



# Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 174 No. 7 ~ February 2026

## Lights! Camera! Purim! ~ Monday, March 2

- Dinner at 5:45pm in the Social Hall
- Megillah reading, music, and spiel at 7pm in the Sanctuary



Please mark your calendar for the Annual Purim Pasta Dinner, sponsored by Brotherhood, followed by a Purim program filled with humor, music, and surprises.

Our theme is “A Night at the Movies.”

Come dressed as your favorite action hero, romance character, musical or comedy star, or any genre of your choice. Or think Esther, Vashti, or Mordechai Hollywood Style.

Please RSVP to [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) for the dinner by February 25, and include any dietary restrictions. **Bring a box of pasta to shake like a gragger.** Afterward we will donate it to a food pantry!



### SAVE THE DATE

All are invited to High Tea

Sunday, March 15, 2026  
2-4pm in the Social Hall  
Proceeds will support the  
Sisterhood Kitchen Fund.  
Watch your email for your invitation.

## From the Rabbi's Desk: *Planting Seeds in Fragile Soil*



There is a certain confusion in the air these days—a sense that familiar borders between true and false, right and wrong, between safety and chaos, are blurring or even eroding. The world can feel colder. Angrier. And in the midst of it all, the value of our shared humanity sometimes feels as though it's in the balance—or even slipping through our fingers.

In moments like these, it's easy to lose touch with hope. To let the violence, injustice, and disconnection we witness drown out our joy. And yet—to acknowledge only that darkness would be a disservice to our full humanity.

It's paramount that we remember the spiritual practice of holding complexity: *zeh l'umat zeh*—"this and also that." This helps us achieve balance in

disorienting times, and when we turn inward, it invites us to seek out and hold optimism against cynicism.

In this season of *Tu B'Shevat*, the New Year of the Trees, we're reminded that beauty, nourishment, and resilience are often rooted just beneath the surface. Tu B'Shevat invites us to reconnect—with nature, with our family trees, and with our own capacity to nurture and be nurtured. It asks us to spend time among trees and remember that we, too, are part of something organic, rooted, and capable of beautiful growth.

At the same time, in our Torah cycle, we're reading about the receiving of the Ten Commandments and the building of the *Mishkan*—a sacred space for divine presence. We move from revelation to creation. From encountering the holy to making space for it.

Here in our own community, we are doing just that.

Last month, in January, we kicked off the next round of our Civic Engagement series with Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi. He spoke candidly about public safety and immigration enforcement in our region, including the presence of ICE and his relationship with local law enforcement. It was a powerful conversation—the kind of classroom we must continue to create.

Later this month, on February 22, we will welcome Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers and Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards for the next Civic Engagement event. These gatherings are opportunities to practice covenantal citizenship: to listen, to ask questions, to show up for one another, and to be part of something larger than ourselves.

So what does it mean to find hope and balance in this fragile and fraught moment?

To me, it means looking at where Jewish life is already guiding our attention: to trees, to sacred spaces, to local community, and to the quiet acts of love and care that keep us grounded and connected.

When I lean into our Jewish tradition, I find that my own anxieties begin to ease. I feel more rooted—more aware of where I belong and how I want to help build.

As we move through this season, I hope you'll join me in planting new seeds: of courage, connection, and spiritual resilience. Whether you attend a Civic Engagement event, plant a tree, study a bit of Torah, or reach out to someone who needs it—every act counts. Every seed matters.

Wishing us all a February of health, hope, and joy.

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh*

## President's Message:



February is very busy this year at Vassar Temple! We start right in with Tu BiShvat, the Jewish new year of the trees. We celebrate with activities taking care of the natural world and our environment. In addition to the Temple Tu BiShvat seder, and other activities, you can access lots of information at [ReformJudaism.org](https://ReformJudaism.org). You can try a new recipe or enjoy any number of activities for this holiday.

Soon after, Sisterhood will be running the Great Hamantaschen Baking Day! Through the work of many volunteers hundreds and hundreds of Hamantaschen will be baked in preparation for

Purim in March. How many of us talk about which is our favorite kind of Hamantaschen, is it better to fold or pinch each one, and so forth. Baking day is always wonderful, multigenerational, and fun. Our Religious School students have become pretty awesome Hamantaschen makers!



Our Civic Engagement series continues with Poughkeepsie

Mayor Yvonne Flowers and Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards both speaking on February 22. The series has been very informative, having started with DA Anthony Parisi in January. You get to hear the challenges of these positions as well as ask questions on topical subjects. This month focuses on Poughkeepsie residents and businesses but can be of interest to all. What is also interesting is how much the speakers want to hear what is of importance to us as citizens. Come and participate in a good program.

Now in the middle of winter, it is nice to thank all of you who keep the Can Jam box filled. How many of those who have trouble making ends meet don't have to worry that the food won't be there. Many of you support the monthly Lunch Box by cooking or serving or supplying the food to be made. Thank you for that. Someday we all hope that everyone will have enough to eat and our donations will not be needed so badly. I would like to donate those little extras to make things more special. Of course, those who also donate food to *Reyut* help so much and it is so appreciated. Thank you!

As you can see Vassar Temple is a busy place with a wonderful, generous and caring congregation and Board of Trustees. We are all lucky for that. Soon we will be approaching 180 years of existence, still vibrant through all the challenges and great times. Thanks as always to our volunteers and staff, along with congregants and friends who offer support and encouragement on a regular basis!

As I write this, Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi was burned for the second time in recent times. It is the only synagogue in Jackson and the largest in Mississippi. If you want to donate toward their rebuilding, you can go to their website [bethisraelms.org](https://bethisraelms.org). They are receiving much love and support and are so thankful for that.

Everyone, please stay healthy, stay safe and see you soon!

*Roni Stein*

# Join us for Hamantaschen Baking Day!

Sunday, February 8 ~ (snow date: February 22)

9am to 1pm in the Temple kitchen

**Please join us for Sisterhood's annual Hamantaschen Baking Day.** Make friends while making Hamantaschen for our Purim service and for outreach to congregants. RSVP to Judy Rosenfeld at [hamantaschen@vassartemple.org](mailto:hamantaschen@vassartemple.org) to let her know you're coming and/or making dough.

If you can, please bring a batch of dough (follow recipe below) and a rolling pin. Remaining ingredients will be provided by Sisterhood. Not able to come and help? Please make a batch of dough and leave it in the Temple freezer in a Ziploc bag—just let Judy know.

## Hamantaschen Dough Recipe for Baking Day

- 4 cups sifted flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter, softened\*
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 tablespoons milk or orange juice

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

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

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

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





## February Scriptural Readings

### February 7

#### Yitro:

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

### February 14

#### Mishpatim:

Exodus 21:1-24:18; II Kings 12:5-16

### February 21

#### T'rumah:

Exodus 25:1-27:19; I Kings 5:26-6:13

### February 28

#### T'tzaveh

Exodus 27:20-30:10;  
Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17  
(or I Samuel 15:2-34)

## Vassar Temple Study Groups

### Torah Study with Temple Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh

9am Saturday mornings (hybrid). Come join our lively discussions. Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or 845-454-2570 to be placed on the Torah Study email list.

### Talmud Study with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul

**Golomb** meets on Zoom select Mondays, from noon to 1:30pm. In February, the dates are Feb 9 and 23. For further information, to be placed on the Talmud Study email list, and receive the schedule and study sheets, contact Rabbi Golomb at [pjgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pjgolomb@verizon.net).

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

## New Paths

This month we'll gather for New Paths Sabbath morning services in Vassar Temple at 10:15am Saturdays February 7 and 21 (hybrid). The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may contribute 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, including music with Rabbi Jeff, in an intimate, informal worship setting. A brief simple kiddush follows. Contact [office@vassartemple.org](mailto: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.

## Bimah Flowers for our Services February 2026

Just as Shabbat Services help brighten our weeks, so do the Bimah flowers which brighten our Sanctuary. Please let the office know if you would like to sponsor a flower arrangement in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.

The donation to sponsor Bimah Flowers is \$60 and checks should be made out to Vassar Temple Sisterhood with Bimah Flowers written on the memo line. Should there be more than one sponsor for a Shabbat a larger flower arrangement will be provided. Sponsored flowers are fresh floral arrangements.

### February 2026 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- February 6: Lederer/Reifer family in memory of Leo Lederer and Hanna Lederer
- February 13: The Quackenbush Family in memory of Sandor Margolin, Marilyn McGaulley Lampell in memory of Julie McGaulley, and Susan Budson Fink in memory of her husband, Allen Fink
- February 20: Sisterhood (dried arrangement)
- February 27: Sisterhood (dried arrangement)



## Climate Corner—an update from our Dayenu Circle

Jewish Earth Alliance invites you to participate in a Tu B'shevat NYS Virtual Lobby Day on Tuesday, February 3. Meet with our Senators' staff. Proposed topics include: supporting the FEMA Act of 2025 to improve FEMA and reform disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts; initiatives for fostering American energy, innovation, and affordability; and the Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act of 2025 to protect Atlantic waters from offshore drilling. Register here to participate: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc10Ye\\_9iQ8GRNu4u4GQuxmC3daG88kg\\_OoW0tDHwolbcHNyg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc10Ye_9iQ8GRNu4u4GQuxmC3daG88kg_OoW0tDHwolbcHNyg/viewform)

Many of you are familiar with Interfaith Power & Light, a national organization that has worked for years to support sustainability. Sadly, in the context of a distressing year for climate advocates, the national IPL organization closed due to bankruptcy, cutting off a robust source for information about federal legislation. As a consequence, numerous state-level IPL groups also closed. Very fortunately the NYS affiliate (NYIPL) is a separate entity and continues to do its good work, thanks to its staff having elected to continue unpaid (since COVID). The NYIPL Board chose to remain open as long as congregations, and the NYS climate coalition, continue to request assistance. Learn more about this great organization at <https://newyorkipl.org/>. For more information email [dayenudutchess@gmail.com](mailto:dayenudutchess@gmail.com).



## Purim Pasta “Plus” ~ Food and Hygiene Drive for March



It is Jewish tradition to give gifts of food and to donate to charity on Purim, and it is Vassar Temple tradition always to help our neighbors. In that spirit, please bring a box of pasta to the Purim Spiel on March 2 to shake like a gragger, and then drop it in the collection box to be donated to Dutchess Outreach's food pantry.

Given the increased needs this year, during the month of March we also invite you to bring to the temple Can Jam bin any of the following personal hygiene items which were specially requested by Dutchess Outreach, in addition to your boxes of Purim pasta:

Full size, unopened containers of toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, feminine hygiene products, disposable razors, toilet paper, disposable diapers, baby wipes, body lotion

You can drop boxes of pasta and the other items off in the temple Can Jam bin any time the temple is open. If you must drop off at a different day or time, you can drop off at Marian's home near the Temple—just contact her at [socialaction@vassartemple.org](mailto:socialaction@vassartemple.org). If you would like to donate to Purim Pasta “Plus” but cannot shop, you may make a financial donation to Vassar Temple, designated for the Community Tzedakah Fund, and we will shop for you. Thank you for helping any way you can!

**Marian Schwartz**  
Social Action Chair

**Joel Kelson**  
Can Jam Project Coordinator

## Cemetery News

Our dedicated Cemetery Committee continues to take amazing care of our property needs, with the properties looking better than they have in years. Recently, repairs were completed in the North section of Lagrange Avenue, where one of the oldest horizontal marble slabs had caved in due to collapse of the ground beneath it, causing a safety hazard and potential liability issue.

The Committee maintains a prioritized “wish list” of improvements—beyond the regular monthly maintenance—and plans projects as finances permit. We hope, in the near future, to install a privacy fence in the back of the Lagrange South section (where a row of dead trees was removed, exposing the chain link fence). We are working with Finance and the Board to envision a permanent structure for cemetery maintenance that will leave the actual Cemetery Fund (one of the Special Purpose Funds) for special projects. Donations to the Fund are welcome and so greatly appreciated.

We’re working with Rabbi Stombaugh to re-institute the practice of including worn, unusable sacred texts in burials. This is an honor and mitzvah available to our families who are laying loved ones to rest, separate from the Ritual Texts area previously created.

The new Remembrance Garden surrounding the eternal flame sculpture in front of the synagogue appears to be weathering its first winter successfully, and we look forward to doing additional work in the spring as well as (re)dedicating this feature. Cemetery is taking the lead with this project in collaboration with House and Dayenu; this pollinator-friendly garden takes a positive environmental action.

The first cemetery volunteer days were successful. Our first event saw a successful Lagrange Avenue cleanup. The second gathering occurred at our Route 44 property, where the team did essential pruning around the entrance and had an opportunity to assess what will be needed to make that property ready for member use in the future.

Our next volunteer day is scheduled for Sunday, May 17 at 1pm in the South section of Lagrange Avenue, when we will add decorative shrubs to fill in spaces along the fence (which will not interfere with maintenance or future burials). Watch for publicity about this event. Many hands make light work!

The recently updated Cemetery Policy is now available for viewing on our website. Go to the “Links” tab at the top of the home page to access the document. Please contact [cemetery@vassartemple.org](mailto:cemetery@vassartemple.org) with questions or to get involved.

*Susan Karnes Hecht,*  
Chair

## ATTENTION PARENTS!

### VASSAR TEMPLE SISTERHOOD CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Deadline: March 1**

Vassar Temple Sisterhood offers a stipend of up to \$250 for children of member families to attend Jewish summer camp. There is a limit of one scholarship per family per year. Preference is given to first-time applicants, but past awardees are encouraged to apply.

The student is expected to complete a project about the camp experience (i.e. video, poster or other creative presentation) to be shared with the congregation.

To apply for this scholarship, email [sisterhood@vassartemple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassartemple.org) for a copy of the application and return the completed application via email or snail mail to Sisterhood’s attention at the temple. The deadline is March 1st for summer 2026.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE *Jewish Talk!*

Since the first exile of our ancestors 27 centuries ago, we Jews have found ourselves settling, often unwillingly, in many parts of the world. These dislocations brought forth a number of new languages—often based upon the language of the prevailing culture, with Hebrew vocabulary added.

How many Jewish languages besides Hebrew can you name? Probably Yiddish and Ladino, sure. (Except that Ladino is really a dialect of Spanish, not a separate language—because speakers of Spanish and Ladino can understand each other.)

The closest living language to Hebrew is Aramaic, which you use when you say the Kaddish or sing Had Gadya at your seder. Aramaic is also spoken by modern Assyrians, who identify themselves as Syriacs, Chaldeans, or Arameans.

But there are many others. Mostly the parent language provided the structure, and Hebrew words were added. Some are still living languages, spoken by parents to their children. These include Judeo-Arabic, which has numerous sub-variants, Judeo-Persian, Judeo-Italian, and Judeo-Malayalam and Judeo-Marathi from India.

A Jewish language native to the Dutch Caribbean is Judaeo-Papiamentu. That endangered language is spoken by the Sephardic Jewish community of Curacao, where Papiamentu is a Spanish-based creole.

There are more Jewish languages—check Wikipedia—but my question to you is, which one would you like to help save from extinction by learning it?

*Rabbi Shoshana Hantman*

*Religious School Director*



## Tu B'Shevat Seder Sunday, February 1 at 10am Social Hall

Please join us for a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a joyful celebration of the New Year of the Trees. Together we will enjoy symbolic fruits, wine (or grape juice), songs, and activities, and a light lunch to celebrate the beauty of the earth and our responsibility to care for it. No prior experience necessary, just bring your curiosity and your spirit.

All are welcome.

Please RSVP to [ritual@vassartemple.org](mailto:ritual@vassartemple.org). Please let us know if you can volunteer to bring a dairy potluck lunch item to share, or if you can assist with set-up or clean up.



## SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Submitted by Judy Rosenfeld

**Hamantaschen** *(Please note: this recipe is for bake-at-home Hamantaschen. The recipe for dough for the Hamantaschen Baking Day is on page 4.)*

### Ingredients

- 4 cups sifted all-purpose white flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 tablespoons milk or orange juice
- Pastry fillings of your choice i.e. "Solo" brand poppy, prune, apricot, etc.

### Instructions

- Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt.
- Cream butter and sugar, add egg and vanilla and beat well.
- Add dry ingredients alternately with milk or juice, mixing until well-blended. Refrigerate.
- Roll out dough with minimal flouring to 1/8-inch thickness.
- Cut into circles about 3 inches in diameter and place on cookie sheet. Use parchment paper, a non-stick pan or oil the pan lightly. (Used filling cans, opened at both ends and washed, make perfect circles.)
- Put no more than a teaspoon of filling in the center of each circle. (This is deceptive – it doesn't look like much filling, but if you use more than a teaspoon the filling will leak out.)
- Fold up three sides of the circle to create a triangle and gently press together edges. The filling should show in the middle.
- Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 10 minutes or until slightly golden in color.



The dough freezes well and can be made ahead. Leave it in the refrigerator to thaw overnight.

### Our condolences to:

The family of Erica Krause, mother of Shaari Roland

The family of Sara Efron, cousin of Susan Karnes

The family of Shirley Perry, mother of Carol Strauss

Calling all Hockey Fans—February 22 at 5pm ~ UBS Arena, Elmont, New York



If you would like to be part of a group/car pool attending the USA Challenge Cup on February 22nd—please reach out to [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org)

Hockey Club Tel Aviv vs. Jerusalem Capitals

## VTs Book Club to Read *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell



In 1580's England, during the Black Plague a young Latin tutor falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family's land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.

A luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a tender and unforgettable re-imagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, and whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays of all time, *Hamnet* is a mesmerizing, seductive read, impossible to put down. (Amazon)

**Discussion of this book will be on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 2pm, in-person at the Collegeview Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie.**

All are welcome. For questions, please contact [bookclub@vassartemple.org](mailto:bookclub@vassartemple.org).



**Join us for Chai Noon Luncheon**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

Sugar & Spice Café,  
 2600 South Road, POK, NY 12601

RSVP: [chai@vassartemple.org](mailto:chai@vassartemple.org)

Separate checks as usual






**JEWELRY SPECIAL AT THE JUDAICA SHOP THROUGH  
 FEBRUARY ~ ALL PIECES ARE \$10**

## Our Elected Officials Work for Us!

Do you ever wonder about the roles and responsibilities of our local elected officials? If so, please join us for the 2026 Civic Engagement Programs. Come with your questions to our Town-Hall meetings with local elected officials to learn more about the different branches of our local community officials and why voting in all elections matters.

The next program will feature Mayor Yvonne Flowers and Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards on Sunday, February 22 from 3-5pm. It is an opportunity for our officials to know our Jewish Community and to remind them about Vassar Temple's dedication to the wider community.



### Future programs include:

Dutchess Family Court Judge the Honorable Jeffrey C. Martin on Sunday, March 8 from 3-5pm.



Legislative Panel featuring Chair Yvette Valdes Smith and a bi-partisan panel of county legislators



## SUSTAINING FUND

### In Memory of:

Arlene Loshin  
Shirley Kaskowitz  
Robert Joseph & Jeanette Bergman  
Leo Lederer  
Donald L. Goldfarb, MD  
Martin Lowenthal  
Gloria Schwartz  
Edward B. Goldstein  
Murray Solomon, Sandor Jay Margolin,  
Esther Frances & Paul S. Goldberg  
Dr. Simon Riechman  
Svetlana Beckerman  
Ethel Graves, Delbert LaLone, & Milli Gould  
Irving M. Rosenthal  
Evelyn S. Kahn  
Joan Plotsky & Cynthia Blumenthal  
Harry Mamis, Kurt Similes  
& Katherine Lerner Mamis

**In Honor of:** Irma Jacobs' Birthday

## RABBI RENNI ALTMAN TORAH FUND

**In Honor of:** Rabbi Emerita Renni Altman

## CEMETERY FUND

### In Memory of:

Hanna Lederer

### In Honor of:

Susan & David Hecht

## RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

### In Honor of:

Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh

## COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

### Souper Sale

### In Memory of:

Murray Solomon

## ENDOWMENT FUND

## TREE OF LIFE

## LUNCH BOX FUND

### In Honor of:

Barbara Scheer's 95th Birthday

Bernard C. Backer & Family

Donna Loshin  
Hilary & Lewis Wrobel  
The Chernack Family  
The Reifer/Lederer Family  
Michael G. Goldfarb  
Roni & Charles Stein  
Ralph Schwartz  
The Friedman Family

Lisa-Sue & Kurt Quackenbush  
Vivian & Ed Garber  
Elena & Sophia Collins  
Jane LaLalone  
Charlene & Loren Rosenthal  
Muriel Lampell  
Beth Plotsky & Family

Sandra Mamis  
Fran Jacobs & Family

Marian Schwartz

The Reifer/Lederer Family

Marian Schwartz

Marian Schwartz

Irma R. Jacobs  
Judy & Eric Rosenfeld  
Shirl Davis-Susser & Howard Susser  
Vivian & Ed Garber

Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Ellie & Martin Charwat  
Adriaan & Sam Finnerman

Rabbi Paul Golomb

Muriel Lampell



# CONTRIBUTIONS



**February 6, 2026**

Rabbi Marcus Kramer  
 Susan Matlin  
 Gertrude Rothstein  
 Vernon Leslie Brundage  
 Harriet Fein  
 Paul M. Schwartz, MD  
 Harold Devorsetz  
 Jacqueline Sydney Colodner  
 Alfred Schneider  
 Jane Kramer  
 Jeanette Bergman  
 Blanche Migdal  
 Martha Held  
 Dorothy Parish  
 Dr. M. Alden Weingart  
 Evelyn Slote Kahn  
 Leo Livingston  
 Efrem Dlugacz  
 Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr  
 Lillian Geber  
 Morris "Moe" Gilbert

**February 13, 2026**

Aaron Estrin  
 Mary Hyman  
 Evelyn Brown  
 Samuel Warshaw  
 Leon Alpers  
 Reuben Wiseman  
 Timothy Creedon  
 Harold Robinowitz  
 Theodore Garber  
 Sandor Jay Margolin  
 Armand H. Newman  
 Owen J. Sacks  
 Joseph Drobner  
 Gary M. Zimmer  
 Jon Franklin Katz  
 Arlene Loshin  
 Eleanor Buxbaum  
 Leo Lederer  
 Herman Kraut  
 Lillian Feldman  
 Evelyn Bersak  
 Marjorie Rubin Brody  
 Julia Tebordo  
 Sondra Chertock  
 William Hyman  
 Jules H. Lippmann  
 Lawrence Edell

Sidney I. Love  
 Jarrod Harrington  
 Blanche Fertig  
 Goldie Abraskin  
 Jacob Greenberg  
 Mary R. Scheer  
 Frieda Reifler  
 Rosanne Weber  
 Allen Fink  
 Jacob Erdreich, DMD  
 Henrietta Greenberg  
 Louise S. Rosen

**February 20, 2026**

Stanley Soirefman  
 Harry Lashinsky  
 Celia Frank  
 Rose Kahn  
 Louis Kovacs  
 Ida Scope  
 David Charles Albert  
 Dr. Irma Koltai  
 Bernard A. Miller  
 Vladimir M. Konheim, MD  
 Sylvia Cantor  
 Robert Toroker  
 Anne Alpers  
 Alec Stall  
 Julie McGaulley  
 Catherine Peluse  
 Evelyn Soifer  
 Walter L. Mock  
 Wendy E. Newman  
 David Haber  
 Mara Tartack  
 Milton Rauh  
 Robert Joseph  
 Ida Baskin Schwartz  
 David Stephen Satz  
 Mary Sparks Solomon  
 Irving Fink  
 Stanton Lipschutz  
 Theresa E. Ryan  
 Peter Luttinger  
 Stuart Alpers  
 Esther Frances Goldberg  
 Paul S. Goldberg

**February 27, 2026**

Morris Levine  
 Cynthia Blumenthal  
 Herman Rosenberg  
 Hinda Lessin  
 Irving M. Bloch  
 Ruth Levitt  
 Shirley Kaskowitz  
 Harry Lewis  
 Fannie Kagank  
 Gloria Fischman  
 Ida Klein  
 Milton Kramer  
 Michael Rothenberg  
 Dr. Vito J. Ciminello  
 Shirley E. Reifler  
 Matilda Banckek  
 Morris Haas  
 Frances Lewis  
 Francesca Vadersen  
 Lena Lath  
 Betty Ewen

# February Yahrzeits





## Vassar Temple Sisterhood

Vassar Temple Sisterhood is a rewarding group of sisters to be among. Many of us find the group enriching in friendship, projects, and assisting Vassar Temple.

I am currently the Vassar Temple Sisterhood President for the third year, which is usually a two-year term. *But who is counting?* The position as President is fulfilling in many ways; personal growth, community building, and spirituality.

***But as of July 1, 2026, I will be stepping down from my role as Vassar Temple Sisterhood President.***

This past year I arranged:

- Salad Dinner in June of 2025
- Monthly calendar of events, with members stepping up to run these events
- New events were also added this year to create interest

The President position can be run as a sole President or as a team (Co-Presidents; you and a friend).

The length of service can be a 6-month term, 3-month term, or a full year or two.

This is an easy task where one guides upcoming events and addresses issues of past years. As President the role is to remind members of upcoming events and get the ball rolling. Then they run on cruise control.

One thing I must say is that I have gained a lot of sisters over the years. I have had the opportunity to meet many people in temple and in the community. The WRJ Eastern Division has been a great guide over the last two/three years. One gets to work with other Eastern States as well as the Canadian WRJ for idea sharing and team building. Most meetings are done on Zoom or via telephone.

Over the years Sisterhood has been responsible for many temple updates/improvements including replacing the forgotten window in the kitchen, purchasing a new refrigerator for the kitchen, contributing money for the new windows in the Sanctuary, chairs, tables, tablecloths and more. All of this is accomplished by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood members as a whole and not the President.

We all have different strengths to share to make Vassar Temple Sisterhood successful. Share your time, creativity, and just lend a hand without being asked. Maybe your strength is running a meeting, sharing a special recipe, working with younger children, running an auction, or creating a craft. Please step up and let us know what interests you can contribute as a sister of Vassar Temple Sisterhood.

Sincerely,

*Polly Lewis*

Vassar Temple Sisterhood

# Calendar of Events—February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Tu BiShvat Eve 9am Religious School  10am Tu BiShvat Seder  10:30am Lunch Box   2pm Purim Spiel Meeting	<b>2</b> Tu BiShvat  <i>Tu B'Shvat</i> 7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>5</b> 7pm Ritual CMTE	<b>6</b> 7pm Shabbat Service	<b>7</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths Service
<b>8</b> Hamantaschen Baking Day  9am Religious School  10am Tu BiShvat Seder (snow date)  11am Tiny Temple	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12pm Wise Aging  4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7pm Shabbat Service	<b>14</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am Shabbat Morning Service
<b>15</b> No Religious School  2:30pm Purim Spiel Song Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Office Closed Presidents' Day 	<b>17</b> 7pm Finance CMTE	<b>18</b> 12pm Chai Noon at Sugar & Spice  2pm VTS Book Club  4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7pm Shabbat Service	<b>21</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am New Paths Service
<b>22</b> Hamantaschen Baking Day (snow day) 9am Religious School  3pm Civic Engagement Poughkeepsie Mayor & Town Supervisor	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 3pm Development CMTE	<b>25</b> 4:30pm Hebrew School	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Shelter Meal  7pm VT Board	<b>27</b> 7pm Shabbat Service	<b>28</b> 9am Torah Study  10:15am Shabbat Morning Service



## Hanukkah 2025



**Rabbi:** Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh  
**Cantor:** Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann  
**Rabbi Emerita:** Rabbi Renni Altman  
**Senior Scholar:** Rabbi Paul Colomb  
**Rabbi Emeritus:** Rabbi Stephen A. Arnold  
**Religious School Director:** Rabbi Shoshana Hantman  
**Temple Musician:** Joseph Bertolozzi  
**President:** Roni Stein  
**1st Vice President:** Seth Lederer  
**2nd Vice President:** Gail D'Alessio  
**Secretary:** Marcia Tanzman  
**Treasurer:** Maxine Finkelstein  
**Sisterhood President:** Polly Lewis  
**Brotherhood Co-Presidents:**  
Paul Ciminello  
Kurt Quackenbush  
Daniel Scherrer  
**Immediate Past President:** Lisa-Sue Quackenbush  
**Bulletin Editor:** Jo Schaffel

Vassar Temple Bulletin is published monthly.



Articles for the March Bulletin must be submitted by February 10 sent via email to [publicity@vassartemple.org](mailto:publicity@vassartemple.org). The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.

Vassar Temple  
140 Hooker Avenue  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845.454.2570

[www.vassartemple.org](http://www.vassartemple.org)

