

Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY'S INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

2025 Annual Meeting

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4TH | 6:30 PM


Boardman Road Branch Library
141 Boardman Road | Poughkeepsie

JOIN US AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR BOARD, HONOR THIS YEARS MACCABEE AWARD RECIPIENTS, AND HEAR FROM A VERY SPECIAL GUEST.


WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR

2025 Maccabee Award Recipients


THE MACCABEE AWARD HONORS INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MAKING AN EXEMPLARY AND BOLD EFFORT TO FIGHT ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-ZIONISM IN DUTCHESS COUNTY.



Jesse
Lunin-Pack



Pastor Luis
Perez



Cindy & Maurice
Shnaider

Register at
www.JewishDutchess.org/Events
845-471-9811 | info@JewishDutchess.org

Keeping Our Community Safe—Together

By Jesse Lunin-Pack, Chair of the Jewish Security Council of the Hudson Valley and Beacon Hebrew Alliance Past President/Safety & Security Team Lead

In recent years, Jewish communities across the country have faced a rising tide of security challenges. From small congregations to large institutions, the landscape has changed—and with it, the responsibility we all share to protect one another. Here in the Hudson Valley, our strength has always come from our ability to come together. That spirit of unity is the foundation on which the Jewish Security Council of the Hudson Valley (JSEC-HV) was built.

JSEC-HV operates as a clearinghouse for security information, best practices, and coordinated planning for Jewish institutions across the region. As part of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, our mission is simple: to help our synagogues, schools, camps, and community organizations stay informed, stay prepared, and stay connected.

When security incidents happen anywhere in the region—or anywhere in the country—information and lessons learned must be shared quickly. JSEC-HV ensures that local leaders have access to timely updates, vetted recommendations, and a network of peers facing similar challenges. With the help of Patrick Regan, our dedicated Community Security Initiative Regional Security Director, we help institutions understand available state and federal grant programs, share model security protocols, and connect them with trusted law-enforcement and emergency-response partners. Most importantly, we encourage collaboration. No synagogue or school should have to navigate these issues alone.

A key partner in this effort is The Community Security Service (CSS), the leading national organization that trains volunteer security teams for Jewish institutions. I am proud to serve as a security trainer with CSS, and I've seen firsthand how their approach empowers regular community members—people just like us—to contribute meaningfully to safety without ever compromising the welcoming spirit of our spaces.

CSS's philosophy is rooted in preparedness, not fear. Their programs train volunteers to recognize suspicious behavior, respond appropriately to unfolding situations, and work seamlessly with professional security and law

(Continued on page 7)



NEW!



Steven A. Wasser
Camp Scholarship
See page 8 for details.

As 2025 draws to an end, remember to
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- Jewish community life & belonging
- Vital programs and partnerships
- Local security & antisemitism response
- Support for families, seniors, and neighbors
- PJ Library



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Sign up to receive our **complimentary weekly email & monthly newspaper, The Voice** - filled with community news, upcoming events, and inspiring stories that bring Dutchess County's Jewish community together.

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What is Jewish Family Services (JFS)?

- ♦ Creating a senior social network through Learn & Lunch Bunch bi-monthly gatherings.
- ♦ Connecting and celebrating our seniors with holiday gift packages.
- ♦ Helping those in need through Mitzvah Day and Mitzvah Now initiatives.
- ♦ Scholarships for Jewish education, Jewish summer camps, and youth trips to Israel.
- ♦ Medical Loan Referral closet—providing medical equipment (free of charge) and referrals to other local medical loan closets.
- ♦ Assisting during a personal or family crisis.
- ♦ Weekly bereavement group (see page 10 for more details)

LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

JFS presents cultural, social, and educational programs.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS Join us!
MEETING LOCATION

We will be meeting at 11:30 am at
Temple Beth-El, 118 S Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie
Please do not bring outside food into the temple.

Location
Temple Beth-El
118 S Grand Ave
Poughkeepsie NY

SCHEDULE
Schmooze 11:00 –11:30am
Program 11:30 –12:30pm

Suggested Donation \$6; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Learn & Lunch Bunch is partially funded by the Ann & Abe Effron Fund and Bernard and Shirley Handel Foundation Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

December
December 10 **Author Event: The True Story of Murder Café** presented by Frank Marquette. Plus Annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest! Prizes given!
Menu: Pizza mini bagels, latkes, applesauce, sour cream, salad, Klondike bars, and cookies..

December 24 Off for the Holidays

*Gluten free options available upon request in advance
* Menu is subject to change

TO REGISTER, call the office at (845) 471-9811 or online at: www.JewishDutchess.org/events
****Advanced registration needed for food planning purposes****



Office for the Aging submitted by Brian Jones, Outreach Coordinator, Dutchess County Office for the Aging

New Year's resolutions are often made this time of year; but by this time a month from now, they've fallen apart. Maybe the goal was well-intended but too ambitious, or maybe we worry that we'll reach our goal but find it's just an additional burden.

How about reaching a goal that you know will be *less* of a burden?
If older adults, families and caregivers can make one plan for 2026, let it be one you've heard from us before:
Get to know us BEFORE you need us.

It's much easier to plan intelligently for aging before there's a crisis, as opposed to reacting in a hurry when the crisis happens. Planning for our aging builds a strong foundation for reacting to what lies ahead.

No plan will be flawless, but adapting an existing plan to changing circumstances is far simpler than drawing up an all new plan under pressure.

Starting to get to know us is as easy as finding something to pass the time the next time a snowstorm keeps you in the house. Head over to the OFA website at **dutchessny.gov/aging**, and go where your curiosity takes you. There's plenty to learn about!

Now wait just a minute here. I may be 80, but I'm still the parent and they're still the child, and who said it was okay to reverse the roles?

As a parent of adult children, has that thought ever crossed your mind? If you're the adult child, have you well-meaningly crossed a boundary with your parent when they weren't ready for it?

Racism and sexism are no longer acceptable in society, but ageism somehow remains acceptable in many ways. Just take a look through the greeting card section of any store for all the wisecracks about getting older. There remains a healthy worldwide market for "anti-aging" products that try to hide the aging process, while not slowing it in the least.

We don't deny that the aging process exists, but ageism gets it all wrong. It's true that the risk for certain chronic diseases and dementia does increase with age; but the health and cognitive function of the overall aging population can remain steady over many years, especially when we practice good nutrition and stay physically and mentally active. A narrative of relentless decline with no positives isn't just false - it's dangerous to all of us.

The truth? Older adults are as likely to offer support as to need it. One look at OFA's hundreds of older volunteers is all you'd need to know. We've had volunteer instructors in our Senior Exercise program in their nineties, and volunteer Home Delivered Meals drivers well into their eighties. Learn more about volunteering with OFA by contacting us at **845-486-2555** or **ofa@dutchessny.gov**.

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Tony D'Aquanni,
Dutchess County Legislator

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Rebecca Edwards,
Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor

Hanukkah Blessings!



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Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



**NYS Senator
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HAPPY HANUKKAH



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Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!




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Happy Hanukkah

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HAPPY HANUKKAH



**Anthony Parisi
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Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



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Happy Hanukkah

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HAPPY HANUKKAH



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Dutchess County
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**Happy
Hanukkah**

**Chairman of the Dutchess County
Legislature Will Truitt**



Happy Hanukkah

**Lynne Versaci
Dutchess County Legislator Dist. 14**

We apologize in advance for any spelling errors in the Holiday greetings.

To find the location of your greeting visit JewishDutchess.org/holiday-ads



Happy Hanukkah

**From Liscum, McCormack, VanVoorhis
Architects**



Happy Hanukkah

**The Family and Staff at Michael Torsone
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Happy Hanukkah

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Happy Hanukkah

**Avalon Assisted Living and Wellness
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Happy Hanukkah

**Dr. Lorraine Patten, DDS & the staff at
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Hanukkah Blessings!



**The Three Arts
Bookshop**

Hanukkah Blessings!



**The Pastry
Garden**

Hanukkah Blessings!



**Sugar & Spice Café
and Spice Catering**



**Hochhauser, Marks
Family
Martin, Karen, Samuel,
Alexander, & Benjamin**



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and Family**



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Waxman**

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**Sandy & Lee
Corwin**



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**Enid & Joe Gohra
and Joli Tompkins**



**Ronnie & Carl Wolfson
and Family**

Happy Hanukkah Blessings!

**Rabbi
Renni Altman**



**Nina & Russell
Rothman**



**Miriam Gold
and Family**

May your Hanukkah shine
bright with happiness!



**Lisa & Mike
Arnoff**

Happy Hanukkah Blessings!

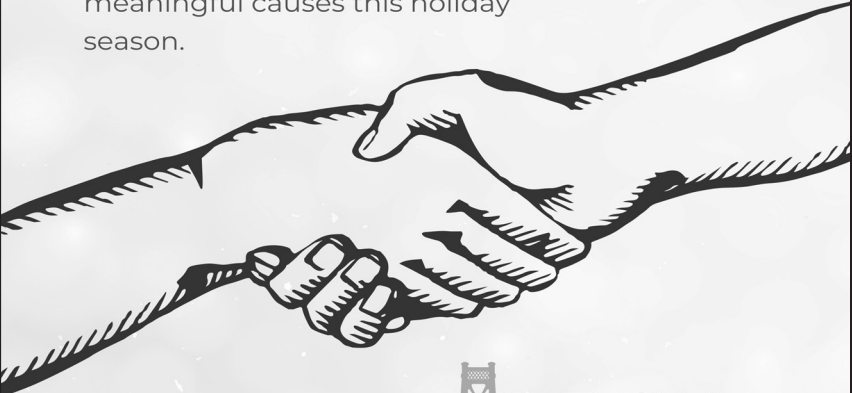
**Nancy & Adam
Belok**

Happy Hanukkah Blessings!

**Blanche & Lou
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Building
Brighter
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Together

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The Harding Club



Why I Joined The Harding Club

The Harding Club is a Jewish men’s social club, located in the Poughkeepsie community. A few weeks ago, we asked members why they joined The Harding Club and what they enjoyed at club meetings.

The answers included:

- “To make new friends.”
- “Fun events each month.”
- “To see more of my friends.”
- “I learn from the speakers”
- “Fun conversations”
- “Connecting with new people”
- “A place where I feel comfortable”
- “Get more involved in my community.”
- “Stimulating discussions”
- “The food!”

As this list suggests, The Harding Club is a place to make new *friendships* and expand existing *fellowships*. It is also a place that *fosters fascinating* and *fun* discussions, amidst *festive food* at a local restaurant. (Yes, we like words that begin with the letter “f”).

The Club, *founded* during the Harding Administration, has *flourished* for over 100 years. We believe the long life of our club reflects the lasting value of enabling new, and deeper, *friendships* among Jewish men.

Harding Club meetings take place once or twice a month, for dinner or lunch, at a local eatery. Each meeting mixes socializing and camaraderie; with speakers who address timely topics across the spectrum of life, including business, the arts, recreation, health, money management, politics and history.

If you would like to join our *forum* of *friends*, we would be excited to welcome you!

To learn more, contact one of the Club Officers below:

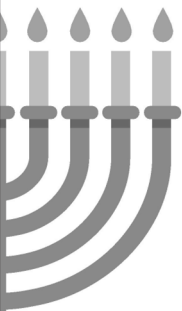
Irvin Miller, president, irvinmmiller@gmail.com
Jim Thrasher, vice president, jdt845@gmail.com
Dave Lowitz, secretary, dlowitz@aol.com



JWV Post 625 Chief of Staff Martin Hochhauser discussed the history of Pvt. Herman Siegel with Poughkeepsie H.S. ROTC cadets and their advisors Chief MSG Wagner and MSG Carmichael. Pvt. Siegel, a graduate of Poughkeepsie H.S., was the first Jewish casualty from Poughkeepsie WWII. He had just turned 19. The JWV sponsored erecting the sign on the commemorating his life. Afterward, the cadets did a trash cleanup on May Street, along side the school, where Pvt. Siegel lived.

THE MILLBROOK CHANUKAH COMMITTEE
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Festivities begin at 4:00PM

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Sisterhood
Schomre Israel

Wishing you peace
in this season of
miracles!

Congregation
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Israel



Peace to all!



Rebecca & Bert
Cohen

Peace to all!



Paula & Azzy
Reckess

Peace to all!



Marilyn & Michael
Schwartz

May your Hanukkah shine
bright with happiness!



Beacon Hebrew
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Holiday Greetings From



Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A



Happy Hanukkah
To All From
The Harding Club

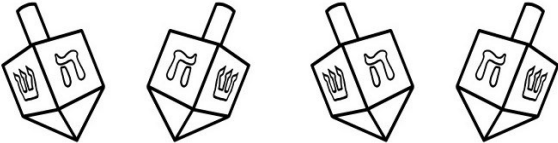
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The ROMEOs

(Retired Older Men Eating Out)

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Marty Finkelstein
Gene Fleishman

Ed Goetzl
Jerry Goldberg
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Page 12: Elizabeth Shapiro Carlotti Insurance, Hudson Valley Hospice, and
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Rabbi’s Blog by Rabbi Glenn Jacob

Living in a time of tumultuous events changes the dynamic between the Jew and the world surrounding the Jewish community. National politics are pushing us into territory unfathomable only a few decades ago, and the country sees itself as in crisis. Two years have passed since October 7, and Israel is still struggling with the consequences of the attack and the poor choices of resolution. The deaths, the suffering, and the ongoing threats in both theaters demands more robust response than most Jews can remember in their lifetimes.



Rabbi Jacob

Hanukkah captured the early rabbinic imagination because the Jews of that era also lived in a time of tumult. The Jews were despised in the Roman lands and tolerated in the Persian lands while traveling ever further to find places of refuge where they could live peacefully. Hanukkah was transformed from a poorly remembered military victory where the nascent Hasmoneans also seized the mantle of high priesthood into a celebration of Jews creating a safe haven, a country free of foreign tyranny and restored with godly worship. In the twentieth century, Hanukkah was transformed again into a festival of freedom, of civil and religious rights.

All these religious ideas, beliefs that our ancestors created in the face of their challenges, are again being put to the test today. American democracy is under threat and Israeli democracy is under severe strain.

The new normal is fear, anxiety, and panic. The zeitgeist is ugly behaviors and distressing news on the front page followed by disturbingly normal news on the other pages, as if the tumult does not really exist or is contained. Where does the conscientious Jews stand? What does a conscientious Jew say or do?

There are only four possible responses: apathy, avoidance, diligence, and protest.

The apathetic response is the most popular action, that many chose by not choosing. Apathy is the default. Such folks keep a tenuous tab on the news and are always willing to utter an innocuous exclamation before returning to other tasks and concerns. Apathetic people practice a belief that there is someone else out there who will address the issues on their behalf.

Those who avoid all the ugliness must work hard to achieve their goal. The suffering and chaos are scribbled on the grocery store shelves as much as they are broadcast on any media or social media outlet. Steering clear of the blaring signs is deliberate and requires effort; these people choose ignorance, even to the point of separating themselves from the community and the conversation.

The diligent are those who bring up the challenges, the suffering, and the dilemmas we face in conversation. Over coffee, over dinner, during the *oneg* and during any gathering, the diligent are seeking out others who also see the events unfolding as they do. They seek to nudge the apathetic and rouse the runaways to pay attention. These are our community organizers, the people who call upon our conscience.

Finally, there are the doers who are often the protesters, the folks who take their diligence out into the community and further, onto the streets and into the offices of legislators. They are labeled aggressive in their behavior, as if what they are doing is somehow not polite. They may be good people, but they are not polite given the circumstances. They are calling us to task, to address the pain, the suffering, the loss, and the further threats to all we hold dear, in Israel and in the United States. These are the people who practice the maxim, actions speak louder than words.

This month, you will light the candles of the hanukkiah. Each night you hold that shamash in your hand to light the candles, you are going to make a conscious choice, either to add to the holiness or to subtract from the sanctity of the festival. I hope you will make choices that promote a better future both here and in Israel. Choose wisely.

(Keeping Our Community Safe Continued from page 1)

enforcement. Participants do not need prior experience. What they learn is awareness, coordination, and confidence—skills that can make a critical difference in a crisis and that elevate the overall security posture of our entire region. The reality is that security is strongest when it is shared. A single camera, guard, or policy helps, but an engaged, trained, and connected community is transformational. When our institutions communicate with one another, when volunteers understand their role, and when professionals and laypeople work from the same playbook, we create a protective network far greater than the sum of its parts.

This coming year, JSEC-HV will expand its partnerships, offer additional training opportunities, and continue building bridges among communities throughout the Hudson Valley. Whether you lead a synagogue, attend services regularly, or simply care about the safety of our Jewish community, you have a role to play. If your institution has not yet connected with JSEC-HV or explored CSS volunteer training, I invite you to reach out. By learning together, planning together, and standing together, we ensure that our community remains not only safe—but strong, vibrant, and united.

Meet Your Neighbor by Karen Hochhauser

Each month, we ask a Member of the Tribe* (MOT) the following questions and feature their answers for a fun and insightful way to meet your neighbors. This month, we are excited to introduce Maurice Shnaider who took time away from making his famous coffee to answer our questions.

1. What is your favorite/least favorite word?
Favorite: Sababa.
Least Favorite: Antisemitism/hate.

2. What inspires you? Being a proud Jew & the biggest Zionist.

3. What is your favorite song?
“Don’t Worry. Be Happy.” by Bobby McFerrin.

4. What profession other than you own would you like to attempt?
Teaching kids.

5. What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt? Being a truck driver.

6. What do you most like and dislike about yourself?
Like: That I want to be what I am. Nothing more. Nothing less.
Dislike: I wish I could do more. Sometimes I just can’t.

7. What is your favorite Jewish food/dessert? Chicken Schnitzel.

8. What is one interesting thing that people don’t know about you?
I fix classic cars and sports cars.

9. If you could choose a superpower, what would it be? I wish I could have known how to fly to save people & see the future in some incidents.

10. What is your greatest achievement/something you are most proud of? I met Cindy and have 3 boys.

11. Do you have a “bucket list” and, if so, what is on it?
I wish I could make an impact to change people to be better.

12. If there were one thing you would hope others do in the interest of our future, what would that be? That we are all created equal and people should stop being ignorant.

13. What is your earliest Jewish memory? I was less than 10 yrs old in Peru and my mother, a Holocaust survivor, would send me to the store. I told her I didn’t want to go because there was a man across the street who would shout “Hey! Jew!” My mother then asked, “Are you a Jew?” I said yes. She replied, “Then tell him you are proud of it.” The next time the man shouted, I replied “YES I’m PROUD of it!” After 2-3 times, he stopped bothering me. Always be a proud Jew.

14. What is your most favorite Jewish memory? My boy’s bar mitzvahs, especially the youngest which took place at the Kotel in Yerushalayim.

15. In what ways, does or can JFedDC impact our Jewish community?
It is support of the thousands of people of the Jewish community in NY. It is second to none.

16. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates? To that question I’d like to know if I would really end up there.



Maurice Shnaider

*Member of the Tribe

What the upcoming changes to charitable deductions could mean for you by Richelle Maguire, CPA, Partner and Sarah A. Guilmette, CPA, Partner of PKF O’Connor Davies

As we approach year-end, it is crucial to review any tax planning opportunities that may be available to you, especially in light of the various changes from “The One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA). One of the most significant changes affects charitable deductions beginning in 2026. You may want to consider making charitable contributions before December 31, 2025 to maximize the current tax rules.

The benefits of specific planning opportunities can vary based on the income or losses expected for the year. By this point, many taxpayers will have a good picture of where they stand. Read on for more details on how you can prepare for the upcoming changes to charitable deductions and other tax planning considerations for year-end.

New Charitable Deduction Limits Coming in 2026 — Here’s How to Prepare

Under OBBBA, starting in 2026 there are some significant changes to charitable deductions. Changes include:

- For taxpayers who do not itemize, there will be an “above-the-line” deduction for cash contributions to public charities of up to \$1,000 for single taxpayers and \$2,000 if married filing jointly.
- For taxpayers who itemize, there is a new 0.5% floor on charitable contributions, meaning only the portion of charitable contributions that exceed 0.5% of an itemized taxpayer’s adjusted gross income will be deductible.
- The tax value of charitable deductions is also capped at the 35% tax rate (even if the taxpayer is in a higher 37% bracket).

Since these changes start for tax year 2026, taxpayers may consider making charitable contributions before December 31, 2025, to maximize the current tax rules. This is especially important for those who may have significant charitable contributions planned for early 2026, since it may be more tax advantageous to make those contributions before December 31, 2025, instead.

For some taxpayers who typically do not itemize their deductions, it may also make sense to “bunch” your charitable contributions. This involves making two- or three-years’ worth of charitable contributions in the current year so that you maximize your tax deduction by exceeding the

(Continued on page 10)

Camp Scholarship by Stephanie Wasser

I loved overnight camp-really loved it. It was freeing, athletic, creative and social. I felt independent, strong, a sense of camaraderie....and Jewish. It was the first time I was so immersed in Jewishness that I could take it for granted- I was in the majority. Whether it was song, Friday night services, inter camp games, or blessings at meals, our glorious culture and religion infused daily life. I would later have this same feeling the first time I landed in Israel.

It's been three years since my beloved Steven passed away, leaving his post as President of Federation, and I've been reflecting on how best I could honor his memory and his love of Jewish life, music and sports. And then it hit me-Jewish camp. We were both fortunate enough that our families could provide the experience for us. Wouldn't it be great to help provide the same opportunity to Jewish kids in our Federation geography? And so, I'm excited to launch a Jewish camp scholarship in his name in the hopes we can create life-changing Jewish summers for local children. The Steven A. Wasser Camp Scholarships for 2026 are launched with this issue of *The Voice*- stay tuned!



STEVEN A. WASSER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JEWISH SLEEPAWAY CAMPS



FOR MORE INFO:
Call (845) 471-9811 or
email admin@jewishdutchess.org

*OPEN TO DUTCHESS COUNTY RESIDENTS
AGES 8-13 YEARS OLD



Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE

Friday afternoons, ages 9-13 years
Sunday mornings, ages 5-13 years
311 Verplanck Ave, Beacon
Contact celia@beaconhebrewalliance.org

Led by Education Director, Celia Baczowski—Masa is filled with joyful Jewish experiences, including song, dance, art, food, field trips, and more!

CHABAD MID-HUDSON VALLEY

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

For information contact Hindy Borenstein, Director
(845) 463-5801
chabadmidhudsonvl@prodigy.net

CONGREGATION SHIR CHADASH

A Progressive Jewish program teaching children, adults, and entire families, based on the tenets of Reform Judaism. We welcome all families in an experiential setting.

Please call (845) 232-1029 or email info@shir-chadash.org for more information and details.
yp@shir-chadash.org

PARDESS HEBREW SCHOOL

Sunday, 10:00am-12:00pm

For information
www.mypardess.org/hebrewschool

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

KULANU SCHOOL at TEMPLE BETH-EL

The Kulanu school welcomes all students who wish to learn Hebrew and deepen their knowledge of Jewish Tradition. We believe that Jewish learning should be an organic part of our students' experience. Our students explore religious and spiritual concepts through Hebrew texts. They also celebrate Shabbat and holidays together while extending their connection to Jewish culture through art, cooking, music, and movement.

Jewish Studies classes: Pre-K through grade 7
Sundays from 10:00am –12:30pm (September – December)
Saturdays from 10:00am-12:30pm (January—April) followed by a community Shabbat lunch.
Fridays from 5:00pm—7:30pm (May) includes a Shabbat dinner

Ivrit (Hebrew): Grades 3-7
Tuesdays 4:45pm—6:15pm

Ivrit (Hebrew) Tutoring: Grades 3-7
Students receive 20-30 minutes of online instruction with their teacher individually or in groups of two.

For more information contact Karen Jacobs at:
education@tbeny.org

VASSAR TEMPLE

Vassar Temple provides a program of education within the guidelines of the Reform Movement, which deepens a student's Jewish experience and knowledge within an accepting, stimulating, and creative 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."

The Seth A Erlebacher Religious School for grades K-7 meets Sunday mornings under the administration of Rabbi Shoshana Hantman, our Religious School Director. Hebrew language instruction for grades 4-7 and bar/bat mitzvah preparation are offered Wednesday afternoons for grades 4-7 under the direction of Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh. Teens may work as madrichim (teachers aides) in the Sunday School. New enrollments are welcome throughout the year.

For more information,
rsdirector@vassartemple.org (845) 454-2570

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL
COMMUNITY HANUKKAH
Party!



Sunday, December 14th | 11:00 AM – 12:45 PM
Vassar Temple
140 Hooker Ave Poughkeepsie

We invite you to share love and light together this Hanukkah!



- Entertainment by Nutty Scientists
- Balloon artistry by Darryl Bielski
- PJ Library Donut Bar
- Songs with Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh
- Hanukkah Crafts
- Menorah Lighting



*Suggested donation \$8 per person/\$18 per family.
Please consider making a donation so we may continue to bring Jewish culture & experiences to our local community through enriching programming and events.*

*Registration is encouraged for planning purposes.
To register, and/or make a donation, scan the QR code or visit JewishDutchess.org/Events*



Temple Beth-El
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK



CONGREGATION SCHOMRE ISRAEL
A Modern Orthodox Synagogue

Security provided by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County through the JFNA 2025 Emergency Security Fund in partnership with The Tepper Foundation.

חנוכה

Dedication Hanukkah

Here is an easy Hanukkah DIY Craft from S&Sblog.com

Paper Plate Menorah Craft

Use a paper plate to create a menorah as a fun and easy craft for kids to celebrate!

Materials:

- Paper Plate
- Scissors
- Paint Brush
- Construction Paper
- Glitter Glue
- Pencil
- Washable Paint
- School Glue
- Markers
- Paper Plate
- String



Dedication by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

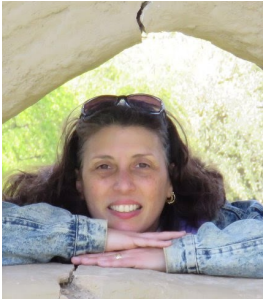
Have you ever lost something important to you? How would you feel if you got that something back? Thousands of years ago, we got our Temple back! Hanukkah means “to dedicate” or to make holy. The temple was rededicated to G-d thousands of years ago after we got it back. We cleaned it, rebuilt the alter and rededicated it to the service of G-d. That is the “dedication” that the holiday’s name refers to. Today, Hanukkah reminds us to fill our homes and hearts with light, courage, and love!



Tamatha



Suzanne



Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah by PJ Library Director, Tamatha Williams

I write this while I look out the picture window. The fallen leaves, not yet removed, blanket the rocky landscape in my view. The trees’ arm-like branches sway as if they are dancing with the flurries swirling in the wind. I know what comes next. Cooler December days invite winter’s slumber. I ask myself if I am ready for the winter ahead, chuckling at the idea that I can keep winter at bay. While I envision snow piling up outside, my thoughts warm as I consider the final details of December’s upcoming annual Community Hanukkah Celebration.

Over the past few years, I have been gifted the opportunity to work with Vassar Temple, Temple Beth-El, Shir Chadash and Congregation Schomre Israel to plan, execute and participate in this celebration. In collaboration with PJ Library and the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, our local community temples and community members come together to celebrate Hanukkah, reinforce Jewish values and share friendship and laughter in a kind and welcoming setting.

This year’s Community Hanukkah Celebration includes entertainment by Nutty Scientists, with an inquisitive, interactive show that you will not want to miss! We also have the privilege of Darryl Bielski, balloon artist, returning to fill the party room with playful and creative customized balloons for our guests. Our donut bar is an extra sweet treat for kids and adults alike. Come make an edible masterpiece that’s as delicious to eat as it is to look at! Of course, there will be plenty of Hanukkah-themed crafts to create as well. We will stay toasty with hot cocoa and fill our bellies with scrumptious bagels and nosh. While we party, melodious guitar playing will engulf the room as we sing together. Please join us on December 14th at 11:00AM at Vassar Temple as we light the menorah, party together and celebrate the kick off of the eight nights of Hanukkah.



Crafting
Hanukkah
dreidels for the
senior holiday
gifts with
students from
ARC School.



PJ Library brings families & community together,
sharing Jewish culture and values in a
fun, heartfelt environment.

Please consider making a donation to help support
PJ Library in your community.

To donate: visit jewishdutchess.org/programs/pj-library

PJ Library, a flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), was launched with a humble beginning in 2005 in Western Massachusetts, sending children's books about Jewish holidays, culture, and values. Today, PJ Library has grown into an internationally recognized \$40M global cultural literacy venture that partners with philanthropists and Jewish communities around the world to provide families raising Jewish children ages 0-12 with the gift of free, high-quality, children's books and other resources that foster a deeper connection with Jewish life (www.hgf.org).

Thank you!

The Federation Board’s Voice



Zachary Lewis

We Have Seen This Before

It is a bad movie that we are watching on repeat. The same plot, narrative, and hatred. Political parties have shifted to their extremes, again looking at the same cause of the root of their problems: The Jewish people. This time, unlike in the 1930’s, it is as well pointed at Israel, the Jewish state.

It is incumbent upon everyone who cares about the future of Jews in the United States to get active and take part in helping to bolster our small Federation here in Dutchess County. To that end, one of the most significant things that has happened here is the antisemitism found in schools in this county. We are looking for parent volunteers to get involved in these school districts and monitor the antisemitism coming out of it. As well, we are looking for those who wish to serve on committees to help us with Jewish Community Building, fighting the scourge of antisemitism, and building community between Jewish and non Jewish groups.

Antisemitism continues unabated across the west, worsening in scope, size, and apathy. The far right and far left have converged around the premise that if not for Jews and Israel, their countries and people would live harmoniously, free, and economically unburdened from the evil Zionist (sic Jewish) grip.

Those who proclaim to champion equality, justice, and peace, are not just standing against us, but are helping push an anti-equality, anti-justice, and anti-peace narrative. Their target? Israel and the Jews.

This past year we have seen the world’s most identifiable climate activist go on gas powered boats, dumping fuel into the Mediterranean in the name of climate justice, all because she feels that there can be no climate justice until Israel is erased from existence.

We have seen publicly funded (and privately operated) news corporations, like the BBC, push narratives that are patently false. They parrot the words of a terror organization who call for our mass murder. Yet, the world accepts it as gospel, contrary to all evidence showing that they are intentionally misleading their readers and viewers.

We have seen the acceptance of those who openly support Hitler into the mainstreaming of political parties. This hatred will not abate, nor is it isolated to a single country, the US included.

The canary is no longer in the coal mine, the coal mine has collapsed.

It is time to ask ourselves if we are ready to answer Rabbi Hillel’s call:

“If I am not for myself, who will be for me?”

INTERESTED IN OUR 2026 COMMUNITY TRIP TO ISRAEL?

- Meet our partners at Keshet Israel
- Learn about our unique itinerary
- Ask any and all questions

Join us on our ZOOM Q&A info session:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 3:30pm.

For Zoom details visit: www.JewishDutchess.org/Events

(Charitable Donations Continued from page 7)

standard tax deduction otherwise available.

As a reminder, taxpayers who receive a required minimum distribution (RMD) but do not need the funds can also consider a qualified charitable distribution from their IRA. Individuals can direct up to \$108,000 from their IRA to go directly to a qualified charity and their taxable income is reduced by that amount.

There are many options available to achieve your charitable goals. Depending upon the amount of your charitable contribution and your specific tax situation, you will want to consider whether the gift should be made in cash, appreciated securities or other assets and whether the gift should be made directly to the charitable organization or to a donor-advised fund. Since the deduction limits differ depending upon the various methods used, it can be helpful to discuss options with your PKF O’Connor Davies team in advance of making the gift so that proper tax projections and planning can be done, with an eye toward ensuring your overall goals are met.

To view the full article go to:
<https://www.pkfod.com/insights/2025-year-end-tax-planning-considerations-for-individuals/>

Our Executive Director



Thanksgiving—The Holiday for All

As you read this, Thanksgiving has just passed. While this holiday, and most holidays, typically involves family, friends, and food, there is also the potential for stress, tension, and possible fighting, at least in my household. I often say that I would love to have at least one opportunity of experiencing an idyllic “Hallmark movie” evening before my family descends back into reality. As you know, I do love my family, more than they will ever know, but having everyone under the same roof, especially after they have been living on their own, can be challenging. I remember how my mom used to give us “the lecture” every time we came home about how we had to adjust back to living in a family again and that we could not just do what we wanted, when we wanted, but I digress.

One thing I particularly like about Thanksgiving is that there is no one right way or wrong way to celebrate. There is more that brings us together than separates us. I remember one wise woman sharing with me that this was her favorite holiday because it was the only holiday that her more observant Jewish side of the family and less observant side could all celebrate together. For me, that is the key message, finding what we have in common and bringing us together instead of separating and dividing us.

At our recent JFedDC Board offsite, that was one of the key themes. What do we have in common? What values do we share? How can we all get in the boat and find ways to row together in sync? There is so much that can divide us and tear us apart (and that is what the evil forces are trying to do to us globally). However, when we focus on where we are aligned, it is very powerful. We are stronger when we are together.

At the offsite, we reviewed our 5 year strategic plan and decided that to be impactful, for the next year, we should prioritize and focus on three of our six pillars. It was jointly agreed that they would be:

- Community Building – within the Jewish community
- Community Partnering -within the greater community
- Antisemitism/Security - ensuring safety in the community and schools

This does not mean we will stop any of our other efforts, but we have alignment and focus. We will still continue with our *Mitzvah Now*, helping those in need (such as the “Pack the Purse” for victims of domestic abuse at the Grace Smith House, for which the response was overwhelming, or our upcoming “Heads, Shoulder, Hands, and Toes” collection of hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for children and adults at the Family Partnership to prepare for dropping temperatures), our senior holiday gifts (which started as 25 gifts at 4 nursing homes is now close to 250 gifts at 11 nursing homes and private residences), our Learn & Lunch Bunch led by the amazing Suzanne Turissi, and our PJ Library led by the fabulous Tamatha Williams, helping ensure the sustainability of Jewish life, to name a few. It just means that we are all rowing together...and we need more rowers! Please join us. Make a difference. Volunteer! Donate! Take advantage of our Board’s Annual Campaign Matching program to make your dollars go even further!

With the lights of Chanukkah soon coming to warm our hearts and dark cold nights, we wish you and your family a Happy Chanukkah... together.

Karen Hochhauser,
Executive Director



Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County



Come Join Our
Community TRIP TO ISRAEL

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- **Yom Ha’atzmaut in Israel** — celebrate Independence Day with the entire country
- **Shabbat in Jerusalem** — Kabbalat Shabbat overlooking the Western Wall
- **Masada at sunrise & Dead Sea float**
- **Visit to the Nova Festival Memorial Site & southern communities impacted by October 7, 2023**
- **Special briefings and behind-the-scenes encounters** with Israeli leaders, educators, and innovators

APRIL 20-29 2026




For the full itinerary and payment details, scan QR code or visit
JewishDutchess.org/Events

DECEMBER 27TH: \$500 DEPOSIT DUE PER PARTICIPANT


For questions:
845-471-9811 | Events@JewishDutchess.org

Peace to all!




Muriel Lampell

Peace to all!



Jane LaLone

Peace to all!



Len Hyman

Peace to all!



Adrienne London and Robert Roeshman

Peace to all!



Barbara (z"l) & Lou Newman and Family

Peace to all!



Linda & Eric Perfecto

Peace to all!



Pam & Sol Resnikoff, with our best wishes.

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!

Dutchess County Leadership Prayer Breakfast



Peace to all!



Suzanne & Don Turrisi & The Cats

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!

Lew Darrow





Happy Hanukkah

Major Abstract Corp

Peace to all!



Janet & Sam Schenker and Family

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Stop & Shop Poughkeepsie, NY

Peace to all!



Linda Skolnik

Peace to all!



The Hankin Family



Happy Hanukkah

Gil & Cantor, P.C. - Attorneys at Law

Happy Hanukkah!





2/\$7
with AdvantEdge Card
Kedem Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz. •Select Varieties



15⁷⁹ lb.
Meal Mart 1st Cut Fresh Beef Brisket
Kosher

<div>Streit's Egg Noodles 12 oz. •Select Varieties</div> <div>2/\$3 with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Empire Kosher Whole Turkey Frozen</div> <div>4⁴⁹ lb. with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Osem Toasted Couscous 8.8 oz.</div> <div>2⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Empire Kosher Whole Roasting Chicken Frozen</div> <div>4⁶⁹ lb. with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Osem Chicken Consomme 14.1 oz.</div> <div>5⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Empire Kosher Boneless Chicken Breast 2 Lbs. Frozen</div> <div>18⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Osem Mini Croutons 14.1 oz. •The Original Mini "Mandel"</div> <div>4⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Meal Mart Chicken Wings Frozen •24 oz.</div> <div>10⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Manischewitz Broth 17 oz. •Select Varieties</div> <div>2⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Meal Mart Frozen Stew Meat 16 oz.</div> <div>12⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Gefen Whole Roasted Chestnuts 5.2 oz. •Shelled</div> <div>3⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Meal Mart Egg Rolls With Mushrooms & Vegetables 25 oz.</div> <div>12⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Lipton Recipe Secrets Kosher Soup & Dip Mix 1.9-2.4 oz. •Select Varieties</div> <div>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Meal Mart Meat Balls in Marinara Sauce 33 oz.</div> <div>17⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Kedem Tea Biscuits 4.2 oz. •Select Varieties</div> <div>5/\$4 with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>PICS Cold Smoked Atlantic Salmon 4 oz. •All Varieties</div> <div>6⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Kedem Concord Grape Juice 64 oz. •Select Varieties</div> <div>4⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Vita Herring In Sour Cream 12 oz. or In Wine Sauce</div> <div>5⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Joyva Sesame Tahini 15 oz.</div> <div>7⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Manischewitz Frozen Party Assortment Appetizers 8.4 oz. Manischewitz Frozen Franks in a Blanket •6 oz.</div> <div>9⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</div>
<div>Farmers Horseradish 8.5 oz.</div> <div>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card</div>	<div>Streit's Chanukah Candles 44 Ct.</div> <div>89¢ with AdvantEdge Card</div>

Celebrating the Festival of Lights





SOLD IN TOTE BAGS ONLY
1⁴⁹ lb.
Market 32 Apples
U.S. #1 •2 1/2" Minimum
Select Varieties



2/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix
6 oz. •Select Varieties



3⁹⁹
with AdvantEdge Card
Golden Potato Pancakes
10.6 oz. •Select Varieties



5/\$4
with AdvantEdge Card
Manischewitz Chocolate Coins
.53 oz. Bag

MARKET BY PRICE CHOPPER

Price Chopper

Offers effective Sunday, November 16 thru Saturday, December 27, 2025 in all Market 32, Price Chopper and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Miriam & Eric Goldstone

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Bob Ulrich

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Sandra Mamis

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Stephanie Wasser

Hanukkah Blessings!



Beth & Les Richardson

Hanukkah Blessings!



Carol Gray

Hanukkah Blessings!



Dana & Ira Effron

Hanukkah Blessings!



James Robinowitz

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Gail & Sam Simon

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Roni & Charles Stein

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Rose, Brion, & Annaliese

Hanukkah Blessings!



Ellen, Barry & The Rosenberg Family

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Brenda Ritz and Family

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Barbara Scheer and Family

Hanukkah Blessings!



Rabbi Ellen & Judge Jonah Triebwasser

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Candy & Lou Lewis

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Sharon & Howard Lynne

Hanukkah Blessings!



Dr. and Mrs. Michael Muffs

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Betsy Kopstein

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Sue & Rich Levine

Hanukkah Blessings!



The Pesacovs

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



The Breslow & Glassman Families

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Doris & Bob Haas

Hanukkah Blessings!



The Quackenbush Family

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Lisa and Monica Allt, In memory of Dolores Allt

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Sandra & John Blair

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Barbara & Bernie Cohen

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!




Roz & Stan Cooper

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Debbie & Tom Erichson

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!








































Frieda and Edward (z'l) Gershuny

Peace to all!



Paul W. Annetts

<div><div>Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!</div><div>Ellen & Victor Stern and Family</div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Grete & Marty Finkelstein</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Sandy & Jerry Goldberg</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>Judy & Alan Fox</div></div>
<div><div>Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!</div><div>Suzanne & Len Turetzky</div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Love, Fritz & Jack Goodman</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Deanie Gordon and the Levine, Israel & Gordon Families</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>Judy & Herb Dym</div></div>
<div><div>Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!</div><div>Jane Friedland-Johnson Family</div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Len Grosman</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Ann & Jeffrey Gross</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>Ellen & Lawrence Danziger</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Marianne & Bob Abrams and Family</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Shirley & Bernard (z'l) Handel</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah David Cohen, Susan G. Hecht, Philip & Eva</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>Herman Chertock and Family</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Jill & Ira Auerbach</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah The Hentel Family</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Rabbis Miriam Hyman & Michael Fessler and Family</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>Leona & Irvin Miller</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Nancy & Sandy Bernstein</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Lewittes and Eigen Families</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Elyse & Neil Mansfield</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>The Bressman Family</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah The Cutler Family</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Debbie & Arnold Most</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Sheri & David Raften</div></div>	<div><div>Peace to all!</div><div></div><div>Helen Bernstein and Family</div></div>
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Jane Dworkin and Family</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Mary & Jonah Ritter</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Miriam & Frank Rubin</div></div>	
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Amy, Steve, Lindsay & Hannah Effron</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Dr. Bernardo & Sharon Steinvurzel and Family</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Jane Silver Timm and Family</div></div>	
<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Judith & Michael Elkin</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Evelyn Weiss and Family</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Happy Hanukkah Team Silbergleit (Debbie, Jason, Zach, Colby)</div></div>	

Congregation Schomre Israel

(Orthodox)

18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie

(845) 454-2890

Rabbi Shlomo Krasner

Website: www.schomreisrael.org

Email: rabbishlomok@gmail.com

Weekly Services:

Shacharis 7:00am (weekdays)

Shacharis 8:30am (Sunday & holidays)

Maariv: 6:40pm (winter weekdays)

Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: around candle lighting times.

Adult Education:

Tuesday

Ethics of the Fathers through the Prism of History, and the Views of the Jewish Sages, Philosophers, Thinkers, Kabbalists, & Pious

10:30am, (No Class on 12/30-Fast of Tevet), One who wants to reach Piety should delve into Ethics of the Fathers While many of us have studied Ethics of the Fathers at one point or another, we will be approaching it through the themes and lens of some of the greatest commentators: as a Path of Perfection by the Rambam, a Guide to Piety of Rabbeinu Yona, and through the teachings of the Italian Philosopher Rabbi Ovadia Siforno, the Jewish Mystic the Maharal of Prague, the Talmudist Rabbi Chayim Volozhin, & the Intellectualist Rabbi Samson Hirsch. We will also view the historical context leading up to each statement and also consider the background and experience of each Sage, which may shed light onto why each Sage prioritized their particular statement.

Hebrew 301-Learning Hebrew through the Book of Ruth

6:00pm. We will be building our Hebrew vocabulary of nouns and verbs, studying practical applications of possessives, prefixes, suffixes, & pronouns, examining Hebrew's usage of masculine/feminine, singular/multiple, & verb tenses and taking a look under the hood of Hebrew's Binyanim - verb conjugations. The class will be taught through the lens of the Book of Ruth, ensuring that it will be both enjoyable, functional, and informative. This class will be appropriate for the near-beginner to the near-advanced Hebrew learner and everyone in between.

Thursday

A Deeper Understanding of the Weekly Haftarah

7:00pm, (No class 12/25). Do you ever sit during the reading of the Prophets, lost, bored, and having no idea what is going on? We can help you engage with the Haftarah. Join us to study the holy words and explain their connection to the Parsha. We will then present a two pronged approach that will enable us to understand both the core meaning of the Haftarah while taking a deeper look at how it is expressed.

Other Events:

Sunday

Emergency Equipment Demonstration,

December 7, 3:00pm.

Sisterhood Chanukah Dinner

December 14, 5:00pm. Latkes, donuts and more. \$36 adult/\$15 children. RSVP by December 3.

Tuesday

Movie

December 30, 6:00pm. Special viewing of film, *October 8*. This documentary is subtitled “the fight for the soul of America”.

Thursday

Chinese Dinner Buffet

followed by a movie

December 25, 7:00pm. The movie will be Guns and Moses \$15 per person. RSVP by December 18. Late reservation or no reservation \$18. The recently released film is about a beloved rabbi in a high desert town who becomes an unlikely gunfighter after his community is violently attacked.

Contact

rabbishlomok@gmail.com

for current information

or visit the website

www.schomreisrael.org

Congregation Shir Chadash

(Reform)

Interim: Freedom Plains

Presbyterian Church, Lagrange

(845) 232-1029

Rabbi Glenn Jacob

Website: www.shir-chadash.org

Email: info@shir-chadash.org

Weekly Services:

Fridays: 7:30pm In-Person & Zoom

Saturday: 9:15am In-person,

Bi-monthly Torah Study with Rabbi Jacob, all welcome to attend.

Adult Education:

Saturday

Torah Study

9:15am. An informal discussion about the Torah portion of the week with Shir Chadash’s new spiritual leader, Rabbi Jacob. Everyone has a chance to participate. Bring an inquisitive mind, a curiosity about our tradition, and a willingness to share your thoughts.

For info: (845) 232-1029,

email: info@shir-chadash.org

or visit www.shir-chadash.org.

Other Events:

Sunday

Rosh Chodesh Reading Group

Those interested in reading are invited (now done virtually) to our interesting and provocative discussions. Dates & times TBD. 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 or suggestion? Please let us know! For more info, please call (845) 232-1029, via email: info@shir-chadash.org

Contact :

info@shir-chadash.org

for current information

or visit the website

www.shir-chadash.org

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

Share your moments - tag us in your photos!

CONNECT WITH US!

Follow us for the latest events, photos, and community updates!

FB: /JFedDC

IG: @JewishDutchess

Find out where we'll be next - visit JewishDutchess.org/Events

ATTENTION ALL MAH JONGG PLAYERS

It's that time of year when we start collecting for the 2026 Mah Jongg Cards. The prices remain the same as this year, \$14 for Regular print and \$15 for Large print. The cost is the same no matter where you buy your card, but by getting your card through Temple Beth-El, we get a donation from the National Mah Jongg League. This year, with your help, we received a check for over \$1500 earmarked for Dutchess County's Outreach Lunchbox Program which Temple Beth-El supports. Our goal for 2026 is to reach \$2000! We can only reach that goal with your help. Please do a real mitzvah and help spread the word to friends and relatives no matter where they live. Your card will be mailed to you via first-class mail. One of our former members who moved to Florida, consistently gets 30+ names from people in her condo complex which now amounts to over \$180 for Lunchbox.

Since the Mah Jongg League accepts only one payment for the entire order, please make your check payable to: Phyllis Rosenfield, 32 Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601.

Payment must be received by: January 16, 2024.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Temple Beth-El

(Conservative)

118 S Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie

(845) 454-0570

Rabbi Michael Fessler

Rosh Tefilah Rabbi Miriam Hyman

Website: www.tbeny.org

Email: info@tbeny.org

Weekly Services:

Friday & Saturday Shabbat Services are both in-person and Zoom.

Monday— Friday Minyan 8:00 am.

Monday & Thursday in person & Zoom,

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday only on Zoom

Call the Temple Beth-El office for the current schedule.

Adult Education:

For information about ongoing Adult Education at Temple Beth-El, please contact the synagogue office : (845) 454-0570.

Other Events:

Sunday

Temple Beth-El Serves at Lunchbox

2nd Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help serve a meal at Lunchbox at Dutchess Outreach. You can also help by making a donation to help cover the cost. Contact Nancy Judson & volunteer (845) 216-7563

Monday

Book Club Gathering

December 8, 2:00pm. Short Story discussion with Ina Claire and Dave. Contact Merri Sedgwick at moondoggier7@optonline.net for more info.

Wednesday

Mitzvah Knitters

10:30am, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Come join our friendly group of knitters and help make scarves for those in need this winter. No experience needed. We'll teach you!

Friday

Shabbat Table—Hanukkah Themed

December 19, 6:00pm. Join us for our monthly multi-generational Shabbat evening, a joyful gathering for prayers, dinner, music and stories. We will share in Torah Study, lift our voices in song, and come together in Kaddish. Celebrate Shabbat with warmth, community, and connection. This month enjoy a special treat, a delicious kosher Chinese dinner. (Nominal fee, registration required.)

Contact:

info@tbeny.org

for current information

or visit the website

www.tbeny.org

Vassar Temple

(Reform)

140 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie

(845) 454-2570

Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh

Rabbi Emeritus Renni Altman

Website: www.vassartemple.org

Email: Office@VassarTemple.org or rabbi@vassartemple.org

Weekly Services:

Most services are hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). Contact office@vassartemple.org for Zoom link

Friday

Shabbat Evening Service

Every Friday Hybrid, December 5, 12, 26 7:30pm. December 19 Pot Luck Dinner 6:00pm, Shabbat/Chanukah Candle Lighting Service, 7:30pm.

Saturday

New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship

December 6 & 20, , 10:15am, hybrid.

Shabbat Morning Service

December 13 & 27, 10:15am, hybrid.

Adult Education:

Tuesday

Talmud Study

on Zoom with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb is on hiatus and will resume in January.

Saturday

Torah Study

with Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh meets hybrid at 9:00am Come join our lively discussions.

Fo details contact office@vassartemple.org or (845) 454-2570 and to be placed on the Torah Study e-mail list.

Other Events:

Wednesday

Sisterhood Book Club

December 10, 2:00pm in-person at the Collegeview Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton, Poughkeepsie. We will. *James* by Percival Everett. When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers/listeners of American literature know, that begins the dangerous and transcendent journey down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Friday

Hanukkah Dinner and Service

December 19, 6:00pm in the social hall. Please bring a dairy or vegetable dish for 12 (no meat). Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad, and beverages. Please do not use peanuts in your dish. The cost of the dinner is \$18 per family or \$6 per individual. Reservations for this popular event should be made by Tuesday, December 16, by emailing: hanukkahdinner@vassartemple.org or by calling the temple office at (845) 454-2570. Send your check made payable to Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, with “Hanukkah Dinner” on the memo line. The dinner will be followed at 7:30pm by our beautiful family-friendly Hanukkah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service, to which everyone is welcome and you are encouraged to bring your menorah and candles.

Saturday

Sisterhood-sponsored Chai Noon Lunch at Beekman Arms.

These social events are held the 18th of the month (weekdays) at noon, at area restaurants which are handicap accessible and include vegetarian offerings. Everyone orders off the menu and receives a separate check. Come make new friends! For further info contact sisterhood@vassartemple.org.

Contact :

office@vassartemple.org

for current information

or visit the website

www.vassartemple.org

New Remembrance Garden at Vassar Temple

When the shrubs around Vassar Temple were trimmed back to alleviate a security issue, the eternal flame sculpture in front of the building was fully uncovered. A “remembrance garden” has been planted around the sculpture in keeping with its theme. The garden will feature pollinator-friendly plants, supporting sustainability and education in this important environmental area. Fall planting has been completed and the sculpture cleaned. The garden has been designed to provide multi-season interest, and additional work will taker place in the spring. Our Cemetery, Dayenu, and House committees are collaborating on this project, with plants donated by our members from their home gardens. The sculpture was erected in 1993 by the Bloch family in memory of Elaine F. Bloch, and was designed by the well-known sculptor Joseph A. Burlini. A plaque on the sculpture’s pedestal, now visible, contains a Hebrew quotation from Proverbs 20:27, translated as “The human spirit is the light of the Eternal.”

www.jewishdutchess.org | 14

Pardess Center for Jewish Life

(845) 440-7592
Rabbi Zalman Sandhaus
Website: www.MyPardess.org
Email: info@MyPardess.org

Contact:
info@MyPardess.org
for current information
or visit the website
www.MyPardess.org

The Rhinebeck Jewish Center

102 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck
(845) 876-7666
Rabbi Hanoch Hecht
Rebbitzin Tzivie Hecht
Website:
www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com
Email:
RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com

Weekly Services:

Fridays: Call for time.
Saturdays: 9:30am

Contact:

RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com
for current information
or visit the website
www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com

Chabad of Mid-Hudson Valley

63 Vassar Rd, Poughkeepsie
(845) 463-5801
Rabbi Yacov Borenstein
Website:
www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com
Email:
ChabadMidhudsonvly@prodigy.net

Weekly Services:

Fridays: Call for times.
Saturdays: 10:00am Chabad Hebrew School

Adult Education:

Wednesday

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

Special Events:

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.

Contact :

ChabadMidhudsonvly@prodigy.net
for current information
or visit the website
www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com

Beacon Hebrew Alliance

(Conservative)
331 Verplanck Ave, Beacon
(845) 831-2012
Rabbi Justin David
Rabbi Emeritus Brent Spodek;
Email:
411@beaconhebrewalliance.org

Weekly Services:

Friday Shabbat, 5:30pm Mini Minyan with Luke Wygodny & 6:00pm Potluck Shabbat Dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat

Check our Community Calendar for services times, generally every Friday & one Saturday per month:
www.beaconhebrewalliance.org/calendar

Contact:

for current information
or visit the website
www.beaconhebrewalliance.org

Congregation Beth David

(Reform)
East Main St, Amenia
(845) 373-8264
Rabbi Jon Haddon
Website: www.CongBethDavid.org
Email: JonRab33@gmail.com

Weekly Services:

Saturdays 10:30am.

Contact:

jonrab33@gmail.com
for current information
or visit the website
www.CongBethDavid.org

Vassar College Bayit

51 Collegeview Ave, Poughkeepsie
(845) 728-4792
Rabbi Bryan Mann
Rachlin Director of Jewish Student Life at Vassar College
Email: bryanmann@vassar.edu

Weekly Services:

Fridays: 6:00pm
7:00pm dinner when school is in session

Contact :

bryanmann@vassar.edu
for current information

Chabad Beacon

Rabbi Shaya Itkin
Phone: (845) 288-0170
Email: rabbichabadbeacon.com

Contact:

rabbichabadbeacon.com
for current information
or visit the website
chabadbeacon.com

Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley

243 Albany Ave, Kingston
(845) 338-4271 ext 101
Rabbi’s Study: (845) 338-4384 ext 102
Rabbi Jack Sherratt:
rabbijack@hvc.rr.com
Weekly Services:
Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00pm,
Saturday
Morning Minyan 10:00am
Education:
Mediation & Torah Study 8:45am via Zoom
Hebrew Trope 12:00pm, via Zoom,
Dates TBD.
Hebrew, Shebrew! 4:00pm, via Zoom.
Talk Back with Rabbi Jack 8:45am, via Zoom,

Contact: info@cehv.org
for all events and current info
or visit the website www.CEHV.org

Bard College

Rabbi Joshua Boettiger
Jewish Chaplain, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Humanities
Phone: (802) 733-6342
Email: jboettiger@bard.edu

Contact:

jboettiger@bard.edu
for current information

Woodstock Jewish Congregation

241682 Glasco Tpke, Woodstock
(845) 679-2218
Admin: admin@wjcschul.org

Weekly Services:

Friday

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00pm,
Kid Friendly Intergenerational Shabbat
First Fridays 6:00pm

Saturday

Shabbat Service10:00am

The 1st Friday Shabbat—The students of our Family School co-lead Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Raechel in a warm and fun mix of upbeat, traditional melodies, learnings from class, and sometimes their own original melodies. All children are invited to come up on the bimah, play shakers, and share their own ideas. The services culminate with the Priestly Blessing, a blessing over all the children in the space. The service lasts about 40 minutes and is followed by a full community potluck where members of all ages come together to eat, chat, and play games. This is a sweet intergenerational community experience.

Contact: admin@wjcschul.org
for all events and current info
or visit the website
www.wjcschul.org



December

Candle Lighting Schedule

December 5	4:07pm
December 12	4:07pm
December 19	4:09pm
December 26	4:13pm

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Jewish Social Action Coalition we would like to thank all the members of our community who contributed to our Hanukkah in August campaign in partnership with Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. JSAC used the funds from our generous donors to purchase school supplies and clothing for at-risk elementary school students in the Sojourner Truth School (formerly the Morse School) and, for the first time this year, for at -risk students at the Clinton School in the City of Poughkeepsie school district. We also participated in the United Way's Day of Sharing where we obtained additional clothing and hygiene supplies to share with our school partners. Many thanks to Congregation Schomre Israel who generously provided us with storage space and space to sort and organize the clothing and school supplies prior to delivering them to the schools.

As a partner agency of the Regional Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, once a month we provide nutritional food for students and their families who have been identified as at-risk. We also enrich the school experience of the students through our support of programs in the arts. Our Jewish Social Action Coalition was founded in 2016 and our coalition partners are Congregation Shir Chadash, Congregation Schomre Israel, Temple Beth El, Vassar Temple and the Harding Club whose members are our intrepid delivery crew. We are an entirely voluntary organization with no administrative expenses. We have received grants from the Community Foundations, the Regional Food Bank and our donors from the community. The Jewish Social Action Coalition is dedicated to helping our wider community and we are grateful to everyone who has supported this important mitzvah.

Todah rabbah,
JSAC Steering Committee: Sandy Lash, Sandy Corwin, Muriel Horowitz, Marian Schwartz, and Michael Rothman



The Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Post 625

Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625, Jewish War Veterans of the US, meets monthly at Congregation Schomre Israel, Poughkeepsie. We are the only active post between Westchester and Albany! Upcoming meeting dates are Sundays, TBD. (9:00am schmooze, 9:30am meeting). The location is strictly kosher and tasty refreshments are provided. All are welcome to attend and/or join, both veterans and anyone else who would like to support our cause. We provide community service and support local veterans' facilities. We advocate against antisemitism and for the rights and benefits of all American military members and veterans. For more info, contact Senior Vice Commander Ralph Schwartz at (845) 849-0025.

★ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ★

CHANUKAH SENIOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

December 8 - 11

Help spread light and joy this Chanukah!

Call us at 845-471-9811
or email admin@JewishDutchess.org

 **Jewish Federation**
of Dutchess County





Hit after the Holidays 2025 winner was Team Schomre.
2nd & 3rd Place were Congregation Shir Chadash & Jewish Defenders of the Hudson Valley



Happy Hanukkah

*From the Board
and Staff at
JFedDC.*

Wishing Light and Peace for All!
Happy Hanukkah!



Vassar Temple

Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh
Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann
Roni Stein, President

office@vassartemple.org
www.vassartemple.org



THANK YOU to all who participated in our “Pack The Purse”! Your support & donations were overwhelming. We filled a van & 3 cars! Also, thank you Congregation Beth David in Amenia for collaborating with us to make this happen.






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**JOIN US FOR A POWERFUL CONVERSATION
ON HOPE AND HUMANITY – A HISTORIAN’S INSIGHT:
COURAGE, REFUGE, & RESISTANCE IN THE HOLOCAUST**

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 8TH
6:30PM**

**AT
BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE
331 VERPLANCK AVENUE
BEACON**



**WITH
DEBÓRAH DWORK**

Debórah Dwork, a leading Holocaust historian and Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity at the CUNY Graduate Center, is the acclaimed author of numerous works including *Flight from the Reich*, *Holocaust*, and *Auschwitz*.

Saints and Liars tells the gripping story of American aid workers - Quakers, Unitarians, and Jews - who risked their lives across five cities to rescue refugees from Nazi persecution during World War II.

**REGISTER AT: WWW.JEWISHDUTCHESS.ORG/EVENTS
CALL 845-471-9811 OR INFO@JEWISHDUTCHESS.ORG**
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE EVENT



MITZVAH NOW: WINTER DRIVE

**HEAD, SHOULDERS,
HANDS, & TOES!**

**WE’RE COLLECTING NEW HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES,
AND SOCKS FOR KIDS & ADULTS IN NEED IN THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY COMMUNITY.**

Drop-off: Jewish Federation of Dutchess County
104 Fulton Avenue in Poughkeepsie
Hours: Mon, Wed & Thurs | 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Accepting donations through December 29
Or bring your donations to any Federation event!

**YOU CAN KNIT, CROCHET, SEW, OR BUY COZY WINTER GEAR TO
DONATE – EVERY ITEM HELPS SOMEONE STAY WARM THIS SEASON.**

All collected items will be donated to the
Family Partnership Center to provide warmth
and comfort to those in need this winter.

**Find out where we’ll be:
JewishDutchess.org/Events**
For more information: 845-471-9811

Together, we can bring warmth, comfort and kindness
- from head to toe.



**Life challenges?
We can help!**

Our new office is open and accepting patients!
1 Webster Avenue, Suite 402B in Poughkeepsie.
To schedule an appointment or to learn more, visit
hvpalliativecare.org or call **845.240.7557.**



Hope
**comes in
many forms**

For some, it means experiencing
the magic of the holiday season
through their eyes, one last time.



Contact Hudson Valley Hospice: **hvhospice.org** • **(845) 240-7555**