



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 10 ~ May 2025

Vassar Temple Bulletin to go Online

After careful deliberation, the Vassar Temple Board of Trustees has decided to stop printing the monthly temple Bulletin to save annual printing and postage costs and to be consistent with the temple's sustainability mission. The last printed issue will be the June issue.

The Bulletin is NOT going away. The Bulletin will have the same look and feel but delivered as a PDF link instead. It will be made available online via a special email, the temple website, and an icon in the weekly newsletter. It will continue to play an important role in publicizing the many events that occur at Vassar Temple.

Starting with the July/August issue, articles will now be due on the 10th of the previous month (June 10 for the July/August issue, August 10 for September, etc.). It will then be emailed (or printed) out about two weeks later on or about the 25th of that month; for example, the July/August issue will be emailed around June 25.

Members can request to have a printed version sent to them by contacting the temple office. Physical copies will also be available at the temple. The same content will be made available as a PDF that can be printed in the comfort of your home.

Bob Abrams

Publicity Committee Chair, and the VT Publicity Committee

Save the Date ~ Adult B'nai Mitzvah Service

Saturday, June 7 at 10am

The Congregation is invited to celebrate with our Adult B'nai Mitzvah class on reaching this significant milestone:

Maddy D'Angelo

Susan Fink

Maxine Finkelstein

Kimberly Harris

Fern Lox



A Kiddush Luncheon will follow!

From the Rabbi's Desk:



As we welcome the month of May, we find ourselves once again in the period known as *Sefirat HaOmer* (counting of the Omer). The tradition is to count each day beginning on the second night of Pesach for seven weeks until Shavuot. The practice dates back to a commandment in Leviticus to make a daily elevation offering of an *omer* (measure) of barley for each of the

49 days between Pesach, the barley harvest, and the harvest of new grain, wheat. Following the destruction of the temple, this period took on a different meaning in remembrance of Rabbi Akiva's students who died during this time. Tradition attributes their death to a plague; or, they may have died in an unsuccessful revolt against the Romans. No matter, succeeding generations turned *Sefirat HaOmer* into a time of semi-mourning to honor their memory. More contemporary interpretations regard this time of counting as a watchful time, given anxiety about the success of the harvest.

When the destruction of the second temple brought an end to sacrifice as a means of drawing near to God, holiday observances, with their focus on offerings from the harvest, had to be transformed and given new layers of meaning. Passover was already observed in the Torah as the celebration of the redemption from Egypt in addition to being the barley harvest.

Shavuot, which isn't even named in the Torah, was only observed as the wheat harvest. It was the rabbinic sages in the Talmud who connected Shavuot with the giving of Torah. In the chronology of Torah stories that makes sense; Sinai was the next major event following the exodus from Egypt. The connection between Pesach and Shavuot is much deeper than chronology, however. It was not for freedom's sake alone that God redeemed the ancient Israelites; it was so that as a free people they could

enter into the covenant with God who called upon them to become "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Shavuot celebrates the affirmation of that covenant. Thus, *sephirat haomer* takes on deeper resonance as we count the days between recalling our redemption from slavery and re-enacting that moment of revelation; it is a time of personal and spiritual preparation, of reviewing and renewing one's commitment to Torah, the values it teaches and the obligations it calls upon us to fulfill.

It is not an easy task to which we recommit ourselves every year on Shavuot. Ours is not a faith that allows us to escape from the challenges of daily life; rather, we are called upon to immerse ourselves in striving to repair our world, to bring us towards that Sinaitic vision of a just society, to heed the cry of the prophet Amos: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

In these most trying times, both here and in Israel, Torah continues to be our guide. It is with this focus in mind that the rabbis have chosen as the theme for

study for our communal *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, "Torah in Turbulent Times: Exploring Jewish Teachings that Give Us Guidance, Strength and Inspiration." Hosted by Temple Beth-El, and in partnership also with Congregation Shir Chadash, the evening will begin with the delicious Shavuot tradition of cheesecake, followed by study, and concluding with prayer.

A Reform Jewish innovation for Shavuot is the ceremony of Confirmation, where young adults confirm their acceptance of Torah. The congregation is invited to celebrate with the Carr family on Friday,

May 30 as Thomas follows that tradition; confirmation is a statement of hope for our future. Please see details about all Shavuot observances in this bulletin and in the weekly e-newsletter.

May 1 will be the 18th day of the Omer. Let us make each day count!

Rabbi Renni Altman

Make
Every
Day
Count

President's Message:



As you will be reading in the Bulletin, Vassar Temple is going digital this July! It is a big change for all of us, but hopefully a good and cost effective one. It will also mean a more timely source for Temple news. Those who wish to receive a “hard” copy will get them in the mail. Your Bulletin will continue to have all the information you depend on in addition to the weekly Temple email newsletter. Stay tuned!

This month on Friday, May 2 we are honored to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Rabbi Paul Golomb, Senior Scholar and former rabbi of Vassar Temple. How wonderful to be able to celebrate this achievement in his career! Our family “grew up” at Vassar Temple with Rabbi Golomb, so we look forward to celebrating!

The following Sunday is Community Mitzvah Day on May 4 sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County along with area synagogues and Jewish organizations. It is a day of service to the community and a wonderful bonding experience for all participants. I got my car washed to raise funds, cleaned a historic cemetery and did other deeds and felt darn good about it! Please look for information on service opportunities and join in a great day.

Sisterhood is doing the Shabbat service on May 9 and I very much look forward to it, as I do the Brotherhood service. It is always different and interesting while bringing a Sisterhood perspective to a Shabbat evening. Thank you to Melissa Erlebacher and her committee for their commitment to Sisterhood Shabbat.

Often, I mention how much goes on in a month and it is so true! Religious school is wrapping up, B' Mitzvahs are happening, meetings and so much more. This is a very good sign of a busy and positive congregation; may it surely continue this path. Thank you to everyone who is part of this journey.

As of this writing the cease-fire between Israel and Gaza has broken. I continue to hope and pray for the return of the remaining hostages and restoration of a cease-fire. And please vote in the WZC elections to bring a strong Reform voice to this and other issues of importance.



Please note:

June 20 is going to be a Celebration of Rabbi Altman on the date of her last official Shabbat Service. More information will be upcoming on a dinner and Special Oneg.

See you soon!

Roni Stein

Bimah Flowers for our Services May 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

May 2025 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- May 2: Martin Noble in memory of Samuel Blaine,
Francine Kaplan in memory of David Kaplan & Seymour Shapiro, and
Elizabeth & Greg Carr in honor of their daughter Helen's Bat Mitzvah
- May 9: Quackenbush family in memory of Gayle Margolin, and
Betsy & Tim Poole-DiSalvo in honor of their daughter Leah's Bat Mitzvah
- May 16: Susan Budson Fink in memory of Barbara Wojcik & Ruth Ann Pechenik
- May 23: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)
- May 30: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)



Religious School Update



This month brings another Religious School/Hebrew School year to a close. We had a lot of learning, celebration, and exploration. I want to thank our teachers, Naama Brown, Tova Gelb, Lila Horberg Decter, Emily Kaplan, Eliana Mor, and Shira Teich for their devotion to our students. Our *madrichim*, Thomas Carr, Hadami Gendron, Lilly Gold, and Manhattan Modell were invaluable too—we couldn't have done it without them. Thank you!

And for all the parents who pitched in to monitor the school office, substitute-teach, and bring in all sorts of items needed for holidays, you are so appreciated.

Every time you read a Jewish book with your child, include them in any ritual no matter how simple, sing a Jewish song, participate in any communal activity—you're adding to the great world of our people's memories. We professional educators have the role of

supporters: it is you, the grownups of our temple, who pass on the precious heritage which has been the priceless Jewish treasure for millennia.

So, please enjoy the summer, hold close the ones you love, and add to the joy of the world. I look forward to our reunion in September.

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman,
Religious School Director

Shabbat Yeladim (Children's Shabbat) ~ Saturday, May 17



All young children from tots to first grade are invited to join Rabbi Altman to celebrate both the Sabbath and the birthday of Israel, on Saturday, May 17 at 10:30am, at Vassar Temple. Our stuffed bear friends Kachol v'Lavan will be there to take part in the singing, stories, and a brief, child-friendly service. Tell your friends and neighbors—this event is free and open to the whole community. Healthy snacks will be served.

Vassar Temple is a welcoming, inclusive Reform congregation. For more information and to RSVP, contact office@vassartemple.org or call the Temple 845-454-2570.

Scriptural Readings ~ May

May 3

Tazria/M'tzora: Leviticus 9:1-11:47; II Samuel 6:1-7:17

May 10

Acharei Mot/K'doshim: Leviticus 16:1-20:27; Amos 9:7-15

May 17

Emor: Leviticus 21:1-24:33; Ezekiel 44:15-31

May 24

B'har/B'chukotai: Leviticus 25:1-27:34; Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

May 31

Midbar: Numbers 1:-4:20; Hosea 2:1-22

Study Groups at VT

Torah Study with Rabbi Renni Altman, DD, meets at 9am Saturday mornings (hybrid); no class May 3 and 10. Come join our lively discussions!

Contact us at office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 to be placed on the Torah Study email 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 email list and receive the dates and study sheets, contact him at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

All welcome

No prior knowledge required

No charge to attend

New Paths

This month we'll gather for a New Paths Sabbath morning service at 10:15am on Saturdays, May 17 and 31 (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 email list, if you need the Zoom link, or to borrow our special prayer book if participating on Zoom.

Only a few days left to stand up for our Reform values and vote in the World Zionist Congress election ~ the voting is open until May 4!

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 five 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!

Temple fees to be updated for the new Fiscal Year

A Finance Committee task force reviewed Temple fees (other than membership dues), which have not been updated in some time. This is one of many Finance Committee initiatives to improve financial health. Following a thorough review, which included reaching out to other synagogues for comparisons and conferring with committee chairs, the task force made recommendations to the Board of Trustees, which adopted the modest fee increases effective July 1. Areas addressed include Religious and Hebrew School tuition, Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees, cemetery Perpetual Care Fees, and facility rental. Recommended donations for High Holy Day guests, memorial plaques, and Tree of Life were not increased, but simplified and information added to encourage giving beyond these minimums.

While membership dues were not included in this process, the task force did make suggestions for increasing the clarity of dues information presented on our fee schedule as well as educating our members on the true cost of services that we provide, which are only partially covered by dues and fees.

This information will be reviewed in greater detail during the annual Treasurer's Report/Budget Presentation at the June 4 Annual Congregational Meeting. Please plan to attend.

Service to Honor Rabbi Golomb ~ Friday, May 2 at 7:30pm



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 and then as our senior scholar. On Friday, May 2 we will celebrate this milestone with Rabbi and Debbie Golomb. Bob Abrams, Linda Cantor, Lou Lewis, and Lisa-Sue Quackenbush will share some of their memories from Rabbi Golomb's leadership and reflections on his impact upon them.

Rabbi Golomb and his classmates were honored for reaching this significant milestone at the recent annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Thanks to the generosity of many congregants, we were able to provide a Convention Sponsorship in his honor. Rabbi Golomb has served in numerous capacities within the CCAR during his rabbinate, including a term as editor of the quarterly *Journal of Reform Judaism*, where he continues to submit scholarly articles.

Those who would want to honor Rabbi Golomb on this occasion with a donation might direct it to the Rabbi Paul Golomb Adult Education Fund, established in his honor upon his retirement as Rabbi of Vassar Temple.

Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ see you in June!

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's next Chai Noon Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at noon. We will **not meet in May** because the 18th falls on a weekend. Specific details about the June restaurant will be emailed to you in Vassar Temple's weekly newsletter in early June. We look forward to seeing everyone again for good food and good conversation.



CEREAL COUNTS!!!



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

Bring donations to temple after Passover through Wednesday, April 30 or bring to Mitzvah Day headquarters Sunday, May 4.

EVERY BOX COUNTS

Memorial Day Ceremony

Sunday, May 25 ~ 11am

Schomre Hadath Cemetery

67 Lagrange Avenue (next to Vassar Temple Cemetery)

Presented by Jewish War Veterans Post 625

Poughkeepsie High School JROTC Color Guard

Seating and water will be available

All Welcome!



JWV—May Meeting

The JWV Herman Siegal Post 625 will hold its May meeting on May 4 (Mitzvah Day) at Shomre Israel. As Shomre Israel is strictly kosher, Post 625 will provide the nosh. The meeting will begin at 9:30am and the nosh at 9am. Come to socialize while noshing. We hope to see you.

Ralph Schwartz, Sr. Post Commander

CONTRIBUTIONS

SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Anna Beer
David Kaplan & Seymour Shapiro
Doreen Kimmel
Martin Frankel
Harry L. Levitan
All of our parents
Gayle Margolin, Jack Quackenbush & Maurice Margolin
Eva Revitz
Philip & Ruth Browner
Claire Moselle
Sarah Chernack
Pauline Abrams
Samuel Blaine
Eugene Jacobs, Bernard Rheingold, Maurice Rice
Morris D. Kovacs & Lillian Kovacs
Selma Goldsmith
Mary Louise Goldfarb
Pearl Goldstein
Betty Lyons
Samuel & Estelle Cohen

Henia & Henry Grodenchik
Francine Kaplan
Muriel Lampell
Fern & Dave Wolf
Joan & Charles Blanksteen
Susan & David Hecht
Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush and Family
Lynn & Martin Revitz
Miriam Lacher
Jonathan Moselle
The Chernack Family
Marianne & Bob Abrams
Martin Noble
Irma Jacobs
Dr. Bernard M. Kovacs
Madelyn D'Angelo
Michael Goldfarb
The Friedman Family
Vivian & Ed Garber
Marcia & Glenn Tanzman

VASSAR TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

Claudia & Joel Kelson
Gloria Turk



LUNCH BOX FUND

Sheila Kohl

VASSAR TEMPLE SISTERHOOD

In Memory of:

Faye Prisansky Kaufman

Perla & Charles Kaufman

VASSAR TEMPLE MUSIC FUND

In Appreciation for her joy in singing:

Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann

Fern Lox & Jon Lieberman

Ruth Goldfarb

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With Prayers for:

David Hecht's recovery

Jean & Lewis Hecht

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

In Celebration of:

Rabbi Golomb's 50 years in the rabbinate

Kimberly Harris

Arlene & Gil Seligman

RABBI RENNI ALTMAN TORAH FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Golomb's 50 years in the rabbinate
Rabbi Altman

Marilyn & David Lampell
Art & Margery Groten
Linda & Richard Cantor
Roni & Charles Stein

RABBI PAUL GOLOMB ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Celebration of:

Rabbi Golomb's 50 years in the rabbinate

Catherine J. Kelly
Vivian & Ed Garber
Linda & Richard Cantor

May 2

Philip Mardon, MD
 Ted Hecht
 Paul Plansky
 Suzanne Hecht
 Shirley Ruth Karnes
 Bessie Goldman Lass
 Anna Dreishpoon
 Frances R. Finnerman
 Abraham Tavss
 Dr. Wolfgang U. Weigert
 David F. Kaplan
 Seymour Shapiro
 Jacob Ettenson
 Gertrude Fink
 Faye Prisansky Kaufman
 Irving D. Kraut
 Shirley Kornhauser
 Stanley Shapiro
 Naomi Berkowitz
 Judith Schneider
 Sarah Chernack
 Nathan Lescher

May 16

Dan L. Golomb
 Betty Fein
 Jack Rubinstein
 Kurt Lemberger
 Susan Patricia Messing
 Bernard "Paul" Buchalter
 Bernice D. Rabin
 Maurice Rice
 Steve Ganeles
 Josephine Lion Kahn
 Joseph Markoe
 Marjorie F. Katz
 Nathan Landau
 Samuel Sigalow
 Bernard Beaty
 Charles Kagan
 Henry Feder
 Hyman Hoffman
 Grace Selzer
 Louis Diamond

May 30

Eugenia Pearlstein
 Goldie Simon
 Therese Lehman
 Stuart Chertock
 Alvin Kaskowitz
 James Burns
 Eugene Seigel
 Bessie T. Mock
 Samuel Lampell
 Rachel Diamond
 Daniel S. Schwartz
 Susan Parish Barbash
 Seymour Bersak
 Margaret "Honey" Sylvester
 Bernard Rheingold
 Ann Feinstein Drobner
 Catherine Creedon
 Pauline Abrams



MAY YAHRZEITS

May 9

Reuben Lewis
 Claire Troeger Moselle
 Walter Kallman
 Samuel Blaine
 Toby U. Cederbaum
 Ida Albinder
 Phyllis Drucker Cassell
 Seymour Shapiro
 Edna Gibell
 Eva Revitz
 Ruth Myer
 Helen Danilin Klien
 Louis Lipp
 Eugene Jacobs
 Mary Kovacs
 Paul Reznikoff
 Gayle Margolin
 Martin Frankel
 Samuel Cederbaum
 David Lawrence Wolfson
 Manuel Darwin
 Charlotte Miller

May 23

Dorothy Lewis
 Leo Tauber
 Abraham J. Salit
 David M. Horn
 Selma Goldsmith
 Hyman Fink
 Selma Friedman Satz
 Rose S. Podell
 Bernard Lesk
 Ruth Browner
 Ellen Rosenfeld
 Harold Jacobs
 Mary B. Sparks
 Martin Cohen
 Ken Richter
 Martin Gally
 Iris Krause
 Miriam Niesen
 Joseph H. Goodman
 Annie Givner
 Harry L. Levitan

Our condolences to:

The family of Myra Sonshine, cousin of Susan Fink

The family of Susan Senk, relative of Rabbi Renni Altman

The family of Milton Heilweil, father of Mindy Teich and grandfather of Daniel Teich

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.

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Submitted by Arlene Seligman

Italian Pasta Salad

Yield: 8 servings

Ingredients

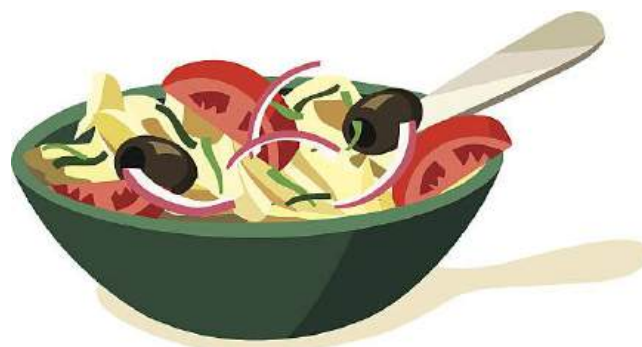
- 8 ounces rotini or penne pasta
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1/4 cup sliced scallions
- 1/4 cup sliced black olives
- 1/3 cup bottled nonfat Italian dressing
- 1/4 cup grated nonfat or reduced-fat Parmesan cheese

Instructions

- Cook the pasta al dente according to package directions. Drain, rinse with cold water and drain again.
- Place the pasta in a large bowl. Add the tomato, scallions and olives and toss to mix well. Add the Italian dressing and cheese and toss to mix well.
- Cover the salad and chill for at least 2 hours or overnight before serving.

Variations

- 1/2 cup chopped seeded cucumber and 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup lightly steamed broccoli florets
- 1 cup chopped artichoke hearts
- 1/2 cup zucchini cut into matchstick-sized pieces and 1/2 cup grated carrot
- 1 cup cooked or canned kidney, garbanzo or white beans



Tikkun Leil Shavuot: Preparing Together for Shavuot

*"Torah in Turbulent Times:
Exploring Jewish Teachings that Give us Guidance, Strength and Inspiration"*

Rabbis Michael Fessler and Miriam Hyman (Temple Beth-El),
Glenn Jacob (Congregation Shir Chadash)
and Renni Altman (Vassar Temple)

will teach and share traditional and contemporary texts
on different aspects of this topic

Location: Temple Beth-El, Sunday, June 1 ~ 7:30PM

Coffee and Cheesecake followed by study and concluding with *Ma'ariv*.

This event will be presented hybrid – link available from the synagogues.



COMMUNITY MITZVAH DAY ~ SUNDAY, May 4

Community Service projects for all ages (tots to seniors), both on site and off!

TOGETHER
THIS MITZVAH DAY

Participate yourself or with friends and family.
Most projects end at noon.

Bring boxed cereal for Cereal Counts!!! for local food pantries

Donate these hygiene products: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant,
hairbrushes, combs, toothbrushes, tooth paste, body wash, baby diapers,
washcloth/towel, washing machine detergent pods

Breakfast & Registration 8:30am

Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie

Sign up and get complete info at

<https://jewishfederationofdutchesscoun.regfox.com/together-this-mitzvah-day>

Questions? [Contact socialaction@vassar temple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassar temple.org)

Helen Carr ~ May 3 Bat Mitzvah

Helen Carr, daughter of Liz and Greg of Pleasant Valley, NY and younger sister of Thomas, will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 3 at Vassar Temple. Helen, a seventh grader at LaGrange Middle School, is involved in the school's spring musical *Guys and Dolls* and also plays viola in the orchestra. In her free time, Helen enjoys listening to music, especially Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo, and the *Wicked* soundtrack. She also likes to spend time drawing and hanging out with her friends.

Helen's Mitzvah Project is helping homeless people by working at a food pantry in Kingston, NY, called "Happy to Help." On Sundays, she has been helping stock the market and prepare it to be available to everyone in need. She is also seeking donations of nonperishable foods to give to others through the food pantry. A box will be available outside the sanctuary before her Bat Mitzvah where everyone can drop off canned goods, granola bars, and other similar items, to be given to those in need who visit the food pantry.



Leah Poole Di-Salvo ~ May 10th Bat Mitzvah

Leah Poole-DiSalvo (daughter of Tim and Betsy, and sister to Jack), is becoming a Bat Mitzvah at Vassar Temple on May 10. Leah is a seventh grader at Union Vale Middle School. She enjoys playing volleyball and also swims competitively.

For her Mitzvah Project, she is sharing her love of volleyball with the community by working to increase the number of local outdoor volleyball courts that can be accessed for free by the public. In addition, Leah is undertaking a second Mitzvah Project, organizing a food drive for Dutchess Outreach's food pantry.



Confirmation Shabbat Service ~ Friday, May 30 at 7:30pm



The congregation is invited to celebrate with Thomas Carr, son of Greg and Liz Carr as he becomes a Confirmand on Friday, May 30 at 7:30pm. Confirmation was an innovation of Reform Judaism and has been a Vassar Temple tradition for many, many years (just check out the photos in the religious school hallway!). Confirmation was developed in the early years of Reform Judaism when the leadership was moving away from Bar Mitzvah, encouraging young people to continue their Jewish education until later in their teen years. Even as Bar and Bat Mitzvah are now integral to Reform Judaism, so do we continue to celebrate the

Confirmation of those young adults who have chosen to maintain a strong connection to Judaism and to the synagogue. Appropriately, Confirmation takes place on or close to the Festival of Shavuot when we celebrate the revelation of Torah at Mt. Sinai. Through this service, young adults “confirm” their acceptance of Torah; standing again at Sinai. Thomas has been a *madrich* (teaching assistant) in our religious school since he became eligible in eighth grade, is involved in many social justice projects, and has been studying independently with Rabbi Altman this year. He is a Cadet in the Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff PBA Explorer Post 108 and received two awards last year. Thomas will take part in the leadership of the service and receive a blessing of Confirmation.

Newest members of the Challah Brigade!

Sandra Mamis recently led another challah baking class and Ellen Zelig and Polly Lewis did a great job!



Welcome Our New Rabbi

The Rabbinic Search Committee was very pleased to bring forward its recommendation for our new rabbi. We are delighted that the Board and congregation have overwhelmingly approved the recommendation and contract to have Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh serve as our new Rabbi.

"We are excited to be joining the Vassar Temple family and to be moving to the beautiful Hudson Valley. We've felt so welcomed already and can't wait to begin this next chapter with all of you."

~ Rabbi Jeff



Rabbi Jeff will join our congregation in early July to replace our beloved Rabbi Renni Altman, who is retiring.

Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh is currently the Rabbi and Executive Director of The Well, a dynamic organization focused on building Jewish identity and community for young Jewish adults and families with young children in and around metro-Detroit. Jeff is from Seattle, WA, and graduated from the University of Washington. He received his ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles in 2018, along with a Master's Degree in Jewish Education specializing in Israel Education, and a Certificate in Jewish Nonprofit Management. After ordination, Rabbi Jeff served as the Jewish Emergent Network Rabbinic Fellow at Mishkan Chicago, an upstart independent spiritual community.

Rabbi Jeff is passionate about music, teaching, and pluralism. Under his leadership, The Well has developed and evolved innovative initiatives like Sukkot Sounds and Friendseder, which have been utilized by a diversity of organizations across the United States and Canada, with the goal to be a bridge between Jewish institutions and unaffiliated Jewish young adults and families. Rabbi Jeff aims to innovate and invigorate progressive Jewish life and is committed to building welcoming and inclusive Jewish spaces that foster strong connections to Jewish culture, heritage, and community.

We are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Jeff and his wife Stephanie Belsky and their one-year-old son Leo to our Vassar Temple family!



Calendar of Events—May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Yom HaAtzmaut 7pm Ritual CMTE	2 7:30pm Shabbat Service Honoring Rabbi Golomb	3 10am Helen Carr Bat Mitzvah
4 8:30am Community Mitzvah Day Congregation Schomre Israel 10:30am Lunch Box	5 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	6	7 4:30pm Hebrew School	8 2:30pm Music CMTE 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	9 7:30pm Sisterhood Shabbat Service 	10 10am Leah Poole-DiSalvo Bat Mitzvah
11 No Religious School	12	13	14 4:30pm Hebrew School ~ Last Day	15 Lag BaOmer Eve	16 Lag BaOmer 7:30pm Shabbat Service	17 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths 10:30am Shabbat Yeladim
18 9am Religious School ~ Last Day	19	20	21 7pm Finance CMTE	22 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board	23 7:30pm Shabbat Service	24 9am Torah Study
25	26 Memorial Day Office Closed 	27	28 7pm Annual Calendar Meeting 	29	30 7:30pm Shabbat Service Confirmation Service for Thomas Carr	31 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths

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: Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann

Rabbi Emeritus: Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold

Senior Scholar: Rabbi Paul Golomb

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Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly. Articles for the July—August Bulletin must be submitted by June 10 sent via email to publicity@vassartemple.org. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Cantorial Sponsorships Enhance Shabbat Music

Music is a central part of our spiritual experience during Shabbat and festivals at Vassar Temple.

Please assist the Temple by contributing to our Cantorial Music Fund. We have been fortunate to benefit from a generous gift donation by Marsha and Richard Timmerman to our Cantorial Music Fund. Your contribution of any amount will extend the life of that gift.

A contribution of \$250 will sponsor Cantor Goldmann for a specific service, for a personal or family *simcha*, or in memory of a family member.

Please help support cantorial music in the coming year!

For more information, contact Bob Abrams at music@vassartemple.org.

