



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 9 ~ April 2025

Passover Events at Vassar Temple



Passover Dessert Extravaganza ~ Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm

Bring your leftover *Pasadicke* desserts (or bake new ones) for a fun evening of Passover-related activities. Like a seder, we will have an order of fun activities including four cups of wine with dessert pairings. This celebration of crossing the Sea of Reeds will be truly unique!!! Please RSVP to ritual@vassartemple.org by April 14 and indicate what you will bring.

Shabbat Festival Service ~ Friday, April 18, 7:30pm

Join Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann as we celebrate Shabbat and the last day of the Festival of Pesach. We will celebrate the Israelites crossing the Sea of Reeds into freedom as well as the onset of spring! Passover songs will highlight the service.

Seventh Day Shabbat Service ~ Saturday, April 19, 10:15am

Celebrate the last day of Pesach at our Festival morning service, commemorating the moment of redemption at the crossing at the Sea of Reeds. Yizkor (a brief memorial service) will also be observed. During these seasons of joy, we pause to remember our loved ones; no doubt, we will have felt their absence around the seder table. It can be comforting to remember one's loved ones in the context of community.

Seder Match-Up

"Let all who are hungry come and eat"

The Pesach Seder opens with this invitation to invite guests to share in our festive meal. Pesach, more than any other holiday, is grounded in the home and in joining with others for the Seder, fulfilling the mitzvah of retelling the story of the Exodus from Egypt with its special foods and rituals. Unfortunately, the Temple is not able to return to our congregational seder this year. However, the Ritual committee would like to assist in enabling all Vassar Temple members to celebrate Pesach with joy and festivity.

Therefore, we are offering to try to match up those seeking a seder with those who can include one or two more guests at their Seder table.

Are you in need of a place for Seder? Can you add any guests to your Seder table?

If so, please email Seder@VassarTemple.org by April 1 and we will do our best to make matches. All information will be kept confidential. Please include any dietary restrictions, if there are pets or pet allergies, accessibility issues, etc. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rabbi Altman at rabbi@vassartemple.org.

From the Rabbi's Desk:



I'm writing this column on my way back to Poughkeepsie from a Rabbinic Intensive Yeshiva sponsored by Hadar, an egalitarian yeshiva that promotes Jewish learning for everyone—from those with little to no knowledge to rabbis (who certainly have more knowledge, but always need to continue to learn)! The basic premise of the RIY is that rabbis are

so busy, they don't have time for serious study. At the orientation, Rabbi Shai Held, Director of Hadar, encouraged us to close off the side of our brains that automatically thinks, "How can I use this in a sermon, in a class, etc.?" and just learn, as the rabbis called it, "*Torah L'shma*" -- Torah study for its own sake. While I was able to do that for 99.9% of the time, one of Rabbi Held's teachings stayed with me, as I thought about what I would write in this column as we prepare to celebrate Pesach.

His teaching came in a session entitled, "When What We Believe and What We Go Through Just Doesn't Match: The Riddle of Psalm 77." The psalmist is clearly in distress. He remembers God's actions in the past and refers to the Exodus and the wonders, the miracles, the leadership of the people. The psalmist challenges God—have You forgotten pity and compassion? In other words, if You could do all of that in the past, what about me? Remembering the past seems to make things worse for the psalmist. I suspect many of us resonate with feelings of the psalmist when we read Biblical stories of God's wonders or sing *Michamocha* while we may be in distress, whether about personal, societal or global issues.

Through an in-depth analysis of the psalm, Held concludes with the following: while remembering the past might make things worse, "the past made present can bring us hope." We move the past into the present through re-enactment. This is exactly what we do at the Pesach Seder as is written in the Haggadah, "In each generation, a person must see themselves as if they personally went out of Egypt." Through the

special foods and rituals, we "relive" the bitterness of slavery and we "experience" the wonders of deliverance. The Seder moves from degradation to praise as we re-enact the journey from Egypt to freedom.

Bringing the past into the present can make us more hopeful for redemption today, especially when it inspires us to be "God's hands" and take action. Sadly, those in need of redemption today are too many to enumerate here, but we can find causes and opportunities for action on all levels: local, state, national, international. Our social action and civic engagement committees are two sources for our efforts; you can learn about their activities in this bulletin and our weekly e-newsletter.

There are a multitude of resources to help you make the Exodus present at your seder through additional readings and suggested actions. Some recommendations are:

- ReformJudaism.org
- HIAS.org (immigrants)
- T'ruah.org (Rabbis for Human Rights)
- Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism (<https://reform.org.il/en/>)
- Dayenu—climate justice (<https://dayenu.org/resources/>)

In whatever way you celebrate Pesach, may you rise from the seder table hopeful and inspired to do what you can to be part of making redemption happen today. May you be surrounded by the love of family and friends. And if you are in need of place for Seder or if you can open your seder to a guest or two, we will try to match you up (see article page 1).

A zisen Pesach – a joyous and meaningful Pesach to all!

Rabbi Renni Altman



President's Message:



Hopefully, by now the winter cold is giving way to spring's warmth. It is so nice to see the change of seasons as many of us like, but by the end of each season I am ready for a change. Soon new flowers will be in the planters out in front of the Temple thanks to our volunteer flower squad, and we will also be out front on our patio enjoying the warm weather and catching up. It won't be long before a picnic or other event happens on our patio and lawn.

This month will usher in the Passover holiday. We will be having seders or attending seders and whether they are large or small, may they be meaningful to you. Passover has a story that brings out so many emotions from sadness to hope that we read together from the Haggadah. I take out my Lenox seder plate that I have used for years to put out my symbolic foods. How this Passover story still resonates today, as we read it year after year, is amazing.



Please note that on the fifth night of Passover, Temple will be hosting a Passover Dessert Extravaganza! Join in and share yummy Passover desserts. I bet we've bought or baked too many at home and you can share!

As well, the remembrance of Yom HaShoah and celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut come in April and details are in Temple information sources.

A reminder to check the Temple on-line calendar on our website as the calendar has the most up to date information by month. Your weekly Temple email has up-to-date Temple information by the week, as well as other information of importance to Vassar Temple. Bulletin boards in the hallway off the Temple lobby have additional flyers and information. Thanks to our volunteers who keep the information flowing, the Publicity committee, Francine Kaplan and Judy Harkavy for bulletin boards, and of course Karen Clark in our office. New to our information flow in recent years is our presence on some social media. This is a way to reach people who are using this more and more. We *carefully* use social media and look forward to updated ways to make it work for Temple in this ever-busier information age. So, you have lots of ways to stay connected!

As I was writing this, I was in the middle of the winter ice and snow when a box appeared at our home. It was the personal effects of my uncle from Boca Regional Hospital. It took months to get, and I didn't think it would ever get here. I most appreciate that the personnel didn't give up, and everything was there. My faith in people was refreshed yet again and how I needed that!

More hostages have been released and that is good, but some of the hostages we were specifically mentioning, the Bibas children and their mother, did not come home alive. Our prayers continue for their father/husband who had been released. The cease fire holds for now, but we await the rest of the hostages to be **brought home**.

Roni Stein

Bimah Flowers for our Services April 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

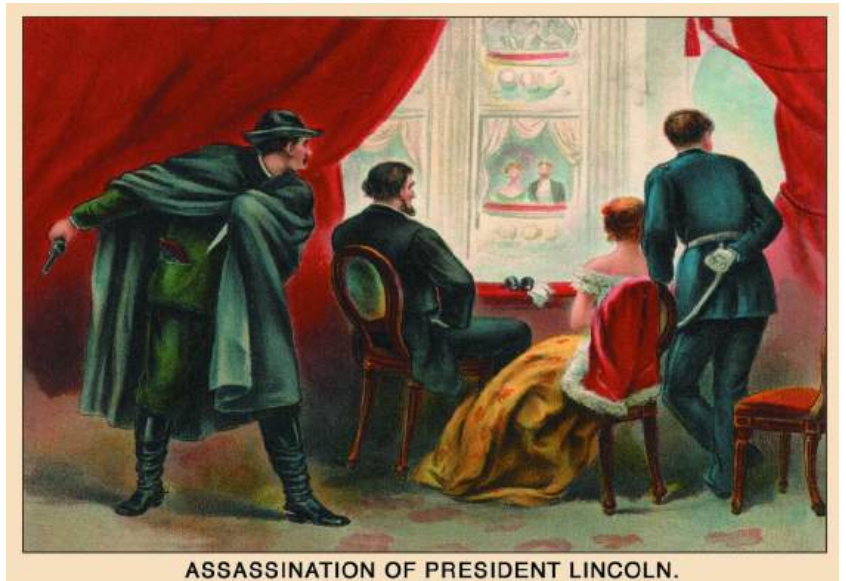


April 2025 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- April 4: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 11: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 18: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- April 25: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)

Religious School Update

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated during Passover. According to the American Jewish Historical Society, many Jewish people were in synagogue for the holiday when news of the assassination spread. The society's website states that "synagogue altars were quickly draped in black and, instead of Passover melodies, the congregations chanted Yom Kippur hymns. Rabbis set aside their sermons and wept openly at their pulpits, as did their congregants."



ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Coca-Cola makes kosher Coca-Cola for Passover. Regular Coke products include high-fructose corn syrup, but since many observant Jews do not use corn products during Passover, the kosher Coke uses real sugar. Kosher Coke products have a yellow cap.

The world's largest matzo ball was unveiled in 2010 at the Jewish Food Festival in Tucson, AZ, weighing 488 pounds. Ingredients included more than 1,000 eggs, 25 pounds of chicken fat and 125 pounds of matzo meal.

In 18th-century Salonika, people added crushed stone to their charoset, presumably to link the food to the bricks it represents. This custom was also followed by Moroccan Jews. If you plan to try it, first consider how you would explain it to your dentist.

When the Hebrews were leaving Egypt, the Egyptians showered them with gold and silver as they fled (Shemot 12:35). Recalling these gifts, Jews in Hungary decorated their seder tables with all their valuable jewelry and silver.

*Rabbi Shoshana Hantman,
Religious School Director*

Scriptural Readings ~ April

April 5

Vayikra: Leviticus 1:1-5:26; Isaiah 43:21-44:23

April 12

Tzav: Leviticus 6:1-8:36; Malachi 3:4-24

April 19

Yom HaSh'vi-i shel Pesach: Exodus 14:30-15:21;
II Samuel 22:1-51; Song of Songs is read

April 26

Sh'mini: Leviticus 9:1-11:47; II Samuel 6:1-7:17

Study Groups at VT

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, generally 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 pigolomb@verizon.net.

All welcome no prior knowledge necessary ~ No charge to attend

New Paths

This month we'll gather for a New Paths Sabbath morning service at 10:15am on Saturdays, April 5 and 26 (both 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.

Israel Shabbat ~ Friday, April 25, 7:30pm

Several years ago, Rabbi Mordecai of Kehilat Har-El in Jerusalem, the oldest Reform congregation in Israel, initiated a new special Shabbat marking the Shabbat between Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). Called *Shabbat Tekumah* (Shabbat of Rising Up), it is now observed by the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism and many Reform congregations around the world. As Rabbi Josh Weinberg, URJ Vice President and Executive Director of ARZA, explains, "The process of revival that we commemorate expresses our people's revival from the ashes of the Holocaust, through the heroism and grief of Israeli wars, to the joy over the miracle of Jewish independence and sovereignty."

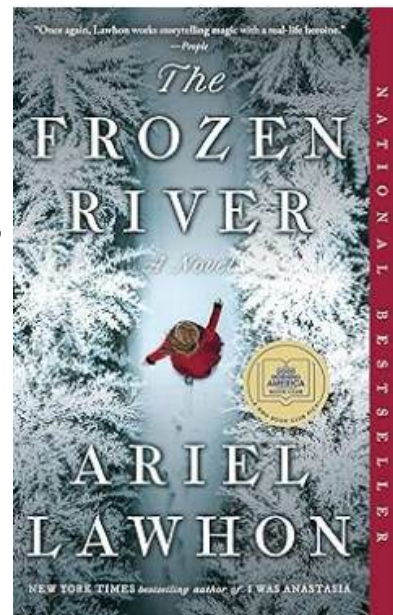
This year *Shabbat Tekumah* falls during the voting period for the 39th World Zionist Congress, which will close on May 4. During the service, members from Vassar Temple's World Zionist Congress team and others will speak about why this vote—and Israel—matters to them. The service will be hybrid, so if you wish to attend on Zoom, watch Temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org for the link.

VTS Book Club to Read *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

April 17 at 2pm

When Maine's Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she keeps a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Doggedly pursuing the truth, despite lies and undermining, Martha's diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling her to decide where her own loyalties lie in a time when women were considered best seen, not heard.

Discussion of this historical novel will be on Thursday, April 17, at 2:00pm, in-person at the Colledgeview Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. All are welcome. For questions, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.



Service to Honor Rabbi Golomb ~ Friday, May 2



This year will mark the 50th anniversary of Rabbi Golomb's rabbinic ordination. That is an incredible milestone: half a century of service to the Jewish people, of which half has been with Vassar Temple, first as rabbi as then as our "Senior Scholar." Thanks to the generosity of many congregants, we were able to provide a Convention Sponsorship in Rabbi Golomb's honor at the March convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) where Rabbi Golomb and his classmates were honored for reaching this most significant milestone. On Friday, May 2, during the Shabbat evening service, we will recognize this milestone here, within Rabbi and Debbie Golomb's Vassar Temple family.

While there will be some tributes shared by individuals during the service, Rabbi Altman will also collect short personal stories/memories that she may include within the service. If you would like to include something, please email Rabbi Altman at Rabbi@vassartemple.org.

Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ April 18, 2025

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



SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Submitted by Sandra Mamis Chocolate Chip Passover Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 and 1/2 cups Passover cake flour
- 1/4 cup matzoh meal
- two eggs
- 1 and 3/4 cups brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 and 1/2 cups unsalted butter
- 2 and 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two baking sheets or line with parchment paper. Mix the butter with brown sugar, vanilla extract, salt, and eggs. Blend in cake flour and matzoh meal. Stir in chocolate chips.
- Scoop large tablespoons of dough onto baking sheets. Flatten with spoon. Bake until slightly golden, approximately 13 to 15 minutes. Makes approximately four dozen cookies.



Cereal Counts

Vassar Temple's annual boxed cereal collection benefits local food pantries and helps provide free breakfast for local kids during the summer.

Bring donations to temple after Passover through Wednesday, April 30 or bring to Mitzvah Day headquarters Sunday, May 4. For info on doing a mini-drive at your club, team, work, etc., contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.



Dutchess County Mitzvah Day ~ Sunday, May 4, rain or shine Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave, POK

There will be a light Kosher breakfast at 8:30am followed by community service projects for families and individuals of all ages from tots to seniors. Service projects both on and off site, including Lunch Box, making blankets for cancer patients, cookie baking, crafts to help those in need, gardening and maintenance projects for local agencies, cemetery cleanup, and more!

Cereal Counts!!! Bring boxes of unopened cereal for local food pantries.

For more information, contact socialaction@vassartemple.org or programs@jewishdutchess.org.

To register for breakfast and projects go to www.jewishdutchess.org.



JWV—April Meeting

The JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its April meeting on April 6 at Shomre Israel. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for May 4 (Mitzvah Day) 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 9am. We hope to see you.

CONTRIBUTIONS

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Dolores Brundage
George & Elizabeth Freedman
Milton Levitt
Evelyn Partridge
Sadie Leiberman
Shirley Ione LaLone, Ethel Graves, Delbert LaLone
& Millie Gould

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Memory of:

Lila Matlin on the 5th Yahrzeit of her death
Lila Matlin, beloved mother, grandmother &
great grandmother

RABBI RENNI ALTMAN TORAH FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Golomb's fifty years of service
Rabbi Renni Altman

Carla & David Steckman
Kimberly Harris

The Brundage Family
David Ellicott
Ellen Zelig
Richard Partridge
The Friedman Family

Jane LaLone

Barbara & Alan Aronson

Susan Matlin Piccone & Scott Piccone

Susan Fink
Roni & Charles Stein
Claudia & Joel Kelson
Judy & Eric Rosenfeld
Marilyn & Edward Rosenberg
Miriam Cohen
Marianne & Bob Abrams
Eve & Bruce Gendron
Gail D'Alessio
Madelyn D'Alessio
Inna Soifer
Shirl Davis-Susser & Howard Susser
Marcia & Glenn Tanzman
Muriel Horowitz
Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush
Kathy Mardon
Anne Lescher
Jane LaLone



Barbara, Elizabeth and Susan Matlin

In Memory of:

Our parents, Melvin & Lila Matlin

IN HONOR OF RABBI GOLOMB'S FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE—CONVENTION SPONSORSHIP

Julius Jones
Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush
Roni & Charles Stein
Marge & Art Groten
Eve & Bruce Gendron
Ann Gross
Shelley & Steven Turk
Judith Elkin & Eugene Fleishman
Marianne & Bob Abrams
Molly & Daniel Katz
Muriel Lampell
Irma Jacobs
Karen Becker
Sandra Mamis
Susan & Harold Lesser
Doi Cohen
Judy & Bob Creedon
Judy & Eric Rosenfeld
Barbara Matlin Aronson & Alan Aronson

CHALLAH BAKING CLASS ONE

Maddy D'Angelo
Henia Grodenchik
Anne Lescher &
Inna Soifer display their
braided challah at the class
offered by Sandra Mamis



APRIL YAHRZEITS

April 4

Elsie H. Albert
 Morris Domes
 Morris S. Rosenmann
 Milton Levitt
 David H. Ettenson
 Hon. Joseph H. Gellert
 Herman Baskin
 Paula Landau
 Samuel Baskin
 Mimi L. Schor
 Bob DiBennardo
 Dr. Albert Gould
 Joshua Lowe Posner
 Paul Goldberg
 Dolores Marie Brundage

April 11

Alfred Kaplan
 Elizabeth "Libby" Horowitz
 Morris D. Kovacs
 Mollie Rosenberg
 Max Michael Simon, MD
 Isador Albinder
 Joseph Frankel
 Vera Lisovsky Budson
 Fred Wolf
 Eli Mamis
 Martha Katz
 Lorraine Goldberg
 Morris Rosenberg
 Jeannette S. Newman
 Lillian F. Kovacs
 Jack Jacobson
 Herbert Rosand
 Evelyn Lanning
 Charles Volkman, Sr.
 Dr. Paul Koltai
 Solomon Salberg
 Nathan "Toolie" Turk
 David Korobkin
 Anne Lacher
 Paula Rosner-Schwartz
 Louis Schwartz
 Elias Altman
 Anna Beer

April 18

Harriet Kaskowitz
 Pauline Dubler
 Hester Lox
 Harriet Drucker
 Ida Salit
 Sadie Lieberman
 Dr. Fritz Weigert
 Philip Lacher
 Evelyn Partridge
 Marion Volkman
 Eva Bley
 Annie Schultze
 Doreen Kimmel
 Rebecca Wolfson
 George N. Freedman
 Eric Mendel
 Gladys Salberg

April 25

Jaime Hecht
 Julius Albert
 Elaine F. Bloch
 Nathan L. Reifler
 Samuel H. Weisman
 Belle Lescher
 Susan Getty
 Delbert LaLone
 Gertrude Rosenmann Sonkin
 John J. Moloney
 Norman S. Reifler
 Lester M. Ritter
 Julius Seif
 Patricia (Pat) Schaffel
 Matilda (Mattie) Jukofsky
 Joan Budson Cohen
 Sidney Cohen
 Clara Levy Ribbi
 Adeline (Addie) Lesk
 Mary Bempechat
 Claire Goldstein



CHALLAH BAKING CLASS TWO

Challah baking with
 Sandra Mamis:
 Jacob Reimer, Dawn Kessler,
 Kate Giasante,
 Manhattan Model,
 Misun Modell &
 Darcia Giasante



You're Invited to a Special Sisterhood Shabbat ~ Friday, May 9

Join the Vassar Temple Sisterhood on Friday, May 9 at 7:30pm for a beautiful and uplifting Sisterhood Shabbat, led by the incredible women of Vassar Temple. This year, we will come together to reflect on the theme of healing and self-care—a meaningful opportunity to nourish our spirits and support one another.



We are delighted to welcome Mr. Chris Babb, a social worker at Arlington High School, who will share simple yet powerful techniques to help us manage stress and promote emotional well-being. Chris is certified in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and will guide us in practices that can bring calm and balance to our daily lives.

If you are a VT Sisterhood member and would like to participate in this year's service, please contact Melissa Erlebacher at sisterhoodshabbat@vassartemple.org by May 1.

We look forward to sharing this special evening with you. Let's come together for connection, inspiration, and renewal.



It's time to stand up for our Reform values and vote in the WZC election today.

So much in our world feels completely overwhelming and too often we feel helpless to do anything about it. Well, in just 5 minutes and for \$5 you can do something that will have an impact on Israeli society and support Reform Jewish values. By voting for the Reform slate, you are standing up for a democratic and secure Israel and against our opponents who want to strip Reform Jews of their rights and funding.

Visit www.zionistelection.org to vote or www.vote4reform.org to learn more. Voting online is a two-step process: first you will need to register and they will send you (via email or text) a pin. Then you can continue to vote. You can also vote via mail-in ballot and pay by check or credit card; ballots are available at the temple and we can mail it in for you.

Members of our WZC Team will be available at temple activities and can help facilitate your vote—they will have laptops available. You can vote online at home or at the temple.

All Jews age 18 and over are eligible to vote. Please spread the word. Voting is open May 4 – so vote Reform today!

Buy Some Scrip this Spring!



With the arrival of spring, home projects abound!

Are you planning any home projects—indoor or outdoor?

Are there gardening or yard projects in your near future?

Vassar Temple has many of your scrip needs for your upcoming spring projects. We will be running a little incentive for you to purchase some home improvement scrip gift cards through us.

For the month of April, you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 Mobil gas card for every \$100 of scrip that you purchase for the following businesses:

- Ace Hardware (Williams)
- Adams
- Home Depot
- Lowes

This promotion is for the month of April. Drawing will be May 1. You may order your scrip for this promotion April 1-30. Payment (cash or check) must be made at the time of ordering and receiving your gift cards. Promotion will run for the month of April or end sooner if we run out of cards. For more information, please call the Temple office 845.454.2570 or email scrip@vassartemple.org.



Happy Shopping! Happy Home Project Season! Happy Spring!

Thank you

For me, the biggest thing that makes Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day so special every year is that so many people of all ages participate.



From the very youngest, the PJ Library families that joined with our Tiny Temple, to all the Religious School classes, to members of Sisterhood and Brotherhood, all ages were well represented.

There are so many different tasks that need to happen so that we can all enjoy the delicious hamantaschen. Many people made dough from the recipe given to us many years ago by Cecile

Arnold, wife of our Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Arnold. On Baking Day people were busy in the kitchen and Social Hall rolling, filling, sorting and plating lots and lots of hamantaschen—some of which we enjoyed on Purim and the rest delivered as outreach to some of our temple members.



There were lots of children in the Social Hall happily rolling and filling hamantaschen along with adults enjoying their enthusiasm while sitting at tables filling and shaping the dough as others sorted all the baked hamantaschen and made plates for our outreach deliveries. In the kitchen a dedicated crew rolled out all the doughs and cut them into over 1,000 circles so that they could be filled and shaped. Trays were constantly going in and out of the new oven, and somehow Marcia Tanzman, our oven master extraordinaire, kept on top of everything and made sure that



they didn't burn.

A very special thank you to Susan Hecht and Susan Colodner. When I asked them if they would make sure everything went smoothly on baking day since I couldn't be there this year, they immediately said of course they'd be happy to help out. As did Marcia Tanzman, who not only handled the oven, making sure the hamantaschen didn't burn, but also made the gluten-free hamantaschen.



It will never cease to amaze me how well everything comes together so that we can make the quantity of hamantaschen that we do every year in just one morning. Through the efforts of so many people our annual Hamantaschen Baking Day was another huge success! A big thank you to Cathy Bokor, Andi and Paul Ciminello, Susan Colodner, Maddy D'Angelo, Suzy Garcia, Susan Hecht, Ronni Jarvis, Francine Kaplan, Kim Karitis, Ellie Krevolin, Ann Lerman, Anne Lescher, Claudia Kelson, Marilyn Lampell, Sue Lesser, Polly Lewis, Misun and Micah Modell, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Jodi Reifer, Shaari Roland, Ron Rosen, Lisa Rubenstein, Dan Scherrer, Arlene and Gil Seligman, Laura Sperling, Roni Stein, Adi Steiner, Howard Susser, Marcia Tanzman, Brittany Weiss, Nadine Zaritsky and Ellen Zelig. Also, I would never want to not recognize someone who has helped us, but with so many volunteers and so much going on it's quite possible that I did. Please know that everyone's efforts were appreciated and it was just an oversight.



Judy Rosenfeld

Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day Chair



REMINDER: Sunday, March 30 at 3pm

During Mississippi Freedom Summer in 1964, Luke Kabat taught biology and citizenship at the Freedom School in Meridian. Author Julie Kabat, Luke's sister and renowned writer, musician, and teacher, pored over his letters, written daily, and countless journals and articles to document his experiences as an activist, finally telling his account of that remarkable summer. ***Love Letter from Pig*** is the story of Luke's extraordinary impact as an activist, his idealism and courage in the face of adversity, and the author's love for her brother.

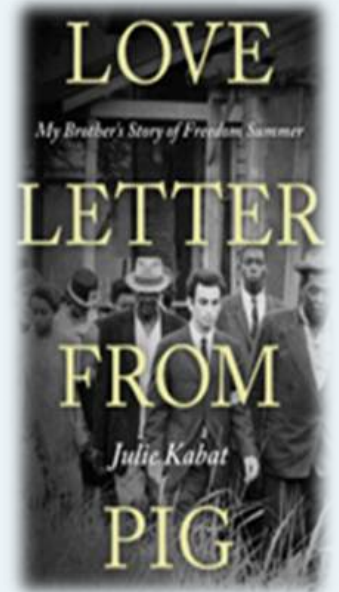
Join us for a discussion of Freedom Summer, readings from the book, songs from the Civil Rights Movement and firsthand memories and reflections that will be shared by Andreesa Coleman who was a teenager in Luke's 1964 science class.

Free and open to all.

Sunday, March 30, 2025 ~ 3 PM (snow date April 6th, same time & place)

Vassar Temple ~ 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

RSVP: office@vassartemple.org



Climate Corner – an update from our Dayenu Circle ~ April is Earth Month



Join us in postcarding with the **Environmental Voter Project**, a non-partisan organization that uses research-based methods to turn out infrequent, but registered voters who are likely to factor environmental concerns heavily into voting decisions. Our next postcarding campaign will be to mobilize voters in Pennsylvania ahead of the May 20 state primary. Cards will need to be mailed on May 1. Please watch the Temple email newsletter for a postcard party announcement. Cards, addresses, and script are provided, and we ask that you donate stamps for the cards that you write if possible. Please contact dayenudutchess@gmail.com to help with postcarding.

Earth Month brings several local events. For those in the Town of Poughkeepsie, please consider forming a team of any size to participate in the town-wide cleanup any time during April. Anything from a block to an entire neighborhood is welcome; this effort grows each year. To sign up, contact the Town's Conservation Advisory Commission at pamkingsley9cac@gmail.com.

On Tuesday April 15 the Tempestry Project (featured at our Tu BiShevat service) will offer a public workshop at the Boardman Road Library. Space is limited, register at poklib.org/events or 845-485-3445 x3707.

On Saturday April 26 all ages can enjoy the annual Dutchess County Earth Day celebration 10am—1:30pm at the Vassar Environmental Cooperative, 124 Raymond Avenue. A great way to engage in our conservation values on Shabbat!

Calendar of Events—April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:30pm Hebrew School	3 3pm Music CMTE 7pm Ritual CMTE	4 7:30pm Shabbat Service	5 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
6 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101 10:30am Lunch Box 3pm Author, Julie Kabat (snow date)	7 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	8	9 4:30pm Hebrew School	10	11 7:30pm Shabbat Service	12 PASSOVER EVE 1st Seder 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
13 PASSOVER DAY 1 No Religious School	14 PASSOVER DAY 2	15 PASSOVER DAY 3	16 PASSOVER DAY 4 No Hebrew School 7pm Finance CMTE	17 PASSOVER DAY 5 2pm VTS Book Club 7pm Passover Dessert Extravaganza	18 PASSOVER DAY 6 7:30pm Shabbat Festival Service	19 PASSOVER DAY 7 9am Torah Study 10:15am Seventh Day Pesach Service
20 No Religious School	21	22	23 YOM HASHOAH EVE 4:30pm Hebrew School 6pm Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration at DCC	24 YOM HASHOAH 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board	25 7:30pm Shabbat Tekuma (Israel Shabbat Service)	26 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths
27 9am Religious School 9:45am Judaism 101 3pm Breaking Bread Program: Building Bridges with The Grace Center at Vassar Temple	28	29 YOM HAZIKARON EVE	30 YOM HAZIKARON/ YOM HAATZMAUT EVE 4:30pm Hebrew School			

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
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- Brotherhood President:** Glenn Tanzman
- Immediate Past President:** Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
- Bulletin Editor:** Jo Schaffel



Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly. Articles for the June Bulletin must be submitted by May 1 sent via

email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Social Action Thank You

Thanks to all who supported our Souper Sale fundraiser and the Purim Pasta Plus collection, helped stuff the Can Jam Bin this winter, and contributed in any and all ways to our work providing meals at Lunch Box and Liberty Station veterans' shelter. During this time of year when most donations are down, and during the current inflationary times, with additional financial challenges brought on by freezing cold weather, your assistance was needed and welcomed more than ever by the most vulnerable in our community. Special thanks to Joel Kelson and daughter Mariel for bringing the food we collected over to Dutchess Outreach. A reminder that in addition to nonperishable foods, at the Temple we are always collecting full size hygiene products in the Can Jam bin, and miniature size hygiene items in the Shelter Basket. If you have new project suggestions for us or would like to help in any way, please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org any time!

