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We The People

Thursday | June 11
The Grandview | Poughkeepsie

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Bound by history, Black and Jewish unity matters — now more than ever by David Machlis taken from *The Times of Israel*

The weight of history often sits heavily on the shoulders of those who inherit its lessons. For Black and Jewish communities in America, that weight is both a burden and a call to action. Each group carries a painful legacy of oppression, persecution, and struggle – one shaped by slavery and segregation, the other by pogroms and the Holocaust. Yet, in moments of clarity and courage, these communities have stood together, recognizing that their fights against hate are not separate but intertwined.

Today, however, that unity feels more fragile than ever. The news cycle is flooded with fresh examples of racism and antisemitism, and instead of building bridges, identity politics often deepen divides. Groups that should be natural allies are retreating into their own silos, rather than working together to combat the hatred that harms them both. This is a tragic loss, given the rich history of solidarity between Black and Jewish Americans.

Congressman Ritchie Torres, a vocal advocate for cross-community solidarity, put it best: “Fighting racism should never be the sole responsibility of the Black community, just like fighting antisemitism should never be the sole responsibility of the Jewish community.”

Despite recent problems, particularly surrounding disagreements over Israel, there is an inspiring legacy of anti-racism cooperation to draw on. In 1965, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel famously marched alongside Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery. Jews were even active in the founding of the National Association for Colored People (NAACP). At the same time, there have been moments of tension – such as the 1968 New York City teachers’ strike and the 1991 Crown Heights riots. More recently, both communities have faced horrific acts of hatred: the 2015 Charleston church shooting, in which nine Black worshippers were murdered, and the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, where eleven Jewish congregants were killed. These tragedies underscore a painful reality – racism and antisemitism are both on the rise, and the need for unity is more urgent than ever.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. links arms with other civil rights leaders as they begin the march to the state capitol in Montgomery from Selma, Alabama, on March 21, 1965. The demonstrators are marching for voter registration rights for blacks. Accompanying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (fourth from right), are on his left Ralph Bunche, undersecretary of the United Nations, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth. (AP Photo)

(Continued on page 5)

Purim is coming!

Do you know a senior who would like to be thought of and receive a holiday gift? The JFedDC, Jewish Family Services, and PJ Library are ready to make it happen!

For the holidays of Purim, Rosh Hashanah, and Chanukah, volunteers and Jewish Federation of Dutchess County staff fill gift bags with yummy treats, heartfelt crafts, and handcrafted cards.

To contact us, call (845) 471-9811, email: admin@jewishdutchess.org or visit www.jewishdutchess.org if you:

- know of a senior who would enjoy receiving a holiday gift.
- would like to donate your time. We will be putting together Senior Holiday Gifts for Purim beginning the week of February 23, 2026.

Community Purim Carnival is March 1, 2026
See page 6 for more info.

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Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

Come Join Our Community TRIP TO ISRAEL

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

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

APRIL 20-29 2026

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

EXTENDED DEADLINE - CLOSING SOON. REGISTER NOW!

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

NOSH AND A GOOD BOOK!

GURSHA: TIMELESS RECIPES FOR MODERN KITCHENS

Thursday, February 5, 6:30 pm

Celebrate Black History Month through food, culture, & story with author Beejhy Barhany, founder and executive chef of Harlem's Tsion Café & the BINA Cultural Foundation.

Guests will enjoy samples from the *Gursha* cookbook prepared by Geneva's Blues House.

AT GENEVA'S BLUES HOUSE
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REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
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What is Jewish Family Services (JFS)?

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

LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

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.

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



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.

February 11 **“Yiddish” the Robin Hood of Languages (includes Yiddish sing-along)**, presented by Rabbi Jonathan Haddon of Congregation Beth David, Amenia.
Menu: Taco salad with protein “meat”, cheese, black beans, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, corn chips, salsa, and brownies.

February 2 **The History of Jews in Baseball and the Jewish All Star Baseball Team**, presented by Arnie Serotsky
Menu: Baseball favorites: hot dogs and buns, vegetarian hot dogs, potato salad, chopped salad, veggies and hummus, and cookies

*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****



Don’t forget to order your Holiday Greetings for 2026. See page 9 for all the details.

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

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

Golden Living . . . News for Older Adults, Their Families and Caregivers

Follow the Sun

Natural sunlight remains an effective remedy for the winter blues, even if we don't get much of it in the winter. Sunlight helps the body maintain a consistent circadian rhythm. Your skin produces Vitamin D when exposed to the sun's rays, although less effectively as we age. A UCLA Health study found that 23 minutes of noontime sun exposure at our latitude would produce enough Vitamin D. If you can't get outside, even opening the curtains to sit by a window can help.

Keep Moving

Exercise is important at any time; but it can be a vital pick-me-up during the winter. OFA offers exercise and tai-chi classes, plus a remote "Staying Active and Independent for Life" class. Contact OFA to find out more, at ofa@dutchessny.gov or 845-486-2555.

Eat Right

Eating a balanced diet is essential for older adults and is a natural way to boost your mood and energy. Provide your body with the right combination of proteins, carbohydrates, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. Avoid the temptation to eat unhealthy snacks, and instead, snack on complex carbohydrates and super foods such as blueberries and Greek yogurt. Visit dutchessny.gov/ofanutrition for tips.

Leave Hibernation to the Bears

It can be tempting to wait out the winter by avoiding socialization and activities and just retreating into a cave (so to speak) until springtime; but keep up your routine as best you can. Being around other people, or talking to them on the phone, can lift your spirits. OFA's "Friendly Calls" program is a great way to stay connected, for both participants and volunteers. For more information, visit dutchessny.gov/friendlycalls or call **(845) 486-2548**.

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

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March Events

3/1 Community Purim Carnival
See page 6 for more information

3/11 Nosh & A Good Book
The Untold Story of The
Incorruptibles: True Crime Meets
History by Dan Slater
See page 5 for more information

April Events

4/13 Community Yom HaShoah
@ DCC

4/14 Yom HaShoah
@ FDR Presidential Library.

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The Harding Club



Friend and Community

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 and expand existing friendships.

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 community among Jewish men.

The Harding Club community exists across a spectrum of activities, and all of these enrich the lives of our members:

- Harding Club meetings take place once or twice a month, for dinner or lunch, at a local eatery. Each meeting mixes socializing, camaraderie, fun, food, and the opportunity to make new friends, with fascinating discussions led by a noteworthy guest speaker.
- This year, the Harding Club is also actively exploring how members can best support each other. How can a community support friends on an organized basis? What is a friend in need, in large or small ways, and how can a concerned community best help?
- Importantly, the Harding Club works, as well, to improve the well-being of our local community. The lives of members are enriched by helping others. This past Thanksgiving, for example, Harding Club members worked to combat food insecurity in Dutchess County. Each year, the Club’s Tzedakah Program also provides grants to local groups and organizations that are doing good work.

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

To learn more, contact one of the Officers below:
Irvin Miller, president, irvinmmiller@gmail.com
Jim Thrasher, vice president, jdt845@gmail.com
Dave Lowitz, secretary, dlowitz@aol.com

Understanding Your Rights: Antisemitism and the Workplace

By Heather Kernes, Community Engagement

In my work with the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, I’ve heard from community members who are unsure about what their rights actually are when it comes to discrimination in the workplace — as well as from people who aren’t sure where to turn when something doesn’t feel right.

Antisemitism is one of those issues that can be misunderstood or minimized in professional settings. It doesn’t always look the same, and it doesn’t always show up in obvious ways. It can appear through harassment, exclusion, denial of religious accommodation, or a workplace culture that allows inappropriate conduct to go unchecked. Jewish employees — of every background and level of observance — can be affected.

That is why we are bringing **Alvin Mallette**, Outreach & Education Coordinator with the **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**, to Poughkeepsie on **February 18**. The EEOC is the federal agency responsible for enforcing the nation’s laws that prohibit employment discrimination, including discrimination based on religion, as well as other protected categories such as sex and race. Its role is not only to investigate and enforce the law, but also to help communities understand what the law actually says and how it applies in real-life situations.

This program is not intended to be a legal lecture. Rather, it is meant to be a practical, informative conversation about how federal workplace protections work, how to recognize when conduct may cross a legal line, and what options exist if someone experiences discrimination. Just as important, it offers an opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of what the EEOC does — and what it does not do.

There is often hesitation around asking questions about discrimination: people worry about consequences, about whether something is “serious enough,” or about not having the right language to describe what they’re experiencing. This program is designed to create space for those questions and to provide straightforward, accessible information.

Knowing your rights is a good first step. We look forward to welcoming members of the Hudson Valley Jewish community for this important conversation and hope people will come prepared to listen, learn, and ask questions — so they can feel more confident navigating their workplaces with clarity and understanding.



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Jewish Family Services

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

Passover begins April 2, don’t forget to order your Holiday Greetings, by March 8. See Page 9 for more information.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS ANTISEMITISM & RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Wednesday, February 18 | 6:30 PM
Location provided with registration

Join us for an informative program presented by **Alvin Mallette** - **Outreach & Education Coordinator with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), New York District.**

PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN:

- What constitutes religious discrimination & antisemitism in the workplace
- The federal laws that protect employees from workplace discrimination
- How to recognize when conduct may cross a legal line
- How and when to file a complaint if discrimination is experienced

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

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

Rabbi’s Blog by Rabbi David

What is Tu B’Shevat, exactly?

A historical answer would be that Tu B’Shevat (the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat) is a day assigned by the Rabbis of the Mishnah to count the age of fruit for the purposes of ritual tithing and eating. The tithes supported the Temple and the city of Jerusalem and ensured a social safety net for the poor.



Rabbi David

But looking at the existential reality of the Rabbis, their agricultural world was rife with uncertainty. In the land of Israel, drought was a constant danger. Nevertheless, the Rabbis trusted in the underlying spiritual reality an underlying covenant between God and all creation to ensure predictable weather cycles.

In our era of rapidly accelerating climate change, such trust and predictability are hard to sustain. Speak to any farmer, or many parents, and it’s clear that we live in an age of profound anxiety over our environment.

I have no easy answers, but I have been inspired lately by a New York Times series reporting on an expedition to Antarctica to establish new scientific monitoring. Most impressive is seeing how some of the world’s most highly trained scientists are pushing themselves to the limits of endurance and human understanding for us, with humility and grace.

In the end, Tu B’Shevat is not really a holiday, or a ritual observance, and certainly not a mitzvah in the classic sense. It is a moment for heightened awareness at a time of year we are more likely to seclude ourselves. We can choose to emerge out of our winter-laden routines to join others in community, eat food that reminds us of the possibility of an abundant future. And by doing all these things, we may feel that such a future may not only be possible, but dependent upon us.

(Bound by History Continued from page 1)

Nowhere is this divide more evident than on college campuses, which should be places of enlightenment and understanding but have instead become breeding grounds for division. The rise in hate incidents at universities is undeniable, and rather than fostering dialogue, many institutions have allowed tensions to fester. The solution, however, is clear: connection. The more Black and Jewish students learn about one another’s histories, struggles, and triumphs, the better equipped they are to stand together against bigotry in all its forms.

Programs that bring students from different communities together can play a crucial role in breaking down barriers. By fostering meaningful discussions, engaging in shared experiences, and learning each other’s histories firsthand, such initiatives can transform passive awareness into active solidarity. One such initiative is the *Two Museums Program: United We Stand*, launched in March 2023 by New York’s Adelphi University in partnership with the International March of the Living. The program takes Black and Jewish students on a joint educational trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the National Museum of African American History & Culture and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Experiences like these provide students with a unique opportunity to engage with history not as abstract lessons but as lived realities that continue to shape the present. Jewish students witness the brutality of slavery and segregation, while Black students confront the horrors of Auschwitz and Treblinka. This kind of immersive learning fosters difficult but necessary conversations about prejudice, resilience, and the moral imperative to act. It also highlights the historical intersections of both communities – such as the Nazi persecution of Black Germans and the influence of American eugenics on Nazi racial policies – underscoring the commonalities in their struggles against hate.



Beyond simply educating students, these programs encourage action. Participants return to their campuses equipped with the tools to address hate, build alliances, and foster productive dialogues. Some go on to engage in further cross-community activism, while others channel their learning into policy work or advocacy. Programs like these can and should be replicated, ensuring that more students have the chance to develop the understanding and skills needed to challenge bigotry in all its forms.

Congressman Ritchie Torres, a vocal advocate for cross-community solidarity, put it best: “Fighting racism should never be the sole responsibility of the Black community, just like fighting antisemitism should never be the sole responsibility of the Jewish community.” Initiatives that create opportunities for shared learning and cooperation embody this philosophy, forging bonds that transform shared pain into shared purpose.

The need for this kind of solidarity is greater than ever. Both communities have faced resurgences of the very hatred they have long fought against. The past is not so distant, and the lessons of history demand action in the present. In a time of rising hate, Black and Jewish students have an opportunity to stand together – not just as allies, but as partners in the fight for justice.

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 **Tamatha Williams** who took time from listening to the dogs bark to answer our questions.

1. **What is your favorite/least favorite word?**
Favorite: *Love.*
Least Favorite: *Ain’t. My mother was originally an English teacher and she would correct us many times.*

2. **What inspires you?** *Nature inspires me creatively.*

3. **What is your favorite song?**
I put Thalia to sleep every night with the song “Angel Flying Too Close To The Ground”. It reminds me of my dad because as a kid we used to listen to him all the time.

4. **What profession other than you own would you like to attempt?**
Fashion or writing or both.

5. **What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt?** *Anything math related.*

6. **What do you most like and dislike about yourself?**
Like: *My creativity.*
Dislike: *My inability to stay focused. I’m all over the place which helps and doesn’t help at the same time.*

7. **What is your favorite Jewish food/dessert?** *I love falafel.*

8. **What is one interesting thing that people don’t know about you?**
I love fishing while in a kayak.

9. **If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?** *The ability to understand what people are thinking and feeling. Insight into people.*

10. **What is your greatest achievement/something you are most proud of?** *Aside from raising the kids, learning the skills I’ve attained and the patience to do so.*

11. **Do you have a “bucket list” and, if so, what is on it?**
Just surviving and getting back to Martha’s Vineyard, where I spent most summers as a child.

12. **What is your earliest Jewish memory?**
I remember my brother butchering his bar mitzvah.

13. **What is your most favorite Jewish memory?**
PJ Library and connecting with families, meeting like-minded people, and sharing that with my children.

14. **If there were one thing you would hope others do in the interest of our future, what would that be?**
Just be kind to one another and acceptance.

15. **In what ways, does or can JFedDC impact our Jewish community?**
By promoting programming that connects us, teaches us, and enriches us.

16. **If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?**
”Thank you.”

17. **What is one question you wish we asked and what is the answer?**
Q: What is one goal you have?
A: To achieve more. I feel I am capable of much more than I have done.
- *Member of the Tribe
-
- Tamatha Williams
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Jewish Federation

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Jewish Federation

of Dutchess County



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

CHABAD MID-HUDSON VALLEY

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

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

CONGREGATION SHIR CHADASH

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

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

PARDESS HEBREW SCHOOL

Sunday, 10:00am-12:00pm

For information
www.mypardess.org/hebrewschool

RHINEBECK JEWISH CENTER

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

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

KULANU SCHOOL at TEMPLE BETH-EL

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

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

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

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

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

VASSAR TEMPLE

Vassar Temple provides a program of education within the guidelines of the Reform Movement, which deepens a 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



Tamatha



Suzanne



Here are some great ideas from Google to show your love:

- Words of Affirmation**
 - "I love you to the moon and back."
 - "I'm so proud of you."
 - "You make me so happy."
 - "I love your laugh/smile."
 - "You're a great helper/friend."
 - "Thank you for being you."
- Quality Time & Activities**
 - Play games (I Spy, hide-and-seek).
 - Read books together.
 - Cook or bake together (cookies, hot chocolate).
 - Go for walks or play outside.
 - Have a special "date" (lunch, movie night).
 - Create traditions, like taco Tuesday or a strange holiday
- Acts of Service & Kindness**
 - Give unexpected hugs, kisses (butterfly kisses, nose rubs).
 - Send notes in their lunchbox.
 - Help them with a problem, but let them try first.
 - Listen when they vent about their day.
 - Do chores together as a team.
- Physical Touch & Presence**
 - Cuddles, snuggles, holding hands.
 - Squeezing shoulders.
 - Making eye contact when they talk.
 - Putting your phone away when you're with them.
- Encouraging Words & Support**
 - "I'm here for you, no matter what."

Forging On In February by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

As I write this article, January is only half way through and thus far it has been a rollercoaster ride of a month. The fine lines on my face, the greys beginning to peak out, only begin to hint at the adversities at the start of the new year. With that said, by the time this article is published, it is my hope that I will have reflected upon these challenges with a sense of resiliency and gratitude.

Our young dog needed to have a major, unexpected surgery. While her prognosis had not given us much hope, she made it through. It was in her recovery that I began to struggle. The level of care she needed felt overwhelming and bitterness overshadowed her healing. On a day in January, exhausted and discouraged, I paused for a few minutes to talk to my coworker and friend. She quoted the following to me, “How fortunate am I to be overwhelmed by the life I once could only dream about.” I took some time to consider that statement and it wasn’t long before my attitude began to shift. Our dog was here with us, our home was full. I thought about how many memories we had already created and in silence I realized that I could almost hear the laughter and feel the joy of those earlier days.

In enhancing my role as PJ Library Director, I have begun to understand the prolific opportunity that I have to enrich and influence the lives of families and children through our shared Jewish values. The families I have connected with have also endured trying times, lost jobs, ailing loved ones, financial challenges and personal struggles while trying to balance the full plate of parenthood, constantly trying to get it right in the interest of our children's well being. We are not immune to the tribulations of life but the support as a family, the PJ family, is one that I intend to build upon in the new year.

Tiny Temple Make Hamentaschen

All young children up through kindergarten are invited to bring their grownup to Vassar Temple to for this free program of fun and learning, featuring hands-on activities, stories, and song. Saturday, February 8, 11:00am. We will be learning about the joyous holiday of Purim, including making our own hamantaschen cookies! (Snow date 2/22) Vassar Temple is an inclusive Reform Jewish congregation, and there is never a charge to attend Tiny Temple. To RSVP, contact office@vassartemple.org or call (845) 454-2570.

INTRODUCING

FREE Preview Day February 17th

CAMP KULANU ALL OF US

Kids ages 5-12

Register by February 10

Exciting news from Temple Beth-El!

Get ready for Camp Kulanu's inaugural season, June 29-July 3, 2026!

Why wait until summer for the fun?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

at Temple Beth-El from 8:30am-4:30pm*

THERE IS NO COST FOR THIS PREVIEW DAY!

*Children are welcome to stay and enjoy our Invt School program, with pickup at 6:15 PM.

Don't miss the chance to experience the joy, energy, and excitement of Camp Kulanu...fun is guaranteed!

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

For more information call 845-454-0570 or email at: education@118@gmail.com

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 10

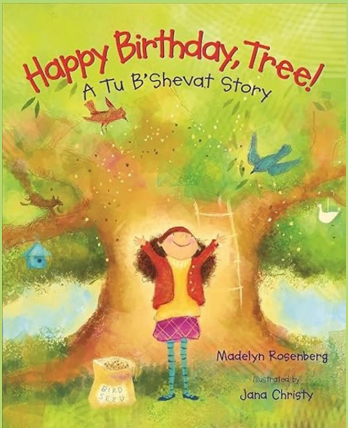
118 South Grand Avenue Poughkeepsie, NY

This camp is proudly supported by the Dr. Samuel Simon Scholarship Fund.

Shabbat Yeladim (Children’s Shabbat) by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

Outside our windows the trees were draped in glistening snow. Shabbat Yeladim was originally to be held at Vassar Temple but the snowy landscape kept us indoors on Zoom. Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh started us off with his melodious guitar playing and our families joined in, singing and dancing along.

Our Zoom began with the focus on shabbat and then Rabbi Jeff taught us about the holiday of Tu B’shevat, explaining that it is the birthday for the trees. We all enjoyed the Tu B’shevat song “If I Were A Tree”. We swayed our arms as though they were branches, bowed our heads mimicking the weeping willow and stretched high up to the sky to grow. Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director, read two PJ Library stories to highlight the upcoming holiday. *Tu B’shevat Is Coming* by Tracy Newman is a brightly illustrated board book where each page repeats the phrase, “Tu B’shevat is coming” and a child can see a family planting trees, feeding birds and decorating their plates with nuts, figs and dates. *Happy Birthday Tree* by Madelyn Rosenberg, is a story that takes place on Tu B’shevat where a little girl named Joni presents her favorite climbing tree with a special birthday gift. The children listened, smiling with excitement as Suzanne’s enthusiasm brought these stories into our hearts and homes.



To conclude our super fun Shabbat Yeladim Zoom, we danced and sang one final song, “There’s A Dinosaur Knocking On My Door”, with some of the children grabbing their own dinosaurs to dance with. Whether the next Shabbat Yeladim is in person or on Zoom, it is sure to be a blast!

PJ Library

LET'S HAVE

A BLAST WITH MATH

WITH IRV MILLER OF MATH & PHYSICS EXPLORATION

MATHS

1+4=5
2+5=12
3+6=21
8+11=?

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS UNIQUE AND FUN EVENT WHERE PJ LIBRARY & MATH & PHYSICS EXPLORATION COME TOGETHER TO MAKE LEARNING MATH A BLAST!

REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON

Shabbat Yeladim (Children’s Shabbat)

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!

Love by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

It is the season of showing love to those we care about. Is it about buying flowers, buying chocolate or keeping the greeting card industry afloat? No, it’s about showing love and care through our words and more impactfully our actions. It is a valuable lesson for children and adults to learn that love is a feeling to have and to share with others.

The Federation Board’s Voice



Jonah Ritter

Shevat and Adar— Rolling Together Time, Religion, Politics and Life

February begins with the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the “New Year for Trees,” on February 2nd. Then, on the 17th, with Rosh Chodesh, we roll into the Hebrew month of Adar, marked by Purim.

Two holidays in one month gives us much to reflect on.

It's been a cold & snowy winter thus far, but Tu B'Shevat, symbolizing nature's awakening and spiritual renewal after winter's dormancy, invites us to look ahead to Spring with gratitude. This leads us into Adar and the celebration of Purim—a month when our joy increases, knowing that ultimately, good defeats the evil Haman and light overcomes darkness.

Tu B'Shevat's tradition of eating fruits & nuts, especially the 7-Species of Israel, connects us to the land to which we are rooted, while Purim inspires us to fight back with hidden spiritual assurance of Hashem's protection for Israel and the Jewish people.

The world is moving rapidly. But to where? The answer is: toward the world we plant and fight for, and one that Hashem delivers.

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County is an active participant in this world, locally speaking. All who engage with us through volunteer efforts, donations, and attendance help us make a positive difference—addressing real issues, strengthening the community, and improving people's lives. How so? Read about it in this newspaper and our weekly JFED emails.

Reading is not enough though. It takes "doing" to achieve a harvest. It takes fighting to be victorious against the dark, evil forces that plot to destroy us.

I'm confident you've heard the phrase, “It is always darkest just before the dawn.” The first recorded use of it was in 1650 in a book by English historian and clergyman, Thomas Fuller called "A Pisgah-Sight of Palestine." Pisgah (פִּסְגָּה) means "height," "peak," or "summit." Mount Pisgah is where Moses viewed the Promised Land before his death (Deuteronomy 34:1–4) and where King Balak took the prophet Balaam to curse Israel (Numbers 23:14).

In 1650, when Fuller wrote his book, the rebirth of the "Promised Land" was but a dream. In 1867, Mark Twain described Palestine in his book "Innocents Abroad" as “a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land.”

The dawn of Israel followed the darkest time, the Holocaust. On October 7th, 2023, Israel began another dark time as Hamas terrorists committed unimaginable atrocities and took ~251 people into captivity. Iran and its proxies proceeded to fire nearly 30,000 rockets, mortars, and missiles at Israel. It was one of the *darkest* times in Jewish history.

Today, a new day is dawning. The hostage crisis is resolved. Iran's nuclear program has been severely damaged; its Islamist proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis in Yemen—are crushed; and the oppressive Islamic regime in Iran is collapsing.

Thomas Fuller, the clergyman mentioned earlier, lamented the suffering of Jewish communities. He asked , “What good heart can, without grief, recount the injuries offered to those who once were the only people of God?” Fuller argued that the oppression of Jews was not only morally wrong but also politically unwise.

History is full of lessons about what happens to civilizations that bless or curse the Jewish people. We are living witnesses to history. There is a new generation of modern survivors.

We still have our enemies and we always will. But we also have allies like Thomas Fuller. The Jewish Federation seeks to build relationships with supporters. We strive to partner with those who share our love for Israel and what to build a better community here in Dutchess county.

Let Tu B'Shevat and Purim be a reminder to us all that hope springs eternal. May a brighter dawn be ahead for us all.



Mitzvah Now: Winter Drive—Head, Shoulders, Hands, & Toes collected items donated to the Family Partnership Center

Our Executive Director



Feeling Connected Through Generations Around The Globe

I recently took a trip to Europe. Italy and Denmark to be exact. The short story is that my son is doing a semester abroad in Copenhagen and I had a lot of miles that I felt should be used sooner than later because all of us have a very limited time on this planet. Those miles turned into a trip with two of my boys to Florence and Rome. At the end, I then sent one boy home to NY and continued with

the other to Denmark, for a weekend, not because I am an overprotective, concerned mother...actually quite the opposite. I am a relaxed and confident mother who selfishly wanted to go to Copenhagen to reconnect with friends who I knew when we all lived in Hong Kong. Of course, knowing that my son had a multi-generational Danish family who has welcomed him with open arms, offers of shabbat dinners, and a place to do laundry didn't hurt.

I must say, Italy was amazing! It definitely helped that the weather was shockingly wonderful in January. It was in the 50s, sunny, and all the holiday lights were still making the city sparkle. We did so much walking that 22,000 steps seemed like nothing and helped justify having gelato every single day. When you walk the streets in Italy and see the old buildings, you feel like you are walking into a history book. However, as we know, history has not always been favorable to the Jewish people.

Unlike our ancestors in Europe, my sons and I were able to fly from NY to Amsterdam to Florence without a worry in the world (aside from the fact that our plane could not land due to weather and had to be rerouted to Bologna). We did not need to be concerned that our religion would hinder our travel. We did not need to be afraid of a Nazi regime chasing and hunting us down. However, traveling through these cities and countries, I could not help but think of our kinsman from the relatively recent past who did experience these circumstances. I did not have to try and cross the landscape in despair, wondering whether there was a safe place for us to hide and survive.

In Rome, the history was overwhelming. We went to the Jewish Ghetto, now sometimes referred to as the Jewish Quarter, which was created in 1555 when Pope Paul IV mandated that Jewish residents all reside in a specific area, which was surrounded by walls. Though living conditions were horrific, the Jewish people, community, and culture thrived. In this area, we also saw the Great Synagogue of Rome, built in 1901. And then as if calling out to be seen and remembered, we found some of the Stolpersteine, “Stumbling Stones.” These commemorative brass plaques which are embedded in the cobblestone roads, eternalize those who were murdered in the Holocaust. Each plaque includes the victim's name, date of birth, deportation date and death date, if known. There are over 45,000 of these stones in more than 17 European countries. Think about that people who were herded from their homes into cattle cars to be transported to their death used to live in that very spot I was standing. How quickly neighbors can turn against Jewish neighbors. We say *Never Again*, but could it happen again? Could each of us become a “Stumbling Stone”? Sometimes I question how complacent and naïve we may have become.



Stolpersteine, “Stumbling Stones” of:

- Anita Sermoneta
- Rosa Sermoneta
- Emma Vivanti
- Pacifico Di Consiglio
- Enrico David Di Veroli
- Pacifico Tagliacozzo

In Copenhagen, when visiting the Danish Jewish Museum, I learned about the long history of Jews in Denmark (since the 17th Century), the unique chapter during WWII, and then the wave of Polish Jews who arrived in Denmark around 1970. In the museum, one learns about the valiant undertaking that occurred during WWII when the majority of Jewish Danish citizens were transported by boat to Sweden, practically in the middle of the night, to be saved from being sent to concentration camps. 7,000 Jews were rescued through this effort. Fast forward to 1970 and one learns about the wave of Polish Jews, many who had survived the Holocaust, who were forced to leave Poland when the communist regime launched an anti-Zionist and antisemitic campaign against them. It was an eye-opening experience to say the least and how quickly a government can turn on its own people.

In thinking about all that I saw and learned, I realized that there was one common theme. We are all Jews. We share commonality of culture, history, hardships regardless of differences in timeline, geographic location or level of observance. I felt connected to Jews of the 1500s, 1940s, and today. The fact that my son has “family” in Denmark that we know from Hong Kong is a testament of the bonds and community created through our shared Jewish belonging. Whether in Dutchess County or around the world, the community and family and responsibility that comes with being Jewish is sometimes a great challenge but also comes with great reward. We should all make more effort to find those commonalities that connect us instead of focusing on things that can pull at us and tear us apart.

Karen Hochhauser,
JFedDC Executive Director

JFedDC Annual Meeting



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Bright Nights coat drive such a meaningful success. Through the funds raised, we were able to purchase more than 350 coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for children in the Poughkeepsie City School District. In addition, our Mitzvah Knitters generously contributed nearly 200 handmade hats and scarves to complement these purchases.

Volunteers came together to unpack, organize, tag, and bag each item. This was an impressive undertaking made possible only through the dedication and teamwork of so many. Whether you contributed financially, knitted with care, or lent your time and energy to organizing, your support made a lasting impact. We are truly grateful to everyone who played a role in this year's Bright Nights program.

It's a new year. It's time to renew your holiday greetings for 2026.

2026 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"
Mid 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 Passover Greeting is March 8

2026 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

Passover Greetings

Small—A

Peace to you this Passover!

Your Name

Medium—C

Happy Passover

Your Name

Small—B

HAPPY PASSOVER!

Your Name

Medium—D

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

Your Name

Large—E

Passover Blessings

Your Name

Large—F

CHAG PESACH S'MECH

Your Name

Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Small—A

Your Name

Medium—C

May the sounds of the Shofar welcome in a New Year of health and happiness

Your Name

Small—B

Have a Sweet New Year!

Your Name

Medium—D

L' Shanah Tovah

Your Name

Large—E

Best Wishes For a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Your Name

Large—F

L' Shanah Tovah Have a sweet year!

Happy New Year!

Your Name

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!

Happy Hanukkah

Your Name

<div><div><div><div>Congregation Schomre Israel</div><div>(Orthodox)</div><div>18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie</div><div>(845) 454-2890</div><div>Rabbi Shlomo Krasner</div><div>Website: www.schomreisrael.org</div><div>Email: rabbishlomok@gmail.com</div><div><div>Weekly Services:</div><div>Shacharis 7:00am (weekdays)</div><div>Shacharis 8:30am (Sunday & holidays)</div><div>Maariv: 6:40pm (winter weekdays)</div><div>Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: around candle lighting times.</div></div><div><div>Adult Education:</div><div><div>Tuesday</div><div>Ethics of the Fathers through the Prism of History, and the Views of the Jewish Sages, Philosophers, Thinkers, Kabbalists, & Pious</div><div>10:30am, One who wants to reach Piety should delve into Ethics of the Fathers While many of us have studied Ethics of the Fathers at one point or another, we will be approaching it through the themes and lens of some of the greatest commentators: as a Path of Perfection by the Rambam, a Guide to Piety of Rabbeinu Yona, and through the teachings of the Italian Philosopher Rabbi Ovadia Siforno, the Jewish Mystic the Maharal of Prague, the Talmudist Rabbi Chayim Volozhin, & the Intellectualist Rabbi Samson Hirsch. We will also view the historical context leading up to each statement and also consider the background and experience of each Sage, which may shed light onto why each Sage prioritized their particular statement.</div><div>Hebrew 301-Learning Hebrew through the Book of Ruth</div><div>6:00pm. We will be building our Hebrew vocabulary of nouns and verbs, studying practical applications of possessives, prefixes, suffixes, & pronouns, examining Hebrew's usage of masculine/ feminine, singular/multiple, & verb tenses and taking a look under the hood of Hebrew's Binyanim - verb conjugations. The class will be taught through the lens of the Book of Ruth, ensuring that it will be both enjoyable, functional, and informative. This class will be appropriate for the near-beginner to the near-advanced Hebrew learner and everyone in between.</div><div><div>Thursday</div><div>A Deeper Understanding of the Weekly Haftarah</div><div>7:00pm, Do you ever sit during the reading of the Prophets, lost, bored, and having no idea what is going on? We can help you engage with the Haftarah. Join us to study the holy words and explain their connection to the Parsha. We will then present a two pronged approach that will enable us to understand both the core meaning of the Haftarah while taking a deeper look at how it is expressed.</div></div><div><div>Other Events:</div><div><div>Sunday</div><div>Tu Bishvat Celebration</div><div>February 1.</div></div><div><div>Monday</div><div>Dinner of Gratitude to the Chevra Kadisha</div><div>February 23, 7:00pm. The entire community is grateful for the service of loving kindness provided at times of loss by the members of the Chevra Kadisha. Join with us to thank those show who serve our community. Open to all. Please RSVP.</div></div><div><div>Wednesday</div><div>Rosh Chodesh breakfast</div><div>February 18, following 8:00am Shacharis Service.</div></div><div><div>Saturday</div><div>Movie Night</div><div>February 14, 7:00pm. Movie TBD.</div></div><div><div>Contact</div><div>rabbishlomok@gmail.com</div><div>for current information</div><div>or visit the website</div><div>www.schomreisrael.org</div></div></div></div></div><div><div><div>Congregation Shir Chadash</div><div>(Reform)</div><div>Interim: Freedom Plains</div><div>Presbyterian Church, Lagrange</div><div>(845) 232-1029</div><div>Rabbi Glenn Jacob</div><div>Website: www.shir-chadash.org</div><div>Email: info@shir-chadash.org</div><div><div>Weekly Services:</div><div>Fridays: 7:30pm In-Person & Zoom</div><div>Saturday: 9:15am In-person, Bi-monthly Torah Study with Rabbi Jacob, all welcome to attend.</div></div><div><div>Adult Education:</div><div><div>Saturday</div><div>Torah Study</div><div>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.</div><div>For info: (845) 232-1029, email: info@shir-chadash.org or visit www.shir-chadash.org.</div></div><div><div>Other Events:</div><div><div>Sunday</div><div>Rosh Chodesh Reading Group</div><div>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</div></div><div><div>Contact :</div><div>info@shir-chadash.org</div><div>for current information</div><div>or visit the website</div><div>www.shir-chadash.org</div></div></div></div></div><div><div><div>Temple Beth-El</div><div>(Conservative)</div><div>118 S Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie</div><div>(845) 454-0570</div><div>Rabbi Michael Fessler</div><div>Rosh Tefilah Rabbi Miriam Hyman</div><div>Website: www.tbeny.org</div><div>Email: info@tbeny.org</div><div><div>Weekly Services:</div><div>Friday & Saturday Shabbat Services are both in-person and Zoom.</div><div>Monday— Friday Minyan 8:00 am.</div><div>Monday & Thursday in person & Zoom, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday only on Zoom</div><div>Call the Temple Beth-El office for the current schedule.</div></div><div><div>Adult Education:</div><div>For information about ongoing Adult Education at Temple Beth-El, please contact the synagogue office : (845) 454-0570.</div></div><div><div>Other Events:</div><div><div>Sunday</div><div>Temple Beth-El Serves at Lunchbox</div><div>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</div></div><div><div>Monday</div><div>Book Club Gathering</div><div>February 9, 2:00pm. Short stories contact Merri Sedgwick for info at moondoggier7@optonline.net.</div></div><div><div>Wednesday</div><div>Mitzvah Knitters</div><div>10:30am, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, February 4, 18. Come join our friendly group of knitters and help make scarves for those in need this winter. No experience needed. We'll teach you!</div></div><div><div>Friday</div><div>Shabbat Table</div><div>February 13. Join us for our monthly multi-generational Shabbat evening, a joyful gathering for prayers, dinner, music, and stories. Celebrate Shabbat with warmth, community, and connection.</div></div><div><div>Contact:</div><div>info@tbeny.org</div><div>for current information</div><div>or visit the website</div><div>www.tbeny.org</div></div></div></div></div><div><div><div>Vassar Temple</div><div>(Reform)</div><div>140 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie</div><div>(845) 454-2570</div><div>Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh</div><div>Rabbi Emeritus Renni Altman</div><div>Website: www.vassartemple.org</div><div>Email: Office@VassarTemple.org or rabbi@vassartemple.org</div><div><div>Weekly Services:</div><div>Most services are hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). Contact office@vassartemple.org for Zoom link</div><div><div>Friday</div><div>Shabbat Evening Service</div><div>7:30pm.</div></div><div><div>Saturday</div><div>New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship</div><div>February 7, 21, 10:15am.</div></div><div><div>Shabbat Morning Service</div><div>February 14, 28, 10:15am.</div></div><div><div>Adult Education:</div><div><div>Tuesday</div><div>Talmud Study</div><div>on Zoom with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb select Mondays, 12:00pm. For information, to be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list, and receive the schedule and study sheets, contact Rabbi Golomb at pjgolomb@verizon.net.</div></div><div><div>Saturday</div><div>Torah Study</div><div>with Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh 9:00am, hybrid. Come join our lively discussions.</div><div>Contact us at office@vassartemple.org or (845) 454-2570 and to be placed on the Torah Study e-mail list.</div></div><div><div>Other Events:</div><div><div>Monday</div><div>Vassar Temple Purim</div><div>March 2, 5:30pm, followed by a Purim spiel 7:00pm.The Brotherhood will sponsor a vegetarian pasta dinner. Bring a box of pasta to shake like a gragger. Afterward, the Social Action Committee will take the boxes of pasta to a local food pantry. For more information about these events, watch the JFedDC weekly emails or contact (845) 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org.</div></div><div><div>Wednesday</div><div>VTS Book Club.</div><div>February 18, 2:00pm in person discussion at Collegeview Tower Meeting room 141 Fulton Ave. All welcome. Book is available through the public library. Contact bookclub@vassartemple.org.</div><div>We are reading <i>Hamnet</i> by Maggie O'Farrell. Set in the 1580's England, during the Black Plague a young Latin tutor falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family's land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.</div><div>A luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a tender and unforgettable re-imagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, and whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays of all time, <i>Hamnet</i> is a mesmerizing, seductive read, impossible to put down (Amazon)</div></div><div><div>Saturday</div><div>New Paths Service..</div><div>February 7, 21, 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, of to borrow our special prayer book for those on Zoom.</div></div><div><div>Contact :</div><div>office@vassartemple.org</div><div>for current information</div><div>or visit the website</div><div>www.vassartemple.org</div></div></div></div></div></div><div data-bbox="90 2461 1467 2694" data-label="Complex-Block"><div><div><div><div>TuB'Shevat Seder</div><div>Please join us at Vassar Temple for a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a joyful celebration of the New Year of the Tree, Sunday, February 1, 10:00am in the Social Hall. Together we will enjoy symbolic fruits, wine (or grape juice), songs, and activities, and a light lunch to celebrate the beauty of the earth and our responsibility to care for it. No prior experience necessary, just bring your curiosity and your spirit.</div><div>Everyone welcome! Especially recommended for anyone school age through adults of any age! Please let us know if you can volunteer to bring a dairy pot luck lunch item to share, or if you can assist with set-up or clean up. RSVP to ritual@vassartemple.org</div></div></div></div></div><div data-bbox="90 2707 1467 2996" data-label="Complex-Block"><div><div><div><div>Meet Your Government Officials</div><div>Vassar Temple is presenting an on-going program providing you the opportunity to meet your government officials from various branches of state, local and federal government. Utilizing the format of a town hall meeting, the presenter will make preliminary remarks, and then the opportunity to ask questions will be open to the community. This program will increase your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various public officials, while allowing them to get to know the local Jewish community.</div><div>The next program will be held Sunday, February. 22, 3:00pm, and the guests will be City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers and Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards. Looking ahead, on Sunday March 8, 3:00m, the guest will be Family Court Judge Hon. Jeffrey C. Martin. For further information, contact the Temple's Civic Engagement Committee at civicengagement@vassartemple.org.</div></div></div></div></div><div data-bbox="90 3024 455 3061" data-label="Page-Footer"><p>www.jewishdutchess.org 10</p></div></div></div></div></div></div>
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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, 2/8/26, (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.

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

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

Weekly Services:
Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00pm,
Kid Friendly Intergenerational Shabbat
First Fridays 6:00pm
Saturday
Shabbat Service10:00am

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

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



February Candle Lighting Schedule	
February 6	5:00pm
February 13	5:08pm
February 20	5:17pm
February 27	5:26pm

Jewish Life at Vassar College,
a part of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life
and Contemplative Practices presents:

Songs from the Beit Midrash
Album Release Concert Gathering



with Rabbi Deborah Sacks-Mintz
and her full ensemble!

Thursday, February 26th at 7:00 PM in the AULA

Join Deborah and ensemble in a celebration of this album’s release – delving into the melodies, unpacking the texts, and exploring the communal possibilities embedded within!

Questions: contact Rabbi Bryan Mann
bryanmann@vassar.edu

Co-sponsored by the Vassar Music Department
With additional support from The Warner Fund, Inc.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations or information on accessibility must contact the Campus Activities Office, (845) 437-5370



Vassar Temple Hanukkah Dinner & Candle lighting



Challah bake at Schomre Israel



Arlington Business District Holiday Festival



Learning about Chanukkah at Congregation Schomre Israel



Temple Beth-El's Bright Nights coat drive successfully donated more than 350 coats, hats, gloves, and scarves (plus 200 handmade hats and scarves from our Mitzvah Knitters) to children in the Poughkeepsie City School District.

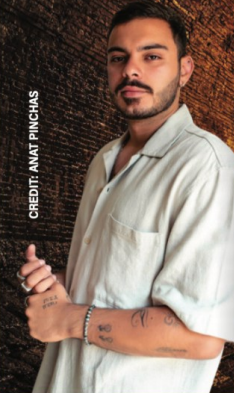


Jewish Federation of Dutchess County's Annual Meeting, with special guest speaker Yardena Schwartz, author of "Ghosts of a Holy War". Honoring this year's Maccabee awardees: Jesse Lunin-Pack, Pastor Luis Perez, Maurice and Cindy Shnaider.

CHABAD MID-HUDSON VALLEY
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DUTCHESS COUNTY
PRESENTS

MY NIGHTMARE IN A HAMAS TUNNEL

A FORMER HOSTAGE, OMER WENKERT, SHARES HIS HARROWING ORDEAL
505 DAYS IN CAPTIVITY



On October 7, Omer Wenkert arrived to spend time with his close friend Kim Damti R.I.P at the Nova Festival. When the attack began, they reached a shelter at the entrance to Kibbutz Re'im. Omer managed to contact his parents and tell them about what was happening, but shortly after, he was abducted to Gaza by the Hamas organization. Omer's family learned about the abduction through a video released by Hamas, in which he is seen handcuffed, lying in a pickup truck surrounded by terrorists. Omer was in captivity for 505 days, underground and under inhumane conditions, 197 of those days entirely alone. On February 22, 2025, Omer was released and returned to freedom victorious.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 • 6:00 PM
Location to be given upon confirmation of registration and payment
Admission: \$36 | Light Refreshments
RSVP required: Chabadmidhudson@gmail.com or call 917-468-6128 • 845-463-5801

CHABAD OF MID-HUDSON VALLEY



Shy Chefs @ Schomre's Chanukkah Dinner

Community Purim Carnival is March 1, 2026
See page 6 for more info.

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.



Hope comes in many forms

For some, it means more time to make them laugh, cherishing each moment with loved ones.

Hudson Valley Hospice

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