



Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

Congregation Brethren of Israel, Founded 1848—Bulletin Volume 174 No. 8 ~ March 2026

IT'S BACK!

VASSAR TEMPLE FIRST NIGHT SEDER

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 | Vassar Temple Social Hall

140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

5:30 PM: All-Ages Service | Dinner to Follow

Led by Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh

Join us for a meaningful, welcoming, and fun evening of ritual, storytelling, laughter, and connection

Enjoy a festive kosher-style Passover meal featuring:

Matzah Ball soup • Appetizers • Entrée (chicken, fish, or vegetarian)

• Herbed vegetables • Passover desserts

• wine, juice & soft drinks included

Open to temple members, family & friends,
as well as everyone in the community are invited to attend

Adults \$54 | Teens \$18 | Kids \$7 | Under 5 Free

RSVP by March 20

Payment confirms your reservation. Check, cash or credit cards accepted.

Details & registration: vassartemple.org/seder-2026

If you have specific dietary or kashrut questions, or any other concern,
we welcome you to reach out in advance to:

Email: seder@vassartemple.org Phone: (914) 456-3524

Financial assistance available upon request

Space is limited — reserve early

From the Rabbi's Desk: *Increasing Joy*



Judaism believes that joy should be accessible. And yet, joy often feels anything but. We enter the month of Adar which started on February 18 and runs through most of March. The Mishnah teaches:

“When the month of Av enters, we decrease joy.
When the month of Adar enters, we increase joy.”
(*Taanit 29a*)

Av is the month of destruction and mourning, the holiday of Tisha B'Av. Adar is the month of Purim—costumes, laughter, and feasting. The rabbis seem to imagine that joy is a volume knob. When tragedy looms, turn it down. When celebration arrives,

turn it up.

But that's not how the human heart works.

Some days joy feels natural—at a birthday, a simcha, a long-awaited phone call with good news. Other days it feels inaccessible or even inappropriate. The weight of the news cycles, the strain of daily life, the quiet battles we face with family or within ourselves; these do not evaporate just because the calendar tells us it's time to be happy!

So what could it possibly mean to “increase joy?” What are the rabbis really instructing us to do? They are not naive nor insensitive to the realities of daily living, or the weight of a heavy world.

One answer, I believe, is that Jewish joy is not the same thing as happiness. Many of you will remember Rabbi Alan Lew, whose book *This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared* we've studied together. He writes:

“When we speak of joy here, we are not speaking of fun. Joy is a deep release of the soul... any moment of our life fully inhabited, any feeling fully felt, can be the source of deep joy.”

Here, joy is not denial of pain or pretending the world is simpler than it is. Joy is the willingness to inhabit our lives fully—to feel deeply; to be honest and open the chambers of our hearts that hold grief with the ones that hold gratitude.

In that light, maybe the Mishnah's instruction makes more sense. To “increase joy” in Adar is not to force ourselves to be cheerier. It is to practice openness. To risk presence. To lean into honest connection rather than retreat into isolation.

The Jewish tradition deeply believes that isolation is an antagonist to joy. Adar arrives at a moment in the Jewish calendar when we are invited into festivities, megillah readings, gifts of food, acts of generosity. These are our ancient tools to combat the cold of loneliness. They are embodied practices that help us access joy by giving it! Through community, through play, through giving, through gathering.

Joy can be accessible when we seek to share it.

And perhaps that is the deeper wisdom of this season: joy is not something we wait to feel. It is something we make happen. To increase joy is to increase participation in life.

As we move through this month of Adar, I invite you to ask yourself:

Where can I open my heart a little wider?
Where can I lean into community rather than withdraw?
Where can I allow myself to feel fully—even if what I feel is complicated?

May this season help us turn toward one another with courage, with honesty, and yes—with deeper joy.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh

President's Message:



Well, do you have your costume ready? Purim will be here soon on March 2! We will be having our Purim pasta dinner sponsored by Brotherhood, and our Purim service including the whole Megillah! And thanks to Sisterhood, a tasty selection of Hamantaschen. See you there! A shout out also to temple members who pitched in on baking day and the religious school students who did a great job.

If you have attended or have been meaning to attend the Civic Engagement series, there are more dates this month to meet your elected officials. This is a great opportunity to hear about what they are doing in their positions and for them to hear from their constituents. It is important for all of us to be aware and for elected officials to know about our concerns and positive feedback too. This series is good for all ages and could be very enlightening for school age children learning about elected officials and government.

Something new is happening... Sisterhood is having a High Tea on March 15. It will be a fundraiser for the Sisterhood kitchen fund. We have a new refrigerator! Keep an eye out for details. There is also a new Knitting/Crocheting group meeting on Tuesdays at 10am called Knit Wits; all levels are welcome and it is free.

Also, if you need Passover wine, the temple is doing the annual fundraiser through Kedem winery. My order includes Kedem gefilte fish; I'm picky. So, check your needs and put in that order. Vassar Temple benefits as well. Passover is early this year, starting April 1 and that's no joke!

Over time the board of trustees looks at what is going on at temple and how things are doing; are things going as planned? What needs a second look? I thought about one of several Sisterhood trips to WRJ events. A few years ago, four members of Sisterhood, including myself, attended a Kallah sponsored by the WRJ-Northeast Region. We focused on learning and networking with area Sisterhoods. It went very well. Some Sisterhoods were surprised at how busy we are with being a small congregation. The Vassar Temple congregation is always trying to accomplish whatever it sees as important to temple life, and it sometimes is a lot! With all of the committees and activities, the calendar and the volunteers can be very busy. It can create stress at times, but you then look at what works or what has to be changed or let go. Overall, most things work due to one of the most dedicated congregations I know. WRJ-NE has a conference this month and whether our Sisterhood can attend this year or not, skills were learned that can be used for Sisterhood and the temple board, as well.

As I write this, we have learned of the passing of Cecile Arnold, wife of Vassar Temple Rabbi Emeritus, Stephen Arnold. Cecile was a woman of great kindness and a mentor and friend to so many at temple. She will always be in our thoughts, woven into the fabric of Vassar Temple.

As I close, check out the rest of the bulletin and see you soon!

Roni Stein

Shabbat Yeladim is for Your Kiddo!

I'm so excited to share our new Shabbat Yeladim schedule with you!

Shabbat Yeladim is a Jewish space for wiggles, music, stories, and the kind of Shabbat joy that might just get everyone to nap time—or a good *Shabbos shluff*.

- If your child is in diapers and happiest in a stroller listening to music—and it works with nap time—we want you there.
- If your kiddo is in preschool, kindergarten, first, or second grade, this space is especially for you.
- If your kiddo is in third or fourth grade—or a proud big sibling—you are absolutely welcome too.

Yeladim means “children” in Hebrew, and we mean that with intention: young children at the center, families all around them, and a community celebrating Shabbat with music, movement, and joy.

There is nothing we sing, learn, or do that isn't meant to be accessible—from our littlest learners to grown-ups and grand-grown-ups alike.

I can't wait to see you and your family and to celebrate Shabbat together in a way that feels joyful, warm, and full of life.

Snacks will be provided after each service. Please don't forget to RSVP office@vassartemple.org or 845.454.2570 so we can plan accordingly.

Warmly,
Rabbi Jeff

Shabbat Yeladim Dates

- March 21
- March 28
- April 4
- April 18
- May 2
- May 9
- May 23



Healing Service March 14

A Healing Service, led by Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann of Vassar Temple, will be held Saturday, March 14 at 10:15am. This beautiful service is designed for anyone praying for healing of the body, soul or spirit for themselves, for others, for caregivers, and for anyone, for any reason, in need of spiritual strength. The service will include prayers, reflections and songs that focus on healing and on Shabbat. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend the service, which will be hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). For the Zoom link, watch temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org.

March Scriptural Readings

March 7

Ki Tisa

Exodus 30:11-34:35; Ezekiel 36:22-36

March 14

Vayak'heil-P'kudei

Exodus 35:1-40:38; Ezekiel 45:16-25

March 21

Vayikra

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

March 28

Tzav

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

Vassar Temple Study Groups

Torah Study with the Temple's Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh Saturday mornings at 9am (hybrid). Join our lively discussions. To be placed on the Torah Study email list contact office@vassartemple.org.

Talmud Study with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb on Zoom two Mondays a month from noon to 1:30pm. Contact him at pjgolomb@verizon.net to be placed on the Talmud Study email list and receive the study sheets.

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

New Paths

This month we'll gather for New Paths Sabbath morning services at 10:15am Saturdays, March 7 and 21 (both hybrid). The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may bring supplemental materials to share.

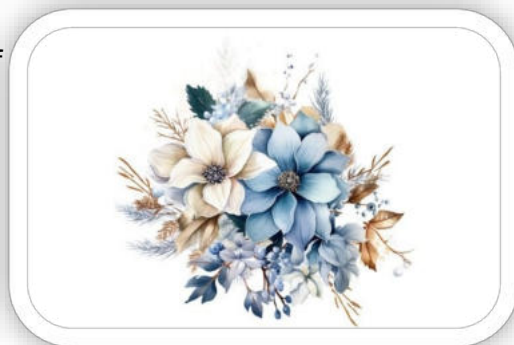
"We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service."

Each New Paths service, whether lay-led or rabbi-led, provides a unique and thoughtful, spiritually-oriented Shabbat morning experience. A brief informal kiddush follows. Contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570 to be put on the New Paths e-mail list, if you need the Zoom link, or to borrow our special prayer book if

Bimah Flowers for our Services March 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.



March 2026 Bimah Flowers Sponsors:

- March 6: Sisterhood (dried arrangement)
- March 13: Sisterhood (dried arrangement)
- March 20: Sandra Mamis in memory of Harry Mamis, Kurt Similes and Katherine Lerner Mamis
- March 27: Martin Noble in memory of Erica Robbins and Martin Noble, Sr.

Vassar Temple's Annual Kedem Passover Sale



Vassar Temple is once again sponsoring a Kedem Winery sale for the holiday with a huge variety of Kedem and other kosher labels at a range of price points. Juices, gefilte fish, olive oil and vinegar are also available. Shop from the convenience of your home! Orders and payment are due by March 13. This is a hard deadline! Your order will be at the temple by March 25 or sooner. If you need assistance, we can arrange delivery. The complete list and order form is available on the temple website, at the temple and a link in the weekly newsletters.

Contact fundraising@vassartemple.org with questions.

SAVE THE DATE: Installation Service for Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh at Vassar Temple
Friday, April 17, 2026 at 7pm

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, complete the application and email it to sisterhood@vassartemple.org or mail it to Sisterhood's attention at the temple. The deadline is March 1 for summer 2026. You can contact Sisterhood at that address to be provided with a copy of the application.

Vassar Temple Endowment

The Vassar Temple Endowment is literally "inches" from reaching its goal of \$500,000. With the recent receipt of a very generous anonymous donation, the endowment has now reached 96% of its goal. What still needs to be done? To those of you who had indicated that you were ready to pledge, *now is the time* to do so. To those of you who have been holding off making a commitment, take the plunge. It will feel good to join the dozens of other Temple members who have already pledged. By the time this article is published Purim may have begun. Many of us look forward to celebrating this holiday and remembering how the Jewish people were saved from destruction by the bravery of Mordechai and Esther. Their willingness to risk their lives for the safety of their people was the stuff of legend. We are not asking you to make any such sacrifice: merely to dig a little deep and help to provide for the future financial stability of the Temple you call home. We need you!!

*Martin Charwat and Lou Lewis,
Co-chairs, Vassar Temple Endowment*

HIAS Refugee Shabbat ~ March 13, 7pm

HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) is an international Jewish humanitarian nonprofit organization, based on traditional Jewish values, that provides support services to refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced people. It was established in 1881 to assist Jewish immigrants, with offices on Ellis Island; perhaps HIAS assisted some of your ancestors. During the 1970's the U.S. government asked HIAS to lend its expertise and aid in resettling Vietnamese refugees in the USA, and since that time HIAS has taken on the mission of helping refugees of all nationalities, religions and ethnic origins, in fact aiding 4.5 million immigrants since its inception.

On March 13, the eighth annual HIAS Refugee Shabbat affords us the opportunity to learn more about this organization and its still timely vital mission of welcoming the stranger, protecting the refugee. During the 7pm Shabbat evening service on March 13 at Vassar Temple, a panel of local experts will share the realities of the current immigrant/refugee situation as it exists in the Hudson Valley today. The panel will include Valerie Carlisle, Muriel Horowitz, Beverly Kaufman, and Berta Forester, a native of Mexico who is now a U.S. citizen. All four panelists are connected to the local chapter of Reunite Migrant Families/Grannies Respond, and work directly with local immigrants in many capacities.

The Shabbat service, including the panel discussion, will be hybrid; watch weekly Temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org if you need the Zoom link. For those attending in person, there will be an oneg following the service. For further information please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.



**REFUGEE
SHABBAT**
a project of **HIAS**

Thank You Bakers!

It wasn't a snowy baking day, but it was definitely a really cold one. Fortunately for all of us baking hamantaschen at the temple it was nice and warm inside.

For me, the biggest thing that makes Sisterhood Hamantaschen Baking Day so special every year is that so many people of all ages participate. From the very youngest, the PJ Library families that joined with our Tiny Temple, to all the Religious School classes, to members of Sisterhood and Brotherhood, all ages were well represented.

There are so many different tasks that need to happen so that we can all enjoy the delicious hamantaschen. Many people made dough from the recipe given to us many years ago by Cecile Arnold (z"l), wife of our Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Stephen Arnold. On Baking Day people were busy in the kitchen and Social Hall rolling, filling, sorting and plating lots and lots of hamantaschen—some of which to be enjoyed on Purim and the rest delivered as outreach to some of our temple members.

There were lots of children in the Social Hall happily rolling and filling hamantaschen along with adults enjoying their enthusiasm while sitting at tables filling and shaping the dough as others sorted all the baked hamantaschen and made plates for our outreach deliveries. In the kitchen a dedicated crew rolled out all the doughs and cut them into well over 1,000 circles so that they could be filled and shaped. Trays were constantly going in and out of the new oven, and somehow Micah Modell and Marcia Tanzman, our oven masters extraordinaire, kept on top of everything and made sure that they didn't burn.

It will never cease to amaze me how well everything comes together every year so that we can make the quantity of hamantaschen that we do in just one morning. Through the efforts of so many people our annual Hamantaschen Baking Day was another huge success! A big thank you to Stephanie Belsky, Laura Brundage, Cathy Bokor, Andi and Paul Ciminello, Susan Colodner, Sandy Cornell, Maddy D'Angelo, Melissa Erlebacher, Susan Fink, Suzy Garcia, Susan Hecht, Francine Kaplan, Kim Karitis, Ellie Krevolin, Marilyn Lampell, Polly Lewis, Micah and Maverick Modell, Lisa-Sue Quackenbush, Jodi Reifer, Ron Rosen, Lisa Rubenstein, Arlene and Gil Seligman, George Silverstein, Laura Sperling, Roni Stein, Adi Steiner, Marcia Tanzman, Jenny Ward, Lew Wrobel and Nadine Zaritsky. Also, I would never want to not recognize someone who has helped us, but with so many volunteers and so much going on it's quite possible that I did. Please know that everyone's efforts were appreciated and it was just an oversight.



Judy Rosenfeld

*Sisterhood Hamantaschen
Baking Day Chair*

SISTERHOOD RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Submitted by Sandra Mamis

Vegetarian Chile

“A chance to express your creativity!” Sandra says the following are the basic ingredients and procedures, but can be adjusted to one’s personal taste, leaving out some items or including your own options.

- Begin by sauteing diced onions, diced carrots, celery, red/green and yellow peppers in a small amount of olive oil until soft but not mushy.
- Add spices such as sweet paprika, turmeric, chili powder and some cumin.
- To these sauteed vegetables, add vegetable broth and the following vegetables (remember, it’s your choice of vegetables and seasonings):
 - ◆ Vegetarian Boston baked beans, simmered in molasses
 - ◆ Kidney beans – dark and light red
 - ◆ Black beans
 - ◆ Cannellini beans
 - ◆ Diced potatoes
 - ◆ Plant-based “meat” crumbles
 - ◆ Tomato paste
- Simmer gently – and when done, serve with shredded cheese, sour cream and chips.



Purim Pasta “Plus” ~ Food and Hygiene Drive

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. You can also bring the pasta in before the Purim event or any time through March (unfortunately there is always hunger in our community).



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 simply 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.

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, notation “for Purim,” and we will shop for you. Please e-mail us at socialaction@vassartemple.org to alert us to shop for you. Thank you, all, for helping any way you can!

Marian Schwartz

Social Action Chair

Joel Kelson

Can Jam Project Coordinator

Religious School Update

At least in the northern hemisphere, there's been a long tradition in many cultures of having a crazy end-of-winter celebration – a cabin-fevered response that preschoolers call, “Shake your sillies out.”



In ancient Rome, the Saturnalia festival, complete with feasts and games, inverted the social order: slaves did not work, and were treated as equals. In Greek myth, Persephone was kidnapped to the underworld, and her angry mother Ceres, goddess of agriculture, inflicted the famine of winter, before negotiating a compromise where Persephone could return to her for half the year – giving earth the warm months, and end-of-winter joy.

In the Roman Catholic church, Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, has always been a boisterous blowout just before the serious forty-day period of Lent.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, where I come from, descendants of German-speaking immigrants, including the Amish and Mennonites, celebrate Groundhog Day with far more than just weather predictions. There are feasts and “*g’spiels*” – plays or skits cognate with our Purim *shpiels* – and at these festivities, only the Pennsylvania German dialect is permitted – if you speak English, you’re fined a coin!

All of these stem from consciousness of life coming up from within the ground as spring approaches.

So it’s not only us Jews who go nuts in late winter.

Happy Purim!

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman
Religious School Director

VASSAR TEMPLE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES, Sundays 3-5pm

- March 8: Family Court Judge Jeffrey C. Martin, moderated by Rhinebeck Town Justice Lisa Rubenstein (long-standing VT member)
- March 22: Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers & Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards
- March 29: State Senator Rob Rolison, Assemblymembers Jonathan Jacobson and Didi Barrett
- April 12: Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair
- April 26: Dutchess County Legislative Panel featuring Chair Yvette Valdes Smith, Majority Leader Barrington R. Atkins and Minority Leader Michael Polasek. Panel will be moderated by Legislator and Chair of Family and Human Services Committee Emma Arnoff (long-standing VT member)

Social Action Thank You

Thanks to your generous donations to the Souper Sale and Baby Shower, we were able to help provide for those in need in our community through Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership's four food pantries, and Reunite Migrant Families/Grannies Respond's baby shower and food distributions. And we were able to send two large cartons of stuffed animals to Ukrainian refugee children being housed in Europe (most of whom are Jewish). Here is the response we got—it speaks for itself:

"The stuffed animals. They were a hit. The red one with a heart I gave to Misha an 11-year-old who wets his bed and has nightmares of driving away seeing his Dad shot between his eyes, and their home being burnt down. He thinks his Dad went in to save the home and is alive. He is walking around with the red stuff bear with a heart. All of them were given out. They were very happy. Thank you."

Marian Schwartz

Social Action Chair

socialaction@vassartemple.org

Lights! Camera! Purim! ~ Monday, March 2

Dinner 5:45pm in the Social Hall

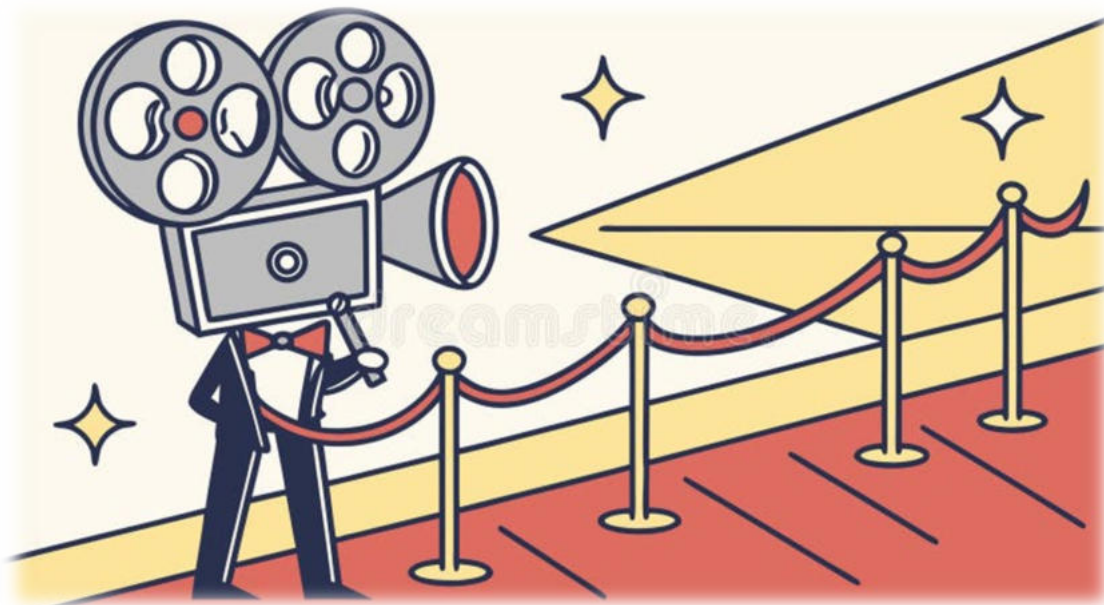
Megillah reading, music, and spiel at 7pm in the Sanctuary

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 for the dinner by February 25.



SUSTAINING FUND

In Memory of:

Annemarie Teutsch
Erica Robins
Elaine Mayer
Esther G. Rheingold & Herman Jacobs
Bettina Del Vescovo & Ann R. Margolin
Jacqueline Sydney Colodner
Anne Alpers, Leon Alpers, Stuart Alpers,
Gabrielle Creedon Soroka, Timothy Creedon,
Jarrod Creedon Harrington, Leo Livingston &
Virginia Newman Livingston
Anne Lacher & Philip Lacher
Dr. Paul Koltai
Eli Mamis
Sadie Lieberman
George Freeman
Tessie, Tobias, Sheldon, Cora, Michael & Alan Solomon
Clara Levy Ribbi
Harriet Kaskowitz
Milton Levitt

In Appreciation of:

Jeffrey Polisky, DVM

LUNCH BOX FUND

CAPITAL FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

Cecile Arnold

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of:

Shirley Perry & Cecile Arnold

YOUTH PROGRAMMING & EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of:

Shirley Perry

Milton Heilweil

COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH FUND

LILA MATLIN TECHNOLOGY FUND

In Honor of:

David Lampell's 75th Birthday

Doi Cohen
Martin Noble
Gloria & Thomas Mayer
Irma Jacobs
The Quackenbush Family
Susan Colodner

Judy & Bob Creedon
Maury Lacher
Cathy Bokor
Sandra Mamis
The Friedman Family
David Ellicot
Varda Solomon
Perla & Charles Kaufman
Hilary & Lewis Wrobel
Ellen Zelig

Sandra Mamis

Susan Fink

Maxine Finkelstein

Susan Fink
Anonymous

Doi Cohen
Linda & Richard Cantor

Susan Fink

Francine Kaplan
Susan & David Hecht
Shelley & Steven Turk
Mindy & Martin Teich

Rabbi Renni Altman & Richard Wender
Marian & Ralph Schwartz
Cathy Boker

Janet Lampell Aronson & Karen Lampell Elliot



CONTRIBUTIONS

March 6, 2026

Mildred Gould
 Victor Fein
 Samuel Karnes
 Saul Marks
 Frank Devan
 Irving M. Rosenthal
 Irving Schechtman
 Lila Matlin
 Rose Landau
 Gilbert Feinman
 Geraldine N. Leeds
 Howard Perry
 Norman Steinberg
 Rae Jacobs Rauh Brown
 Miriam Genshaft
 Rabbi Robert Rozenberg
 Gertrude Silverman
 Esther G. Rheingold
 Edward B. Goldstein
 Phyllis Marilyn Ritter
 Tessie Turk
 Morris Lessin

March 13, 2026

Sonya Markovitch
 Idane Evan Salenger
 Vawn Jennifer Salenger
 Gertrude M. Plimack
 A. Alfred Podell, MD
 Bee Plimack
 Ralph Partridge
 Dr. Simon Riechman
 June Heiser Shub
 Morris Abraskin
 Silvia Domes
 Meyer Harold Bagun
 Dr. Louis Shub
 Kaye Roth
 Lewis Acker
 Howard Smith
 Gloria Schwartz
 Svetlana Beckerman
 Ethel Graves
 Bettina DelVescovo
 Belle Weiss
 Fred Lehman
 Reuben Temlock
 Sara Leslie Goldman Fite
 Max Solomon

March 20, 2026

Louis D. Dampf
 Meyer A. Wolfson
 Judith Newman
 Esther Temlock
 Lillian Schwarz
 Lena Baskin
 Scott Buxbaum
 Harry Mamis
 Elaine Mayer
 Ann R. Margolin
 Bruce Weber
 Pearl Bettigole Goldberg
 Eli Gellert
 Mary Ann Robinowitz
 Kurt Similes
 Sarah Singer
 Gary Feder
 Michael Feder
 Gary Schischa
 Erwin Schischa
 Katherine Lerner Mamis
 Claire Sherwin
 Gwendolyn Harlam
 Ruth Kovacs
 Matalie Hamburg
 Mae Miller Klampert
 Annemarie Teutsch

March 27, 2026

Elsie H. Albert
 Etta Simon Podret
 Benjamin Clarfeld
 Herman Jacobs
 Fannie Berlin
 Lee Rosenthal
 Martin L. Lowenthal
 Harold Rosen
 David Jordan
 Kathi Winchok
 Harvey Kaflowitz
 Erica Robbins
 Chris Brown
 Patricia Adler
 Esta Feder
 Chanie Solomon
 Betty Mead
 Thelie Selzer
 Zoey Rachel Gillman
 Rose Baum Kraut
 William M. Rothstein

March YAHREZEITS



**Our condolences to the families of
 Cecile Henrietta Arnold, wife of Rabbi Stephen Arnold
 Jonathan Berr, brother of Laura Brundage**



Community Purim Carnival 2026

A SCIENCE SHOW BY NUTTY SCIENTISTS
BALLOON ARTISTRY BY DARRYL BIELSKI
DRESS IN COSTUME FOR CONTEST & PARADE
CARNIVAL GAMES & PRIZES
LIGHT NOSH
CANDY GRAMS
CORN HOLE & GAGA BALL
CRAFTS & MORE



SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 AM

Temple Beth-El
118 S Grand Ave Poughkeepsie

Suggested Donation

\$8 per person/\$18 Per Family

*By making a donation, you will receive a free candy gram
for each family member in attendance.*

Scan QR code or register at:
www.jewishdutchess.org/events



CHABAD OF
MID-HUDSON VALLEY



Temple Beth-El
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK



Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County



CONGREGATION SCHOMRE ISRAEL
A Modern Orthodox Synagogue



Calendar of Events—March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 10am Community Purim Carnival at Temple Beth-El</p> <p>10:30am Lunch Box</p> 	<p>2 EVE PURIM 5:45 Purim Pasta Dinner</p> <p>7pm Purim Service & Spiel</p> 	<p>3 PURIM</p>	<p>4 4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>5 7pm Ritual CMTE</p>	<p>6 7pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>7 9am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15am New Paths Service</p>
<p>8 9am Religious School</p> <p>3pm Civic Engagement Family Court Judge Jeffrey C. Martin</p>	<p>9 12pm Talmud Study</p> <p>7pm Sisterhood Monthly Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 12pm Wise Aging</p> <p>4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7pm HIAS Refugee Shabbat Service</p>	<p>14 9am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15am Healing Service</p>
<p>15 9am Religious School</p> <p>2pm VTS High Tea</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7pm Finance CMTE</p>	<p>18 12pm Chai Noon</p> <p>4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 6pm Shabbat Service featuring Religious School</p>	<p>21 9am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15am New Paths Service</p> <p>10:15am Shabbat Yeladim</p>
<p>22 9am Religious School</p> <p>11am Tiny Temple</p> <p>3pm Civic Engagement Poughkeepsie Mayor and Town Supervisor</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 3pm Development CMTE</p>	<p>25 4:30pm Hebrew School</p>	<p>26 6:30pm Shelter Meal</p> <p>7pm VT Board</p>	<p>27 7pm Shabbat Service ~ guest speaker, Emma Arnoff</p>	<p>28 9am Torah Study</p> <p>10:15am Shabbat Yeladim</p>
<p>29 3pm Civic Engagement State Senator Rob Rolison, Assembly members Jonathan Jacobson and Didi Barrett</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

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



Tea and Togetherness: Supporting our Sisterhood Kitchen Sunday, March 15 ~ 2pm

Please Join us at Vassar Temple on Sunday, March 15 from 2pm to 4pm for Tea and Togetherness: Supporting our Sisterhood Kitchen.

All are invited to join us for an elegant afternoon of High Tea in support of the Sisterhood Kitchen Fund. Come and enjoy tea, spirits, light bites, desserts and

meaningful fellowship as we come together to nourish body and community. Proceeds will directly support and sustain our kitchen.

Feel free to dress up - a fascinator or an ascot is encouraged to add a touch of fun and flair. Bring a poetry reading to share, if you wish. Subjects may include spring, food, friendship, togetherness, or a topic of your choice.

Please send donations to Sisterhood.

Levels of giving:

Sugar cube:	\$54
Creamer:	\$72
Tea Pot:	\$108
Earl Grey/Lady Grey:	\$126
Cognac:	\$154



If you are unable to attend you can still donate. Please RSVP by March 10 to sisterhood@vassartemple.org.

- Rabbi:** Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh
- Cantor:** Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann
- Rabbi Emerita:** Rabbi Renni Altman
- Senior Scholar:** Rabbi Paul Golomb
- 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. The editors reserve the right to edit articles for style, accuracy and length.



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