



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 4 ~ November 2024

## Upcoming Adult Education Events

The Vassar Temple Adult Education Committee will be hosting a two-part lecture series hosted by Rabbi Renni Altman on November 13 and November 20 at 7:30pm on the subject of: *These Words*: An exploration of the words of Torah through the teaching and poetry of Alden Solovy.

In the Jewish approach to the study of Torah, each word is held as sacred, layered with meaning. In his book *These Words: Poetic Midrash on the Language of Torah*, Alden Solovy focuses on 70 of its key words, sharing midrashim, traditional and contemporary interpretations to deepen our understanding of the text. For each term he adds his own poetry.

In this series, we will only explore a small portion of *These Words* and Rabbi Altman will provide the textual background to the teachings Solovy briefly references. While copies of the relevant teachings will be made available for the session, you may want to purchase a copy of the book for yourself (available through our local bookstore, The Three Arts, on Collegeview Avenue).

Additionally, there will be a film presentation of *Beyond October 7th*, directed by Jasmine Kainy, on Sunday afternoon, November 17 at 4pm. This film is an intimate account of one family, survivors of the October 7 massacre as they confront trauma and grief.



## From the Rabbi's Desk:



As we move from October to November, we shift from the sacred days on the Jewish calendar to one of the most sacred days on the American calendar: Election Day. Even though early and mail-in voting have expanded the voting process, Election Day still has great excitement—and in years, such as this—great anxiety around it.

Historically Jews have voted well above the average, around 85% in contrast to just 50% of the country overall.\* The Jewish sense of civic responsibility goes back to the teachings of the prophet Jeremiah, who spoke God's word to the Judeans exiled in Babylonia at the time of the destruction of the First Temple: "seek the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray to God in its behalf; for in its prosperity, you shall prosper" (Jeremiah 29: 4-7). Centuries later the great sage Hillel taught, "Do not separate yourself from the community." Jews have taken this responsibility seriously, from voting to the disproportionate representation of Jews in the political sphere. Certainly, the heritage of the immigrant experience of American Jews has also contributed to an appreciation for the privilege of voting and civic engagement.

What are we looking for in our leaders? We do find some guidance on desired leadership qualities in Jewish texts, beginning with Torah:

Seeing how overwhelmed Moses was trying to solve all disputes himself, his father-in-law Jethro suggests he seek the assistance of "capable individuals who fear God—trustworthy ones who spurn ill-gotten gain." (Ex. 18:21). When recounting this episode in Deuteronomy, Moses adds that he took "wise and experienced representatives." (Deut. 1:15) One quality of Moses is raised above all others: "Now Moses was a very humble leader, more so than any other human being on earth." (Num 12:3)

In his *Mishneh* Torah, Maimonides lists the leadership qualities required for rabbis who would serve on the

Sanhedrin: "wisdom, humility, fear of God, disdain of financial gain, love of truth, love of people and a good reputation."

While most Jews have never been, nor should we be, single issue voters, no doubt two issues will be paramount in our minds this election: antisemitism and Israel. We need leaders who have thoughtful plans to combat antisemitism along with all forms of hate and who do not exacerbate it in their statements. Claiming that Jews will be responsible for the outcome of the election is an outrageous falsehood and only invites more antisemitism.

While we may differ on our views about Israel, its government's actions and a future homeland for the Palestinian people, loyalty to Israel is NOT a partisan issue and to claim that loyalty to Israel demands the support of one party over another is offensive and wrong.

This year's ballot also includes a very important vote on an "Amendment to Protect Against Unequal Treatment." The NY State Constitution only protects against discrimination based on race and religion. This amendment would expand that by protection by prohibiting discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability and sex, including their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. The amendment would also protect against any government actions that would curtail a person's reproductive autonomy or access to reproductive health care. Both elements of this amendment find support in Jewish values regarding the sanctity of all lives, created in the Divine image, and the right to make personal decisions regarding reproduction, especially to protect the life and health of the pregnant person.

Whether by mail, early or in person on November 5th, be sure to use your privilege of voting wisely and urge your loved ones, especially the younger generation, to vote as well.

\*Research by Leonard Saxe at Brandeis University

*Rabbi Renni Altman*

## President's Message:



Well, here we are. We have a national election this month with voting ending on election day November 5th! I hope you have already voted in early voting, but whether you vote on election day or before, don't forget how much it counts. Sometimes you

hear that "My vote doesn't count." Well, a few years ago an election in New Rochelle was decided by a coin toss because the votes were even. Back in the day, Bernie Sanders' election as Mayor of Burlington, VT was by a handful of votes. It sure does matter! We have always prided ourselves as a nation on the peaceful transfer of power; may it be so this election as well. A great deal of what gets accomplished depends on it.

Everyone on that ballot has a job to do representing us and we'd like the best people possible. The rest can go home.



This month is also when we celebrate Thanksgiving in the USA. I am grateful that the calendar date for Hanukkah is later this year; I was not looking forward to latkes on top of Thanksgiving dinner. But how can we not be thankful for so many other things? We get together with family and friends. We slow down for bit and recognize what is positive and good in our lives. We also think about how fortunate we are even with challenges that come along at times. In my case it gets "interesting" with family spread all over the country!

Yet, how thankful I am.

- Our young people at Temple make sure that several families in need have a Thanksgiving with baskets full of dinner with all the traditional items. Our Temple family provides the donations, and we are grateful for that.

- Social Action, including the Lunch Box committee, makes sure those in need are helped year-round.
- Sisterhood is knitting and crocheting hats and scarves for Dutchess Outreach so that all are warm this winter.
- Plus, most of the items not sold at the Bargain Basement sale were donated to organizations for the homeless, for animal support, and other needs.
- So many kind ways that we help our community, and it truly seems amazing that this synagogue does so much! But I simply cannot forget the great generosity of this congregation from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur as we fill a truck with food for the food bank. It is really an emotional moment to watch the truck fill up year after year knowing how much it means to those who give and those who receive the food.
- In house, we've had our volunteers as always and some updates to share. Our bulletin boards are now updated monthly, so please keep an eye out for changes and updates.
- Our decorating committee continues to work on projects in the sanctuary that will make it a comforting space for worship and gatherings.
- Our library committee is hard at work bringing back a historically very well used communal area in the Temple. The cemetery committee has been hard at work with continuing projects.

These committee projects are on-going, and you will see changes through the year. You've heard about the house committee and repairs/upgrades around the building. So many committees to mention, but just a few highlights for now! How thankful we are that these volunteers take care of these needs for our congregation and give so freely of their time.

Yet as of this writing, there is no cease-fire in the Gaza/Israel war and the hostages are not fully home to their families. May a cease-fire come now and **BRING THE HOSTAGES HOME!**

*Roni Stein*

## Bimah Flowers for our Services ~ November 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.

### November 2024 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- November 1: Paul and Jenny Ward in honor of their daughter Shea's Bat Mitzvah
- November 8: Sheri and Mark Harrison in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of their sons Adam and Caleb and Hilary and Lew Wrobel in honor of U.S. military veterans
- November 15: Ellie and Benjamin Krevolin in memory of Jenny Krevolin, Sandra Mamis in honor of the birthdays of Rachel, Steven and Michelle Mamis and Martin Noble in memory of Rose Noble
- November 22: Susan Budson Fink in memory of her parents Rose and Daniel Budson
- November 29: Marilyn McGaulley Lampell in memory of John McGaulley



### SOS: Support Our Scrolls!

Torah scrolls are living, breathing embodiments of the tenets of Judaism. They require ongoing nurturing and maintenance. Healthy scrolls are at the existential heart of our congregation, and we are fortunate to be caretakers of historic parchments, some predating our 1848 founding. They require professional evaluation every few years and, without repair, may be deemed unfit for use in accordance with Jewish ritual.

Climate change and extreme humidity have impacted scrolls in numerous synagogues. The recent loss of air conditioning in our sanctuary has exacerbated mold on the parchment and flaking of letters or entire sections. Our sofer (scribe) has begun repairs, but our earmarked Eternal Torah Fund will be exhausted by current repairs.

As in the past, I'm organizing a Sunday morning scroll cleaning day to not only reduce our cost but also provide an opportunity for hands-on, intergenerational engagement. Religious school students, teachers, parents and congregants will help clean a scroll at our sofer's direction. The sofer will also supervise congregants in repairing lettering. Please watch for information about this event and consider a donation to the Fund in honor of participating in this mitzvah.

We monitor humidity in the ark and use desiccants to help reduce it, but this is not enough. We also need to air out the scrolls by routinely rolling them from end to end. You can help! We'll be setting up a monthly Sunday schedule for Temple committees to participate. If not on a committee, individuals are welcome to volunteer for this unique and gratifying experience.

Donations of any amount to the Eternal Torah Fund to support this essential need are greatly appreciated.

*David H. Hecht*  
Ritual Committee

## Scriptural Readings ~ November

### November 2

#### Noach:

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

### November 9

#### Lech L'cha:

Genesis 12:1-17:27; Isaiah 40:27-41:16

### November 16

#### Vayeira:

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

### November 23

#### Chayei Sarah:

Genesis 23:1-25:18; I Kings 1:1-31

### November 23

#### Tol'dot:

Genesis 25:19-28:9; Malachi 1:1-2:7

## Study Groups at Vassar Temple

**Torah Study** with Rabbi Renni Altman, DD, meets at 9am Saturday mornings (hybrid). No class 11/2. and 11/9.

Come join our lively discussions! Contact us at [office@vassartemple.org](mailto: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 on Zoom from noon to 1:30pm on two Mondays per month. To be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list and receive the dates and study sheets, contact him at [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net).

All welcome

No prior knowledge necessary

No charge to attend

## New Paths

We'll gather for our New Paths Sabbath morning service at 10:15am Saturday November 23 (hybrid). 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. Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or 845-454-2570 to be put on the New

## Judaism 101 ~ Year 2

Our next sessions of Judaism 101 ~ Year 2 will meet on Sundays, November 3rd and 17th 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](mailto:office@vassartemple.org).

## Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Sabbath ~ November 16

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, November 16 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 themes of Thanksgiving. 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](mailto:office@vassartemple.org).

## Trim-A-Thanksgiving

Vassar Temple family, let's all join forces and deliver some holiday joy. To help provide Thanksgiving meals so that formerly homeless Dutchess County families can celebrate the holiday for the first time in a real home, please consider contributing foods from the following list to our Can Jam bin in the hall by Wednesday, November 20:

- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Boxed instant mashed potatoes
- Canned gravy
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Boxed stovetop style stuffing

Donations of frozen turkeys are most welcome and may be placed in the freezer in the Temple kitchen on the designated shelf.

Also greatly needed are financial donations made by credit card on our website to Vassar Temple Community Tzedakah Fund, by check made out to Vassar Temple with "Thanksgiving" on the memo line, or by cash to the Tzedakah Box. This will help fund frozen turkeys and roasting pans for the families, and other holiday trimmings.

Our religious school students will decorate the gift baskets and make cards. VT youths will arrange your food donations in gift baskets which will be delivered to the families by Hudson River Housing in time for the holiday. Any extra food will be shared with Dutchess Outreach and the Community Fridge.

Questions? Please contact: Marian Schwartz at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org).

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

**Vassar Temple Cares About Hunger**



## SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

### Butternut Squash Soup ~ Vivian Garber

#### Ingredients (makes 1 loaf)

- 2 pounds butternut squash (I buy butternut squash already cubed)
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups light cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup medium sherry
- 1 cup chopped onion
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ small clove garlic, minced
- Toasted sliced almonds
- 2 tablespoons butter



#### Directions:

- Peel, seed and dice squash. Combine with water and 1 teaspoon salt in saucepan. Bring to a boil and simmer covered until squash is very tender.
- Meanwhile, sauté onion and garlic in butter until tender. Liquify squash and onions with milk and cream in blender. Add sherry and salt and pepper. Heat to serving temperature. Serve garnished with toasted almonds. Enjoy!

## Shea Ward's Mitzvah Project



Shea Ward, daughter of Paul and Jenny Ward, will become a bat mitzvah at Vassar Temple on November 2. For her mitzvah project, Shea is focusing on her love of horses by collecting funds and supplies for 13 Hands Equine Rescue, Inc. Her greatest passion is horseback riding, which she has been doing since she was three, and, additionally, she volunteers at two barns. Shea also loves drawing, and her dog Savannah.

## New Blue Lines ~

### What Do They Mean?

You may have noticed newly painted blue parking and loading lines in front of the Temple. I have been working with City of Poughkeepsie DPW to better identify and mark up the space in front of the building. What is the difference between single blue lines and hatch-marked blue lines?

Blue lines and other markings are used to identify handicapped parking spaces and to provide extra space for wheelchair users. Diagonal hatch marks are painted to discourage parking.

In our case at Vassar Temple, there are two designated handicapped spots right in front of the building, approaching the light. Directly in front of the spot closest to the light are a small set of hatch marks. This is to prevent cars from parking too close to the intersection and offers a space for people to safely move in front of the car to the sidewalk.

Directly behind the second space in front of the building, there is a much larger set of blue hatch marks. This is where the curb is cut down for easier access, especially for those using assistive mobility devices. This larger hatch-marked area is meant to be a loading zone, used for drop off and pick up only. We are working on more permanent signage.

Please be patient with this newer marked process. Allow for extra time to park if you might need these spots. Handicapped stickers or tags are still needed for the actual handicapped designated spots. While we understand that two handicapped spots is not nearly enough, we are hopeful that a designated drop-off spot will be helpful.

Change takes time. We are glad to have an open line of communication with Poughkeepsie DPW and are appreciative for their responsiveness to start off our new year making Vassar Temple more accessible! Thank you for your patience! If you have any questions, please reach out.

*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush*

## Cemetery Update

The Cemetery Committee continues to progress with property maintenance and management. Susan Karnes Hecht was formally appointed Chair by the Board, bringing along two dedicated team members: Susan Budson Fink, Vice Chair for property management and Ellie Krevolin, Vice Chair for finance.

Updated cemetery policies were presented to the Board in October, in accordance with the Bylaws. After adoption a summary version will be provided to the Rabbi and funeral directors. Pertinent information will be available to the membership to facilitate for families experiencing loss.

The back of the South Lagrange section was seeded following earlier tree work and a native flowering shrub planted at the end of the walkway. As finances permit, we envision a new privacy fence where dead trees were removed. A tree entwined in the fence between the Vassar and St. Martin de Porres properties was removed and the fence repaired with the cost shared by St. Martin. Overall cemetery conditions improve steadily with regular maintenance: trimming shrubs, clearing monuments and fences, edging walkways, and exposing flat stones. "No trespassing" signs were installed on the Davis Avenue gates to reinforce that the cemetery is private property.

The annual Mitzvah Day cleanup at Pershing Historic Cemetery was foiled by unusually high grass after a warm, wet winter. Given weather trends, volunteer cleanups will be now be planned twice yearly. We will pursue opportunities to improve the front area as a green space and investigate possible landmark status for the site.

Numerous projects are on our wish list for Lagrange, Pershing, and eventually Route 44. The Cemetery Fund has seen significant earnings since being invested at Fidelity; however, it is gradually depleted by maintenance, with Perpetual Care fees replacing a fraction of what is spent. We continue to work with the Finance Committee on a viable long-term approach to meeting this sacred obligation. Donations to the Cemetery Fund are encouraged and greatly appreciated. Reach us at [cemetery@vassartemple.org](mailto:cemetery@vassartemple.org).

*Susan Karnes Hecht*



## Thank You

They say it takes a village, or in this case a congregation. It is a massive, creative and comprehensive effort in planning and implementing all the seen and unseen parts of the High Holy Days services, celebrations, arrangements and communications. What seems like seamlessly choreographed services with beautiful music, reading, teachings, speeches and sermons, has been intricately interwoven throughout the last several months prior in planning. There are scheduling, decorating, meal planning, mailings, cleaning, food drive, community collaboration efforts.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way. Thank you to all of our greeters, ushers, and everyone who graciously accepted the multitude of honors that we asked of you. Every task, both seen and unseen, both large and small, is what makes it all come together. There are so many moving parts, it would simply boggle your mind. The trickiest part is that during the services, we don't want it to boggle your mind or distract you from observing and participating in rituals, prayer and introspection. However, now, as it is behind us, and we feel that we want up take an opportunity to thank you all! Thank you especially to Rabbi Altman, Cantor Goldman, Joe Bertolozzi, Nanette Koch (cellist), The Living Shtetl (Klezmer) and all of our lay leaders. We know how all-consuming this time of year is and couldn't be luckier to have such a dedicated team. Special thanks goes to our Tech team who makes it possible for us to reach past our four walls and into your homes. Connecting to our congregants and community is everything! The most special thanks goes to our incredible office staff. Karen and Dan make a formidable team and we are lucky to have them. Alvin and his crew at Better Hands Contracting set up, clean up, tear down and set up again without ever a complaint if we have a last-minute change in plans. Most of all we want to thank you all for stepping up through accepting an honor/task, your donations of food for our community, your donations to our High Holy Day Appeal, and in any way you have supported your Vassar Temple community, your Vassar Temple congregation, and your Vassar Temple family during this High Holy Day Season.



*Lisa-Sue Quackenbush & Gail D'Alessio*  
*High Holy Days Chairs & Committee*  
*Marcia Tanzman*  
*Ritual Chair & Committee*

## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Memory of:

Joseph LaLone, Forrest Graves, Brian Matson &  
Kathy LaLone Austin  
Barbara Hyman

### In Thanks to:

Ralph Schwartz and Vivian Garber for helping with  
transportation during my recent hospital & rehab stay  
Marian Schwartz

### In Honor of:

Martin Charwat receiving the Arnold Award

Jane LaLone  
Leonard Hyman

Jane LaLone  
Jane LaLone

Muriel Lampell

Jane LaLone  
Janice Goldfarb

## COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

## MUSIC FUND

### In Memory of:

Larry Jacobson  
Lisa Heidelberger

### In Honor of:

Martin Charwat receiving the Arnold Award  
Cantor Goldmann  
Cantor Goldman

Muriel Lampell  
Marianne & Bob Abrams

Linda & Richard Cantor  
Ruth Goldfarb  
Janice Goldfarb

## VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

### In Honor of:

Martin Charwat receiving the Arnold Award

Sandra Mamis

## ROBERT H. LIPSCHUTZ SCHOLAR'S FUND

### In Memory of:

Larry Jacobson

Vivian & Edward Garber

## TREE OF LIFE FUND

In Honor of: the birth of Cecilia Creedon from her grandparents

Judy & Bob Creedon

## LUNCH BOX FUND

### In Honor of:

Gil & Arlene Seligman being honored by Dutchess Outreach  
Adam Garber's marriage, son of Vivian & Ed Garber

Vivian & Edward Garber  
Ellen Zelig

## KLEZMER BAND FOR SIMCHAT TORAH

Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush  
Shirl Davis-Susser & Howard Susser  
Gloria Turk  
Vivian & Ed Garber  
Susan Fink

# CONTRIBUTIONS



# NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

## November 1

Bessie Rothausen  
 Benjamin Michel  
 Adele Lerman Warshaw  
 Benjamin Genshaft  
 Edward S. Rubinow  
 Max H. Richter  
 Louis Heidelberger  
 Edward J. Kovacs  
 Samuel W. Gellert  
 Esther Mardon Bernstein  
 Samuel Garber  
 James Connelley  
 Henry Newman  
 Herbert Schenberg  
 Arthur Berlin  
 Bryan Matson  
 Bridget Molloy  
 Gloria (Golda) Jordan  
 Lara Katie Goetzl

## November 8

William Rosenberg  
 J. Ralph Stein  
 Charles Wender  
 Phillip Ritter  
 Philip Browner  
 Suzanne Seligman  
 Estelle Rozenberg  
 Forrest Graves  
 Alice Spitalnik  
 Alexander W. Jacobs  
 Claire Gersoni  
 Alan Abraskin  
 Nathan Givner  
 Molly Susser  
 Samuel Mason  
 Michael Aronson  
 B. Jay Newman  
 Elizabeth (Libby) Wolf  
 A. Louis Rubin  
 Sandra "Sandi" L. Rugar  
 Kathryn LaLone Austin  
 Larry Kornreich  
 Edward Kahn

## November 15

Albert E. Schwartz  
 Henrietta Burns Subkow  
 L. Richard Rosenberg  
 Arthur George Henderson  
 Solomon Tanzman  
 Henry Rosenmann  
 Solomon Charles Cantor  
 Evelyn Heidelberger  
 Ellen Bernard  
 Samuel Saul  
 Lena L. Bloch  
 William Payne  
 Martin Gad  
 Rose Slate  
 Shirley Richter  
 Rose Jacobson  
 Abraham Feuerstein  
 Frances A. Victor  
 Helen Robinson  
 Dr. Diane L. Weston  
 Paul Susser  
 Leopold Scharf

## November 22

Gertrude F. Troeger  
 Tamar Grand  
 Jenny Krevolin  
 Robert Feitelson  
 Daniel Budson, M.D.  
 Lily Fink Schenberg  
 Maurice Horn  
 Ida Axelrod  
 Samuel Reifler  
 Elizabeth Bokor  
 Myrtle Oclatis  
 Marie Fischer Solomon  
 Jack Josias  
 Chester Altman

## November 29

Diane Ruth Shore  
 Hildegard Tuchmann  
 Wallace Berkowitz  
 Richard H. Satz  
 Dorothy Haber Sigalow  
 Dr. Sidney N. Miller  
 Charles Ernest  
 Charles Hoffman, DDS  
 L. Charles Podret  
 Ruby Cohn  
 Marcia Krandle  
 Lee Bronfeld  
 Claire M. Trivers  
 David F. Schor  
 Sidney Horn  
 May Kaufman Ettenson  
 Ida Finnerman  
 Edward Roth



## Mazel Tov!

**TO: Danielle Abrams & Dane Van Domelen, parents to James Porter Van Domelen ~ born on September 13, 2024. The proud grandparents are Marianne & Bob Abrams and Mary & Jim Van Domelen**



## The Community Fridge Is Back!

The community fridge is back! It stores donations of perishable foods (eggs, meat, produce, dairy products) that anyone in need is welcome to, without stigma, scrutiny, or documentation. Cooked leftovers are also welcome, labeled with name of food, date, and any common allergens they may contain (wheat, milk, nuts, soy, etc.). There is also “pantry” space to donate non-perishables.

The fridge and pantry are now located at Community Matters 2, 50 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. For more information, go to the website <https://www.communitymatters2.org/> or call 845-768-6998.

There have been a few changes in procedure. Drop off hours for food donations are Tuesday (2-5pm), Wednesday (2-3pm), and Thursday (3-5pm). The public can come to get food from the fridge and pantry Wednesdays from 3-5pm. Financial donations, which will be used to purchase food, may also be made to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/poughkeepsie-community-fridge>. This project was originated and operated by students of Oakwood Friends School.

## Climate Corner ~ an update from our Dayenu Circle

### Opportunities abound locally for personal climate action!

Vassar Temple members hail from numerous towns around Dutchess and neighboring counties. Did you know that our Hudson Valley region is one of the most active in the country on sustainability?

Wherever you live, there are volunteer opportunities to get involved in municipal efforts as well as electrification campaigns offering information and incentives for actions such as purchase of electric vehicles, installation of heat pumps and heat pump hot water heaters, or enrollment in community solar.

Most towns in NYS have a Conservation Advisory Commission/Board; many are also registered in the Climate Smart Communities program. Several local towns are currently running EV, heat pump, and community solar campaigns. Homeowners/renters/businesses who participate not only reduce emissions and costs, but also help their towns earn grants to further sustainability action. If you are interested in this information and can't find it readily on your municipality's website, contact [dayenudutchess@gmail.com](mailto:dayenudutchess@gmail.com) for assistance.

We're grateful to those who stepped up to help with this year's Environmental Voter Project postcards for the Nevada and Florida primaries and the general election in North Carolina, as well as Dayenu phone banking immediately prior to Election Day.



## Treasurer's Report ~ Report On Investments

In early 2023, the Finance Committee implemented an investment plan that was established with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Funds that had been managed in several different accounts were consolidated and invested in one account at Fidelity Investments. These included donations for Special Purpose Funds from past years, and other funds that were considered long-term investments. Funding needed for "operations," that is, required within the budget year, are being held at our bank, M&T.

A second account was established at Fidelity Investments for the Endowment Fund established as the Temple celebrated its 175th anniversary and planned for future growth.

Here are the amounts held in each account, as of September 30, 2024 and compared to December 31, 2023 and the opening value in first quarter of 2023:

	<b>Investment account</b>	<b>Endowment account</b>
<b>Opening value</b>	\$500,896	\$243,448
<b>December 31, 2023</b>	562,654	264,991
<b>September 30, 2024</b>	670,900	385,915

The Endowment account has grown 58.5 percent due to generous contributions from Vassar Temple members as well as returns from a strong stock market. The Investment account increased in value 33.9 percent, relying on the same asset allocation model for investments as the Endowment account, but receiving fewer transfers of funds into the account.

As Treasurer, I am pleased with this progress and want to thank the Investment and Endowment Committees who have worked hard to contribute to our progress. However, I also need to add some cautionary words. Markets go up and down. We have adopted an investment strategy that assumes moderate risk and should grow over the long term, but history has shown that we must be prepared for periods of downturn as well.

As we are preparing for the long term, our near-term needs demand attention as well. Our FY 2025 budget has gaps that were assumed would be addressed through a fundraising plan. Since the budget was adopted, additional expenses have been incurred that were not anticipated in the budget, including replacement of sanctuary HVAC systems, search for a new rabbi, and Torah repair and restoration work. The latter will utilize funds from the Eternal Torah special purpose fund, but that fund will be depleted and additional funds from our operating budget will be required. The HVAC will in part be covered by funds from the Capital Building special purpose fund, but will require additional funds. We hope to adjust our budget assumptions throughout the year to offset some of these added requirements. However, it is normal to expect new operating issues to arise throughout the year. The earnings from our investment accounts provide some degree of cushioning to enable us to meet unexpected needs, but we need to work hard to find new sources of support.

You may expect to continue to hear from me about the need for planning, fundraising, and prudent management of our funds.



*Maxine Finkelstein*

*Treasurer*

# The Windows Project

Thanks to the generosity of so many, the aging windows in the sanctuary, the east chapel, and the balcony have been replaced with extremely energy-efficient windows, that will enhance our worship space and reduce our energy costs.

Heartfelt thanks go to the generous donors who helped fund the new windows. \$88,430 was raised, which covered the entire cost of the project.

## In Grateful Recognition of our Window Replacement Donors \*

Linda & Richard Cantor

*Andi & Paul Ciminello*

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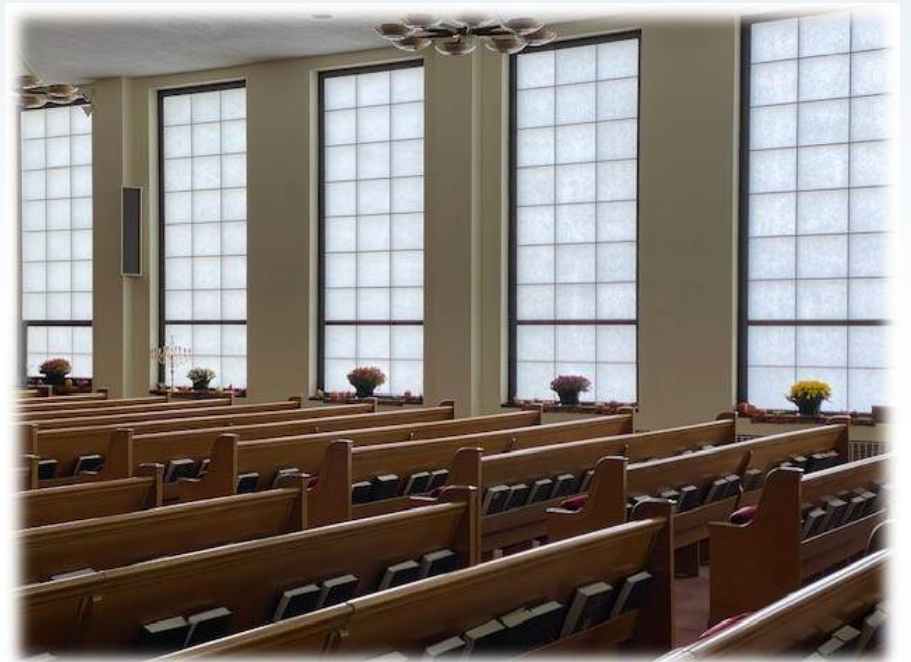
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# Calendar of Events—November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>2</b> 10am Shea Ward Bat Mitzvah
<b>3</b> 9am Religious School  9am Reyut ~ Making Soups  9:45am Judaism 101  10:30am Lunch Box  2pm Cemetery Tour	<b>4</b> 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	<b>5</b> Election Day  	<b>6</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>7</b> 7pm Ritual CMTE	<b>8</b> 7:30pm Brotherhood Shabbat Service	<b>9</b> 10am Adam & Caleb Harrison B'nai Mitzvah
<b>10</b> No Religious School	<b>11</b> OFFICE CLOSED Veterans Day  	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School  7:30pm Adult Ed Part 1 of 2 <i>These Words</i> : An exploration of the words of Torah through the teaching and poetry of Alden Solovy	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>16</b> 9am Torah Study  10:30am Shabbat Yeladim
<b>17</b> 9am Religious School  9:45am Judaism 101  4pm <i>Beyond October 7th</i> — film presentation	<b>18</b> 12pm Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School  7pm Finance CMTE  7:30pm Adult Ed Part 2 of 2 <i>These Words</i> : An exploration of the words of Torah through the teaching and poetry of Alden Solovy	<b>21</b> 7pm VT Board	<b>22</b> 6pm Simchat Shabbat Service	<b>23</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths
<b>24</b> 9am Religious School	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Hebrew School	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED  6:30 Shelter Meal  	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED  7:30pm Shabbat Service	<b>30</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am Shabbat Morning Service (tentative)

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


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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  
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**Bulletin Editor:** Jo Schaffel

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

## Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ November 18

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon, which meets at noon on the 18th of the month (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends), will meet on Monday, November 18. Specific details about the November 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.

## Reyut Needs Your Help

We'll be in the temple kitchen on Sunday, November 3 from 9 to noon making some hearty soups and we'd love for you to join us. Come help us cook for part or all of the morning. Let us know if you'd like to bring some ingredients for the soups or donate towards covering the cost of ingredients. RSVP to Judy at [sisterhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassartemple.org).

