



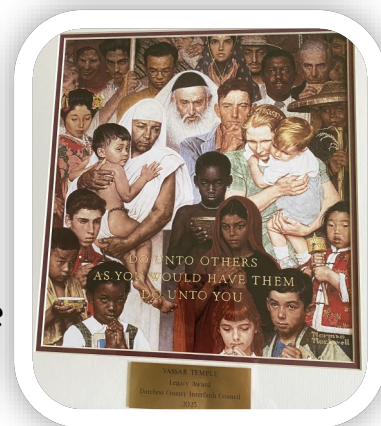
# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 172 No. 5 ~ December 2023

## DCIC Legacy Award

On Oct 23, 2023, at Locust Grove, Vassar Temple was honored with the DCIC's Legacy Award at their annual Gala, titled *Love Forward*. It was a beautiful evening of love and support for all honorees. Vassar Temple had three tables of members in attendance. The food and drinks were wonderful. The choir and speeches were inspiring. We received a proclamation from Senator Rolison and a beautiful framed Norman Rockwell print complete with an engraving of our Legacy Dedication. It is sitting on the table by the Sanctuary doors and will soon be hung in a prominent place for all to see. Come check it out and *kvell* a bit!



**SAVE THE DATE:** Vassar Temple's 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala  
Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 5pm



**November's Question was:** Can you name the Rabbi who was also a social worker and known to pen humorous limericks of Jewish wit?

*The answer is: It was Rabbi Charles Mantinband who served Vassar Temple from 1923-1926. Further, when boys in the community were complaining that they couldn't join any clubs because they were Jewish, he was the one who recommended they start their own club, which became the Harding Club named after President Harding. This club is still active in the community 100 years later!*

**The December Question:** In what year did Vassar Temple move to its new home on the corner of Vassar and Mill Streets and how was the purchase of the building paid for? *The answer will be in the next bulletin.*

## From the Rabbi's Desk:



"Hanukkah begins on December 7, the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev. Thinking about Hanukkah a month in advance as I write this column, I'm saddened to anticipate our mixed emotions at this normally joyous holiday as Israel will most certainly still be at war.

Two aspects of Hanukkah resonate most profoundly for me this year. The first is the real miracle of Hanukkah: not the legend of the oil; rather, the victory of the

small band of fighters led by the Maccabees against the great Assyrian army and the subsequent independence of the Jewish nation for the first time in over 400 years since the Babylonian conquest. That independence only lasted for about 100 years until the Roman conquest and was not achieved again until 1948 when the modern State of Israel was born. Now, Israel finds itself once again fighting for its very existence, as the goal of Hamas and its supporters is not an independent Palestinian state, but the eradication of the State of Israel, "from the river to the sea."

The second aspect of Hanukkah is its message of religious freedom. Antiochus' plan for taking control of ancient Israel was to eradicate Judaism through forced conversions—the classic antisemite! As we make our way through this incredibly challenging time of rising antisemitism in our country and around the world, the victory of the Maccabees can give us hope in our ability to overcome. So, too, can we derive hope from the support of community partners, law enforcement and government officials—on all levels—and their commitment to combatting antisemitism and all forms of hate.

We can best express this hope by living proudly as Jews, demonstrated in this holiday through the core *mitzvah* of Hanukkah: *persum hanes*, "publicizing the miracle" by placing our Hanukkiot in our windows so that they can be seen. On each night we add a candle

in accordance with the teachings of Hillel that we increase in matters of holiness. Each night we add more light against the darkness; we kindle lights that we cannot allow hate or fear to extinguish.

This year let us kindle lights for Israel as we stand in solidarity during its fight to wipe out the evil that is Hamas, advocate for the release of the hostages, support the efforts to help its people heal and rebuild, and call for continued support from our government, even as we are concerned for the Palestinian civilians caught in the crossfire, held hostage by their own brutal leaders.

I invite you to dedicate each night's candle to solidarity with Israel and with the victims of this war. The following is one suggestion:



For the hostages, that they may be returned safely to their loved ones



For the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, risking their lives to defend their country



In memory of the 1400 souls brutally murdered on October 7



For the grieving families who mourn their loved ones, who are displaced from their homes, who are healing from physical and emotional wounds



For leadership of our nation and others who stand by Israel



For the innocent Palestinians whose leaders made them pawns in this war



For the eradication of antisemitism and hate



For the dream of two peoples living side by side in peace and security.

May the words of the Haftarah portion read on the Shabbat of Hanukkah from the prophet Zechariah, "Not by might, not by power but by My spirit, says the Eternal," come true soon in our time that Israel may yet be secure and at peace.

*Rabbi Renni Altman*





## President's Message: NOT Another \$\$Money\$\$ Ask!

It has been brought to my attention lately by various Temple members that it seems that we are always and forever, asking for money. Congregants have complained to me that it's tiresome, annoying and is a major turn-off to all

things Vassar Temple. You complain of "fundraising fatigue" and the drain on your wallets. I am well aware of the multiple "asks." I even encourage them, and I'll tell you why.

Vassar Temple is not just a house of worship, but a business and a home. Think of your own homes... only bigger, with staff and salaries and programs! We certainly have dues for membership. But even though our membership is slowly growing, it is less than half of what it was 30 years ago. Most memberships at houses of worship are down for any number of reasons. We haven't raised or adjusted our dues structure in nearly 20 years. When talk of raising dues comes up, people quickly jump in and state that our dues membership is high enough already. And there are the many members who are on dues accommodation for a number of confidential reasons. I have said many times and will continue to say—No one will be turned away as a member because they cannot afford to be a member!

And so we have multiple and varied "asks" throughout the year to supplement our budget. It has never been the intention that every member donate to every cause (although we will never turn your money away!). Rather these "asks" are multiple, frequent and varied on purpose. What sings or speaks to YOU? What sparks your interest or makes you feel

connected to Vassar Temple? Is it the refurbishment of the new piano? Is it to invest in energy-efficient new sanctuary windows? Is it the luck of the draw in a gift basket fundraiser or raffle? Is it to enjoy a family dinner with Temple friends? Is it to invest in new comfortable tables and chairs in the social hall? Do you want your family's name on a Yahrzeit plaque in the sanctuary or on a leaf for our Tree of Life in our front hallway? Do you prefer to look to the future and invest in growing our endowment? Do you just like to make donations for sustaining the Temple through our various special purpose funds or the High Holiday Appeal? Maybe you are saving up for a fun and fancy night out at our upcoming Gala on April 14, 2024? Maybe you prefer to donate food for Can Jam, Lunch Box or donate clothing or toiletries to various organizations we choose to help. Maybe you choose to donate your time to the many social justice causes in the community and beyond that we support.

I don't like to think of them as a barrage of "asks" and begging for money. I like to think of them as a variety of "opportunities" for you to be engaged and connected in your spiritual, educational, social justice and extended family home at Vassar Temple.

Think of all of these varied and multiple "asks" as fruits on a tree of Temple life. Our expectation is not that you cut down the entire tree. But our hope is that you will pick as many fruits as you need to nourish your mind, body and soul. Thank you for choosing to pick your fruit at Vassar Temple.

*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*



## Bimah Flowers for our Services

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.

## December 2023 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- December 1: Donated by Marilyn McGaulley Lampell in memory of John McGaulley
- December 8: Donated by Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis in honor of their grandchildren
- December 15: Donated by Melissa Erlebacher in memory of Seth Erlebacher
- December 22: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)
- December 29: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)



## Study Groups at Vassar Temple ~ December

**Torah Study** with Rabbi Renni Altman, D.D. meets at 9am on Saturday mornings (hybrid). Come join our lively discussions. Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto: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 December 11 and 18. For details, study sheets, and to be placed on the Talmud Study email list, contact him at [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net).

**All Welcome ~ No prior knowledge necessary ~ No charge to attend**

## Healing Service ~ Saturday, December 9, 10:15am

A Healing Service, led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann of Vassar Temple, will be held Saturday, December 9 at 10:15am. 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, for any reason, 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). For the Zoom link, watch temple e-mails or contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org).

## New Paths ~ December

Everyone is invited to join us at Vassar Temple for a New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturdays, December 2 and 16 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 meet "hybrid" (both inside the Temple and on Zoom).

Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto: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 ~December

### December 2

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

### December 9

**Vayeishev:** Gen. 37:1-40:23; Zechariah 4:1-7

### December 16

**Mikeitz:** Gen. 41:1-44:17; I Kings 3:15-4:1

### December 23

**Vayigash:** Gen. 44:18-47:27; Ezekiel 37:15-38

### December 30

**Va-y'chi:** Gen. 47:38-50:26; I Kings 2:1-12

## Mazel Tov!



Benjamin Samuel Messing was born on September 14th to parents Domonique Mishell Messing and Ross Benjamin Messing, and sister Mira Messing

Levi Lane was born on November 8th to Marissa & Keegan Lane ~ the proud grandparents are Nadine and Joel Zaritsky

## Religious School Update ~ December

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, celebrates the Maccabean Revolt (167-160 BCE), and the narrative that Jewish rebel Judas Maccabeus vanquished the evil Seleucid emperor Antiochus and rededicated the Temple. The eight-day holiday of Hanukkah was promptly created, modeled on the eight-day holiday of Sukkot.



The story of the miraculous oil lasting eight days is apocryphal: It would only appear centuries later in the Talmud (Shabbat 21b). It appears that the oil-miracle story was devised to avoid antagonizing the Romans. Rome had conquered the land of Israel a hundred years after the Maccabee wars, and would not have liked a holiday celebrating victory over a ruling empire.

Today, the popular mind parallels Hanukkah and Christmas, due to their temporal proximity. But this is a misleading mistake. The two are quite different in theme, values, and relative importance within the two religious traditions.

There's a much better parallel, if you're looking for one.

Hanukkah is a remembrance of a war of national liberation, the overthrow of an oppressive enemy, an unlikely victory of a smaller military force against a larger, more powerful one. The most similar holiday to Hanukkah? Of course, it's the Fourth of July.

*Rabbi Shoshana Hantman*

*Religious School Director*





**You're going to want to get this on your calendar right now:**

**Friday, January 26, at 6:00pm** is Vassar Temple's annual **Soup and Chili Dinner!**

You know how many excellent cooks we have at Vassar Temple. Many of them will be pitching in to provide an array of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread, and salad to be enjoyed during the Tisch Shabbat service in the social hall. Rabbi Renni Altman and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann will lead us in a service modeled on the traditional "Rebbe's Tisch."

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

While reservations aren't required, we'd appreciate your letting us know that you plan to attend. This gives us an idea of how much food to prepare. Please contact [tischshabbat@vassartemple.org](mailto:tischshabbat@vassartemple.org) or call the temple at (845) 454-2570 to let us know if you'd like to prepare something for the dinner and/or if you plan to attend.

## **Tiny Temple: Hanukkah Fun & Learning**

### **Sunday, December 3 at 10:30am**



All tots through age five and their grownups are warmly invited to "Tiny Temple" to prepare for Hanukkah on Sunday, December 3 at 10:30am at Vassar Temple. We'll join with PJ Library to learn about this holiday of miracles and light, make a holiday craft, and enjoy a healthy snack. There is never a charge to attend Tiny Temple events, but please help us in our planning by RSVPing to [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or 845-454-2570.

## Lunch Box: Join the Fun!

Vassar Temple's support of the Lunch Box goes back almost 30 years when Emily Himelstein realized that no meals were being served at the Lunch Box on Sundays and she worked out a plan with Dutchess Outreach to let Vassar Temple cook a meal one Sunday a month. Since then, Vassar Temple has nourished our community with a delicious and nutritious monthly meal with support from our congregation through volunteers and food donations, allowing us to feed over 100 people (and sometimes as many as 180 people) on Sundays throughout the year. A few years back, we teamed up with MHIA (Mid Hudson Islamic Association) to support this effort. This has been a wonderful collaboration for both of us.



**Vassar Temple and MHIA prepare monthly Lunchbox Meal!**

When we cook, we need at least eight people to make it run smoothly. To date we have only had a core group of about five people, making it difficult to keep up with the increased demand for lunches. We need you to join the fun. Do this as a group project with your Temple committees (Board, Finance, Religious School, Sisterhood or Brotherhood). You can use our standard chili recipe, or come up with a meal yourselves. We have lots of suggestions. You can even gather a group of your friends to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary. Make Lunch Box your celebration and have your friends join. We are going to restart this

tradition at Vassar Temple and the Cemetery Committee has graciously agreed to "Captain" Lunch Box for December.

There are two shifts needed: three or four people to cook from 10:15 until 11:30, and two or three people from 11:30 until 1:15 to serve and clean up the kitchen. There will always be a congregant who has done this before or a Dutchess Outreach board member present as "lead" to address any questions and help where needed. In addition, we need committee members to encourage the congregation to donate, keep an inventory of what we have and purchase the remainder of the items.

### **For our award-winning chili, we need the following donations monthly:**

- 30 lbs. of ground beef
- 30 lbs. of canned beans
- 15 lbs. chopped or pureed tomatoes
- 2 lbs. tomato paste
- 5 lbs. onions
- 5 large peppers
- Chili powder

We thank everyone for agreeing to help Vassar Temple continue this important work.

Questions: [lunchbox@vassartemple.org](mailto:lunchbox@vassartemple.org)

## Hanukkah Dinner & Service ~ December 8 at 6pm

Please join us for Vassar Temple's annual pot-luck Hanukkah Dinner on Friday, December 8 at 6pm in the social hall. Bring a meat or vegetable dish for 12 (no dairy). Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages. Please do not use nuts in your dish.



The cost of the dinner is \$18 per family or \$6 per individual. Reservations for this popular event should be made by Tuesday, December 5 by contacting Roni Stein at [HanukkahDinner@vassartemple.org](mailto:HanukkahDinner@vassartemple.org) or by calling the temple office at (845) 454-2570. Send your check made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with "Hanukkah Dinner" on the memo line.

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

## Climate Corner ~ an update from our Dayenu Circle

Here's something that you can do in TWO MINUTES to make a difference! Send an email to Governor Hochul in support of the HEAT Act, a critical piece of climate legislation, by going to the following link: <https://www.votervoice.net/URJ/Campaigns/108570/Respond>

New York has ambitious **goals** to reduce fossil fuel use, but our **laws** encourage using more of them. Existing State laws mandate that utilities build more pipes for delivering natural gas. Currently, nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions in NYS come from the use of gas. To meet NYS landmark climate goals, we must use less gas—not more. The HEAT Act is the major piece of legislation aimed at reducing the use of gas. It will remove state mandates and subsidies for our utilities to provide gas hookups. Governor Hochul is currently crafting her proposal for the state budget, which will be negotiated and voted on early next year. We need to reach her now to ensure that this bill is included in her budget proposal, which will increase the chance of the bill's passage. For more information, contact [DayenuDutchess@gmail.com](mailto:DayenuDutchess@gmail.com).



**DAYENU**  
A Jewish Call to Climate Action





## DON'T MISS OUT Hanukkah Basket Raffle!

Win a beautiful themed gift basket!

\$18 / 10 tickets ~ Proceeds support Temple operations.

Baskets are on display at the temple ~check your email for photos & contents.

Generously donated by our amazing temple committees!

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

You can also order tickets by contacting [fundraising@vassartemple.org](mailto: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!

## Bright Nights

Help support Temple Beth-El Youth Group's Bright Nights Project to provide warm winter wear for children at Morse Elementary School and to clients of Hudson River Housing. Here are four different ways you can help. (1) Gently used or new children's and adult's coats may be dropped off at Temple Beth-El, 118 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, by December 15 (call 845-454-0570 for hours). If donating a new coat, get your sales slip to Karen Jacobs at TBE for a tax receipt. (2) Financial contributions toward this project may be made thru December 15 on Temple Beth-El's website <http://www.tbeny.org> as a "General Donation"—please write "Bright Nights" in the comment section. (3) You can also send a check made out to "Temple Beth El Youth Group" with "Bright Nights" on the memo line, to the Temple Beth El's address above, to be received by Dec. 15. (4) Finally, they are also accepting Target and Amazon scrip through 12//15. However you choose to do it, thanks for helping our neighbors in need keep warm this winter!





# CONTRIBUTIONS

## SUSTAINING FUND

**In Honor of:** Sue Ellen & Paul Sohn's grandson  
Jesse becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Sandra Mamis  
Sandra Mamis

**In Memory of:** Linda Claire Cantor  
Lillian Friedman  
William Robinowitz  
Kate Hecht & Anne Richmond  
Joseph L. Kahn, Selma Kahn,  
Aaron Slote & Goldie Bleich  
Samuel Garber  
Sadie Breit & Sandra Lipschitz  
Barbara Hyman  
Abe Barnett  
Maurice Troeger  
Molly & Paul Susser

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In Memory of:** Linda Claire Cantor

## COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

## PAUL GOLOMB ADULT EDUCATION FUND

**In Honor of:** Rabbi Paul Golomb

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES FUND

**In Memory of:** Rita Carol London

## VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Memory of:** Eleanor Margaret Hume Katz  
Hon Joseph H Gellert & Miriam B Gellert

## LUNCH BOX FUND

**In Honor of:** Susan Fink's 80th Birthday

## MUSIC FUND

**In Memory of:** Louis Heidelberger & Evelyn Heidelberger

## THE WINDOWS PROJECT

**In Memory of:** Ellen & Erwin Rosenfeld

Candance & Lou Lewis  
Andi & Paul Ciminello

Grete & Marty Finkelstein  
Muriel Lampell  
Miriam Cohen  
Grete & Marty Finkelstein  
The Friedman Family  
James Robinowitz  
The Hecht Family

Muriel Lampell  
Vivian & Ed Garber  
Alfred Scope  
Leonard Hyman (correction from Nov)  
Linda & Richard Cantor  
Jonathan Moselle  
Shirl and Howard Susser

Andi & Paul Ciminello  
Linda & Richard Cantor

Edward & Vivian Garber  
Judy Harkavy  
Lisa Rubenstein & Richard DuVall  
Shirl & Howard Susser

Linda & Richard Cantor

Gloria Mayer

Maxine Finkelstein  
Miriam Cohen  
Helen & Brian Silverman  
Molly & Dan Katz  
The Gellert Family

Barbara Mindel

Marianne & Bob Abrams  
Helen & Brian Silverman  
Muriel Lampell  
Rita Smith

## December 1

Louis Dubler  
Dr. Sidney N. Miller  
Charles Ernest  
Charles Hoffman, DDS  
L. Charles Podret  
Ruby Cohn  
Marcia Krandle  
Claire M. Trivers  
David F. Schor  
Sidney Horn  
May Kaufman Ettenson  
Ida Finnerman  
Edward Roth  
Solomon Berger  
Bea Russotto  
Marion Himmelstein  
Susan Baker  
Sydell Alpers Pannor  
Larry Adler

## December 8

Kate Hecht  
Seth A. Erlebacher  
Lillian Lox  
Mildred Tauber  
Elaine Hendricks  
Miriam Feitelson  
Sadie Breit  
Sandra Lipschitz  
Martin Markowitz  
Julius Klein  
Leo Loeb  
Carl Gross  
Minnie Shapiro  
Ruth Bagun  
Elsa Cohen  
Shirley Ernest  
Wilford Wittenberg  
Thomas Nolan  
Daniel Arnold  
Richard Saul Fein  
Herbert Jacobson  
Philip D'Angelo  
Clara Lewin  
Allan E. Dampf  
Jordan M. Taylor  
Lillian Friedman

## December 15

Leah Miche  
Maurice L. Troeger  
Michael Goldfinger  
Rabbi Sigmund Israel  
Helen Wrobel  
Gladys Steinberg  
Esther Yelsky  
Abe Barnett  
Anna Cairo  
Erna Konheim  
Eileen Dermody  
Aaron Slote  
Harry Migdal  
Ruth Seegal Cohen  
Marilyn Sirkus  
Ruth Joy Orner  
Charles Kovacs, DDS  
Ilse B. Dreyfuss  
Anne Kesselman

## December 22

Ida Krevolin  
Herman R. Gross  
Ruth Stein  
Beatrice Snyder  
Nathaniel Rubin  
Belle G. Adler  
Evelyn Lesser  
Joseph Weber  
Evelyn Luttinger  
William Robinowitz  
Stella W. Renick  
Goldie Bleich  
Dr. Doris Berlin-Acker  
Philip Wolfson  
Louis Rosen  
Selma Kahn  
Leah W. Cohen

## December 29

Yetta Horn  
Joan Plotsky  
Deborah H. Jacobs  
Celia Kraut  
Joseph L. Kahn  
Reine Reinhart  
Dr. Joseph R. Levy  
Joseph Fa'gut  
Henry Solomonson  
Len Garber  
Barnet B. Shelton  
Jean Ciminello  
Marcia Kurz  
Norman Blaustein  
Frances Rosen  
Morris Effron  
Meyer Miller  
Faye Seif  
Rose Brond  
Jean Citron  
Harry Fogle  
Keith Warner Landau  
DeWitt Fischman

## December Yahrzeits



### HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL DONATIONS—THANK YOU!

Margery & Arthur Groten	Eve & Bruce Gendron
Marica & Glenn Tanzman	Rochelle & Howard Friedman
Lisa Rubenstein & Richard DuVall	Vivian & Edward Garber
Shirl & Howard Susser	



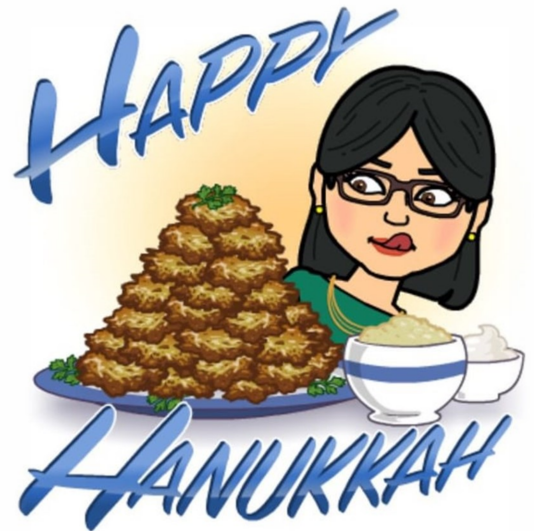
## SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Francine Kaplan's Potato Latkes (using less oil)

### Ingredients

- 3 large potatoes (russet or Idaho), shredded (Shortcut: you can use already shredded Simply Potatoes)
- 1 medium white onion, shredded
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/4 cup flour (or use 2 tablespoons matzoh meal or cornmeal—this adds an extra crispy texture)
- 2 to 3 tablespoon vegetable oil, divided

### Directions

1. Using a strainer, squeeze out a bit, not all, of the excess moisture from the shredded veggies.
2. Place shredded veggies, eggs, flour (or other suggested ingredient), salt and pepper into a mixing bowl—mix well
3. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in large skillet over medium heat and drop as many spoonfuls of the potato mixture that will fit into your skillet
4. Fry about 3 minutes on each side until golden and crisp around the edges
5. Place on paper towel to drain excess oil
6. Repeat, replenishing oil as needed, until batter is finished
7. Serve warm with applesauce and/or sour cream



## Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ December 18



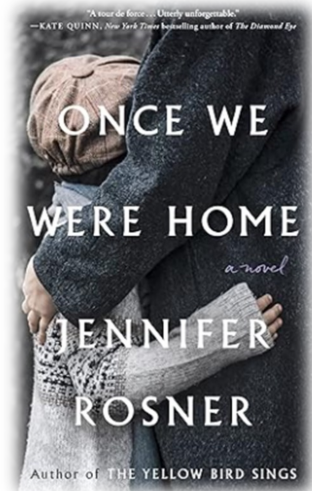
Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon, which occurs on the 18th of the month (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends), will be meeting on Monday, December 18. Specific details about the restaurant will be mailed to you in Vassar Temple's weekly newsletter a few days prior to the meeting. Members are asked to RSVP to the link in the newsletter 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.

## 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 2pm, in person at the College View Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. For questions, please contact [bookclub@vassartemple.org](mailto: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, 2024 at 7:30pm. Pre-registration will be required.



Sonya the Candle Lady pours melted wax into a candle mold at Sisterhood's Opening Program, which featured members making seasonal scented candles.

## Jewish War Veterans

JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 17 at Shomre Israel. The meeting format will follow that which we used before the pandemic. The following meeting will be on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

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.



**Jewish War Veterans**  
of the United States of America

**Ralph Schwartz**  
Senior Vice Commander  
[Rschwa9881@aol.com](mailto:Rschwa9881@aol.com)

## Generations and Membership Shabbat Service ~ December 1 @ 7:30pm

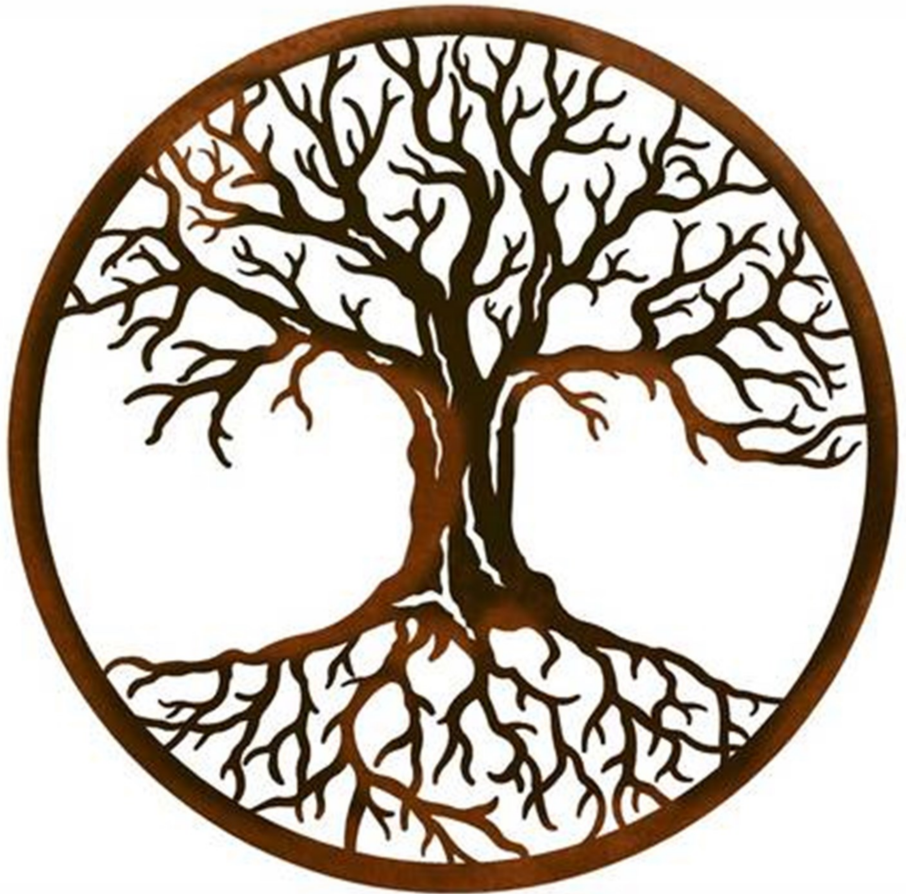
Celebrate our Vassar Temple Family at *L'Dor V'Dor* (Generations) and Membership Shabbat Service on December 1 at 7:30pm. Please join us for the service and Celebratory Oneg following the service

**We will celebrate and recognize our  
“Generations” members who have  
sustained and supported Vassar Temple  
for over 40 years.**

Rabbi Stephen & Cecile Arnold  
Nancy Belok  
Richard & Linda Cantor  
Martin & Eleanor Charwat  
Herman Chertock  
Doris Cohen  
Georgene Dreishpoon  
Dawn Effron  
Susan Fink  
Samuel Finnerman  
Howard & Rochelle Friedman  
Edward & Vivian Garber  
Suzy Garcia  
Arthur Gellert  
Sara Jane Goldberg  
Jack & Fredrica Goodman  
Arthur & Margery Groten  
Judy Harkavy  
Howard Himmelstein  
Leonard Hyman  
Irma Jacobs  
Rita Jacobson  
Joel Kelson  
Muriel Lampell  
David Lampell  
Louis & Candace Lewis  
Elaine Lipschutz  
Bernard & Jill Loeb  
Kent & Kathy Mardon  
Arthur & Carol Menken  
Barbara Mindel  
Dr. Andrew & Susan Needelman  
Sheila Newman  
Amy Horn Oclatis  
Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
Joan Reifler  
Elaine Rice  
Jonah Ritter  
James Robinowitz  
Dr. Edward & Sheila Schneider  
Ralph & Marian Schwartz  
Arlene & Gilbert Seligman  
Murray Solomon  
Gloria Turk  
Steve Turk  
Charles & Barbara Volkman  
Carl & Ronnie Wolfson  
Lewis Wrobel  
Ellen Zelig










**We also joyfully welcome new and returning members  
to the Vassar Temple family who have joined over the  
past year.**

Arnold Cohen  
Edgar Goetzl & Marion Lipshutz  
Micah & Misun Modell  
Dr. Ben Morin & Lydia Brown  
Jas Russo  
Bena Silber  
Drs. Steven & Inna Soifer





# Calendar of Events—December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 7:30pm Generations & Membership Shabbat Service	<b>2</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths
<b>3</b> 9am Religious School  9:45am Judaism 101 Class  10:30am Tiny Temple  10:30am Lunch Box 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>7</b> Hanukkah Eve (1st Candle)  7pm Ritual CTME  	<b>8</b> Hanukkah Day 1 (2nd Candle)  6pm Hanukkah Pot Luck Dinner  7:30pm Hanukkah Shabbat Service  	<b>9</b> Hanukkah Day 2 (3rd Candle)  9am Torah Study  10:15am Healing Service  
<b>10</b> Hanukkah Day 3 (4th Candle)  9am Religious School  11am Community Hanukkah Program at Vassar Temple 	<b>11</b> Hanukkah Day 4 (5th Candle)  	<b>12</b> Hanukkah Day 5 (6th Candle)  	<b>13</b> Hanukkah Day 6 (7th Candle)  4:30pm Hebrew School  	<b>14</b> Hanukkah Day 7 (8th Candle)  7:30pm Cemetery CTME  	<b>15</b> 7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>16</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths
<b>17</b> 9am Religious School  9:45am Judaism 101 Class	<b>18</b> 12pm Chai Noon— Sisterhood	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School  7pm Finance CMTE	<b>21</b> 7pm Board Meeting	<b>22</b> Office Closed  7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>23</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
<b>24</b> No Religious School	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Hebrew School	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Shelter Meal	<b>29</b> 7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>30</b> 9am Torah Study
<b>31</b> No Religious School						

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 February Bulletin must be submitted by January 1 sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style,

## Cemetery Tour

Thirteen members came out on October 22 for our first Vassar Temple Cemetery Tour. It was a lovely day where we learned a bit of history about our three cemeteries on LaGrange Avenue. Stories were shared about our members, their families and businesses. Much of it was informative. Some of it was entertaining. And for many of us it was a walk down memory lane of family members, friends, and old, wonderful businesses that were central to the lives of members who grew up and lived in the Poughkeepsie area. Thank you to all who contributed stories, attended and for enjoying a bit of warm spiced cider and donuts—tailgate-style afterwards. Special thanks to Susan Fink for the donation of a portable microphone/ amplifier. It was so helpful and will be put to many more good Temple uses. And special thanks to Muriel Lampell, who regaled us with so many stories that we had to ask, “Are you related to everyone here?”



*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*