor of:

Elaine Lipschutz's 99th Birthday
Elaine Lipschutz's significant Birthday

Kathy & Kent Mardon
Irma Jacobs

LILA MATLIN'S TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of:

Elizabeth Bokor

Susan Fink

Cathy & Gabe Bokor

KLEZMER BAND SPONSORS FOR SIMCHAT TORAH

Hilary & Lewis Wrobel
Gail D'Alessio
Susan Karnes Hecht & David Hecht
Madelyn D'Angelo
Muriel Lampell
Laura & Micha Sperling
Bena Silber

Marian & Ralph Schwartz
Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush
Shirl Davis-Susser & Howard Susser
Vivian & Edward Garber
Lydia Brown
Maxine Finkelstein
Judy Harkavy

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

James Robinowitz
Janice Goldfarb



CONTRIBUTIONS

LUNCH BOX FUND

David Siegel

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

Arlene & Gilbert Seligman
Barbara & Eric Gillman

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Lisa Heidelberger
Florence Altman, Charles & Dorothy Wender

Marianne & Bob Abrams
Rabbi Altman & Richard Wender

Piano Lamp & Dedication Plaque:

Amy Horn Oclatis & Kenneth Oclatis
Susan Karnes Hecht & David Hecht

In Honor of:

Cantor Goldman

Ruth Goldfarb

THE WINDOWS PROJECT

In Memory of:

Ellen & Erv Rosenfeld

Himmelstein Family

Karen & Steven Kratzer

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of:

Samuel & Joanne Rein

Michele & Mark Rein

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

- ☐ Anne Lescher
- ☐ Elyse Oughton
- ☐ Janice Goldfarb
- ☐ Ruth Goldfarb
- ☐ Madelyn D'Angelo
- ☐ Arlene & Gilbert Seligman
- ☐ Charlene & Loren Rosenthal
- ☐ Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush
- ☐ Sandra Mamis
- ☐ Rebecca & Paul Ostrovsky
- ☐ Richard Partridge
- ☐ Gloria Mayer
- ☐ Francine Kaplan
- ☐ Doi Cohen
- ☐ Candace & Louis Lewis
- ☐ Arnold Cohen
- ☐ Jayne Baumbach
- ☐ Sara Jane Goldberg, DDS
- ☐ Ron Rosen
- ☐ Maxine Finkelstein
- ☐ Marianne & Bob Abrams

Roni & Charles Stein
 Hillary & Lewis Wrobel
 Laura & Micha Sperling
 Betty Renner
 Kathryn & Nir Naaman
 Marilyn & Martin Revitz
 Barbara & Eric Gillman
 Gail D'Alessio
 Murray Solomon
 Mindy & Martin Teich
 Debbie Pierantozzi
 Fern Greenberg Wolf & David Wolf
 Helen & Brian Silverman
 Rosemary Lewis
 Susan Karnes Hecht and David Hecht
 Irma Jacobs
 Muriel Lampell
 Laura & Thomas Brundage
 Kathy & Kent Mardon
 Danah Moore
 Carol Strauss

Thank you

Many Bulletin readers made contributions toward the 2023/5784 High Holidays. With your help our holidays were meaningful and fulfilling. Deep appreciation and sincere thanks to the following people and their respective contributions:

- ◆ Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann for their spiritual guidance
- ◆ Joe Bertolozzi and Nanette Koch for their beautiful music
- ◆ VT Tech team for tirelessly providing hybrid services
- ◆ Alvin Rosen (set up and clean up)
- ◆ Karen Clark (publicity and everything else you do)
- ◆ Judy Creedon (cleaning the Torah silver)
- ◆ Matlin & Schwartz families (bimah flowers)
- ◆ Albinder family (apples)
- ◆ Turk family (schach for our sukkah)
- ◆ Jim Robinowitz (truck rental for the food drive)
- ◆ Ron Rosen (for driving the truck)
- ◆ Sam Finnerman (study session)
- ◆ Linda Cantor (meditation)
- ◆ Service participants who opened the ark; did *aliyah* blessings; did *hagbah* and or *g'lilah*, carried, held Torah or read Torah or Haftarah
- ◆ Greeters & Ushers
- ◆ Polly Lewis & many helpers (for a delicious break the fast)

My apologies if I missed anyone. On behalf of the Ritual & High Holiday Committee I thank you all.

David Hecht

Jewish War Veterans

JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 12 at Shomre Israel. The meeting format will follow that which we used before the pandemic. The following meeting will be on Sunday, December 17.

The meeting will begin at 9:30am and there will be a half hour schmooze at 9am. Shomre Israel is strictly kosher. The Post will supply nosh stuff and coffee. The use of masks is optional. We look forward to seeing you.



Ralph Schwartz

Senior Vice Commander

Rschwa9881@aol.com

November 3

Lara Katie Goetzl
 Albert E. Schwartz
 Gertrude F. Troeger
 Tamar Grand
 Max H. Richter
 Louis Heidelberger
 Edward J. Kovacs
 Samuel W. Gellert
 Esther Mardon Bernstein
 Samuel Garber
 James Connelley
 Henry Newman
 Herbert Schenberg
 Arthur Berlin
 Bryan Matson
 Bridget Molloy
 Gloria (Golda) Jordan
 Phillip Ritter
 Philip Browner
 Suzanne Seligman
 Estelle Rozenberg
 Forrest Graves
 Alice Spitalnik

November 10

Alexander W. Jacobs
 Claire Gersoni
 Alan Abraskin
 Nathan Givner
 Molly Susser
 Samuel Mason
 Michael Aronson
 B. Jay Newman
 Elizabeth (Libby) Wolf
 A. Louis Rubin
 Sandra (Sandi) L. Rugar
 Kathryn LaLone Austin
 Larry Kornreich
 Henrietta Burns Subkow
 L. Richard Rosenberg
 Arthur George Henderson
 Solomon Tanzman
 Henry Rosenmann
 Solomon Charles Cantor
 Evelyn Heidelberger
 Ellen Bernard

November 24

Gussie Bernstein
 Daniel Budson, M.D.
 Lily Fink Schenberg
 Maurice Horn
 Ida Axelrod
 Samuel Reifler
 Elizabeth Bokor
 Myrtle Oclatis
 Jacob Aaron Guzman
 Marie Fischer Solomon
 Jack Josias
 Chester Altman
 Hildegard Tuchmann
 Wallace Berkowitz
 Albert Levy Serfaty
 Richard H. Satz
 Dorothy M. Haber Sigalow
 Lee Bronfeld

November 17

Diane Ruth Shore
 Hilda Levitan
 Albert Levy Serfaty
 Samuel Saul
 Lena L. Bloch
 William Payne
 Martin Gad
 Rose Slate
 Shirley Richter
 Rose Jacobson
 Abraham Feuerstein
 Frances A. Victor
 Helen Robinson
 Dr. Diane L. Weston
 Paul Susser
 Leopold Scharf
 Jenny Krevolin
 Robert Feitelson



November Yahrzeits

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Susan Karnes Hecht's Sage & Honey Skillet Cornbread

(featured at the Fiesta Mexcelente Flexible Feast)

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups coarse yellow cornmeal (e.g. Goya)
- ¾ cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup chopped fresh sage leaves
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 stick (½ cup) plus 1 tablespoon unsalted butter, divided
- ¼ cup whole milk
- 1 cup low-fat buttermilk
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup honey



Directions

- Preheat oven to 425°F. Heat a 10-inch cast-iron (or other heavy, ovenproof skillet) in the oven until hot, about 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, whisk together cornmeal, flour, sugar, sage, baking powder, salt, and baking soda. Melt the stick of butter and whisk together with milk, buttermilk, eggs, and honey. Whisk wet into dry mixture until just combined.
- Reduce oven temperature to 375°F. Remove skillet from oven, add remaining tablespoon of butter, and swirl to coat. Pour in the batter and bake until cornbread is golden, approximately 20-23 minutes (this will vary with type of skillet—a stainless steel skillet takes a little longer). Let cool at least 30 minutes before cutting into wedges.

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday falls this year on November 28. Started in 2012, it's an opportunity for people around the world to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and support their communities, and is intended to balance the holiday consumerism that is so prevalent in our society. While we hope that you will consider a donation to the Temple's Sustaining, Endowment, or any preferred fund, we also encourage you to mull over other ways to support the Temple with your gift of volunteer time and participation. Watch for our *24 Hours of Gratitude*, during which we'll express our appreciation to all of you and provide opportunities for you to share what you appreciate about our Temple family.

Thank you for your support!

Vassar Temple Sisterhood Book Club to Discuss *Once We Were Home* Wednesday, December 20 at 2pm

Jennifer Rosner's new novel, *Once We Were Home* is a gorgeously written, poignant book about displaced children of the Holocaust. The author transports us into the hearts and minds of the young people as they grapple with the decisions and circumstances adults have thrust upon them—both during and after World War II.

Discussion of this book will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 2:00pm, in person at the College View Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. For questions, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.

Jennifer Rosner's Zoom-based program about *Once We Were Home*, sponsored by the Adult Education Committee of Vassar Temple, is scheduled for January 17 at 7:30pm. Pre-registration will be required.



Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ December 18



Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon, which occurs on the 18th of most months (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends), will not occur this November since November 18 falls on a Saturday. However, the Chai Noon luncheon will resume on Monday, December 18, 2023. Specific details about the restaurant name and address will arrive in Vassar Temple's weekly newsletter just prior to the meeting. Members are asked to RSVP to the link in the newsletter email so we can let the restaurant know approximately how many guests to expect. As always, guests get separate checks, and the restaurant is wheelchair accessible.

Cybersecurity Program ~ Sunday, November 12 at 2pm

Vassar Temple Sisterhood will be sponsoring Carl Naumann of Ulster Savings Bank to speak about Personal Cybersecurity and Fraud Protection. The program will be held Sunday, November 12 at 2pm in the Temple social hall.

The program will include:

- How to identify a bank scam to keep your accounts safe
- Pointers on what and what not to do in banking and personal spam
- What to look for when ordering online, texting, phone calls and more

Please RSVP to sisterhood@vassartemple.org or call the office 845-454-2570.



Trim-a-Thanksgiving & Turkey Trot

“Vassar Temple Cares About Hunger”

THREE WAYS TO HELP!

1. Please drop off nonperishable food items from the list below to complement the Thanksgiving meal of local families in need. Just bring them to the temple and place them in the Can Jam bin in the hall by

Wednesday, November 15.

- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned gravy (no glass jars please)
- Boxes of instant mashed potatoes
- Boxed stove-top style stuffing mix
- Canned vegetables



2. Donate a frozen turkey—drop it off at the Temple freezer

3. Make a financial donation to the Vassar Temple Community Tzedakah Fund—specify for “Thanksgiving.” **This is very important**—it enables us to purchase turkeys, turkey pans, and other holiday treats.





Our religious school students will make cards and decorate baskets, and our temple youth will fill the baskets to be delivered to the families prior to the holiday.

We are partnering with Hudson River Housing for this project. Join in! Together we can help these families now! Questions? Please contact Marian at socialaction@vassartemple.org.

Simchat Torah 2023!



Calendar of Events—November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30pm Hebrew School	2 7pm Ritual CTME	3 5:30pm Pre-neg 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service with upper grades 7:30pm Communal Shabbat Dinner—BYO	4 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 4pm Family Havdalah Program
5 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101 Class 10:30am Lunch Box  3pm Adult Ed: Judge Albert Rosenblatt to discuss the Lemmon Slave Case	6	7	8 4:30pm Hebrew School	9 7:30pm Cemetery CTME	10 Office Closed Veteran's Day 7:30pm Brotherhood Shabbat Service 	11 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
12 No Religious School 2pm Personal Cybersecurity and Fraud Protection	13	14	15 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	16 7pm Board Meeting	17 7:30pm Shabbat Service	18 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Yeladim
19 9am Religious School (Trim-a- Thanksgiving) 9:45am Judaism 101 Class 3pm Piano Dedication Concert 	20 12pm Talmud Study	21	22 No Hebrew School	23 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day 6:30pm Shelter Meal 	24 Office Closed Thanksgiving Weekend 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25 9am Torah Study (tentative)
26 No Religious School	27 12pm Talmud Study	28	29 4:30pm Hebrew School	30		

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: Rabbi Renni S. Altman, DD

Religious School Dir: Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

Cantor: Elizabeth Goldmann

Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold

Senior Scholar: Rabbi Paul Golomb

Temple Musician: Joseph Bertolozzi

President: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

1st Vice President: Roni Stein

2nd Vice President: Banna Rubinow

Secretary: Marcia Tanzman

Treasurer: Maxine Finkelstein

Sisterhood President: Polly Lewis

Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman

Immediate Past President: Susan Karnes Hecht

Bulletin Editor: Jo Schaffel



Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly. Articles for the January Bulletin must be submitted by December 1 sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Communal (BYO) Shabbat Dinner

Join us on Friday, November 3 to welcome Shabbat together

"Pre-neg" (appetizer nosh) at 5:30pm

Simchat Shabbat Service at 6pm, with participation from our Religious School students



Following the service, join us downstairs with your brown bag or takeout dinner.* We provide the challah and wine for kiddush, drinks, and dessert oneg. Most of all, we provide the community! Service attendees who don't bring dinner are welcome to proceed straight to dessert, but we hope you'll socialize nonetheless!

RSVP to ritual@vassartemple.org let us know that you'll bring your meal!

*In order to respect our kosher-style policy please pack a dairy, fish, or vegetarian meal (as a reminder, there is no pork or shellfish permitted in the temple).