

What Miracle?

By Rabbi Brent Spodek

We will soon come to Hanukkah, the eight-day holiday of lights. It's the simplest and most complicated of holidays, and it functions in America in ways that are virtually impossible to predict from its history.

On the most **basic level** the traditional practice is to light a *hannukiah* (or menorah) at sundown on each of the eight nights of the holiday. The *hannukiah* is placed in a window or some other public place so that the miracle can be publicized. Which miracle? We'll get back to that.

People spin dreidels, eat foods fried in oil (like donuts), and of course, exchange gifts with their loved ones. For reasons that have far more to do with its coincidental occurrence with Christmas, it also has a huge pop-culture footprint – check out for instance, Adam Sandler's (dare I say – classic?) *Hanukkah Song*, parts 1 to 4.

On a **historical level**, the holiday is a celebration of the victory of Jews over their Syrian Greek conquerors in 164 BCE.

Way back then, the Greek empire brought new ideas and institutions to the Middle East and, in the land of Israel, many Jews embraced these developments. Democracy is great! Bath houses are lovely!

American Hanukkah is nothing if not an attempt to strike a compromise between Jewish culture and surrounding American culture.

Jewish reformers wanted to merge these two cultures, so they assimilated parts of Greek culture into their own, taking Greek names like Jason, exercising in the gymnasium and prospering within Greek institutions. By the way, I'm an American-born rabbi with a Celtic name, writing in English, so these issues are not altogether alien to me, nor, perhaps, to you.

But not all Jews assimilated. Some resisted quietly, practicing and learning Torah in private, while others fled to the hills and waged their own form of cultural resistance, which the Greeks were happy to ignore.

(Continued on page 5)



Rabbi Brent Spodek

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

2017 Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Note speaker change

"Look, Ma. I'm engaged!"

Engaging Jews On Their Own Terms

Special guest speakers, Melinda Margulies, Mid-Hudson Valley PJ Library
Debbie Stein, Consultant to Small Federations,
Jewish Federations of North America

Boardman Library, 140 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie
Open to the public. For information call (845) 471-9811.

(NO CAPE REQUIRED)
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FEDERATION'S LARGEST ANNUAL PHONATHON
AND **Good Deeds Day**

Please respond generously when you get the call.
Sunday, December 3, 9:00am—12:00pm

JOIN OUR TEAM OF DO-GOODERS!

BE A SUPERHERO
Be a part of this annual event to do good deeds for others. Help us raise money for the Annual Campaign that supports the needs of Jews in Dutchess County, Israel, and around the world. Want to volunteer? Call us (845) 471-9811.

Happy Chanukah!
The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County Board and Staff
FIND YOUR LIGHT

THEN & NOW: THE BIBLE AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE

Featuring guest speaker Benjamin D. Sommer, Professor of Bible, Jewish Theological Seminary

Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16, 2017
Programs in honor of Temple Beth-El's 90th Anniversary Year

Benjamin Sommer joined The Jewish Theological Seminary faculty as professor of Bible in July 2008. Previously, he served as director of the Crown Family Center at Northwestern University, was a fellow at the Israel Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, taught at New York University School of Law and at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Dr. Sommer has long been active as a lecturer and scholar-in-residence, teaching rabbis, Jewish educators and laypeople in a variety of settings in the United States and Israel.

Dr. Sommer's most recent book, *Revelation and Authority: Sinai in Jewish Scripture and Tradition* (Yale University Press, 2015) was selected as a recommended book in religion by *Publishers Weekly*, which described it as a "groundbreaking work, clearly written and broad in application, an important read for Jewish laypeople, clergy, and scholars [and] also likely to appeal to non-Jews who want to make modern biblical scholarship relevant for believers."

Professor Sommer and his family reside in Teaneck, New Jersey. All are welcome to attend the programs at Temple Beth-El. Visit the temple website for complete information about the weekend at www.tbeny.org.



Benjamin Sommer

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LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

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

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS and MENUS

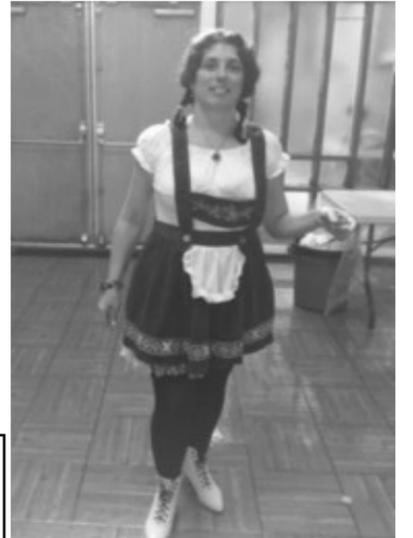
- December 6 Healthy Living for your body and brain**, with Joan Carl
 Joan will teach us lifestyle habits to improve our health and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline.
 Menu: Estelle's Lebanese stew, kasha varnishkes, coffee/tea, Dessert
- December 13 Is Hanukkah the Jewish Christmas, or Christmas the Christian Hanukkah?** with Rabbi Golomb
 There are many similarities between the two holidays. What is coincidence and what might be intentional?
 Menu: bagels, schmear, coffee/tea, dessert
- December 20 Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest. Scrooge** with Frank Marquette
 Charles Dickens in conversation with his creation, Ebenezer Scrooge. Meet Charles Dickens, who will recite his most famous holiday story, *A Christmas Carol*. Scrooge confronts his creator.
 Menu: Interfaith lunch: potato latkes, kwanza dishes, snow pea wreath, coffee/tea, holiday dessert
- December 27 Movie —Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**
 Menu: assorted wraps, coffee/tea, dessert

WHERE
 118 South Grand Ave
 Poughkeepsie, NY
 (Temple Beth-El)

SCHEDULE

11:00 –11:30am
 Coffee & Nosh
 11:30 –12:30pm
 Program
 12:30pm —Lunch

\$6.00—Lunch and program
 \$4.00—Program, coffee, nosh



Learn & Lunch Bunch Coordinator Sue Turrisi on Halloween

INFORMATION

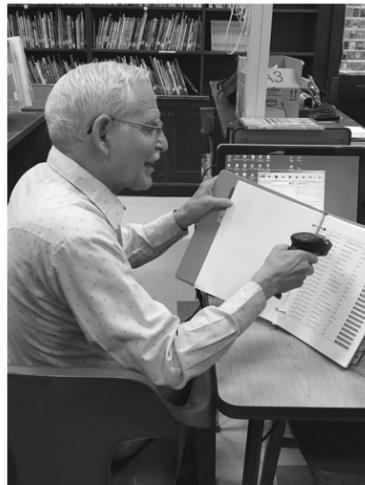
For details including weather updates, last minute schedule changes or menu updates, you can call the Jewish Federation office (845) 471-9811.

Learn & Lunch Bunch activities are open to the public.

Jewish Social Action New and Notes

Morse School project; Bright Nights; Collaborations

Morse School Library opens for Students: Our project to facilitate students borrowing books has begun. Teachers are bringing students to the library on a scheduled basis on Mondays and Thursdays to borrow books. The school community is thrilled and working closely with us. We still need more volunteers to fill 2-hour slots to help children check out books and help at flexible times to process new books. To sign up, go to morsevolunteers.org or contact socialaction@tbeny.org for more information. A special thanks to Ron Rosen who has given countless hours to get the library computer system up and running and to Linda Perfecto who has created our website (private-not searchable) for sign ups and other communications.



Ron Rosen

We continue to need contributions of food and school supplies for the children at Morse. We will be applying for new grants for the upcoming year to continue the work of this past year. Thank you to all who continue to participate in this project. And thank you to the Hazon CSA, Pri HaEmek for giving Morse a Tzedakah share. Also, **Book Buddies** are still needed to work with individual children at Morse School.

Bright Nights drive is up and running. The Coalition continues to support Bright Nights which is being spearheaded this year by Karen Hochhauser, Cantor Devorah and Geshar students. Thank you to Miriam Goldstein and Liza for their wise council and good records over the past years to make this a successful and sustainable project.



Have a pet project for our Jewish Social Action Coalition? Contact the social action person in your synagogue or Arnie Most of Harding club.

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Community

Book
&
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Shops**Temple Beth-El's Book and Gift Shop**
submitted by Geri Bromberg

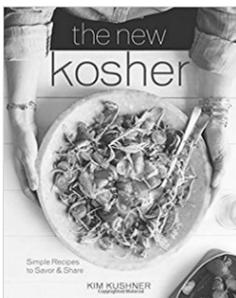
The Temple Beth-El Judaica Book and Gift Shops have all that you need for Hanukkah, Tu B'Shevat and Shabbat: stories, cookbooks, recordings, a variety of Hanukkah tapered candles, dreidels, jewelry, Safed Shabbat candles, Havdalah candles and host and hostess gifts. Also plan now for birthdays, anniversaries,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

The Shops will be open Sundays, 9:30am—12:30pm, on Dec. 3, 10 & 17. The Shops will be closed on Dec. 24 & 31 and all Sundays in January and February. The Bookshop is featuring *Dinosaur on Hanukkah*, written by Diane Levin Rauchwerger, illustrated by Jason Wolf for ages PreK-1 - tales of a playful dinosaur who visits a boy on Hanukkah. Also featured, *The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle* by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn for ages 3-7. Back in stock is *Hanukkah is Coming* by Tracy Newman, illustrated by Viviana Garofoli for ages 1-4. In this board book, readers join a cute family and their dog as they light the menorah, eat latkes, unwrap gifts, sing



songs, play dreidel, eat chocolate Hanukkah gelt and march like Maccabees during the eight nights of Hanukkah. Other books in the series are *Shabbat is Coming*, *Passover is Coming* and *Rosh Hashanah is Coming*. A favorite children's Hanukkah cookbook is *Sammy Spider's First Taste of Hanukkah Cookbook* by Sylvia A. Rouss and Genevieve Levy Turner, for Ages 2-8. With four chapters of Hanukkah recipes for snacks, meals, treats and crafts, this book is a nice addition to the *Sammy Spider* series. It includes Katherine Kahn's iconic *Sammy art*.

The following Judaica cookbook may be ordered by contacting Geri Bromberg: Kim Kushner's *The Modern Menu* and *The New Kosher* with photography by Kate Sears. Ms. Kushner attended the Institute for Culinary Education and began teaching private classes. Countless requests for recipes led to publication of her first book. In subsequent years she refined her cooking style to meet her needs: fast, simple, elegant and satisfying. "I could totally do that," said Kushner, whose recipes shy away from exotic ingredients in favor of sound techniques intended to coax the flavor out of every element. Two recipes from the second book are halibut stuffed with kale and feta, and crispy shaved Brussels sprouts.



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, via email: info@shir-chadash.org or website: 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, via email: info@shir-chadash.org or website: www.shir-chadash.org.

Adult Education

Educational Opportunities Abound at Schomre Israel

Know Your Book with Rabbi Langer Tuesday mornings, December 5, 12, 19, (no class December 26), 10:30am. Who said they are Minor? The Greatness of the Twelve Prophets. December 5—Micah, December 12—Nachum, December 19—Chadaku.

Classes with Rabbi Langer Thursday, December 7, 14, 21, 28, 7:00pm. December 7—Assisted Suicide, December 14—Genetic Testing, December 21—Revealing Medical Information, December 28—Halachik Will.

Classes are free. All are welcome. Visit our website, 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 or call (845) 454-2890.

Weekly Adult Study Groups at Vassar Temple

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text, every Tuesday at 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!

Coming to America: Part II Stories of Immigration: Tuesday, December 12 (note that these are not consecutive dates) 7:00pm. Join Rabbi Berkowitz as we continue our conversation about the immigration experience. Through an exploration of Jewish short fiction—and real letters from the Bintel Brief advice column in *The Forward*—we will see how the historic period of migration played out in the lives of new Americans. How did they deal with the challenges of culture shock, adaptation, and assimilation? All welcome. No charge to attend.

December 12: The First December Dilemma: Grace Paley's *The Loudest Voice*.

Torah Study every Saturday, 9:00am, (No classes, December 23, 30) with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, which examines passages from the week's Torah portion or haftarah.

All welcome. No charge to attend. No previous training required. For more information or if you have questions email 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 any one of a number of topics. Brochures were made available at the holidays, but if you did not get one, please don't despair. There are copies in the Temple office or you can email Merri at moondoggie@optonline.net, and one will be emailed to you. We, at Temple Beth-El, are excited about this new program and hope that you will find it to be exciting, invigorating and thought provoking.

People of the Book with Rabbi Daniel Victor, Tuesday, 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—laws of agriculture, Shabbat and festivals, marriage and relationships, laws and court dealings, ritual purities and holy things—is the most basic book of the post-biblical literature (The Oral Torah) and hence it is considered the key to the rest.

Beginning this fall and continuing through the year, we will be studying *Mishnah Sukkah* (from the tractate of Shabbat and Holidays), **whose major themes are simcha (joy) and the unity of the Jewish people.** Of the many lessons one can take away is the reality that our actions impact those around us. Therefore, let us choose to influence others for good. Every student will receive his/her own copy of the *Mishnah* (I will have handouts as well) and we will be discussing a different piece of text each week. There is no charge for the class. 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 starting in November. Learn to read and speak Hebrew with Naomi Kamlot. RSVP to educationassist@tbeny.org or contact the office (845) 454-0570

All welcome. Details at the Temple Beth-El website www.tbeny.org or (845) 454-0570 or email 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.

New Talmud class: Upcoming classes in Talmud and Hebrew and other fascinating classes and events.

Please visit our website www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com

Congregation Shir Chadash

Saturday Torah Study resumes Saturday, December 2, 9, 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.

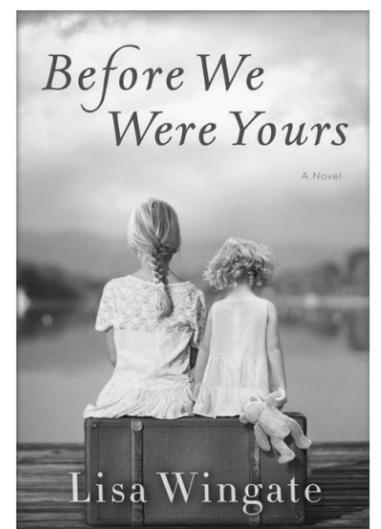
For more information call (845) 232-1029, email info@shir-chadash.org or www.shir-chadash.org.

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club

We will discuss *Before We Were Yours*, by Lisa Wingate. Elaine Lipschutz will lead the discussion to which everyone is welcome. This novel is the tale of the lives of families, generations apart, who are connected by a history of tragedy. In 1939, Rill Foss, only twelve years old, must fend for herself and her siblings after they are taken to an orphanage. At the mercy of the cruel orphanage director and the adults in her life, Rill attempts to keep her siblings together and safe. Fast forward to the present, and Avery Stafford, a lawyer from a prominent South Carolina family, has a chance encounter that leaves her questioning her family's history and the reality of her birth.

Before We Were Yours is based on the heartbreaking true scandal of Georgia Tann, a woman whose Memphis adoption center kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families. This highly praised historical novel is available through the local library system, where multiple copies are available.

DETAILS
Wednesday, December 20, 2:00pm, Collegeview Tower Community Room, 141 Fulton Ave, Poughkeepsie. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at (845) 473-7931, or linda.babas.41@gmail.com. As always, your book suggestions for future meetings are always welcome.



Debbie's VOICE



Recently, I had to have THE talk with Zach. He's 13 now, a recent bar mitzvah, and I figured it was time.

I have been dreading this conversation for years. I literally spent weeks agonizing over the appropriate thing to say. Finally, the day had come.

After school, Zach and I took our puppy, Turtle, for his afternoon walk. I figured in a semi-public forum, hopefully things wouldn't get too embarrassing. So, I took a deep breath and said, "Zach, it's time you and I had an important conversation." He sweetly replied, "Ok. Mommy, what do we need to talk about?"

And then it happened. The words tumbled out of my mouth. "Zach, who do you think is Santa?"

Zach, took a deep sigh and replied, "Mommy, is this when you tell me that Santa isn't real, and it's just been you and Daddy all these years?"

I hung my head and whispered, "Yup."

Zach softly answered, "Really?" I then proceeded to fill him in on all of Santa's magic from the past decade.

By this point, you may be wondering how Santa ends up in a Jewish house to begin with?

In our house, it was simple. No, my husband and I never mentioned Santa. Zach, as I've mentioned before, is a child with autism. He started attending a special-needs preschool when he was three. His first holiday season there, the teachers reviewed every winter holiday, religious or not, with their students. Zach came home with various Hanukkah projects, Kwanzaa worksheets and Christmas decorations. On Christmas Eve, Zach sat down at our kitchen table and spent a good hour diligently working on a piece of paper. I came over and asked what he was doing. In his extremely limited vocabulary, he pointed to the paper. He had written the word "bus" and drawn a beautiful yellow school bus underneath.

He smiled and said, "For Santa."

Let me assure you, there is no greater panic than hearing your child put his first words together and realizing that Toys 'R' Us is already closed!

My husband and I started scouring our neighborhood and eventually found a neighbor with a toy school bus that they would happily donate to Zach. The following morning, he woke up and scampered down the steps. He ran right to the fireplace and found his bus with a note from Santa. He picked up the bus, hugged it, smiled up at us and yelled, "Santa!"

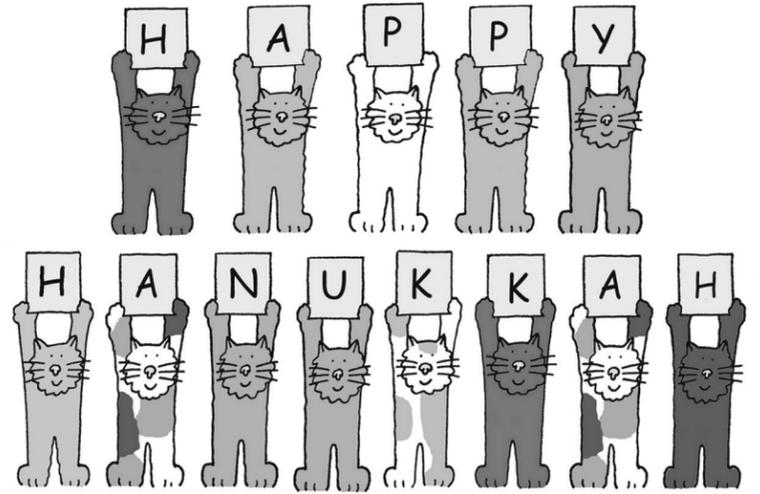
And that, my dear readers, is how Santa ended up getting invited into our Jewish house every year.

Continuing our walk around the neighborhood with Turtle, Zach peppered me with various questions.

"But what about the letters?" (I'm ambidextrous and would write them left-handed) "How did he know where to find us when we were on vacation?" (Amazon) "Do I think all of his friends know the truth?" (Yes, but it's never his place to ruin Santa for anyone else).

I gave him a big hug and told him I was so proud of how grown up he had become and softly whispered, "So, Zach...what do you think about The Tooth Fairy?"

May your holiday season be filled with magic, whether real or perceived...



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Young Jewish Professionals in Dutchess

This month meet: Kim Ritz

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

Kim grew up in a Catholic family in upstate New York. She had a very happy childhood and has fond memories of running around in her backyard. She always knew she wanted to live in a city and went to SUNY Buffalo for college. While in college, she was introduced to Judaism for the first time. Upon graduation, she moved to New York City, and pursued her career in marketing.



While living in Manhattan, Kim attended many Jewish social gatherings, including Shabbat and various holidays. She felt a connection to the Jewish culture and then realized there was a whole other side to religion. "A day-to-day integrality that was missing from Catholicism." Kim knew she had to go down the path of Orthodox Judaism conversion. She spent a year living in Israel, learning Hebrew but realized it was impossible to learn Hebrew at the same time she needed to study for her conversion.

Kim returned to New York City, where she spent the next two years studying for and finally fulfilling her dream of conversion. Right before her conversion, she met her husband, who was raised as a reform Jew. They have figured out a way to mesh their two forms of Judaism and have three beautiful daughters. The Ritz family are members of Schomre Israel; however, their children attend religious and Hebrew schools at Schomre Israel, Chabad and Temple Beth-El because Kim wanted her girls exposed to all different aspects of Judaism.

Kim and her husband (a native of Dutchess County) moved back here in 2006. Initially, Kim (a licensed social worker) was employed at the Green Chimney School but the commute from Poughkeepsie combined with the birth of her daughters made it too difficult to continue there. She found a natural fit at the JCC, where her daughter's all attended. Kim became very involved with the former preschool, which led to a natural fit with the PJ Library program, where she is the Assistant Program Director.

Kim's sees a bright future for the PJ Library. Her goal "is to bring back the really vibrant Jewish community that used to be here." She feels they are doing it one family at a time, and have already gotten 25 Dutchess County families involved in Jewish programs this past year. Kim, a huge proponent of Jewish children's books struggled to name a favorite, "there are too many!", but finally settled on *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.

<p>BARDAVON 35 MARKET ST - POUGHKEEPSIE NY • 845.473.2072</p> <p>NEW PALTZ BALLET THEATRE THE NUTCRACKER</p> <p>The 19th season of this classic holiday event featuring dancers from the New York City Ballet</p> <p>DECEMBER 9 & 10 - BARDAVON</p> <p>WWW.BARDAVON.ORG</p> <p><small>Sponsored by Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit, The Bruderhof, Herzog's/Kingston Plaza, Rhinebeck Bank, WMC Health: MidHudson Regional Hospital, Dr. Edwin A. Ulrich Charitable Trust & WMHT</small></p>	<p>HUDSON VALLEY PHILHARMONIC HANDEL'S MESSIAH</p> <p>Come be a part of this communal holiday experience! <i>snow date - Sun. at 3pm</i></p> <p>SAT. DEC. 16 AT 2PM - BARDAVON</p> <p>TICKETMASTER.COM</p>
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First candle is Saturday evening, December 12.

Shop your local synagogue gift shops for everything you need for the holiday!



Jewish War Veterans (Rob Rubin on left and Ron Markowitz on right) from JWV Post #625 with NY State Senator, Sue Serino, at Marist College Veterans' Day Commemoration.



Marist College Veterans' Day Luncheon began with the Warrior Wagon entering with esteemed Veterans, including some from the Jewish War Veterans Post #625.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Voice welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must not exceed 300 words and must be dated and signed with current address and daytime telephone number. *The Voice* reserves the right to edit letters.

Email submissions to theVoice@JewishDutchess.org

VOICE DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
January	December 1
February	January 1
March	February 1

Rabbi's Blog

What Miracle?

By Rabbi Brent Spodek

(Continued from page 1)

After a few years, the Greek spirit of toleration ended for some unknown reason. The Syrian Greek king, Antiochus IV, issued a series of decrees defiling the Jewish Temple and banning Jewish practice under penalty of death.

So, as in any good action movie, a ragtag army of rebels emerged to fight the empire. Judah Maccabee, led an insurgent revolt fighting against the Greeks and the Jewish reformers with equal ferocity. Ultimately, and perhaps miraculously, the small group of rebels did defeat the Empire. Yes, *Star Wars* analogies are entirely appropriate here.

So we return to the question—What's the miracle of Hanukkah?

In some ways, the miracle was the **military** victory of the tiny band of guerilla insurgents against the hegemonic Greek empire. But the later rabbinic tradition, which formed Judaism as we know it, focused not on the fighting, but on the **spiritual** one—when the Maccabees regained control of the Temple, they cleaned and purified it, but there was only enough oil to light the ritual candelabrum for one night. That little cruse of oil miraculously lasted eight days, hence eight days of Hanukkah.

So really, we have both the military miracle and the spiritual miracle. Your choice. But that's not the end of the story.

On a **personal level**, Hanukkah can actually be quite challenging. The heroes of the story can be seen as religious freedom fighters and a model of liberation.

However, this revolution, like many others, reserved its greatest fury for moderates, which in this case, are those who sought compromise between Greek and Jewish culture and therein lies the essential contradiction of the American Hanukkah.

American Hanukkah is nothing if not an attempt to strike a compromise between Jewish culture and surrounding American culture. In a traditional Jewish framework, Hanukkah is actually a relatively minor holiday, perhaps like Arbor Day in an American context. It has become a major juggernaut **only** because of its proximity to Christmas in the American calendar.

Countless Jewish children see the beautiful lights and trees of Christian friends and neighbors and ask, "Where are our lights?" It is in answering that question, the *hannukiah* (or menorah) has become the major symbol we know today.

As a liberal American rabbi, who proudly and deliberately draws on my American heritage for some things, such as notions of individual liberty and gender equity and my Jewish heritage for others, such as a focus on the Divine, collective concern for the poor, and the importance of spiritual practice, I see the power of learning from multiple heritages. That means I might very well have been one of the Hellenized Jews who the Maccabees sought to destroy.

When I light my *hannukiah* in a few weeks, the heroes I will think of will be, yes, the warrior Maccabees who resisted oppression, but even more so, the rabbis who 500 years after the Maccabee revolt, retold the story and shifted the emphasis to the spiritual miracle of unwarranted hope and the oil which lasted for eight days. They inherited a story of military victory and reimagined it, holding onto the past with one hand and the present with the other, so as to live a Judaism that was both authentic and meaningful to them. More than anything else, the miracle I celebrate is the ongoing transmission of a story inherited from the past and transformed so as to nourish us in the present. As the rabbis of the Talmud inherited and transformed, so too do we, and pray that so too will our children and grandchildren.

May all our *Hannukahs*—and all our lives—be both authentic and meaningful.

Vassar Temple Experiences the Torah Care

Vassar Temple congregants, religious school students, and staff enjoyed studying and working with Neil Yerman, our sofer (Torah scribe). We learned about the tools used by a sofer and why the upkeep of our scrolls is important, and then set about doing various hands-on tasks. With Neil's guidance we cleaned the first four of the five books of the Torah, fixed fading letters with more ink, and added several crowns to existing letters in the Song of the Sea. All of this was done to the scroll which we use for our B'nai Mitzvot. The work was done by everyone with love and respect for our heritage.

We wondered aloud who may have read and learned from, danced with or carried our scrolls on their journeys from Europe to Vassar Temple...possibly our own relatives. Together we helped care for and learn about our Torah, a living document. It was very special to be part of three generations of congregants involved in something so central to our education and faith.



Neil Yerman, Sofer, guided students and congregants of Vassar Temple through the rituals of Torah restoration.

Inside the Jewish Studio

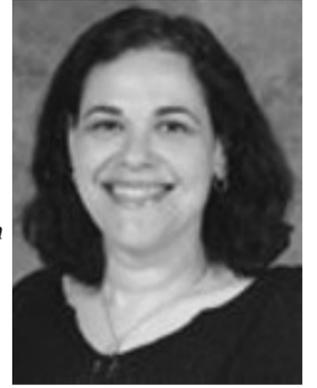
By Debbie Silbergleit

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 Jamie VanDodick, who works for IBM as a Leader, standard agreements, Center of Excellence and agreed to answer my questions...

1. What is your favorite word? *Winning*
2. What is your least favorite word? *Never*
3. What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally? *Family adventures, yoga retreats and reflection.*
4. What turns you off? *Not trying.*
5. What is your favorite curse word?
Reporter's note: Jamie, who is also an attorney, has an impressive vocabulary except for curse words..."I try not to curse much"
6. What sound or noise do you love?
The kids, my mom, my husband and sister-in-law laughing uncontrollably.
7. What sound or noise do you hate?
People talking during a lecture, services or speeches
8. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt? *Non-Governmental Organization to empower women and kids.*
9. What profession would you not like to do?
Coroner
10. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates? *We raised good kids and I made a difference in the lives of the folks in my world.*



Jamie VanDodick

* Member of the Tribe

Hanukkah Clue, Hanukkah in Israel & More!

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

December is always festive and we are getting ready to celebrate. The Temple Beth-El/Congregation Shir Chadash Ivrit Program and the TBE Religious School are making their annual trip to Barnes & Noble for an afternoon of fun and learning. This year we are excited to be partnering with PJ Library too!

On Tuesday, December 5, students of the Ivrit Program (along with their parents and siblings from PreK through grade 2) are having "class" at Barnes & Noble. At 4:30pm, we will meet for Hanukkah storytelling with Rabbi Daniel Victor from Temple Beth-El and Melinda Margulies from PJ Library.

After enjoying a snack, we will divide into teams for an energetic game of Hanukkah Clue. The students will visit different areas of the store to learn about cities in Israel, their products and well-known people associated with them. They will share their adventures by adding what they learn to a mural we will create together. We will wind up our program with a spirited Chanukah sing-a-long.

On Sunday, December 17, the entire TBE Religious School and their families and friends are invited to join us for **Hanukkah in Israel**. We are hopping aboard El-Al for a virtual flight to Israel. With passports in hand, we will put on our sunglasses and hats, pick up our backpacks and embark on a whirlwind tour of "cities" in Israel.

At each stop participants will engage in interactive activities and projects. We will learn Israeli dance with **The Vanaver Caravan**. And, **Mosaic artist, Sharon Adler**, will be helping us to create a beautiful art piece for our social hall.

We welcome the 5778 B'nai Mitzvah Class to the bimah on December 2 to read Torah for the first time together. They will be back for a return engagement on January 27 to read Haftarah as well. We are so pleased to see them trying out their new skills as they join Rabbi Victor and Rabbi Hyman on the bimah each week, in preparation for their special days.

When the secular year shifts to 2018, the TBE Sunday School becomes **Shabbat School**. This joyous time of participatory programming and experiential learning on Saturday mornings will keep us energized and warm through the dark, chilly days of January and February.

The Temple Beth-El Youth Group, along with students of the **Gesher** Hebrew High School Program, are coming together for the beloved annual social action project, **Bright Nights**. Beginning the first week in November, students work to collect winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and clothing for the homeless and needy in our community.

Week by week, they organize the donations. Over the weekend of December 8-10, they will do the final organization, pack, make 100 lunches and toiletry bags to deliver to those in need. Volunteers to pack and drivers to help deliver are needed. If you have volunteered your time in previous years, we need you. If you are new to

(Continued on page 16)




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 sdomber@bhshudsonvalley.com
 845.905.8748

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bhshudsonvalley.com



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Mariam & Frank Rubin

Peace to all!



Eli Gorin

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
Amy & Richard Schwed

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
Lisa-Sue, Kurt, Shelby, Bradley & Kiley Quackenbush



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Nancy & Sandy Bernstein



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
Robert Hankin

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Sandra & Harry Mamis



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Elaine & Aaron Blum and Family



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
Frieda & Ed Gershuny

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Brenda & Ted Baker and Family



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Barbara & Bernie Cohen



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Dana & Ira Efron



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Judy Elkin & Gene Fleishman and Family



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Judy & Herb Dym

Peace to all!



Roz & Dan Ashley

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
Lillian & Michael Silberstein and Family



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Miriam, Eric, Callie & Liza Goldstone



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Lori, Elliot, Bradley, Adam, & Jenna Levine



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Muriel & Matt Lampell



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Eleanor & Marty Korfman

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
Rochelle & Carl Sorgen



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Deanie Gordon, Levine, Israel & Gordon Families



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Ellen & Lawrence Danziger



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Marcy & George Marlow



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Elaine Lipschutz

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
Judge & Mrs. Jonah Triebwasser
Red Hook, NY



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Barbara & Harvey Katz

Hanukkah Blessings!



Linda Skolnik

Hanukkah Blessings!



Bradley Sohn

Hanukkah Blessings!



Patti, Peter, Austin, Samantha, and Dylan Zakow

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
Evelyn & Oscar Weiss



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Team Silbergleit

Hanukkah Blessings!



Mary & Jonah Ritter Vassar Temple

Hanukkah Blessings!



Ellen, Barry & Matt Rosenberg

Hanukkah Blessings!



Phyllis Rosenfield and Family



Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
Sharon, Hal and Cynthia Warren

HAPPY HANUKKAH

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Jill & Ira Auerbach



Rita & Stephen Kaplan

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Grete & Marty Finkelstein

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Rita & Mort Alterman



Peace to all!



The Kerchman Family

Peace to all!



Ruth & Donald Klein and Family

Peace to all!



Anita & Ed Lester and Family

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Marianne & Bob Abrams and Family

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

The Elias Family Including Marina & Tye



Peace to all!



Candy & Lou Lewis

Peace to all!



Barbara & Irwin Lifshy

Peace to all!



Adrienne London

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

The Bressman Family

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Roberta & Len Grosman and Family



Peace to all!



Elyse & Neil Mansfield

Peace to all!



Pam & Sol Resnikoff

Peace to all!



Roni, Charles & Joe Stein

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Irene & Eric Brocks and Family

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Molly & Dan Katz



Peace to all!



Suzanne & Don Turrisi

Hanukkah Blessings!



Geri & Maurice Bromberg

Hanukkah Blessings!



Carol & Stu Chimkin

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Amy, Steve, Lindsay & Hannah Efron

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Sharon & Howard Lynne



Hanukkah Blessings!



Sandy & Lee Corwin

Hanukkah Blessings!



Jane, Jonathan and Steven Dworkin

Hanukkah Blessings!



Ann & Jeffrey Gross

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Estelle Eisner and Family

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Ellen, Victor, Edward & Benjamin Stern



Hanukkah Blessings!



Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Rabbi Michael Fessler and Family

Hanukkah Blessings!



Betty & Hyman Kaplan

Hanukkah Blessings!



Claire & Marvin Klenosky and Family

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Karen & Jack Fein

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Rose, Brion, & Joshua Shapiro



Hanukkah Blessings!



Betsy Kopstein-Stuts and George Stuts

Hanukkah Blessings!



Leona & Irvin Miller

Hanukkah Blessings!



Debbie & Arnold Most

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Miriam & Burt Gold and Family

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Joan & David Posner



Hanukkah Blessings!



Lauren & Michael Muffs

Hanukkah Blessings!



Linda & Eric Perfecto

Hanukkah Blessings!



Beth & Les Richardson

HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Jane & Steven Idell

May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.

Phyllis & David Miller



HAPPY

Hanukkah!

Drs. Miriam & Maury Lacher

Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty Trip for Shir Chadash Religious School

On October 15, Congregation Shir Chadash's religious school took a ferry to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, spending most of the time on Ellis Island.

Taking a tour through Ellis Island, students imagined what their ancestors who came through Ellis Island must have experienced. Students stood in the hall where immigrants lined up before going through medical examinations and interviews. They saw pictures of detainees behind a wired fence and read about families that stayed in dormitories if a children was sick or hospitalized. They learned that most immigrants name changes were done by inspectors misreading names as papers were issued or by the immigrants themselves before they even got to Ellis Island.

The religious school children were able to apply what was learned in a special Ellis Island Simulation program held on October 21. Students, parents and guardians, and even grandparents came dressed up as immigrants. They filled out information sheets and were issued passports by inspector at the port of embarkation (Robbie Schiff). Heading upstairs represented the boat ride over to the US, landing in Ellis Island. The "immigrants" went into the Medical Room where they had to read an eye chart, in Hebrew, and were checked by the "doctor" (Karen Marder). The immigrants were then interviewed by an "inspector" (one of the older religious school children). Some students spent time in the detainee room. Finally, once approved, student's passports were stamped, and they received very official looking papers created by Dena Varble. Finally everyone came together for a discussion (led by Grace Bass) about what they experienced and what they felt during this simulation.

For more information on Shir Chadash's religious school or their programs, please call (845) 232-1029 or email info@shir-chadash.org.



A field trip to the Statue of Liberty



Children in character for a program on Ellis Island Simulation.

Ellis Island Simulation 2017



All packed and ready to go



One must be examined before you're admitted to the country.



Your papers have to be carefully checked.

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.

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

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

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 2nd 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

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

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

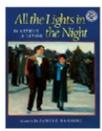


PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley

Join Us For a FREE Interactive Family Concert With **Evan Gottfried** Sunday, December 17, 2-4 pm



After the concert we will explore "L'hadlik Ner", Kindling the Light, as we read PJ Library books, create individual Chanukiot (menorahs), roll beeswax candles, and link the lights of Chanukah to other sacred lights.



Temple Emanuel
243 Albany Ave
Kingston, New York

Please bring a non-perishable food item
RSVP to pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org



The Harding Club



קהילה

kehila community



Melinda Kim Jessa Emily

PJ Library Mid-Hudson Valley is CELEBRATING!

In the past year, we have grown to 330 kids ages 0-8 receiving PJ Library books and over 70 kids ages 9-11 receiving PJ Our Way Books. Far beyond the number of amazing books arriving in mailboxes for free each month, we have grown in the number of local families that meet with each other over and over, in and outside the walls of synagogues, to "do Jewish" together.

We meet for story times. We meet for playdates. We meet to celebrate milestones and Jewish Holidays. We meet to welcome Shabbat in our homes and for long hikes on Nature preserves. We meet as a large community for Chanukah Concerts and Grandparents' Celebrations and we meet in smaller groups of families to support each other and celebrate this Jewish experience together. In the past year, three different parent groups, two in Dutchess and one in Ulster, have met monthly for coffee or a glass of wine and the opportunity to just talk with each other about the joys and challenges of parenting. Common interests have blossomed into a MahJong group, a biking group and parent book clubs.

PJ Our Way has added a social group led by our Local Design Team (ages 8-11) to give local Jewish "tweens" opportunities to get together and form strong bonds. In August, they had a pool party; in October, they challenged themselves by rock climbing at The Vault in Poughkeepsie; in November, they roller skated. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day (in January), they will gather for our second Leadership Lollapalooza at Locust Grove.

Our staff has grown. Our outreach has grown. Our commitment to supporting Jewish families in the Hudson Valley has grown. We have partnerships with local Synagogues and offer support by adding programming to Shabbat Dinners, holiday celebrations and Tot Shabbats. This year we, have partnered for larger community-wide events like the Purim Carnival and Mitzvah Day, our Gratitude Cornucopia Concert at Vassar Temple, Hanukkah Hullabaloo Concert at Congregation Emanuel in Kingston, Chanukah Book Fair at Barnes & Noble with TBE and Shir Chadash, and our up-coming Parent Education Class "Soulful Parenting" with Vassar Temple. We also have partnerships forming with two local Jewish summer camps to enrich the experience of living Jewishly for local families.

Our PJ Library professional team has been selected to participate in a meaningful staff development program, "Design Thinking and the Art of Engaging Families" with Rabbi Yonah Schiller, with 18 other teams from communities across the US and Canada. We will study together for the next six months culminating in a two-day intensive in Massachusetts in May.

All of this growth has been made possible by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the community's support of The Jewish Federations of Dutchess and Ulster, by Engagement Grants from The Alliance Partners of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, by the support of The Harding Club in Dutchess County, and the support of many individuals across the community. If you want to support PJ Library's family programming in our three-county community, or have an idea for a program, contact us at pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org. Like and follow PJ Library Mid Hudson Valley on Facebook to learn about programming near you!

We are looking forward to 2018!

Your PJ Library Mid-Hudson team,

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

HIDDEN VEGGIE LATKES

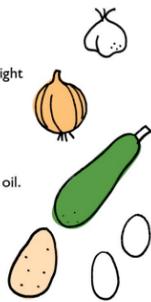
A traditional potato pancake stuffed with healthy veggies.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large russet potato, peeled
- 1 large zucchini, peeled
- 1/2 head of cauliflower
- 1/2 yellow onion
- 1 clove of garlic, finely minced
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Vegetable oil for frying

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Grate together potato, zucchini, cauliflower, and onion. Use a food processor to make this step faster.
- 2 Wrap the vegetable mixture in a cheesecloth or a lightweight kitchen towel and squeeze out as much liquid as possible.
- 3 In a large bowl, combine vegetables with garlic, flour, baking powder, eggs, salt, and pepper.
- 4 In a frying pan heat 1/2 inch of oil on medium-high. Carefully drop a heaping tablespoon of latke mixture into oil.
- 5 Fry for roughly 2 minutes, then flip and fry the other side.
- 6 Transfer each latke to a paper towel-lined platter.
- 7 Serve while warm.



FIFTH NIGHT. In the first century B.C.E. Rabbi Shammai proposed: Light eight candles the first night, and one fewer each night – a countdown of the remaining time. Rabbi Hillel countered: Light one candle the first night, and add one each night – a ramp-up, because "holiness should increase, not decrease." Hillel won, but more important is the way multiple voices were heard and honored – an idea true to the spirit of Hanukkah.



HAPPY HANUKKAH!



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

Monthly e-newsletters. Special program invitations! Call (845) 471-9811 or email 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

Thank you!



We want YOU for the PJ Our Way National Design Team!
Kids on the Design Team make videos, meet authors, write content for pjourway.org, and serve as local ambassadors.
Parents! Read more about why the Design Team might be perfect for your child.



PJ Library Mom's Night Out

The Federation President's Voice



Dear Friends:

It will be mid-December by the time you read this column. The Thanksgiving holiday will be behind us and the warmth of Hanukkah will have just arrived. We will once again enjoy gathering young and old together to share latkes and holiday gifts.

For me, this marks the completion of my first year as President of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. I have to say that I have been humbled by the extraordinary people whom I have met who have volunteered so unselfishly to make this year a memorable one. Working hand in hand with our local Jewish professionals I have learned a great deal about some of the needs of our greater Jewish community. Federation has continued to provide a leadership role by offering various forms of assistance to some of our community members who are in need. Via our "Learn and Lunch" program, Federation has offered a safe and convenient place for seniors to gather and pursue learning. Programs like our Film Festival and the 92nd Street Y offerings have brought many diverse members of the community together to share both culture and entertainment. These are only some of the programs that I hope you have been able to take advantage of. In order to develop more programs like these, Federation needs you: not only your financial support, but also your participation by volunteering your time and especially your ideas.

Enjoy the holidays. And as always, I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Our Executive Director



Some say "You can never go home," but I challenge that. When I initially returned to Poughkeepsie 2 years ago, after having lived in Asia for 18 years, it was primarily to help my mother, while she was still with us, as well as to support my father. I had no idea that a whole new chapter of my life, and that of my sons, was about to begin.

I have always said (and felt) that I am a child of the Jewish Community of Poughkeepsie. I would spend 6 out of 7 days either at Temple Beth-El or the JCC, doing one activity or another. Not only did I grow up here, but so too did my mother's family. Temple Beth-El was where my mother used to attend Sunday school, got married, became President of the Sisterhood and then of the Temple, and eulogized there. I was named and became a bat mitzvah at Temple Beth-El. My oldest son's bar mitzvah was there and next year, my twin boys will be called to the Torah.

That being said, the story of my return to the area is slightly unique. After Arlington High School, I attended Binghamton

(Continued on page 16)

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 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.

Interested? Call us at Jewish Federation of Dutchess County
(845) 471-9811

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To Brighten the Festival of Lights



79¢
with AdvantEdge Card
Rokeach Chanuka Candles
44 Ct.
Where Available



3/\$1
with AdvantEdge Card
Manischewitz Gelt Coins
.53 oz.
Milk or Dark Chocolate
Where Available



6⁷⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Price Chopper Smoked Salmon
4 oz. • Plain or Pepper & Garlic



2/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Golden Gourmet Pancakes
10.6 oz. • Select Varieties



2/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card
Golden Blintzes 6 Pack
13 oz. • Cheese, Cherry or Potato



1⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
PICS Apple Sauce
23-24 oz. Jar
All Varieties



10⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Meal Mart Stuffed Cabbage
39 oz.



4/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card
Manischewitz Egg Noodles
12 oz. • Select Varieties
Where Available



5⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Ungar's Gefilte Fish
22 oz.
Original or No Sugar Added



1⁷⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Manischewitz Broth
32 oz.
Select Varieties



7⁹⁹ lb.
Meal Mart Ground Beef
Kosher



2/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card
Breakstone's Whipped Butter
8 oz. Tub
Unsalted or Salted
Where Available



3⁴⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Osem Mini Mandel
14.1 oz. Canister



5⁹⁹ lb.
Empire Kosher Fresh Chicken Breasts
8 Piece Cut-Up Chicken \$2.99 Lb.



1⁹⁹ lb.
Empire Kosher Whole Turkey
Frozen Organic Whole Turkey \$2.99 Lb.



2/\$3
with AdvantEdge Card
Farmers Horseradish
8.5 oz.
Red or White



2/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card
Manischewitz Tam Tams Crackers
9.6 oz.
All Varieties



2⁹⁹ lb.
Empire Kosher Fresh Turkey



2/\$6 AdvantEdge Retail
-1⁰⁰ Coupon Savings
2/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card & Coupon Below
Kedem Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz.
Select Varieties



2/\$4 AdvantEdge Retail
-1⁰⁰ Coupon Savings
2/\$3
with AdvantEdge Card & Coupon Below
Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix
6 oz.
Select Varieties

Price Chopper Market COUPON
Expires 12/23/2017

BUY 1 Osem Consomme 14.1 oz.
GET 1 Osem Pearl Couscous 8.8 oz. (\$2.69 Value)
FREE

Limit 1 Price Chopper coupon per customer, per offer, per day; may be combined with one manufacturer coupon per product purchased, unless prohibited. Void if copied or altered. Offer effective Sunday, November 12 thru Saturday, December 23, 2017 in our Price Chopper, Market Bistro and Market 32 stores.
CLU# 1601



13⁹⁹ lb.
Meal Mart 1st Cut Brisket
Kosher

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON • EXPIRES 12/23/2017

Save \$1
On Any 2 Kedem Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz.

Void if sold or transferred. Consumer pays CRV and sales tax. Misuse constitutes fraud. Retailer. We will reimburse the face value plus \$.08 handling provided you comply with our coupon redemption policy, available upon request. Submission of coupons signifies compliance. Send to: KAYCO Foods, PO Box 407 MPS, Dept 989, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 MAY NOT BE DOUBLED OR TRIPLED

0073490-210001

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON • EXPIRES 12/23/2017

Save \$1
On Any 2 Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix
6 oz.

RETAILER: We will reimburse you for the face value of this coupon plus 8¢ handling, provided you and the consumer have complied with the offer terms. Coupons not properly redeemed will be void and held. Reproductions of this coupon is expressly prohibited (ANY OTHER USE CONSTITUTES FRAUD). Mail to: The Manischewitz Company, CMS Dept. #72700, 1 Fawcett Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840. Cash value .001¢. Void where taxed or restricted. LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PRODUCT PURCHASED. ©2017 The Manischewitz Company MAY NOT BE DOUBLED OR TRIPLED

0072700-032264

Price Chopper Market COUPON
Expires 12/23/2017

BUY 1 Osem Mini Mandel 14.1 oz.
GET 1 Osem Bamba Snack 1 oz. (99¢ Value)
FREE

Limit 1 Price Chopper coupon per customer, per offer, per day; may be combined with one manufacturer coupon per product purchased, unless prohibited. Void if copied or altered. Offer effective Sunday, November 12 thru Saturday, December 23, 2017 in our Price Chopper, Market Bistro and Market 32 stores.
CLU# 1602

3 Lb. Bag

2⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
New York State Macintosh or Empire Apples
2 1/4" Minimum • U.S.#1



Offers effective Sunday, November 12 thru Saturday, December 23, 2017 in all Price Chopper, Market Bistro and Market 32 stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.



The ROMEOs
(Retired Older Men Eating Out)

Best wishes for a joyous Hanukkah Holiday!

Ted Baker	Jerry Goldberg	Frank Rubin
Mitch Barden	Eli Gorin	Ralph Schwartz
Sheldon Baskin	Martin Hochhauser	David Shron
Herman Chertock	Herman Koretzky	Mike Silberstein
Stu Chimkin	Gary Mayer	Eric Straus
Marty Finkelstein	Bob Morrison	Mel Zipes
	Lou Newman	



Warm Hanukkah Wishes!
from
Vassar Temple Sisterhood



Visit our Judaica Shoppe for all your holiday & gift needs!

Every Mon.—Thurs., 10:00am—2:00pm, Special Sale December 3, & 10, 9:00am-11:30am
140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 • www.vassar temple.org • 845-454-2570

HAPPY
Hanukkah!
From Your Friends at
Marianne's Floral Garden



Happy Chanukah To All
from
The Harding Club

Join us and enjoy good fellowship, great meals, and excellent speakers.
We meet twice a month!
Visit our Website at: <http://harding.jigsy.com>

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



The Poughkeepsie Chapter of Hadassah

Peace to all!



Brown Chiropractic



The Three Arts Bookshop

“On this Festival of Lights, we pray for light and peace for humankind.”



Happy Hanukkah

VASSAR TEMPLE

Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz
Religious School Director Julie Stein Makowsky



Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
Rabbi Jonathan Kliger & Woodstock Jewish Congregation

Hanukkah Blessings!



Debra M Salon
29 Collegeview Ave
Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0158

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Wm. G. Miller & Son Funeral Home Inc.



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
East Fishkill Eye Associates
Debbie Roodner OD
Vicki Chenarides OD



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
Avalon Assisted Living and Wellness Center
in Wappinger Falls

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Lorraine Patten, DDS
Louise Dewhirst, DDS
Michael S. Schwartz, DDS



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
Sugar & Spice Café
and Spice Catering



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
The Family and Staff at
Torsone Funeral Home



From Our Family to Yours,
Happy Hanukkah!
Sims & Associates
Podiatry

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

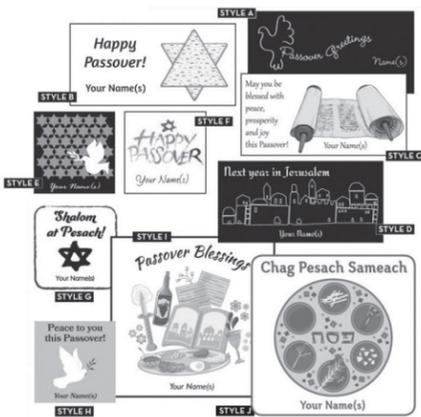
Rosh Hashanah: (circle one) A B C D E F G H I J

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 Jovah
- 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!



Hanukkah Family Dinner

- 18 - 20lb. Whole Roasted Turkey
- Vegetable Stuffing / Gravy
- 2 Dozen Mini Potato Pancakes (Latkes)
- Tossed Salad with Dressing
- 1qt. Cole Slaw
- 1pt. Apple Sauce \$125
- Serves 10 People
- December 12th thru December 20th 2017

Buy 3 Dozen Mini Potato Pancakes (Latkes)
 and get 1 Dozen Free !!

Buy 1/4lb Smoked Salmon
 and get 4 Bagels Free!

The Bagel Shoppe

986 Main St. Rt. 52
 Fishkill, NY 12524
 845.89.3823 Fax 845.896.5971

Appetizers

- Fresh Mozzarella Platter ~ 55.
- Vegetable Crudités Platter ~ 45.
- Shrimp Cocktail Platter ~ 65.
- Grilled Vegetable Platter
 w/Balsamic Drizzle ~ 55.
- Cheese & Cracker Platter ~ 45.
- Fresh Fruit Platter ~ 45.



Movie Night at Schomre

Schomre Israel will be showing the comedy drama *Everything is Illuminated*, based on the novel by the same name by Jonathan Foer Safran. With the help of a local eccentric, a young Jewish American man endeavors to find the women who saved his grandfather in a Ukrainian village that was ultimately razed by the Nazis.

Enjoy popcorn and a beverage with the movie.

DETAILS
Dec. 23, 7:00pm at the synagogue. A donation of \$5 is suggested.

All are welcome.



Dove Hoopla Craft Class

Sew a little peace in the world. Join Beetle and Fred on Beacon's Main Street for a class to stitch this little dove and enjoy some relaxing Sunday afternoon creative time. Beginner stitchers and kids 12 and up welcome! All materials are included. The instructor will be Maria Bywater, author of *Sew Jewish*.

This is one of a series of Jewish-theme sewing classes coming to Beetle and Fred!

DETAILS
Sunday, Dec. 3, 1:00pm—3:00pm, Beetle and Fred, 171 Main Street, Beacon. Get all the class details and reserve your spot on the Beetle and Fred website at <http://beetleandfred.com/classschedule>

Vassar Temple Chanukah Candle Lighting Service and Dinner

Vassar Temple's annual beautiful family-friendly Chanukah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service will be held on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, and encouraged to bring a menorah and candles. If you have not yet experienced this service, and even if you have, you are in for a real treat!

DETAILS
Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30pm. Prior to the service, a pot luck dinner will be held in the social hall at 6pm. Bring a meat or non-dairy dish (anything except dairy) for 12; Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad and beverages. The cost of the dinner is \$18 per family or \$6 per individual. Reservations for this popular event should be made by Tuesday, December 10, by contacting Roni Stein at (854) 223-5804 or roniagt99@aol.com. Send your check to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with "Chanukah Dinner" on the memo line.



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 of the United States of America and others of the Jewish faith are cordially invited to attend and participate. Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher so no outside food may be brought in. We look forward to seeing you there.

DETAILS
Sundays: Dec 10, 9:30am. 18 Park Ave. Questions? Contact Rob Rubin, Presiding Officer qbee5@optonline.net

Music Cabaret at Vassar Temple

Enjoy a magical musical evening with singer Laura Stein. In an intimate cabaret setting, Laura will explore themes of faith, optimism and strength as expressed in songs from the Jewish, American Folk and Musical Theater traditions.

Laura is a fifth year cantorial student at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She grew up in Westchester and has lived in many countries around the world. In her cantorial work, she is passionate about pastoral care and the role music can play in healing and in prayer. Laura would love to travel to different parts of the world, learning about their musical cultures.



She currently serves as cantorial intern at Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie.

DETAILS
Sat., Dec. 2, at Vassar Temple. Doors open for schmoozing at 7:00pm, with the concert starting at 7:30pm. There will be an elegant Viennese table and cabaret seating; bring your own wine. Tickets are \$18 at the door. Please RSVP to music@vassartemple.org by Nov. 19 to assist us with our planning. Proceeds benefit Vassar Temple.

Hannukah Judaica Sale at Vassar Temple

Vassar Temple's Judaica Shoppe will hold its annual Hannukah sale with special hours on Sundays, Dec. 3 and 10, from 9:30am—11:30am, and will be open as usual Monday-Thursday from 10:00am—2:00pm. Visit our special holiday display in the East Chapel for menorahs, candles (including the Safed line from Israel), dreidels, holiday items, gift wrap and much, much more. We will also feature Fair Trade chocolate gelt candy and other Fair Trade items.

Our usual selection of tallitot, gift items, jewelry, ritual items and art from Israel is always available, and special orders can be arranged. Shop early for the best selection! The Judaica Shoppe is operated by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood and would love to help you with your Hannukah needs.

For further information, or to make a special appointment, please contact Perla at perlakaufman22@gmail.com or (914) 456-7309.

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, Dec. 16, 10:00am. For info, contact Rabbi Leah Berkowitz: rabbi@vassartemple.org, email Marian Schwartz: mschwa9882@aol.com or call the temple office (845) 454-2570.

Tiny Temple Celebrates Hannukah

"Celebrate Hanukkah" at the free Tiny Temple program to be held at Vassar Temple. The tots will learn about Hanukkah through crafts, story and song in a relaxed and friendly setting. A special holiday snack will be served. All children age infant to 5 (and those raising them) are warmly invited to join in the fun. Tiny Temple is open to all regardless of temple affiliation, is always free of charge, and is sponsored by the Sisterhood.

DETAILS
Sunday, Dec. 17, 11:00am—12:00pm
To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Laura Brundage at tinytemple@vassartemple.org. Laura will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful free monthly program, and to put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list. Vassar Temple is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, and additional information is available at www.vassartemple.org.

Chanukah Family Service & Celebration at Shir Chadash

Join Congregation Shir Chadash in celebrating Chanukah with a family oriented service & celebration. Help "Light Up The Night" by bringing your favorite menorah to the service.

Come see the many different and unique menorahs all lit! Old, new, handmade and from different parts of the world! Enjoy the music, singing, goody bags for the kids and, of course, lots of latkes to eat. Don't forget the candles! All welcome.

Please note the early time!

DETAILS
Friday, Dec. 15, 6:30pm. For more information, please call (845) 232-1029 or email info@shir-chadash.org.

Sisterhood of Schomre Israel to Hold Chanukah Dinner

Chanukah is fast approaching. Sisterhood of Schomre Israel is planning a Chanukah dinner on the 6th night of Chanukah.

Please join us for a festive celebration.

DETAILS
Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:00pm, cost is \$36 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3 to 12. Prepaid reservations are required no later than Dec. 10. Call (845) 454-2890 or email schomre1@aol.com to make a reservation.

A TRIP TO POLAND AND ISRAEL

Congregation Schomre Israel is planning a historical tour to Poland and Israel May 1-17, 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.

DETAILS
Top-rated hotels, air-conditioned buses, full board and excellent guidance will assure you an experience of a lifetime on this unique Schomre Israel adventure accompanied by Rabbi Langer. For additional information call (845) 454-2890 or email rabbi@schomreisrael.org

VASSAR TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The two new Men's Club Co-Presidents at Vassar Temple are very excited about the coming year for Men's Club, and would like to introduce themselves.

From 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.

From Glenn Tanzman: As a relatively new member, I look forward to this as an 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.

Celebrate Chanukah with Shir Chadash

Congregation Shir Chadash is having a Chanukah party. Shir Chadash's Junior Choir will be singing, led by Cantor Gail Hirschenfang.

A buffet-style dinner will include: hors d'oeuvres, brisket, roast chicken or salmon and, of course, latkes!

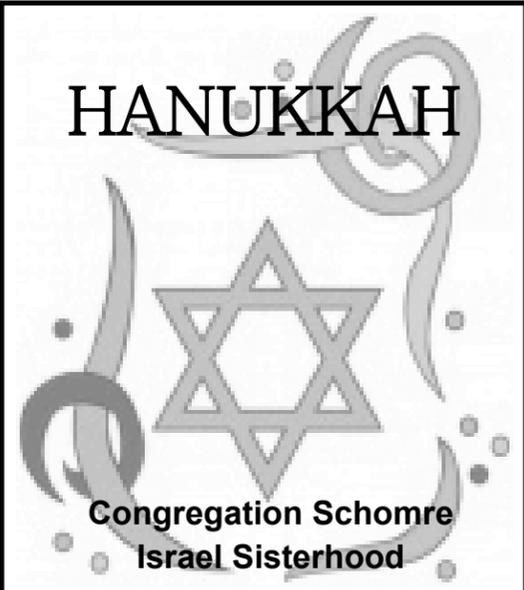
There will be Chanukah grab bags for the kids and plenty of chocolate gelt for all! Join us for a fun evening of singing, games and good food.

DETAILS
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4:00pm, at The Crooked Rooster on Rt 55 in Poughkeepsie. Cost: \$36 per person. All welcome. For more information, or to RSVP, please call (845)232-1029 or email info@shir-chadash.org.

Congregation Shir Chadash Annual Dinner

Don't have plans for December 24th? Join Shir Chadash for an evening of good food & fun and a chance to meet old and new friends.

DETAILS
Place and time TBD. If interested, please call (845) 232-1029, via email: info@shir-chadash.org.



Local

Sunday

Bagels, Lox, Torah (Tefillin 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 Sisterhood Chanukah Dinner December 17, 5:00pm, reservations required, (845) 454-2890 or Schomre1@aol.com.

Congregation Schomre Israel K4 Meeting (Koffee, Kibitz, Kvetch Klub) December 31, 9:30am, topic how to improve our daily lives.

Monday

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

Temple Beth-El Board Meeting December 11, 7:30pm. Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

Tuesday

Temple Beth-El and Shir Chadash Hebrew School Program Hanukah Clue at Barnes & Noble December 5, 4:30pm-6:30pm, All are welcome to join Temple Beth-El and Congregation Shir Chadash at Barnes & Noble on Rt. 9 South, for Hanukah games and fun with a Hebrew twist. Get a voucher before the program to use online or in any B&N store, and a donation will be made to the school. For details contact Rabbi Miriam Hyman at education@tbeny.org or (845) 454-0570.

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 December 1, 8, 7:30pm, and December 22, 29, 6:30pm, evening service with Rabbi Daniel Polish and Cantor Gail Hirschenfang. Followed by community Oneg. All welcome.

Congregation Shir Chadash Chanukah Family Service & Celebration Light Up The Night December 15, 6:30pm, see page 10 for more information.

Vassar Temple Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour December 1, 7:15pm.

Vassar Temple Shabbat Evening Service December 1, 8, 22, 29, 6:00pm, with cantorial intern Laura Stein.

Vassar Temple Chanukah Potluck Dinner & Shabbat /Chanukah Candle Lighting Service December 15, 6:00pm Potluck, 7:30pm service with cantorial intern Laura Stein. Please RSVP for the dinner.

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 December 2, 9, 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 December 2, 9, 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 December 2, 9, 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 December 16, 10:00am.

Vassar Temple Mini Shabbaton December 2, 10:00am.

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

Temple Beth-El Tot Shabbat, Kid-dish and Kadimah December 9, 11:00am, Families with young children can join us for a bi-monthly 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.

Temple Beth-El Bright Nights: Winter Clothing Drive and distribution December 10.

Congregation Schomre Israel Movie Night December 23, 7:00pm. *Everything is Illuminated*, \$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.

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 November 18, 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, September – June. Join our community for uplifting and inspiring Saturday 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 morning through June, Meditation, 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.

Calendar

December

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

Email: 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

Email: 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

Email: 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

Email: 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

Email: 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

Email: 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

Website: 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

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

Email: Office@VassarTemple.org or

rabbil@vassartemple.org

Services: Friday, 7:30pm unless otherwise noted, Torah

study Saturday, 9:00am. New Paths 1st and 3rd Saturday

every month, 10:00am unless otherwise noted

December Candle Lighting

December 1 4:08pm

December 8 4:07pm

December 15 4:08pm

December 22 4:11pm

December 29 4:15pm

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

WARM WISHES FOR A HANUKAH FILLED WITH LIGHT & HAPPINESS



Temple Beth-El

Hanukah festivities take place **December 15-16-17** including *Then & Now: Holiness, Messiah & Afterlife*, with Dr. Benjamin Sommer (JTS), and *Hanukah in Israel* with the Vanaver Caravan. For details visit us at <https://tbeny.org>



Vassar Temple Simchat Torah, The Scroll Unrolled and dancing.



Joyce Schriebmann, Michelle Klein, and Karen Hochhauser (Pictured above L-R)



Learn and Lunch Bunch Harvest Party



Congregants of all ages, including a some from the youth group, comprised the spirited Vassar Temple team of the Dutchess Interfaith CROPWalk Against Hunger.

Morse School Library volunteers.

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University and graduated with a degree in Political Science and East Asia Studies. While I used to be fluent in business Chinese, I would say I am now at a conversational level. My first job was at the Institute of International Education in NYC administering Fulbright Scholarships, while I also received my Masters' from NYU in Cross-Cultural Management.

Always liking a challenge and pushing myself to learn and do more, I accepted a job in a software company, which led to the opportunity of becoming Director of Training for Asia Pacific, and fulfilling my dream of living in Asia. After living and working in Beijing for 2 years, the next stop on the adventure was Hong Kong for 6 years, and where my boys were born (no, they do not have dual citizenship; yes, they are American citizens).

Then a unique opportunity was offered to move to Bangkok, Thailand, and we took it. While there, I changed careers again. Initially doing Relocation and Cross-Cultural Training, I then moved into Human Resource Consulting. On a personal side, in contrast to when I was living in Hong Kong, in Thailand, I had to work much harder to maintain a kosher home and instill a vibrant Jewish life and foundation for the boys.

In 2015, life changed directions again. With my mother ill, I returned home to Poughkeepsie to assist with her care and then decided to relocate permanently, putting down roots for my sons. I used to joke that this was their first overseas posting. Watching how they have acclimated, been welcomed into the community and blossomed has been very rewarding.

Being a child of this community, and remembering fondly how social and full Friday night services used to be, including the festive dancing and delicious onegs, encourages me today to try and find ways to help connect Jewish kids and adults in meaningful, cultural and social ways.

I was always taught that we have a moral role and responsibility to support the Jewish community and greater community on the whole. It is with this mindset, that I am honored and pleased to accept my role as part of the Jewish Federation Team. I look forward to working for and supporting our community in the coming year and finding ways for the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County to play its part to increase engagement and culturally unite the Jews in our area.

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the project and would like to help, we need you too! More detailed information will be forthcoming. Check out our Facebook page for details.

Every other month, Temple Beth-El hosts an **Intergenerational Friday night dinner**. Families meet before Shabbat for arts and crafts, challah baking, stories and Shabbat preparation. We eat a delicious meal and spend time singing, dancing and learning together. Families are joined by "**bubbies & zaydies**"—seniors wishing to interact and form relationships with younger families. This program is open to all Jewish families in Dutchess County.

The nights may be long, but the days are going to fly with all the activities and adventures we have planned.

Stay tuned!



Congregation Shir Chadash member Dana and her sons taking a break from building the sukkah



Congregation Shir Chadash build sukkah

