



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 5 ~ December 2024



Above: Sisterhood members, Polly Lewis, Marcia Tanzman, Maddy D'Angelo & Judy Rosenfeld hard at work in the temple kitchen making soups for Reyut.

Below: Marcia Tanzman getting soups ready for Reyut with help from new member Adi Steiner (taking the photo) and her daughters Ella and Lia.



From the Rabbi's Desk:



After almost two months of holiday drought, we look forward with great anticipation to Hanukkah later this month. Though one of our minor festivals, the message of Hanukkah is profound: the right of religious freedom.

That promise, enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise," has drawn Jews to these shores for 370 years. Judaism, along with Christianity, Islam and other religions, are promised the opportunity to flourish in this nation because of the "wall" that separates church and state. The prohibitions against prayer in public schools, public funds supporting religious schools, religious institutions endorsing political candidates, discrimination in hiring based on religious belief—all of these regulations serve to support this "wall" and prevent government endorsement of any religion. Attempts to

break down this wall have been building for many years but have gained considerable strength in more recent times with the rise of the Christian Nationalist movement, a political and cultural ideology that seeks to fuse American and Christian identities. We have seen their influence in calls to ban books in schools and libraries, in the passage in Louisiana of a law requiring that the Ten Commandments be displayed in public school classrooms and in Oklahoma's top education officials ordering public schools to incorporate the Bible into lessons. While such actions are being pursued in the courts, these and other such efforts are gaining momentum and the leanings of the Supreme Court in decisions such as *Dobbs* or supporting the right of a high school football coach to offer a prayer at the end of games and invite students to join him, raise serious concerns about first amendment protections.

This is a cautionary time when we must be vigilant to protect our first amendment rights against this movement (which does NOT represent the majority of Christians in this country) in their efforts to pass legislation on the federal, state and local levels and influence educational programs in public schools. Organizations such as the ACLU and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State are engaged in law suits to protect religious freedom. May we do all that we can to ensure it as well.

While the struggle of the Maccabees has been achieved with an independent Jewish state, reborn in 1948, religious freedom in Israel does not yet exist for non-Orthodox Jews and promises of the Israeli Declaration of Independence of a democratic state with equal rights for all its citizens has yet to be realized. We have a voice in shaping Israel's future through the World Zionist Congress elections that will take place this spring. The WZC and World Zionist Organization are central nongovernmental institutions in Israel that impact policies, such as land allocation, and influence the allocation of about \$1 billion annually, which has direct impact on Reform Judaism in Israel. Every Jew age 18 and older can vote in the WZC elections which take place every 5 years. The Reform movement is represented by our Zionist arm, ARZA. Especially in the midst of this on-going war our voice is even more important.

Our movement is gearing up now to get every member of every Reform congregation to vote this spring. I am organizing a team of people who are willing to reach out to fellow congregants to get out the vote within Vassar Temple. If you are interested in joining me, please contact rabi@vassartemple.org.

At this darkest time of the year, may the lights of Hanukkah burn brightly with hope for America and for Israel.

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message:



Well, here we are near the end of regular calendar year, and through the first quarter of the Hebrew calendar. So much is going on this month! We're looking forward to seeing you at the Membership/Generations Shabbat service on December 6.

It is a lovely service that highlights the members and history of Vassar Temple. Take a look at the calendar online and in this bulletin so that you won't miss services, events and activities that are on-going as well as ones only in December. Definitely keep up with the weekly emails from Temple as information can be updated, especially in the winter months! As well, community activities are listed in the Jewish Federation's Voice newspaper and on their website.

As can happen in December, we have a crunch of holidays at the end of the month. Hanukkah starts on the evening of the 25th. Some have even given this challenge a name, "Christmukkah." For those in interfaith families, I wish you happiness in both holidays and good luck in your challenge of all that celebrating. In our home, we don't have that challenge, it's just Hanukkah for us. Many times, we have shared Christmas with our non-Jewish friends, as they have shared with us on a holiday. Hanukkah is very enjoyable, and the making of latkes NEVER gets old!



Over the years celebrating Hanukkah while recognizing other holidays with friends has been a good way to feel our Jewishness vibrantly and feel a part of the broader community. It isn't always easy in the "holiday" season; it can be a lot to deal with over the Thanksgiving to secular New Year run. I hope you have found the joy in Hanukkah while negotiating the holiday season festivities. If you have made Kwanzaa a part of your celebration, enjoy!

We all have stories of gatherings of both family and friends at Hanukkah, Interesting latke recipes, little gifts of all types, dreidel games. My sister-in-law and brother-in-law have a huge menorah collection and made the local news when they lived in North Carolina. I will always remember fondly the latke prowess of Seth Erlebacher. We ran down the street one year to bring our friends warm latkes! I hope you have lots of good Hanukkah stories, too.

Please watch for publicity on the annual Hanukkah dinner and service on December 27! It is always an evening of wonderful food, and a lovely service. RSVPs are essential for the dinner. Many thanks to Judy Rosenfeld, Nadine Zaritsky, and our newest committee member Ellen Zelig! There is a festive Oneg afterwards with lots of schmoozing and thanks as well to our Oneg host. Also, don't forget your menorah and candles for the service! It is so wonderful to see the menorahs all lit up and room lighting off with all the different kinds of menorahs. I'll admit it; it is one of my favorite services of the year. See you there!

So, we have made it through the Presidential election season. I so look forward to peace in our country and a brighter future. I also look forward to the lessening of war in Gaza and the middle east, and a cease fire. The hostages remain in captivity; they are innocent victims caught in the middle of this war. BRING THEM HOME.

Roni Stein

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 \$60 and checks should be made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood with Bimah Flowers written on the memo line. Should there be more than one sponsor for a Shabbat a larger flower arrangement will be provided. Sponsored flowers are fresh floral arrangements.

December 2024 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- December 6: Vassar Temple Sisterhood in honor of our longtime members
- December 13: Maddy D'Angelo in memory of Philip D'Angelo Jr
- December 20: Melissa Erlebacher in memory of Seth Erlebacher
- December 27: Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis in honor of their grandchildren



November 2024 Date Change:

- November 22: Sandra Mamis in honor of the birthdays of Rachel, Steven and Michelle Mamis

Religious School Update: Eight ways to make Hanukkah gifts more meaningful!

- 1) **Small gift night:** something simple, like a book, pajamas, or a puzzle.
- 2) **Tsedaka night:** Choose a charity with your kids and make a donation in their honor. Letting your kids choose is fun and empowering, and provides an insight into other families' realities.
- 3) **Visiting night:** Celebrate Hanukkah in a Jewish nursing home. Light candles with the residents, and bring cards or drawings.
- 4) **Animal night:** Ask your kids to pick an animal to "adopt" via the World Wildlife Federation. They'll even send you a stuffed animal! Or, donate a specific farm animal to Heifer International and explain how this can change the course of a family's life.
- 5) **Make a gift night:** Create gifts for friends and family. Some ideas include soap, cookies, hand warmers, or dog toys; whatever they'll enjoy making the most.
- 6) **Experience night:** A museum membership, a show, or a visit to a rock-climbing gym. It doesn't need to happen that night.
- 7) **Collect and share night:** Have your kids clear out unwanted toys. Donate them to a children's home or a school.
- 8) **One gift they really want night:** You can save this for the last night so they have a special treat to look forward to.



HAPPY HANUKKAH!

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman,

Religious School Director

Scriptural Readings ~ December

December 7

Vayetzei:

Genesis 28:10-32:3; Hosea 12:13-14:10

December 14

Vayishlach:

Genesis 32:4-36:43; Hosea 11:7-12:12

December 21

Vayeishev:

Genesis 37:1-40:2; Amos 2:6-3:8

December 28 Hanukkah

Mikeitz:

Genesis 41:1-44:17; Zechariah 4:1-7

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 on Zoom from noon to 1:30pm on twice monthly on a weekday. To be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list and receive the dates and study sheets, contact him at pigolomb@verizon.net.

All welcome

No prior knowledge necessary

No charge to attend

New Paths

This month we'll gather for New Paths Sabbath morning services at 10:15am Saturdays, December 7 and 21 (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 or 845-454-2570 to be put on the New Paths e-mail list, if you need the Zoom link, or to borrow our special prayer book if participating on Zoom.

Healing Service December 14

A Healing Service, led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann of Vassar Temple, will be held Saturday Dec. 14 at 10:15am. This beautiful service is designed for anyone praying for healing of the body, soul or spirit for themselves or others, for caregivers, and for anyone, for any reason, in need of spiritual strength. The service will include prayers, reflections and songs that focus on healing and on Shabbat. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend the service, which will be hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). For the Zoom link, watch temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org.

Judaism 101 ~ Year 2

Our next sessions of Judaism 101 ~ Year 2 will meet on Sundays, December 8th and 22nd 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.



Furniture Needed

Dutchess Welcoming is seeking basic furniture for men moving out of the Red Roof Inn and into their own apartments. Please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org if you have something you might be interested in donating, with a description, and include a photo if possible. This will be forwarded to Val Carlisle, who will see if she can match it up with the needs. MANY THANKS!

Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ December 18

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, December 18. Specific details about the December 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.

Temple Awarded Federal Homeland Security Grant

We are very excited to announce that Vassar Temple has been selected as a recipient in the 2024 Federal Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP). The \$150,000 grant includes the following upgrades: new exterior forced-entry doors with modern push bars; new interior forced-entry doors for sanctuary and chapel; key card access control system to replace physical keys; additional exterior and interior security cameras and upgraded system to support them; additional exterior lighting; and safety shield window film.

The three-year grant period will entail detailed management, and the award includes funds for professional assistance. This is a reimbursement grant, and we will implement the projects in sequence with periodic reimbursement as they are completed. The VT Board, Finance, House, and Security Committees will collaborate to bring this major effort to fruition.

This year increased funds were allotted by Congress to the NSGP, with many more applicants due to the worsening threat environment. In New York, a significant portion was earmarked for New York City organizations with a limited number of upstate applicants funded. This is a huge accomplishment for Vassar Temple which could not have been achieved without the hard work of Susan Karnes Hecht and Marcia Tanzman. A stipend for professional grant writer assistance was secured from Community Security Initiative and support received from the Dutchess County Sheriff and City/Town of Poughkeepsie Police. While the grant application was a months-long effort, the preparatory work for this and other grants was initiated several years ago with the establishment of our electronic document archives and acquisition of our formal 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS.

I thank everyone involved for such a fantastic job and result. Though this is happening during my term as President, the effort has occurred through a number of executive terms, and I commend our past presidents and trustees for their support.

Roni Stein,
President

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Blue Crinkle Cookies for Hanukkah ~ Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Total Time: 25 minutes Yield: 20 cookies

Ingredients

- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1½ cups granulated sugar, divided
- Zest and juice from one large lemon, separated
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- Blue gel food coloring
- ½ cup confectioner's sugar



Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Beat the butter, 1 cup of the granulated sugar and lemon zest in your mixer till light and fluffy; scrape down the sides. Add the lemon juice, egg and vanilla and beat again; scrape down the sides. Add the flour, baking powder and salt and beat again till ingredients are well combined.
- Add a bit of food coloring to the dough and beat until the color is completely incorporated. Add more color, a bit at a time, till the desired shade is reached.
- Place the remaining ½ cup of granulated sugar in a small bowl, and the confectioner's sugar in another bowl.
- Use a tablespoon or cookie scoop to scoop the batter right into the granulated sugar. Gently turn so that the scoop is completely covered in the sugar, then roll into a ball. Place the ball into the confectioner's sugar, turn to coat and roll into a ball again. Place on your prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining batter.
- Bake for 8-10 minutes, or till the cookies are puffed up and the edges are just set. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

JWV

Our JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its December meeting on Sunday, December 15 at Shomre Israel. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8. As Shomre Israel is strictly kosher, Post 625 will provide the nosh. The meeting will begin at 9:30am and the nosh at 9:00am. We hope to see you.

Ralph Schwartz, Sr. Post Commander

Shelter Meals News

For many years, Vassar Temple has been volunteering once a month in various capacities at the local overnight homeless shelter. We refer to the night we go as “Jewish Night,” because eventually we were joined by other members of the local Jewish community, and actually now we have been joined in doing this mitzvah by friends and neighbors of other faiths. Over the years the shelter’s population grew from 14 to 120, and during the pandemic the location moved from Hillcrest to the PODs. At first we had to stay at the shelter overnight ourselves, provide supper and serve supper and breakfast, do laundry, etc., until funding was realized for fully staffing the shelter by professionals. At that time our role became “simply” contributing and serving homemade food for supper, and donating cereal, fruit, juice, etc. for breakfast the following morning. After the move to the PODs, due to COVID concerns, we simply dropped off the food each month for the now 120 or more guests.

Our local overnight shelter was founded and run by Hudson River Housing, but the most recent change is that Dutchess County has now taken over administering the shelter. The County’s policies do not allow for homemade food to be brought in and served, so guests at that shelter are now getting their meals through Dutchess Outreach. Therefore, we have shifted our efforts to providing a monthly dinner for the 27 residents of Liberty Station on N. Hamilton Street. Liberty Station is a shelter run by Hudson River Housing for unhoused US military veterans.

Judy Harkavy continues to very ably coordinate our participation on shelter night throughout all these changing situations. If you have any questions, you can contact her at shelter@vassartemple.org.



Thanks to all who helped with our fall social justice projects:

- **YK Food Drive** (each of you who donated food to stuff the truck, plus special helpers Ron Rosen, Ralph Schwartz, and the Ward, Steckman and Carr families).
- **The Dutchess Outreach Coat Drive. The CROPWalk** (our amazing team consisting of Rabbi Altman and Ron Rosen and their generous sponsors).
- Our ongoing **Lunch Box and Shelter Meals** (shout out to Paul Ciminello and Judy Harkavy for their unflagging leadership with these endeavors).
- Writing post cards to encourage **voter participation** (thanks to Howard Susser, Marge Groten and Susan Karnes Hecht for organizing postcard parties and individual opportunities for us to make a difference).
- Sisterhood members gathering to prepare and freeze homemade **soup** to nourish and cheer ailing congregants throughout the coming months (led by Judy Rosenfeld and Polly Lewis).
- And culminating the season was **Trim a Thanksgiving and Turkey Trot**, a grand collaboration of congregants of all ages, our Religious School and teens.

It was a lot, and working together, together we did a lot of good! If anyone would like to help carry out future projects such as these, or has new ideas for us to pursue, please contact Marian Schwartz at socialaction@vassartemple.org.



Hanukkah Dinner and Service

Friday, December 27th, at 6:00 pm at Vassar Temple

- Bring a meat or vegetable dish for 12. (no dairy or peanuts)
- Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages. Please do not use peanuts in your dish.
- The cost for the dinner is \$18 per family or \$6 per individual
- Contact Ellen Zelig at HanukkahDinner@vassartemple.org or call the temple office at 845.454.2570 by December 24th to let her know you are coming!
- Please send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood
(write Hanukkah Dinner on the memo line)
140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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

Don't forget your menorah and candles.



SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Solomon Tanzman
 Lara Katie Goetzl
 Lawrence M. Soifer
 Louis & Evelyn Heidelberger
 Helen Wrobel
 Sadie Breit and Sandra Lipschitz
 Charles Wender & Chester Altman
 Len Garber & Samuel Garber
 Hildegard Tuchmann, Elsa Cohen & Ruth Seegal Cohen
 Ruth Joy Orner & Jean Ciminello
 Albert E. Schwartz
 Evelyn R. Luttinger
 Esther Mardon Bernstein
 Ellen Bernard
 Marion Himelstein
 J. Ralph Stein
 Bobbi Hulnick

Marcia & Glenn Tanzman
 Edgar Goetzl & Marion Lipschutz
 Steve Soifer
 Marianne & Bob Abrams
 Hilary & Lewis Wrobel
 Alfred Scope
 Renni Altman & Rick Wender
 Vivian & Ed Garber
 Doi Cohen
 Andi & Paul Ciminello
 Ralph Schwartz
 Jayne ML Baumbach
 Kathryn Mardon
 Linda & Richard Cantor
 Howard Himelstein
 Roni & Charles Stein
 Francine Kaplan
 Arlene & Gil Seligman
 Irma Jacobs
 Andi & Paul Ciminello



In Honor of: Martin Charwat

In Appreciation of:

Brittney Weiss
 Sam & Adriaan Finnerman

Andi & Paul Ciminello
 Sandra Mamis

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Memory of: Albert Levy Serfaty

Michele Sinn
 Perla & Charles Kaufman

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Lisa Heidelberger

Marianne & Bob Abrams

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

ETERNAL TORAH FUND

MEMORIAL PLAQUE FUND

In Memory of: Bob DiBennardo

Ron Rosen
 Lisa Rubenstein & Richard DuVall

Lisa Rubenstein & Richard DuVall
 Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Gail D'Alessio

CEMETERY FUND

In Thanks to: The Cemetery Committee

In Memory of: Matthew Lampell

Dale Raisig
 Janet Lampell Aronson, Karen Lampell Endicott & Kirk Endicott

KLEZMER BAND FOR SIMCHAT TORAH

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Gail D'Alessio

Judy & Eric Rosenfeld

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Robert & Marianne Abrams
 Jo Anne Abraskin
 Thomas & Laura Brundage
 Paul & Andi Ciminello
 Arnold Cohen
 Doi Cohen
 Miriam Cohen
 Judy & Bob Creedon
 Richard DuVall & Lisa Rubenstein
 Susan Fink
 Maxine Finkelstein
 Ed & Vivian Garber
 Eric & Barbara Gillman
 Ruth Goldfarb
 Judith Harkavy
 Irma Jacobs

Francine Kaplan
 Jeffrey & Kimberly Karitis
 Evan & Dana Kurz
 David & Marilyn Lampell
 Muriel Lampell
 Anne Lescher
 Lou and Candace Lewis
 Jon Lieberman and Fern Lox
 Edgar Goetzl & Marion Lipschutz
 Sandra Mamis
 Danah & Jeremy Moore
 Nir & Kathryn Naaman
 Paul and Rebecca Ostrovsky
 Elyse Oughton
 Kurt & Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
 Martin & Marilyn Revitz

Ron Rosen
 Ed & Marilyn Rosenberg
 Loren & Charlene Rosenthal
 Alfred Scope
 Gil & Arlene Seligman
 Brian & Helen Silverman
 Michele Sinn
 Michael & Laura Sperling
 Charles & Roni Stein
 David Steinberg and Katherine Moloney
 Carol Strauss
 Glenn & Marcia Tanzman
 Garrett & Brittny
 David Wolf & Fern Greenberg-Wolf

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

December 6

Albert Levy Serfaty
 Hilda Levitan
 Solomon Berger
 Bea Russotto
 Marion Himmelstein
 Susan Baker
 Sydell Alpers Pannor
 Rabbi Martin Rozenberg
 Larry Adler
 Miriam Feitelson
 Sadie Breit
 Sandra Lipschitz
 Martin Markowitz
 Julius Klein
 Leo Loeb
 Carl Gross
 Minnie Shapiro
 Ruth Bagun
 Elsa Cohen
 Shirley Ernest
 Wilford Wittenberg
 Thomas Nolan
 Daniel Arnold
 Ava Bayne

December 13

Gussie Bernstein
 Richard Saul Fein
 Fay Greenberg
 Herbert Jacobson
 Philip D'Angelo
 Clara Lewin
 Allan E. Dampf
 Jordon M. Taylor
 Lillian Friedman
 Helen Wrobel
 Gladys Steinberg
 Esther Yelsky
 Abe Barnett
 Anna Cairo
 Erna Konheim
 Eileen Dermody
 Aaron Slote
 Harry Migdal

December 20

Louis Dubler
 Kate Hecht
 Ruth Seegal Cohen
 Marilyn Sirkus
 Ruth Joy Orner
 Charles Kovacs, DDS
 Ilse B. Dreyfuss
 Anne Kesselman
 Beatrice Snyder
 Nathaniel Rubin
 Belle G. Adler
 Evelyn Lesser
 Joseph Weber
 Evelyn Luttinger
 William Robinowitz
 Stella W. Renick
 Goldie Bleich
 Dr. Doris Berlin-Acker
 Philip Wolfson
 Louis Rosen
 Lawrence M. Soifer
 Albert Bayne

December 27

Seth A. Erlebacher
 Lillian Lox
 Mildred Tauber
 Elaine Hendricks
 Leah Michel
 Selma Kahn
 Leah W. Cohen
 Deborah H. Jacobs
 Celia Kraut
 Joseph L. Kahn
 Bernie Rader
 Reine Reinhart
 Dr. Joseph R. Levy
 Joseph Fa'gut
 Henry Solomonson
 Len Garber
 Barnet B. Shelton
 Jean Ciminello
 Marcia Kurz
 Norman Blaustein

Our Condolences To:

The family of Barbara "Bobbi" Hulnick,
 mother of Andi Ciminello

The family of Walter Posner,
 uncle of Roni Stein



Mazel Tov!

TO: Rabbi Altman and Rick Wender on the marriage of their son Daniel Wender to Haley Waver on Sunday, October 27th in Rochester, NY



Tiny Temple and PJ Library Celebrate Hanukkah

Young children up thru age six and their families: Come celebrate Hannukah with Tiny Temple and PJ Library, at Vassar Temple on Sunday December 8 at 11:00am. Join us for a holiday story, fun activities, and learning. Tiny Temple is always free, open to the whole community, and is sponsored by Vassar Temple. For questions and to RSVP, please contact tinytemple@vassartemple.org.



How to Make a Big Impact with Little Discomfort

Our endowment campaign is within a hair's breadth of reaching its goal of \$500,000 in pledges. We expect that a few generous individuals who have indicated that they *will* pledge over the next few weeks will indeed do so—bringing us to our goal.

A number of you have hesitated to make a pledge—not because of lack of commitment to the Temple but because doing so would put you in a financial bind. Is there a way that you can help and still not compromise current assets and income? The answer is a clear “yes.” One Temple member has already done so.

Here's how:

If you do not already have a will, you can make one and designate the Vassar Temple Endowment Fund as a beneficiary. The amount you wish to leave to the Temple is up to you. If after providing for loved ones there are assets that you would like to allocate to causes and organizations that have meant a lot to you, we sincerely hope that Vassar Temple is among them. If so, please designate a specific dollar amount to the Vassar Temple Endowment Fund, with the Temple's address at 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

If you already have a will that does not include the Endowment Fund, you will have to **amend** your will by means of a codicil to add the Vassar Temple Endowment Fund as a beneficiary. Again, list the specific dollar amount you wish to designate, and add the address of the Temple.

For both those making a will and those adding a codicil to an existing will, you will have to contact a lawyer to make your wishes legally binding. The cost should be relatively modest—yet you can have a very big impact on securing the Temple's financial future **without** having to sacrifice current income. We hope that you will consider this option!

*Martin Charwat and Lou Lewis,
Co-Chairs of the Endowment Fund Committee*

Generations Shabbat Service ~ Friday, December 6, 2024 at 6pm

Led by Rabbi Altman and music with Cantor Goldmann

~ in-person and via Zoom

L'Dor V'Dor—from Generation to Generation

We hope to see you on December 6 for a special service when we will honor the backbone of our temple—members who have been part of our community for 40 or more years! We will also warmly welcome our newest members to the Vassar Temple family.



HONORING OUR LONG-TIME MEMBERS

WELCOMING OUR NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Rabbi Stephen & Cecile Arnold	David Lampell	Sheila Bayne
Nancy Belok	Louis & Candace Lewis	Starlie & Jillian Diamant
Gabe and Cathy Bokor	Bernard & Jill Loeb	Henry & Henia Grodenchik
Richard & Linda Cantor	Kathy Mardon	Mihai Grunfeld
Martin & Eleanor Charwat	Arthur & Carol Menken	Logan Hartley
Herman Chertock	Barbara Mindel	Susan Lydiard
Doris Cohen	Dr. Andrew & Susan Needelman	Michael & Alison Marsal
Georgene Dreishpoon	Sheila Newman	Josh & Thitibon Plotnik
Dawn Effron	Amy Horn Oclatis	Dawn Reimer
Susan Fink	Lisa-Sue Quackenbush	Edward & Marilyn Rosenberg
Samuel Finnerman	Joan Reifler	David & Mariana Rothschild
Howard & Rochelle Friedman	Jonah Ritter	Joshua & Michelle Schwadron
Edward & Vivian Garber	James Robinowitz	Nicholas & Adi Steiner
Suzi Garcia	Dr. Edward & Sheila Schneider	Sue Sullivan
Arthur Gellert	Ralph & Marian Schwartz	
Dr. Jeffrey and Nancy Genshaft	Gilbert & Arlene Seligman	
Sara Jane Goldberg	Murray Solomon	
Jack & Fredrica Goodman	Gloria Turk	
Arthur & Margery Groten	Steve Turk	
Judy Harkavy	Charles & Barbara Volkman	
Howard Himmelstein	Carl & Ronnie Wolfson	
Leonard Hyman	Lewis Wrobel	
Irma Jacobs	Ellen Zelig	
Rita Jacobson	Joel Kelson	
Murial Lampell		



2024

Community Chanukah Party

- Musical Dance Party With Singer/Songwriter Chaya Soljoi
- Balloon Artistry By Darryl Bielski
- A Special Menorah Lighting
- PJ Library Doughnut Bar, Nosh, Arts & Crafts



SUNDAY | DECEMBER 15
11:00 AM - 12:45 PM

Vassar Temple
140 Hooker Ave
Poughkeepsie, NY



admin@jewishdutchess.org



Temple Beth-El
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK



SUPPORT REFORM VALUES IN ISRAEL!

Join our World Zionist Congress campaign team.

The US Reform Movement is launching a powerful campaign for WZC 2025 election. Our congregation has started to build our team – and we need your help!



Protect democracy in Israel



Support a path to peace












Fight for women's & LGBTQ+ rights



We have another important election campaign coming up that needs your voice and your vote!

THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS (WZC) is the representative body for diaspora Jewish communities. It meets every five years and controls a \$1 billion budget that impacts religious pluralism, democracy, and more in Israel. Vassar Temple is building a campaign team to fight for our Reform values in Israel. To get more information or volunteer for our campaign, contact Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vassartemple.org. To learn more about the WZC, [visit www.zrza.org/wzc](http://www.zrza.org/wzc).

Calendar of Events—December 2024

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

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: Roni Stein

1st Vice President: Susan Fink

2nd Vice President: Gail D'Alessio

Secretary: Marcia Tanzman

Treasurer: Maxine Finkelstein

Sisterhood President: Polly Lewis

Brotherhood President: Glenn Tanzman

Immediate Past President: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush

Bulletin Editor: Jo Schaffel



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submitted by January 1 sent via email to

publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors

reserve the right to edit articles for style,

accuracy and length.

VTS Book Club to Read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

“William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him—so when he meets the spirited and ambitious Julia Padavano in his freshman year of college, it’s as if the world has lit up around him. With Julia comes her family, as she and her three sisters are inseparable: Sylvie, the family’s dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book; Cecelia is a free-spirited artist; and Emeline patiently takes care of them all. With the Padavanos, William experiences a newfound contentment; every moment in their house is filled with loving chaos.

But then darkness from William’s past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia’s carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters’ unshakeable devotion to one another. The result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations. Will the loyalty that once rooted them be strong enough to draw them back together when it matters most?

An exquisite homage to Louisa May Alcott’s timeless classic, *Little Women*, *Hello Beautiful* is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.” (Amazon)

Discussion of this book will be on Thursday, December 19, at 2:00pm, in-person at the Collegeview Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. All are welcome. For questions, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.