



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 2 ~ September 2024

An evening of teaching with Alden Solovy at Vassar Temple

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 ~ 7 pm



Acclaimed Jewish poet, Alden Solovy is a modern-day piytan, a traveling poet/preacher/teacher who uses Torah and verse to engage and inspire.

Join us for a one-hour adult education session on *Unetaneh Tokef*/The Power of the Day, followed by readings from Alden's latest book, *Enter These Gates: Meditations for the Days of Awe* along with a book signing.

Unetaneh Tokef is a four-part masterpiece echoing the central themes of the High Holidays. We will examine this liturgical poem—the inspiration for Leonard Cohen's song "Who by Fire" ~ as a study in contrasts, with a core theme and a surprisingly subversive poetic subtext.

Sponsors:

Vassar Temple's Adult Education Committee and Vassar Temple Sisterhood with funding from The Fannie & Doris Berlin Lecture Series

RSVP to office@vassartemple.org or 845.454.2570

From the Rabbi's Desk:



One Sunday morning a little boy woke up before anyone else in the house. As he went downstairs to play the grandfather clock began to chime. Now the boy couldn't have known that just at that moment, something broke within the clock so that it doubled the number of chimes. He counted along with the clock: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12—13, 14! Quite astonished, the boy ran upstairs yelling to everyone,

“Quick, everybody, get up! It's later than it's ever been!!”

I think of this story when the Holy Days fall very “late,” as they do this year. While it may feel as though they are “later than they have ever been” they also began on October 2 in 2016. It all depends upon where we are in the 19-year cycle of adjustments made to the Jewish lunar monthly calendar so that our holidays stay in their appropriate seasons.

No one ever seems happy about the timing of the Holy Days. Personally, I appreciate it when they fall later because it gives us more time for our personal/spiritual preparation. Though the Days of Repentance begin on Rosh Hashanah and culminate on Yom Kippur, the rabbinic sages knew that ten days are not enough time for doing *teshuvah*. The process of true repentance is complicated: it means recognizing where we have gone wrong, accepting responsibility for our actions, apologizing, and making amends. To encourage us to get started well before Rosh Hashanah, the sages took the last month of the Jewish year, Elul, and turned it into an on ramp to the *Yamim Noraim*, by adding daily rituals such as sounding the shofar, special readings and penitential prayers.

Of course, Elul happens every year but when it occurs while we are in the carefree mode of summer, it can be more challenging to undertake the work of *teshuvah*. With children back in religious school and temple life underway, there is actually time to learn about the Holy Days and prepare oneself before they begin.

To this end, on September 11 we will be most fortunate to host a return visit of poet and liturgist, Alden Solovy who will teach about a key prayer of the Holy Day liturgy, the *Unetaneh Tokef*. You may recognize his work as I often read his inspirational poems at Shabbat services.

This year I will offer a new opportunity for personal reflection during Elul: look for a “thought question” at the top of the Friday email reminders, starting on September 6/3 Elul. I hope these weekly questions will inspire in your preparation for the New Year.

The pinnacle of Elul is the night of *Selichot*. The kabbalists (mystics) began the custom of reciting *Selichot* (prayers of forgiveness) at midnight on the Saturday night preceding Rosh Hashanah, believing that the heavens are most open to prayers at that time. While our prayers won't last until midnight, the later evening service, with the introduction of the Holy Day melodies, changing of the Torah mantles to white, and meditation time before the Ark, all add to the spiritual nature of the season and open our hearts to repentance. As is our tradition, the evening will begin with dessert and awarding of the Arnold Award to one who has served this congregation with excellence in the areas of Torah, *Avodah* (worship) and/or *Gemilut Hassadim* (Acts of loving kindness). This year's recipient, Martin Charwat, certainly exemplifies the best of all these qualities. Please join us on Saturday, Sept. 28, beginning at 7:30pm, to honor Martin and come together as the Vassar Temple family to observe the moving tradition of *Selichot*.

Rabbi Renni Altman

President's Message:



This time of year can be interesting for Vassar Temple. It is the end of the summer months, and heads toward the end of the year in Judaism. But also, it is the beginning of the school year for many children and families. Hopefully this summer, you came for a wonderful Flexible Feast dinner, made some pickles and helped make the Bargain Basement sale a success. In September Temple life picks up some speed and the calendar fills up. Those committee meetings are happening even more, as well as community events that Temple participates in the wider community.

Religious school starts on September 8 with a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Religious school committee and Sisterhood.

Religious school staff, families and Sisterhood volunteers make sure the year starts with a tasty breakfast and a chance for everyone present to meet and greet. The Fannie & Doris Berlin Lecture with Alden Solovy will be occurring on the 11th. Alden Solovy returns to Vassar Temple with what promises to be a wonderful program.

As well, toward the end of the month Selichot comes along guiding us toward reflection of the year we have just experienced in our personal lives and our Temple life. We are all then preparing for the upcoming High Holy Days. We all look forward to being together in worship and community. In a world that sometimes forgets how important community can be, we at Vassar Temple do not! I also look forward baking my new favorite honey cake recipe that I found in the Temple bulletin courtesy of Sisterhood President Polly Lewis.

I have been taking advantage of the URJ webinars on several subjects regarding Temple governance, security, and sharing ideas with presidents of similar sized congregations. The executive committee of the board of trustees is continuing to use the resources and knowledge of the URJ in assisting our running of Vassar Temple.

Our building has been receiving some major TLC this year! As of this writing, just two windows need to be installed in the east chapel and new sills will be installed for the sanctuary windows. Thank you to the window committee and our congregation for getting this project completed. Additionally, air conditioning for the sanctuary, east chapel, and balcony area is scheduled. This also includes heat pumps for these areas, which will be less taxing on the boiler handling the rest of the building. Many thanks to the House committee, Ritual committee, Temple staff and the board for working together to get this project done properly and as quickly as possible.

We're looking back and forward at the same time. We repair our building while keeping its traditional look. Our religious school students learn building on what they've already learned. Sisterhood and Brotherhood find new ways of engaging members through programming. You get the idea; staying relevant and necessary while maintaining and building on traditions. See you in September!

Also as of this writing, the hostages are yet to be released. **Bring them home!** I hope that by the time you read this message they will be home with their families and the war will be in cease fire.

Roni Stein

Bimah Flowers for our Services ~ September 2024



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 \$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.

September 2024 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- September 6: David Steinberg and Kathy Moloney in memory of Jay H. Steinberg
- September 13: Marcia & Glenn Tanzman and Roni & Charles Stein in honor of their 45th Anniversaries
- September 20: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- September 27: Daniel Scherrer and Jo Schaffel in memory of their parents

Judaism 101 ~ Year 2

Our second year of Judaism 101 will begin on Sunday, September 22 at 9:45am. Our study this year will build upon last year as we explore topics such as Reform Judaism, Jewish history, women in Judaism, Israel and deepen our understanding of the holidays as we go through the year. Newcomers are welcome—participation in last year's class is not a requirement. The class will meet in person at the Temple.

Please RSVP to office@vassartemple.org.

Ritual Committee Seeks Members

The Ritual Committee is looking for congregants to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings are held on Zoom. Specific knowledge and proficiency in Hebrew, in prayers, or in Torah is not required. Rather, an interest in assisting the congregation to create an accessible, interesting, and meaningful worship and fellowship experience is helpful.

We work closely with the Rabbi to:

- Determine and implement the congregation's ritual policy
- Involve congregants in prayer services
- Formulate rules and regulations for Shabbat services, holidays and life cycle events
- Manage upkeep and maintenance of temple's ritual objects including Siddurim, Torahs, tallitot, and silver ornamentation

Ritual Committee members work with the Rabbi on services planning to ensure that services for Selichot, Second Day Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Purim, run smoothly. Finally, and by no means of least importance, we identify congregants to lead services in the Rabbi's absence.

Please contact me at ritual@vassartemple.org to join in this important work.

Marcia Tanzman

Scriptural Readings September

July 6

Korach:

Numbers 16:1-18:32; I Samuel 11:14-12:22

September 7

Shof'tim:

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9; Isaiah 51:12-52:12

September 14

Ki Teitzei:

Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19; Isaiah 54:1-10

September 21

Ki Tavo:

Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8; Isaiah 60:1-22

September 28

Nitzavim/Vayeilech:

Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30; Isaiah 61:1—63:9

Study Groups at Vassar Temple

Torah Study with Rabbi Renni Altman, DD, meets at 9am Saturday mornings (hybrid). Come join our lively discussions! Contact us at office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 to be placed on the Torah Study e-mail list.

Talmud Study with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb, meets from noon to 1:30pm on alternating Mondays. The first class this month will be September 9, tentatively at the Temple, but generally we meet on Zoom. To be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list and receive study sheets, contact him at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

All welcome

No prior knowledge necessary

No charge to attend

What is a New Paths?

Everyone is invited to join us at Vassar Temple for a New Paths Sabbath morning service Saturdays, September 7 and 21 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, spiritually-oriented 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 e-mail list, if you need the link or to borrow our special prayer book if participating on Zoom.

Access and Parking in Front of Vassar Temple

Access to and parking in front of Temple can be challenging. For some congregants and visitors it is essential! As a reminder, from the Temple walkway to the corner is Handicapped Parking. In front of the Temple walkway is a ramp area for drop-off of those with mobility issues. When parking, please leave the ramp area and some room on either side for a person who needs special access. Your understanding is greatly appreciated!



Climate Corner ~ an update from our Dayenu Circle

We're going to launch an interesting climate exercise.

When we applied for the Building Decarbonizer Grant, we indicated willingness to “benchmark” our building: that is, perform an objective comparison of energy use before and after completing actions.

Since being awarded the grant (for heat pumps in the office/classroom area, Wi-Fi thermostats, hot water pipe insulation, and temperature sensor to moderate boiler use), additional variables have come into play that will impact this assessment: the new windows and the installation of heat pumps following the demise of the sanctuary air conditioning system. Regardless, it will be valuable to demonstrate the reduction in use of fossil fuels not only to document the effectiveness of these actions—and hopefully influence others to follow suit—but also to be accountable to our members who donated extensively for the windows and to the granting organization that selected us as a member of the very first grant cohort to help take leadership in getting this message out into the community.

A sample of older utility bills will be gathered (pre-Covid, as baseline use was impacted by shutdown time). This will be compared with post-action numbers for the amount of electricity and gas used. This can be converted to equivalent greenhouse gas emissions. We can also use a tool provided by the EPA that further takes into account weather, comparison to similar size buildings, and so on.

If you are interested in working on this project (and especially if you enjoy socializing over spreadsheets!) please contact dayenudutchess@gmail.com.

Please also note the invitation to the POSTCARD PARTY on September 17, included elsewhere in the Bulletin, at which we'll work on postcards for the Environmental Voter Project.



Upcoming Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon



Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon, which meets at noon on the 18th of most months (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends) will meet on Wednesday, September 18. Specific details about the September restaurant will be mailed to everyone 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.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its next meeting on September 15 with schmooze at 9am and meeting at 9:30 at Shomre Israel.



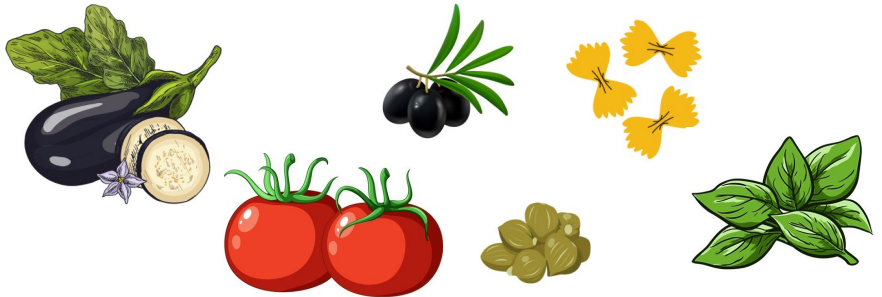
SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Pasta with Eggplant Puttanesca ~ Helen Brandonisi

This is one of my favorite recipes from a Weight Watcher's Fruits and Veggies cookbook.

Ingredients (makes 1 loaf)

- 1 cup cubed eggplant
- 1 cup canned diced tomatoes
- 4 pitted and chopped Kalamata olives
- 1 teaspoon capers
- 1/4 cup bow tie pasta (cooked)
- Basil



Directions:

- Cook cubed eggplant in skillet sprayed with nonstick spray until soft and brown, about 8 minutes.
- Add tomatoes, Kalamata olives and capers.
- Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in cooked bow tie pasta and some basil.

Martin Charwat to be Honored at *Selichot* Program ~ September 28



Come help honor Martin Charwat when he receives the Arnold Award at a festive dessert reception Saturday, September 28 at 7:30pm in the Social Hall. After Havdalah, the moving *Selichot* Service will follow at approximately 9pm in the Sanctuary.

Named for Rabbi Emeritus Stephen A. Arnold, this award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the religious life of the Temple, in the realms of Torah (study), *Avodah* (worship), and/or *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). Martin qualifies in all realms. He has taught the older students in the religious school, as well as adult ed classes on Israel, Iran, the Middle East, and Ukraine. He has led services, sang in the Temple choir, substitutes for the cantor many Friday nights, and he led the

campaign to refurbish the Temple's historic piano that enhances services every week. In addition to these contributions to the religious life of the Temple, Martin has served in many leadership positions, including congregational president, and is currently helping develop the Vassar Temple Endowment Fund.

The evening's events will also be accessible on Zoom. **Those who are planning to attend the *Selichot* service on Zoom may contact the office beforehand at 845-454-2570 to borrow one of the special prayer books we use for that service.**

Sisterhood News

Vassar Temple Sisterhood started off the new season with a Bargain Basement sale. Thank you to all who donated time for set up, time for the actual sale, and time to pack up. Thanks to Glenn Tanzman, Kamil Wisniewski and Chuck Stein for security and carrying items to people's cars.

The left over items from the Bargain Basement sale were donated to Hudson Riverside Housing, The Lodge, and Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts of Dutchess County.

Upcoming Sisterhood events include:

- ◆ Welcome to Sunday School with a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 8.
- ◆ Fanny and Doris Berlin Lecture with Alden Solovy on Wednesday, September 11. He is a popular poet, liturgist, author and educator.
- ◆ Chai Noon Luncheon at on Wednesday, September 18.

Polly Lewis

Sisterhood President

A Fabulous Flexible Feast

The 2024 Flexible Feast was a stunning success with six diverse meals, great attendance, new friends made, and over \$4,000 raised for operations! We could not have accomplished this without our generous, talented hosts:

- Polly Lewis & Kamil Wisniewski
- Jo Schaffel & Daniel Scherrer
- Susan Karnes Hecht & David Hecht
- Jas Russo-Daniels & Sean Daniels Sr.
- Laura & Michael Sperling
- Melissa Erlebacher & Laura Brundage
- Francine Kaplan, Susan Colodner & Maddy D'Angelo



Thank you to the many attendees and those who could not attend but made donations nonetheless.

We are already thinking about Summer 2025! The Feast is very popular, but we know that change is good!

Please contact fundraising@vassartemple.org to let us know:

- if you can offer to host next year
- you would prefer to attend a different seasonal fundraising event such as a series of curated local experiences (e.g. winery or brewery tasting, river cruise...we welcome suggestions as well as volunteers to help organize!)

PLEASE HELP FILL OUR FREEZER WITH FOOD FOR REYUT RECIPIENTS

Have you been busy filling your freezer these past few months but now aren't sure if you'll ever eat it all? There is space in the temple freezer for food for Reyut if you'd like to donate some of your extra home-cooked food to be given to members of our temple family who have lost a loved one or are dealing with an illness or surgery.



Our Reyut recipients are sometimes families, but are usually older congregants who live by themselves and prefer smaller containers of food. Soups are always great, but so is anything else that you'd like to make—just please remember that it should be kosher style (no pork or shellfish and no mixture of dairy and meat). Don't forget to label the container with what it is and the date. Everyone is always so grateful for the delicious assortment of food.

We rarely know in advance when or how much food will be needed, so it works out very well to have it ready in the temple freezer for when the need arises.

Since the need for Reyut food is ongoing, you can bring it in to the temple when ever it's convenient for you. If you are able to help out, please let me know that you've left food in the freezer and what it is. Thank you so much!

Judy Rosenfeld
Reyut Chair
reyut@vassartemple.org

Postcard Party at Vassar Temple ~ Tuesday, September 17 at 7pm

Join our Civic Engagement and Dayenu teams to write voter postcards for the general election on behalf of the Center for Common Ground and the Environmental Voter Project. These are non-partisan organizations focused on fighting voter suppression and increasing voter turnout.

Writing postcards with others is a great way to turn anxiety into action. We provide the cards, addresses, scripts, and camaraderie. Donations of postcard stamps are greatly appreciated. If you only have time to stop by, we can give you a postcard kit to complete at home. If you can't attend but would like to help with this ongoing and effective effort, please contact us!

Please RSVP to either civicengagement@vassartemple.org or dayenudutchess@gmail.com to let us know you'll be there!

Condolences to the families of:

Richard David Budson, brother of Susan Budson Fink
Suk-He LaLone, sister-in-law of Jane LaLone
Richard Arnoff, father of Michael Arnoff

Mazel Tov to:

Max and Ilyssa Hecht on the birth of Julian
Miles Hecht on August 3rd. The overjoyed first-time grandparents are Susan and David Hecht.



SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon, Cora Solomon & Michael L. Solomon
Alan Colodner
Kent Mardon

Dr. Richard Slater Cohen & Frederick C. Tuchmann
Molly Garber & Roy Riechman
Irving Revitz
Katherine Moffit, Shelia Mardon Sukert & Nathan Bernstein
Morris Kaufman & Regina R. Olivar
Deborah Heilweil
Hyman Silverman
Phyllis Mamis Bell & Spencer Rosenthal
Nettie Jacobs, Sara G. Rice & Norman Weiner
Joseph W. Sparks, Molly Solomon & John Sparks
Carl & Kyle Hopperman and Spencer Rosenthal
Aaron Silverman
Hilda Klausner
Donald Hulnick
Howard Mayer & Rita Carol London
Erwin Rosenfeld, Howard Smith & Ellen Rosenfeld
Jeanne Payne & Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell-Moore
Albert D. Kahn
Florence Altman & Dorothy Wender
Mildred Shaprio
Elaine Lipschutz

Richard David Budson

In grateful appreciation of the kindness shown to me:

Bob Abrams, Jonah Ritter & Alan Kflowitz

In honor of:

Muriel Lampell's 95th birthday
Sandra Mamis and her great efforts for VT's 175th Anniversary

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In honor of: Muriel Lampell's 95th birthday and the marriage of Adam Garber, son of Vivian and Ed Garber

Sue Mackson
Drs. Howard Susser & Shirl Davis Susser
Banna Rubinow & Christopher Baltus
Andi & Paul Ciminello

Alan Solomon
Susan Colodner
Muriel Lampell
Doi Cohen
The Hecht Family
Marsha & Richard Lowry
Vivian & Edward Garber
Karen Sukert
Doi Cohen
Vivian & Edward Garber
Lynn & Martin Revitz
Kathy Mardon
Perla & Charles Kaufman
Mindy & Martin Teich
Helen & Brian Silverman
Sandra Similes Mamis
Irma Jacobs
Murray Solomon
Charlene & Loren Rosenthal
Linda & Richard Cantor
Alfred Scope
Andi & Paul Ciminello
Gloria Mayer
Judy & Eric Rosenfeld
Barbara & Andy Chernack
Muriel Lampell
Rabbi Renni Altman & Rick Wender
Francine Kaplan
The Hecht Family
Francine Kaplan
Vivian & Edward Garber
Hilary & Lewis Wrobel
Marlene Straus

Sandra Mamis

Sara Effron & Geoff Lieberman
Jennifer & Stephen Dahnert
Patricia Lamanna
Roy Bartles
Deborah Davidovits
Muriel & Ralph Schwartz
Judy & Eric Rosenfeld
Sandra Mamis
Valerie Carlisle
Irma Jacobs
Mary Ann Bahnsen
Marian & Ralph Schwartz
Sue Mackson
Judy Harkavy
Dr. Shirl Davis-Susser
Inna Soifer

Linda and Richard Cantor

ETERNAL TORAH FUND

In Memory of: Phillip R. Moselle

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: Howard S. Abrams

In Appreciation of: Cantor Goldmann's thoughtfulness

In Honor of: Cantor Goldmann

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of: Melvin Matlin

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of: Muriel Lampell's birthday

The marriage of Adam Garber, son of Vivian and Ed Garber

In Memory of:

Elaine Lipschutz

Joseph LaLone, Ethel Graves & Millie Gould

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLAR'S FUND

In Memory of: Elaine Lipschutz

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of: Rabbi Altman

In Honor of: Marlene Straus's Birthday

In Memory of: Elaine Lipschutz

NATHAN L. REIFLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

In Honor of: Susan Fink's recognition by Sisterhood

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of: Manny Roisen, Edith Roisen, Saul Lazarus
& Marge Lazarus

FLEXIBLE FEAST DONATIONS

MEMORIAL PLAQUE FUND In Memory of: Elaine Lipschutz

RABBI PAUL GOLOMB ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of: Richard David Budson

Jonathan Moselle

Marianne and Robert Abrams

Sandra Mamis

Kathy Mardon

The Matlin Family

Shelley & Steven Turk

Judy Harkavy

Bobbie Hulnick

Muriel Lampell

Grete & Marty Finkelstein

Bobbi Hulnick

Jane LaLone

Katherine Moloney & David Steinberg

Marlene Solomon

Blair Effron

Drs. Howard Susser & Shirl Davis-Susser

Jane LaLone

Fern Lox & Jon Lieberman

Candance & Lou Lewis

Ellen Zelig

Andi & Paul Ciminello

Ambassador Nancy Bikoff Pettit

Vivian & Edward Garber

Muriel Lampell

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Elena Collins

Susan & Howard Reinfeld

Miriam Cohen

Dale Berger-Daar

Jane LaLone

Marge Groten

Oliver Mackson

Sandra Mamis

Cathy Bokor

Kathy Mardon

Cindy & Larry Jacobson and Karen Goodis

Barbara Mindel

Karen Person

Jane LaLone

Doi Cohen

Gail D'Alessio

Susan Fink

Candace & Lou Lewis

Betty Renner

Gail Watson

Cindy & Larry Jacobson and Karen Goodis

Marian & Ralph Schwartz



Religious School Update

As the first anniversary of the tragic October 7, 2023 events approaches, Jewish educators and parents must work together to answer children's questions about the war between Israel and Hamas. Our Vassar Temple teachers will be discussing this at our September 1 meeting, but also I would like to offer parents a useful resource for these difficult discussions.



ReformJudaism.org offers a simple yet comprehensive guide for parents called *Talk To Your Children About Israel and Terrorism: A Toolbox*. It will steer you to practical suggestions about navigating family conversations. Find this at <https://reformjudaism.org/blog/how-talk-your-children-about-israel-and-terrorism-toolbox>.

Back to School



And, regarding the start of the school year:

Because the present year has been a leap year in the Jewish calendar, adding an extra month in late winter, the holiday schedule will feel more “normal” in the coming year, 5785. In the religious school, this means that we will have an entire month to learn about the High Holidays—what a luxury!

The first day of the Sunday religious school program will be September 8. The teachers, *madrichim* and I look forward

to welcoming you and your family. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas at RabbiHantman@aol.com.

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman
Religious School Director

September 6

Mildred L. Greller
Maurice Goldemberg
Phyllis Mamis Bell
Martha Feinman
Louis Rosen
Jack L. Cohn
Regina R. Olivar
Irving Revitz
Molly Garber
Florence Altman
Rebecca Baskin
Leonard Roth
Joseph W. Sparks
Murray Gordon
Dr. Nathan Bernstein
Ryan Creedon
Jay H. Steinberg
Ida Schwartz
Carl Hoppermann
Allene Braw Baskin
Rebecca Slutsky Cohen

September 13

Molly Solomon
David Cohen
Beatrice Plansky
Susan Vance
Margaret M. Feldman
June Siegel
Zelda Cohen Swatlo
Karen Kirk
Barbara Mason
Norman Lesk
Ada M. Shelton
Solomon Diamond
Kyle Hoppermann Rosenthal
Samuel Feldman
Martha Finsmith
Emilie Scharf
Edward Markum
Donald Hulnick
John Sparks
Herbert Kurz

September 20

Arnold Rosenberg
Celia Levine
Louis Lass
Solomon Dunn
Martin Gross
Philip Finnerman
Eva D. Lippmann
Michael Hanagan
Norman Weiner
Dora J. Chertock
Sam Brozen
Klara Haas

Saul Heiser
Richard M. Held
Roy Riechman
Aaron Rabin
Hilda Klausner
Aaron Silverman
Morris Goldberg
Sally Schaffer
Alan Lemberger
Rita Diane Lipshutz

September 27

Bernard Decovnick
Edna Cohn
A.D. Hoffman
Goldie H. Worona
Barnett Colton
Howard Mayer
Louis Altman
Emanuel Aloise
Patricia Kramer
Dorothy Schmukler
Albert D. Kahn
William Falenki
Rita Carol London
Jason Dlugacz



SEPTEMBER YAHREZEITS

Vassar Temple Sisterhood - it's time to start knitting!



Can you knit or crochet a hat or scarf for Dutchess Outreach by mid-October? The days are hot, but the nights are cool and a good time to knit or crochet. Let's beat the amount from last year!

Drop off your finished items (in zip-locked bags, with size marked for adult or child) at Vassar Temple ~ Monday through Friday, 10am to 2pm.

Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Sabbath) ~ September 21

All young children up to first grade are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to Vassar Temple on Saturday, September 21 at 10:30am. Rabbi Altman and her stuffed bear friends *Kachol v'Lavan* will be there to help us greet the Sabbath and to learn about the Jewish New Year. Tell your friends and neighbors—this short service, specially designed for young children, is free and open to the whole community. For questions and to RSVP, please contact office@vassartemple.org.



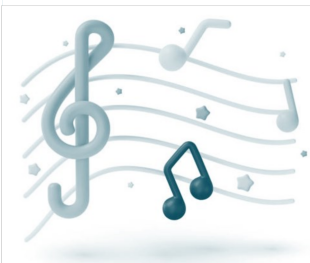
Thank you from the Social Action Committee

THANKS
FOR
BEING
AWESOME

Thanks to everyone who stepped up to help the family moving from Red Roof Inn into their own real apartment, and to Fern Lox, who coordinated it all... to one and all who donated funds to Protein Plenty and Hanukkah in August, to make sure the most vulnerable in our community had healthy summer meals, necessary school supplies, basic school clothing right down to underwear and socks... and to those who gave up some of their leisure time this summer to cook and serve at Lunch Box, to prepare sandwiches or a salad for a shelter meal, and to totally stuff our Can Jam bin with nonperishable foods for local food pantries.

Vassar Temple, You're the Greatest!

Thank you from the family of Elaine Lipschutz



Vassar Temple was a central part of our lives growing up and remained so after we left home and after our father died. My mother looked at Temple as a second home and was a fixture every Friday night and for other programs until Covid hit and when her mobility became limited. Music was also important to both of our parents. We are delighted to build up the Vassar Temple Music Fund with the funds available from the Robert Lipschutz Fund that was established after his death.

We know the Temple will use these funds to benefit the entire congregation which is something our mother, Elaine Lipschutz, would be delighted to know.

We would like to thank Rabbi Altman and Mom's many friends for their support and the attention she received. While we had no relatives in Poughkeepsie, the Temple community was Mom's family.

Karen Goodis and Cindy Jacobson

UPDATE ON OUR SANCTUARY AIR CONDITIONING

Earlier this summer the A/C units on the sanctuary roof, which cool the enormous sanctuary/chapel/balcony space, reached the end of their useful life and were deemed beyond repair. Our entire main floor became exceedingly hot and humid during the hot weather.

Our NYS Energy Audit noted the aging condition of these units and recommended replacing them with heat pumps when they became unusable. Our House Committee, Board of Trustees, and Dayenu Circle collaborated to obtain multiple proposals for both A/C replacement and heat pump installation to compare the long-term costs and benefits. With the support of the Finance Committee, the Trustees made a unanimous decision to take the environmentally preferable action of heat pump installation to repair our infrastructure with foresight and an eye towards sustainability.



Heat pumps are designed to work efficiently in cold climates for winter heating and summer cooling (more efficiently than standard A/C) by moving heat from outside to inside or vice-versa. They have the lowest carbon emissions of any heating source. Thanks to reduced fossil fuel combustion, our indoor environment will be healthier.

While initial installation cost is higher than for A/C alone, and while our electric bill will increase, we will see a corresponding reduction in use of gas, and the overall cost is expected to be less. Our new windows will further increase energy efficiency. We will still use our boiler for other spaces and to supplement heating if needed, as well as provide hot water.

Our Finance Committee is making a prudent plan for this project. We have simultaneously moved forward with installation of mini-split heat pumps in the upstairs office/classroom/library wing, paid for by the Building Decarbonizer Grant. The grant also provides Wi-Fi thermostats, pipe insulation to increase boiler efficiency, and an outdoor temperature sensor to increase boiler efficiency.

Thank you for your patience as we navigated this unexpected issue, moved worship downstairs, and moved our Torah scrolls to safer temporary accommodations. Gratitude goes to our employees and volunteers for tolerating poor conditions. We look forward to welcoming you back to a cooled and sustainable space and anticipate being ready for the holidays.

We are proud that the Temple is taking this opportunity to solve a problem in a way that shows leadership on the environment. If you would like more information about heat pumps please contact dayenudutchess@gmail.com.

Support Vassar Temple's Annual Yom Kippur Food Drive

"Is this the fast I seek, a day of self-affliction? ... Is not THIS the fast I look for: to unlock the shackles of injustice, to undo the fetters of bondage, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every cruel chain? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house?" ~ (Isaiah 58)

- Bags and food list available in the Temple or take home a grocery bag from Rosh Hashana Services October 2, 3 and 4th.
- Please bring it back full of nonperishable foods by Yom Kippur October 12—we'll stuff the truck!
- When shopping, please select any foods listed here, containers unopened and not out of date:
 - ⇒ peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, coffee, tea, cereal, mayo, ketchup, baby formula
 - ⇒ & these canned goods: tuna, soup, fruit, vegetables, ravioli, stew

SHANA TOVAH ~ WISHING YOU A NEW YEAR OF HAPPINESS & PEACE

HELP VASSAR TEMPLE FIGHT VOTER SUPPRESSION

As Jews we believe that every human life is of value. One that saves a life is as if one has saved the world. In a democracy, as all humans are valued, all voices should be heard. Our country falls short of doing this. We have among the most stringent rules limiting voting, and among the lowest voting rates among the democracies of the world.

Voter suppression takes many forms. With the Supreme Court decision of a few years ago that essentially did away with the Voting Rights Act, because it was “no longer necessary,” many states have enacted new laws that make it more difficult to vote and are specifically designed to target Black voters and other disadvantaged people. Voter registration purges remove people from the voter rolls and may go unnoticed until it is too late to register a vote.

In Virginia, the governor vetoed a bill that would have banned open carry of firearms in polling places. There are rural districts in Virginia and other places in the South where armed men waving Confederate flags show up to “guard” polling places. Intimidation is also practiced by using misinformation and propaganda.

Vassar Temple, as a participant in the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, has joined with the Center for Common Ground (CCG,) a nonpartisan organization, to encourage voting among Black voters in states practicing targeted voter suppression. CCG partners with local organizations, such as state chapters of the NAACP, in the target states and provides information that makes voting easier. This might be information such as how to verify registration, get a ride to the polls or find out where and when early voting might take place.



Contact Margery Groten or Howard Susser at civicengagement@vassartemple.org to join us in these efforts. We distribute special postcards and addresses for writers to send to Black voters providing information about how to successfully vote in their local communities. Phone banks and text banks are also available.

Howard Susser

A Note from the Treasurer

We begin the new fiscal year with an ambitious program ahead, and a budget that includes many challenges. Dues alone do not cover the many expenses of staffing the Temple and maintaining the building, even though we try to operate at as efficient a level as possible.

Over the past year or two, we have worked hard to collect receivables, focus our investments more productively, research grants and other funding opportunities, and reduce costs. We have achieved some successes, but there are always surprises. For example, an unplanned expenditure for replacing the cooling system in the sanctuary has occurred. In a building that is aging, there will always be maintenance issues popping up.

The Board has decided to focus on financial planning over the next three to five years, to provide a road map for the various activities Vassar Temple is undertaking, and to help us prepare for the surprises that will inevitably occur. All ideas are welcome.

As you plan your individual participation in Vassar Temple for the next year, please keep in mind the various needs of the Temple and plan your contributions to those areas of need as well as areas of your interest. If you are a long-term member, you probably made a contribution to the capital fund when you joined, but not recently. Please consider another donation to that fund to help us maintain our physical plant. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities to contribute financially to a range of activities; whatever you are comfortable contributing is welcome and will be put to good use.

Maxine Finkelstein

2024/5785 HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

All services, with the exception of outdoor and off-site gatherings, will occur in a hybrid fashion, Zoom links will be provided to members and guests via email in advance.

Selichot Service: Saturday, September 28th

7:30 pm - Dessert and schmoozing in the social hall, followed by the Arnold Award presentation and Havdalah

9:00 pm - Selichot Service in the sanctuary

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah: Thursday, October 3rd

10:00 am - Morning Service

3:00 pm - Family Service at Sunset Lake, Vassar College (sanctuary in case of inclement weather)

4:00 pm - Tashlich at Sunset Lake, Vassar College (October 4th in case of inclement weather)

Rosh Hashanah Second Day Service: Friday, October 4th at 10:00 am

Memorial Service: Sunday, October 6th at 2:00 pm at Vassar Temple Cemetery on LaGrange Avenue

Kol Nidrei: Friday, October 11th at 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur: Saturday, October 12th

10:00 am - Morning Service

1:00 pm - Family Service in the Sanctuary

2:00 pm - Study Session with Gail D'Alessio and Sam Finnerman ~ "The Holiness Code"

3:00 pm - Meditation in the sanctuary led by Linda Cantor

4:00 pm - Afternoon Service

5:30 pm - Yizkor (Memorial) Service

6:00 pm - Ne'ilah (Concluding) Service followed by Havdalah and Ritual Break the Fast

Break the Fast meal for those registered will follow Havdalah

Erev Sukkot: Wednesday, October 16th

5:45 pm - BYO dinner in the sukkah (indoors in case of inclement weather)

7:00 pm - Service

Simchat Torah: Wednesday, October 23rd

5:45 pm - Dinner (details will follow in temple publicity, outdoors weather permitting)

7:00 pm - Erev Simchat Torah Service with Klezmer

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Yizkor Service: Thursday, October 24th at 10:30 am

Please look for details about these services in the Bulletin, weekly email, and website

Calendar of Events—September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am Lunch Box 	2 LABOR DAY— OFFICE CLOSED	3 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	4	5 7pm Ritual CMTE	6 7:30pm Shabbat Service	7 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
8 9am Religious School ~ first day and Pancake Breakfast 	9 7pm Search CMTE	10	11 4:30pm Hebrew School ~ first day 7pm Alden Solovy, poet visits VT	12 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	13 7:30pm Shabbat Service	14 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
15 9am Religious School	16	17 7pm Postcard Party	18 12pm VTS Chai Noon 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	19	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Yeladim
22 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101	23 7pm Search CMTE	24	25 4:30pm Hebrew School	26 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board	27 7:30pm Shabbat Service	28 SELICHOT 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service 7:30pm <i>Selichot</i> Program & Service
29 9am Religious School Dayenu Circle Reverse Tashlich	30					

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

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Religious School Dir: Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

Cantor: Elizabeth Goldmann

Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold

Senior Scholar: Rabbi Paul Golomb

Temple Musician: Joseph Bertolozzi

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Sisterhood President: Polly Lewis

Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman

Immediate Past President: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Bulletin Editor: Jo Schaffel

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

Calling All Dessert Lovers!

Fall is fast approaching. It's time to sign up for hosting Shabbat Onegs!

If cookies, cake, fruit and cheese make you smile, then you are invited to shop/and/or bake to create a delicious Shabbat Oneg that can be dropped off at Temple either Thursday or Friday of your selected week, between 10:00am and 2:00pm. If you are attending Friday night Shabbat Service, just come a little early and bring those goodies to the kitchen.

We would be happy to guide you through if this is your first time Hosting. It's fun and very rewarding.

Below are the open dates ~ all Friday night Shabbat Services

October 18

October 25

November 15

November 22

December 13

December 20

Please email oneg@vassartemple.org to let us know if you can host.

