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of Dutchess County

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

2025 Annual Meeting

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4TH | 6:30PM

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As 2025 draws to an end, please remember to
give to your Annual Campaign by 12/1/2025.

Breaking Bread, Building Bridges: Connecting in Community

By: Jody B. Miller, Executive Director, Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights

*"More people are interested in unity/building connections than I thought".
"We are all searching for community."*

Connection. Community. Open to difference
and learning about others. Positive energy.
We have so much in common. More, please.
These are some of the themes that have
emerged from *Breaking Bread, Building
Bridges*, a collaborative project between the
Dutchess County Commission on Human
Rights, faith communities and the Jewish
Federation of Dutchess County. The purpose
of the project is to bring people together to
get to know each other. With light refreshments and questions designed to
help people have conversations, the events have been positively received.
Since March 2025, 8 events have been held and attended by more than
275 people with 16 faith communities engaged in the pilot project.

"The fun of getting to know people without a heavy agenda."

The themes reflect the understanding that
people are motivated to be open to learning
about themselves and each other and eager
for connection. This includes people from
communities different than their own and
with whom they may not be familiar. They
are willing to engage in conversations that
are structured to share about themselves
even when they don't know what to expect
and are nervous about talking with
strangers. One person said, *"I felt more comfortable talking to new people
than I anticipated."* Another person said, *"I enjoyed talking with folks I
don't usually interact with."* Another quote speaks to the possibility when
the environment is created for people to meet and talk together, *"Lots of
people are open to new things; they just need exposure."* Several
participants said that they were surprised how easy it was to talk to
someone they didn't know.

*"There are so many things I didn't know..."
"That they are open to learn about others."*

Because of the way the project is
structured, *Breaking Bread, Building
Bridges* can help increase constructive
interaction. What does that mean?
Constructive interaction means being more
able to talk about one's own experience and
get clearer about it, be open to the
perspective of others and understand them
even when we disagree or have a very
different perspective.

Because *Breaking Bread, Building Bridges* is
co-created with faith communities who decide to come
together, the interactive process supports discussion
about both its process and content. Aligned with the
purpose, the project is emergent, meaning that any next
steps are decided by the faith communities themselves.
To date, two faith communities have held second
sessions and others plan to discuss doing so.

How did this project begin? In May 2023, the Chairman
of the Dutchess County legislature sent the Commission
a letter asking us to adopt a definition of antisemitism

(Continued on page 4)



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for details.

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Kitty Zeldis,
author of
"One of Them"



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Jewish Family Services

- 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)

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.

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.

November

November 12 **Novel & Nosh by author Kitty Zeldis.** Kitty will be discussing her book *One of Them*. Books will be on hand to purchase.
Menu: mac and cheese, stuffing, cranberry sauce, roasted sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, vanilla ice cream.

November 26 Off due to Thanksgiving

*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****

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

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

What NOT To Keep In Your Wallet

As we move into the October 15th-December 7th annual Medicare Open Enrollment season, during which Medicare enrollees can make changes as needed to their health insurance coverage for 2026, you may be wondering just where your Medicare card is.

In your wallet? If so, consider *not* carrying it with you, except for the days when you have a medical appointment and might need it. In fact, there’s a lot of things in your wallet that don’t need to be there.

Avoiding the "George Costanza Wallet"

Regular "Seinfeld" viewers may remember the episode that centered on the fate of George Costanza's unnaturally overstuffed wallet. We'll let Jerry pick up the story:
Jerry Seinfeld: Your back hurts because of your wallet. It's huge.
George Costanza: This isn't just my wallet. It's an organizer, a memory, and an old friend.

Inside George's "old friend" were important items like...Irish money and a Sweet-n-Low packet? No wonder his wallet eventually exploded. Let’s avoid that scenario, spare you some backaches, and keep your personal information safe.

Other Things You *Don't* Need To Carry

If it's convenient for you to have in your wallet, it's also convenient for a thief - not just cash, but anything else a thief could use to steal your personal information. Besides the Medicare card we mentioned at the start of this week's issue, here's what else *doesn't* need to be in your wallet or handbag, except on the specific day you need it:

Social Security card and birth certificate. These two are big ones for identity thieves, who can use this information to create fraudulent "synthetic identities."

A personal check, checkbook, or deposit slip. If you still use checks, take one check with you on the day you need it.

Too many credit/debit cards. If you have a smartphone, explore using a merchant's app instead of a physical card.

Unredeemed gift cards. It's essentially free, untraceable cash for a thief. Another one to only have in the wallet the day it’ll be used

House key. Keys belong on your key ring. At least if you lose a key ring, a thief will be unlikely to know much about you based on keys alone.

Old receipts. While it's true that your full credit card number doesn't appear on receipts, an identity thief can still use the available digits to impersonate your credit card company in all sorts of underhanded ways.

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The Harding Club



A Place to Connect

It's said that one of the secrets to happiness is connections with others. Our friends make life more fun. The Harding Club is a Jewish men's club, located in the Poughkeepsie area. One purpose of the Club is to foster friendships among members. The Harding Club is a place to make new friendships and deepen existing connections. The Club, founded during the Harding Administration, has operated continuously since 1923, making it one of the nation's oldest Jewish men's social clubs, located outside our largest cities. While the world has changed, across generations and eras, the Harding Club has continued to thrive for over 100 years. We believe the longevity of our club reflects the everlasting value of fostering new, and deeper, friendships among Jewish men. Harding Club meetings take place once or twice a month, for dinner or lunch, at a local restaurant. Each meeting mixes socializing and camaraderie with noteworthy speakers who address topics of high interest across the spectrum of life, including business, the arts, recreation, health, finance, politics and history. Recent speakers have addressed such diverse topics as the pros and cons of purchasing an electric car, a layman's guide to cryptocurrency, the best walking trails in the Hudson Valley, plus an early (and groundbreaking) antislavery court case in New York City. A well-known, anonymous quote says, "Life was meant for good friends and great adventures." At the Harding Club, we agree. As the new year moves forward, if you would like to join our group of friends, we would be delighted to welcome you!

To learn more and connect, 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

(Breaking Bread—Continued from page 1)

and develop programming to address it. Consistent with our approach to working with other communities to hold programs or events such as *Undoing Racism*, *Doing More Than Nothing About Hate and Discrimination* and *A Wider View*, we knew it would be important to approach our work similarly with the Jewish community. To develop effective programming, it is important to talk with the people directly affected.

We planned to hold conversations with the Jewish community to learn about the impact of antisemitism and what might help. The attacks on October 7 paused that process until 2024. When facilitated conversations were held, we were clear about their purpose. These conversations were framed around personal experiences of antisemitism, its impact and what might help. People talked about the stories from parents and grandparents to 'not get comfortable,' as well as painful memories including antisemitic tropes and stereotypes. Each session was heavy. We then paused to deeply consider what had been said.

In the face of painful experiences, there were many ideas offered as to what might help. They included building relationships with others, learning how to hold constructive conversations within the Jewish community, and working with youth. It was hard to know where to begin given all that we learned. Based on the Commission's experience with the *100 Cups of Coffee Dialogue Project*, we knew that bringing people together to talk about topics of interest helps. The *100 Cups of Coffee Dialogue Project*, begun in 2016, showed us early on that it matters to have a space to allow for conversation and connection. What happens as a result of these conversations? People learn about themselves, each other, gain ideas for next steps and importantly, feel less overwhelmed, more grounded and connected to each other. What we learned from the *100 Cups of Coffee Dialogue Project* is that when people are given the space to discuss a topic that is of interest to them, relationships are created, and new ideas emerge that address real life issues.

With ideas from the Jewish community conversations in mind and our experience bringing people together for the *100 Cups of Coffee Dialogue Project*, we asked clergy whether inviting other faith communities to get together would be of interest. The idea resonated. The purpose would be for people to meet each other with questions designed to allow them to do so in as comfortable an environment as possible. We would not ask them to discuss heavy, difficult topics. Could we bring people together to build bridges by simply getting to know each other?

"They are more like us than I thought."
"That they share the same values but are presented differently."
Twenty-five people attended the first event and soon after the welcome by clergy, people were paired up for conversation. Refreshments and group conversations followed, ending with brief insights into the conversations and written reflections to understand what changed for them. In each of the seven sessions the energy in the room has been palpable, ebbing and flowing, excited when people are talking in pairs and quieter, more subdued when in groups. We heard both laughter and hushed voices while people thought deeply about their experiences and shared them with people they didn't know.



"I have a lot in common with the people I met today."
"The relationship built in just a short time and our different conversations."
One theme that was repeated was how surprised people were to learn how much they had in common. It brought them great joy. We also heard that people were able to listen respectfully, even when they disagreed. As important was openness and respect for difference. The opportunity to learn what people have in common and how they differ mattered.

"OMG, just having you all here with us and seeing you all having such fun, you look like you are home."
Whether a bridge is built can only be determined by the people involved. The conditions can be created in collaboration with the partners, but they decide whether they will continue. Overwhelmingly, people have said that they want more of these events and opportunities to come together. For one second session, clergy included music from each of their traditions, which has sparked an interest from participants to continue music making together. Other ideas included cooking and learning about food, community projects, ideas for educational programs, among others. Another community's second session resulted in the desire to continue and include the possibility of conversations about challenging topics. Others are deciding what next steps will look like for them.



"Continuing interfaith work is important - there's a lot we don't know about each other and can learn."

We look forward to continuing this project and leave you with this quote from one of the participants: *"The warmth of the people-what will stay with me is a sense of true community and I look forward to the next."*

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

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TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org	February	January 1
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Rabbi’s Blog by Rabbi Neal Loevinger

The philosopher Bernard Williams set up a thought experiment wherein a man on the shore sees two people being swept out to sea: one was his spouse and the other was a stranger. The man on the shore can only jump in and save one. Williams imagines how the man might stop to consider the philosophical justification for saving his wife over the stranger, and comments: **this is one thought too many**. Meaning: there may be times when one can think too much or too abstractly, especially when an urgent moral obligation confronts us.



Rabbi Neal Loevinger

When we discuss the famous story of the binding of Yitzhak in the Torah portion Vayera, I believe we often have one thought too many. The outline of the story, in Genesis 22, is well known: God seemingly commands Avraham to offer up his beloved son Yitzhak on an altar. They travel for three days and Yitzhak is bound on the altar and the knife is raised before an angel stays Avraham’s hand, preventing the slaughter. The classic interpretation of *Akedat Yitzhak*, the binding of Isaac, is that God was testing Avraham’s love and obedience, and in this light, the story glorifies Avraham’s commitment to enacting the Divine will, nullifying his own desires and even his love for his son in the process.

This year, all of that is one thought too many. Perhaps the simplest and clearest understanding of Akedat Yitzhak is this: **God does not want human sacrifice**. God does not want human sacrifice, but does want us to understand how susceptible we are to violence, an urge which must be overcome if humankind is to live in peace and fulfillment. This reading is consistent with other laws and stories in the Torah, including in Leviticus 18 and 20, where offering children to the pagan god Molech is a capital offence. Going back even further, Gen 6, the story of Noach, note well that the cause of God bringing the flood was violence and lawlessness filling the earth. What was intolerable to God was not that we didn’t revere God, but we didn’t revere each other.

In the past year(s) there has been political violence in the United States, ideological and nationalistic violence in Europe, tribal and ethnic conflict in Africa and of course religiously inspired violence in the Middle East and many other countries, but we and all people of good faith must unite and say with simplicity: God does not want us to sacrifice children, young adults or anybody else to war, violence, conflict, oppression or terror. Every death of a human being is the destruction of a whole world, and a tragedy. I know there are laws of war and even capital punishment in the Torah, but the ancient sages put up high fences around the taking of a life.

God does not want human sacrifice. Can we imagine a world where nobody does?

Note: this is a modified version of remarks offered on the second day of Rosh Hashana at Congregation Temple Beth-El, Kauneonga Lake, NY.

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 Alyia Cutler who took time away from leading by example and volunteering at Beacon Hebrew Alliance.



Alyia Cutler

- 1. **What is your favorite/least favorite word?**
Favorite: *Bashert*.
Least Favorite: *There are so many not nice words that I cannot stand, it's hard to choose.*
- 2. **What inspires you creatively, spiritually, or emotionally?** 1. *Most recently the Jonah Platt podcast with Julie Platt.* 2. *Not joking, but without question, Karen Hochhauser.* 3. *The way I practice my Judaism—to serve in the Jewish world and secular world.*
- 3. **What is your favorite song?** *“Harvest Moon” by Neil Young.*
- 4. **What profession other than you own would you like to attempt?**
None. There’s nothing else I’d rather do.
- 5. **What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt?** *Lawyer*
- 6. **What do you most like and dislike about yourself?**
- 7. **Like:** *I value showing up for the people in my life and things I care about.*
Dislike: *Not knowing when to say “no” to things.*
- 7. **What is your favorite Jewish food/dessert?** *Schnitzel with tahini.*
- 8. **What is one interesting thing that people don’t know about you?**
I was a sculpture major in college.
- 9. **If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?** *Invisibility—so I can go in and take care of things, help people, and not be seen.*
- 10. **What is your greatest achievement/something you are most proud of?** *The kinderlach, the children.*
- 11. **Do you have a “bucket list” and, if so, what is on it?**
I don't. I'm living my dream.
- 12. **If there were one thing you would hope others do in the interest of our future, what would that be?** *Show up and give.*
- 13. **What is your earliest Jewish memory?**
High Holy Days services with my grandparents.
- 14. **What is your most favorite Jewish memory?**
Jewish sleepaway camp combined memories.
- 15. **In what ways, does or can JFedDC impact our Jewish community?**
In all the ways—its existence, being present, create and support events so people can come together and practice Jewish joy.
- 16. **If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?** *I don't know, but I want a warm welcome and to hear “So glad you’re here.”*

*Member of the Tribe

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Happy Thanksgiving
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Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations,
Maverick Modell, Vassar Temple
Son of Micah and Misun Modell
Brother of Manhattan

Maverick's favorite subjects in school are math and art and he's excited to be in Studio in Art this year as well as Algebra (both high school courses). He spends time after school at Chess Club and Dungeons and Dragons Club.

Maverick took on a variety of things for his Bar Mitzvah Project—most notably, he worked with Matthew Sperling on building the walkway behind the Temple, and he also volunteered during much of last year at the Food Bank at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls, packing the bags of food to be delivered. Maverick is very grateful for the support of the Temple and the Sisterhood, who enabled him to spend a memorable summer at Camp Eisner, where this photo was taken.



“Storytime in the Sukkah”
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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 students 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

SAVE
THE DATE:
2025
COMMUNITY HANUKKAH
Party
You DO-NUT
Want To MISS IT!

Sunday Dec 14th
Vassar Temple
140 Hooker Ave Poughkeepsie, NY

ANNOUNCING THE NEW
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



הַפֶּרֶת הַטּוֹב

Gratitude

Harkarat Ha'tov

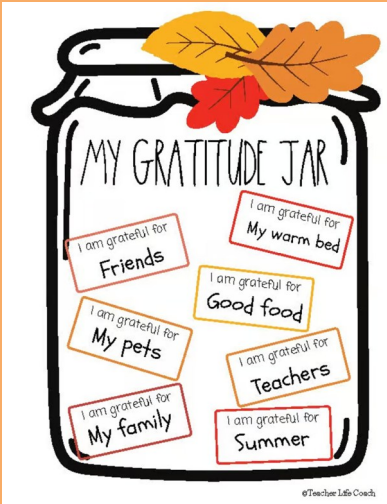
Here is a gratitude craft from teacher life coach: Gratitude Jar

Materials:

- ◆ A jar
- ◆ slips of paper
- ◆ a pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Decorate the jar.
2. Have the child write one thing they are thankful for on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. This can be done daily or weekly as a way to acknowledge positive things.



Gratitude by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

In this season of giving thanks, we should ask ourselves what we are grateful for? Look around, what do you see? The ever beautiful, ever changing world that G-d has given us? Our health? Our families? Each other? The opportunities for another day?

To be grateful is to feel and express thankfulness and appreciation for the good things in life, recognizing their value and the positive feelings they bring, whether it's kindness from another person or the fortunate circumstances of life itself. It involves acknowledging the positive aspects of one's life, even amidst difficulties, and understanding that these sources of good often come from outside oneself. Gratitude and appreciation are powerful tools for enhancing well-being by fostering positive emotions and reducing stress. Regular practices like gratitude journaling and expressing appreciation can improve relationships and increase life satisfaction. Cultivating a habit of gratitude promotes resilience and can lead to a more fulfilling life. Basically, count your blessings not your troubles! Cultivate an attitude of gratitude and realize that you're too blessed to be stressed!!



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

As we enter this season of giving, please consider making a donation to help support our PJ Library program.

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!



Tamatha



Suzanne



Smiles Under the Sukkah by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

While many are familiar with PJ Library books, it comes as a surprise to some that PJ also provides programming that helps connect families with one another through Jewish culture and values. PJ was busy in the community this fall, partnering with local temples to celebrate Sukkot!

We kicked off the holiday at Vassar Temple's Tiny Temple where Rabbi Stombaugh welcomed PJ Library to join their tots in the sukkah. Rabbi Stombaugh sang, entertaining and educating us through music. The sounds of his melodious guitar had us all moving to the rhythm of the songs while we learned the significance of the lulav and etrog.



Taking a break from singing and dancing, I shared a PJ Library story, The Vanishing Gourds: A Sukkot Mystery by Susan Ave-Bronk. The children listened carefully as they tried to figure out where the missing gourds had gone. In this clever story, the gourds were "disappearing" because the squirrels thought they were a tasty treat. A year later, returning to the sukkah, the missing gourds had been "found". The fallen seeds left behind by the squirrels had grown into new gourds. To accompany this endearing story, the children decorated their own gourds, adorning them with glitter and gems to hang in the sukkah.



PJ Library also traveled to share in Beacon Hebrew Alliance's "Storytime In The Sukkah" event. This was a most meaningful experience as I had the opportunity to meet and engage with several new families. As it was my first time interacting with BHA's littles, I felt privileged to get to know the children and their families. In addition to story time and craft, Vicki Grillot generously volunteered her time to assist me. She prepared and helped the children assemble paper chains to drape around the sukkah. What a lovely sukkah it was with colorful rugs beneath our feet and whimsical artistry floating above!



Looking ahead, I enthusiastically anticipate our upcoming Community Hanukkah Celebration on December 14th and can't wait to see all of our PJ Library families there! I am certain that it will be an enriching and joyous time for all.



The Federation Board’s Voice



Russell Rothman

I remember growing up in NJ in the 1950’s, going to school, pledging allegiance to the flag, saying the Lord’s Prayer and in chorus, learning to sing nothing but Christmas songs. Only later, in Junior High School, with our first Jewish music teacher did we learn and get to sing one Hanukah song (the dreidel song, of course) for the Holiday performance. I still recall how odd it felt to be singing a Jewish song, this just a dozen or so years after World War II and a few years before our school system became the first in the country to voluntarily integrate their schools (read “Triumph in a White Suburb” by Reginald Damerell to know more about how this came about). Our town was 15% Jewish, 15% Black (large percentages in those days) and considered very liberal by most standards then. However, it wasn’t until early 1968 that our parents took my brothers and me to Israel on one of the first Federation trips after the Six-Day War. When we landed, the entire plane burst out into Hatikvah and many kissed the ground when they got off the plane, onto the tarmac. Hearing Hebrew spoken and Hebrew songs was suddenly the norm. Less than ten years later, I began traveling on my own to Israel more frequently as I began planning to begin my PhD research on wolf ecology in the Negev Desert.

Although my mastery of Hebrew was barely enough to get by and safely order a meal at a gas station restaurant, I still felt very comfortable and safe being there, even during the first Lebanese War, even on days when the IDF would wake me up at the field station where I lived along the Jordanian border, warn me of a red alert, a nearby border incursion by some terrorist, and to be “mindful.” When I hiked through the desert looking for wolves, jackals, hyenas, wildcats, and possibly a leopard, the only weapon in my possession was a hunting knife and a slingshot that I used to hurl paintballs to mark my animals. I always felt safe though, and even today when I go back, I still feel safe in spite of all the enemies surrounding Israel. Israel is the only country in the world, out of 194, where Jews control their own destiny. There are 53 Islamic countries and 27 in which Islam is the official religion. To deny Israel those same rights is considered to be anti-Zionist. To deny Jews the same rights to be Jews is considered to be antisemitic.

Our Federation’s primary responsibility is to make sure you feel safe being Jewish and practicing your faith in Dutchess County and to call out threats to our safety and welfare. We are not an activist organization nor a political one. Our friends come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. People who want to can support dozens of other Jewish activist groups. We work to create partnerships with our friends and allies and provide programs for your enlightenment, education, and entertainment.

Our recent Wiffleball tournament brought us all together for some laughs and fun. Our PJ Library program provides not just Jewish-themed books for our youth but social programs for all families, whether they belong to a synagogue or are unaffiliated. The Breaking Bread – Building Bridges program we are doing with the DC Commission on Human Rights, brings together our friends and neighbors of other cultures and faiths so that we may know one another better and learn to deal with common problems together. We also care for our seniors, at home or in other facilities, keeping them connected to their Jewish community. Your Federation may be small by national comparisons but we are mighty at heart. I hope when the time comes, you will remember this and give generously, from the heart, to make our programs possible.

I also hope you will consider joining us on our second Jewish Federation trip to Israel on April 20-30, 2026. It will be exciting and although I can’t promise you’ll see a wolf this trip, we will do a group howl and hope at least one of those Israeli wolves will howl back. Kissing the tarmac is optional.

With gratitude on this Thanksgiving,



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

from the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County,
Jewish Family Services, and PJ Library

When you give to the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, you’re investing in programs that unite, protect, and uplift our community - from senior outreach to interfaith partnerships and education.

Please make your Thanksgiving donation today and help us continue our important work all year long.





Our Executive Director



Tradition!...Tradition!

As I lay wide awake in the middle of the night, mind racing about all the work that has to be done, worries about antisemitism, concerns over the state of the world, thinking about how quickly time passes and how the High Holy Days just rushed passed while the upcoming Thanksgiving and Chanukah holidays are rushing towards us, I laughed at myself for questioning why I was having problems sleeping.

Attempting to fall back asleep, I tried to lull myself by focusing on something positive or funny. Instead, I began thinking about tradition (and how many of us honestly cannot say that word without thinking about a fiddler on a roof?).

Some traditions are passed down from generation to generation while others are created almost by accident. So while none of us are fiddling on a roof anymore, we each have our own family traditions. In our home, for High Holy Day meals, my mother used to bake us bird-shaped challah rolls. The story my mother shared behind it was similar to what Gil Marks wrote in “The Encyclopedia of Jewish Food” (Wiley, 2010). The challah birds were for the children so that “our sins should fly away and our prayers soar to the heavens.”

Other traditions that my family ensured were part of our DNA included treating everyone with respect, making the world a better place, helping those in need, getting involved, and valuing quality of life more than quantity, to name a few.

With that being said, I offer the following suggestions for ways in which our family’s DNA and traditions can become part of yours. Also, with the shorter days and colder, longer nights coming, doing these activities will create a little light, warmth, and some gratitude this Thanksgiving season:

- Do a mitzvah (Federation has plenty of opportunities)
- Call a friend - check in to see how they are doing
- Connect and create community
- Volunteer and participate (Federation is a great place to start.)
- Donate to help others (Don’t forget the Federation Annual Campaign.) Remember - Giving benefits the givers as well as the recipients.

While obviously I am biased, Federation, Jewish Family Services, and PJ Library have much to offer (and much in need of resources: time, people, and funding). So come create light and community with us and make an impact...and remember, if there is something you feel is needed or missing, let us know and help us make it happen.

So keep bringing in the light and wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Karen Hochhauser,
Executive Director





Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County



Come Join Our

Community

TRIP TO ISRAEL

Join the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County for an unforgettable journey through Israel – filled with meaning, discovery, and connection.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)
- Experience Shabbat at the Western Wall
- Visit Masada & the Dead Sea
- Enjoy unique, behind-the-scene experiences throughout Israel with your friends and family!

**APRIL
20-30
2026**

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

For Inquiries
845-471-9811 | events@JewishDutchess.org



**JFedDC
Annual
Meeting
December 4,
6:30pm.
(see page 1
for more details)**



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- Disability
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erieger1990@gmail.com

Chanukah Greetings

Small—A

Peace to all!



Your Name

Medium—C

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!



Your Name

Small—B

Hanukkah Blessings



Your Name

Medium—D



Happy Hanukkah!
Your Name

Large—E

HAPPY HANUKKAH



From Our Family to Yours,
Your Name

Large—F

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Your Name

2025 Holiday Greetings

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

This year we will once again be offering a 3-pack of Holiday Greetings which includes: Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Chanukah.

Please look at the designs and choose an individual greeting or the 3-pack. If you choose the 3-pack, please choose the same size ad for all holidays.

The cost:

Small ad: \$30 each or 3 for \$80
Medium ad: \$40 each or 3 for \$110
Large ad: \$70 each or 3 for \$190

Sm Ads—2" by 1.4"
Md Ads—1.5" by 2.9"
Lg Ads—3.2" by 2.7"
Approximate sizes

Please fill out the form and mail it back to us with your payments to:
THE VOICE, PO Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Or complete online: www.jewishdutchess.org
DEADLINE for Chanukah Greetings is November 8

2025 Holiday Greetings

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Holiday	Small	Medium	Large
Passover (circle one)	A B	C D	E F
Rosh Hashanah (circle one)	A B	C D	E F
Chanukah (circle one)	A B	C D	E F

Your name(s) on the Greeting: _____

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



Happy Thanksgiving!

Sandra & John Blair



Happy Thanksgiving!

YOUNGWIRTH
LAW



Happy Thanksgiving!

MIKE ARTEAGA'S
HEALTH & FITNESS CENTERS



Happy Thanksgiving!

Marilyn & Michael Schwartz



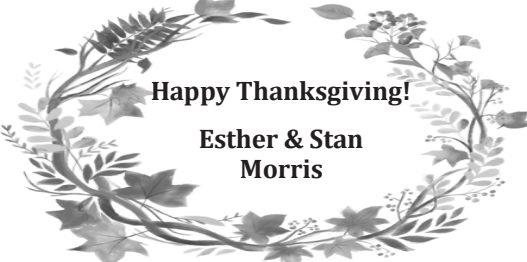
Happy Thanksgiving!

Janette & Todd Ritter



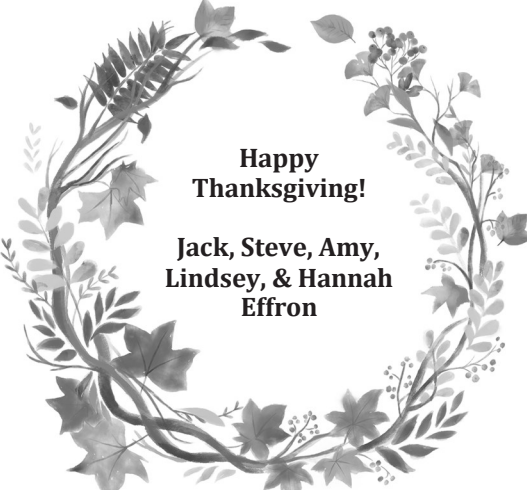
Happy Thanksgiving!

Betsy Kopstein-Stuts



Happy Thanksgiving!

Esther & Stan Morris



Happy Thanksgiving!

Jack, Steve, Amy, Lindsey, & Hannah Effron



Happy Thanksgiving!

Fredrica & Jack Goodman



Happy Thanksgiving!

Candace & Louis Lewis



Happy Thanksgiving!

Therese & James Lack



Happy Thanksgiving!

Laura Liebman & Ken Goldstein



Happy Thanksgiving!

Shirley & Bern (z"l) Handel



Wishing the Federation Community a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Stephanie Wasser

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



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, November 9. (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.

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 Information

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



November	
Candle Lighting Schedule	
November 7	4:25pm
November 14	4:18pm
November 21	4:12pm
November 28	4:09pm

Temple Beth-El's 14th Annu Shofar Over the Hudson.

Nearly 30 community members gathered at the pavilion of the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum for Temple Beth-El's 14th Annual Shofar Over the Hudson. With the Hudson River as our backdrop, we shared an uplifting hour of music and conversation on the importance of truly listening to one another, just as the Shema teaches us. Together, we fulfilled the mitzvah of listening to the Shofar blasts. A special thank you to Rabbi Miriam Hyman and Rabbi Michael Fessler for leading the event and helping make it such a meaningful experience



★ 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

Woodstock Jewish Congregation
241682 Glasco Tpk, Woodstock
(845) 679-2218
Admin: admin@wjcsul.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@wjcsul.org
for all events and current info
or visit the website
www.wjcsul.org

URGENT APPEAL

3 MINUTES CAN SAVE A LIFE!

WHO CAN JOIN THE REGISTRY?

Joining the registry is as easy as a simple swab of your cheek. Eligible donors must be between the ages of 18-35 and in general good health, meet the guidelines and be willing to donate to any patient, at any time, worldwide.

Scan the QR code for more information

HELP US SAVE IGNACIO'S LIFE

Ignacio, a 50-year-old husband and father of two, was recently diagnosed with myelofibrosis, a rare form of blood cancer.

His best hope of a cure is a blood stem cell or marrow transplant from a donor who shares his genetic heritage.

Because tissue type is inherited, Ignacio's donor is most likely to be someone of Jewish, Spanish, or Portuguese ancestry, but everyone is urged to join the registry.

You could be Ignacio's life-saving hero without even knowing it! All it takes is a swab of your cheek to find out if you are a match for him or another patient in need.

Mitzvah Now: Gift of Life Drive

Sunday, November 16 | 10am-2pm
Matt Lampell Invite at Vassar College Walker Field House
28 Sunset Lake Dr, Poughkeepsie

DIVERSITY NEEDED

PERCENTAGE ABLE TO FIND A MATCHING DONOR

28%

AFRICAN AMERICAN / BLACK

47%

ASIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER

48%

HISPANIC / LATINO

60%

NATIVE AMERICAN

78%

WHITE

giftoflife.org/ignacio

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County



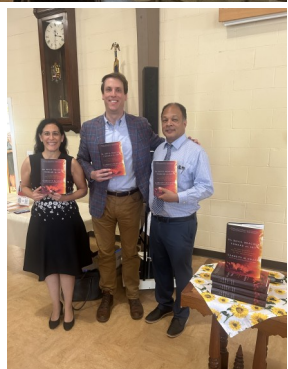
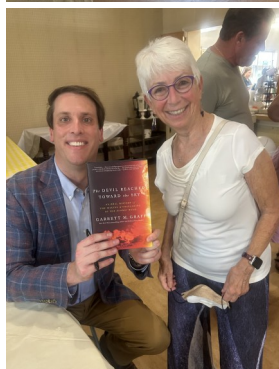
Rosh Hashana Family Service at Vassar Temple



Nearly 30 community members gathered for Temple Beth-El's 14th Annual Shofar Over the Hudson.



Temple Beth-El's ribbon cutting for the Friends of Magen David Adom ambulance going to Israel donated by Bob Ulrich.



Author Garrett Graff at Book Series with JFedDC and Rhinebeck Reformed Church

BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE

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 DEBORAH DWORK

Deborah 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

SAINTS AND LIARS

DEBORAH DWORK

2 Year Community Solidarity Walk for the hostages

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- Business Insurance

Call Or Text And Ask For Elizabeth! (845)943-2039



"Breaking Bread-Building Bridges" with DCCHR and JFedDC across Dutchess County



Chanukkah in August with JFedDC and the Jewish Social Action Coalition members



Launch of the Jewish Security Council of the Hudson Valley, JSEC-HV, with CSI's Pat Regan and Council Chair Jesse Lunin-Pack

Hudson Valley Medical Health

Choices

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 feeling seen, heard and supported, every step of the way.

Hudson Valley Hospice

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