



Vassar Temple Bulletin

Congregation Brethren of Israel אהים ישראל Founded 1848 Volume 158 No. 10 October 2011

Vassar Temple Celebrates the Hudson Valley on November 5th

Ian Normandin of Arlington Wines & Liquors will be our guest sommelier at temple on Saturday evening, November 5th when we enjoy a dinner featuring local products beginning at 6:30 p.m. Each of the courses will be paired with an appropriate local wine, recommended, described and explained by Mr. Normandin.

To reserve your place at our Locavore dinner, please mail a check for \$50 per person with "Nov. 5 dinner" on the memo line to Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or contact Marsha Lowry at 845-462-1862 or marlowry@optonline.net by October 28th.

This is going to be a tasty and fun-filled evening that you will not want to miss!

Have Fun Helping to Put Up Our Sukkah

On Sunday, October 2nd at 10:00 a.m. the Men's Club will put up our sukkah on the lawn in front of the temple. The sukkah will be taken down on Sunday, October 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Helpers are always welcome!

Last Call for Break Fast Reservations!

At the conclusion of our Yom Kippur services, join with your Temple family and friends for a traditional dairy meal at the fifth annual Vassar Temple Break the Fast in our Social Hall. After praying together as a congregation, let's celebrate the beginning of the New Year with each other on Saturday, October 8th around 6:15 p.m., following Ne'ilah, the concluding Yom Kippur service, and the traditional Havdalah service led by our Youth Group.

In order to enjoy salads, kugel, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, fish, bagels, sweets and more on October 8th, you must prepay your reservation by October 3rd. The cost is only \$15 per adult and \$5 per child under 13, with a maximum of \$36

per family unit. Just send a check made payable to Vassar Temple, with Break the Fast on the memo line, to 140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 before October 3rd.

To RSVP, contribute food, or get more information, contact Sandra Mamis at 463-2678 or mamis@optonline.net.

High Holy Days Home Hospitality Needed

Vassar Temple has a long tradition of inviting college students in the area to share Yom Tov with us at Temple and at home. This is a wonderful way to enrich their High Holy Days experience—and your own. Please call the office at 454-2570 to let us know how many guests you would be willing to add at your table.

Upcoming Events

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Rabbi's Message: SHELTER



The Festival of Sukkot takes place this year from Wednesday evening, October 12th through Thursday, the 20th. The principal feature of the holiday also provides its name, Sukkot. The word is usually translated as “booths,” or occasionally as “tabernacles,” a fancier name for a shelter. Yet, technically, Sukkah (the singular) refers to the thatching of the roof. The walls of a sukkah can be made of anything – wood, canvas, brick, stone, even plastic or papier-mâché, if you wish – but the roof must be a criss-cross of natural materials, branches, stalks or leaves.

The sukkah is therefore a shelter, but an imperfect one. Its roof does not completely block out either the sun or rain. It provides some protection, but still leaves us exposed to the forces of nature. In this way, the physical becomes the spiritual. We, as individuals and within societies, seek to erect forms of protection. They include buildings, and also rules of good behavior, police forces and armies. And all of them are imperfect. The elements of nature somehow pierce through.

Hence, we need something more. The traditional liturgy of Sukkot provides it in a set of prayers called Hoshanot, calls for God's protection. One traditional practice provides it as well. It is known as Ushpizin, an Aramaic word for “hospitality.” On Sukkot, we are expected to welcome both friends and strangers into our

sukkot. Ultimately, real protection comes, in a world filled with shelters that are no less flimsy than the booths that are erected for the festival, from faith. And equally important, from avoiding the natural temptation to wall ourselves in, but rather to reach out to others in grace and kindness.

May you all find shelter from life's storms during this holiday season.

Rabbi Paul Golomb

President's Message



During the month of October we will celebrate the remaining B'nai Mitzvot of the 2011 class. One of the highlights for me and the other officers of the congregation is to sit on the bimah and watch our children and their families celebrate this monumental life cycle event. We share in the pride of the families as they watch their children be called to the Torah for the first time. These young adults lead the congregation in worship while teaching us.

While this event is an important milestone in our children's Jewish education, it is not the end of their education. Our religious school program continues through Confirmation at the end of 10th grade. The next three years after Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a crucial component of our children's Jewish education.

Vassar Temple is not unlike many other Reform congregations throughout the United States in the percentage of

our students who go on through Confirmation. The congregation's leadership struggles to convince our students and their parents to continue with their religious studies. We have learned that one of the critical factors in determining whether or not a student continues is whether or not a strong bond has been formed between the family and the rest of the congregation. We know the time to do that is not during the year leading up to Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but rather in the six or seven years preceding that. Classes that have formed a tight bond among the students and their parents have a higher percentage of students continuing on through Confirmation and ultimately staying engaged in congregational life.

Are you the parent of a student in our younger grades? Have you looked for ways to become more involved in the congregation? We have a vast array of opportunities for you to engage in

aspects of congregational life in addition to religious school. I invite you to join us. You can see these opportunities throughout the bulletin and on our web site (www.vassartemple.org). Are you the parent of an older student or perhaps a member whose children have already moved out on their own? Please try to reach out to some of our younger members to help them become more involved in our congregation.

Is there a program which you would like to participate in but don't see listed? We are always looking to add more programming. All you need to do is ask. Feel free to contact me with any programming ideas you may have. I can be reached via email at president@vassartemple.org or at home, 635-9854. I look forward to seeing you all at the various programs we have to offer.

Seth A. Erlebacher

Note: All Board and Committee Meetings, except Executive Sessions, are open to all Temple members. Community Hebrew School of Dutchess County is the Hebrew Education Division of Vassar Temple.

Worship and High Holy Days Services

Saturday, October 1

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

Sunday, October 2

1:00 p.m. Memorial Services at Cemetery

Friday, October 7 Kol Nidre

6:30 p.m. Early (Family) Service

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Saturday, October 8 Yom Kippur

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

High Holy Day Study with Rabbi Golomb in the Social Hall

1:30 p.m. Children's Service

2:45 p.m. Afternoon Service

4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service

5:30 p.m. Ne'ilah

Wednesday, October 12 Erev Sukkot

7:00 p.m. Torah Presentation to our 2012 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students

Thursday, October 13 Sukkot

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

Friday, October 14

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 15

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Giangrasso

Wednesday, October 19

Erev Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

7:00 p.m. Consecration Service

Thursday, October 20 Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service

Friday, October 21

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 22

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Brianna Erlebacher

Friday, October 28

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rabbi Golomb and Cantorial Soloist, Elisa Dugatkin
Birthday blessings and special story about animals for Shabbat Noah.

Saturday, October 29

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Allison Brundage

Friday, November 4

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 5

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. New Paths Service

New Paths Service

Please join us in the sun-lit East Chapel on Saturday, October 1st at 10:00 a.m. Each New Paths service, whether rabbi-led or lay-led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. We focus on letting the service get through us, rather than getting through the service. A brief informal light kiddush follows. For more information, please contact Marian Schwartz at mschwa9882@aol.com or Rabbi Golomb at rabbi@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

Scriptural Readings

September 30 & October 1

Ha'azinu (Shabbat Shuva)

Deuteronomy 32:1-52

Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20;

Joel 2:15-27

October 14 & 15 Shabbat Sukkot

Exodus 33:12-4:26

Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

October 21 & 22 B'reisheet

Genesis 2:4-4:28

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:11

October 28 & 29 Noah

Genesis 8:15-10:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

November 4 & 5 Lekh L'kha

Genesis 14:1-15:21

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

Sukkot and Simchat Torah Services

After the solemnity of Yom Kippur, it always feels good to celebrate the harvest festival of Sukkot with your temple family. At our Erev Sukkot service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12th a Chumash (the Torah in book form in both Hebrew and English, with commentaries) will be presented to each of our seventh graders who are preparing for their B'nai Mitzvot this year. After the service we will enjoy refreshments under the stars in the sukkah on our temple lawn.

A week later, on Wednesday evening, October 19th at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate Simchat Torah which marks the completion of our annual reading of the Torah with the end of Deuteronomy, and the beginning of a new year of Torah reading with Genesis. This family service is always very moving as we parade around the sanctuary with our Torah scrolls and unroll one of them around the edge of the sanctuary. Everyone has a chance to help hold up the scroll before we re-roll it. During this lovely service the new students in our Religious School will be consecrated to the studies have just begun.

Tiny Temple Program for Young Children

Sunday, October 16th 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

“Celebrating Sukkot and Simchat Torah”

with activities and stories –

and a snack outdoors in the Sukkah

For infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents

Open to the community free of charge regardless of synagogue membership

To RSVP and for more information, email tinytemple@vassartemple.org.





Mazel Tov

...to Martin and Eleanor Charwat who will be honored by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley at a garden party on October 2nd.

...to Sue Lesser who will receive a Dutchess County Executive's Arts Award for Arts in Education at the Dutchess County Arts Council event on October 25th.

...to Helene Pfeffer whose daughter Alison will marry Jesse DeSalvo on October 1st.



Welcome to New Members of Vassar Temple

We have a new member who recently joined the Temple community. Please extend a warm welcome to:

Marilyn Barlow and her children, Jack and Leah

In Remembrance

Vassar Temple shares in the grief suffered by the family of:

Mary Elizabeth O'Donnell-Moore, goddaughter of Dr. Andrew & Dr. Barbara Chernack

We Need Your Help!



It's awful to be the last to know that someone has been hospitalized, needs a visit or needs some other kind of help.

We are, once again, asking that you be the eyes and ears in the lives of our congregational family. Federal patient privacy regulations limit the information that hospitals make available to clergy and volunteers.

We are encouraging you to contact the Temple office when a congregant is admitted to a hospital and wishes to have Rabbi visit during the hospital stay. Our goal is to meet the needs of all our congregants and we can only do this with your help.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

Everyone is welcome at the service and Kiddush as we celebrate with Bar/Bat Mitzvah families at Vassar Temple. To be called to the Torah in October:



October 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Samantha Giangrasso, daughter of Franco & Wendy Giangrasso

October 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

Brianna Erlebacher, daughter of Seth & Melissa Erlebacher

October 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Allison Brundage, daughter of Thomas & Laura Brundage

Sisterhood Art Calendars for 2011-12 are available for \$15 through Elaine Lipschutz, 452-1582.



Pulpit Flowers

- October 7 In honor of their loved ones from Perla & Charles Kaufman.
- October 14 In honor of Samantha Giangrasso's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.
- October 21 In honor of Brianna Erlebacher's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.
- October 28 In honor of Allison Brundage's Bat Mitzvah with love from her family.
In memory of Benjamin Genshaft from Dr. Jeffery & Nan Genshaft.

Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion can do so by sponsoring the Sanctuary flowers with a donation to the Shrub Fund. Just call Sandi Rugar at 454-2570. The donation to the Shrub Fund is \$55.

Read What Cathy Bokor Says About SCRIP

"I find that when I want to help somebody who has fallen on hard times, it is difficult to give cash. It seems much easier and less awkward to give a gift card to Adams and say 'Have a bountiful Thanksgiving!' for example. I have also used gift cards to treat our employees when a thoughtful treat, not a monetary reward, was in order."

Wheelchair Now Available at Temple



Thanks to the generosity of the medical lending closet at the Reformed Church (our neighbors down the street on Hooker Avenue), we have acquired a wheelchair. It will be kept at the temple to facilitate accessibility for members and friends who need assistance getting inside from the curb due to ongoing or temporary mobility problems. The assistance of Harry Mamis in obtaining the wheelchair is greatly appreciated.

The chair fits into our elevator, making it easier for everyone to enjoy a range of activities in the building. It can also be borrowed to transport someone from home to temple if needed. Please contact Susan Karnes Hecht, Reyut chairperson, at reyut@vassartemple.org to make arrangements.

Book Club to Discuss “Those Who Save Us” on October 24th



Vassar Temple Sisterhood’s Book Club will discuss “Those Who Save Us” by Jenna Blum, a novel about a German Gentile woman and her daughter during and after World War II, on Monday afternoon, October 24th at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room of CollegeView Tower, 141 Fulton Ave., Poughkeepsie. (Please note the change of day and time for this meeting.)

Combining a story of passionate but

doomed love, a vivid evocation of life during the war, and a poignant mother-daughter drama, “Those Who Save Us” is a profound exploration of what we endure to survive, and its legacy of shame. This page-turner and New York Times best-seller is available in paperback and from the local library system.

Linda Babas will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome, and Susan Fink will provide light refreshments. To RSVP or get more information, contact Doi Cohen at 462-6193 or dcohen1230@gmail.com.

Adult Ed Classes on the Middle East, October 4th and 18th

On Tuesday, October 4th at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Joshua Schreier, an associate professor of history and current Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Vassar College, will speak on “Palestine: The Invention of a People” as part of our adult education series on Israel and its Middle Eastern Neighbors. Prof. Schreier’s expertise is in Middle Eastern history and he has recently taken an academic interest in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

On Tuesday, October 18th at 7:30 p.m. the subject will be “Tunisia: Ground Zero of the Arab Spring” and the speaker will be Moutacem Mhriri, a visiting assistant professor in the Africana Studies Program at Vassar College. Prof. Mhriri, a specialist in Arabic literature, was present in Tunisia at the beginning of the uprising that brought about the fall of Tunisian dictator Ben-Ali.

These classes at the temple are open to the community free of charge and all are welcome.

The Dark Side of the Soul: Human Nature and the Problem of Evil

This five-session Adult Education course will be held on Thursday evenings, October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, and November 3rd from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. (Note the time) It focuses on the human capacity for evil: What is it, why is it there, and how deeply rooted is it in human nature? Richard Lowry, a long-time member of Vassar Temple and Professor of Psychology Emeritus of Vassar College, will lead the examination of this age-old question from biblical, evolutionary and psychological viewpoints.

The course is open to the community free of charge. If you anticipate attending, Richard would appreciate being notified at lowry@vassar.edu so that he might know how many attendees to expect.

Can You Spare Ten Minutes a Day?

Thousands of Jews around the world are now spending 10 minutes a day reading an e-mail about a Jewish text. Are you part of the Ten Minutes of Torah chevra yet? Ten Minutes of Torah, introduced at the 2001 URJ Biennial and delivered directly to your e-mail inbox each weekday, offers a personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic, including insight on the week’s Torah portion, Israel, social justice, and Jewish ethics. To sign up, visit www.urj.org/torah/ten.

“Jewish Night” at the Homeless Shelter

One Thursday a month, members of the local Jewish community and their friends provide the evening meal to guests at Hillcrest Overnight Shelter, an operation of Hudson River Housing. Donations of sandwiches, casseroles and juice are needed, along with sides such as soup or salad. A few volunteers transport the prepared food to the shelter, which is located near Dutchess Community College, and serve the meal around 8:00 p.m.

Judy Harkavy has coordinated this program very successfully for many years and is getting ready to move on to other things. In order to continue this project, beginning in January we need someone new to take over scheduling the volunteers each month. Judy has an extensive list of those who have volunteered in the past from which to draw, and most people are repeat volunteers once a year or more.

If you would consider taking on this role and would like to learn more, please contact her at 471-4973 or judystan@verizon.net. Or if you’d like to volunteer to provide food once a year, Judy would love to hear from you as well.

CROP Walk is Sunday October 16th: Why Do We Walk?

CROP Walk is a vital fundraising event in the movement to combat hunger. Locally it is sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, of which Vassar Temple is a founding member. 25% of the funds raised here are returned to our community.

The primary local recipient, Dutchess Outreach, not only operates the major area food pantry and the Lunch Box feeding site (which has in recent years added evening meals in addition to lunch) but also provides nutritious snacks for children and teens who attend after-school programs at the Partnership Center, does home delivery of meals for those debilitated by AIDS/HIV and their families, and has pitched in when meals were needed at area homeless shelters.

The Community Action Agency satellites in Southern and Eastern Dutchess, as

well as Beulah Baptist Church's Saturday soup kitchen, also receive financial support for their food pantry and meal programs from the money raised through the CROP Walk. The remainder of the funds raised goes to combat hunger throughout the USA and globally, as well as in the form of agricultural improvement projects and emergency disaster relief. Sponsors have the option of designating a specific agency to receive their donation if they wish.

Walkers may walk part or all of the 6.3-mile safe and scenic route through Poughkeepsie, starting out at the JCC any time between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Walk with family, friends, or other Temple members; there are 3 rest stops along the way located in area houses of worship. Envelopes for the collection of your pledges are available in the temple office.

If you cannot walk, perhaps you can help out at the registration table that day.

And a sign-up sheet for those who would like to sponsor Rabbi Golomb when he walks is available on the tzedakah table in the temple hallway. Whatever you do, you will be joining with community members of all faiths in a wonderful mitzvah.

If you would like to walk, if you can provide baked goods for the bake sale to be held that day, or if you have any questions at all about the CROP Walk, please contact our Vassar Temple CROP Walk recruiter, Dave Wolf, at (845) 229-8038 or cropwalk@vassartemple.org. To sign up for a shift to work with Marian Schwartz, registration table captain, at the JCC that day, e-mail socialaction@vassartemple.org or call her at (845) 849-0025. THANK YOU for whatever you can do to make this life-sustaining event a success.



From Our Religious School Director: Halloween



In 6th grade I had a grumpy Israeli teacher who cautioned the class that good Jews don't dress up for Halloween because it's a Christian holiday when Christians persecuted Jews. He was wrong in

every way.

Halloween is a big deal in the U.S., so the question of how we Jews handle it is important. For example, even though I'm writing this just after Labor Day in September, stores have already created black and orange displays of candy, reminding buyers that it's never too early to shop.

So what about this crazy notion that Halloween is a Christian holiday for persecuting Jews?

First off, Halloween began as a Pagan holiday, not a Christian one. The Celtic Pagans divided their year into two halves: one for the world of light, running approximately from spring to fall, and the other for the world of darkness, covering the period from fall to spring. The Pagans marked the transition from one half to the other with holidays. The spring celebration of the return of life-giving light was called Beltane. And the fall celebration, which fell on November 1st and represented the return of the dark winter, was called Samhain (pronounced "sow-an").

Anthropologists know that people are generally suspicious of gateways of any sort, whether in space or in time. (This is why we Jews have a tradition of putting

a mezuzah in doorways, and of celebrating Havdalah to mark the end of Shabbat and the return to the workweek.) So it's not surprising that Samhain was regarded with suspicion and reverence. People even started to fear that Samhain might do more than just mark the divide between light and dark. It might let inhabitants of the netherworld of darkness cross over into our world of light.

So people started to dress up in masks and costumes, both because of the holiday's general celebratory character and because of this fear of demons entering our world. Some people may have dressed up specifically as ghouls to chase away the real evil powers, perhaps hoping that the inhabitants of the netherworld would try to distribute themselves evenly, and, seeing an abundance in one place, would go elsewhere. Or they may have thought that even the goblins were afraid of other goblins.

The Catholic Church folded Samhain and its theme of the dead into an existing holiday, All Saints Day, which recognized the power that saints hold over the living. Since Catholic mass was held on All Saints Day, the holiday was also called All Saints Mass, or, in Middle English, Alholowmesse. That became Halloween. (Christmas similarly gets its name from the mass held for Christ.) The Catholic Church at the time still followed the Jewish tradition of reckoning holidays from sundown to sundown, so Alholowmesse

began not on the day of November 1st, but rather on the evening of October 31st, which is to say, Alholowevening, or, more colloquially, Alholowe'en. This eventually became simply Halloween.

So my grumpy Israeli teacher was wrong when he told me that Halloween was originally a Christian holiday. He was equally wrong when he told me that Halloween was created to persecute Jews. There were no Jews living among the Celts when Samhain arose, and the Jews had already been exiled from England by the time the Christians turned Samhain into All Saints Day there. But I think he was most severely wrong in his general approach, because he didn't distinguish between the history of the holiday and the holiday itself. If we gave up everything that had a disagreeable history, we'd have to give up many of our favorite Jewish rituals, too.

Whatever their non-Jewish roots, American holidays such as Thanksgiving and Halloween are now symbols of pluralism, yearly signposts advertising America's freedom and tolerance. These holidays are an opportunity for Americans, regardless of background, to come together to share an experience. And they can even be an enormous amount of fun. Pluralism, tolerance, community, and fun are all Jewish ideals, and I, for one, am looking forward once again to greeting bizarrely dressed children as they come to my door and ask for treats.

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman

Helpers and Food Needed for October 23rd Lunch Box

On Sunday, October 23rd, Vassar Temple will provide a hot meal at the Lunch Box at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, between 11:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.

We need donations of the following foods:

3 lbs. of cooked and oiled rotini or penne pasta

3 lbs. of browned ground beef or turkey with diced onions

3 lbs. of red cabbage, shredded

5 lbs. of carrots, grated

12 pieces fruit – soft fruits preferred such as bananas, pears and grapes (if grapes, place individual portions in bags)

Donations of food may be brought to the Temple kitchen before October 23rd,

during the times when the Temple is normally open (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday evening before the 7:30 service, or Saturday morning between 9:00 and 10:00). Please label your donation with your name and the words “For Lunch Box.”

Just as important as the food is the help you can give. Working with temple members and others to feed our hungry neighbors is fun!

To aid in planning, contact Paul and Andi Ciminello, October Lunch Box Captains, at 452-1190 or andi@ecosystemsstrategies.com to let them know that you will be helping prepare and serve and/or donating food.



Speak to Hunger

At Vassar Temple, we consider community service fundamental to Jewish living and value tikkun olam, action in service of repairing the world. One of the ways we engage in tikkun olam is by responding to the needs of children, teens and adults of all ages in our community who may have limited or no access to food. We do this in various ways and invite you to join us and participate in any or all of our “food-raising” and food service projects. Here are descriptions of several of these projects and specific help needed. For further information, contact Nancy Samson at 845-235-2860 or CAN-JAM123@aol.com.

CAN JAM: This is a year-round program. We collect food and deliver it to shelters and food distribution sites every month. How to help? In the Temple foyer is a large wooden bin. Please place canned or non-perishable foods in the bin any time during temple hours – Any can, any time. An additional way to help: deliver food we will pack up for you just once during the coming year to a pantry near you.

LUNCH BOX: One Sunday each month we donate food, prepare and serve it to people who come to the Lunch Box at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie for a meal. How to help? Watch for information about foods you can donate for a particular meal and/or help prepare and serve a meal (great teamwork!).

YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE: Each Yom Kippur the Vassar Temple Youth Group coordinates the collection

and delivery to Dutchess Outreach of non-perishable food representing what we don’t eat while we are fasting. How to help? Fill the grocery bag you receive at Rosh Hashanah services and bring it to the rented delivery truck on the Cherry Street corner of the temple on Yom Kippur morning. Contact: Rachel Erlebacher, Youth Group President, at ygpresident@vassartemple.org.

TRIM-A-THANKSGIVING: In November we collect trimmings for Thanksgiving dinners for families who might otherwise not have a holiday meal. Bags bursting with these trimmings are put together by our religious school students and are picked up by a community service agency which pairs the bags with fresh turkeys and gives them to hungry families. How to help? In November, please put trimmings like canned potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables into the CAN JAM bin.

THE SOUPER SALE: Winter is cold and we aim to fill hungry bellies with warm meals. In December we collect monetary donations which in turn are turned into SCRIP. 100% of the donations are exchanged for large cans of chunky soups. The new year is welcomed in with our delivery of cases of these cans to pantries and food distribution sites county-wide. How to help? Donate to the Souper Sale in December. Any amount makes a difference. An additional way to help: join us on delivery day to take a load of soup cans to a pantry site (truly rewarding).

PURIM PASTA: On Purim, when the Megillah is read and we hear the name Haman, we shake groggers. We also shake boxes of pasta to drown out his name. After services the boxes are collected and donated to food pantries. How to help? Bring a box of pasta to services that night, and shake away hunger.

CEREAL COUNTS: In the summer when school is out, there are children who lack access to the essential physical and mental health benefits of a good breakfast. Every spring, we participate in CEREAL COUNTS, a county-wide cereal box donation drive that culminates on Mitzvah Day at the JCCDC. How to help? Watch for announcements about CEREAL COUNTS. Drop off a box of cereal to the JCCDC before or on Mitzvah Day. Consider running a simple mini-drive and invite others to drop boxes at your school, business, through a team you or your child is on – any group. On Mitzvah Day, come to the JCC and see a mountain of cereals which will be delivered to food sites the next day!

Time and time again we hear just how much the food we provide supports friends in our wider community who might otherwise have nothing to eat. Together, we can speak to hunger.

*Nancy Samson, Social Action Committee
Marian Schwartz,
Social Action Committee Chair
socialaction@vassartemple.org*

Effron Lecture on Sholem Aleichem

“The Life and Afterlife of Sholem Aleichem” will be the subject of the 35th Annual William and Sadie Effron Lecture in Jewish Studies at Marist College on Monday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Nelly Goletti Theatre of the Student Center. The free talk by Dr. Jeremy Dauber, the Atran Associate Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture at Columbia University and director of its Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, will be followed by refreshments. For more information, call the Marist office of public affairs, 575-3174.

Lunch Box Thanks

On Sunday, September 4th, 13 temple members took time out from their long holiday weekend to prepare and serve a summer salad meal to a full house at the Lunch Box. Thank you to those of you who donated cans of tuna and fresh fruit: Linda Babas, Barbara Greenberg, Doi Cohen, Judy Harkavy, Roni Stein, Jen Dahnert, Judy Creedon, Michele Brenner, David Lampell, Andi Ciminello, Sandra Mamis, Judy Rosenfeld, Marian Schwartz, Perla Kaufman, and Jenny Krevolin. And thank you to those who prepared and served: Judy, Eric, Lisa and Adam Rosenfeld; Michele, Jeff and Sam Brenner; Linda Babas; Stan, Wendy, Rachel, and Ben Marcus; David Greenberg and Trevor O'Connor. Special thanks go to Ben Marcus, Trevor O'Connor and David Greenberg who also helped with the bulk shopping and purchased, boiled and shelled 14 dozen eggs. (I apologize if I missed anyone.)

*Wendy Marcus
September Lunch Box Captain*

Meditation Group Resumes

The meditation group facilitated by Linda Cantor and Ed Rosenberg will resume its meetings this fall. At each session there will be sitting meditation, a walking meditation and either chanting or a short reading. There will also be time for sharing and for questions related to the practice. Both experienced meditators and those new to the practice are welcome.

The group will meet on Tuesdays, October 11th and 25th, November 15th and 29th, and December 6th and 20th from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the East Chapel. Please let office manager Sandi Rugar know if you are planning to attend some or all of the sessions by contacting the temple office, 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.

Charitable IRA – The Gift of a Lifetime



In December 2010, a law was enacted that allows individuals 70½ years of age and older to give up to \$100,000 of their retirement savings directly to charity, completely by-passing income tax. This law provides a distinct advantage to individuals wishing to support their favorite charities and helps non-profits that are experiencing the continued effects of a tough economy.

By transferring IRA assets directly to

a qualified charity, such as Vassar Temple, the money is not included in the IRA owner's income and is not taxed, preserving the full amount for charitable purposes.

The law that makes these transfers tax free will expire on December 31, 2011. For anyone interested in establishing a permanent legacy in our temple, this is the opportunity of a lifetime to make a gift of a lifetime. Please call the office and request that someone get in touch with you to discuss this further.

Thank you,

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

LISTEN

LEARN

LOVE



Parents are their children's most powerful Jewish teachers.

When you learn with your children, you are a model for lifelong Jewish learning. The URJ has resources designed for all age groups, to help you learn as adults and as a family:

- Jewish Parenting Podcast
- Bedtime Rituals
- Berit Mila Program
- Family Shabbat Table Talk
- Got Shabbat
- Holiday Happenings
- Morning Rituals
- The Jewish Parent Page
- Chai Family Education
- RJTeen
- Resources for Parents of Adolescents
- Significant Jewish Books
- URJ Camps

and more...



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IN HONOR OF

David Bokor's marriage

Sandra Mamis receiving

the Arnold Award

Joan, Jon, Jenny
& Jeffrey Ollendorf

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Women's Chevrah Kadisha

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Yahrzeits

October 7

Michael Oremus
Mary Stolack
Jeanne Loth Rubin
Gertrude C. Clarfeld
Bessie Rabin
Minnie Israel
Aleeyah Yankjtis Sansola
Ira Greenberg
Arthur Peritz
Bonnie Gordon
Charlotte Zuckerman
Elio Ribbi
Faye Korn
Raphael Horn
Sophie Schwartz
Howard Cohen, MD

October 15

Aaron Parish
Bernat Ackerman
Margaret Ciminello
Lucila Albinder
Joseph Sparks
Harry Plotkin
Susan Doppelt Pearlman
Marion Miller
Norman Kramer
Jean W. Dampf
Gertrude Hines Groten
Jean Strauss
Harold Posner
Charles Finnerman
Evelyn Locke
Albert Plotkin
Dr. Martin Rabin
Ida Goldberg
Morris Bronfeld
Elizabeth Troeger
Irving J. Wurtzel

October 22

Dr. Barry G. Jordan
Dr. William J. Lazarus
Lisa Lemberger
Morris Fertig
Dr. Lawrence Gould
Max Eli Kosstrin
Arthur Fink
Carl Nicholson
Leo Klausner
Sophia S. Wolfson
Murray Gutnick
Susan Salit Lowe
Henry Cantor
Sidney Goldberg
Howard Kapner
Samuel Scope
Murray Sigalow
Ethel Solomon
Charlotte Konick
George Tofel
Rose Maisel
Joshua Russell Karp
Monroe Robbins
Claryce Jordan
Lena Sherman Weisman

October 29

Herman Katz
Sidney Locke
Bernard Himelstein
Mollie Daniels
Leo Feinstein
Jacob Haber
Lawrence Slate
Mark Zatzkis
Lenore Schiffman
Tamar Grand
Annie Erdreich
Bessie Rothauser
Abraham Zack
Benjamin Michel
Adele Lerman Warshaw
Benjamin Genshaft
Roslyn Worona
Max Richter
Louis Heidelberger
Edward J. Kovacs
Thomas Weisman
Haim Ribbi

Thank You from Birmingham, Alabama

Note: A recent tzedakah box collection at Vassar Temple went to the URJ for tornado relief.

The tornado's devastation in Alabama was so massive that it will be at least a year, maybe many more, before people can get their lives back together. The big danger is that many people will give up and leave their communities instead of holding out until assistance comes and then endure the rebuilding process.

The volunteer work, more than anything, helps to shore up the sense of community and imparts strength to rebuild. Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham has housed more than 110 volunteers who have come to help rebuild Alabama since May. And you played a crucial role.

The money you sent to the URJ helped organize these volunteer efforts. Members of Temple Emanu-El will continue to house volunteers through the fall and winter, and arrange for them to participate in work projects to rebuild. Rabbi Jonathan Miller says, "If you come, you will leave with a smile. You will go away and go home, but the love and kindness you bring will stay here".

If you are interested in going as a volunteer, contact the rabbi at jmiller916@yahoo.com or Bob Gross at bmgross@charter.net.

Will You Be Traveling This Year?

Did You know that You Can Use SCRIP [gift cards] at many Hotels, Resorts and Spas? Cruise Lines? Airlines? Car Rental Agencies? Treat the Temple to Cash Rewards from Your Travel as You Treat Yourself!

SCRIP can be a Powerful Tool for the Financial Support of our Congregation!



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[* The percent listed reflects how much the retailer will give back to Vassar Temple on every dollar you spend!]

Become a SCRIP Supporter Today!
For More Information, contact the SCRIP Coordinator,
Sandra Mamis [463-2678; scrip@vassartemple.org]

Social Action Skills: Join the Team!

Religious Action Center Skills Training is a great opportunity to learn from the outstanding RAC staff and local leaders about effective techniques for promoting social justice in our community through incredible presentations, text study sessions, networking opportunities, workshops and more – and a session is being especially planned for our region!

We would love to send a team from Vassar Temple to the program, which will take place on Sunday, January 22nd at

Congregation M'kor Shalom in Cherry Hill, NJ, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will cover "The Nuts & Bolts of Social Action: Tools for your Toolbox." This program is a great way to pick up ideas, inspiration, practical skills and self-confidence in an environment of tremendous positive energy.

Anyone interested may attend individually (you do not have to be a Temple member) but congregations are encouraged to send a team to the session. This way, they can learn together and brainstorm ways to put these ideas into practice in their home congregation and community.

The Vassar Temple Social Action Committee will pick up the fee of any of our members who attend. The fee includes a kosher-style lunch; dietary restrictions will be accommodated if possible. Discounts will be given to teams of four or more. For additional information go to <http://www.rac.org/trainings>. If you're interested in attending, please let me know!

Marian Schwartz,
Social Action Chairman
socialaction@vassartemple.org

Home Service for Yom Kippur

The solemn, soul-searching mood of Kol Nidre Eve begins at home, late in the afternoon. The final meal before Yom Kippur is simple--rich and spicy foods are avoided. There is no Kiddush; the meal itself is not part of the Holy Day. At the conclusion of the meal, one inaugurates the fast and the Holy Day by kindling the lights and offering this blessing and prayer:

“Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam a-sher
kid'-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu l'-had-lik ner shel
Yom Hakippurim.”

“Praised be You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has sanctified us by
Your commandments and bidden us kindle the lights of the Day of Atonement.”

“God of mercy and forgiveness, open the gates to heaven unto our prayers on this Sacred Day, and pardon our transgressions. Create in us a pure heart; and make me worthy to (rear my children so that they) walk in the way of righteousness before You, loyal to Your Torah, and clinging to good deeds. Keep far from us all shame, grief, and care; and send healing for all our sorrows. Remember us unto life, O Ruler, Who delights in life; and inscribe us in the Book of Life, for Your sake, O God of Life.”

(Everyone together)

“Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che ya-nu, v'-ki-y'-ma-nu v'-hi-gi-ya-nu laz-man ha-zeh.”

“We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has kept us in life and permitted us to reach this Holy Day.”

(If there are children present, a parent, with hands upon the head of each child in turn, silently asks such blessing as the heart may prompt, or may use this prayer.)

“May the God of our Ancestors bless you; May the One Who has guided us into this day lead you to be an honor to our family. May the One Who has protected us from all evil make you a blessing to Israel, and all people.”

Amen.

(In many families it is also the custom to kindle a Yahrzeit Light at this time, to be kept burning throughout the Holy Day in remembrance of the departed.)

Interfaith Story Workshop on October 11th

The next Interfaith Story Circle sponsored by the Dutchess County Interfaith Council will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Salt Point Turnpike in Salt Point on Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. The theme of the evening will be “Finding Our Story Inside a Sacred Text: A Story Workshop.” In this participatory session we will hear a “sacred story” and play with story possibilities. (As Jews, we are accustomed to developing midrashim based on stories in the Bible.)

Pre-registration is not necessary for these monthly free events. For more information, contact the Council at 471-7333.



Jewish War Veterans Schedule Meeting

Pvt. Herman Siegal Post #625, of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at the Jewish Community Center at 110 S. Grand Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Future meetings are scheduled for 2011 on October 9th and November 13th. Meetings scheduled for 2012 are January 9th, February 12th, March 11th and April 8th.

For further information contact Post Commander Ralph Schwartz at RSCHWA9881@aol.com or (845) 849-0025.

Vassar Temple Bulletin

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Organist: Joseph Bertolozzi
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1st Vice President: Robert Abrams
2nd Vice President: David Lampell
Secretary: Tamara Gruszko
Treasurer: Brian Silverman
Sisterhood President: Lisa-Sue Quackenbush
Youth Group President: Rachel Erlebacher
Immediate Past President: Sandra Mamis



October 2011 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 SHABBAT SHUVAH 9am Torah Study 10am New Paths Kids Expo (JCC)
2 9am-12pm RS K-7 10am Build Sukkah 1pm Cemetery Service Kids Expo (JCC)	3 November Bulletin 7:15pm Ritual	4 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Adult Ed: Palestine	5 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 Pizza	6 10am SEP 7pm The Dark Side of the Soul	7 KOL NIDRE CAN JAM Weekend 6:30pm Early (Family) Service 8pm Kol Nidre Service	8 YOM KIPPUR 10am Morning 1:30pm Children's 2:15pm Afternoon 4:45pm Yizkor 5:30pm Closing 6:15pm Break Fast
9 NO RS	10 Flyers Deadline	11 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Meditation Group	12 EREV SUKKOT NO RS 7pm Sukkot Service and Torah Presentation	13 SUKKOT Office Closed 10am Morning Service 7pm The Dark Side of the Soul	14 7:30pm Shabbat Service	15 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Samantha Giangrasso
16 9am-12pm RS K-7 10:30am Tiny Temple 10-4 CROP Walk	17	18 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Adult Ed: Tunisia	19 NO RS 7pm Simchat Torah Ser- vice and Consecration	20 SHEMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH 10am Yizkor Service 7pm The Dark Side of the Soul	21 7:30pm Shabbat Service	22 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Brianna Erlebacher
23 9am-12pm RS K-7 10am Take down Sukkah 11:30am Lunch Box	24 3pm VTS Book Club 7pm Board	25 10am SEP 12pm Talmud 7:30pm Meditation Group	26 6:30-8:30pm RS 8-10 7pm Finance	27 10am SEP 7pm The Dark Side of the Soul	28 7:30pm Shabbat Service Birthday Blessings	29 9am Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah Allison Brundage
30 9am-12pm RS K-7						