



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 7 ~ February 2025

Tu Bshevat Shabbat Friday, February 14 ~ 7:30pm

Please join us for a unique Shabbat program highlighting the environmental themes of Tu Bshevat: The Birthday of the Trees showing our gratitude for the goodness of the land and our respect for its preservation.

The Tempestry Project (www.tempestryproject.com) combines fiber art, environmental education, and climate activism through data representation. One of the ongoing problems inherent in discussions about climate change is the vast scale of the conversation. The Project scales data down into tangible and beautiful projects, creating a bridge between the climate and personal experience through temperature tapestries, or 'Tempestries.' These may depict temperature deviation from the average or daily high temperatures over time for a specific location. Tempestries create a powerful visual representation of changing temperatures over time and spark important conversations about the environment using relatable information. As more and more people create Tempestries, both individually and in geographic collections, a mosaic of our climate history is beginning to emerge. The more people get involved—through knitting, crocheting, discussing, sharing—the richer, more beautiful, and more undeniable this mosaic becomes.



Project co-founders Emily McNeil and Asy Connelly will speak about their work and display a number of Tempestries. Chat with Emily and Asy at oneg, when refreshments will feature the seven species, holy foods consumed by the Jewish people in the land of Israel during biblical times.

This special program is sponsored by the Vassar Temple Ritual Committee and Dayenu Circle.



DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

From the Rabbi's Desk:



The rabbis of the Mishnah who set the 15th of Shevat (in Hebrew, Tu Bishevat) as a New Year for Trees some 2000 years ago would be amazed to see how this day and its observances have evolved over the millennia.

The date was set to facilitate the observance of the commandment from Leviticus:

When you enter the land and plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden for you, not to be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit shall be set aside for jubilation before the Eternal and only in the fifth year may you use its fruit—that its yield to you may be increased. I am the Eternal your God.

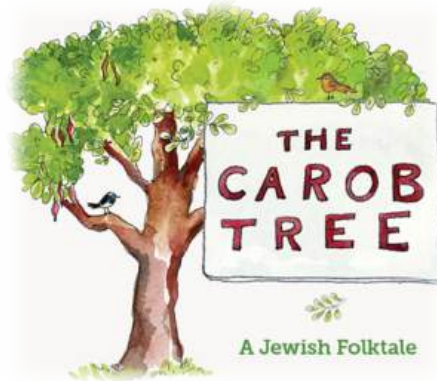
(Lev 19:23-25)

Tu Bishevat would mark the year for all trees planted since the last Tu Bishevat. Once the temple was destroyed and the sacrificial system ended, the original purpose of Tu Bishevat was lost. Nonetheless, Jews maintained the custom of eating fruits that grew in Israel on Tu Bishevat to demonstrate their connection to the land and the importance of trees. Planting trees was so important that Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakai, a leading rabbi of the First Century, taught that if you should be standing with a sapling in your hand and the Messiah arrives, finish planting the tree first, then go and greet the Messiah!

In the 17th century, the Kabbalists strengthened the bond with the land by creating a Tu Bishevat Seder, modeled after the Pesah seder, complete with four cups of wine and 15 different kinds of fruits, nuts and grains that grow on trees in Israel.

When the *halutzim* (Pioneers) began to settle the land, they found it barren from centuries of war and neglect. An essential aspect of its rebuilding was

planting trees to make the land bloom again. And through the work of the Jewish National Fund (those little blue boxes), Diaspora Jews participated in that rebuilding.



The importance of trees and planting for future generations is illustrated in this Talmudic tale that became a classic Tu Bishevat story: A man named Honi was walking down

the road and saw an old man planting a carob tree. (A carob tree takes 70 years to bear fruit.) Honi said to the man: Can you possibly think you will live long enough to taste its fruit? “No,” said the man, “but my grandchildren will.” Honi walked on a bit and stopped to rest under a tree. He fell asleep, and, like Rip Van Winkle, he slept for 70 years! He awoke and didn’t recognize things, until he walked back to the house where the old man had been planting a tree. A young boy was in the yard. Honi asked him where the old man was who had planted that tree. The young man said, “He was my grandfather. He passed on, but he planted this tree for me!”

In modern times, an important aspect of Tu Bishevat observance has become the need to protect the environment—not just for us, but for future generations.

On Friday, February 14, we will address this aspect of Tu Bishevat with guest speakers from *The Tempestry Project*, a very creative artistic and educational project about climate change (see page 1 for more information). Our actions today, like planting a carob tree, may not yield fruit for us but they will for future generations.

You can also plant trees in Israel on Tu Bishevat through the Jewish National Fund or through T’ruah, whose program plants trees in Israel and in the West Bank.

Rabbi Renni Altman

President's Message:



Last month I signed off without my plea for the safe return of the hostages in Gaza and a ceasefire. I didn't forget about them but forgot to say so. Needless to say, I won't forget until they're home!

February is a busy month like all the months, but colder! In my home it's tax season in full swing, my birthday, Temple goings-on, and hanging with Mom who is heading for her 100th this November. I enjoy it when my birthday falls on Sisterhood Chai noon lunch day and I can celebrate with my Sisterhood friends in addition to family time. My goal in the immediate future is to have a bit more "me" time whether it is lunch, or a walk with friends; it recharges my battery.

Don't forget to take some time in the cold winter months to de-stress and take some time for you. Read a book, go cross-country skiing, visit a museum, catch up on a fun podcast or whatever gives you joy. Time passes a little too quickly, so enjoy each moment as much as possible even when you go over a few bumps in the road.

A few months ago, we lost my Uncle Walter at 102. This is always a sad time and his sister, my Mom, struggled the most for a time, but our family made it through together. My uncle traveled the world for business, so we kids knew him more as adults. But I learned new things I didn't expect as my sister Deb and I took care of his apartment. He made a tough choice in moving to Independent Living at 97, but what we didn't know was how good a life he made over those five years. He had friends of all kinds, and we met lots of them when we were there. He enjoyed people more than places after years of travel and the outpouring of support after his passing was most gratifying. What I took with me was that there is always another person, activity, or moment to appreciate along the way. The tough times were fewer. A century is a lot to learn from!

So, whether it is a service, adult ed, committee meeting or Chai Noon lunch, we'll catch up soon at Temple. You will see lots going on at Temple in the bulletin and weekly emails, but also check out the JFDC *The Voice* for goings on with Federation in our area.

Check out the *The Voice*: <https://www.jewishdutchess.org/community/the-voice> ~ It couldn't hurt!



Recently, Vassar Temple hosted the Community Hanukkah party and lots of people from area synagogues, the JFDC and PJ Library hung out together, enjoyed activities, and had a nice time. We promote a welcoming atmosphere at Vassar Temple and sometimes get to bring that out into the community. This welcoming atmosphere is wonderful and so needed, as the world needs more kindness of spirit.

As of this writing, unfortunately there is no ceasefire in the war in Gaza, and the hostages are not home with their families. All parties need to try harder to get the hostages home and have a ceasefire!

Roni Stein

Bimah Flowers for our Services February 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.

February 2025 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

February 7: The Lederer/Reifer family in memory of Leo Lederer and Hanna Lederer

February 14: The Quackenbush Family in memory of Sandor Margolin,
Marilyn McGaulley Lampell in memory of Julie McGaulley, and
Susan Budson Fink in memory of Allen Fink

February 21: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)

February 28: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)



Religious School Update

Tu B'Shvat: An ancient custom in Israel when a baby was born, the parents planted a tree in its honor. The tree was planted on Tu B'Shvat following the child's birth.



If the baby was a boy, a cedar was planted.

If the baby was a girl, a cypress was planted.



As the children grew so did the trees. When children got married, wood from the trees built their hupah (wedding canopy). As the wood from the two trees were joined in the hupah, so were the bride and groom in their marriage.

For hundreds of years, Tu B'Shvat has been celebrated throughout the world. Even when we had no homeland, we still remembered and celebrated Tu B'Shvat. Although many could not plant trees because the ground was frozen on the fifteenth of Shevat where they lived, they ate the "fruit of the trees" and remembered. They ate fruits grown in Israel: almonds, dates, figs, raisins, oranges, and carob. It was a mitzva to eat these during Tu B'Shvat and recite the blessings.

Today, people in diaspora plant a tree in Israel by contributing to the Jewish National Fund. For \$18, they will plant a tree for you in Israel.

*Rabbi Shoshana Hantman ,
Religious School Director*

Scriptural Readings ~ January

February 1

Bo

Exodus 10:1-13-16; Jeremiah 46:13-28

February 8

B'shalach

Exodus 13:17-17:16; Judges 4:4-5:31

February 15

Yitro

Exodus 18:1-20:23; Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

February 22

Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1-24:18; Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

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 two Tuesdays 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.

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, February 1 and 15 (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 sessions of Judaism 101 ~ Year 2 will meet on Sunday, February 2nd and 23rd 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.

Mazel tov to Susan Colodner

On the birth of her granddaughter, Skylar Emerson Melodner on December 27, 2024 to Carrie Colodner and Brian Melcher.



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

With Rabbi Altman ~ February 5 at 7:30pm (part 3 of 3)

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 read their stories in the Bible, sometimes enriched by midrashic and contemporary writings. Bring a Bible if you can. Part 3 will be taught in hybrid fashion; Zoom link 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 meet on Tuesday, February 18. Specific details about the February restaurant will be mailed to you in Vassar Temple's weekly newsletter a few days prior to the meeting. Members are asked to RSVP to the link in the newsletter so we can let the restaurant know approximately how many guests to expect. As always, guests get separate checks, and the restaurant is wheelchair accessible.



Rabbi Search Committee Update



The Search Committee continues to receive and review resumes. Vassar Temple has received 18 resumes from rabbi candidates through the CCAR Placement Director. Our committee has reviewed and considered each candidate carefully. We have conducted at least 11 Zoom interviews since we began this journey in August. We hosted at least one congregational visit and may schedule more as needed. I am honored to work alongside the committee members who are dedicated to this sacred task. We ask that you continue to watch the weekly newsletter for updates.

Andi Ciminello,
Chair

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: White Chili ~ Submitted by Susan Fink

Ingredients

- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper or lemon herb
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 2 chopped cloves of garlic
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 9-ounce cans white corn
- 2 15-ounce cans great northern beans, not drained
- 1 cup beer or broth
- 2 -ounce cans green chilies
- 1 tablespoon lime juice, 1-2 limes
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- Salt, pepper, cayenne to taste



Instructions

- Cook chicken in water with lemon pepper and cumin. Reserve liquid.
- Chop up or shred chicken and return to reserved liquid.
- Sauté onion and garlic. Add to chicken and liquid.
- Add beans, corn, chilies, spices, lime juice.
- Simmer 1½ hours. Adjust spices.

Best if made a day ahead and so it can sit in the juices ~ can be frozen.

Serve on crushed tortilla chips or corn bread. You can use shredded jack cheese, salsa, sour cream, cilantro for toppings. Crush chips in bottom of bowl, put cheese, salsa, sour cream and cilantro on top.

JWV—February Meeting

The JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its February 9 meeting at Shomre Israel. Future meetings will be held 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:

Greta Blaine
Ruth Levitt
Marjorie Rubin Brody & Nathaniel Rubin
Ida Scope
Harriet Kaskowitz, Irving Wrobel, Helen Wrobel,
Alvin Kaskowitz, Shirley Kaskowitz, Joseph Wrobel,
Thelma Fival & Michael Wrobel
Frances Lewis
Sandor Jay Margolin and Esther & Paul Goldberg
Morris "Moe" Gilbert
Jack Frankel
Sondra Chertock
Arlene Loshin
Evelyn Slote Kahn
Martin Lowenthal
John Ciminello & Dr. Vito Ciminello
Harry Mamis, Kurt Similes, & Katherine Mamis

LUNCH BOX FUND

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Memory of:

Jeanette Bergman

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Robert Joseph
Rachel Hecht McConkey

In Honor of:

Cantor Goldmann

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

ETERNAL TORAH FUND

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of:

Stan Krell

Ilene and Robert Friedman
Wendy Giangrasso
Eve & Bruce Gendron

Martin Noble
Ellen Zelig
Ellie & Martin Charwat
Alfred Scope

Hilary & Lewis Wrobel
Candy & Lou Lewis
Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush
Gloria Mayer
Fern & Dave Wolf
Herman D. Chertock
Donna Loshin
Muriel Lampell
Roni Stein
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Eleanor & Martin Charwat

Miriam Horowitz
Marilyn & Edward Rosenberg
Fredrica & Jack Goodman
Steven Reifler
Marian Schwartz

The Chernack Family



FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

February 7

Davida Krevolin
 Anne Richmond
 Sylvia Mednick
 Abraham Ginsberg
 Paul M. Schwartz, MD
 Harold Devorsetz
 Jacqueline Sydney Colodner
 Alfred Schneider
 Jane Kramer
 Jeanette Bergman
 Blanche Migdal
 William Schultze
 Martha Held
 Dorothy Parish
 Dr. M. Alden Weingart
 Evelyn Slote Kahn
 Leo Livingston
 Efrem Dlugacz
 Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr
 Lillian Geber
 Morris "Moe" Gilbert
 Mary Hyman
 Evelyn Brown
 Jack Cooper
 Leo Lederer

February 14

Rabbi Marcus Kramer
 Samuel Warshaw
 Leon Alpers
 Reuben Wiseman
 Timothy Creedon
 Harold Robinowitz
 Theodore Garber
 Sandor Jay Margolin
 Armand H. Newman
 Owen J. Sacks
 Joseph Drobner
 Gary M. Zimmer
 Jon Franklin Katz
 Arlene Loshin
 Eleanor Buxbaum
 Herman Kraut
 Lillian Feldman
 Evelyn Bersak
 Marjorie Rubin Brody
 Julia Tebordo
 Sondra Chertock
 William Hyman
 Jules H. Lippmann
 Lawrence Edell
 Sidney I. Love
 Jarrod Harrington
 Blanche Fertig
 Goldie Abraskin
 Jacob Greenberg
 Mary R. Scheer
 Frieda Reifler
 Rosanne Weber
 Allen Fink
 Jacob Erdreich, DMD
 Henrietta Greenberg
 Louise S. Rosen
 Louis Kovacs
 Ida Scope
 David Charles Albert
 Dr. Irma Koltai
 Bernard Miller
 Israel Beer

February 21

Aaron Estrin
 Vladimir M. Konheim, MD
 Sylvia Cantor
 Robert Toroker
 Anne Alpers
 Alec Stall
 Julie McGaulley
 Catherine Peluse
 Evelyn Soifer
 Walter L. Mock
 Wendy E. Newman
 David Haber
 Mara Tartack
 Milton Rauh
 Robert Joseph
 Ida Baskin Schwartz
 David Stephen Satz
 Mary Sparks Solomon
 Irving Fink
 Theresa E. Ryan
 Peter Luttinger
 Stuart Alpers
 Esther Frances Goldberg
 Jack Frankel
 Paul S. Goldberg
 Irving M. Bloch
 Ruth Levitt

February 28

Stanley Soirefman
 Shirley Kaskowitz
 Harry Lewis
 Fannie Kagank
 Gloria Fischman
 Ida Klein
 Milton Kramer
 Michael Rothenberg
 Dr. Vito J. Ciminello
 Shirley E. Reifler
 Matilda Banckek
 Morris Haas
 Frances Lewis
 Francesca Vadersen
 Lena Lath
 Betty Ewen



Our Condolences To:

The family of Davida Hurst, mother of Lisa (Michael) Arnoff
 and grandmother of Dan (Emma) Arnoff

Bakers Needed ~ Hamantaschen Baking Day Sunday, February 23



Please join us for Sisterhood's annual Hamantaschen Baking Day, Sunday, February 23 (snow date: March 2) 9am to 1pm in the Temple kitchen.

Make friends while making Hamantaschen for our Purim service and for outreach to congregants.

RSVP to Judy Rosenfeld at hamantaschen@vassartemple.org to let her know you're coming and/or making dough. If you can, please bring a batch of dough and a rolling pin. Remaining ingredients will be provided by Sisterhood. Not able to come and help? Please make a batch of dough and leave it in the Temple freezer in a Ziploc bag—just let Judy know.



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.

HAMANTASCHEN DOUGH RECIPE

4 cups sifted flour

4 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup butter, softened*

2 cups sugar

2 eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla

4 tablespoons milk or orange juice

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Cream butter and sugar in separate larger bowl. Add egg and vanilla and beat well.

Add dry ingredients alternating with juice to the butter and sugar mixture, mixing until well blended. The dough will seem a little soft (not like bread dough).

Refrigerate.

This dough freezes well and can be made ahead of Hamantaschen Baking Day. Leave it in the refrigerator to thaw overnight.

* Please use real butter – the pastries are superior, and all batches cook evenly regardless of dough source. Thank you.



Tiny Temple Makes Hamantaschen!

Sunday, February 23rd ~ 11am at Vassar Temple

All young children up through kindergarten are invited to bring their grownups to Vassar Temple for this free program of fun and learning. Tamatha Williams of PJ library will facilitate this program of varied activities in preparation for Purim, including stories, craft and—making your own hamantaschen cookies! (Snow date March 2nd). To RSVP, please contact the office at 845-454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.



Teens from Vassar Temple and the Mid Hudson Islamic Association joined forces to prepare and distribute lunch to our hungry neighbors at Lunch Box.





“Repro” Shabbat

Friday, February 21 7:30pm

Are Reproductive Rights “Safe” in New York?

Guest speaker: County Legislator Lisa Kaul



Many of us know Lisa Kaul as the Dutchess County Legislator for District 6. In addition, among her myriad community activities, Ms. Kaul serves on the Board of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York Action Fund. It is in this capacity that she will speak to us on the Fifth “Repro” Shabbat, initiated by the National Council of Jewish Women.

While New Yorkers passed the “Amendment to Protect Against Unequal Treatment” in November, which expanded state constitutional protections to include prohibiting discrimination based on a person’s ethnicity, national origin, age, disability and sex, as well as protecting access to reproductive health care, we cannot rest on our laurels, especially as those rights are being curtailed in so many states in this country.

Ms. Kaul will speak during the service and outline some of the challenges to accessing reproductive healthcare in New York as well as identifying pathways for action towards reproductive justice. A brief question and answer period will follow her talk and people will be able to engage with Ms. Kaul at the Oneg. As with all Shabbat services, this service will be hybrid.


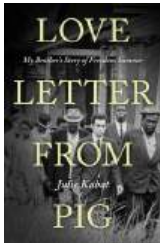


Welcome to our new
and returning members!

Roz & Stan Cooper

Linda & Steve Lant

Calendar of Events—February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
2 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101 10:30am Lunch Box	3 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	4	5 4:30pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Adult Ed Part 3 of 3 Beyond the Matriarchs	6 7pm Ritual CMTE	7 7:30pm Shabbat Service	8 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
9 9am Religious School	10	11	12 Tu Bishevat Eve 4:30pm Hebrew School	13 Tu Bishevat	14 7:30pm Tu Bishevat Shabbat Service with The Tempestry Project	15 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
16 No Religious School long weekend 	17 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day	18 12pm VTS Chai Noon Luncheon 	19 4:30pm Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	20	21 7:30pm "Repro" Shabbat Service with County Legislator Lisa Kaul	22 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
23 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101 11am Tiny Temple Hamantaschen Baking Day 	24	25	26 2pm VTS Book Club  4:30pm Hebrew School	27 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board	28 7:30pm Shabbat Service	

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

Vassar Temple Bulletin
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Religious School Dir: Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

Cantor: Elizabeth Goldmann

Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold

Senior Scholar: Rabbi Paul Golomb

Temple Musician: Joseph Bertolozzi

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 April Bulletin must be

submitted by March 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 2pm, via Zoom.

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

