

Dedication to Community:
The Effron Family Foundations

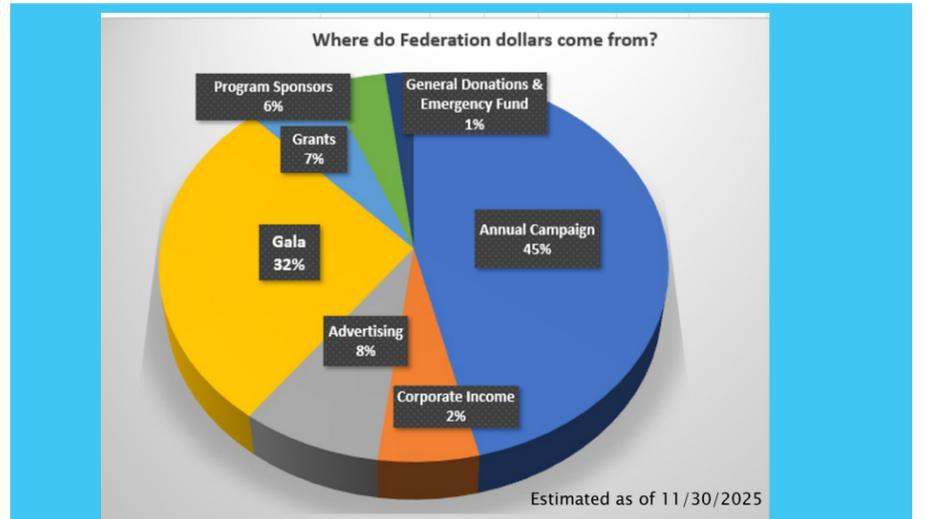
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Next Generation:
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9th Annual Jewish Federation Celebration Gala
We The People
INTRODUCING OUR 2026 HONOREES
Thursday | June 11
The Grandview
Poughkeepsie, NY

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We want to thank you. To everyone who has donated time, resources, and money, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We could not have done it without you. You are our reason to be and *Together We Are Stronger*.

For 2026, the 3 Pillars we plan to focus on include:

- **Community Building**—within the Jewish community
- **Community Partnering**—within the greater community
- **Security/Antisemitism**—especially among K-12 students

JFedDC

- ◆ Creating community with social and educational programming
- ◆ Combating antisemitism
- ◆ Implementing Interfaith/NextGen programming
- ◆ Building and expanding collaborations
- ◆ Subsidizing tuition for young Hebrew learners
- ◆ Jewish Summer Camps and Israel Trip Scholarships for youth

PJ Library

- ◆ Connecting young Jewish families to Jewish life locally
- ◆ Bringing children's books into Jewish homes
- ◆ Engaging multi-generational Jewish families with each other

Jewish Family Services

- ◆ Creating a senior social network through *Learn & Lunch Bunch*
- ◆ Assisting during a personal or family crisis
- ◆ Connecting and celebrating our seniors with holiday gifts.
- ◆ Helping those in need throughout the year with *Mitzvah Day* and *Mitzvah Now* initiatives
- ◆ Weekly bereavement group

THE 9TH ANNUAL JEWISH FEDERATION CELEBRATION GALA | JUNE 11

FEATURING SPECIAL REMARKS BY:

Rabbi (Major) Heather Borshof
U.S. Military Academy at West Point

Rabbi Borshof will offer remarks as we proudly recognize The Jewish War Veterans of the United States for their service and sacrifice in defense of our nation.

JewishDutchess.org/Gala

MITZVAH DAY
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Sunday, May 3
see page 12
for more information

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Subscriptions, address changes, etc.

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Jewish Family Services

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.

LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

Jewish Family Services (JFS) presents cultural, social, and educational programs.

Location

Temple Beth-El
 118 S Grand Ave
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SCHEDULE

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

Suggested Donation \$8; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS Join us!

April 8 **Passover Break**

April 22 **“What Does It Really Say?”** A look at the history and controversies of translating the Hebrew Bible into English. Presented by Rabbi Michael Fessler, Rabbi Temple Beth-El.

Menu: lasagna, garlic bread, salad, cookies, and cheesecake

*Gluten free options available upon request in advance

* Menu is subject to change

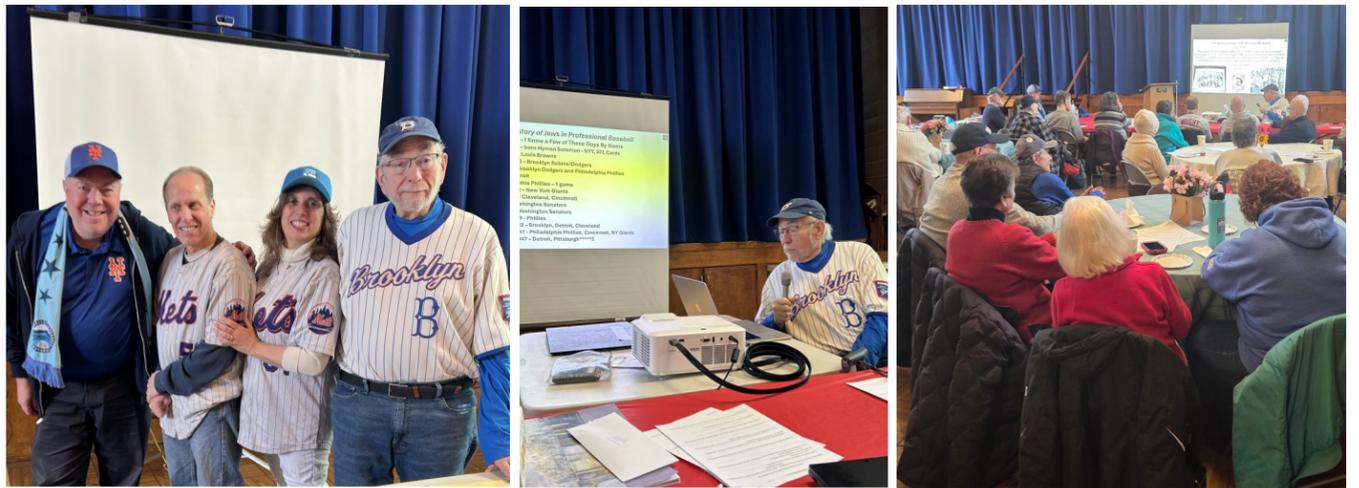
TO REGISTER, call the office at (845) 471-9811

or online at: www.JewishDutchess.org/events

****Advanced registration needed for food planning purposes****

Please do not bring outside food into the temple.

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 and an anonymous Charitable Trust thanks to the guidance of Adam Belok, Board Member and Financial Consultant.



Office for the Aging *submitted by Todd N. Tancredi, Director, Dutchess County Office for the Aging*

LESSONS ON AGING WELL FROM A 193-YEAR-OLD TORTOISE

Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise who was born in 1832, is the world's oldest living land animal, going by the best available conservative estimates. Jonathan lives a leisurely life on the British Overseas Territories island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic. His caretakers say he's doing remarkably well for his age, although he does contend with age-related conditions like cataracts. When Jonathan hatched is unknown, but he was brought from the Seychelles to St. Helena in 1882 as a gift to the island's governor. At the time he had already reached maturity, which for tortoises of his species is around age 50. Their typical lifespan is closer to 150.

What's his secret? He's not telling us directly, but there are plenty of signs he's living his best, and most extended life:

Good nutrition, and make it local. Jonathan's diet consists largely of cabbage, carrots, and lettuce — and his personal favorites are the island's own bananas and guavas.

Resilience and adaptation. A few years ago, caretakers noticed that Jonathan was eating a lot of grass, leaves, and twigs, but only because he was having trouble seeing other suitable food sources. As a result, he was losing weight and growing weaker. Adjusting Jonathan's diet to his reduced eyesight has enable him to maintain a healthy weight.

We humans can likewise adjust our diets to improve our chances of successful aging. As clients of the OFA Home Delivered Meals and/or Friendship Center program, you receive monthly issues of OFA's *Nutrition News*, and Nutrition Services Coordinator Nimesh Bhargava gives regular presentations at Friendship Centers on the science behind good nutrition. Find out more at dutchessny.gov/ofanutrition.

Stay physically and socially active.

Jonathan lives with two slightly younger tortoises, Emma and Fred. Before their arrival, handlers say he was exhibiting signs of loneliness, like breaking out of his paddock and interrupting nearby croquet games.

His veterinarian tells the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) that Jonathan enjoys leisurely strolls and time with visitors, especially when the sun is out, and still has a healthy libido. We won't presume to pry into Jonathan's social life beyond that.

The Voice is published by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. Your donation of \$36 or more helps defray the cost of this community paper. Please send your check to:
The Voice
 PO Box 2525
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



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May Events

5/3 Mitzvah Day
See page 12 for more details

5/6 "Sabor Judío: The Jewish Mexican Cookbook" in
collaboration with Poughkeepsie
Public Library and special guest
speaker CIA instructor Scott Swartz

June Events

6/11 JFedDC Gala

6/25 L'Chaim Series Part 2 in
collaboration with the
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The Harding Club



Friends Are The Good Life

In the research associated with psychology, health, and longevity, there are few areas where the findings all agree. The value of meaningful friendships is one area of unusual unanimity.

Researchers consistently find that people with good friends are happier, healthier, and live longer. There are many reasons. Strong social connections enhance our sense of well-being. When we feel supported, our bodies release high value hormones that reduce stress, make us feel happy, and boost our immune systems. People with strong social connections also suffer from fewer chronic illnesses and greater cardiovascular health.

In short, meaningful friendships make life better. Friendships are not a side benefit of a good life. They are the good life.

The Harding Club is a Jewish men's social club, located in the Poughkeepsie community. The Harding Club is a place to make new friends, expand existing friendships and develop meaningful connections.

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 friendships and building community 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 build new friendships, consider joining the Harding Club. 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

PURIM, TORAH, and SMALL JEWISH FEDERATIONS

By Rabbi Paul Resnick, Executive Director Jewish Federation of Western CT

This D'var Torah was shared at the Jewish Federation Small Executives leadership session and it is a great lesson for us all.

"Purim arrives with costumes and laughter, yet this year our hearts feel heavier. In the Megillah, we read of a threat rising from ancient Persia, of fear that gripped the Jewish people, and of courage that refused to surrender. Today, as tensions with Iran dominate the headlines, that ancient story feels uncomfortably close.

Purim reminds us that danger is real—but so is resilience. We pray for both American and Israeli soldiers, for civilians, for families waiting through sleepless nights. And still we gather. We give. We celebrate. Because Purim teaches that even in the shadow of uncertainty, Jewish survival is not an accident. It is faith, unity, and unbreakable hope.

There are four traditions to the holiday of Purim.

- We listen to the reading of the Megillah.
- We give gifts to the needy — *matanot la'evyonim*.
- We give gifts of food to friends and neighbors — *mishloach manot*.
- And we gather for a festive meal — the Purim seudah.

On the surface, they seem simple. Ritual. Celebration. Giving.

But look a little deeper. When we hear the Megillah, we are not just listening to an ancient story. We are reminding ourselves that Jewish history can turn in a moment — that vulnerability and resilience live side by side. We are people who pay attention.

Matanot la'evyonim teaches us that joy is incomplete if it is not shared. Purim is the only holiday where giving to those in need is not optional or symbolic — it is essential. No one is meant to celebrate alone.

Mishloach manot strengthens bonds within the community. It turns neighbors into friends and friends into partners. It says: our survival is collective.

And the seudah? The festive meal reminds us that Judaism is not only about surviving threats. It is about sanctifying joy. We do not only endure — we celebrate.

Purim Torah - "The Real Hidden Miracle"

We all know that Purim is the holiday where everything is hidden. God's name? Hidden. Esther's identity? Hidden. The miracle? Hidden inside politics, banquets, insomnia, and bureaucracy. Frankly, the Megillah reads less like a miracle story and more like the minutes from a very complicated committee meeting.

There are decrees. Counter-decrees. Letters sent to 127 provinces. Advisors whispering. A leader who can't sleep. A crisis that could have been avoided if someone had just read the fine print.

In other words... It feels very familiar to anyone who has ever worked in Jewish communal life. But here is the real Purim Torah:

The miracle of Purim is not that God splits the sea.

The miracle of Purim is that **people step up when God seems absent.**

Mordechai doesn't wait. Esther doesn't say, "This is above my pay grade." The Jewish people don't say, "Someone else will handle it." They organize. They fast. They strategize. They show up. And that is the hidden miracle: **Redemption comes through human responsibility.**

Purim teaches that sometimes the most sacred work happens when no one hears a heavenly voice, no sea splits, and no prophet arrives. Instead, someone says: "If I don't act now, who will?" Sound familiar? That is Federation work.

Federation is Purim in real time. No obvious miracles. Lots of logistics. Endless emails. Spreadsheets instead of scrolls. And yet—because people care, organize, give, and show up—Jewish life continues. Jews are protected. Community is strengthened. Hope is sustained.

The Megillah's message is not "Wait for God." It is: **Be the miracle that is hiding in plain sight. That is what we do everyday as Federation Executives.**

Chag Purim Sameach."



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Passover Blessings



Happy Passover

Stephanie Wasser

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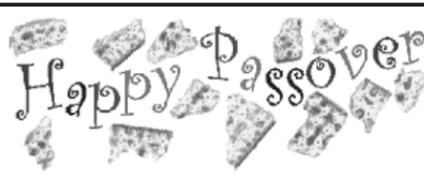


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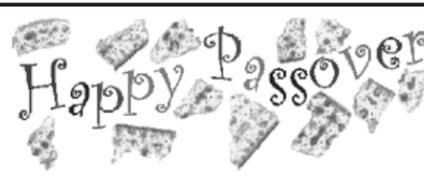
Happy Passover

Amy, Steve, Lindsay & Hannah Effron



Happy Passover

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Happy Passover

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Peace to you this Passover!



Pam & Sol Resnikoff, with our best wishes.

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Page 12: Hudson Valley Hospice, and Hudson Valley Palliative Care

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VOICE DEADLINES	ISSUE	DEADLINE
Note deadlines listed.	May	April 1
Email: TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org	June/July	May 1
if you have questions.	August	July 1
	September	August 1

Rabbi's Blog *by Rabbi Jon Haddon*

I must confess: I am a great fan of ChatGpt, or better known, simply, as A.I. A few months ago I was asked to do a talk at a Congregational Church Adult Education group, on the subject of "The Jewish View of Forgiveness." It happened to be on a weekend where I was conducting worship services on Shabbat, I had a wedding on Sunday evening, and this invitation for Sunday morning. It was also on short notice. In other words, I was pressured. When I "consulted" ChatGpt, and typed in the words: "Give me Biblical and Talmudic references on the subject of *Forgiveness*," it gave me a treasure trove of references and quotes, which literally saved me hours of research. Of course, I had to check and revise slightly, but, all in all, it was a life-saver.



Rabbi Jon Haddon

And yes, as I am prone to do, I felt very guilty. For I am a rabbi, pledged to scholarship, research, and academic inquiry. And then I read an article written by a Haredi rabbi who echoed my mixed feelings on this incredible shortcut. It seems that a number of Haredi rabbis declared a communal fast over AI just last month!

"If at the push of a button, I can get a hold of a d'var torah for my Shabbos meal from AI, to us, that's a problem," a Haredi leader told me at the time. "No, no — I want you to open the book and read it and come up with a question and come up with an answer. That's part of what's holy about learning Torah. It's not just end result. It's the process."

"Curious about their logic, I spent some time learning more. This was no straightforward task — "I found it easier to get a hold of their wives than the great rabbis themselves. Even at dinner hour, these titans of Torah study were still in the beit midrash. But eventually I got through to three — thanks to my cousin, who knew a rav who knew a rav — and that was fortunate, because I came away with the Jewish skeleton key to our brave new world."

That key is the Jewish value of *אמילוט* (*ameilut*), or toil. As far as Jewish values go, *ameilut* is an obscure one. It lacks the celebrity swagger of its better-known peers like *chesed* and *tzedakah* or the political power of *tikkun olam*. It was never associated with a biblical matriarch or carved into a golem's forehead. Yet, for most rabbis, it is just as crucial. Yes, toiling is a mitzvah. And in the age of AI, *ameilut* can be a human road map.

The word's Hebrew root appears a couple dozen times in the Hebrew Bible — unsurprisingly, it's a recurring theme in the Book of Job — but its salience comes not from the Torah, but from commentary on Leviticus 26:3, which establishes *ameilut* as a sacred endeavor. When G-d implores Israel to "walk with" the commandments, Rashi, an 11th century rabbi whose commentaries are considered authoritative, reinterpreted this to mean that God wants Jews to be *ameilim b'torah* — toiling in Torah study. He is reinterpreting God's command that we walk and move forward to also mean that we should take time to stand still, turn over (and over) the same words to find new meaning and view getting stuck as a sign of progress.

For Haredim — who pronounce it *ameilus* — the notion that struggle can be its own reward underpins a life spent poring over *sefarim* in the *beit midrash*. It follows that ChatGPT, which transforms knowledge from something developed to something consumed, is anathema to their approach. They've realized that making learning easy has actually made learning hard.

To be sure, the goals of the Haredi world are not exactly the same as mine, as a Reform rabbi. Those communities are famously insular, wary of the internet and especially cognizant of secular society's pernicious influence. I'm basically the opposite: I love to mix it up and am extremely online.

But I've found that *ameilut*-maxxing translates pretty well to non-religious life, too. It's an imperative to embrace the challenge. As a notoriously amateur chef, I am always toiling in cookbooks, Reframing the hard part as the good part, then, is a reminder that the toil is actually our divine right. Because *ameilut* is something AI can't experience, replicate or understand. It is the very essence of what it means to be alive.

Meet Your Neighbor *by Karen Hochhauser*

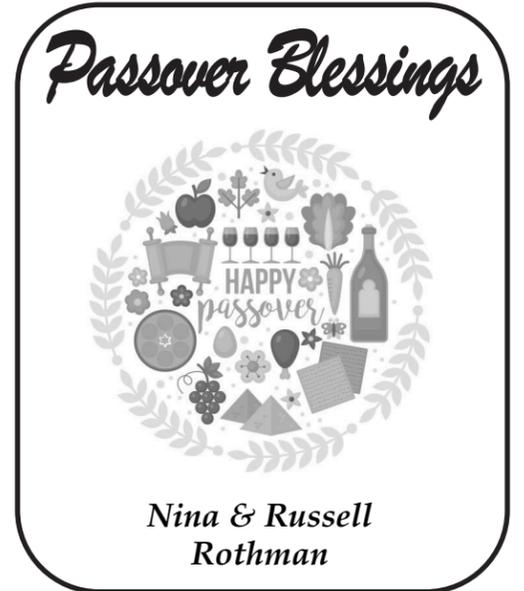
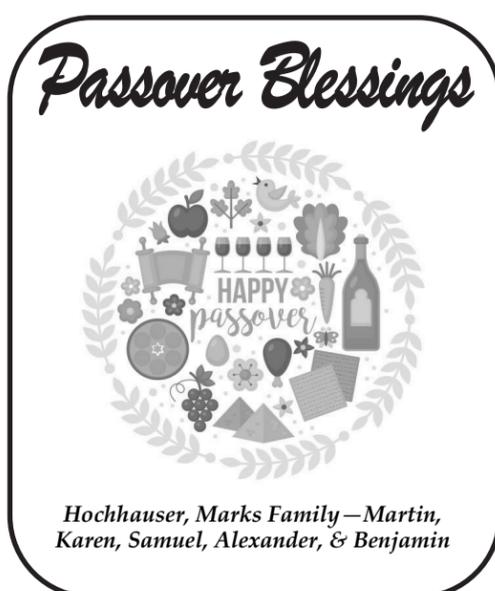
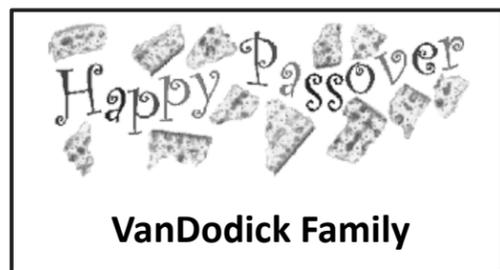
Each month, we ask a Member of the Tribe* (MOT) the following questions and feature their answers for a fun and insightful way to meet your neighbors. This month, we are excited to introduce **Josh Aronson** who originally met with our community with his Academy Award nominated film "Sound and Fury". We caught up with him during his movie festival tour with his latest film "Hold on To Your Music: A Mother's Legacy" and are excited to share that there will be an advanced screening on Sunday, May 10th at 7:00pm at Upstate Films Rhinebeck.



Josh Aronson

- 1. What is your favorite/least favorite word?**
Favorite: *Communication.*
Least Favorite: *No.*
- 2. What inspires you?** *Being with a person who is able to think outside of the box and is able to create something new. Let's call it art.*
- 3. What is your favorite song?**
"Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen .
- 4. What profession other than you own would you like to attempt?**
To be a cellist.
- 5. What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt?** *Being a soldier.*
- 6. What do you most like and dislike about yourself?**
Like: *My openness.*
Dislike: *Judgementalness. I've been working on it for years and I'm doing ok.*
- 7. What is your favorite Jewish food/dessert?** *Teiglach. My grandmother used to make it and it was the best!*
- 8. What is one interesting thing that people don't know about you?**
I have a pottery studio and I'm a potter.
- 9. If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?** *I would lead with compassion and vulnerability always.*
- 10. What is your greatest achievement/something you are most proud of?** *Having been nominated for the Academy Award for my film "Sound and Fury."*
- 11. Do you have a "bucket list" and, if so, what is on it?**
I want to go and spend a month in a monastery in Tibet or Bhutan
- 12. What is your earliest Jewish memory?** *I remember as a young boy attending Saturday Shabbat services with my father. He would wrap his tallis around me and I would lean in to his hug.*
- 13. What is your most favorite Jewish memory?**
When I was in my 40's and in a rocky personal place, a friend took me on my birthday to Crown Heights Brooklyn to a small class given at his home by Simon Jacobson, the scribe to the Rebbe. I went for close to a year, learning of the spiritual aspects of Judaism, something I was never taught before. It was transformational.
- 14. If there were one thing you would hope others do in the interest of our future, what would that be?**
I would hope that we human beings could learn and live by the lessons of generosity and compassion.
- 15. In what ways, does or can JFedDC impact our Jewish community?**
Strengthening our community by making the bonds of connection stronger and the lessons of education more resonant.
- 16. What is one question you wish we asked and what is the answer?**
Q: *What have you been focused on most recently?*
A: *I'm a documentary filmmaker and for the last year, I have been finishing my latest film "Hold on To Your Music." It's about a 13 year old Viennese musical prodigy who was put on the Kindertransport in 1938 and saved from the Nazi horror. Upstate Films is hosting a single advance screening on Sunday May 10th at 7:00pm, for those who'd like to attend. I'll be there to do a Q and A.*

*Member of the Tribe



Personal Greetings



Miriam & Frank Rubin



Elyse & Neil Mansfield



Jane Silver Timm and Family

Peace to you this Passover!



Muriel Lampell



Gwen Greene



**Sue & Rich Levine,
Happy Holiday**



Candy & Lou Lewis

Peace to you this Passover!



Barbara (z"l) & Lou Newman and Family

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Ellen & Victor Stern and Family

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



**Lisa and Monica Allt,
In memory of Dolores Allt**

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



The Slate Family: Eileen, Jerry, Jacob, Alanna, Daniel, Emma & Abby

Peace to you this Passover!



Len Hyman

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Betsy Kopstein

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



The Korfmans – Martin, Eleanor, Elise, Rachel & Deena

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Sharon & Howard Lynne

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Carole and Stu Chimkin & Family

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Karin & Jack Fein

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Grete & Marty Finkelstein

Peace to you this Passover!



Linda Skolnik

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



The Gershuny Family

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Love, Fritz & Jack Goodman

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Deanie Gordon & the Levine, Israel & Gordon Families

Peace to you this Passover!



Leona & Irvin Miller

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Sheri & David Raften

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Debbie & Arnold Most

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



The Hankin Family

Peace to you this Passover!



Adrienne London and Robbie Roeshman

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Mary & Jonah Ritter

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Les Muldorf & Helene Winston

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Suzanne & Len Turetzky

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Barbara Scheer and Family

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Marcy Schwartz

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Rabbi Miriam Hyman & Michael Fessler and Family

Peace to you this Passover!



Nancy & Adam Belok

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Rita & Lew Sims

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Roni & Charles Stein

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Bernardo & Sharon Steinvurzel and Family

We apologize in advance for any spelling errors in the Holiday greetings.
To find the location of your greeting, visit: JewishDutchess.org/holiday-ads

Peace to you this
Passover!



Herman Chertock
& Family

Peace to you this
Passover!



Sandy & Lee
Corwin

Peace to you this
Passover!



Suzanne & Don
Turrisi & The Cats

Peace to you this
Passover!



Janet & Sam
Schenker and Family

Peace to you this
Passover!



Suzanne
Horn

Peace to you this
Passover!



Carol
Gray

Peace to you this
Passover!



Ellen & Lawrence
Danziger

Peace to you this
Passover!



Renee-Caryn Chase
and Family

Peace to you this
Passover!



Judy & Alan
Fox

Peace to you this
Passover!



Judy & Herb
Dym

Peace to you this
Passover!



Betty
Kaplan

Peace to you this
Passover!



Barbara & Irwin
Lifshey

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Beth & Les
Richardson

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Rabbi Ellen & Judge
Jonah Triebwasser

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Paul W.
Annetts

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Blanche & Lou
Bergman

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Rabbi Renni
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HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Dr. and Mrs.
Michael Muffs

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



The Pesacovs

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Linda & Eric
Perfecto

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Ellen, Barry, & The
Rosenberg Family

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Helen Bernstein
and Family

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Ashleigh
Paige

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



James
Robinowitz

Happy Passover



Marianne & Bob Abrams
and Family

Happy Passover



The Hentel Family

Happy Passover



The Dworkin Family

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Jane
LaLone

Happy Passover



Jill & Ira Auerbach

Happy Passover



Nancy & Sandy Bernstein

Happy Passover



Rose, Brion, Joshua, and
Amanda Shapiro & Annaliese

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Arlene & Richard
Cohen and Family

Happy Passover



Barbara & Bernie Cohen

Happy Passover



Debbie & Tom Erichson

Happy Passover



Ann & Jeffrey Gross

HAPPY
PASSOVER!



Dana & Ira
Effron

Happy Passover



Judith & Michael Elkin

Happy Passover



The Cutler Family

Happy Passover



The Bressman Family

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on page 15.



JFedDC's CSI Security Training with the Dutchess County African American Clergy Association at Beulah Baptist Church.



Active shooter, Stop the Bleed, at Schomre Israel. Purim dinner at Schomre Israel.



JFedDC's CSI Security Training with the Rhinebeck Reformed Church



Temple Beth-El enjoyed its annual Purim play along with the traditional Megillah reading. This year's production, The Gantz (Whole) Megillah, written and directed by Ken Topolsky, reimagined the story of Shushan in a modern setting. The audience had a wonderful time watching contemporary takes on the King, Haman, Esther, and more. The cast included members of Temple Beth-El, Congregation Shir Chadash, and our Kulanu students. Thank you to Ken for his creativity and dedication in bringing this production to life.



Black History Month event with author Beejhy Barhany of "Gursha: Timeless Recipes for Modern Kitchens, from Ethiopia, Israel, Harlem, and Beyond." JFedDC in partnership with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, the Jewish Book Council, Geneva's Blues House, and the Dutchess County African-American Clergy Association. At Geneva's Blues House.



Vassar Temple Tu b Shevat Sedar

Passover Blessings

Donna & Felipe Pistiner and Family

Passover Blessings

Team Silbergleit (Debbie, Jason, Zach, Colby)

FOR EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT REGISTER BY APRIL 30TH

Early Bird Special \$200/week \$50/day

CAMP HUDSON VALLEY
A JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMP

AGES 5-12

June 29–July 3, 2026
MONDAY–FRIDAY
8:30AM–4:00PM
*AFTERCARE AVAILABLE

PRICE AFTER APRIL 30, 2026
\$250/wk; \$60/day

MUSIC AND SPORTS **BUILDING COMMUNITY** **ARTS & CRAFTS**

For more info call: 845-454-0570 or email EducationNJ118@GMAIL.COM

Camp location:
118 South Grand Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY

This camp is proudly supported by the Dr. Samuel Simon Scholarship Fund in collaboration with PJ Library and the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE

MASA Program

Sunday mornings, grades K-7
Wednesday afternoon "LASS" Class
(Leading a Shabbat Services for grades 5-7)
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, 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
chabamidhudsonvl@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
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 Tzivia 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

Purim Carnival

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FIRST EVER
PJ LIBRARY @ MID-HUDSON DISCOVERY MUSEUM EXCLUSIVE EVENT!
APRIL 19TH
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Join us at the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum to celebrate spring with hands-on crafts and activities inspired by seeds, plants, and pollinators! Create butterfly wings, craft colorful flowers, explore the world of bees, and plant your own seeds to take home and grow.
Plus a sing-a-long with Rabbi Jeff.

Register Today At:
www.jewishdutchess.org/events

Admission is free. The first 8 families to register and attend the event on 4/19 will receive a 1 year family membership to the MHDM!

This program is funded by an anonymous Charitable Trust created to support PJ Library thanks to the guidance of Adam Belok, Board Member and Financial Consultant.



PJ@THE MID-HUDSON DISCOVERY MUSEUM
75 NORTH WATER STREET
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

סדר
order
Seder

Passover crafts for kids help them connect with the story and traditions on their level. Rather than learning through lectures or readings alone, children get a hands-on experience: they touch, build, and create symbols of the Exodus.

This makes the lessons of Passover tangible and memorable. For example, when a child paints their own Seder plate or hides the afikomen in a bag they decorated, they form a personal link to those rituals.

Crafts also encourage kids to ask questions and talk about the holiday (which is exactly what we want at Passover – the Seder is designed to prompt questions from children).

By making things like puppets or props, kids can actively participate in the Seder, turning it into an interactive experience rather than just a sit-and-listen event. Moreover, crafting together is quality family time.

Parents and kids can chat about the meaning behind each project – maybe telling the story of Moses as you construct a baby-in-the-basket craft, or reviewing the 10 Plagues as you make a frog.

It's a chance to share family stories and memories of Passovers past, making the holiday truly a multi-generational experience. Finally, arts and crafts foster creativity and fine motor skills. Children take pride in their work, boosting their confidence.

Frog crafts are a favorite for kids and bring the Plague of Frogs to life in a fun way.

One of the most kid-friendly Passover crafts is making a frog – a nod to the Second Plague in the Exodus story. In fact, frog decorations and toys have become surprisingly common at modern Seders, adding some light-hearted fun to the retelling of the plagues.

Toilet Paper Roll Frog

Here is a great frog activity from: homesteadingwithbetty.com/Passover

To craft a frog, you can upcycle a toilet paper roll (homestead bonus: finally a use for those empty rolls!). Have your child paint the tube green (or any color – we've seen rainbow frogs too!). Once the paint is dry, help them add eyes and legs: cut two half-circles from green paper for hind legs, and two strips for front legs. Glue the legs onto the tube.

For the eyes, you can glue on googly eyes or make paper eyes by cutting white circles (with smaller black circles for pupils). Attach the eyes to the top of the tube.



Shabbat Yeladim is for Your Kiddo!

I'm so excited to share our new **Shabbat Yeladim** schedule with you! Shabbat Yeladim is a Jewish space for wiggles, music, stories, and the kind of Shabbat joy that might just get everyone to nap time—or a good *Shabbos shluff*.

- If your child is in diapers and happiest in a stroller listening to music—and it works with nap time—we want you there.
- If your kiddo is in preschool, kindergarten, first, or second grade, this space is especially for you.
- If your kiddo is in third or fourth grade—or a proud big sibling—you are absolutely welcome too.

Yeladim means “children” in Hebrew, and we mean that with intention: young children at the center, families all around them, and a community celebrating Shabbat with music, movement, and joy. There is nothing we sing, learn, or do that isn't meant to be accessible—from our littlest learners to grown-ups and grand-grown-ups alike.

I can't wait to see you and your family and to celebrate Shabbat together in a way that feels joyful, warm, and full of life.

Snacks will be provided after each service.

Please don't forget to **RSVP** so we can plan accordingly: office@vassartemple.org or (845) 454-2570.

Warmly, Rabbi Jeff

Shabbat Yeladim Date: April 4, 18, & May 2, 9, 23



Tamatha



Suzanne



A Playful Purim by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

It had been several years since my older children had experienced a Purim carnival. When beginning to plan for this year's Community Purim Carnival, memories of the carnivals from years past seemed refreshed in my mind. There were games and costumes and excitingly, candy grams. I recalled how my children would enthusiastically run up to claim their special notes and candy. This year, we decided to bring back the candy grams and happily the



children thoroughly enjoyed giving and receiving them. Even the adults got in on the fun, especially with the enthusiasm created by our candy gram MC extraordinaire and volunteer, Maddy.



Our carnival began with families shuffling in, many creatively disguised as queens and knights, lions and dragons and there was even a butterfly Haman that fluttered by our entrance table. The children eagerly explored the various games and craft tables. There were tickets to be claimed and prizes to gain. A dedicated and talented volunteer, Vicki, designed and oversaw a craft table where children made groggers using plain paper plates to transform them into decorative palettes. The plates were filled with macaroni and then sealed, becoming musical

instruments that were played while marching along to the guitar tunes of Rabbi Jeff. At another craft table, Purim masks were ready to be decorated with sparkling adornments. Our entertainment consisted of a science show where the Nutty Scientist mixed up potions and concoctions to help him escape a deserted island. With the assistance of our young audience, the scientist safely returned home. There was hamantaschen galore, a costume parade and much merriment had by all.



Thank you to everyone who attended and thank you to all of the generous volunteers who donated their time and talent to make this year's Community Purim Carnival a memorable success.



Seder by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

"Seder" means "order" in Hebrew, referring to a structured arrangement.

It is most commonly associated with the Passover Seder, a ritual feast.

The Seder includes specific readings, prayers, and symbolic foods.

The Haggadah, which means telling, is the text used during the Seder to guide participants. The Seder emphasizes themes of freedom, redemption, and gratitude.

It typically takes place on the first two nights of Passover. Seder derives from the same root as the Hebrew word siddur. Just as a Siddur contains prayers for Shabbat and festivals, a seder is an order of prayers, readings, symbolic explanations and songs related to the holiday. A seder can and should be interactive, encouraging questions, fun and learning to ensure everyone from the youngest to the oldest at your table comes away with something new!

*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!*



STRONGER TOGETHER MITZVAH DAY 2026



MAY 3

SUNDAY 10:30 AM

HEADQUARTERS

Join us at Congregation Schomre Israel 18 Park Ave Pok (headquarters). Doors open at 10:30 AM. Stay for our celebratory luncheon at 1:00 PM, plus a fund-raising carwash, balloon artistry and musical entertainment!

ONSITE

ACTIVITY 1 10:30 AM

CRAFTING CORNER

Join Captain Vicki from 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the Crafting Corner to help make blankets to distribute to cancer patients. This activity is best suited for adults and children ages 6 & up with supervision.

ONSITE

ACTIVITY 2 10:30 AM

BAKING COOKIES

Join Captains Cassia & Beth to assist in baking cookies for The Lunch Box, a Dutchess Outreach Community Meal Program committed to providing meals for those in need in our local community.

ONSITE

ACTIVITY 3 10:30 AM

PLANTING POSITIVITY

Join Captain Suzanne from 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the PJ Library Corner as we fill planter boxes with soil and plants to brighten the surroundings at New Horizons. Appropriate for all ages.

ONSITE

ACTIVITY 4 10:30 AM

CEREAL COUNTS

Join Captain Marian from 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the Cereal Counts station to assist in organizing and boxing unopened cereal to be donated to local Dutchess County food pantries.

ONSITE

ACTIVITY 5 10:30 AM

GRACE SMITH HOUSE

Join Captain Rabbi Hantman from 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the Grace Smith House station to assist in creating thoughtful and memorable Mother's Day gifts for Grace Smith House victims of domestic abuse.

OFFSITE

ACTIVITY A 10:00 AM

THE LUNCH BOX

Join Captain Paul at The Lunch Box from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM to assist in preparing meals for those in need. We are looking for 8 volunteers. If you are age 13-16, you may volunteer with adult supervision.



OFFSITE

ACTIVITY B 9:30 AM

BEAUTIFYING NEW HORIZONS

Join Captain Steve from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM at a New Horizon location in Hyde Park (address provided upon registration) to assist with creating planter boxes alongside New Horizon residents. Appropriate for all ages with adult supervision.

REMEMBER THE CAR WASH: HELPERS AND DIRTY CARS NEEDED.

PLEASE REGISTER**: SCAN QR CODE OR JEWISHDUTCHESS.ORG/EVENTS

Remember to bring your unopened boxes of cereal to be donated to local Dutchess County food pantries!



REGISTER BY APRIL 10 TO BE INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL PRIZE DRAWING.

If you choose an offsite activity, please head to Headquarters for our celebratory lunch at 1:00 PM. If you are onsite, please stay for lunch, games, balloons, music & our fundraising car wash. We are stronger together. Let's make an impact in our community this Mitzvah Day!

Partially underwritten by a grant from Ann and Abe Effron Fund - Donor Advised of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services of Dutchess County, a program of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.



CEREAL COUNTS

Mitzvah Now
Boxed Cereal Drive



Bring new boxes of cereal this Mitzvah Day, May 3rd, to headquarters at Congregation Schomre Israel

DROP CEREAL AHEAD OF TIME AT:

- Jewish Federation of Dutchess County | M, W, TH: 10am-4pm

Collection Dates:

NOW - MAY 3, 2026

DROP CEREAL AFTER PASSOVER AT:

- Jewish Federation of Dutchess County
- Congregation Shir Chadash
- Congregation Schomre Israel
- Temple Beth-El
- Vassar Temple

Donate to support local Dutchess County pantries by providing this essential staple—cereal.

Your contribution helps ensure families and children in our community start their day with a nutritious breakfast.

Questions? Contact the Jewish Federation at: admin@jewishdutchess.org or call: 845.471.9811



David Cohen, Susan G. Hecht,
Philip & Eva



Community TRIP TO ISRAEL

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- 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
- Experience Israel during a beautiful fall season

NEW DATES
OCTOBER
12-21,
2026

Due to evolving circumstances, this trip has been rescheduled to October 2026. We look forward to traveling together in solidarity for a meaningful and impactful experience.

VISIT: JEWISHDUTCHESS.ORG/EVENTS

NEW DATES. REGISTRATION REOPENED. SECURE YOUR SPOT.

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

Passover Blessings



Judy Elkin &
Gene Fleishman

Passover Blessings



Miriam Gold
and Family

JEWISH WAR VETERANS WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As part of this year's 9th Annual Jewish Federation Celebration Gala tribute to Jewish War Veterans, we are creating a video recognizing veterans in our community and their service to our country. Jewish War Veterans in our community are invited to take part.

Interested in participating? Please contact us by April 15: events@JewishDutchess.org

THE 9TH ANNUAL JEWISH FEDERATION
CELEBRATION GALA | JUNE 11

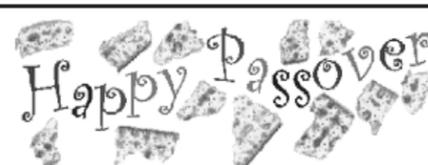
JewishDutchess.org/Gala



Brenda Ritz and Family



Marina & Tye Elias



Lewittes and Eigen Families



HAPPY
Passover
from
Assemblymember Didi Barrett

I'm here to help!
845-454-1703 | barrettd@nyassembly.gov



**Assemblyman
Anil Beephan**

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Anne Burger for Dutchess County Legislator, LaGrange



**Joseph D. Cavaccini,
Wappingers Supervisor**

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Legislator Lew Darrow



**Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor
Rebecca Edwards**

Peace to you this Passover!



**Mayor
Yvonne Flowers**

Peace to you this Passover!



**Shanta A. Persad
Saeteros-Candidate
for Dutchess County
Legislator- District 10**

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey



**Stefanie W. Hubert Candidate for
Dutchess County Legislator Dist. 25**

Passover Blessings



**Brendan Lawler,
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Legislator**



**Lisa Paoloni,
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Passover Blessings



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District Attorney**



**Dutchess County Legislator
Mike Polasek**



**A. Gregg Pulver
Assistant County Executive**

Passover Blessings



**NYS Senator
Robert Rolison
39th District**

**WISHING YOU AND
YOURS A
HAPPY PASSOVER**



**Sue Serino
Dutchess County
Executive**

Passover Blessings



**Ann Sherin
Councilperson**

Passover Blessings



**Ryan Travelpiece
Dutchess County
Legislator**



**Yvette Valdes Smith
Chair of the County Legislature**



**Candidate for Dist. 14
Dutchess County
Legislator, Lynne Versaci**



**Happy Passover from
Kogon Blacktop**



Molly & Dan Katz



Jane & Steven Idell

The Federation Board's Voice



Russell Rothman

In continuing my series of recollections of Israel, I am reminded of an interesting story told to me in 1979 by Giora Ilani, a senior scientist and resident predator expert for the Nature Reserve Authority (Israel's equivalent of our National Parks Service). He was taking me across Israel to look for a good place for me to study wolves later that year. While we surveyed numerous areas, mostly in the Negev, during the day and night, we got a chance to see many other types of predators, such as wild cats, caracals (like a small panther), foxes, hyenas, snakes, jackals. However, we never got a chance to see a leopard, which were rare and his favorite of all the predators in Israel. While at En Gedi, the desert oasis near the Dead Sea, we did see some tracks and smelled their scent (a nice way to say their pee) and although we went back there often, never saw a live leopard. However, he did regale me with several stories that came across his desk over the years that he was required to investigate. One was when a leopard entered an open small auditorium at a kibbutz during a meeting of its members and the animal slowly walked down the middle aisle to the front, looked about, and turned around and slowly walked back out while every person in the building sat absolutely quiet, in shock and awe. But another story has always stuck with me as absolutely amazing.

School groups in Israel all travel across the country on field trips as part of their curriculum, hiking throughout its national parks, on trails, elementary through high school, usual with a guide from the NRA or SPNI (Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, the country's oldest and largest conservation organization). They are also accompanied by their teachers and vary in duration. Israel educators always believed that students will learn more with their feet and that the more they hike and travel across their country, the more they will love it and treasure it.

One particular class of young girls, around 12 or 13, were hiking along a trail in the Negev, going up a hill to the top of a mesa where they were going to camp overnight. The 15-25 girls were hiking single file up the narrow trail and the girl at the end of the line had a long pony tail that bobbed left and right as she hiked up. At some point, someone was apparently swatting at her swaying ponytail and without turning around, she just said, "Stop it! It's annoying"! And the swatting stopped but shortly it began again. She once again yelled for whoever was doing it to stop and she turned around quickly to verbally chastise her classmate. Only, when she turned around, she saw that it was a young leopard, who was now lying down on its back, rolling around in the sandy dirt. The girl, surprisingly calm, called for her teacher who came down from the front of the line of hikers. When he saw the leopard, he began yelling and flailing his arms, hoping his wild gesticulations would scare the animal off. The leopard got up and suddenly ran off and the girls continued up the hill. When they got to the top, they set up their tents, made a campfire in the center, ate, and began to tell stories of their big adventure. After awhile, someone began swatting the young girl's ponytail again. Thinking one of her classmates was pranking her, she ignored it but as the swatting continued, she finally turned in frustration to yell at the other girl. But when she turned around, she saw that it was the same young leopard, laying on his back, playfully trying to swat her ponytail again. She quietly called the teacher over but this time he startled the leopard with a pistol shot in the air. This time, the cat leaped up and raced off, not to be seen again but leaving the girls with a story never to be forgotten.

Sadly, there hasn't been a leopard sighting in some years. While our Federation trip will be visiting En Gedi, the desert oasis with cascading waterfalls, where a young David hid from a jealous King Saul, it is unlikely we will encounter a leopard. However, there is always a chance some exist in more remote wilderness areas in Israel. Hope springs eternal. And don't cut off your ponytail.

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Doris & Bob Haas

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Len Grosman

Our Executive Director



Do you have your timbrel?

Passover is around the corner and with it comes many joys and challenges, at least for me. One of the main positives is always getting the family together and sharing the story of our Exodus. I also appreciate reciting the same stories and singing the same songs that we have been doing for generations. In my family, the story about Miriam is particularly special as it was my mother's favorite, and I always feel close to her when we

read it. The fact that the women chose to bring timbrels because they had faith that there would be times for celebrating through their journey is inspiring.

On the flip side, the challenges of this holiday include the amount of cleaning that needs to be done, the moving of Passover dishes and pots up from the cellar to the kitchen, and adjusting to cooking for a holiday without my good utensils (which someday I hope to rectify). This year though, I have a new challenge. This will be the first time in over 2 decades that I will not have any one of my boys home for the holiday. As Passover is in the middle of the week and does not overlap with spring break, there was just no way for them to come home. It is a new chapter in our journey and one many of you have already experienced. This is not the worst thing that could occur but just the acceptance of a new reality.

We often do not realize how fleeting something is until it is gone. I tell new parents that life will be filled with long days (and just trying to survive) but short weeks and before you know it, your children are grown and going away to college. We often take for granted the time we have with loved ones. This past month, I had the hat trick of mourning. I organized a shiva for my friend whose father passed (Monday and Tuesday), took my father to Long Island for a funeral of one of his high school friends (Wednesday), and then got on a plane (Thursday) to attend a memorial service for my Auntie, who lives far away. It doesn't seem to matter whether someone passes away at the young age of 94, there will always be a hole left when they are no longer a mere phone call away. There is quote I like to paraphrase. It says that if you died tomorrow, your employer would advertise to fill your job role by the end of the month. However, your family and friends would never be able to replace you and would miss you forever. Life is too short to hold grudges. Treasure those you have in your life. Do not take family and friends for granted because life is too fleeting.

So on this Passover, take a moment to reflect on Passovers from generations before, know that there will be generations to come singing the same prayers and telling the same stories, and go grab your timbrel. May each one of us have that faith that there will be time and reasons for celebration.

Chag Pesach Sameach,
Karen Hochhauser,
JFedDC Executive Director

Passover Blessings



Rebecca and Bert Cohen

Passover Blessings



Judy and Tony D'Aquanni

Passover Blessings



Marian & Ralph Schwartz

Passover Blessings



Wendy & Stuart Waxman

Peace to you this Passover!



Phyllis & Sam Wexler

Thank you to all our 2025 Contributors

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We apologize in advance for any misspelled names or incorrect groupings

THANK YOU TO THE DONATIONS FROM the following grants and funds

Harold Grinspoon Foundation

The Harding Club

The Louis Berger Foundation

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley:

Ann and Abe Effron Donor Advised Fund

Bertha Effron Fund

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William and Sadie Effron Fund

Back at Ketcham, Carrying Forward a Survivor's Story *By Dave Reckess*

As I walked in through the doors of Roy C. Ketcham High School last month, I was flooded with memories. It was my first time back in the building since graduating in 1997. Though parts of the school had been renovated, the shell of the building felt exactly as I remembered it. A few minutes later, my sister Gila walked through the door, and suddenly it felt even more like stepping back into our high school years.



But this visit was different. We were there to lead a professional development workshop for Social Studies and English teachers from across the Wappingers Central School District. As Executive Director of 3GNY-Descendants of Holocaust Survivors, I work with schools throughout New York and New Jersey to bring grandchildren of Holocaust survivors into classrooms to share their family stories of survival and resilience.

This mission is deeply personal for me. All four of my grandparents survived the Holocaust. At Ketcham last month, while I facilitated a conversation about Holocaust education and why these stories still matter, Gila shared the story of our grandmother, our "Bubi Sarah."



Bubi Sarah grew up in Lublin, Poland. As a teenager during the war, she survived the Lublin Ghetto and later lived in hiding in a small apartment in Warsaw, relying on courage and the help of others to survive. After the war, she rebuilt her life in America and eventually raised her family in New York. Like many survivors, she carried painful memories - but also a powerful message about resilience and the responsibility to stand up to hate.

That message is at the heart of 3GNY's work today. Through our WEDU ("We Educate") Speaker Program, trained volunteers - grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, like Gila and me visit middle schools, high schools, universities, and community groups to share their grandparents' stories and connect them to the challenges students see in the world today. Hearing directly from a descendant makes history personal; students build an empathetic bridge to the past through our grandparents' stories. Students ask questions, reflect on the choices people made during the Holocaust, and consider their own responsibility to confront antisemitism and hate.

Last year alone, 3GNY speakers reached tens of thousands of students through hundreds of classroom presentations. Teachers consistently tell us that hearing these family stories deepens students' understanding and helps them see history not as distant, but as human. As one teacher recently told us, "You can tell kids these things really happened to people, but it doesn't have the same impact a presentation does. This presentation makes the material come alive for students."

Returning to Ketcham reminded me how powerful it is to bring these stories back into the classrooms where the next generation is learning. As the generation of survivors dwindles, the responsibility to carry their stories forward increasingly falls to their descendants. At 3GNY, we see ourselves as a living link between the past and the future.

To bring a 3GNY speaker to your school or community group, to join our speakers bureau, and to support our work, visit www.3gny.org.

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover

Sharon, Cynthia, & Harold Warren

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover

Gail & Sam Simon

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover

Joe Kisch, Betsy Effron & Jean Friedman

Passover Blessings



*Sugar & Spice Café
and Spice Catering*

Passover Blessings



*The Matchbox Cafe,
Rhinebeck*

Passover Blessings



*The Family and Staff at
Michael Torsonne Memorial
Funeral Home, Inc.*

Peace to you this
Passover!



The Three Arts
Bookshop

HAPPY PASSOVER



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*Dr. Lorraine Patten, DDS
and The Staff at Schwartz
& Patten DDS PC*

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(845) 635-3700*

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Poughkeepsie, NY*

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Garden*

Passover Blessings



*Wm. Miller & Son
Funeral Home, Inc.*

Passover Blessings



*Avalon Assisted Living
and Wellness Center in
Wappingers Falls*



Major Abstract Corp

May you be
blessed with
peace,
prosperity,
and joy this
Passover



**Dutchess County Leadership
Prayer Breakfast**

May you be
blessed with
peace,
prosperity,
and joy this
Passover



**Barbara & Harvey Katz
and Family**

May you be
blessed with
peace,
prosperity,
and joy this
Passover



Lisa & Mike Arnoff

May you be
blessed with
peace,
prosperity,
and joy this
Passover



Sandra & John Blair

May you be
blessed with
peace,
prosperity,
and joy this
Passover



Roz & Stan Cooper



Beacon Hebrew Alliance

The ROMEOS
(Retired Older Men Eating Out)
Best wishes for a Ziessen Pesach!

Peter Albenda	Lou Newman
Richard Berman	Frank Rubin
Herman Chertock	Stan Schmidt
Stu Chimkin	Michael Schwartz
Herb Dym	Ralph Schwartz
Mike Elkin	Dave Shron
Marty Finkelstein	Jerry Sigalow
Gene Fleishman	Eli Sloves
Ed Goetzl	Bernardo Steinvurzel
Jerry Goldberg	Victor Stern
Eli Gorin	Glenn Tanzman
Spencer Gorin	Bob Ulrich
Martin Hochhauser	

And in memory of all departed members

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Sisterhood Schomre Israel

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Congregation Schomre Israel

The Vassar Temple Sisterhood Judaica Shop
offers a wide selection of religious articles throughout the year:
Seder Plates, Books, Haggadot, Matzoh holders and covers great gift ideas & more! Gift certificate available.

Our Judaica Shop features jewelry & art from Israel.
Sale starts 3/9/26 Monday-Friday 10:00am-2:00pm & Sunday 10:00am-12:00pm
Call (845) 454-2570 or email Judaica@vassartemple.org for appointment
Love, Peace and Happiness from the Sisterhood!

Happy Passover To All From The Harding Club



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

Holiday Greetings From



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

May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, and joy this Passover



Jane, Joshua, Chase, Nicole, Judith, David & Jonathan Friedland



Marilyn & Michael Schwartz

Happy Passover



Evelyn Weiss and Family

Happy Passover



Hilary & Lewis Wrobel



Miriam & Eric Goldstone



Bob Ulrich



Paula & Azzy Reckess



Brenda J. Baker and Family



Sandra Mamis



Honorable Carl and Ronnie Wolfson & Family

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 (Only 4/28/26 this month). One who wants to reach Piety should delve into Ethics of the Fathers We will continue our study of these ideas guided by insights from our sages.

Hebrew 301-Learning Hebrew through the Book of Ruth 6:00pm, (Only 4/28/26 this month). 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 is appropriate for all levels and will be taught through the lens of the Book of Ruth, ensuring that it will be both enjoyable, functional, and informative.

Thursday

A Deeper Understanding of the Weekly Haftarah 7:00pm, (Only 4/30/26 this month). 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 on Thursday 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:

Friday

Rosh Chodesh breakfast April 17, following 8:00am morning service to mark the beginning of the month of Iyar.

Schomre Israel's Sisterhood is once again putting out a calendar including Jewish holidays, birthdays, yahrtzeits and anniversaries as well as advertisements from businesses and professionals.

For more information contact:
cassiab99@gmail.com.

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



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

Make & Take 10:00am, April 19. Children ages 2 to 7 are invited to enjoy a creative morning filled with crafts, stories, and fun while learning about Lag Ba'omer. All are welcome. Contact Nancy at educationnj118@gmail.com for more info.

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 2:00pm, April 13. Join us for a lively discussion of this month's short story. Then mark your calendar for May 11, when author Galina Vromen will join us to discuss her novel *Hill of Secrets*. For more information Contact Merri at moonoggie7@optonline.net.

Wednesday

Mitzvah Knitters 10:30am, April 15. Come join our friendly group of knitters. No experience needed. We'll teach you!

Friday

Shabbat Table 6:00pm, May 8. A welcoming Shabbat dinner with music, stories, Torah study, dessert, and Kaddish. RSVP is required and a nominal fee applies. Contact Joël at: adminassist@tbeny.org for more information

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 April 3, 10, 24, April 17, Rabbi's Installation, 7:00pm.

Saturday

New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship April 4, 18, 10:15am.
Shabbat Service April 11, 25, 10:00am.

Adult Education:

Monday

Talmud Study on Zoom with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb select Mondays, 12:00pm. To be put on the email list and receive study sheets contact him at pjgolomb@verizon.net.

Saturday

Torah Study with Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh 9:00am, hybrid. (no class 4/11/26) Join our lively discussions.
Contact office@vassartemple.org to be placed on the Torah Study e-mail list.

Other Events:

Saturday

New Paths Service April 4, 18, 10:15am, hybrid. The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English, and participants may contribute supplemental materials to share. "We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through services." Each New Paths service provides a unique and thoughtful, spiritually – oriented Shabbat morning experience, including music, with Rabbi Jeff in an intimate, informal worship setting. A brief kiddush follows. Contact (845) 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org to be put on the New Paths email list, if you need the Zoom link, or to borrow our special prayer book.

Thursday

Sisterhood Book Club to Read 2:00pm, April 16. We will read *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Wood. "Winner of the Nautilus Award and the New England Society Book Award, *The One-in-a-Million Boy* is the Incandescent story of a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy assigned to help her around the house—a tale of intergenerational friendship that touches each member of the boy's unmoored family.

Discussion will be in-person at Collegeview Tower meeting room, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. All are welcome.

For questions or to RSVP please contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.

Sunday

Meet Your Legislative Officials

Our elected officials work for us--do you ever wonder about the roles and responsibilities of our local elected officials? If so, please join us at Vassar Temple and bring your questions to our Town Hall- style meetings. These events provide an opportunity for us to get to know our elected officials and what they do, as well as for our elected officials to get to know the Jewish Community and learn about our concerns.

April 12, 3:00pm- Guest Dutchess County Comptroller, Dan Aymar-Blair

April 26, 3:00pm, Dutchess County Legislative Panel featuring Chair Yvette Valdez Smith, Majority Leader Barrington R. Atkins, and Minority Leader Michael Polasek, moderated by Legislator and Chair of Family & Human Services Committee Emma Arnoff. Questions: call (845)454-2570 email: civicengagement@vassartemple.org

Contact :
office@vassartemple.org
for current information
or visit the website
www.vassartemple.org



Calling all 2026 High School or College Grads

If you know a 2026 High School or College graduate, email their name, picture, and the school from which they graduated.

Email the information by July 1:
Thevoice@jewishdutchess.org



Vassar Temple

Congregation Brethren of Israel
Where You Belong

Vassar Temple proudly announces
the installation of
Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh



Friday, April 17, 2026 ~ 7 pm

Installation Service Guest Speaker:

Rabbi Jonathan Singer,
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi
Emeritus of Congregation Emanu-El,
San Francisco, CA

Join us as we celebrate new beginnings,
shared leadership, and the unfolding story of
Jewish life in our community

~ Followed by celebratory Oneg reception ~

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 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 Service 10:00am

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



April

Candle Lighting Schedule

April 3	7:05pm
April 10	7:13pm
April 17	7:20pm
April 24	7:28pm



HERITAGE FINANCIAL PARK, 1500 NY-9D, WAPPINGERS FALLS

2026 JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT!

WITH THE HUDSON VALLEY RENEGADES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH @ 6:35 p.m.

Kosher Food Options Available

In partnership with the Jewish Federations of Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties!



Scan the QR code for tickets!
or visit JewishDutchess.org/events
 Select **DUTCHESS** when you check out



Jewish Federation
 of Dutchess County

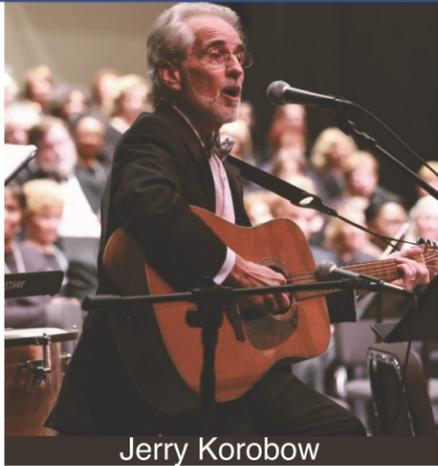
845.471.9811 | info@JewishDutchess.org



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, 4/12,26, (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.

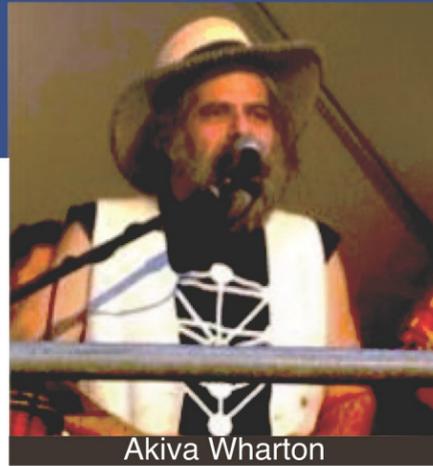
Enjoy the rich voice of
CANTOR JERRY KOROBOW
 with percussionist Akiva Wharton (Akiva the Believer)



Jerry Korobow

Saturday
April 18, 2026
7:30 pm

- Cantor Jerry Korobow is an experienced professional performing, touring and recording singer and instrumentalist
- His song selection includes *Georgia On My Mind*; *the Grandma Song*; *Trouble In Mind*; *R'Tzei*; *Summertime*; *Sim Shalom*; and *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*.
- His goal is always to engage others and encourage participation!
- So be prepared to sing along and be entertained!



Akiva Wharton



Congregation
Shir Chadash

At the Shir Chadash Location
Freedom Plains
United Presbyterian Church
1168-11 State Rt. 55
LaGrangeville, NY 12540
 Ample Parking!

Advance tickets online:
 \$36 per person or \$54/couple.
 PayPal & Major Credit Cards
 accepted at www.shir-chadash.org
 Please add \$1.50 per person
 if using a credit card.
 Tickets at the door, if available:
 \$40 per person or \$60/couple.
 Students/Children: \$10

Light refreshments
 will be served
 after the concert.
 For more info, call
845-232-1029
info@shir-chadash.org



Tots, senior citizens, and everyone
 in between, gathered at Vassar
 Temple to make hamantaschen to
 share, at the Sisterhood's
 annual Hamantaschen
 Baking Day.

**WISHING YOU BLESSINGS OF PEACE & FREEDOM
 FROM TEMPLE BETH-EL**

Rabbi Michael Fessler, Spiritual Leader
 Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Prayer Leader
 Nancy Judson, Interim Education Director
 Cantor Devorah Gartner, B'nai Mitzvah Director
 Merri Sedgewick & John Weisman, Co-Presidents

118 South Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
 845.454.0570 www.tbenny.org

Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Happy
Passover

**From the
 Board and
 Staff of
 JFedDC,
 and PJ Library**

Vassar Temple

Wishes you a Happy Passover

May your home be filled with peace and joy!

Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh
 Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann
 Roni Stein, President

140 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 845-454-2570
www.vassar temple.org

Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh of Vassar Temple did a hands-on presentation about Jewish traditions surrounding challah for the Jewish Student Union and the Need to Knead Club at the Culinary Institute of America.

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

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**.

Hudson Valley **Hospice**

Celebrate the moments that matter

Choosing hospice is choosing to celebrate life! We can help you make the most of the moments that truly matter.
Chag Sameach!

Need Help? Contact Us Today!
vhospice.org • (845) 240-7555