

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

9th Annual Jewish Federation Celebration Gala

We The People

We are honored to recognize the **Jewish War Veterans of the United States Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625** and the men and women who serve our nation with courage and integrity.

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Thursday | June 11, 2026
 The Grandview | Poughkeepsie
JewishDutchess.org/Gala

Nearly Half of Jewish Students Report Experiencing Antisemitism on US College Campuses, Survey Finds

By Dion J. Pierre in "the algemeiner", February 18, 2026

The campus antisemitism crisis has changed the college experience for American Jewish students, affecting how they live, socialize, and perceive themselves as Jews, according to new survey results released by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in partnership with Hillel International.

A striking 42 percent of Jewish students reported experiencing antisemitism during their time on campus, and of that group, 55 percent said they felt that being Jewish at a campus event threatened their safety.

The survey also found that 34 percent of Jewish students avoid being detected as Jews, hiding their Jewish identity due to fear of antisemitism.

Meanwhile, 38 percent of Jewish students said they decline to utter pro-Israel viewpoints on campus, including in class, for fear of being targeted by anti-Zionists. The rate of self-censorship is significantly higher for Jewish students who have already been subjected to antisemitism, registering at 68 percent.

"No Jewish student should have to hide their identity out of fear of antisemitism, yet that's the reality for too many students today," Hillel International chief executive officer Adam Lehman said in a statement on Tuesday. "Our work on the ground every day is focused on changing that reality by creating environments where all Jewish students can find welcoming communities and can fully and proudly express their Jewish identities without fear or concern."

The survey, included in AJC's new "The State of Antisemitism in America" report, added that 32 percent of Jewish students feel that campus groups promote antisemitism or a learning environment that is hostile to Jews, while 25 percent said that antisemitism was the basis of their being "excluded from a group or an event on campus."

Jewish students endure these indignities while preserving their overwhelming support for Israel. Sixty-nine percent of those surveyed identified caring about Israel as a central component of Jewish identity and 76 percent agreed that calling for its destruction or describing it as an illegitimate state is antisemitic.

"While we welcome the fact that the vast majority of campuses have not been disrupted by uncontrolled protests in the past year, the data make clear that Jewish students are still experiencing antisemitism on their campuses," Laura Shaw Frank, the AJC's vice president of its Center for Education Advocacy, said in a statement. "This survey gives us a critical look into the less visible, but no less important problems, that Jews face on campus."

She continued, "Understanding the ways in which Jews are being excluded and changing their behavior out of fear of antisemitism is vitally important as we

(Continued on page 8)

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

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Learn how to recognize suspicious activity, implement safety plans, & prevent dangerous situations from escalating.

Thursday, March 12 6:30 PM

COMMUNITY SECURITY SERVICE

Hands-on session led by **Ofer Shalom**, Director of Training, Community Security Service (CSS).

Introduction to Krav Maga, an Israeli self-defense discipline, designed to notice pre-attack indicators for real-world situations.

Wednesday, March 18 6:00 PM

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JewishDutchess.org/Events
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Dan Slater is a widely published journalist and creative nonfiction author, former legal-affairs reporter for The Wall Street Journal, and graduate of Colgate University and Brooklyn Law School.

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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.



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Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

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The Voice

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The Voice
 PO Box 2525
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

JFS presents cultural, social, and educational programs.

Location
 Temple Beth-El
 118 S Grand Ave
 Poughkeepsie NY

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!

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.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 11 | Exploring Dutchess County: The Power of Tourism and the Joy of Discovery with Melaine Rottkamp, Dutchess County Tourism.
Menu: pasta primavera, salad, fruit, gelato bars |
| March 25 | Join us to learn about WWII Los Alamos with author Galina Vromen, whose acclaimed historical novel <i>Hill of Secrets</i> , explores the daily life of scientists and their families as the world's first atomic bomb was secretly developed in their midst.
Menu: tuna and egg salad sandwiches, olives, potato chips, lettuce, ice cream bars |

*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****

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



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

FREE tax preparation assistance for qualifying tax filers is available from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's IRS trained and certified volunteers and the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition.

Assistance is available to low to moderate income residents through April 10, 2026, by appointment only. There are over 30 tax sites in the Hudson Valley region, including many in Dutchess County and nearby. Appointments are available six days a week, days and evenings.

To schedule an appointment, call United Way's Hudson Valley Region Helpline, 211 (1-800-899-1479). The 211 Helpline is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

In Dutchess County, tax prep venues are located in Beacon, East Fishkill, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Hyde Park, Millerton, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie (City and Town), Tivoli, Wappingers Falls, and Wingdale.

Filers do not have to be AARP members or older adults to receive service. 211 call specialists will review each caller's eligibility and, if within the scope of the program, schedule an appointment.

FRAUD PREVENTION FOR THE HARD OF HEARING

OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones will be giving a presentation on scam and fraud protection for members of the hearing loss community and their caregivers, on Tuesday, March 17th at 5:15 pm, at the Pleasant Valley Library (1584 Main St (US 44), Pleasant Valley).

It's open to the public and recommended for people with hearing loss and/or family members with hearing loss. To register, visit hearingloss-midhudson.org, email hearingloss.midhudson@gmail.com, or call (845) 489-7008.



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April Events

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4/13 Community Yom HaShoah
@ DCC

4/14 Yom HaShoah with the FDR
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4/16 L'Chaim
with Chuck Mishaan—"The Great
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At recent meetings, *some scraps of courtly conversation* between members included:

- "My model train collection fills our basement."
- "You know a lot about health insurance. Can you tell me if..."
- "We are going to Vietnam next week."
- "Do you know about the Harding Club Tzedakah program?"
- "With everything in the news, I am rereading Adam Smith." "Amazing, I am rereading De Tocqueville now."
- "Our anniversary is next month. Is there a special restaurant in the Hudson Valley you recommend?"
- "I am active in this charity because..."
- "I think it's great too. Each night we stream one episode."

Of these *snippets*, some may be expected. Several may be *surprising*. But they all *reflect a recurring, resonant* theme: People sharing ideas and experiences, as they get to know each other.

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

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

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

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

Irvin Miller, president, irvinmiller@gmail.com

Jim Thrasher, vice president, jdt845@gmail.com

Dave Lowitz, secretary, dlowitz@aol.com

JEWS IN THE NEWS.

Highlights, updates, and happenings of our Jewish business members of the community.



Sam and Joann Cohen presented a special sold out show on Valentine's Day based on her book "Sorry We're Open" at the Matchbox Café in Rhinebeck.



Next Gen: Matthew Lask

by Alyssa Kogon

Meet Matthew Lask: The Hudson Valley's Ultimate Life of the Party

If you're looking for the secret to a perfect event, you might want to call Matthew Lask. At 33, the Monroe, New York native has turned a lifelong "tag-along" gig into a booming entertainment empire, all while keeping the heart and hustle of a local kid who just wants everyone to have a good time.



Growing up in the Maple Knolls development, Matt was the "baby" of the family—the younger brother to Joshua and Ariel. While his father, Scott, navigated the world of finance and his mother, Caren, taught ultrasound technology, Matt was finding his own rhythm. His childhood was a classic mix of moderate Jewish traditions, Hebrew school, and a healthy dose of "nerdy geek" hobbies like video games and puzzles.

Matt's journey to becoming the CEO of fun wasn't a straight line. After a leadership-heavy stint at UMass Amherst—where he co-founded a chapter of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity—he graduated with a degree in Kinesiology. He originally planned to be a physical therapist, but the universe (and his brother) had other plans.

Matt's brother, Joshua, had been running a DJ business since his own Bar Mitzvah. Matt started out as the "kid brother" helper, but the experience stuck. After a brief detour selling water filtration systems and doing construction work, a chance request to return to the vendor list of entertainers at Anthony's Pier 9 sparked a new flame. When his brother declined to jump back in, Matt saw an opportunity.

Enter: **The Hudson Valley Event Group.**

Today, Matt runs a full-service entertainment powerhouse based in Monroe, serving the entire tri-state area. Whether it's a high-energy Bar Mitzvah, a romantic wedding, or a sleek corporate conference, Matt's team brings the "heart, passion, and energy" that sets them apart. From live music and DJs to air hockey and photo booths, Matt ensures every client gets a VIP experience. In fact, he's so dedicated that his clients often have him on speed dial—texting him directly to iron out every last detail.

When he isn't busy motivating crowds or managing operations, Matt is "actively getting better at spare time." You might find him behind a drum kit, playing a challenging round of *Settlers of Catan* with friends, or spending time with his close-knit family.

And for those wondering—yes, he is currently single! This hardworking entrepreneur is still looking for a "Mrs." to join him on his next adventure. Until then, he'll be doing what he does best: making sure the Hudson Valley never misses a beat.

Upcoming Community Seder

Community Seder

Vassar Temple is planning a First Night Seder Wednesday evening, April 1, to be led by Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh.

For further information contact office@vassartemple.org or (845) 454-2570.

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

Rabbi's Blog by Rabbi Shlomo Krasner

Moving forward

There is a custom observed after the week of *shiva* for a loved one: the mourner steps outside and walks around the house. Though the heart may still feel torn, this quiet act symbolizes an essential truth - the world continues, and so must we. It marks the first step toward healing, a gentle movement from isolation back into life. It is not the end of grief, but the beginning of forward motion.



Rabbi Shlomo Krasner

This past week, we witnessed the return of the final soldier, the final hostage, the final hero — Ran Gvili — laid to rest by his family. Members of the Jewish Community of Dutchess removed their dog tags and yellow ribbons, symbols of mourning and broken hearts. For as long as one member of our extended Jewish family was missing, someone was missing from all of our homes. That shared sense of loss was felt here in Dutchess and across the globe.

Now we take those symbolic steps outside — but what comes next? After closure, where do our love, unity, and emotion go?

The first step, perhaps, is gratitude. Gratitude to Hashem for the return of every hero to a dignified burial. Gratitude to Hashem for belonging to a people who feel each other's pain, and at times celebrations, across oceans and continents. A tragedy that occurred more than five thousand miles away was deeply felt here. For 842 days, the absence of one soldier weighed on our collective heart. And when he was returned, we stood together in respect.

We must not underestimate the beauty of this bond. The Jewish people are bound not merely by history, but by responsibility and love. That same love must extend to the soldiers of the IDF who continue to stand on the front lines, protecting Jewish lives - and by extension, protecting all of us.

But moving forward requires more than reflection; it requires action.

We must continue to love and support one another as family. Loving our fellow Jew does not require agreement on every issue. It requires a shared commitment: when one of us needs the other, we show up. Jewish history, especially the Purim story and our own recent history, repeatedly teaches that division weakens us, while unity strengthens us. Healing requires what our tradition calls *ahavat chinam* - love given freely, without condition. Only through such love can fractured bonds be restored.

We must also continue to advocate for the safety, dignity, and rights of the State of Israel and of Jewish communities worldwide. Across the country and around the world, individuals participate in forums, letter-writing campaigns, and public advocacy efforts. These collective voices have made a difference. In many cases, injustices have been reversed, harmful narratives challenged, and antisemitic actions confronted. Even when immediate success is not visible, the message is clear: antisemitism will not go unanswered, and truth matters. Advocacy is not only civic responsibility; it is an expression of care for one another - and, in its own way, a showing of our unity and love for each other to Hashem and a silent prayer for protection.

As Israel continues to heal from profound wounds, there is one additional truth we must internalize: Israel has the fundamental right to exist and to protect its citizens. In today's media landscape, narratives are often framed through bias. When accusations are made - even by those whose credibility has been proven to be deeply compromised - they can be amplified without scrutiny. It is our responsibility to approach such claims with discernment. At a minimum, we must seek accurate information, research thoughtfully, and stand for truth.

Living in America grants us freedoms and security. Criticizing Israel based solely on incomplete or biased reporting, without engaging in careful inquiry is arrogant and foolish. "Queen Of The Jews" Karen introduced me to a succinct pamphlet, *The Ten Big Anti-Israel Lies: And How to Refute Them with Truth* and if you are confused it is a great way to start to understand and support the truth. (The Federation may still have some free copies available in their office before you go to Amazon.)

Stepping outside after *shiva* does not erase grief. It acknowledges it - and then chooses life. As a people, we have taken that step together. The question before us is how we will walk forward.

- May we walk with gratitude.
- May we walk with unity.
- May we walk with courage.
- May we choose to move forward not only healed, but stronger - bound together by love, guided by truth, and worthy of the beautiful family we are privileged to be part of.



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 **Melinda Sims** who took time from her interior design business, *Simply Designed Interiors*, to answer our questions. (www.simplydesignedinteriors.com)



Melinda Sims

- 1. What is your favorite/least favorite word?**
Favorite: *Okie Dokie... It's just a fun word.*
Least Favorite: *I Can't...Yes, you can!.*
- 2. What inspires you?** *Women who overcome challenges and are able to thrive.*
- 3. What is your favorite song?**
Taylor Swift's "You're on Your Own, Kid".
- 4. What profession other than you own would you like to attempt?**
I think I would be a good crime investigator. I love a puzzle.
- 5. What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt?** *A politician.*
- 6. What do you most like and dislike about yourself?**
Like: *I think I'm well rounded and able to "figure it out" in many situations.*
Dislike: *I like things done in a certain way...the right way...my way...lol.*
- 7. What is your favorite Jewish food/dessert?** *Brisket.*
- 8. What is one interesting thing that people don't know about you?**
My 11-year old daughter is teaching me to play the piano.
- 9. If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?** *I would like to be able to talk to animals. I would love to know what my dog, Jack, has to say.*
- 10. What is your greatest achievement/something you are most proud of?** *Starting my own business during COVID.*
- 11. Do you have a "bucket list" and, if so, what is on it?**
For my 50th birthday, I want to go on an African safari with my family.
- 12. What is your earliest Jewish memory?** *When I was younger, during the Seder, I was in charge of passing out the soup while my grandmother poured it in the bowls. It was something we did together.*
- 13. What is your most favorite Jewish memory?**
I enjoy lighting the candles during Chanukah. My kids always argue over which menorah we light each night, and inevitably, we end up lighting at least four.
- 14. If there were one thing you would hope others do in the interest of our future, what would that be?**
I wish people would treat each other with respect and dignity.
- 15. In what ways, does or can JFedDC impact our Jewish community?**
I love your community events. Especially how you combine other faiths and religions for the same cause.
- 16. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?**
"You did well, kid."
- 17. What is one question you wish we asked and what is the answer?**
Q: *What is your favorite food?*
A: *Mexican.*

*Member of the Tribe



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino hosting a menorah lighting.



Nosh and a Good Book with Barry Joseph, author of *Matching Minds with Sondheim*. In partnership with Poughkeepsie Public Library & the Jewish Book Council



Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County

JEWISH SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

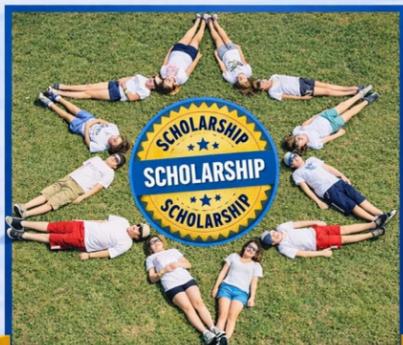
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Temple Beth-El had a morning of fun with our younger friends and learned all about Tu B'Shevat. We made trees, read stories and learned all about the holiday through movement and food. Join us on March 22 when we explore the holiday of Passover together. Open to families with children ages 2-7. Contact Nancy at educationj118@gmail.com for more info.

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

CONGREGATION SHIR CHADASH

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

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

PARDESS HEBREW SCHOOL

Sunday, 10:00am-12:00pm

For information
www.mypardess.org/hebrewschool

RHINEBECK JEWISH CENTER

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

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

KULANU SCHOOL at TEMPLE BETH-EL

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

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

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

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

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

VASSAR TEMPLE

Vassar Temple provides a program of education within the guidelines of the Reform Movement, which deepens a student's Jewish experience and knowledge within an accepting, stimulating, and creative learning environment. Our philosophy of Jewish learning is based on the quotation from Pirke Avot, "The world depends on three things: on Torah, on worship, and on deeds of loving kindness."

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

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

Community Purim Carnival 2026

- A SCIENCE SHOW BY NUTTY SCIENTISTS
- BALLOON ARTISTRY BY DARRYL BIELSKI
- DRESS IN COSTUME FOR CONTEST & PARADE
- CARNIVAL GAMES & PRIZES
- LIGHT NOSH
- BOUNCE HOUSE
- CRAFTS & MORE



SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 AM

Temple Beth-El
118 S Grand Ave Poughkeepsie

Suggested Donation
\$8 per person/\$18 Per Family

Scan QR code or register at:
www.jewishdutchess.org/events



פורים
lots
Purim

Here's a Purim craft from: www.makeitjewish.com

Purim Paper Plate Mask

Materials:

- Paper plate ("regular" paper plates don't hold up as well with paint, so if you want to paint your mask, use a sturdier paper plate and preferably a recycled one)
- Craft stick
- Scissors
- Paint in whatever color(s) you like
- Glue
- Sequins, feathers, pom poms, gems, and/or whatever you'd like to use



How to:

1. Cut your paper plate in half.
2. Draw two semicircles for the eye holes; you can use the cap of a vitamin bottle as a stencil so that the two eye holes would be even.
3. Paint the main part of your mask. You can also paint the craft stick.
4. If you'd like, make something extra for your mask using the other half. I made a crown.
5. After the paint is thoroughly dry, glue on whatever materials you like to the mask.
6. Glue the craft stick to the mask.

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: March 21, 28, April 4, 18, & May 2, 9, 23

SAVE THE DATE: 4/19/2026



THE FIRST 8 PJ LIBRARY FAMILIES TO REGISTER WILL RECEIVE A FREE, 1 YEAR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP TO THE MID-HUDON DISCOVERY MUSEUM!
(YOU MUST ATTEND ON 4/19 TO BE ELIGIBLE)

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

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST EVER
MID-HUDSON DISCOVERY MUSEUM EXCLUSIVE EVENT!
PRE-REGISTER TODAY AT PROGRAMS@JEWISHDUTCHESS.ORG.

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



Tamatha



Suzanne



Hamantaschen Happiness by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

When I entered the room, I saw lots of busy little hands rolling dough, sprinkling flour and folding their delicious-looking cookies into the shape of Haman's hat. I smiled as I recalled the familiar hamantaschen smell from Vassar's Tiny Temple event the year before.

My daughter and I were quickly given a refresher course in how to fold the dough and we excitedly rolled up our sleeves and got to work. The table across the room was filled with a rainbow of hamantaschen, from raspberry fruit filling, poppyseed, chocolate and colorful jams. While many of the adults in the room worked busily to package the cookies for distribution, I awaited the arrival of the youngest, the Tiny Temple children. Soon, little feet scurried in and my daughter diligently began handing out the craft project that I had prepared. As the children sat, they began to peel colorful circular stickers. They strategically placed them on their sheets, bringing images of graggers, hamantaschen, castles and Queen Esther to life.

After the crafting was completed, Rabbi Jeff helped us get our wiggles out, dancing and singing to the rhythm of his acoustic guitar. Before Tiny Temple concluded, I read a clever PJ Library book, *The Better-Than-Best Purim* by Naomi Howland. While Bubbie was busy baking the best hamantaschen ever, the cross-eyed cat, the one-spot dog and the parrot pretended to be too busy to help her. The story has a twist at the end as the busy animals surprise Bubbie with a very well-prepared and well-decorated Purim celebration. While the story itself was delightful, the highlight of the book was listening to my young daughter read some pages of the story that she had practiced with me earlier that morning. It was indeed hamantaschen happiness.



Purim by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

Purim means casting lots or lottery. It's a celebration of Jewish deliverance. It's a joyous festival with themes of courage, unity and hidden miracles. We think about what it means to be brave. Bravery isn't the absence of fear but acting in spite of it. We all know how difficult it is to be brave and to stand in the face of adversity. It means making tough choices and taking the next steps. It means living within your own values and being able to say no if necessary. Bravery also means taking risks and facing fears head on. May we all be brave like Queen Esther and find the strength to fight for what is right.

Exciting News For Families With Young Children

Some exciting news for families with young children in Dutchess County: this summer Temple Beth-El (TBE) is piloting a Jewish summer camp for 5 days from June 29-July 3 for children ages 5-12. Our Camp Kulanu (means "all of us") underwritten by the Dr. Sam Simon Scholarship Fund, is a place where children will be surrounded by experienced, caring counselors who love finding new ways to merge Jewish values with awesome, fun activities.



At Camp Kulanu, we will be playing sports, baking, being creative through art, movement, music and stories. In addition, each of the 5 days of camp will be based on a theme around a Jewish value. A guest from a local organization that helps our community (based on our theme for the day) will visit us to explain what they do.

For more information: call 845-454-0570 or email Nancy: educationnj118@gmail.com

The Federation Board's Voice



Adam Belok

Antisemitism Thru Rembrandt's Eyes in the 1600's (Understanding "The Esther Cult")

During the 17th Century in Amsterdam, painters and printmakers flourished. It became a major center for business, European trade, and cultural pride. A new realistic style of painting emerged known as "The Old Dutch Masters", Rembrandt van Rijn best known among them. Although not Jewish, he lived modestly outside Amsterdam among ethnic diversity and inspired his students and peers to endorse "Realism" where both regular citizens and nobility could be depicted together whether obese, or withered, in street clothes, or in fantastical finery. Often contrasting class distinctions were displayed in the same painting. Many canvases and prints from the period showed some dusty bare soles of feet, exalting all walks of life often as a momentary snapshot of a scene.

A new wave of expression emerged celebrating Holland's fight for independence from Spain, choosing the story of Esther- making her challenge of saving the Jews a graphic iconic symbol for the Netherland's recent liberation from the Spanish monarchy. (Both Jews and Non-Jewish artists alike pictured Esther in Bible and Torah illustrations exhibited.) Her plight to save her people resonated from Amsterdam across Europe during the 17th century as "Queen of the Jews", representing her as a heroic dynamic savior, symbolic of both political and religious freedom. Esther's story was set in what was known as Persia, now Iran, involving Sephardic Jews who hid their identity for survival. After Queen Vashti was dismissed, King Achashverous (486-465 BCE) married Esther, not knowing she was one of those perpetually persecuted Jews. Mordechai, her cousin, advised her to challenge a decree that would eliminate Jews in the Kingdom.

Esther avoided the regional ethnic cleansing of Jews when Achashverous' kingdom stretched from India to Ethiopia. Her confidence, leadership, and cultural pride were displayed by Rembrandt, his students, and peers. Both Jewish and non-Jewish artists depicted bold colors, satins, velvets, brocade, tapestries, silk and lace, crowned turbans, and attendants including slaves, presented in contrasting costumes supposedly from the Middle East over a thousand years previous. "Realism" represented the Netherlands' recent independence and liberation from the Spanish Inquisition. Meanwhile, Holland had built architecturally monumental headquarters, and edifices for regional trade and cultural exchange. Graphic artists of the period portrayed inner strength, expressed national pride honoring Queen Esther in visual arts that have lasted, not just in illustrated Megillahs but also in paintings by many Dutch Masters included in the show

I couldn't help but feel a surge of pride at the exhibit, learning that Rembrandt and his contemporaries had deep respect for Jewish cultural heritage. Rembrandt's community was a mecca for immigrants and transients. He recognized the challenges of "Conversos", victims of coerced religious conversion and Marranos (a pejorative label on Jews meaning 'swine' in Spanish.) That Rembrandt and his fellow artists understood the disease of antisemitism within their communities, brought another layer of epiphany for me. Visiting the exhibit last year generated renewed pride to being Jewish, not just in recalling several millennia of history, but also our parents' and grandparents' struggle for survival as we remember them.

Our Executive Director



We Are One

One of the beauties in life is our differences. Not everyone needs to be the same or like the same things, though respecting one another should be the basis and foundation of everything. We joke in our family about that is why Baskin Robbins makes 31 flavors. Some of us prefer going to the theatre. Some prefer culinary experiences. Others like attending sporting events and of course, there are people like me who enjoy all the above.

When it comes to sports, not only was I on a soccer team and swim team (go JCC swim team!), I also played tennis and did gymnastics. In addition to playing sports, I enjoyed watching them on tv. There are so many positive lessons to be learned from sports (an article for another time), and yet there is also the fun side of spending a Sunday afternoon kicking back to cheer on your favorite team. That being said, some people do get a little obsessed at times, like my NYC flatmate who once told me I had to stand in the same spot, same position, the entire basketball game because her team started winning when I entered the room. There are also those who sometimes spend as much time cheering against the other team as they do towards their own team.

I find there to be one exception when Americans can put down their differences of local teams and all come together to cheer together to support the one same team. That team would be Team USA at the Olympics. There was a great commercial in which obvious opposing sports fans started giving each other the stink eye until the tv came on and suddenly everyone was cheering for the same Team U-S-A! How great and wonderful that we could come together, find commonality, put down our differences and focus on what we shared and were aligned in common goal.

I question why we cannot find similar commonality and things that connect us and unify us instead of being pulled apart by the differences. When our Board had a retreat last year, we started with the initial objective of coming together, to unify, and ensure that we were all in the same boat, rowing in the same direction, to achieve success at the same finish line. There was a realization that if we focused on things we had in common, we could work in a positive, constructive, strategic manner. At this session, of our 6 pillars formulated during our previous 5-year strategic plan, we decided that this year we will be focusing on Community Building (within the Jewish community), Community Partnering (within the greater community) and Antisemitism/Security (particularly with an effort for safety for all, and especially our children in K-12 schools). We will not stop doing any of our other amazing work, but with this focus, we can create objectives, desired goals, and strategic plans around those pillars.

As we are beginning to form these committees, if you have some time and interest, we are looking to expand the committees to include more community members. Please feel free to call our office or email events@jewishdutchess.org for more information. And while we know that we are stronger together, we also know that united we stand, divided we fall.

Wishing you warmth and health,
Karen Hochhauser,
JFedDC Executive Director

(Antisemitism on College Campuses continued from page 1)

work with institutions of higher education to create truly inclusive campus communities."

The AJC and Hillel's survey results are consistent with others in which Jewish students have participated in recent months.

According to a recent survey of Jewish undergraduates of the University of Pennsylvania (Penn), a significant portion of Jewish students still find the climate on campus to be hostile and feel the need to hide their identity over two years after the campus saw an explosion of extreme anti-Zionist activity and Nazi graffiti.

The survey, conducted by Penn's local Hillel International chapter, found that 40 percent of respondents said it is difficult to be Jewish at Penn and 45 percent said they "feel uncomfortable or intimidated because of their Jewish identity or relationship with Israel."

Meanwhile, the results showed a staggering 85 percent of survey participants reported hearing about, witnessing, or experiencing "something antisemitic," as reported by Franklin's Forum, an alumni-led online outlet which posts newsletters regarding developments at the university. Another 31 percent of Jewish Penn students said they feel the need to hide their Jewishness to avoid discrimination, which is sometimes present in the classroom, as 26 percent of respondents said they have "experienced antisemitic or anti-Israel comments from professors."

Overall, 80 percent of Jewish students hold that anti-Israel activity is "often" antisemitic and that Israel's conduct in war is "held to an unfair standard compared to other nations."

College faculty play an outsized role in promoting antisemitism on the campus, according to a new study by AMCHA Initiative which focused on the University of California system. The study, titled "When Faculty Take Sides: How Academic Infrastructure Drives Antisemitism at the University of California," exposed Oct. 7 denialism; faculty calling for driving Jewish institutions off campus; the founding of pro-Hamas, Faculty for Justice in Palestine groups; and hundreds of endorsers of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

The University of California system is a microcosm of faculty antisemitism across the US, the AMCHA Initiative explained in the exhaustive 158-page report, which focused on the Los Angeles, Berkeley, and Santa Cruz campuses.

"The report documents how concentrated networks of faculty activists on each campus, often operating through academic units and faculty-led advocacy formations, convert institutional platforms into vehicles for organized anti-Zionist advocacy and mobilization," the report stated. "It shows how those pathways are associated with recurring student harms and broader campus disruption. It then outlines concrete steps the UC Regents can take to restore institutional neutrality in academic units and set enforceable boundaries so UC resources and authority are not used to advance activist agendas inside the university's core educational functions."

HOLDING ON TO HOPE *By Jonah Ritter*

It has been said that "becoming a hero is something that happens to you" because true heroism is often not a calculated choice or a desire for fame, but rather a response to circumstances that forces an ordinary person to act with extraordinary courage. Omer Wenkert became a hero to the Jewish community on Oct. 7, 2023 when he was taken hostage and then held for 505 days by Hamas in a Gaza tunnel, nearly 200 of which was in dark isolation.

Wednesday evening, 2/11/26, Chabad of the Mid-Hudson Valley in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County hosted Omer to share his survival story in Poughkeepsie NY to a room of 128. Omer's story was riveting; the audience hung on every word.

Omer was beaten, starved, psychologically tortured, and deprived of every basic dignity. His captors treated him worse than a dog as they sought to rob Omer of his humanity and spirit. Omer refused to give up hope and instead chose to be grateful.

Omer's testimony is an amazing example of what a human being is capable of. Omer doesn't strike one as the hero type, which made his testimony even more compelling because many of us may have found ourselves in a situation where we could lose hope. Perhaps it was due to a terrible case of cancer or other debilitating illness, financial ruin, or other great challenges.

In a somber moment, prayers and a yahrzeit candle were offered for Israelis who perished or have been wounded in the Gaza war.

Omer's approach to survival was to hold on to hope. His ways mirrored what Viktor Frankl described in his 1946 book *Man's Search for Meaning*; Frankl's seminal memoir and psychological study detailing survival in Nazi concentration camps.

Omer Wenkert's story made every Jew in the room feel something profound. The Jewish Federation is proud to have supported this tremendous Chabad of the Mid-Hudson Valley program.

May our joy increase! Chag Purim Sameach.



Passover Center

Find everything you need for a Zissen Pesach, all strictly Kosher for Passover.

9.99 with AdvantEdge Card
SAVE \$4 WITH
5.99 AdvantEdge Coupons
Final Price

Limit one coupon per offer per customer.

Streit's Passover Matzos
5 Lb.

2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card
SAVE \$1 WITH
2/\$5 AdvantEdge Coupons
Final Price WHEN YOU BUY 2

Limit one coupon per offer per customer.

Streit's Cake Meal, Matzo Meal or Farfel
16 oz. • Select Varieties

15.79 lb.

Meal Mart
1st Cut Kosher Beef Brisket

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Empire Kosher
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2/\$9 with AdvantEdge Card

Kedem Concord Grape Juice
64 oz.
Other Varieties \$4.99 ea.

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Kedem Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz. • Select Varieties

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Breakstone's Whipped Butter
8 oz. • Salted

10.99 with AdvantEdge Card

Ungar's Gefilte Fish
20 oz. • Select Varieties

1.99 with AdvantEdge Card

Silver Spring Horseradish
5 oz. • Select Varieties

18.99 with AdvantEdge Card

Empire Kosher Boneless Chicken Breasts
2 Lb. • Frozen

13.99 with AdvantEdge Card

Meal Mart Frozen Chicken & Turkey Nuggets
Passover • 21 oz.

9.99 with AdvantEdge Card

Meal Mart Kosher Frozen Ground Beef
16 oz.

<p>Manischewitz Matzo Ball & Soup Mix 2/\$4 4.5-5 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Gefen Pasta or Pizza Sauce 3.99 24-26 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Savion Fruit Slices 3.99 6 oz. or Streit's Fruit Slices 8 oz.</p>
<p>Streit's Matzo Ball & Soup Mix 2/\$4 4.5 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Streit's Potato Starch 2/\$5 12 oz.</p>	<p>Streit's Meringue Cookies 6.99 2 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>Terra Chips 2/\$7 5-5.5 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Manischewitz Chicken Broth 2/\$6 17 oz. or Low Sodium</p>	<p>Manischewitz or Streit's Macaroons 3.99 10 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>Osem Consomme 8.99 14.1 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Streit's Cooking Oil 7.49 24 oz.</p>	<p>Manischewitz or Streit's Cake Mix 6.49 11.5-15 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>Yehuda Gefilte Fish 5.99 24 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Yehuda Cake Meal, Matzo Meal or Farfel 2/\$5 9-16 oz.</p>	<p>Jovya Jell Rings 5.99 9 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>Mrs. Adler's Gefilte Fish 5.49 24 oz. • Select Varieties</p>	<p>Heinz Passover Ketchup 5.99 24.7 oz.</p>	<p>Streit's Chocolate Covered Matzos 4.99 7 oz. • Select Varieties</p>
<p>Golds Borscht 2.99 32 oz.</p>	<p>Granny's Toasted Coconut Marshmallows 3.99 10 oz.</p>	<p>Granny's Marshmallows 2/\$7 10 oz. • White or Mini</p>

2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card

Streit's Egg Matzos 12 oz.

2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card

Manischewitz Egg Matzos 10.5 oz.

2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card

Manischewitz Matzos 16 oz.

2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card

Streit's Passover Matzos 16 oz.

Plus, we have all of your fresh produce needs for your Seder!

Offers effective Sunday, February 22 thru Saturday, April 11, 2026 in all Market 32, Price Chopper and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.

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

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

REICHES FÜR EINEN SÜSSEN NEUJAHRS

Your Name

Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Small—A

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

Your Name

Medium—C

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!

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!

Your Name

Congregation Schomre Israel

(Orthodox)
18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie
(845) 454-2890
Rabbi Shlomo Krasner
Website: www.schomreisrael.org
Email: rabbishlomok@gmail.com

Weekly Services:

Shacharis 7:00am (weekdays)
Shacharis 8:30am (Sunday & holidays)
Maariv: 6:40pm (winter weekdays)
Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: around candle lighting times.

Adult Education:

Tuesday

Ethics of the Fathers through the Prism of History, and the Views of the Jewish Sages, Philosophers, Thinkers, Kabbalists, & Pious 10:30am (no classes 3/3/26). 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, (no classes 3/3/26). 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, 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:

Sunday

Wednesday

Pre Passover Info.— Rabbi Krasner is happy to help you fulfill the mitzvah of selling your Chometz. This transaction should be completed by March 25. You can find a form to fill out on synagogues' website.

Thursday

Rosh Chodesh breakfast March 19, following 8:00am Shacharis Service to mark the beginning of the month of Nissan.

Saturday

Movie Night March 14, 7:00pm. Movie TBD.

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

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

Monday

Book Club Gathering March 9, 2:00pm. The *Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick, contact Merri Sedgwick for info at moondoggier7@optonline.net.

Wednesday

Mitzvah Knitters 10:30am, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, March 4, 18. Come join our friendly group of knitters. No experience needed. We'll teach you!

Friday

Shabbat Table March 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 connections.

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 March 6, 13, 27, 7:00pm, March 20, 6:00pm.

Saturday

New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship March 7, 21, 10:15am.

Shabbat Healing Service March 14.

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. Join our lively discussions. Contact office@vassartemple.org to be placed on the Torah Study e-mail list.

Other Events:

Monday

Vassar Temple Purim March 2. We open with our Annual Vegetarian Pasta Dinner, presented by the Brotherhood, at 5:45pm. Please RSVP for the dinner as soon as possible to office@vassartemple.org and let us know of any special dietary needs. This will be followed at 7:00pm by a megillah reading and Purim Spiel on the theme "A Night at the Movies," full of humor, music and surprises. Come dressed as your favorite character from any movie or from the Purim story. And be sure to bring a box of pasta, to shake like a gragger. Afterward, your boxes of pasta will be donated to a local food pantry. For Zoom link contact office@vassartemple.org.

Saturday

New Paths Service March 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, or to borrow our special prayer book.

Healing Service March 14, 10:15am. Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh & Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann. This beautiful service is designed for anyone praying for healing of the body, soul or spirit for themselves or others, for caregivers, and for anyone, for any reason, in need of spiritual strength. The service will include prayers, reflections and songs that focus on healing and on Shabbat. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend the service, which will be hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). For the Zoom link, watch temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org

Sunday

Tea & Togetherness March 15, 2:00pm. Come & enjoy tea, spirits, light bites, desserts & fellowship as we come together to nourish body & community. All proceeds will support & sustain the Vassar Temple Sisterhood Kitchen Fund. Feel free to dress up--a fascinator or an ascot is encouraged to add a touch of fun & flair. Bring a poetry reading to share, if you wish; subjects may include spring, food, friendship, togetherness, or a topic of your choice. The menu includes delectable gluten-free & dairy-free options. Levels of giving: Sugar Cube: \$54, Creamer: \$72, Tea Pot: 108, Earl Grey/Lady Grey: \$126, Cognac: \$154. RSVP to office@vassartemple.org by 3/10, & let us know of any special dietary needs. If unable to attend, donations in any amount to the VT Sisterhood Kitchen Fund are welcome.

Contact :

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



Making hamantaschen at Vassar Temple

Family Court Judge to Speak March 8

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 on Sunday March 8, from 3-5pm, to meet Dutchess County Family Court judge the Hon. Jeffrey C. Martin. Come with your questions to our Town Hall- style meeting to learn more about the work of Judge Martin and his office. This event also provides an opportunity for our elected officials to get to know our Jewish Community and learn about our concerns. For further information, please contact civicengagement@vassartemple.org.



HIAS Refugee Shabbat March 13

HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) is an international Jewish humanitarian non-profit organization, based on traditional Jewish values, that provides support services to refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced people. It was established in 1881 to assist Jewish immigrants, with offices on Ellis Island; perhaps HIAS assisted some of your ancestors. During the 1970's the U.S. government asked HIAS to lend their expertise and aid in resettling Vietnamese refugees in the USA, and since that time HIAS has taken on the mission of helping refugees of all nationalities, religions and ethnic origins, in fact aiding 4.5 million immigrants since its inception. On March 13, the 8th annual HIAS Refugee Shabbat affords us the opportunity to learn more about this organization and its still timely vital mission of welcoming the stranger, protecting the refugee. During the 7pm Shabbat evening service on March 13 at Vassar Temple, a panel of local experts will share the realities of the current immigrant/refugee situation as it exists in the Hudson Valley today. The panel will include Valerie Carlisle, Muriel Horowitz, Beverly Kaufman, and Berta Forester, a native of Mexico who is now a U.S. citizen. All four panelists are connected to the local chapter of Reunite Migrant Families/Grannies Respond, and work directly with local immigrants in many capacities. The Shabbat service, including the panel discussion, will be hybrid; watch weekly Temple e-mails or contact office@vassartemple.org if you need the Zoom link. For those attending in person, there will be an oneg following the service. For further information please contact socialaction@vassartemple.org.



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



March

Candle Lighting Schedule

March 6	5:34pm
March 13	6:42pm
March 20	6:50pm
March 27	6:57pm



The Greenspan Trust-Handel Foundation Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Dutchess Community College Presents

Dagmar Herzog,
"The Question of Unworthy Life: Disability in Germany Before and After the Holocaust"

Thursday, March 7, 7:00 pm
The James & Betty Hall Theatre
Dutchess Community College

In the name of racial purity and national greatness, the Nazis conducted a campaign of eugenic mass sterilization and eventual murder of hundreds of thousands of people deemed to have mental and physical disabilities. Dr. Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History at the Graduate Center at City University in New York, re-examines the Nazis' first genocide, exploring the involvement of medical professionals, religious charities, and educational institutions. Dr. Herzog is the author of seven books, most recently of *The Question of Unworthy Life: Eugenics and Germany's Twentieth Century* (Princeton University Press, 2024). A book signing will follow the lecture.

The event is free and open to the public. No prior registration is required. For more information, please contact Dr. Werner Steger, Professor of History at Dutchess Community College, at (845) 431-8522 or steger@sunydutchess.edu.

Visitors are advised to park in Lot D (GPS: 90 Cottage Road).



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, 3/8/26, 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.

Don't forget to order your Holiday Greetings by March 8.

See page 9 for more information.



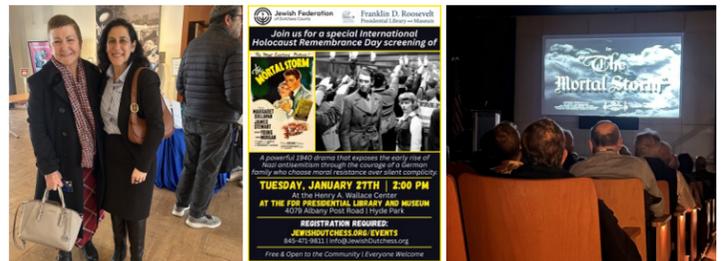
JFedDC's Annual Vodka & Latke Hanukkah Party



Preparing JFedDC's 225 Senior Holiday Gift Bags for Hanukkah



JFedDC's Jewish Book Council Saints and Liars Event with Beacon Hebrew Alliance



International Holocaust Remembrance Day screening of *The Mortal Storm*, in collaboration with JFedDC and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum



JFedDC's Non-Profit Table at the Chamber Breakfast

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 hvalliativecare.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: hvhospice.org • (845) 240-7555