



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 173 No. 11 ~ June 2025



Adult B'not Mitzvah Service

Saturday, June 7, 2025 ~ 10am

The Vassar Temple Congregation, family and friends are invited to celebrate with our Adult B'not Mitzvah Class on reaching this significant milestone:

- Madelyn Goldsmith D'Angelo
- Susan Budson Fink
- Maxine Finkelstein
- Kimberly Harris
- Fern Lox

Join us following the service for a Kiddush Luncheon, hosted by the Adult B'not Mitzvah Class, and their teacher, Marcia Tanzman

RSVP by June 2 for the luncheon

office@vassartemple.org or 845.454.2570



Rabbi Renni Altman on the occasion of her retirement!

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Reservation Required

6:30 pm ~ Arrival

7:00 pm ~ Dinner, followed by Havdalah & Dessert

\$ 60 per person

\$180 sponsorship (includes one for dinner)

\$360 sponsorship (includes two for dinner)

Donations in the Rabbi's honor can be made to the
Rabbi Renni Altman Torah Fund

RSVP by June 6

office@vassartemple.org or 845.454.2570

A Reminder

Starting with the next issue (July/August) the Bulletin will no longer be printed and mailed out to everyone. Instead, it will be delivered as a PDF link and made available online via a special email, on the temple website, and through an icon in the weekly newsletter.

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 submission deadline will be changed to the 10th of the month before the issue date (June 10 for the July/August issue, August 10 for September, etc.). The Bulletin will then be emailed 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.

From the Rabbi's Desk:



Dear Friends,

Seven years ago, I accepted the invitation to become your rabbi. Thus began the “third chapter” of my rabbinate. A new beginning emerged out of unanticipated circumstances and I returned to my true passion and calling in the rabbinate: the congregation. Finally, I was fulfilling what had been my hope decades ago to one day be the rabbinic leader of a congregation.

My path in the rabbinate was not at all what I had envisioned when I was ordained in 1988. First of all, I was single at that time. Marriage and children dramatically changed my life (for the better!) and impacted my career path in ways I hadn't imagined or been prepared for. Unanticipated changes in life drove me to explore different career options that I had never considered before. While they led me away from the congregational rabbinate, they provided other avenues for growth and meaning. As enriching as my work at both the URJ and HUC-JIR was, it was never as fulfilling for me as being a pulpit rabbi. A quote from T. S. Elliot that I incorporated in my application essay is illustrative of my feelings about returning to the pulpit: “We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and to know the place for the first time.”

Returning to the congregational rabbinate thirty years into my career was a true sense of renewal for me. While certainly not without its challenges, these past seven years as Rabbi of Vassar Temple have been incredibly fulfilling. I am so very grateful to be counted among the thirty rabbis who have served this historic congregation. While I will not get into specific thanks here, I do want to express my deepest appreciation to the lay leadership of this congregation for your partnership, so essential in the life of healthy synagogues. The presidents with whom I have been privileged to work—Alan Kflowitz, Susan Karnes

Hecht, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush and Roni Stein—their boards, committee chairs and volunteers all give so much to this congregation. Unfortunately, each of their presidencies was challenged by world and national events; yet, together we have persevered and we have grown stronger, remaining true to the mission of Vassar Temple.

When I became your rabbi, I anticipated that this would be the capstone of my career but I really had no idea when I would retire. About a year ago it became clear that the time for retirement was approaching, that it was time for me to step aside before burn out set in. As Rick's legal practice winds down, we look forward to more open space in our lives, especially to be able to visit more with our children and cherished friends who are not so close geographically. We love this community, the Hudson Valley and our beautiful home, so we are not moving anywhere so fast. We will be part of the congregation in a different way with my role as Rabbi Emerita.

I am so pleased by the congregation's selection of Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh. I met him some years ago in my former position as Director of the Rabbinic Program at HUC-JIR in New York when he came to interview. I felt very positive about him then and even more so now. He brings an innovative spirit and unique rabbinic experience to this position that will help him to lead Vassar Temple into the coming years.

In order to support new rabbis as they settle into a congregation and make their own way, the CCAR ethics guidelines advise that the Emerita stay away much of the rabbi's first year with a congregation. So, while we may see one another on the hiking trails, at Adams and other local venues, please know that I am with you in spirit and that I will be supporting Rabbi Stombaugh in any way that I can for his success and yours.

In warmth and gratitude,

Renni

President's Message:



June is here and so much is changing! Not just school years and seasons, but at Temple as well. On June 4 at the Annual Congregational meeting, we will be voting on a few items including a Temple budget and new members to our Board of Trustees. Vassar Temple stays vibrant with new voices on our board, and we look forward to those new voices and ideas. We will also be presenting the Founders' Award to Andi & Paul Ciminello. They have given so much to Vassar Temple; this award is well deserved. The Pride Shabbat service follows on Friday the 6th. This service renews our support of the LGBTQ+ community and reminds us that our welcome sign is good but is only a sign. We continue to work toward being our best and welcoming community. In addition, Vassar Temple will again be

part of Pridefest in Poughkeepsie this month.

On June 7, the 2025 B'not Mitzvah class will celebrate and read from the Torah before family, friends, and fellow congregants of Vassar Temple. Congratulations to Madelyn Goldsmith D'Angelo, Susan Budson Fink, Maxine Finkelstein, Kimberly Harris, and Fern Lox! Kudos to their teacher and cheerleader Marcia Tanzman. I was part of the November 2005 class, almost 20 years ago and this class and their journey brings back a few memories. How my life has changed from then!

Since it is June, of course we will be having our Picnic Service on the 13th. It is different than the sanctuary experience and enjoyable in other ways. So, bring those lawn chairs and hope it doesn't rain! We will be installing our new board members as well at this lovely picnic.

This June we also say see you later (not farewell!) to Rabbi Renni Altman. Rabbi is retiring as Rabbi at Vassar Temple. We cannot even begin to say how much she has supported Vassar Temple and its congregation. It is one of those difficult things to quantify because she has done so much and guided us so well. The Board of Trustees and the congregation of Vassar Temple wish her all the best in her retirement.

We must thank her husband Rick Wender and their family for their support of our synagogue. Rabbi Altman will be our Rabbi Emerita and will stay connected to the temple for which we are grateful.

It is not always easy to make changes, but we look forward as well to the possibilities!

*Please keep the hostages in your hearts, and let's have a ceasefire now.



Roni Stein

Bimah Flowers for our Services June 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.

June 2025 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- June 6: Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class and Ken and Amy Horn Oclatis in memory of Beatrice and David Horn
- June 13: Vassar Temple Board
- June 20: Randi, Pam and Al Scope in memory of Perle Scope
- June 27: Vassar Temple Sisterhood Bimah Flower Fund (silk flowers)



Shavuot Morning Festival Service and Yizkor Monday, June 2 ~ 10:30am



Join us for Vassar Temple's Shavuot Festival Service, Monday morning, June 2, at 10:30am. Shavuot commemorates and celebrates the revelation on Sinai and our receiving the Torah. At this time of joy, we also observe Yizkor in remembrance of our departed loved ones. It can be comforting to remember them in the context of your Temple community. The Festival Service and Yizkor will be hybrid. For the Zoom link, please watch Temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org.

Scriptural Readings ~ June

June 7

Naso:

Numbers 4:21-7:89; Judges 13:2-25

June 14

B'haalot'cha:

Numbers 8:1-12:16; Zechariah 2:14-4:7

June 21

Sh'lach L'cha:

Numbers 13:1-14:41; Joshua 2:1-24

June 28

Korach:

Numbers 16:1-18:32; I Samuel 11:14-12:22

Study Groups at VT

Torah Study with the Temple Rabbi

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 email list.

Talmud Study with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb

Usually meets on Zoom from noon to 1:30pm twice a month. However, during June we'll aim to meet just once, in person at the Temple. Feel free to BYO lunch, with Rabbi Golomb providing NYC bakery cookies for dessert. Then Talmud Study will go on hiatus over the summer. To be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list and receive the dates and study sheets, contact Rabbi Golomb at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

**All welcome ~ No prior knowledge required
No charge to attend**

New Paths Service—June 14

This month we'll gather for a New Paths Sabbath morning service at 10:15am on Saturday, June 14 (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 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 for this service if participating on Zoom.

Pride Shabbat ~ Friday, June 6 at 7:30pm

Vassar Temple will hold its third Pride Shabbat as part of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, celebrated each year in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Manhattan which began on June 28. The Stonewall Uprising is viewed as the initiating event that sparked the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. This year we will focus on some of the challenges facing the LGBTQ+ population in our country today and what allies can do to be of support.

Vassar Temple will once again have a table at the annual Poughkeepsie Pride March and Festival in Waryas Park. Our presence there over the past few years has been most welcome. This year's festival will take place on Saturday, June 14 from 12 – 4. You can go after services! If you would like to volunteer to help at the table, please contact the temple office at office@vassartemple.org.



Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation:

Pick up what you can for those who can't

As you enjoy your summer leisure time and fun activities, please think of those less fortunate, the vulnerable members of our community suffering from food insecurity, children unable to access free breakfast and lunch when school is out, babies dehydrated, seniors struggling in the heat. Food pantries are seeing clients who never imagined themselves in this situation before. As of this writing, federal funding for food pantries has been cut by 46%, and rising prices are diminishing everyone's purchasing power.

For those of us who can: Please be on the lookout for these high demand items to be on sale, and pick up what you can for those who can't:

peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, baby food, baby formula

BOXED: cereal, rice, dry pasta, instant potatoes, oatmeal

CANNED: fruit, pasta, soup, meat and fish (i.e. tuna), vegetables

All food donated must be in unopened, undamaged packaging and must not be outdated. Please stick to this list. These are the foods in most demand, and there is limited shelf-space in most pantries. Try to avoid glass jars as well as large heavy containers of food because most recipients have to carry everything home.

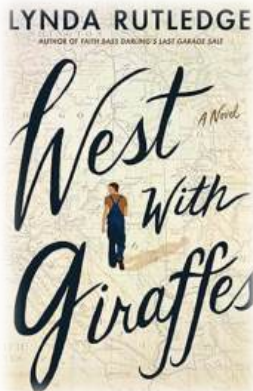
Then just drop off your donated items in the Can Jam bin in the Temple any time the temple is open and we will take care of the rest. If you would like to deliver a load of the Can Jam items to a local food pantry even just once a year, just contact Joel. Or if you'd like to help with one of our occasional "special" food drives, Marian would love to hear from you. And please know that every can donated helps support this life-sustaining mitzvah.

Joel Kelson ~ canjam@vassartemple.org

Marian Schwartz ~ socialaction@vassartemple.org

VTs Book Club To Read *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes. (Amazon)































Discussion will take place:

Wednesday, June 18 at 2:00pm ~ in-person

Collegeview Tower Meeting Room

141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

All are welcome. For questions, please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.

										
	<h2>Mitzvah Day Thank You</h2> <p>Thanks to all who helped make Mitzvah Day a success despite the uncertain weather—everyone who donated cereal and hygiene items, Rabbi Altman, Rabbi Hantman and our members who planned and led service projects, plus those who volunteered to work on them. It takes all hands-on-deck to make such a big difference—thanks for showing up and following through!</p>									
										
										
										



Cemetery Clean-Up on
Mitzvah Day



Baking Cookies and
preparing Lunch
for Lunch Box
on Mitzvah Day





SUSTAINING FUND**In Memory of:**

Ann M. Marin
 Nathan Turk
 Harriet Lipson
 Howard Smith, Ellen Rosenfeld & Erv Rosenfeld
 Emily Z. Himmelstein
 Perle Scope
 Joseph Frankel and Fred Wolf
 Sandra LoGiudice, Pauline R. Slote, Joseph L. Kahn
 Samuel Lampell & Matthew Lampell
 Alfred Geber
 Ida Albinder
 Harriet Drucker & George Plotsky
 David & Fay Menken
 Claire Goldstein
 Gilda Charwat
 Eugene Jacobs
 Kent Mardon
 Cecelia Riechman & Charlotte Wechsler
 Gertrude Rosenthal
 Dr. Sheldon J. Solomon, Michael L. Solomon & Cora Solomon
 Leila Garlock

Miles Markowitz

Wishing: David Hecht a speedy recovery

In Honor of:

Rabbi Renni Altman
 Sandra Mamis

LUNCH BOX FUND**In Memory of:**

Leila Garlock

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of: Leila Garlock

TREE OF LIFE FUND**COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND**

In Memory of: Leila Garlock

RABBI RENNI ALTMAN TORAH FUND**In Honor of:**

Rabbi Altman

The members of the B'not Mitzvah class and their teacher,
 Marcia Tanzman

In Memory of: Leila Garlock

RABBI PAUL GOLOMB ADULT EDUCATION FUND**In Honor of:**

Rabbi Golomb's 50th Ordination Anniversary

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: Claire Troeger Moselle

Banna Rubinow & Christopher Baltus

Linda & Steven Lant
 Suzanne Garcia
 Helen & Brian Silverman
 Judy & Eric Rosenfeld
 Howard Himmelstein
 Alfred Scope
 Fern & Dave Wolf

Muriel Lampell
 Robert A. Feldman
 The Albinder Family
 Beth Plotsky & Family
 Carol & Art Menken
 Rosalyn Cooper
 Eleanor & Martin Charwat
 Fran Jacobs
 The Mardon Family
 Vivian & Ed Garber
 Charlene & Loren Rosenthal
 Alan H. Solomon
 Irma Jacobs
 Fern & Dave Wolf
 The Gillman Family
 Marianne & Bob Abrams

Shirl Davis-Susser & Howard Susser
 Linda & Steven Lant

Muriel Lampell
 Linda & Richard Cantor

Susan Fink
 B'not Mitzvah Class

Doi Cohen

Sue Sullivan
 Cathy Seldin & Mark Rozeen
 Andi & Paul Ciminello
 Vivian & Ed Garber
 Elizabeth Krevolin
 Helen Wrobel & Tal Eyal
 Linda & Steven Lant

Marian Schwartz
 Marian Schwartz

Marian & Ralph Schwartz
 Richard Partridge
 Eleanor & Martin Charwat
 Doi Cohen
 Andi & Paul Ciminello
 Linda & Steven Lant

Margery Moselle Mann and Fred Mann



June 6

Else Willner
 Irving Selzer
 Shirley K. Loeb
 Sandra LoGiudice
 Gertrude Tavss
 Charles Simon Steinbuck
 Elaine Lipschutz
 Dr. Albert A. Rosenberg
 Samuel Berlin
 Irene Weiner
 Anna Dunn
 Jack Quackenbush
 Moe Scheer
 Irving J. Richman
 Robert Rosenthal
 Frank Silverstein

June 13

George Plotsky
 Moe Scheer
 Joseph B. Weisman
 Gilda Charwat
 Joseph Wrobel
 Edward Plimack
 Jack Turk
 Harriet Lipson
 Lillian Kozik
 Bertie S. Levy
 Alfred Geber
 Morton B. Lehman, DDS
 Paul Kraut
 Emily Himelstein
 Harry Kaltwasser
 Beatrice Gross
 Miriam Gellert
 Samuel Cohen
 Terry Teich
 Henry Sylvester
 Carol Casiero
 Lillian Freda Gross
 Estelle Cohen
 Ann M. Marin

June 20

Gertrude Lashinsky Ginsberg
 Arthur Richter
 Rose Swatlo Budson
 Alan Scot Colodner
 Dr. Kurt Holzer
 Sylvia Arnold
 Sylvia K. Weisman
 Benjamin Budson
 Sylvia Decovnick
 Perle Scope
 Nathan Weiss
 Joseph W. Scherrer
 Paul Douglas Fa'gut
 Pauline Rosenson Slote
 Joseph Gross
 Joseph Kofman
 Albert J. Eisenberg
 David Menken
 Betty Mee

June 27

Sallie Cohen
 Jacob Lass
 Ethel Saul
 Shirley B. Love
 Maurice Albert Margolin
 Muriel Landesman
 Lucile Erdreich
 Rose Feuerstein
 Annie Blaweiss
 Pearl Goldstein
 Joseph Dunn
 George Luttinger
 Jean F. Goldman
 Dorothy Burrows
 Betty Garber Lyons
 Joseph Berlin
 Joseph J. Kleiner
 Isador Dreishpoon
 Sandor D. Strauss
 Dolores Weisman
 Jonathan Muehl
 Frank Sorbello
 Fred Weiss
 Rosalind Gellert
 Fay Menken
 Audrey S. Morgenstern
 Blanche Weber
 Matthew Lampell
 Alice Weinstein
 Ronald Jacobs
 Cornelius Saperstein
 Dr. Camilla Reznikoff Wygan
 Mary Lou Goldfarb
 Barbara Jean Wojcik

**JUNE YAHREZEITS****Our condolences to:**

The family of Leila Garlock, mother of Sue (Harold) Lesser

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Submitted by Vivian Garber

Turkey Meatloaf

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 medium carrot, cut into 1/8-inch diced pieces
- ¾ pound cremini mushrooms finely chopped in processor
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 1 cup fine bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 whole large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 1 ¼ pounds ground turkey (mix dark and light meat)



Instructions

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Cook onion and garlic in oil in 12-inch skillet over moderate heat, stirring until onion is softened, about 2 minutes.
- Add carrot and cook, stirring until softened, about 3 minutes.
- Add mushrooms, ½ tsp salt, and ¼ tsp pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until liquid from mushrooms is evaporated, 10 to 15 minutes.
- Stir in Worcestershire sauce, parsley and 3 tbsp ketchup, then transfer to large bowl and cool.
- Stir together bread crumbs and milk in small bowl and let stand 5 minutes.
- Stir in egg and egg white, then add to vegetables.
- Add turkey and remaining ½ tsp salt and ¼ tsp pepper to vegetable mixture and mix well with your hands. (Mixture will be very moist.)
- Form into 9 by 5-inch oval loaf in a lightly oiled 13 by 9 by 2-inch metal baking pan and brush evenly with remaining 2 Tbsp ketchup.
- Bake in middle of oven until thermometer inserted into meatloaf registers 170 degrees, 50 to 55 minutes.
- Let meatloaf stand 5 minutes before serving.

Sisterhood Chai Noon Luncheon ~ June 18

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Chai Noon Luncheon, which meets on the 18th of most months (when the date does not conflict with holidays or weekends) will be meeting on Wednesday, June 18. Specific details about the June 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.



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.



Dear Brotherhood,

Very shortly after my arrival at Vassar Temple, the Men's Club, as it was called at that time, was suddenly without a president. Dan Teich and I were approached to be co-presidents, and we accepted. Dan was a great partner, but after two years (which should be the length of the office), he stepped down, and I remained as President.

It has truly been a great eight or nine years. I have enjoyed coordinating the annual Brotherhood Service, Sukkah building and take down, Brotherhood Zooms and luncheons, Purim Pasta dinners, and special onegs. Brotherhood exists behind the scenes a lot at Vassar Temple, but whenever I put out the word that we need help, the members step up to do so.

I find now that the time has come for me to give up my role at President and hand the reins over to someone else. I have asked people over the years to take over, but I never found someone willing to do so. I did not want to leave the Brotherhood without leadership, but due to recent circumstances, I can no longer fulfill my responsibilities, and I will be stepping down effective June 30, 2025.

A huge thank you to all of you that have been a part of the Brotherhood journey with me. Please contact me at brotherhood@vassartemple.org to discuss what it would mean for you to take over as President.

Glenn Tanzman

Dear Friends,

Thank you for honoring me for 50 years in the rabbinate at the May 2 Shabbat service. I am most grateful to Rabbi Altman who put together the evening; to Cantor Goldmann and Joe Bertolozzi for the musical selections (including Joe's own *Oseh Shalom*); to Rabbi Arnold, Marian Schwartz, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Bob Abrams, Linda Cantor and Lew Louis for their tributes; and to Debbie for her kind words and continued support.

Twenty years ago, I wrote the following for the Temple Bulletin. The thoughts still hold though the feelings are now much deeper.

A Personal Column

Thirty is one of those numbers. It has no resonance in Jewish tradition (compare it with 18 or 40). At an earlier time, it represented the dividing line in the Zeitgeist. "Don't trust anyone over 30," went the hippie slogan of the 1960s, at least until many of us baby boomers actually found ourselves being over 30! In the last analysis, 30 is just one of those numbers with a zero in it, the sort of anniversary that comes along once every ten years. On June 8, I will have been an ordained rabbi for thirty years.

Being a rabbi for thirty years is no particular accomplishment; all it takes is time. It is however an opportunity for reflection and some expressions of gratitude. There is a classic rabbinic formula: I have learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, and most of all from my students. Over the years, I have had a chance to test this proposition and discovered that it is almost true. I did indeed learn much from my teachers. I particularly wish to acknowledge my teachers Eugene Borowitz, Harry Orlinsky and Abraham Aaroni. It was not particularly the facts or skills they imparted, but rather a sense of appreciation, even reverence, for the texts of Judaism. They made it possible for me to like being a rabbi.

*Throughout all the years I have worked as a rabbi, I have sought out opportunities to get together with colleagues. These have usually been framed as occasions for study (the Jewish term is *havruta*), but I will let you in on a secret. While we would indeed read and discuss a text, we also spent a lot of time talking about the rabbinate itself; everything from finding a good story to tell at a family service, to the ins and outs of synagogue politics. My colleagues made me feel comfortable being a rabbi.*

Most fulfilling of all has been the interaction with members of congregations and college campuses I have served. From teaching—in university credit courses and classes in the synagogue—to informal encounters in the Temple corridors, at homes or hospital rooms, I have learned far more than I have taught. It might not necessarily be insights into Jewish thought—although there has been a quite of a lot of that—but it is always insights into the hopes, concerns and cares of the Jewish people. My students and congregants made me appreciate what it means to be a Jew.


I said the adage is almost true. I learned much from teachers, more from colleagues, and more still from students. I have learned most of all, however, from one colleague. Debbie has been my partner and love of my life from the early years of rabbinic school. She has been there for the entire ride. Her support, critique, chiding and support again have been what have made me a better rabbi, a better Jew, and a better human being.

In many ways, 30 is just the number nestled between 29 and 31. Whatever, it has been a wonderful ride.

Rabbi Paul Golomb



Calendar of Events—June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Shavuot Eve 9:45am Judaism 101 10:30am Lunch Box 7:30pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot Service at Temple Beth-El	2 Shavuot Office Closed 10:30am Festival Morning Service and Yizkor 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	3	4 7pm Annual Congregational Meeting	5 7pm Ritual CMTE	6 7:30pm Pride Shabbat Service	7 10am Adult B'nai Mitzvah & Kiddush Luncheon
8	9	10	11 5:30 pm VTS Salad Supper hosted by Marilyn Lampell 	12 7:30pm Cemetery CMTE	13 6pm Picnic, Outdoor Shabbat Service & Installation of Officers	14 9am Torah Study 10:15am New Paths Service 12pm Poughkeepsie Pride March & Festival in Waryas Park
15	16	17	18 12pm VTS Chai Noon 2pm VTS Book Club  7pm Finance CMTE	19	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service & Celebration of Rabbi Altman with Special Oneg	21 9am Torah Study 10:15am Shabbat Morning Service 6:30pm Dinner to Honor Rabbi Altman, followed by Havdalah & Dessert
22	23	24	25	26 6:30pm Shelter Meal 7pm VT Board	27 7:30pm Shabbat Service	28 9am Torah Study
29	30					

Vassar Temple Bulletin
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Rabbi: Rabbi Renni S. Altman, DD

Religious School Dir: Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

Cantor: 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 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.

Picnic, Outdoor Service & Installation of Officers Friday, June 13, 2025 at 6pm

Pack up your picnic basket and join us for Vassar Temple's Annual Picnic and Outdoor Service! It will be held on the patio and front lawn of the Temple on Friday, June 13, beginning at 6pm. Our incoming Temple officers will also be installed during the service, so come to congratulate them and wish them well! Bring your own dinner—plates, utensils, cups and beverages will be provided by the Board. Casual dress is fine! Please bring your own lawn chair or picnic blanket. The kabbalat shabbat service led by Rabbi Renni Altman will begin after dinner, with an oneg following the service. A special invitation is extended to returning college students to join us. RSVPs would be appreciated to assist in our planning; RSVP by June 10 to picnic@vassartemple.org. In case of inclement weather, the event will take place in the social hall.

