



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 6 ~ January 2025

Purim Spiel Casting Call

All are welcome! No tryouts!

We will be using music from the Beatles.

Purim Spiel and Megillah reading will be on Thursday, March 13.

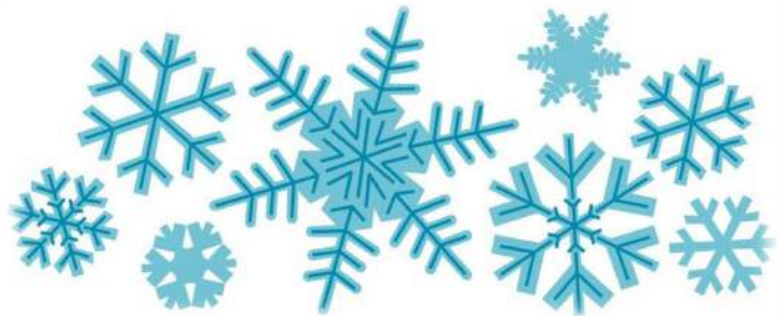
Contact Ritual@vassartemple.org to participate in this fun event.



Winter Is Here Again...

IMAGINE ~ A hungry child, teenager or adult in our community...

IMAGINE ~ A can of soup, a nice warm meal that we can provide for someone in need during this cold season...



VASSAR TEMPLE'S ANNUAL VIRTUAL SOUPER SALE!

JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 31, 2025

- Please make a financial donation to help provide cans of hearty soup for local food pantries.
- Just send a check of any amount to the Temple with "Souper Sale" on the subject line, or donate on-line to Vassar Temple's Community Tzedakah Fund.
- An added plus: Money collected for the Souper Sale will be exchanged for temple scrip. A win/win deal!

**AT VASSAR TEMPLE, HELPING TO FEED THOSE IN NEED IS POSSIBLE
WHEN WE ALL JOIN TOGETHER. THANK YOU!**

SocialAction@vassartemple.org

From the Rabbi's Desk:



It's everywhere during Hanukkah: in the blessing we say, on the dreidels we spin, in the latkes and donuts we eat, and in the very lights themselves. It's—THE MIRACLE!

What is the miracle of Hanukkah? The most common answer: the legend of the oil. When the Maccabees defeated the Assyrian-Greeks and reclaimed

the Temple, they found only one container of the sacred oil to light the lampstand, enough for one day. Miraculously, it lasted for eight.

Most likely, the Talmudic sages created that legend to minimize the true miracle of Hanukkah: the victory of the band of Maccabees over the vast Assyrian army and the independence of the Jewish nation. By the time of the rabbis, the Jews were living under foreign rule so it was far more prudent to celebrate the miracle of oil rather than the miracle of a successful revolution (that is, if one wanted to continue celebrating one's holidays and not make the rulers too anxious).

The oil or the victory? Two different kinds of miracles. Miraculous stories are part of our Jewish heritage. This month we begin reading *Shmot/Exodus* which is replete with miracles, most especially the splitting of the Sea of Reeds, enabling the escape of the Israelites from Egypt. We learn an important lesson about making miracles happen from that story: God doesn't just split the sea; Moses had to raise his staff and the Israelites had to go forward. Only then did the sea split. The Israelites had to be part of making that miracle happen. As the rabbis taught in the Talmud, "one should never stand in a place of danger and say 'a miracle will happen to me' since perhaps it will not happen." The Maccabees didn't pray for a miracle; they participated in making their miraculous victory happen, even as they saw a Divine hand in it.

During Hanukkah (and on Purim), we add a reading to the Thanksgiving blessing of the *Tefillah* in celebration of the miracle. This is a fitting placement in the liturgy to celebrate the miracle of Hanukkah because the Thanksgiving blessing thanks and praises God for "Your miracles that we experience every day..." Not only do we celebrate miraculous events such as Hanukkah, but Judaism calls on us to see the miraculous in the daily, not to take basic things for granted: the food we eat, how our bodies work, sunrise and sunsets. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught: "Wonder or radical amazement is the chief characteristic of the religious man's attitude toward history and nature. One attitude is alien to his spirit: taking things for granted, regarding events as a natural course of things. To find an approximate cause of a phenomenon is no answer to his ultimate wonder. He knows that there are laws that regulate the course of natural processes... However, such knowledge fails to mitigate his sense of perpetual surprise at the fact there are facts at all."

To instill within us that sense of wonder and gratitude, the rabbis developed a section of the preliminary prayers of the morning service entitled, "The miracles which are daily with us" that includes blessings for awakening, for walking, for clothing our bodies, for finding strength.

Our secular year begins as Hanukkah draws to a close. As we kindle the lights for the last night, with the Hanukkiah fully ablaze, let us consider the miracles in our lives: the ones that are daily with us which we may take for granted and the ones that we need to be courageous enough to help bring about. May this Festival of Lights strengthen us to see and do both!

Rabbi Renni Altman

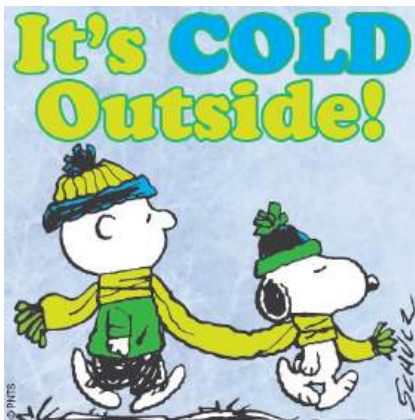
President's Message:



One thing that goes year-round at Vassar Temple is volunteering and committee work. One way you can contribute to Temple is through your time.



January is here and the days are short and it's cold out. But things are happening at Temple!



Join a Friday night service in person and the business of the world is put aside for a little while. The Temple is warm, and the congregants are happy to see you.

This month is also the Soup and Chili Tisch shabbat. Try a variety of soups and chili while also attending a service on a screen; no books to worry about. It is a popular service that is meaningful and tasty! If you have never been to the Tisch shabbat in January, mark your calendars and please join in this year.



It is no small thing to be part of a community and support necessary efforts. We are a better and more solid congregation through the efforts of our staff, though small, and our corps of volunteers. It is pretty remarkable how much the congregants of Vassar Temple care and want to see this Temple succeed even in uncertain times. Thank you all! So, if you are interested in supporting financial matters, religious practices, our religious school, and Sisterhood or Brotherhood, among other areas, *let me know*. There are committees for these areas that can use new voices. I will send you to the appropriate person and thank you for your support. I hope this is not a one-way street and that you will receive satisfaction in helping an institution that has endured for 175 years.

I hope your Hanukkah was a joyous one and your latkes were awesome! We finish Hanukkah just into January and that is a challenge with the mix of other holidays; hope it went well for you! As I write this column, we have just passed Thanksgiving which is one of my favorite holidays because the message is so simple; gather, eat together, be thankful. Easy peasy when you drop worries for a few hours. Just a few hours...

So, plan on enjoying the winter snow, make that snowman (person?), and when you need a break come to a warm Friday night service. And don't forget the Soup and Chili Tisch Shabbat! Have a safe January!

Roni Stein

Bimah Flowers for our Services January 2025

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.

January 2025 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- January 3: Martin Noble in memory of Greta Blaine
- January 10: Randi, Pam and Al Scope in memory of Charles Scope and Marilyn McGaulley Lampell in memory of Nancy McGaulley
- January 17: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- January 24: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- January 31: Benjamin and Ellie Krevolin in memory of Lewis Krevolin



Religious School Update: The Ladder of Tzedakah

Maimonides lists his Eight Levels of Giving, as written in the Mishneh Torah, Chapter 10:7-14. The list is in order of merit—the most noble being at the top. It's not completely linear, but it's food for thought.

- 1) Giving an interest-free loan to a person in need; forming a partnership with a person in need; giving a grant to a person in need; finding a job for a person in need; so long as it results in the person no longer needing to rely upon others.
- 2) Giving tzedakah anonymously to an unknown recipient via a person (or public fund) which is trustworthy, wise, and can perform acts of tzedakah with your money in an impeccable fashion.
- 3) Giving tzedakah anonymously to a known recipient.
- 4) Giving tzedakah publicly to an unknown recipient.
- 5) Giving tzedakah before being asked.
- 6) Giving adequately after being asked.
- 7) Giving willingly, but inadequately.
- 8) Giving "in sadness" (giving out of pity): Maimonides may have been referring to giving because of the sad feelings one might have in seeing people in need (as opposed to giving because it is a religious obligation). Other translations say "Giving unwillingly."



*Rabbi Shoshana Hantman ,
Religious School Director*

Scriptural Readings ~ January

January 4

Vayigash

Genesis 44:18-47:27; Ezekiel 37:15-28

January 11

Va-y'chi

Genesis 47:28-50:26; I Kings 2:1-12

January 18

Sh'mot

Exodus 1:1-6:1; Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

January 25

Va-eira

Exodus 6:2-9:35; Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

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 alternate Tuesdays. To be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list and receive the dates and study sheets, contact him at pjgolomb@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, January 4 and 18 (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.

Judaism 101 ~ Year 2

Our next session of Judaism 101 ~ Year 2 will meet on Sunday, January 12 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.

Mazel tov to Josh Plotnik

Josh was featured on *60 Minutes* on Sunday, December 8 for his research of elephants in Thailand.



Beyond the Matriarchs: The Lesser Known and Unnamed Women of the Bible

With Rabbi Altman ~ Wednesdays, January 8, 22 and February 5 at 7:30pm

Meet some of the less “famous” women of the Bible including a judge, a prophet, an evil queen, a temptress and a slayer of an enemy general. We will read their stories in the Bible, sometimes enriched by midrashic and contemporary writings. Bring a Bible if you can. This series will be taught in hybrid fashion; Zoom links will be provided in the weekly e-newsletter. If you are participating from home and don't have a Bible, you can access the biblical passages on [Sefaria.org](https://www.sefaria.org). Please RSVP to adulted@vassartemple.org.

Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ February 18, 2025

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 not meet in January 2025 because the 18th falls on a Saturday. Chai Noon will resume on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Specific details about the February 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.



Vassar Temple Search Committee Update

The Vassar Temple Search Committee is hard at work. We have received 11 resumes from interested candidates and have conducted Zoom interviews for most of these candidates. We hope to select two or three candidates to visit Vassar Temple sometime in January or February. For these visits, there will be small group interviews with select committees and larger gatherings and teaching sessions where the congregation is invited to participate and meet a candidate.

As a reminder, we are following CCAR guidelines and cannot discuss any candidate outside of our committee until we have the in-person visits. We will continue to update the congregation through the weekly email newsletter and special announcements. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we continue towards the goal of selecting and welcoming a new Rabbi to Vassar Temple.

Please direct any questions or concerns to searchcommittee@vassartemple.org.

Andi Ciminello,
Chair

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Quick Chicken and Vegetables on the Stovetop ~ Rabbi Renni Altman

Ingredients

- 3 carrots, peeled
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 zucchini, finely diced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 8 chicken pieces of your choice (about 3 1/2 lbs. if bone-in or about 3 lbs. if boneless (skin or skinless))
- 2 tablespoons sweet paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon dried basil



Instructions

- Cut carrots lengthwise into long, thin ribbons
- In a large sauté pan with a tight-fitting lid, heat the oil over medium heat. Add carrots and zucchini and season with salt and pepper.
- Cover and cook about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened.
- Add the tomatoes and corn and cook for 5 minutes longer.
- Add tomato sauce and garlic and stir well.
- Meanwhile, place chicken in a large bowl and sprinkle with paprika, turmeric and basil. Rub spices thoroughly into each piece of chicken, then season with salt and pepper.
- Transfer chicken to the pan and scoop the vegetables and sauce over the chicken until well coated.
- Bring to boil, reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer until chicken is cooked through. Boneless breasts will take 20-25 minutes; larger bone-in pieces can take up to 1 hour.
- Transfer the chicken to a warmed platter and spoon the vegetables and sauce over the top.

JWV

The JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its January 12 at Shomre Israel. Future meetings will be held on 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.



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Ralph Schwartz,
Sr. Post Commander

CONTRIBUTIONS

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:
Bobbi Hulnick

Lillian Friedman
Aaron Slote, Goldie Bleich & Selma Kahn
Donald L. Goldfarb, MD
Alan Rubenstein & George Meltzer
Mark Rosenthal
Flora Silverman
Judy Golub
George Kanter
Evelyn Tanzman
Maurice Troeger
Ruth Stein
Dr. Charles Scope & Dorothy Vogel
Sidney Friedman & Henry Goldstein
Stephen Berr & Vernon Brundage
Meyer Miller & Ann Miller
Dotty Sternberg
In Honor of:
Howard Himelstein's Special Birthday

LUNCH BOX FUND

In Honor of:
Rabbi Altman

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

ETERNAL TORAH FUND

CEMETERY FUND

With Thanks to: Cemetery Committee

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Margery & Art Groten
Martin & Mindy Teich
Shelley & Steven Turk
Susan & David Hecht
Gail D'Alessio
Madelyn D'Angelo
Jodi Reifer & Seth Lederer
Gloria Mayer

Roni Stein
Carolyn Libretti

Cathy Bokor
Nancy Samson
Rochelle & Howard Friedman
Muriel Lampell
Michael G. Goldfarb
Lisa Rubenstein
Charlene & Loren Rosenthal
Helen & Brian Silverman
Edward Gordon
Susan Lydiard
Marcia & Glenn Tanzman
Jonathan Moselle
Roni & Charles Stein
Alfred Scope
Rochelle & Howard Friedman
Laura & Tom Brundage
Richard Partridge
Gloria Mayer

Sandra Mamis

Rebecca & Paul Ostrovsky

Ellen Zelig
William Beehler
Rebecca & Paul Ostrovsky
Margery & Art Groten
Vivian & Ed Garber
Fern Lox & Jon Lieberman
Murial Horowitz

Linda & Richard Cantor

Carol & Art Menken
Bena Silber

Polly Lewis



JANUARY YAHRZEITS

January 3

Alvin Greenberg
Maurice Troeger
Michael Goldfinger
Rabbi Sigmund Israel
Frances Rosen
Morris Effron
Meyer Miller
Faye Seif
Rose Brond
Jean Citron
Harry Fogle
Keith Warner Landau
DeWitt Fischman
Donald DeWitt
Dotty Sternberg
Harris Harold Groten
Alma Barbash
Dr. Bertram Katz
George Kanter
Greta Blaine

January 10

Ida Krevolin
Herman R. Gross
Ruth Stein
Betty Israel
Dorothy Dlugacz
John Ciminello
Monte Tate Brown
Ethel Haber
Rae Lipman
Beatrice Salit Horn
Gabrielle Soroka
Dr. Charles Scope
Leon Krauss
Wendy Ellen Wolstencroft
Nancy McGaulley
Dorothy Vogel
George Meltzer
Gloria Menken
Evelyn Tanzman

January 17

Yetta Horn
Joan Plotsky
Albert Burrows
Judy Golub
Gerald Mamis
E. Pat Newman
Anna Kofman
Stanley Israel
Eleanor Katz
Andrea Sue Rabin
Bella Albert
John Garlock
Stanley Markum
Hody I. Gellert
Louis Satz
Herbert L. Strauss
Thelma Fival
Herman D. Chertock
Geraldine Geller
Lois Grand
Dr. Donald L. Goldfarb
Betty Golomb
Stephen Glasser
Stephen Bokor
Morris S. Rosen
Alvin Turk
Joseph Solomon
Daniel Russotto
Sarah Sacharoff
Doris Preis Rubinow
Irving Jukofsky

January 24

Clara Dorn
Leo Dorn
Belle Baum Fein
Stanley Krell
Miriam Rosenberg Oppenheimer
Flora Silverman
Helen Wagner
Andrew H. Erdreich
Joseph Effron
Ruth Haber
William Haber
Sidney Friedman
Herman Yelsky
Henry Walter Seligman
Judel Lampert
Henry Goldstein
Roy Lieberman
David Teich
Joseph Levinson
William Feinbloom, OD
Joseph Baskin
Ann J. Miller
Elizabeth Satz
Joan Golomb
Jesse Colodner

January 31

Samuel Grand
Carl Tobias
Morris Kahn
Joseph Marcus
Walter L. Mock, Jr
Melvin Lesser
Shirley LaLone
Mark C. Schwartz
Naomi Goldberg
Alan S. Rubenstein
Ray Fox
Isadore Shefts
Pauline Gross
Leonard H. Arnold
Virginia Newman Livingston
Irving Wrobel
Nancy Levinson
Alan Pack Greller
Russell B. Oppenheimer, DVM
Ronah Gordon Posner
Mark Rosenthal
Lewis Krevolin
Stephen Berr
Susan Matlin
Gertrude Rothstein
Vernon Leslie Brundage
Harriet Fein



Our Condolences To:

The family of Mark Ritter, father of Jonah Ritter

The family of Myra Plotnik, grandfather of Josh Plotnik

Cemetery News

Updated cemetery policies were presented to the Board in October for review and adoption in accordance with the Bylaws. I'm delighted to report that the new policies were approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees at its November meeting. This reflects the extensive, thoughtful, and thorough work that the Cemetery Committee put into developing this important document, critical to providing consistency for members burying loved ones. Areas covered by the policy include: role of the Committee; financial management; member privileges and reservation of adjacent plots; rules and regulations for plots, funerals, and interments; new information regarding burial of cremains; and standards for monuments and landscaping. A summary version will be provided to the Rabbi and local funeral directors, and the policy will be available to members to facilitate the process for families experiencing bereavement.

The Board also supported (as did the Finance Committee) an increase in the Perpetual Care Fee to go into effect with the next fiscal year. This is a one-time fee collected at the time of burial, which goes into the Cemetery Fund specifically for maintenance. Burial plots are provided to members without cost as a membership privilege (after five years as members in good financial standing). As part of its recent work, the Committee determined that burial vaults are not needed, which had previously been a significant cost for families. In light of these facts, and of the significant cost of maintenance, an increase in the fee is warranted; that being said, fees cover only a fraction of costs and we continue to work with Finance on a viable long-term approach to meeting this sacred obligation. Donations to the Cemetery Fund are greatly appreciated, and we are gratified by recent notes from members acknowledging the property improvements that have occurred. Reach us at cemetery@vassartemple.org.

Susan Karnes Hecht,
Chair

Thanks

Morse School Thanks Us

As a member of the Jewish Social Action Coalition, Vassar Temple was thanked by Morse Elementary School for the monthly food distributions, as well as for Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday gift cards. Also, words of appreciation go out to all who helped deliver donated children's coats and other winter-wear to Morse.

In the words of the Morse administration,

"Thank you again for all of your continued support for our students and always at the holidays it is always much appreciated by us and our community. The cards were disbursed to our families that were chosen and the parents were very thankful for them."

Tricia Emmons, Crisis Intervention Counselor.

"Thank you all for all you do for the students at Morse School. It is appreciated more than you will ever know."

Samantha Velez-Mitchell, Principal

Trim a Thanksgiving

Temple members donated turkeys, food, roasting pans, and festive holiday napkins. Temple children decorated baskets and created holiday cards. And our Temple teens put it all together, to bring holiday joy to local families in need. Special thanks to Rabbi Altman, Religious School Director Rabbi Hantman, and to the Social Action Committee for organizing this annual project that unites the entire congregation, and unites our congregation with our community neighbors.



Religious School Trim a Thanksgiving Photos!



Shabbat Y'ladim (Children's Sabbath) ~ January 25 at 10:30 am

All young children up to first grade are invited to bring their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or friends to Vassar Temple on Sat. Jan. 25 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 holiday of *Tu B'Shevat*, the birthday of trees. 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TREES!



Would you like to learn how to make challah?

Are you interested in having some fun while learning to make challah? It's really simple! The time and date will be decided, depending on the availability of those interested in attending. Interested individuals should contact challah@vassartemple.org.



Support our VT Sisterhood Consignment Account

We are excited to announce that VT Sisterhood established a consignment account with the Hyde Park consignment shop following our Bargain Basement sale. To date we have received about \$170 in sales income. To have continued success, we are seeking gently used women's clothing, coats, and shoes in season, household goods, kitchenware, and jewelry. If you have items throughout the year that you no longer need, and don't want to wait until the Bargain Basement sale, please contact Marcia Tanzman at bargainbasement@vassartemple.com to discuss what you have to donate.



Soup & Chili Dinner and Tisch Shabbat

~ Friday, January 24

On Friday, January 24, at 6 pm, we will gather at Vassar Temple for a soup and chili dinner as part of a warm and wonderful in-person Tisch Shabbat. As we sit around tables in the social hall, Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann will lead a service modeled on the "Rebbe's Tisch," using Visual Tefillah (slides of the prayers projected on a screen, instead of prayer books), and featuring lots of singing and stories. Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread, and salad to be enjoyed during the service.

Everyone is very welcome, and while reservations are not required, we would greatly appreciate having an idea of how much food to prepare. If possible, please let us know if you are coming at TischShabbat@vassartemple.org or call the temple at 845-454-2570. Donations for the dinner are appreciated, and any checks should be made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

If you'd like to make soup or chili, or if you'd like to help with the event in other ways, please let us know at TischShabbat@vassartemple.org.



Rabbi Altman assists members of the pre-b'nai mitzvah class, as they roll a Torah scroll to maintain its health.

*Fight for Democracy
in Israel*

JOIN OUR WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS CAMPAIGN

The US Reform Movement is running a powerful campaign for the WZC election. Join our congregation's team.



Keep fighting for democracy in another important election campaign that needs your voice and your vote! #VoteReformWZC2025

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. Our congregation is building a campaign team to fight for our Reform values in Israel. Vote from March 10 through May 4, 2025.

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.

An Insurance Policy Naming the Endowment as Beneficiary

When we think about life insurance policies, it is usually in the context of protecting our families: a spouse, a child, children, grandchildren, or an aged parent who will need resources. It may never have occurred to be—and would be tremendously beneficial to the financial security of the Temple.

Here's how it would work: You contact your insurance company and inform it that you would like to take out a life insurance policy naming the Vassar Temple Endowment, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 as your beneficiary. Let's say that you opt for a \$10,000 policy (significantly more than you could comfortably donate in cash to the Temple's Endowment). Depending on your age, the policy could cost in the low \$100's per year to open and keep in force during your lifetime. You would pay the annual premium, and at the time of your passing, the company would pay the full \$10,000 to the Endowment—tax free to your estate. If you do this, **PLEASE LET THE TEMPLE OFFICE KNOW.**




By naming the Endowment as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy of yours, you would be using a **force multiplier**. We can think of no other way to provide such a meaningful sum to the Endowment for a modest annual outlay. If you have been considering donating to the Endowment Fund but have hesitated to do so based on the annual cost, please consider this option. It's easy and affordable. We hope you will consider it!

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

**Insurance
Policy**



Calendar of Events—January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Hanukkah Day 7 8th Candle OFFICE CLOSED 	2 Hanukkah Day 8 7pm Ritual CMTE	3 7:30pm Shabbat Service	4 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
5 No Religious School 10:30am Lunch Box	6 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	7	8 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Adult Ed Part 1 of 3	9 4pm Music CMTE	10 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
12 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101	13	14	15 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	16	17 7:30pm Shabbat Service	18 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
19 No Religious School	20 OFFICE CLOSED MLK Jr Day 	21	22 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Adult Ed Part 2 of 3	23 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board	24 6pm Soup & Chili Tisch Shabbat Service 	25 9am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Yeladim
26 9am Religious School	27	28	29 4:30pm Hebrew School	30	31 7:30pm Shabbat Service	

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

Please join us at Shabbat Services, January 17th, when we will welcome Kimberly Harris and Inna Soifer into the Covenant of the Jewish People

Vassar Temple Bulletin
140 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.454.2570



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www.vassartemple.org

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



Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly. Articles for the March Bulletin must be

submitted by February 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 *Love Letter from Pig* by Julie Kabat February 26, 2025 at 2pm via Zoom

In the summer of 1964, shortly after the horrific discovery of the Mississippi Burning murders of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, author Julie Kabat's beloved brother, Luke, arrived as a volunteer for the Mississippi Summer Project. Teaching biology to Freedom School students in Meridian, Luke became one of more than seven hundred student volunteers who joined experienced black civil rights workers and clergy to challenge white supremacy in the nation's most segregated state. Kabat's *Love Letter from Pig* celebrates her brother's activism and the many issues he grappled with that continue to haunt and divide us today: racialized oppression, threats of violence, and segregation whether explicit in law or implicit through custom.

Author Julie Kabat will join our discussion of this book on Wednesday, February 26, at 2:00pm, via Zoom.

The Zoom link will be sent to all Book Club members. For questions, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.

