



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 172 No. 3 October 2023

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).

Please contact Vassar175@vassartemple.org to get involved with anniversary events!

Simchat Torah Dinner & Service ~ with Klezmer! Friday, October 6 at 7pm

The Living Shtetl, the amazing Klezmer group from NYC led by clarinetist Alex Parke, is returning to perform at Vassar Temple's Erev Simchat Torah service Friday, October 6, at 7pm. This year's ensemble will also include Ilya Shneyveys on accordion and strings, and Ben Holmes on trumpet. Guests and the community are welcome to attend. Enjoy their joyous performance and come dance with the Torah! They are amazing musicians, and in high demand; we are very fortunate to have them here in Poughkeepsie. **Donations are necessary in order to bring these gifted musicians to Vassar Temple. Donate on our website and indicate the donation is for "Klezmer," or donate by check made out to Vassar Temple with "Klezmer" on the memo line.**



Prior to the service, a dinner, for which there is a charge, will be held at 5:45pm. Catered by Adams, the menu includes wraps, salads, stuffed grape leaves, fruit platter, cookies & brownies. Dinner cost is \$18 adults, \$10 children 6-12, under age 6 free. To RSVP for the dinner (A MUST!), and to let us know if you need a gluten-free or vegan option, please e-mail ritual@vassartemple.org by **September 26**. If you'd like to eat in the sukkah, weather permitting, please bring a lawn chair. Seating will also be available in the social hall. Everyone attending should please visit www.vassartemple.org for our current public health policy.

From the Rabbi's Desk:



“On October 6 we will celebrate Simchat Torah, one of two times during the year when Jews are allowed – even encouraged or obligated – to get good and raucous (the other time being Purim) as we express our love of Torah. With the glorious assistance of the Klezmer band *The Living Shtetl*, we will again dance with the Torah and with one another with great enthusiasm and joy.

Simchat Torah is one of our later holidays, developed in the Middle Ages to mark the completion of another cycle of reading the Torah. We end *Devarim* (Deuteronomy) and begin again with *Bereshit* (Genesis) without pause, emphasizing the continuous nature of our tradition of reading Torah. The cycle of weekly readings is timed in such a way that Simchat Torah brings the fall holy days to a grand joyous climax. After all, Torah is the foundation of who we are as a people; it is our most sacred possession. We pass it down with great love from generation to generation. Jews have run into burning synagogues to rescue *Sifrei Torah*. It is, indeed, a “Tree of life to those who hold it fast” as is written in the Book of Proverbs and recalled in our liturgy. Torah has made Judaism portable, accompanying and guiding us wherever our people has lived across the centuries. We treat the Torah with great love and reverence and, especially on Simchat Torah, each of us has the opportunity to hold it close.

But our celebration of Torah ought not end on Simchat Torah. It continues as we live Torah through our deeds and our learning. In a famous Talmudic debate, Rabbi Tarfon and Rabbi Akiva argued about which is greater: study or action. Rabbi Tarfon said: “Action is greater.” Rabbi Akiva said: “Study is greater.” Everyone then said: “Study is greater, as study leads to action.” (Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 40b)

Indeed, actions without learning about the teachings that undergird them disconnects them from their Jewish roots and the motivation that sustains them; study without putting those teachings into action is empty and without purpose.

We have numerous opportunities for study at Vassar Temple. Many of you reading this column are already engaged in study; your participation enriches us all. Perhaps you have been curious but tentative about dipping your toe into the sea of learning. Let this be the year that you give it a try; we will be happy to swim with you!

We offer two on-going opportunities for study: Torah study, offered hybrid on Shabbat mornings, and Talmud study, bi-weekly on Mondays, mostly on Zoom. At Torah study, I facilitate a discussion on some aspect of the Torah portion. In Talmud study, Rabbi Golomb leads an exploration of the intricacies of rabbinic debates on a range of subjects. No prior knowledge of Torah or Hebrew is required for either and all are invited to share their questions, insights and reflections.

Judaism 101 is a new course that I will be teaching every other Sunday morning starting October 22 for those who want to learn some of the basics, including the holidays, liturgy and ritual practices, Bible and rabbinic texts.

In the winter I will teach a three-part series exploring the teachings of the major prophets entitled “In Honor of our 175th: The Roots of Reform as Prophetic Judaism.”

Our adult education committee sponsors individual programs throughout the year, beginning with Judge Albert Rosenblatt on November 5. See article in this bulletin for more information.

I look forward to dancing together on Simchat Torah and then continuing our celebration of Torah throughout the year as we learn and as we do together!

Rabbi Renni Altman



President’s Message:

Vassar Temple is proud to be the oldest continuously functioning Jewish congregation between New York City and Albany. As we celebrate our 175th Anniversary this year, we recognize how our congregation supports

the worship, life cycle events and spiritual needs of our members. We educate our children, fellow congregants and the general community about Jewish history, values, beliefs and current issues. We reach out to and welcome non-Jewish congregants and unaffiliated Jews. We pride ourselves on strengthening the bonds with fellow Jews locally, nationally and worldwide. Our members work for social justice, serving the community in many ways and coming to the aid of people in our local community, other states and nations in challenging and difficult times.

Among our many community achievements, we are especially proud of being involved in the wonderful beginning history of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council. Vassar Temple is considered a charter member of DCIC. Fifty-plus years of working together alongside our friends of multiple faiths demonstrates what true inclusivity and cooperation looks like. We feel privileged to be honored with this year’s DCIC’s Legacy Award. As a congregation with 175 years of history, we understand what being a Legacy means. We also understand that we didn’t get here alone. Collaboration with stellar organizations like DCIC has helped us maintain our roots and branches in this community. We offer our most heartfelt, sincere and deepest gratitude for this honor and recognition. “LOVEforward” is an evening of celebration,



dedication and recognition. Substantial appetizers, sweet treats and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. The event takes place on Monday, October 23 at 6pm at Locust Grove Estate, Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Lou Lewis is the 2023 Honorary Event Chair.

HONOREES

The Rabbi Erwin Zimet Humanitarian Award

Reverend Dr. Jesse V. Bottoms
Jr- Beulah Baptist Church

The Legacy Award

Vassar Temple

The Interfaith Music-Maker Award

Tamara Bond-Williams

The Interfaith Community Spirit Award

Mid-Hudson Islamic Association

Vassar Temple is hoping to have several tables of members and supporters in attendance. Tickets are \$100 per person. To order tickets to be seated at a Vassar Temple table please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org

Payment is due by October 13. For sponsorship information contact

jmckenna@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

For more information on the Dutchess County Interfaith Council and its history refer to www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Bimah Flowers for our Services ~ October 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.

October 2023 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- October 6: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)
- October 13: Donated by Daniel Scherrer and Jo Schaffel in memory of Maia Scherrer
- October 20: Donated by Carla and David Steckman in honor of their son Nathan's Bar Mitzvah
- October 27: Donated by Daniel Scherrer and Jo Schaffel in memory of Larry Schaffel



Study Groups at Vassar Temple ~ October

Torah Study with Rabbi Renni Altman, D.D. meets at 9am on Saturday mornings (hybrid). No class October 21. 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 generally meets on Zoom alternating Mondays (October 2, 16 and 30) from noon-1:30pm. 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

Nathan Steckman's Mitzvah Project

Nathan Steckman will become a bar mitzvah at Vassar Temple Saturday, October 21. For his mitzvah project he led a neighborhood food drive for Dutchess Outreach's food pantry, and was able to collect over 300 pounds of canned goods and personal hygiene items. Nathan raised awareness among his neighbors of these critical needs, and all the wonderful food and hygiene products they donated to his drive will surely make a big difference to families in need in our community.



New Paths ~ Saturday, October 14 at 10:15am

Everyone is invited to join us at Vassar Temple for a New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturday, October 14 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. Policies for safe in-person attendance are on our website www.vassartemple.org.

Scriptural Readings ~October

October 7

Sh'mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah ~ Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12; Genesis 1:1-2:3; Joshua 1:1-18

October 14

B'reishit ~ Genesis 1:1-6:8; Isaiah 42:43:10

October 21

Noach ~ Genesis 6:9-11:32; Isaiah 54:1-55:5

October 28

Lech L'cha ~ Genesis 12:1-17:27; Isaiah 40:27-41:16

Religious School Update ~ October

The first day of religious school draws near as I write this column, and I am excited and looking forward to working with VT's wonderful team of teachers and madrichim.

Because of the High Holiday calendar, there was only one Sunday session in the month of September. The second session will be October 1, just as Sukkot begins! So I thought it would be useful to provide a list of ten great things about the aesthetically glorious Feast of Booths.



TEN GREAT THINGS ABOUT SUKKOT AND THE SUKKAH

- 1) A sukkah's roof should be made of leaves or straw, with enough open space so that one can see the stars.
- 2) It is a mystical custom to 'invite' certain Biblical characters to be guests in your sukkah: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and David. And to these traditional male guests I like to add Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Leah, Rachel, Miriam and Deborah.
- 3) It's a *mitsva* to 'live' in the sukkah during Sukkot, but that is NOT permitted if it's uncomfortable to do so.
- 4) Since Sukkot is a harvest festival, the sukkah is traditionally decorated with agricultural products.
- 5) A sukkah may have four, three, or two and a half walls. Only one wall may be permanent.
- 6) The lulav and etrog, made of four plant species mentioned in the Torah, are shaken in all directions during the daytime Sukkot services.
- 7) The etrog, the yellow citron which is one of the four species, is one of the few fruits that produces a flower after the fruit is ripe.
- 8) There is a superstition that the etrog is a *segula* or amulet, and that a woman who eats it will have an easy childbirth.
- 9) During Biblical times when the Temple was standing, Israelites would celebrate the water-drawing ceremony. This water-pouring ritual was accompanied by torch carrying, juggling, dancing and acrobatics, and the Mishna says "whoever has not seen the Rejoicing of the Water-Drawing, has never witnessed real joy."
- 10) The last day of the festival is *Simchat Torah*, when the scroll is rolled back from the end of Deuteronomy to the beginning of Genesis, and the reading is begun again.

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

Religious School Director

Adult Education

Judaism 101 with Rabbi Altman ~ Sunday mornings, beginning October 22

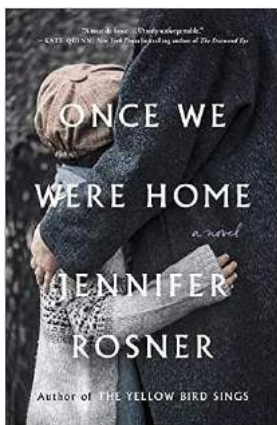
If you never had formal Jewish education, or if that education ended in your teens, or if you want a refresher in core practices and beliefs in Judaism, then this course is for you! We will learn about the holidays, our liturgy and ritual practices, basic texts, history and more. The class will meet in person in the East Chapel every other Sunday morning from 9:45 - 11am, beginning October 22. A hybrid option will be available upon request. The class is open to anyone, especially those who would like to become adult *b'nei mitzvah*. Please RSVP to adulthood@vassartemple.org if you are interested. Please contact Rabbi Altman if you have any questions.

Judge Rosenblatt ~ Sunday, November 5 at 3pm

The Honorable Judge Albert Rosenblatt will be speaking about his new book *The Eight: The Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom*. *The Eight* tells the story of Lemmon vs. New York. All but forgotten today, it was one of the most momentous civil rights cases in American history. Walter Effron of the Three Arts Bookstore will be selling the book at the event.



Jennifer Rosner ~ Early January, date TBA on Zoom



Renowned author Jennifer Rosner will present her new book *Once We Were Home*.



In Honor of Our 175th

The Roots of Reform as Prophetic Judaism with Rabbi Altman

Wednesdays at 7:30pm ~ January 24, 31 and February 7

Reform Judaism in America grounded itself in the teachings of the Prophets and their calls for social justice. In this course we will explore teachings of the main prophets and their resonance for Reform Judaism.

175th Anniversary Event: An Afternoon with Temple History

Vassar Temple Cemeteries Walking Tour
Sunday, October 22 at 2pm (rain date 10/29)



Did you know that the oldest section of our LaGrange Avenue cemetery dates to the 1800s? Or that, in 2003, Vassar Temple merged with the Hebrew Fraternal Benevolent Society? Join us for a fun and informative walking tour of our LaGrange Avenue Cemeteries. Learn interesting and fun facts about many of our departed temple members, their families (some of whom remain members today), and their final resting places.

The tour will take about an hour and touch upon stories from all three cemeteries on LaGrange Avenue: North (old), South (new), and Benevolent Society. Following the tour, join us for donuts and warm mulled cider,

Wear comfortable walking shoes and appropriate outerwear. Check your email or call the Temple that morning, in case of inclement weather, to confirm the rescheduled rain date. For more information, or if you'd like to share a personal story, please reach out to

CemeteryTour@vassartemple.org.

Tiny Temple Celebrates in the Sukkah Sunday, October 1 at 10:30am

All tots through age five and their grownups are invited to "Tiny Temple" to celebrate the harvest festival of Sukkot on Sunday, October 1 at 10:30am at Vassar Temple. We'll shake the *lulav* in the outdoor sukkah, learn all about this fun fall holiday with Rabbi Rennie Altman, make a holiday craft, and enjoy a healthy snack. (In case of inclement weather, we'll be indoors.) There is never a charge to attend Tiny Temple events, but please help us in our planning by RSVPing to office@vassartemple.org.



Thank you Vassar Temple

Thanks to everyone who recognize that hunger does not take a vacation, stuffed our Can Jam bin, and generously donated to our Protein Plenty fundraiser. You made it possible for our Can Jam chairman, Joel Kelson, to deliver a carload of nonperishable foods and supermarket scrip to Community Action Partnership for their four food pantries throughout the county, just at a time of year when their shelves were bare and many school children were not getting free school lunches.

Appreciation also to those who took time from their busy lives to tutor amnesty seekers, drive them to ENL lessons, donate them everything from medicine to laundry detergent to clothing to snacks, and deliver shipments of donated goods and food to Red Roof Inn. We are especially grateful to Linda Cantor for organizing a special meal for the Wednesday ENL students.

Vassar Temple also provided tremendous support to the community wide Mitzvah Now project "Hannukah in August"; supplying children in shelters with backpacks full of school supplies, and providing Morse Elementary School students in need the basic clothing all children require to attend school.

We acknowledge those of you who have worked on advocacy to help amnesty seekers get work permits and to encourage more Americans to come out and exercise their right to vote.

And those stalwarts who helped provide The Lunch Box and Shelter Meals throughout the summer months, organized by Paul Ciminello and Judy Harkavy. And that's what we did on our summer vacation!

Thank you

Marian Schwartz
Social Action Chair

Calling all Vassar Temple "Alums"



As we prepare for our 175th Gala, we would like to compile a list of our "alums" - former members of Vassar Temple, or children of members who are no longer in the area. If you know of past members, and where they are now, please provide their names and addresses to the office.

Similarly, if you remember being in religious school with someone no longer in the area and have his/her/their name and address, please provide that information to the office.

Since 1848 there have been a lot of people who have had contact with Vassar Temple. We are certainly not going to locate them all, but even one more than we already know of would help.

Climate Corner ~ an update from our Dayenu Circle

A *Dayenu Circle* (one of at least 100 across the country) was launched at Vassar Temple in January and has expanded to welcome members of Temple Beth-El. We invite members of ALL local Jewish organizations—and those who are not affiliated—to join us. We need participants with different interests and skills, and our potential is enormous if we pool our efforts. *Dayenu* will: provide us with content while simultaneously making room to tackle local issues; offer Jewish resources for spiritual adaptation as we confront the difficult realities of the climate crisis, transforming fear and anxiety into action; encourage and welcome participation from the wider and interfaith community. Whether you are interested in a Green Team to make our congregation more sustainable, sustainability education for the community, lobbying our legislators, or developing relevant ritual, there is a place for you to build your capacity to go beyond personal action.

Please join us at our first joint interest gathering on Wednesday, October 4 at 7pm at Temple Beth-El (weather permitting in the sukkah). Co-leaders are Susan Karnes Hecht (Vassar Temple) and Rabbi Miriam Hyman (Temple Beth-El). We'll make like-minded friends, do some organizing, and discuss our first planned event: a peer-to-peer decarbonizer workshop tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 29 at 10:15am at Vassar Temple (during mutual Religious School hours). Watch our weekly email for more information about this event, where you can hear from neighbors who have implemented the “big three” climate solutions for home: electric/hybrid vehicles, solar/community solar, and heat pumps. Please RSVP for the initial gathering on 10/4 to our new address:

DayenuDutchess@gmail.com.



DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Our newest congregation members:

Edgar Goetzl and Marion Lipshutz
Drs. Steven and Inna Soifer



To Eric & Judy Rosenfeld:

MAZEL TOV—to Eric & Judy Rosenfeld on the marriage of their daughter Lisa to Ben Ramey

OUR CONDOLENCES—to the family of Erwin Rosenfeld,
Father of Eric (Judy) Rosenfeld

CONTRIBUTIONS



SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Leo Klausner and Sam Scope

Lawrence Slate

Mildred Shapiro

Charles Finnerman & Sarah Pauline Benton

Margaret Ciminello & Donald Hulnick

Lisette Goldemberg

Alfred Scope

Jerold Slate

Francine Kaplan

Adriaan & Sam Finnerman

Andrea & Paul Ciminello

Hecht Family

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Memory of:

Erwin Rosenfeld

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

LUNCH BOX FUND

Linda & Richard Cantor

Jane LaLone

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

Anne Lescher

Vivian & Edward Garber

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Lisa Heidelger

Florence Altman

Charles & Dorothy Wender

Marianne & Bob Abrams

Rabbi Altman & Richard Wender

Rabbi Altman & Richard Wender

In Honor of:

Cantor Goldmann

Ruth Goldfarb

THE WINDOWS PROJECT

Anne Lescher

Jane LaLone

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

In Honor of

Paul Ciminello

Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush

In Memory of:

Erwin Rosenfeld

Roni & Charles Stein

FLEXIBLE FEAST

Amy Horn Oclatis and Kenneth Oclatis

ETERNAL TORAH FUND

In Honor of:

Marcia Tanzman receiving the Arnold Award

Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush

When making a donation to the temple, please consider choosing this fund:

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

This fund honors the memory of Lila Matlin, a long-time beloved member whose family recognizes the value technology in keeping Vassar Temple vibrant and relevant in a changing world. The fund supports the expansion of the temple's reach through the use of virtual and other technology by providing for both system upgrades and related professional services.

October 6

Dorothy Wender
 Robin Rayfield
 Jessie Barker
 Alfred J. Bogad
 Mildred Shapiro
 Michael Oremus
 Daniel L. Cohen
 Mary Stolack
 Jeanne Loth Rubin
 Gertrude C. Clarfeld
 Bessie Rabin
 Minnie Israel
 Ira Greenberg
 Barbara Hyman

October 13

Lisette Goldemberg
 Aaron Parish
 Margaret Ciminello
 Lucilla Albinder
 Sarah Pauline Benton
 Joseph Sparks Sr
 Susan Doppelt Pearlman
 Lisa Heidelberger
 Norman Kramer
 Jean W. Dampf
 Keith Randall
 Gertrude Hines Groten
 Jean Strauss
 Harold Posner
 Maia Scherrer

October 20

J. Ralph Stein
 Marion Bennet Sawyer
 Charles Finnerman
 Evelyn Locke
 Dr. Martin Rabin
 Evelyn Gerst
 Ida Goldberg
 Morris Bronfeld
 Abraham Swatlo
 Shirley Hope Mann
 Dr. Barry G. Jordan
 Julius Ostrovsky
 Lisa Lemberger
 Morris Fertig Ritter
 Ruth Muraskin
 Leo Klausner
 Sophia S. Wolfson
 Susan Salit Lowe
 Henry Cantor
 Samuel Scope
 Murray Sigalow
 Charlotte Konick
 Toby Solomon

October 27

Charles Wender
 George Tofel
 Joshua Russell Karp
 Monroe Robbins
 Lawrence Schaffel
 Herman Katz
 Sidney Locke
 Bernard Himelstein
 Leo Feinstein
 George A. Rugar, Sr.
 Jacob Haber
 Lawrence Slate
 Nathan Schmukler
 Bessie Rothauser
 Benjamin Michel
 Adele Lerman Warshaw
 Benjamin Genshaft
 Edward S. Rubinow

**October Yahrzeits**

Sh'mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah ~ Shabbat Morning Service with Yizkor
Saturday, October 7 at 10:30am

Rabbi Altman will lead this Festival morning worship in an informal setting in the East Chapel. A significant component of the liturgy is Yizkor (the memorial service). We take time to remember our loved ones at such seasons of joy and celebration. Yizkor is a time to connect with the souls of our loved ones on a deeper level; tradition has it that during Yizkor the souls of the departed descend from heaven and are joined with those who are close to them. Many find it of comfort to participate in this service among their Temple family.

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Ellen Zelig's Spinach Tortellini Soup

Directions

- Brown 4 cloves of minced garlic in olive oil
- Add 12 cups of water to the pot and 4 tablespoons Better Than Bouillon, roasted garlic flavor
- Add 2 cans of petite diced tomatoes and 2 boxes frozen chopped spinach, don't squeeze the spinach
- Heat the pot on low until spinach separates
- Mix well, bring to a simmer and heat covered for 30 minutes or so
- Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil and add a package of dry tortellini (like Barilla Collezione)
- Boil on low according to package directions, drain and add to the soup
- Heat for 5 more minutes



Interfaith CROP Walk Against Hunger ~ Sunday, October 15

This annual community-based fundraising event supports sustainable responses to hunger, displacement, and disaster at home and abroad. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised in our CROP walk go to local agencies who fight hunger throughout the county. We follow a safe six-mile route in Poughkeepsie, beginning and ending at Temple Beth El, 118 S. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, with pit stops at houses of worship along the way. Walk as much of the route as you are able.

Please support this life-sustaining effort as a walker or donor!

Walkers: Walk on your own starting between 10am-2pm, or walk with family, friends, or a temple group. Can't make the time/date/location? Plan your own walk! All walkers, to sign up for our Temple team, go to events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/vassar-temple. Click on any blue "Join the Team" button and follow the directions.

Donors: Donations in ANY amount are gratefully accepted! To sponsor the team as a whole, go to events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/vassar-temple, scroll down, and under "Support Vassar Temple and CWS" click on "Make a Donation." To sponsor Rabbi Altman or any other individual team member, scroll down to the list of "Team Members" and click on the "Donate" tab next to the walker's name.

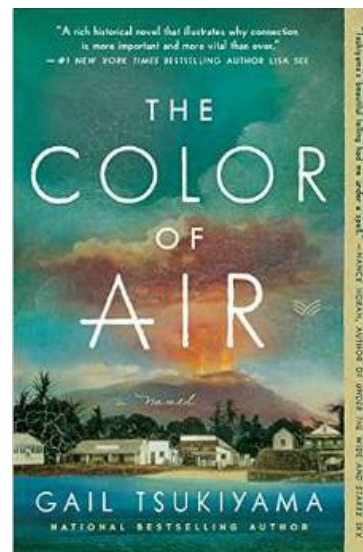
For more information, to donate by check, or to arrange to walk with a Temple group please contact Ron Rosen, our Temple's team captain, at Cropwalk@vassartemple.org.

This year's CROP local grant recipients are Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership pantries in Dover, Red Hook, Beacon and Poughkeepsie, Fishkill Food Pantry, Beulah Baptist Church Pantry, and St. Paul's pantry.

Vassar Temple Sisterhood Book Club to Discuss *The Color of Air*

Alternating between past and present—from the day of the Hawaiian Mauna Loa volcano eruption in 1935 to decades prior—Gail Tsukiyama’s *The Color of Air* interweaves the stories of Daniel, Koji, and Mariko to create a rich, vibrant, bittersweet chorus that celebrates their lifelong bond to one other and to their immigrant community. As the volcano threatens their lives and livelihoods, it also unearths long-held secrets simmering below the surface that meld past and present, revealing a path forward for them all. This historical novel shows the power of love and human resilience in a captivating historical context.

Discussion of this book will be on Wednesday, October 19 at 2:00pm, in person at the College View Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. For questions please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.



Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ October 18



Vassar Temple Sisterhood’s Chai Noon Luncheon, which meets on the 18th of the month (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends) will be meeting on Monday, October 18. Specific details about the October 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 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.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The annual Arnold Award for contributions to the ritual life of Vassar Temple was presented to Marcia Tanzman by Rabbi Renni Altman at the Selichot program.

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.

Calendar of Events—October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Sukkot Day 2 9am Religious School 10:30am Lunch Box  10:30am Tiny Temple 11am Bagels in the Sukkah </p>	<p>2 Sukkot Day 3 12pm Talmud Study</p>	<p>3 Sukkot Day 4</p>	<p>4 Sukkot Day 5 4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>5 Sukkot Day 6</p>	<p>6 Sukkot Day 7 Erev Simchat Torah 5:45pm Erev Simchat Torah Dinner (outdoors weather permitting) 7pm Erev Simchat Shabbat Service with <i>The Living Shtetl</i> klezmer ensemble</p>	<p>7 9am Torah Study 10:30am Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Morning Service with Yizkor</p>
<p>8 No Religious School Take down the Sukkah </p>	<p>9 Office Closed </p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>12 7pm Ritual CTME</p>	<p>13 7:30pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>14 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths</p>
<p>15 9am Religious School CROP Walk 2pm Sisterhood Opening Program (tentative)</p>	<p>16 12pm Talmud Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 12pm Chai Noon Sisterhood Luncheon 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE</p>	<p>19 7:30pm Cemetery CTME</p>	<p>20 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service—Shabbat Noah</p>	<p>21 No Torah Study 10am Nathan Steckman Bar Mitzvah </p>
<p>22 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101 2pm Cemetery Tour LaGrange Ave</p>	<p>23 6pm DCIC Gala at Locust Grove</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>26 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>27 7:30pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>28 9am Torah Study</p>
<p>29 9am Religious School 10am Dayenu Workshop 12:30pm Hit After The Holidays Wiffle Ball Tournament at Schomre Israel 2pm Cemetery Tour LaGrange Ave (rain date)</p>	<p>30 12pm Talmud Study </p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Please see weekly emails for the most up-to-date information regarding changes to in-person events</p>			

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: Susan Avery
Secretary: Marcia Tanzman
Treasurer: Maxine Finkelstein
Sisterhood President: To be announced
Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman
Immediate Past President: Susan Karnes Hecht
Bulletin Editor: Jo Schaffel



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

Save the date! 175th Anniversary Event: Piano Dedication Concert ~ Sunday, November 19 at 3pm

Please plan to join us for a celebration of our 100-year old Mason & Hamlin grand piano honoring our piano donors, the Lemberger Family. The program will feature accomplished local pianists Ruthanne Schempf, Sylvia Buccelli, James Fitzwilliam, and our own Joseph Bertolozzi playing a selection of solo piano pieces on the theme of Jewish music and composers. A reception will follow. The concert is open to the community, and donations at the door will benefit our Music Fund. Watch temple publicity for additional details as the date approaches.

