

**ENGAGEMENT, FEDERATIONS, AND THIS MOMENT IN AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE**

*Excerpt taken from an article written by Dr. Beth Cousens, Associate Vice President, Jewish Education and Engagement at the Jewish Federations of North America*

At the JFDC Annual Meeting this past December, the theme for the presentation and the year ahead is “Engagement” or another way to think of it: “Revisit, Re-evaluate, Reconsider and Reinvent”.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Engagement Kickoff was quite enlightening and the start of some great dialogue, which has already led to some concrete actions. The key motivation and need for this session, and the others coming in 2018, is for all of us to stop and ask “Who is The JFDC?” and “Who Does the JFDC Need To Be Today and For Tomorrow?”

To help shed some light and add context to this topic, below are excerpts from an article written by Dr. Beth Cousens, Associate Vice President, Jewish Education and Engagement at the Jewish Federations of North America. This is Part 1 of 2.

**ENGAGEMENT, FEDERATIONS, AND THIS MOMENT IN AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE (WHAT WE’RE DOING HERE)**

In August 2017, we woke up to an article in EJewishPhilanthropy that declared “legacy institutions to be “no longer working.”<sup>1</sup>

The article wasn’t particularly (new) news. We see it every day, in the phones in our hands and in the ways we interact. The jump from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries is characterized by a jump from the institutional to the virtual age. That is, the dominance of the network—as mindset and as daily tool and playground—demonstrates the extent to which we have abandoned the organization as a predominant setting for action. This means, in turn, that we reject the norms and characteristics of the organization, including hierarchy, membership, opaqueness, and so on.<sup>2</sup>

In the Federation system, in adapting to this change, we have a massive ship to turn. But we’ve already started moving. The engagement work that Federations have launched, which in many places began with but is no longer restricted to PJ Library, represents much of the shift we need to make.

This initial shift demonstrates that legacy organizations aren’t dead—or, irrelevant. Rather, in an ever increasingly atomized society, where we are busier and busier and crave the company and meaning that we can’t make time for (despite our “friends” on Facebook), the “why” of our organization is even more important: We will, always, exist to build the infrastructure of Jewish community to help Jews (and those who love them) live safely and with meaning, in dialogue with Jewish tradition. We will help kehilat Yisrael to be human, Jewishly.

Still, we know that how we do our work, as well as our tactics, need to change.

(Next month in the February edition of *The Voice*, Part 2 will address: A FEDERATION RESPONSE (HOW WE BUILD ON OUR ENGAGEMENT WORK FOR TRUE CHANGE)

<sup>1</sup>Toby Tabachnik, “Old Models of Legacy Institutions No Longer Working”. The article was written for and first run in The Jewish Chronicle.

<sup>2</sup>The helpful text Connecting to Change the World: Harnessing the Power of Networks for Social Impact (John Cleveland, Madeline Taylor, and Peter Plastrik, 2014) provides deeper analysis of the end-of-century transition away from the organization.



Dr. Beth Cousens

**1st Annual Community Engagement Kick-Off**



The JFDC Community coming together to discuss: Who is the JFDC? Who do we need to be today and for tomorrow?



**Meet the New Board Members**



Richard Arnoff Jack Fein Mark Klein Jack Koschitzki Andrea Pollack



**Jewish Federation of Dutchess County Board**  
(front row L-R) Azzy Reckess, Ken Levinson, Jonah Ritter, Mark Klein  
(back row L-R) Jack Koschitzki, Karen Hochhauser, Michael Smith, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, Ira Auerbach, Vic Feit, Lee and Michelle Klein, Jack Fein, Rabbi Golomb

**Better than “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” ... The Federation Goes to Israel!**

This past November, the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County helped orchestrate a “Mission to Israel.” Azzy Reckess, Officer of the Federation, spearheaded a trip along with Marcus Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive, Ron Hicks, Deputy County Executive, Bill O’Neil, Deputy County Executive, Mary Kay Vrba, President/CEO of Dutchess Tourism, Sarah Lee, CEO at Think Dutchess, Frank Castella Jr, President/CEO of the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce, and others.

The travelers took in the amazing historic sites and had an incredible cultural and educational experience. If that wasn’t thrilling enough, what was particularly exciting for us back here in Dutchess County is the contacts the team made, the insights learned, and the potential for both tourism and economic benefits for Dutchess County.

Join the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County as we kick off our year of *Israel@70* on **January 17, at 7:00PM** at **Dutchess Community College** for a special briefing to the Jewish community led by Marcus Molinaro



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**Vice President** Azzy Reckess  
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**Corresponding Secretary** Vicki Greenberg  
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| Eugene Fleishman | Jonah Ritter    |

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# LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County presents weekly cultural, social and educational programs.

**WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS and MENUS**

- January 3** **Potentially Rising Interest Rates and the Effects on Retirement** with Alan Rentz. Come and find help for your banking needs.  
Menu: Ziti, lasagna, salad, coffee/tea, dessert
- January 10** **Is it coincidence or is it Tzfat?** with Rabbi Victor  
Tales of the ancient city of Israel  
Menu: bagels, schmear, coffee/tea, dessert
- January 17** **Guided Age Scandals** with Don Fraser  
Learn about what occurred at a time when you didn't think these things occurred.  
Menu: shashuka (omelette), hash browns, coffee/tea, fruit
- January 24** **Movie —Above and Beyond**  
The journey of a group of Jewish American pilots and their discovery and renewed Jewish pride.  
Menu: chile con carne, rice, pico de gallo, coffee/tea, dessert
- January 31** **Hudson Valley Psychiatric Museum** with Lynn Rightmeyer and Joe Galante. Discover who was treated and how at one of Dutchess County's oldest facility  
Menu: pizza, salad, coffee/tea, dessert

**INFORMATION**

For details including weather updates, last minute schedule changes or menu updates, you can call the Jewish Federation office (845) 471-9811.

Learn & Lunch Bunch activities are open to the public.



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**JFDC Annual Business Meeting**



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## Community



### Book & Gift Shops

#### Temple Beth-El's Book and Gift Shop submitted by Geri Bromberg

The Temple Beth-El Judaica Book and Gift Shops have all that you need for Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat: stories, recordings, a variety of Judaica cookbooks and jewelry; Safed Shabbat candles and Havdalah candles, and host and hostess gifts. Plan now for birthdays, anniversaries, B'nai Mitzvot, and other special occasions.

The Shops will be closed each Sunday in January and February. Therefore the Shops will be open by appointment until Sunday hours resume in March. The Bookshop is featuring *Thank You Trees* by Gail Langer Karwosky and Marilyn E. Gootman with illustrations by Kristen Balouch. Rhyming story giving thanks for the gifts trees provide on the occasion of Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for the Trees (Jan. 31, 2017). Also featured are *Sammy Spider's First Tu B'Shevat* by Sylvia A. Rouss with illustrations by Katherine Janus Kahn, and *Grandpa and Me on Tu Shevat* by Marji E. Gold-Vukson with illustrations by Leslie Evans. Like the tiny seed a little boy and his grandpa plant, this rhyming tale by Ms. Gold-Vukson, grows and blossoms into a celebration of nature and of family. Included are *Ten Great Ways to Celebrate Tu B'Shevat*. All three books are for grades PreK-3.



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Back in stock is *Walking the Bible: An Illustrated Journey for Kids Thru the Greatest Stories Ever Told* by Bruce Feiler, *New York Times* Best Selling Author of *ABRAHAM*. Feiler, accompanied by Israeli archaeologist, Avner Goren, visits places in the Middle East where biblical stories may have taken place including the Creation story, Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Exodus, and receiving of the Ten Commandments. Illustrated by Sasha Meret for grades 3-5. Two selections for older children, pre-teens and young adults are *Jewish Comedy Stars: Classic to Cutting Edge* by Norman H. Finkelstein, and *Jewish Sports Starts: Athletic Heroes Past and Present*, revised edition by David J. Goldman.

A popular Judaica cookbook in stock is *The Jewish Vegetarian Year Cookbook* by Roberta Kalechofsky and Rosa Rasiel. Joyous and practical, highly acclaimed, combines Jewish tradition with 170 delicious recipes for the Jewish holidays. Recipes are animal free. Includes menus for the holidays, life cycle events, notes on the holidays and Tu B'Shevat Haggadah. A must have for all Jewish kitchens... An attractive paperback edition. *Quiches, Kugels & Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France*, written by Joan Nathan, may be ordered by contacting Geri Bromberg. Joan's recipe for Honey-Baked Chick with Preserved Lemon is one of her favorites. Joan said, I like to serve it alongside a fennel and citrus salad." From *Jewish Women International Magazine* at [jwi.org/recipes](http://jwi.org/recipes).

DETAILS  
For more info, call the temple office at (845) 454-0570 and leave a message for Geri Bromberg for books and recordings and/or Sheri Raften for year-round ceremonies. Temple Beth-El is located at 118 South Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie.

For more information, contact Sandy Lash at (845) 232-1029, email: [info@shir-chadash.org](mailto:info@shir-chadash.org) or website: [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org).

#### Rosh Chodesh Reading Group presented by Congregation Shir Chadash

Those interested in reading have been invited to a potluck brunch and discussion held every month. Participants meet to discuss memoirs, fiction, poetry and drama in a variety of works that offer Jewish themes and a variety of perspectives of interest. Have a topic suggestion, please let us know!

Have a topic suggestion, please let us know! Date and location to be decided.

For more information, contact Sandy Lash at (845) 232-1029, email: [info@shir-chadash.org](mailto:info@shir-chadash.org) or website: [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org).

## Adult Education

### Educational Opportunities Abound at Schomre Israel

**Know Your Book with Rabbi Langer** Tuesday, January 9, 16, 23, 30, 10:30am. Class and discussion based on the weekly Torah Parsha. Jan. 9: What's in a Name. Jan. 16: Seeing IS Believing. Jan. 23: Kosher Locusts. Jan. 30: Wagon Wheels.

**Classes with Rabbi Langer** Thursday, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 7:00pm. Class and discussion on different topics. Jan. 4: Astrology. Jan. 11: DNA Evidence in the Jewish Court. Jan. 18: Prevent Rabbinic Burnout. Jan.25: The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Blossoms.

Classes are free. All are welcome. Visit our website, [www.schomreisrael.org](http://www.schomreisrael.org) for a full complement of recordings of previous classes of the following topics: books of the Bible, controversial issues in Israel, new perspectives on the holidays, Jewish biographies, crash course on Jewish history and more.

For information on weather cancellations and class schedules visit [www.schomreisrael.org](http://www.schomreisrael.org) or call (845) 454-2890.

### Weekly Adult Study Groups at Vassar Temple

**The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text**, Tuesday, January 9, 30, February 13, 27, 12:00pm. Taught by Senior Scholar, Rabbi Paul Golomb. All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! No charge to attend. Questions? [pgolomb@verizon.net](mailto:pgolomb@verizon.net)

**Torah Study** every Saturday, 9:00am, with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. Examine passages from the week's Torah portion or haftorah.

All welcome. No charge to attend. No previous training required. For more information or if you have questions email [vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com](mailto:vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com) (845) 454-2570.

### Higher and Higher: Come Grow with Temple Beth-El

**Chaverim/Amigos/Friends: A Modern Jewish Discussion Group.** The purpose of this program is to bring friends together in an informal setting (outside Temple Beth-El) to discuss topics involving Jewish ideas and lifestyles. Here is a chance for you to invite Rabbi Victor into your home to discuss a number of different topics. To discuss details email Merri Sedgewick at [moondoggie@optonline.net](mailto:moondoggie@optonline.net).

**People of the Book with Rabbi Daniel Victor**, Thursday, 12:30pm, at The Crafted Kup, Raymond Avenue. Jews often refer to themselves as the people of the book. Although the "Book" originally referred solely to the *Tanach*, Jews expanded the phrase to encompass post-biblical literature. The *Mishnah*, which is comprised of six tractates of study is the most basic book of the post-biblical literature (The Oral Torah) and considered the key to the rest. This ongoing class is studying *Mishnah Sukkah* (from the tractate of Shabbat and Holidays), no charge and everyone is welcome.

**On Eagles Wings: Adult Discovery Course, 9 months of exposure to Jewish History, Spiritually and Practice**  
Adult discovery course for both non-Jews journeying towards conversion and Jews looking to strengthen their basic Jewish foundations. Class meetings will be determined at that time based on participating student's availability. The cost for attending the class is determined individually based on one's journey and can be determined through conversations with Rabbi Daniel Victor. Please call the synagogue at (845) 454-0570 to speak with Rabbi Daniel Victor if you are interested in attending. We look forward to engaging in this meaningful experience with you.

**Adult Hebrew Class** Sunday, 9:30am January 6—March 10. Learn to read and speak Hebrew with Naomi Kamlot. RSVP to [educationassist@tbeny.org](mailto:educationassist@tbeny.org) or contact the office (845) 454-0570. Donation for the class is suggested.

All welcome. Details at the Temple Beth-El website [www.tbeny.org](http://www.tbeny.org) or (845) 454-0570 or email [info@tbeny.org](mailto:info@tbeny.org).

### Chabad Center Classes

**Torah Class: Discover the World of Prayer:** Wednesdays, 11:00am at the Borenstein home, 36 Pleasant Ridge Drive, led by Hindy Borenstein. Indulge your mind with thought-provoking insights from the weekly Torah portion and other contemporary issues, and indulge your body with a light and healthy lunch.

Please visit our website [www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com](http://www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com)

### Congregation Shir Chadash

**Saturday Torah Study** resumes Saturday, January 6, 20, 9:15am. While enjoying a light breakfast, engage in an informal discussion about the Torah portion of the week with Rabbi Polish. Everyone has a chance to participate. No expertise or knowledge of Hebrew is needed—just an inquisitive mind, a curiosity about our tradition and a willingness to share your thoughts. All welcome to attend. Bimonthly, check website calendar for exact dates.

For more information call (845) 232-1029, email [info@shir-chadash.org](mailto:info@shir-chadash.org) or [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org).

### A Modern Day Miracle at Schomre Israel, Sunday January 14, 7:00pm

Toward the end of World War II, Holocaust victims sought to save what little was left of their communities. Torahs were hidden in the hopes that they would survive even if the Jews and their communities did not. Now, over 70 years after the end of World War II, hundreds of Torahs have been found in Russia and they are in the process of being returned to the Jewish people.

Join Congregation Schomre Israel to hear the story of a real life hero and Tzedekes - Sibyl Silver of The Jewish Heritage Foundation who is responsible for finding, authenticating and bringing Jewish and Holocaust survivor communities together to rescue these Torahs so they can be returned to religious, communal and educational uses.

The Foundation was created to address a problem that has not been solved by governments, organizations or activist communities: what to do about Judaica that was stolen by the Nazis from Jewish communities of Europe and has not yet been accounted for or returned? The Foundation is committed to these simple but all important principles: # 1 - Stolen Judaica should be returned to the Jewish people. # 2 - Stolen Judaica should be used to help rebuild the communities from which it was stolen. # 3 - Stolen Judaica should be used to help keep alive and honor the memories of the martyrs of the Holocaust through education and museum projects worldwide.

Our guest, Sybil Silver, along with her husband, Bob, founded The Jewish Heritage Foundation to rescue hundreds of Torah scrolls. For over 70 years, the largest collection of items of Judaica that were stolen from Jewish communities throughout Europe have been held in the former Soviet Union. The largest of all Jewish organizations, the most powerful and influential of politicians from around the world, the best connected business persons in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the greatest experts from around the world have tried without success to locate, document and restore these items. Starting in 2011, a small group of "regular" Jews from Florida came together with some of the world's leading experts in Holocaust education and museums and a group of rabbis from Russia, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and the United States to address this issue.

All members of the community are cordially invited to this presentation  
For information contact Schomre Israel Congregation at [schomre1@aol.com](mailto:schomre1@aol.com) or (845) 454-2890.

### VASSAR TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB NEWS

Meet the two new Men's Club Co-Presidents at Vassar Temple.

Dan Teich: My wife, Shira, and I have been Vassar Temple members for a few years. A year and a half ago, we welcomed our son into the world. I've been a trustee on our board for two years. I am excited about all the Men's Club events this upcoming year.

Glenn Tanzman: As a relatively new member, I look forward to this opportunity to engage with more members of our Vassar Temple community. My time with the Engagement Committee has reminded me that it's the relationships we build here is what sustains us, and Dan and I hope that we will be able to provide those opportunities.

They plan to continue programs and activities such as sukkah building, the Purim Pasta Dinner, Men's Club Shabbat, doing LunchBox, sprucing up the building, and social and outdoor events, as well as initiating interesting new programs. For further information contact Dan and Glenn at [mensclub@vassartemple.org](mailto:mensclub@vassartemple.org).



# Debbie's Voice



It's been a few months since my son, Zach, became a bar mitzvah. I've had plenty of time to recover (mentally and physically!) and reflect on the momentous occasion. Having never been a bat mitzvah myself, I can't say whether every bar or bat mitzvah is amazing. I can unequivocally state that Zach's bar mitzvah was truly amazing.

In the predawn morning of Zach's Bar Mitzvah day, I was out walking Turtle (our dog) and I looked up and saw a shooting star, and I just knew that it was going to be a magical day. And it was.

From the second Zach woke up, he was bouncing up and down with excitement. No sign of nerves, just excitement. We arrived at Temple Beth-El at 6:45am and Zach stood by the door and greeted every family member or friend upon their arrival.

His service was not your traditional bar mitzvah service in the sense that it was on a Thursday morning during morning minion; however, many aspects of the traditional ceremony were incorporated into Zach's ceremony.

He received his tallit. Zach read a part of his Torah portion but also had his dad and cousin read the other parts. My husband, who hadn't read from the Torah since his own bar mitzvah, and had been frantically practicing during the weeks leading up to the ceremony, chanted his portion beautifully. I managed to read my aliyah correctly (going from right to left, unlike how I'd been practicing it!).

All of Zach's relatives participated in some form: great grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins saying blessings, opening or closing the ark and carrying the Torah. My younger son, Colby (who's 8), gleefully participated in the candy-throwing conclusion of the service by taking the basket of candy that was left over and dumping it over Zach's head. The sanctuary was filled with Zach's family, loved ones and friends. He gave his speech like he was being paid to be there, and it was another moment that filled my heart with pride and awe.

His celebration a few days later was also wonderful. All those sleepless nights where I googled various ideas had truly paid off. Everything was incredible. The evening was magical not because of the venue, food, DJ or any other tangible part (which, not for nothing, were amazing!) but because the room was filled with my family, wonderful friends and Zach's smile. Zach smiled more during that party than he had in the years leading up to it!

I was told by many people that post Bar Mitzvah, I would need some down time, a break from being at Temple and that I would feel depressed that it was all over. Maybe I am just weird (ok...probably not maybe) but I don't feel any of those things – actually, the opposite. Well, that's not entirely true. I definitely spent a few days napping after his party.

I now have a deeper connection to our temple community because I am so grateful for the love and support they showed Zach. Lastly, I get a huge smile every time I look at the framed picture of Zach, surrounded by our entire laughing family on the Bimah...they are laughing because before the photographer could take the picture, Colby yelled, "Everyone say Colby is awesome!"



## Young Jewish Professionals in Dutchess

### This month meet: Dr. Adam Rubenstein

*Reporter's Note: Every month, I will be interviewing a youngish Jewish professional in our area. Please feel free to email us with any suggestions! - -- Debbie Silbergleit*

Adam grew up in Co-Op City in the Bronx. He was raised as a conservative Jew and attended services with his family growing up. Like many of us, he didn't have a lot of Jewish friends and post Bar Mitzvah, stopped his involvement with organized Jewish activities. He attended college at SUNY Albany, Albert Einstein Medical School and completed his residency in Tulane.



Adam had a dilemma while in med school. He couldn't decide between becoming a pediatrician or an internist. Eventually, Adam realized he didn't have to choose and became board certified in both specialty areas. He is a pediatrician and internist at Hudson Valley Primary Care in Wappinger Falls. He loves his job, seeing different generations of patients every day. He can be the doctor for entire families – babies through grandparents.

Adam and his family moved to Dutchess County in 2000. He loves the fresh country air, the open spaces and the family life here but happy knowing Manhattan is not too far away too. His wife, a reform Jew, wanted to be involved in the Jewish community here, so they became members of Shir Chadash. Adam admits the music during services was a struggle at first, for him it was the biggest adjustment from Conservative Judaism to Reform. He now embraces the music and the enjoys the religious leadership at Shir Chadash.

Adam feels that Dutchess County has a small but solid Jewish population. He feels we live in a close-knit Jewish community. He has two children, his oldest became a Bat Mitzvah a few years ago and his younger daughter will be called to the Torah in a few more years. Adam enjoys attending services at Shir Chadash and feels that the interfaith aspect of their current location is a nice connection to the community.

Growing up, his favorite religious holiday was always Passover, "although definitely not for the food!" Adam always looked forward to having all his family get together. Nowadays, his favorite holiday is Rosh Hashana because he looks forward to hearing the shofar blast. Passover has become his least favorite holiday, mainly because of the matzah!

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Email submissions to theVoice@JewishDutchess.org

### VOICE DEADLINES

Note deadlines below. Email TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org if you have questions.

| ISSUE    | DEADLINE   |
|----------|------------|
| February | January 1  |
| March    | February 1 |
| April    | March 1    |

### Refugee Resettlement Project

Last year, Vassar Temple joined with other local faith-based communities and Vassar College to form the Mid-Hudson Refugee Resettlement Project.

There was much excitement about the possibility of multiple families from refugee centers across the world joining our community. However, in January the President announce a travel ban and dramatically reduced the number of refugees who would be admitted to this country through the existing programs and agencies already operating within the US State Department and Office of Homeland Security. While the number of families to be resettled has not been what we anticipated, this group has achieved much success over the year.

Key achievements have included the resettlement of two families, one from Congo and another from Egypt. The group has also provided financial support for Syrian and Iraqi refugee families in Albany. On Sunday, January 28, from 3:00-5:00pm, Vassar Temple will host an open meeting at the temple to update the community on the past year's challenges, achievements and current status of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Resettlement Project.

Featured will be brief presentations from refugee resettlement leaders at Vassar Temple, Masjid Al Noor, Christ Episcopal Church and Vassar College on the accomplishments of this project over the past year. Plan to join us for an informative meeting, after which we will gather in the social hall downstairs for refreshments and socializing.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Andi Ciminello and Lisa Rubenstein, Vassar Temple Refugee Resettlement Team Co-Captains, at refugee@vassartemple.org.

## Rabbi's Blog

### My Letter in the Torah

By Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

Legend has it that each of us has our own letter in the Torah.

A *midrash* tells us that the word *Yisrael* is an acronym for *Yesh Shishim Raboh Otiot L'Torah* ("There are six hundred thousand letters in the Torah), equivalent to the number of Israelites who stood at Sinai to receive the Torah. Therefore, every person in Israel has his or her own letter in the Torah. If a Torah is missing even one letter, it is not fit to be read in the synagogue. So if even one Israelite had been missing at Sinai, the Torah could not have been given.

This past October, I found my letter in the Torah. As the culmination of a year-long Torah repair project at Vassar Temple, our community came together to clean and repair one of our scrolls. Sofer Neil Yerman led our Religious School in a workshop explaining how the scrolls are written and how we can be a part of maintaining them.

Sofer Yerman then gave each of us the opportunity to decorate a letter in the Torah with *k'tarim* or crowns. While their purpose is primarily *hiddur mitzvah*, the beautification of a commandment, the Talmud tells us that great scholars like Rabbi Akiva could spin hundreds of interpretations only from looking at the crowns!

If asked to pick my own letter in the Torah to decorate, I probably would have agonized over it for weeks. Would I want the *ayin* in the *Shema* or the *shin* in *Bereishit*? Did I want my letter to be part of the Priestly Benediction or the Ten Commandments?

Fortunately, Sofer Yerman chose the passage for us: *Shirat HaYam*, the Song of the Sea, which we will read in synagogue on the last Shabbat of this month. This passage from Exodus 15 records the moment right after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. Their feelings of awe and gratitude were so overwhelming so as to be beyond words. So the Israelites burst into song, praising God for God's heroic rescue of the enslaved Israelites. The poetic chant that follows is the source of the prayer *Mi Chamocha*, as well as classic Jewish songs like *Ozi v'zimrat Yah*.

When we read this passage from the Torah, we learn that, in addition to singing, the women go out with timbrels and dancing, which leads us to the question: Why would someone fleeing their home in a hurry pack a musical instrument? Wouldn't it have been more practical to pack, say, bread? In a *midrash*, Rabbi Yishmael tells us that the Israelite women were so confident that they were going to witness a miracle that they made room in their bags for timbrels, so that they would be prepared to celebrate when the time came.

I cannot help but admire their optimism. After 400 years of slavery, it must have taken a lot of courage even to *hope* for a miracle. But to *expect* a miracle, and be prepared for it, speaks to the Israelites' unwavering faith in God, their undying hope for a better future. In these tumultuous times, we could all use more of that optimism!

Each of us has our own letter in the Torah. My letter-- the *shin* in *shirah*, "song"-- will serve as a constant reminder to me to hope for the best, and to always pack my timbrels, just in case.

What would *your* letter in the Torah be?



Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

## Inside the Jewish Studio

By Debbie Silbergleit

This questionnaire originated in the French series, *Bouillon de Culture*, better known as the closing questions asked by James Lipton on the celebrity interview TV show, *Inside the Actor's Studio*. The questions are re-adapted for this column.

Each month, I ask a MOT\* these questions and feature their answers.

This month, special thank you to Tikva Rose, a special educator who bravely volunteered to answer my questions...

1. What is your favorite word? *Could*
2. What is your least favorite word? *Should*
3. What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally? *Being around people who are kind and don't judge.*
4. What turns you off? *Judgement*
5. What is your favorite curse word? *The F-word: Wait! I teach Sunday School! You can't write that! How about fudge!?!*
6. What sound or noise do you love? *My kids laughing.*
7. What sound or noise do you hate? *Metal hitting metal.*
8. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt? *I'd love to be a doctor.*
9. What profession would you not like to do? *Truck Driver*
10. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates? *You're finally here! Look who's waiting for you!*

\*Member of the Tribe



Tikva Rose

### Intergenerational Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shabbat Shira Service Honoring Debbie Friedman

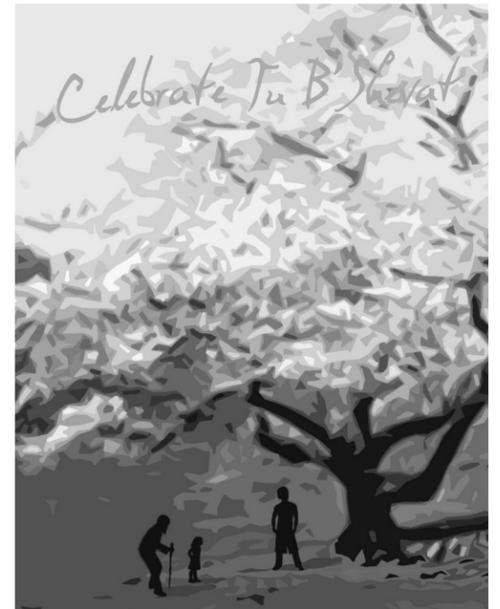
Tu B'Shevat is a wonderful Jewish festival celebrating trees, fruit and nature. Everyone is invited to come together with Vassar Temple's Adult Torah Study Group and the children of our Religious School on Saturday, January 27, at 9:00am for an intergenerational Tu B'Shevat Seder featuring a large variety of fruits from the trees.

Following the seder, at 10:00am a Shabbat morning service, led by Rabbi Berkowitz, Cantorial Intern Laura Stein and some of our religious school students, will be held in honor of Shabbat Shira. Shabbat Shira is the Sabbath of Singing, when Jews all around the world chant from the Torah, remembering the momentous and joyful occasion of Moses and Miriam leading the Israelites across the Red Sea. This Shabbat Shira also marks the 7th Yartzeit of Debbie Friedman, an innovator in Jewish music, worship and culture. Cantorial Intern Laura Stein will deliver a sermon in song, in which she'll celebrate the legacy of Debbie Friedman by telling her story and teaching some of her lesser-known melodies.

Join us at Vassar Temple for this joyful celebration commemorating two special events converging at this time in our Jewish year!

#### DETAILS

Saturday, January 27, 9:00am  
Tu B'Shevat, 10:00am Shabbat service.



### Shir Chadash Celebrates Tu B'Shevat

Congregation Shir Chadash will celebrate Tu B'Shevat on Saturday, February 3 at 10:45am. There will be a special service and Tu B'Shevat seder featuring the crops of Israel. Included in the seder will be the seven species: wheat, barley, olives, pomegranates, grapes, figs and dates. The seder will be led by Rabbi Daniel Polish along with a beautifully illustrated companion booklet. A vegan lunch will also be served provided by Robbie Schiff in honor of her late father.

#### DETAILS

Saturday, February 3, 10:45am For more information or to RSVP, please call (845) 232-1029, email [info@shir-chadash.org](mailto:info@shir-chadash.org) or check out our website at [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org).

### The Rollers and Pinchers Are Back--They're Baking Hamentashen

Although rolling and pinching sound like they may be skills needed for some type of sports game, the rolling and pinching here refer to the deft motions needed to bake delicious hamentashen for Purim. Sisterhood Schomre Israel is rolling out its annual hamentashen sale.

Here's what you need to know:

- Purim is March 1, 2018
- All orders (hamentashen and Shaloch Monot baskets) must be prepaid by February 12.
- Hamentashen are \$14 per dozen and \$10 per half dozen.
- Shaloch Monot baskets are \$22 each.
- Pickup will be on Sunday, February 18, 2018 at the synagogue between 12:00-2:00pm.
- Hamentashen orders or Shaloch Monot baskets can be mailed for a \$13 shipping charge.

To order you may contact [rgrosman@aol.com](mailto:rgrosman@aol.com), get an order form from the synagogue website [www.schomreisrael.org](http://www.schomreisrael.org) or call (845) 454-2890.

Here are the delicious details:

- Hamentashen are available in the following fillings: prune, poppy seed, raspberry, apricot and chocolate.
- Each Shaloch Monot basket contains hamentashen, candy, nuts, fruit and a beverage.
- Hamentashen and baskets are prepared at the synagogue and items are kosher and pareve.

Get your orders in early!



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## Whiling Away the Winter

by Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Education Director & Cantor Devorah Gartner, Youth & B'nai Director

Winter is magical in our beautiful Hudson Valley. Star-dusted nights. Brilliant, clear, cold days. Snow falling softly through the branches. The diamond glitter of icicles on the eaves. And, amidst the stark loveliness of this darkest of seasons, there is light, warmth, fellowship and family. The instincts that bring us together on these longest of nights are ancient and deep.

Hanukah, with its extravagance of candlelight, has come and gone. The dreidels have been spun, the latkes have sizzled and the doughnuts have been devoured. We told the age-old stories and sang the well-loved songs. We publicized the miracle of Hanukah by lighting the life-sized outdoor hanukiyah created by our children.

For the Temple Beth-El Religious School, January means **Shabbat School**, that special time of year when we explore our Judaism within the framework of Saturday mornings, sometimes paralleling, sometimes flowing in and out, of the Shabbat Morning service. Intergenerational and multisensory programs and activities echo throughout the building. We rejoice at warm Shabbat meals and dance at Havdalah parties. And, we fight the never-ending urge to simply hibernate.

The month of Shevat will finally arrive, just as we begin to despair of warmth and sun. This year, we will celebrate Tu b'Shevat at Shabbat school on Saturday, February 3. Our teens will welcome spring with a "**Fruit Shul-In**," an overnight on January 27–28 for Kadimaniks (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) from the Tzafon region (Poughkeepsie, Albany, Schenectady and Pittsfield, MA), run by our United Synagogue Youth teens. Much fun, frivolity and food are foretold.

The mystical progression of the Tu b'Shevat seder reminds us of the almond trees, blooming in Eretz Yisrael. Our own Hudson Valley apple trees will do the same, in just a month or two more. So, as more light begins to steal into the sky each day, we wait for spring.

## Shining Bright

by Cantor Devorah Gartner  
Temple Beth-El Youth Director

From early November to mid-December, the Temple Beth-El Youth Group, assisted by the students of the Gesher Combined Hebrew High School, have been sorting the generous donations of coats, hats, scarves, gloves and winter wear of all kinds collected for the annual **Bright Nights** project.

Over the weekend of December 8-10 (despite the snow), the final sorting, packing and distribution took place with the help of many volunteers, both teen and adult. Winter clothing was distributed to the children of the Morse School. In addition to winter clothing, one hundred lunches and toiletry bags were given to those in need at Lunchbox, as well as to the residents of Hudson River Lodging.

The volume and variety of donations was astounding and the energy of the volunteers – sorters, schleppers, sandwich makers and drivers was amazing. There are no words for all of the special moments the performance of this mitzvah brought to those who participated. Todah rabbah to all who donated warm clothing, and especially to those who gave of their time.



## Temple Beth-El Stories, Songs, Torah & Fun! Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Neal

Join the community for Shabbat Kiddush afterwards. Parents and children ages 0-6 (and their siblings) are welcome! Bring friends!

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. The third Saturday of the month at 11:15am.



## PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley ROVERS

# Leadership Lollapalooza II

What does it mean to be a mensch?  
What does it take to be a leader?

Two and a half hours of fun activities!



### Jewish Leadership Workshop for Kids Ages 7-12

January 15, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Locust Grove, 2683 South Rd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Event is free and includes separate Parent Workshop and Coffee

Details at [PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley on Facebook](#) or [PJLibrary@JewishDutchess.org](mailto:PJLibrary@JewishDutchess.org)

Space is limited, Please RSVP



The Jewish Federation  
OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

The Harding Club



Jewish Federation  
OF ULSTER COUNTY

This program is made possible through the generosity of the above partners and  
The Harold Grinspoon Foundation Alliance Engagement Grant

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## CHABAD MID-HUDSON VALLEY

Sunday, 10:00am-12:15pm, ages 5-12 years  
at 63 Vassar Rd, Poughkeepsie

For information about preschool, new pre-bar/bat mitzvah class, contact  
Hindy Borenstein, Director (845) 463-5801  
or [chabadmidsouthvalley@prodigy.net](mailto:chabadmidsouthvalley@prodigy.net)

## RHINEBECK JEWISH CENTER

Monday, 4:00-5:30pm  
Tiny Tots Division ages 1-5  
Intermediate Division ages 6-10  
Bar and Bat Mitzvah ages 11-13

For information, contact  
Rebbitzin Tzivie Hecht, Director (845) 876-7666  
or [tziviehecht@gmail.com](mailto:tziviehecht@gmail.com)

## SHIR CHADASH

Congregation Shir-Chadash's religious school will be starting the next phase of their new curriculum, *Immigration: Life & times of the Jews in America*. Member families' children from Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are welcome to attend at no charge for a full year.

Classes meet two Saturdays a month at 9:00am. See website for dates and special new membership rate.

For information, contact (845) 232-1029  
or [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org)

## TEMPLE BETH-EL

At Temple Beth-El, education is something truly celebrated! From kindergarten through the last year of high school, Temple Beth-El instills a love of Judaism and a lifelong hunger for Jewish learning.

Tuesday, Ivrit (Hebrew) School  
4:30-6:30pm, grades 3-7

Wednesday, Gesher Youth Program  
6:30-8:30pm, grades 8-12

Saturday, Shabbat School  
9:30am-12:30pm, grades PreK-6

Saturday, B'Nai Mitzvah Class  
9:30am-12:30pm, grade 7

Sunday, Judaic Studies  
9:30am-12:30pm, grades PreK-6

For information, contact (845) 454-0570  
or [education@tbeny.org](mailto:education@tbeny.org)

## VASSAR TEMPLE

Vassar Temple provides a program of Jewish education within the Reform Movement's guidelines, which deepens a student's Jewish experience and knowledge in an accepting and stimulating learning environment. Our philosophy of Jewish learning is based on the quotation from Pirke Avot, "The world depends on three things: on Torah, on worship and on deeds of loving kindness." Temple membership not required.

Sunday Religious School  
Sundays, No class Dec. 24, 31  
9:00am-12:00pm, grades K-7

Hebrew Language School  
Wednesdays, No class Dec. 20, 27  
4:30pm, grades 4-7

Innovative individualized Hebrew language instruction and bar/bat mitzvah preparation. New enrollments always welcome.

For information contact  
Julie Makowsky, Director (845) 454-2570  
or [rsdirector@vassartemple.org](mailto:rsdirector@vassartemple.org)

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**yachad together**

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JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

**Family Game Night Ideas**

For a cooperative alternative to family game night here are some easy games you can play as a family just using supplies you have around the house! The key is to make sure the activity is *cooperative* and not *competitive*, so as to create a collaborative experience.

Set a timer for 5 or 10 minutes.

Use 20 plastic cups to build a structure together. To make it more challenging, test its' strength by adding a stack of books to the top.

Or use mini marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti noodles to build a bridge or a structure to hold up an object.

Hold hands in a circle and work together to keep a balloon from touching the floor, you use any part of your body except for your feet.

With a long rope or piece of yarn, make a large circle on the floor. Work together to get everyone sitting inside the circle. Then you repeat the activity, making the circle smaller each time.

Using a box of craft sticks build the tallest tower you can that won't fall over.

Take the time to debrief. Ask questions like, "What went well?" or "What can we do better next time?" Don't forget or skip over this part! This allows kids to process their own actions and behavior, which reinforces good behavior and helps them to see what they can work on for next time.

These ideas and more can be found at <http://www.hippohoorayforsecondgrade.com/2016/01/quick-and-easy-cooperative-games>



Melinda Kim Jessa Emily

**January is Refer a Friend Month for PJ Library!**

Check your book envelopes and email for an opportunity to refer a friend to PJ Library and receive a \$5 gift card for yourself. A gift card is a nice incentive but we have an even better one: PJ Library is a fabulous program! Free, quality, age appropriate books with a Jewish twist arrive in the mail each month for kids 6 months to 11 years old. The PJ Library website is FULL of resources for parents on Jewish Holidays, recipes, child development, how-to's on talking about difficult subjects, and fun activities. Locally, PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley includes you in a large group of Jewish and Inter-faith families right here in the Hudson Valley. We help you meet each other, we listen to your ideas, ask for your help, and create meaningful and engaging events for you close to home. We create an email for you each month with local resources and a local event calendar to help you stay connected to what is happening in your neighborhood. We have a Facebook page and a closed Facebook group for parents to keep you connected.

Make sure your friends are also part of this growing program, receiving the books for their children, and engaging with us. Let's connect them to all of the benefits of PJ Library and PJ OurWay.

This year, 40 kids who have been receiving PJ Library books for years here in the Mid-Hudson Valley will age out! Be sure to enroll them in PJ OurWay as they turn 8 1/2 by going to the website with them, [www.pjourway.org](http://www.pjourway.org). This next step in PJ is different, requiring the kids to go to the website each month between the first and the tenth to choose one of four chapter books. The books only come if they make a choice. The PJ OurWay program is kid centered and kid run. There are many opportunities for local kids to engage on the website, contributing videos, book reviews and more. We also create a minimum of four local PJ OurWay events each year which have included rock climbing at The Vault, a pool party and roller skating.

Our January event, Leadership Lallapalooza II, is for PJ Library kids age 7 and older and PJOurWay kids. It is an opportunity for older kids to mentor younger kids and for all of them to engage with each other in cooperative activities that are challenging and fun! This two and a half hour program also offers an element for parents so don't just drop the kids off, stay and join us for some parenting skill building and a cup of coffee!

Keep us informed about the kind of programming you want. Help us reach more Mid-Hudson Valley Jewish and Inter-Faith families. We would love to hear from you at [pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org).

We hope to see you soon!

Your PJ Library Mid-Hudson team,

Melinda Margulies, Kimberly Ritz, Jessa Campo, and Emily Soltanoff



1. TBE Menorah during installation with Rabbi Victor, Stew Brenner and Lou Newman
2. TBE Menorah installed in front of the building
3. 1<sup>st</sup> night of Hanukkah menorah lighting with the TBE- Shir Chadash Hebrew school and PJ Library
4. Rabbi Miriam and Rabbi Victor at the Barnes and Noble event



**Not a part of PJ Library yet?**

Receive a FREE children's book each month and become part of the PJ Library family.

**Register online at [www.PJLibrary.org](http://www.PJLibrary.org)**

Monthly e-newsletters. Special program invitations! Call (845) 471-9811 or email [PJLibrary@JewishDutchess.org](mailto:PJLibrary@JewishDutchess.org)



PJ Library is made possible through gifts from the Jewish Federations of Dutchess and Ulster Counties, the Harding Club, and the generous support of PJ Library donors. To make a donation online, go to [www.JewishDutchess.org](http://www.JewishDutchess.org)

*Thank you!*



Vassar Temple Youth Group Had a Fun Time playing Laser Tag!



Barnes & Noble event with PJ Library, TBE and Shir Chadash Hebrew school



Vassar Temple Hebrew School students and teens prepared food baskets to help our neighbors in need enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving.

## The Federation President's Voice



Dear Friends:

Welcome to 2018: a brand New Year.

We are starting out with an exciting new Executive Director who is full of enthusiasm. We have a number of new members who have recently joined Federation's board. They come from varied parts of the community which should help all of us with our ongoing outreach efforts. And we are hoping to pursue lots of new ideas while still focusing on the programs that you have let us know that you enjoy. For example, we plan to expand our Lunch and Learn program to other parts of Dutchess County while continuing to maintain the original Lunch and Learn program right here in Poughkeepsie.

I want you to know who our board members are, so they are listed on page 2. You should feel encouraged to contact any of them with your thoughts, with your concerns and most especially with your ideas about how Federation can better serve your needs.

We are pursuing ways to expand our advertising in "The Voice" so that more people and businesses can connect and learn about one another. We are always looking for interesting speakers on the topic of Israel. If you know of someone who would be exciting and informative, by all means, do let us know about it.

As you can see, Federation is on the move. We need you to help us turn our ideas into realities, so please don't hesitate to let us hear from you. Your participation will make the Jewish Federation the organization you want it to be.

And of course, I am always happy to hear from you directly. Wishing all of us a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Fondly,

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, President, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

## Our Executive Director



Times flies when you are having fun....and it has been a whirlwind of fun! As I write this, it has been approximately 5 weeks since I started this adventure with you and the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, which I now lovingly refer to as JFDC and hope you will as well. My initial task was to become Margret Meade and learn as much as I could about the organization including: what is JFDC all about, who is JFDC helping; and lastly what is most important to the community and how can JFDC best deliver it? It has been quite an enlightening process.

We highlighted a number of these items during our Annual Meeting in December, where we focused on *ENGAGEMENT*. By definition, to *engage* is to "occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention)" OR "to participate or become involved in."

At the meeting, we shared examples of how we are working with younger families through PJ Library, with the senior social circle at Learn & Lunch Bunch and with the community at large through our various activities and efforts. However, there is so much more we do that impacts the community. Plus, there is even more we want to do for you, and more importantly *with you*. We want to ENGAGE you in our activities as we culturally

(Continued on page 12)

### 92nd Street Y

92nd Street Y programs are a collaboration of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

**Thursday, January 18, 7pm, Boardman Road Branch Library**  
**Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg in conversation with Charlie Rose**

Charlie Rose and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg will cover a broad range of topics — from the law to politics. From gender equality. From the workways of the Supreme Court to...much much more.



Don't miss this opportunity to hear from one of the most influential people in America.  
**[recorded previously]**

**Thursday, February 15, 7pm, Boardman Road Branch Library**  
**Rabbi Naomi Levy and Julianna Margulies: Einstein and the Rabbi**

Bestselling author Rabbi Naomi Levy, the founder of Nashuva, a renowned Jewish spiritual movement, is joined by Julianna Margulies (*The Good Wife*) for a conversation about the rabbi's new book, *Einstein and the Rabbi*, an exploration of the meaning and purpose of the soul, inspired by the famous correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi.  
**[recorded previously]**



**LOCATION: Boardman Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie**

*This is a collaboration between the Library District and The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, made possible in part, through a grant from the Norman and Jeannie Greene Fund.*

To view a 92nd St Y talk, go to [www.92yondemand.org](http://www.92yondemand.org) and click on TOPICS, then JEWISH INTEREST to select from a list of programs. You'll find a great number of lectures by such notables as Alan Dershowitz, Elie Wiesel and topics including God and Israel.

### HELP WANTED

#### Advertising Representative for *The Voice*

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County seeks an energetic, outgoing and creative individual.

Would you like to earn extra money as the Advertising Representative for our monthly newspaper *The Voice*?

The job entails four aspects -

- Providing outstanding customer service to our existing advertisers,
- Seeking out new advertisers
- Informing community members opportunities to greeting in our three holiday papers (Passover, Rosh Hashana and Chanukah)
- Distributing *The Voice* to our local businesses and Federation supporters

A good car in working order is required. Compensation is commission based. Training will be provided. Friendly work environment.

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3 – 2 Liter Bottles of Soda  
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4ft. Hero Italian or American  
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Buffalo Wings 45.  
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# the Kosher Store

Featuring the largest kosher selection of fresh meat, poultry, dairy, frozen & grocery in the Poughkeepsie area.

### GROcery Including a large selection of Kosher Dairy & Frozen items.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>18-20 Ct. Select Varieties<br/><b>Bigelow Herbal Tea</b><br/>2/\$5</p>  | <p>12 oz. Select Varieties<br/><b>Manischewitz Egg Noodles</b><br/>4/\$5</p>                |
| <p>32 oz. Creamy Tomato or Roasted Red Pepper &amp; Tomato<br/><b>Pacific Food Organic Soup</b><br/>3<sup>99</sup></p> | <p>12 oz. Select Varieties<br/><b>Nature's Earthly Choice Quinoa</b><br/>4<sup>99</sup></p> |
| <p>24.5 oz.<br/><b>Rice Select Plain Pearl Couscous</b><br/>4<sup>99</sup></p>   | <p>11 oz.<br/><b>Ah-So Sparerib Sauce</b><br/>3<sup>49</sup></p>                            |

### Meat Including a selection of Glatt Kosher Fresh and Frozen Beef, Chicken & Turkey.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>32 oz. KAJ<br/><b>Empire Kosher Boneless &amp; Skinless Chicken Breasts</b><br/>11<sup>98</sup></p>       | <p>KAJ<br/><b>Empire Kosher Leg Quarters</b><br/>2<sup>49</sup> lb.</p>            |
| <p>7 oz. KAJ<br/><b>Empire Kosher Sliced Turkey, Turkey Salami or Turkey Pastrami</b><br/>3<sup>79</sup></p> | <p>33 oz.<br/><b>Meal Mart Meat Balls in Marinara Sauce</b><br/>9<sup>99</sup></p> |

### Fish Including a selection of Salmon Fillets & Steaks.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>9 oz.<br/><b>Gold's Cocktail Sauce</b><br/>1<sup>99</sup></p> | <p>8 oz.<br/><b>Nathan's Smoked Salmon</b><br/>9<sup>99</sup></p> |
|--|---|

We carry Renfell's Fine Kosher Baked Goods & Breads – delivered fresh from Montreal.

Exclusively at the Poughkeepsie Store  
2585 South Road • 452-1005



Prices effective Sunday, December 24, 2017 thru Saturday, January 27, 2018.

**Movie Night at Schomre**

Schomre Israel will be showing the comedy drama *Woman in Gold*. This film which stars Helen Mirren is based on a true story. Six decades after the Holocaust, Maria Altman, an elderly Jewish woman, embarks on a quest to reclaim her family's artwork that had been stolen by the Nazis. Their stolen paintings include the famed portrait *Woman in Gold* by Gustav Klimt



Enjoy popcorn, beverage and the movie.

**DETAILS**  
Jan. 20, 7:00pm at the synagogue. A donation of \$5 is suggested. All are welcome.

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 625**

Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States holds regular monthly meetings.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in the armed forces and others of the Jewish faith are cordially invited to attend and participate. At 9:00am there will be an informal coffee and cake "schmooze."

Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher so no outside food may be brought in. We look forward to seeing you there.

**DETAILS**  
Sunday: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 4, April 8 at 9:30am. 18 Park Ave. Questions? Contact Rob Rubin, Presiding Officer qbee5@optonline.net

**New Paths Morning Worship**

Join us at New Paths Sabbath morning service in the informal, intimate setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel.

The moving liturgy of the *New Paths* prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English. Participants may bring supplemental materials to share.

Each New Paths service, whether lay-led or rabbi-led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. A brief mini Kiddush follows.

**DETAILS**  
Saturday, Jan. 6, 20 10:00am. For info, contact Rabbi Leah Berkowitz: rabbi@vassar temple.org, email Marian Schwartz: mschwa9882@aol.com or call the temple office (845) 454-2570.

**Trip to Poland and Israel**

Rabbi Eliezer Langer of Congregation Schomre Israel is planning a historical tour to Poland and Israel from May 6-22, 2018. We will experience both the beauty and the destruction of European Jewry by seeing first hand the communities where our ancestors lived for centuries prior to emigration and annihilation.

Visiting former Chassidic centers, concentration camps and mass burials sites will give perspective and greater appreciation as we then travel to Israel, the modern and ancient.

First class hotels, air-conditioned busses and excellent guidance will assure you an experience of a lifetime on this unique Schomre Israel Tour.

The trip is open to the public. For info please email Rabbi Langer at rabbi@schomreisrael.org or call (845) 454-2890.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt 135<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commemoration – January 30**  
By Martin C. Hochhauser

On a cold but clear day on January 30, 2017 dignitaries came to Hyde Park, NY to commemorate the birth of our 32<sup>nd</sup> president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Born on January 30, 1882, this year we celebrated FDR's 135<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a beautiful ceremony as The Long Gray Line of West Point cadets came marching into the Rose Garden to the beat of a solemn drummer. Following this majestic entrance came over a dozen dignitaries who presented wreaths to honor President Roosevelt. The local community was on the periphery of the Rose Garden to witness this annual event.

Among the twelve groups presenting wreaths, one group was the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Pvt. Herman Siegel Post #625 of Poughkeepsie, NY. Representing the Post was Past Post Commander Ralph Schwartz and Chief of Staff Martin Hochhauser.

Our Post was named after a local resident, Herman Siegel, who was born and bred on May Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. Born in 1925, he graduated Poughkeepsie High School in June 1943 and joined the Army. Eleven months later, on May 18, 1944, at age 19, Pvt. Herman Siegel was killed in action in Anzio, Italy. He was the first member of the local Jewish community to die in World War II.

In addition to Past Post Commander Schwartz presenting the JWV wreath, Chief of Staff Hochhauser placed a stone on FDR's tombstone in the Jewish tradition to indicate that a visitor has come to show respect, that the deceased has not been forgotten and to rekindle the memories of the past.

An additional wreath and flowers were presented by the family of FDR and finally the Presidential wreath was presented by Brigadier General Cindy R. Jebb, Dean of the Academic Board, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

The formal event was concluded with salutary volleys of an Army firing squad followed by the sounding of Taps. The Long Gray Line marched out of the Rose Garden once again to the sound of a drummer.

Finally, we invite everyone to join us on January 30, 2018 at the Visitors' Center to partake in two huge birthday cakes and hot beverages. This historic event takes place at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum site and is not to be missed.

**Table Shabbat**

Please join us in the Vassar Temple Social Hall, for a soup and chili dinner as part of a warm and wonderful Tisch Shabbat. A "Tisch" or Table Shabbat is held around the Sabbath dinner table, featuring melodies and stories, and highlighting community. Cantorial Intern Laura Stein will help lead the service, including Shabbat prayer and learning, all entwined with joyful singing and dancing as we celebrate Shabbat Shira. Sisterhood will provide a festive meal of homemade soups, vegetarian chili, challah, cornbread and salad to be enjoyed during the service. While reservations are not required we would greatly appreciate having an idea of how much food to prepare.

**DETAILS**  
Friday, Jan. 26, 6:00pm, Vassar Temple Social Hall. If possible, please let us know you are coming with your RSVP to catherine.bokor@gmail.com by January 24. Donations to help defray the expense of the dinner are very welcome and checks should be made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood.



**ATTENTION MAH JONGG PLAYERS**

It's time to start thinking about ordering your 2018 Mah Jongg card. The cost remains the same as last year: \$8 for a regular size card and \$9 for the large print card. The National Mah Jongg League will donate \$1.00 per card.

Temple Beth-El in Poughkeepsie is the designated charity. The money raised will go to Dutchess County Outreach for their Lunchbox Program.

The Mah Jongg League accepts only **one** check for the entire order. Therefore, the only acceptable payment is cash or a check made payable to Phyllis Rosenfield at 32 Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 OR it can be dropped off at Temple Beth-El, 118 South Grand Ave. Poughkeepsie NY 12603.

This past year, \$248 was raised for Dutchess County Outreach. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis at (845) 454-3024. Thank you in advance for your support.

All payments must be received by Tuesday January 16, 2018.

# 2018 Holiday Greetings

It's almost that time of the year when The Voice invites you to wish you friends and neighbors a Happy Holidays.

This year we will once again be offering a three pack of Holiday Greetings which includes Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Chanukah. If you like, you can still purchase the individual holiday greetings.

Please look at the designs and choose one, two or three greetings. If you choose the three pack, please choose the same style for all three greetings.

The cost: **Small ad: \$25/each or 3 for \$60**  
**Medium ad: \$36/each or 3 for \$90**  
**Large ad: \$64/each or 3 for \$170**

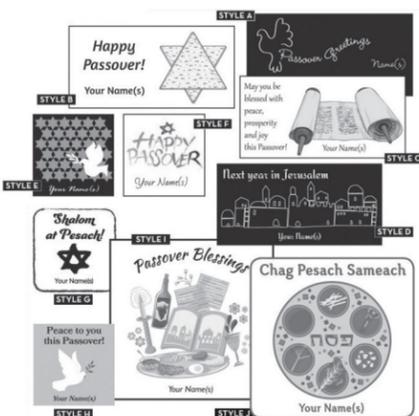
Please fill in the form below and mail it back to us with your payment to:  
**THE VOICE, P.O. Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**  
**THE DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1.**

# 2018 Holiday Greetings

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Passover: (circle one)      A B C D E F G H I J  
Rosh Hashanah: (circle one)      A B C D E F G H I J  
Chanukah: (circle one)      A B C D E F G H I J  
Your name(s) on Greeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to the  
Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

*Passover Greetings*



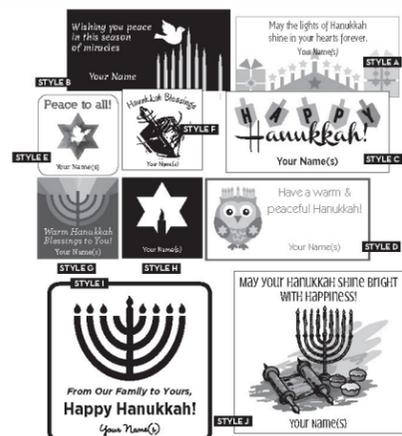
STYLE A: Passover Greetings  
STYLE B: Happy Passover!  
STYLE C: May you be blessed with peace, prosperity and joy this Passover!  
STYLE D: Next year in Jerusalem  
STYLE E: No text, just your name  
STYLE F: Happy Passover!  
STYLE G: Shalom at Pesach!  
STYLE H: Peace to you this Passover!  
STYLE I: Passover Blessings!  
STYLE J: Chag Pesach Sameach!

*Rosh Hashanah Greetings*



STYLE A: Happy New Year  
STYLE B: Have a Happy and Peaceful New Year!  
STYLE C: May the sounds of the Shofar welcome in a new year of health and happiness  
STYLE D: L'Shanah Tovah  
STYLE E: Happy Rosh Hashanah  
STYLE F: Have a sweet new year!  
STYLE G: Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

*Chanukah Greetings*



STYLE A: May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.  
STYLE B: Wishing you peace in this season of miracles  
STYLE C: Happy Hanukkah!  
STYLE D: Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!  
STYLE E: Peace to all!  
STYLE F: Hanukkah Blessings!  
STYLE G: Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!  
STYLE H: No text, just your name  
STYLE I: From our Family to Yours, Happy Hanukkah!  
STYLE J: May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!

# Local

## Sunday

**Bagels, Lox, Torah (Tefellin too!)** 9:00am led by Rabbi Yacov Borenstein. Morning minyan will follow Torah discussion on the coming week's Torah portion, upcoming holiday or topic of Jewish interest.

**Congregation Schomre Israel** January 14, 7:00pm, speaker Sybil Silver "A Modern Day Miracle-Saving Judaica

**Congregation Schomre Israel K4 Meeting** (Koffee, Kibitz, Kvetch Klub) January 28, 9:30am, continuing discussion on the direction of the group.

**Woodstock Jewish Congregation Movies that Matter** January 14, 29, 3:00-6:00pm, Film and Discussion series focuses on Otherness.

## Monday

**Congregation Schomre Israel Chair Yoga** with Toni Farkas, 11:30am. \$5 per session, all welcome.

**Temple Beth-El Board Meeting** January 8, 7:30pm. Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

**Learn & Lunch Bunch** every Wednesday, 11:00am-1:30pm. 118 So. Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie. For information, menu and program schedule, see page 2 of *The Voice* or contact (845) 471-9811.

## Thursday

## Friday

**Congregation Shir Chadash Kabbalat Shabbat Service** January 5, 12, 19, 26, 7:30pm, evening service with Rabbi Daniel Polish and Cantor Gail Hirschenfang. Followed by community Oneg. All welcome.

**Vassar Temple Kabbalat Shabbat** January 5, 19, 6:00pm.

**Vassar Temple Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour** January 12, with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein, 7:30pm

**Vassar Temple Shabbat Shira Soup & Chili Tisch Shabbat** January 26, with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein Please RSVP to Catherine.bokor@gmail.com.

**Temple Beth-El Evening Service** each week, 7:30pm, Conservative, egalitarian Shabbat Service. All welcome.

**Temple Beth-El Shabbat Intergenerational Family Program** January 5 and March 2, 5:00pm. We invite families with children ages 0-7, along with grandparents and siblings, to join Rabbi Daniel Victor and Rabbi Miriam Hyman for a Shabbat dinner, a musical program, story and special treat. Dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 2-12, maximum \$36 per family. Please RSVP in advance so we can prepare food, (845) 454-0570 or info@tbeny.org. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted. Financial assistance is available, contact Rabbi Victor.

## Saturday

**Congregation Shir Chadash Sharing Shabbat and Religious School Programs** January 6, 20, 9:00-10:30am, if you haven't already done so it's not too late to register. Come early (8:45) and have breakfast on us. All welcome.

**Congregation Shir Chadash Tot Program** January 6, 20, 9:00-10:30am. Children ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult learn through doing crafts, food and games. Free and open to all families.

**Congregation Shir Chadash Morning Torah Service** January 6, 20, 10:45-11:30am. Led by Rabbi Daniel Polish & Cantor Gail Hirschenfang. Bagels and coffee prior to service. All welcome to attend.

**Vassar Temple New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship** January 6, 20, 10:00am.

**Vassar Temple Intergenerational Tu 'Shevat/Shabbat Shirah** January 27, 9:00am, with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein

**Temple Beth-Shabbat Morning Service** every week, 9:30am, Lively, inclusive, Conservative, egalitarian Shabbat.

**Temple Beth-El Tot Shabbat, Kid-dish and Kadimah** January 13, 27, 11:00am, Families with young children can join us for a bimonthly Saturday Tot Shabbat program, as well as a First Friday Family Shabbat Dinner. Kid-dish is for children ages 0 to pre bar/bat mitzvah AND THEIR PARENTS. Kid-dish starts with a story or game, followed by a snack for children with delicious things. Tot Shabbat is a special program for tots and their caregivers and Kadima is for kids ages 8-12 For more information, contact education@tbeny.org.

**Congregation Schomre Israel Movie Night** January 20, 7:00pm. *Woman in Gold*, \$5 suggested donation.

# Out of Area

## Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley Events

23 Albany Ave, Kingston NY 12401 (845) 338-4271 [www.templemanuelkingston.org](http://www.templemanuelkingston.org).

All Services held in our Chapel are available to live stream. Visit our website: [www.cehv.org](http://www.cehv.org) and click on the live stream link on the homepage. You can also view archived services and classes.

**Kabbalat Shabbat evening service** First Friday evening, 6:00pm, with a symbolic Oneg following. All other Friday's 7:30pm with an Oneg following.

**Musical Kabbalat Shabbat** is the third Friday of the month.

**Shabbat Service with Zemer Choir Participation** Fourth Friday of the month.

**Tot Shabbat** January 20, 9:00am, A wonderful way to introduce your tot to Shabbat through interactive music with Rabbi Romer and her guitar.

**Saturday Morning Service** 10:00am, Join us for uplifting morning communal prayer, meditation and Torah study.

**Ongoing Adult Education with the Rabbi** Call (845) 338-4271(x101) for class dates/time: Hebrew Trope, Torah Study, Introduction to Judaism, Beginner and Intermediate Conversational Modern Hebrew, Meditation and Parashat Shuvah, Kabbalah and Private Conversion Tutorials.

**Rhinebeck Meditation & Torah Study** Tuesday, 8:45am; 9:15am weekly Torah study, Led by Rabbi Yael Romer.

**Religious School** September through May, Saturday's 9:30am-12:30pm, Enrollment is ongoing. The school day includes a youth led service with prayer, song & dance. Religious education at Temple Emanuel works in partnership with the home to foster a commitment to Judaism and Israel. Contact our Religious School Director Samara Green (845) 338-4271 ext. 110 for more information. Also offering a Pre-K class from 9:30am-11:00am.

**Confirmation Class with Rabbi Romer** Meeting first Wednesday, Shabbat Dinner the third Friday, Community service TBD monthly on either second or fourth Thursday. Religious School registration required.

**Intro to Judaism with Rabbi Romer** Meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 6:00pm-7:30pm.

**Mussar Class with Rabbi Romer** Meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month 5:30pm-7:00pm.

**Lunch with Cantor Bob and Guests** January 2, 12:00pm. Join Cantor for a hot luncheon with discussion following.

**Rosh Chodesh** The third Tuesday of each month 7:00pm-9:00pm. Explore your female voice in Jewish Traditions.

**TuB'Shevat Seder** Saturday, January 27, 5:30pm at a congregants home Contact the office for details.

**Congregation Trip to Israel** April 23-May 3 For itinerary and pricing, visit <http://www.israelmaven.com/minisite/cong-emanuel/>

# Calendar

## January

### REGULAR SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### Beacon Hebrew Alliance (Conservative)

331 Veplanck Avenue, Beacon (845) 831-2012  
Rabbi Brent Spodek; Cantor Ellen Gersh; Education Director, Ashley Baker

Website: [www.beaconhebrewalliance.org](http://www.beaconhebrewalliance.org)

Email: [411@beaconhebrewalliance.org](mailto:411@beaconhebrewalliance.org)

Services: Fridays, 7:30pm and alternating Saturdays at 9:30am. Visit website for information about services, religious school, and community events

#### Chabad of Mid-Hudson Valley

63 Vassar Road, Poughkeepsie (845) 463-5801  
Rabbi Yacov Borenstein

Website: [www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com](http://www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com)

Email: [ChabadMidhudsonVly@prodigy.net](mailto:ChabadMidhudsonVly@prodigy.net)

Services: Fridays, call for time and Saturdays at 10:00am

#### Congregation Beth David (Reform)

East Main Street, Amenia (845) 373-8264

Rabbi Jon Haddon

Website: [www.CongBethDavid.org](http://www.CongBethDavid.org)

Email: [JonRab33@gmail.com](mailto:JonRab33@gmail.com)

Services: usually Saturdays, 10:00am twice monthly except January and February; call for schedules

#### Congregation Schomre Israel (Orthodox)

18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 454-2890

Rabbi Eliezer Langer

Website: [www.schomreIsrael.org](http://www.schomreIsrael.org)

Email: [Schomre1@aol.com](mailto:Schomre1@aol.com)

Services: Monday-Thursday, 7:00am, Sunday, 8:00am, Saturday, 9:00am Sunday-Thursday 7:00pm  
Shabbat Services vary depending on sundown

#### Congregation Shir Chadash (Reform)

Interim: Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, Lagrange (845) 232-1029

Rabbi Daniel Polish, Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

Website: [www.shir-chadash.org](http://www.shir-chadash.org)

Email: [info@shir-chadash.org](mailto:info@shir-chadash.org)

Services: Friday, 7:30pm; bimonthly Saturday children's religious school, 9:00am, Torah study, 9:15

#### The Rhinebeck Jewish Center

102 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck (845) 876-7666

Rabbi Hanoch Hecht and Rebbitzin Tzivie Hecht

Website: [www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com](http://www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com)

Email: [RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com](mailto:RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com)

Friday services call for time; Saturday services, 9:30am

#### Temple Beth El (Conservative)

118 So Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 454-0570

Rabbi Daniel Victor, Rosh Tefilah Rabbi Miriam Hyman

Email: [info@tbeny.org](mailto:info@tbeny.org)

Website: [www.tbeny.org](http://www.tbeny.org)

Services: Friday, 7:30pm, Saturday Shabbat service at 9:30am, weekdays, 7:30am daily

#### Vassar College Bayit

51 Collegeview Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 451-3920

Liz Aeschlimann, Rose and Irving Rachlin Director of Jewish Student Life at Vassar College

Email: [eaeschlimann@vassar.edu](mailto:eaeschlimann@vassar.edu)

Services: Friday, 6:00pm service, 7:00pm dinner when school is in session

#### Vassar Temple (Reform)

140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 454-2570

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, Education Dir Julie Makowski

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

Email: [Office@VassarTemple.org](mailto:Office@VassarTemple.org) or

[rabbil@vassartemple.org](mailto:rabbil@vassartemple.org)

Services: Friday, 7:30pm unless otherwise noted, Torah study Saturday, 9:00am. New Paths 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 10:00am unless otherwise noted

## January Candle Lighting

January 5 ..... 4:22pm

January 12 ..... 4:29pm

January 19 ..... 4:37pm

January 26 ..... 4:46pm

Want to share your thoughts about *The Voice*? Got an idea you'd like to see in print?

We're listening.

Email us at

[TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org](mailto:TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org)



Our first class with some of our wonderful volunteers. More help is needed to make this project a success. Contact [socialaction@tbeny.org](mailto:socialaction@tbeny.org) to learn how. You can be part of this initiative. No experience needed!



Interactive Intergenerational Family Shabbat

Students from Vassar Temple's religious school, their families, and other members of the congregation shared a special Sabbath morning of learning and worship experience together.



Vassar Temple Men's Cub Sponsors LunchBox



Vassar Temple Celebrates Its Heroes at Veterans' Day Weekend Gala

1. Vassar Temple honored its members, past and present, who are veterans of military service, and welcomed as special guests three West Point cadets. Presenter was Ralph Schwartz; Captain John Martin of West Point spoke about the history of Jews in the American military.
2. Howard Himelstein accepted the honors for his wife Emily Himelstein (z"l) from Brian Riddell, director of Dutchess Outreach. Emily was a leader in many capacities at the temple including social action, and was one of the originators of the LunchBox program. Her daughter, Rachel Follari, shared reminiscences, both humorous and touching.
3. Rabbi Paul Golomb, who served for many years as the temple's spiritual leader, recognized Gloria Turk for promoting Hudson Valley tourism at Rocking Horse Ranch, and honored her for being a special presence at sabbath observances every week at Vassar Temple.
4. Presenter Assemblywoman Didi Barrett recognized temple member Molly Katz for her leadership role in the local arts community including the development of the Half Moon Theater. Dr. Daniel Katz was recognized by presenter Lila Meade for his humanitarian work with the Haiti Project.



Rabbi Daniel Victor and Temple Beth-El, President Steven Koch, during Monte Carlo Night.



Congregation Shir Chadash members performing a modern interpretation of Jacob & Esau.



Thanksgiving dinner food donation for the Samuel Morse Elementary School



Michelle Klein, Thank you for 30 years of service on the JFDC Board.

(Continued from page 8)

unite together throughout Dutchess County.

We are at the beginning of a secular new year, which is a great time to ENGAGE or re-ENGAGE with JFDC. With Israel turning 70 this year, we are already planning several Israeli-focused events, including our grand GALA celebration on May 3, so don't forget to Save The Date now.

I look forward to our new beginning together and all the good, *engaging* activities ahead of us going forward.

Happy 2018!  
Karen Hochhauser, Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Dutchess County