



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 172 No. 9 ~ April 2024

## 175th Anniversary Dinner and Shabbat Service ~ Friday, April 19 Guest Speaker, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, URJ



Rabbi Jacobs is President of the Union for Reform Judaism, leading more than two million people through 825 congregations, 14 overnight camps, the teen youth movement NFTY, and the Religious Action Center in Washington, DC. As rabbi of the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, he created the first homeless shelter in a NYC synagogue. He later spent 20 years as the visionary spiritual leader of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale. Rabbi Jacobs studied for two decades at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, where he is now a senior rabbinic fellow.

We will include prayers and musical selections that reflect the evolution in style of worship at Vassar Temple, from its origins as an Orthodox synagogue through the Reform siddurs we have used over the years: *Union Prayer Book*, *Gates of Prayer*, and *Mishkan Tefillah*. The service will be led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann and will be hybrid.

There will be a pot luck dinner before the service, at 6pm. Please bring a meat or parve dish (no nuts), and RSVP to [Ritual@vassartemple.org](mailto:Ritual@vassartemple.org) by Monday, April 15 to let us know what you are bringing.

## Vassar Temple's 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala: Sunday, April 14, 2024, 5pm



**March's Question was:** Identify the only Vassar Temple extended family in our recorded history that has had six members serve as President. Name the six individuals.

**The answer is:** *The Kahn-Lampell Family, of course! Josephine Kahn and her husband Max Kahn; their son, Albert Kahn; Muriel Lampell (granddaughter of Max and Josephine; daughter of Albert), Matthew Lampell and David Lampell. WOW! What a legacy!*

## From the Rabbi's Desk:



"What a festive month this will be!

Our congregation will celebrate the culminating events of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year: a birthday party in the religious school, our amazing gala with keynote speaker Professor Deborah Dash Moore and the Anniversary Shabbat dinner and service with guest speaker Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Then, on April 29 we will join with Jews worldwide in celebrating a highlight of the Jewish calendar: Passover.

Knowing that I wanted to write about both of these significant events, I pondered what Vassar Temple and Passover might have in common. Happily, I discovered quite a few shared traits:

**Good food:** One cannot imagine either Vassar Temple or the seder without food. After all, what is a service at Vassar Temple without the delicious baked goods of the Oneg! How wonderful it has been once again to share meals together, a true bonding experience. Food is essential at the seder, beginning with the items on the seder plate that tell the story of the Exodus. But it is the meal that nourishes our bodies and our souls, especially with recipes handed down through the generations. Those foods and the stories we tell connect us to our loved ones, past and present.

**Prayer:** Rituals and prayers make the seder more than a meal; through them we "relive" the Exodus from Egypt in fulfillment of the commandment: "And you shall tell your child on that day, saying, This is what God did for **me**, when **I** came out of Egypt." (Exodus 13:8). Worship at Vassar Temple is central to making us a sacred community; it is the glue that binds us to one another and to our traditions.

**Singing:** The songs of the seder, though designed to keep the children engaged, are a beloved part of the seder for all, whether we hang onto old favorites and/

or seek out new creations. Worship at Vassar Temple is unimaginable without singing. Song uplifts our spirits and enriches the prayer experience (regardless of how well we sing).

**Social Justice:** The seder takes us back to slavery in Egypt and looks ahead towards the future redemption. By remembering the experience of oppression, the seder aims to instill within us empathy for the stranger and the commitment to work for freedom for the oppressed today. Social justice has always been at the heart of Vassar Temple. Through our efforts locally and civic engagement activities, Vassar Temple is constantly engaged in the work of *tikun olam*.

**Education:** The seder was created to teach our children about the Exodus, but all engage with its lessons annually. At Vassar Temple our commitment to learning for all ages extends from toddlers to seniors.

**Vision and the courage to change:** The Passover Seder is one of the greatest innovations of Jewish history. The rabbis were revolutionary in reinventing Judaism after the destruction of the second temple, audaciously adapting a practice of the Romans to create our beloved Passover seder.

Each generation of leaders of Vassar Temple has had the vision and courage to change to ensure our future. A half a minyan came together to form a congregation; eighteen families raised money to buy a building. Worship changed from Orthodox to Reform and continues to evolve within Reform Judaism. Technology enabled us to survive a pandemic and now connects us near and far. We reach out and welcome the diversity that is the Jewish people.

Indeed, there is great joy this April as we honor Vassar Temple and the Jewish people's past, celebrate our present and envision our future. May we go from strength to strength .

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

## President's Message:



YEAH APRIL!!!! Woo Hoo! There is so much going on, in and around Vassar Temple this month. We are on stage, front and center, and deeply engrossed in celebration mode.

**Sunday, April 7**, we will be celebrating our 175th Anniversary with our families at Religious School. There will be special refreshments, activities, and maybe even some special entertainment (TBD at time of submission of this

article). Don't miss it!

**Sunday, April 14**, we will be celebrating our 175th Anniversary at the Grandview in Poughkeepsie with a wonderful, fun-filled evening of reminiscing on our history and looking ahead to the future. There will be great food and drink and wonderful people coming together for this spectacular event. Please come out and celebrate the party of the year!

**Friday, April 19**, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism will be joining us for a potluck dinner followed by a very special Shabbat service. He is wonderful and you don't want to miss him.

**Sunday, April 21** is Kurt and my 34th Wedding Anniversary (just sticking this one in here—so I don't forget)!!

**Monday, April 22** is the first night of Passover (my favorite holiday)! Please let the office know if you have an extra seat or two at your seder table or are looking for a seat or two at a table. We will try to make a match.

There's all the regular stuff as well. There are more committee meetings than you can imagine. There are our joyful Shabbat services, Torah Study, Religious School, building upkeep, finance, record keeping and community engagement. Quite frankly, it's a busy

place! There's so much that goes on "behind the curtain." I don't mean this in a negative way. On the contrary; I want to be open and transparent with you, as it is your Temple.

While all the regular and daily functional and special activities are going on, our Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, Investment Committee, office manager, bookkeeper, treasurer, finance liaison and various subcommittees are hard at work not only keeping Vassar Temple warm, enticing, relevant, and engaging in Judaism and our community, but these busy bees that I mentioned prior, are taking the reins on making us fiscally responsible in maintaining, and planning for Vassar Temple's future. I know I have spoken about all the "money asks" that we put out there. But I want to take a moment to enlighten and assure you that we are seeking monetary support for our Temple from outside sources as well. We are the recipients of a huge Building Decarbonization grant (please see separate Bulletin article—and thank you, Susan!). We have applied for and are waiting to hear if we will be reimbursed for an Employee Retention Credit. We are working tirelessly on State and Federal Safety and Security Grants. We are participating in various bank programs like the Sweep program that has brought in quite a bit of money. We are being quite successful with our growing endowment and Investments.

I put this out there because this is your Temple and you need to know how it functions. I totally understand if you choose not to be directly involved in these things, day-to-day (although we welcome your participation and support), but knowledge is everything, and now you know! Please reach out to myself or a board member with your comments and ideas. We welcome your interest, input and participation. Happy April from both behind and in front of the curtain!

They say that membership has its privileges. Nothing is more true about Vassar Temple. What a privilege it is to be a member of a congregation with the history and staying power of Vassar Temple. Please join us April 14 for this celebratory gala evening. This is definitely a party well-earned and worth celebrating!

*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.

### April 2024 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- April 5: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)
- April 12: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)
- April 19: Donated by Sisterhood and Adriaan & Sam Finnerman  
in honor of Vassar Temple's 175th Anniversary
- April 26: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Fund (silk flowers)



## “Let all who are hungry come and eat”

The Pesach Seder opens with this invitation to invite guests to share in our festive meal. With the enormous demands of planning our Anniversary Gala just two weeks before Pesach, we are sadly unable to provide a Community Seder this year. We look forward to returning to this tradition next year.

So, this year we are trying something different:

***Can you add any guests to your Seder table?***

***Are you in need of a place for Seder?***



If so, please email Rabbi Altman ([Rabbi@vassartemple.org](mailto:Rabbi@vassartemple.org)) by 4/12 and we will do our best to make matches. All information will be kept confidential. Please include any dietary restrictions, if there are pets or pet allergies, accessibility issues, etc.

## New Paths ~ April

Everyone is invited to join us at Vassar Temple for a New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturdays, April 6 and 20 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 expect to meet only on Zoom April 6 and "hybrid" (both inside the Temple and on Zoom) on April 20.

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 ~April

### April 6

#### **Ki Tisa:**

Exodus 30:11-34:35; I Kings 18:1-39

#### **Sh'mini:**

Leviticus 9:1-11:47; Ezekiel 45:16-25

### April 13

#### **Tazria:**

Leviticus 12:1-13:59; II Kings 4:42-5:19

### April 20

#### **M'tzora:**

Leviticus 14:1-15:33; Malachi 3:4-24

### April 27

#### **Chol HaMo-Eid Pesach:**

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

## Study Groups at Vassar Temple

**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 to 1:30pm Mondays on Zoom on select Mondays. 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**

## Religious School Update ~ April

Spring brings us the sunniest season of Jewish holidays—Purim, Passover, and then celebrations of the modern State of Israel. Daffodils and tulips on the table, open windows, and the exchange of heavy coats for light jackets. Not to mention, more hours of sunlight.

In March, students in the religious school baked hamantaschen, whooped it up with Purim-shpiels in class, and watched Steven Spielberg's *The Prince of Egypt*. The temple's Purim celebration brought everyone together for a raucous homage to the farcical megillah, the Book of Esther. Then the students dispersed for spring break.

April will bring more merriment. Students will have their own junior version of the Vassar Temple gala: a birthday party for our congregation. Isn't it amazing to think that, when VT was founded, Abraham Lincoln was a freshman member of the US House of Representatives?

And as Passover approaches, they'll review the highlights of the Haggadah and create their own ritual objects to put on their seder tables.



All our students, teachers, and madrichim join me in wishing everyone in our Vassar Temple family a happy, healthy, peaceful Passover holiday.

*Rabbi Shoshana Hantman*

*Religious School Director*

## Hamantaschen Baking Day Another Big Success!

It's always easier when we don't have to use our snow date and this year it was 60 degrees on March 3rd, so that definitely wasn't an issue. Also, the new ovens made baking the hamantaschen so much faster and easier, that we were done early!

The temple downstairs was buzzing with activity with so much going on in the kitchen and social hall. It took the efforts of a lot of people to make as many delicious hamantaschen as we did in less than four hours! There were people in the kitchen rolling and cutting out dough while others in the social hall were filling and folding them into hamantaschen so they could be baked in our amazing new ovens. Also, out in the social hall, folks were making packages to send to our college students, plates for delivery as outreach and, of course, to serve after our Megillah reading and Purim Spiel. Our Sunday School students were helping too, and they were very talented bakers and terrific at making hamantaschen! Parents, your kids did a super job!

Thank you to the many people whose efforts helped make this year's hamantaschen baking and delivering go as well as it did:

- Andi and Paul Ciminello
- Susan Colodner
- Sandra Cornell
- Maddy D'Angelo
- Susan Fink,
- Susan Karnes Hecht
- Ronni Jarvis,
- Ariel Lampell
- Marilyn Lampell
- Ann Lerman
- Ann Lescher
- Sue Lesser
- Polly Lewis
- Susan Lydiard
- Claudia Kelson
- Micah and Misun Modell
- Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
- Shaari and Rachel Roland
- Lisa Rubenstein
- Arlene and Gil Seligman
- Roni Stein
- Marcia Tanzman
- Jenny Ward
- Ellen Zelig



# Baking Day!

We had so many helpers that I'm sure I've forgotten to acknowledge someone. Please know that it was unintentional.

*Judy Rosenfeld*

*Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day Chair*

# DUTCHESS COUNTY MITZVAH DAY

## A Day of Community Service

**Sunday, May 5 ~ 8:30am—3pm**

Kick-off breakfast is 8:30am at our HQ, Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Meet your team captain! There are service project opportunities for everyone — tots, kids, teens, adults, seniors, families, indoor/outdoor, on-site or off-site.

Learn more and signup starting April 1 at [www.jewishdutchessd.org/events](http://www.jewishdutchessd.org/events)

### Cereal Counts!!!

Help combat summer hunger. Please bring boxed cereal to Vassar Temple, the new Jewish Federation office, or to Mitzvah Day.

Cereal Counts benefits local food pantries and children of Morse School.



### New: Drive for Liberty Station Residence for Homeless Veterans

Watch for list of needed items, including individually wrapped snacks. Bring to drop-off box at Temple or to Mitzvah Day.

Questions: [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org) or

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County 845-471-9811



## Civic Engagement: Meet Our Local Elected Officials



### Sue Serino, Dutchess County Executive, Wednesday, April 10 at 7pm

In January we welcomed newly elected District Attorney, Anthony Parisi, to Vassar Temple. It was a cold night; however, approximately 20 participants came out to speak with Anthony about public safety, hate crimes and overall civic engagement. City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers joined us in February to meet our community and share her vision for Poughkeepsie. This series will continue over the next few months with invitations to other elected officials. We plan to reach out to other community leaders. These are not political events. Rather, they are opportunities to speak with our sitting elected officials about issues of importance to the Jewish community.

## Matzoh Mitzvah Now

*Let all who are hungry come and eat. ~ Passover Haggadah*

Join our community in raising funds to nourish Morse School kids age 6-11 and their families. The Jewish Social Action Coalition will shop for you and make every shekel count! Two tax-deductible ways to donate:

**By check** made out to Jewish Federation of Dutchess County with *Matzoh Mitzvah Project* on the memo line. Mail it to: Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, PO Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

or

**Donate online** directly to the Regional Food Bank of NENY at [regionalfoodbank.net](http://regionalfoodbank.net), where we have established an account to purchase the food for Morse at a deep discount. Select that you want your donation to support an "Adopt-a-Program." BE SURE TO INSERT JSAC's account number for the Morse School, **#2593K**, in the Partner Agency box above your payment method.

Either way you choose to donate, you will be providing appealing, nutritious food, including high-quality proteins and fresh produce, to the children in most need in our community. \$180 helps nourish one Morse child for a year. All donation amounts are welcome ~ Thank you for your support!

*Matzoh Mitzvah Now* is a joint tzedakah project of the JFedDC, PJ Library, and JSAC members Vassar Temple, Congregation Shir Chadash, Congregation Schomre Israel, Temple Beth El, and The Harding Club. Any questions: contact Pam Mason [admin@jewishdutchess.org](mailto:admin@jewishdutchess.org) 845-471-9811, or [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).



**MATZOH  
MITZVAH NOW:  
FOR THE MORSE  
SCHOOL!**



## Seventh Day Passover Dessert Extravaganza—Sunday, April 28, 7pm



Celebrate the last day of Passover (which is a festival)! Bring your leftover *Pasadic* desserts (or bake new ones).

Like a seder, we will have an order of fun activities, including four cups of wine/dessert pairings. Our celebration of crossing the Sea of Reeds is truly unique!!

Please RSVP to [ritual@vassartemple.org](mailto:ritual@vassartemple.org) by April 21 and indicate what you will bring.

## Mazel Tov!

Dalia Rachel Golomb, daughter of Tal and Ariella, and granddaughter of Rabbi Paul and Deborah, was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 10, at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, where her great-great-great-grandfather was an officer around 1900.

## Jewish War Veterans ~ April 14

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its April meeting on Sunday, April 14 at Shomre Israel. The meeting format will follow that which we used before the pandemic. Future meetings will be May 19 and June 9. All are Sundays.

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

### SUSTAINING FUND

#### In Memory of:

Dolores Brundage  
Anne Lacher & Philip Lacher  
Evelyn Partridge  
Paul Goldberg & Lorraine Goldberg  
Milton Levitt  
Erica Robbins, Greta Blaine & Martin Noble  
Sadie Lieberman

Doreen Kimmel

#### In Appreciation of:

Marcia & Glenn Tanzman

Gloria Turk

Laura & Thomas Brundage

Maury Lacher

Richard Partridge

Dr. Sara Jane Goldberg

Ellen Zelig

Martin Noble, Jr

The Friedman Family

Muriel Lampell

Nadine & Joel Zaritsky

### COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

Arlene & Gil Seligman



### LUNCH BOX FUND

#### In Memory of:

Clara Levy Ribbi

Perla & Charles Kaufman

### MUSIC FUND

#### In Memory of:

Dr. Paul Koltai

Cathy & Gabe Bokor

### THE WINDOWS PROJECT

James Robinowitz

### VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

Berlin Family Fund & The Kelson Family

Gloria Turk

**Next time you make a donation, consider donating to the Eternal Torah Fund:** This fund is used for ongoing maintenance of our precious Torah scrolls, associated ritual objects, and the ark where they are stored.

## Shabbat Yeladim (Children's Shabbat) ~ April 20 at 10:30am

All young children from tots to first grade are invited to join Rabbi Altman to celebrate the Sabbath and the upcoming holiday of Passover on Saturday April 20 at 10:30am at Vassar Temple. Our stuffed bear friends *Kachol v'Lavan* will be there to take part in the singing, stories, and a brief, child-friendly 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](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or call the Temple 845-454-2570.

## Vassar Temple's 175th Anniversary, The Endowment Fund and *YOU*

In a few weeks, many of us will gather for Vassar Temple's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. It will be a remarkable event. Survival is not the point. *Survival for a reason is.*

Vassar Temple is a special place because it has nurtured generations of Reform Jews, providing religious sustenance, guidance, a sense of community and camaraderie, a connection with a heritage that stretches back thousands of years and yet reflects our modern views of how we, as Jews, relate to each other and to the broader, non-Jewish community. We are not an island. Rather, we are a peninsula, attached to the mainland of contemporary America, moored and guided by the ethical teachings of our ancient religion.

The trauma of October 7, 2023 has affected each of us in different ways. It has reinforced in us an awareness of the fragility of life. Regardless of how we feel about Israel's response to that attack, our lives as American Jews have changed: how we view ourselves and our relationship to Israel, and how we are viewed by our non-Jewish fellow citizens.

While our impact on the actions of our government or Israel's regarding the conduct of the war or relations between Israel and Palestinians is likely to be slight, in the near term we can have an immediate and major impact on the future of Vassar Temple by making a commitment to the Vassar Temple Endowment Fund. Many of you reading this article will have already answered by saying "*hineni*" – here I am. But others of you have held back. The time for action is NOW – when your pledge will get us to our goal of \$500,000. *Help us to reach or exceed that goal, so that the Temple's financial future will be secure.* Your decision can really "move the needle" to provide continuity for future generations of Temple members. All of us who value Vassar Temple and all it has meant for 175 years will thank you.

*Martin Charwat & Lou Lewis*

*Co-Chairs of the Endowment Fund*

## SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Apple Cake for Passover ~ Susan Fink

### Ingredients

- 2-1/4 cups matzo cake meal, divided
- 4 large apples, peeled and sliced
- 2-1/4 cups sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon potato starch
- whipped cream, optional

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Dust a greased 13x9-in. baking dish with 1/4 cup matzo meal; set aside. In a large bowl, combine apples, 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon; set aside. In another large bowl, beat eggs until slightly thickened. Gradually add remaining sugar, beating until thick and lemon-colored. Beat in oil and water. Combine potato starch and remaining matzo meal; add to egg mixture and mix well. Pour half of batter into prepared pan. Top with apples and remaining batter. Bake until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean, 40-45 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. If desired, top with whipped cream.

## Happy Passover



## Passover Morning Service & Yizkor ~ Monday, April 29 at 10:30am

Celebrate the last day of Pesach at our Festival Morning service, commemorating the moment of redemption at the crossing at the Sea of Reeds. Yizkor (memorial prayers) will be included. During seasons of joy, we pause to remember our loved ones; no doubt, we will have felt their absence around the seder table. It can be comforting to remember them in the context of community, whether you choose to attend in person or virtually. Join Rabbi Altman and your Vassar Temple family for this special service, which will be held both in person and on Zoom. Watch Temple e-mails for the Zoom link, or contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org).



## Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ Thursday, April 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 have its next meeting on Thursday, April 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 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.



## Climate Corner ~ an update from our Dayenu Circle

### April is Earth Month!



Join us in postcarding with the **Environmental Voter Project**, a non-partisan organization that uses research-based methods to turn out infrequent, but registered voters who are likely to factor environmental concerns heavily into voting decisions. Our first postcarding campaign will be to voters in Nevada to encourage them to vote in the June 11 state primary. We will have cards available in April, which must be mailed on May 22 (or can be returned to us for mailing if you cannot mail that day). Cards, addresses, and scripts are provided, and we ask that you donate stamps for the cards that you

write. Please contact [dayenudutchess@gmail.com](mailto:dayenudutchess@gmail.com) to help with EVP postcarding.

Visit our Dayenu table at Dutchess County's second annual Earth Day celebration, Saturday, April 20 from 10am–1:30pm at the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns, 124 Raymond Avenue in Poughkeepsie. This event for all ages is a great way to engage in our conservation values on Shabbat!

## Vassar Temple Awarded Decarbonizer Grant

I am elated to announce that Vassar Temple has been awarded a \$36,000 Building Decarbonizer Grant from Partners for Climate Action ([climateactionhv.org](http://climateactionhv.org)). PCA provides financial, program, and educational support in our bio-region (the Hudson River Estuary watershed). Heating, cooling, and building energy use are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in New York State, and this new grant directly reduces emissions by funding projects to reduce fossil fuel use. From a total of 70 applicants, we were among 20 selected for funding. The grant does not require any match from our budget and will be disbursed in advance of the proposed work, facilitating cash flow.

This money will be used to complete actions recommended by our energy audit (wi-fi thermostats, insulation of hot water pipes, and more) and to install mini-splits (air-source heat pumps) on our main floor office/classroom wing, eliminating use of gas to heat that section and improving upon the old window air conditioners that are in a few of those rooms. These measures will further result in savings on our utility bills.

This new program is not only intended to fund projects. An equally crucial goal is to catalyze action in our region by setting an example and functioning as a learning cohort. Awardees will have opportunities to share ideas through meetings and field trips. Public storytelling and demonstration will raise the project's profile, ideally supporting additional grant rounds.

We are in incredible company with municipal, educational, cultural, and faith organizations selected for this first cohort who will be completing energy audits, efficiency measures, retrofits, and other actions. Our robust history of social action and justice, efforts towards diversity and inclusion, and commitment to environmental advocacy all influenced our being selected. Our location in a defined disadvantaged community was also important to the granting organization.

I am indebted to Margery Groten for her expert assistance as I completed our application for this funding. It is incredibly gratifying to merge my key pursuits – Vassar Temple and climate advocacy – and I am tremendously proud that we can demonstrate this leadership.

Please watch Temple communications for updates as this project proceeds.

*Susan Karnes Hecht*

## April 5

Max Solomon  
Idane Evan Salenger  
Vawn Jennifer Salenger  
Morris S. Rosenmann  
Milton Levitt  
David H. Ettenson  
Hon. Joseph H. Gellert  
Herman Baskin  
Paula Landau  
Samuel Baskin  
Mimi L. Schor  
Bob DiBennardo  
Dr. Albert Gould  
Joshua Lowe Posner  
Paul Goldberg  
Dolores Marie Brundage  
Morris D. Kovacs  
Mollie Rosenberg  
Max Michael Simon, MD  
Isador Albinder

## April 12

Joseph Frankel  
Vera Lisovsky Budson  
Eli Mamis  
Martha Katz  
Lorraine Goldberg  
Morris Rosenberg  
Jeannette S. Newman  
Lillian F. Kovacs  
Jack Jacobson  
Herbert Rosand  
Evelyn Lanning  
Charles Volkman, Sr.  
Dr. Paul Koltai  
Solomon Salberg  
Nathan "Toolie" Turk  
David Korobkin  
Anne Lacher  
Paula Rosner-Schwartz  
Louis Schwartz  
Elias Altman  
Ida Salit

## April 19

Elsie H. Albert  
Sadie Lieberman  
Dr. Fritz Weigert  
Philip Lacher  
Evelyn Partridge  
Marion Volkman  
Eva Bley  
Gilbert Harrison Keane  
Annie Schultze  
Doreen Kimmel  
Rebecca Wolfson  
George N. Freedman  
Eric Mendel  
Gladys Salberg  
Nathan L. Reifler  
Samuel H. Weisman  
Belle Lescher  
Susan Getty




## April 26

Alfred Kaplan  
Elizabeth "Libby" Horowitz  
Pauline Dubler  
Hester Lox  
Harriet Drucker  
Delbert LaLone  
Gertrude Rosenmann Sonkin  
John J. Moloney  
Norman S. Reifler  
Lester M. Ritter  
Julius Seif  
Matilda (Mattie) Jukofsky  
Joan Budson Cohen  
Sidney Cohen  
Clara Levy Ribbi  
Bessie Goldman Lass  
Anna Dreishpoon  
Frances R. Finnerman  
Abraham Tavss



# April Yahrzeits

# Calendar of Events—April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7pm Vassar Temple Sisterhood Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>4</b> 7pm Ritual CMTE	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>6</b> 9am Torah Study (tentative) 10:15am New Paths
<b>7</b> 9am Religious School  10:30am  Lunch Box  11am VT's 175th Birthday Party for RS and TT familie  	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>11</b> 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	<b>12</b> 7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>13</b> 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
<b>14</b> 9am Religious School  9:45 Judaism 101   5pm VT's 175th Gala  The Grandview 176 Rinaldi Blvd POK	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>18</b> 12pm Chai Noon Sisterhood Luncheon  2pm VTS Book Club	<b>19</b> 6pm Potluck Dinner  7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Rick Jacobs	<b>20</b> 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Yeladim
<b>21</b> 9am Religious School	<b>22</b> Passover Eve  First Seder	<b>23</b> Passover Day 1  Office Closed	<b>24</b> Passover Day 2  4:30pm Hebrew School  7pm Finance CMTE	<b>25</b> Passover Day 3  6:30pm Shelter Meal  7pm VT Board	<b>26</b> Passover Day 4  6pm Simchat Shabbat Service	<b>27</b> Passover Day 5  9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
<b>28</b> Passover Day 6  Religious School 9:45 Judaism 101  7pm Seventh Day Dessert "Seder"	<b>29</b> Passover Day 7  10:30am Seventh Day Pesach Morning Service  Office Closed	<b>30</b>				

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

## VTS Book Club to Read Historical Saga

### *The Splendid and the Vile* ~ April 18 at 2:00pm



The topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Vassar Temple Sisterhood book group will be *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz* by Erik Larson. Drawing on diaries, original archival documents, and once-secret intelligence reports — some released only recently — Larson provides a new lens on London’s darkest year through the day-to-day experience of Churchill and his family. *The Splendid and the Vile* takes readers out of today’s political dysfunction and back to a time of true leadership, when, in the face of unrelenting horror, Churchill’s eloquence, courage, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together. The discussion will take place on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 2 pm, in-person at the Collegetown Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue,

Poughkeepsie. All are welcome to participate. To RSVP or for questions, or to recommend future book selections, please contact [bookclub@vassartemple.org](mailto:bookclub@vassartemple.org).