

ENGAGEMENT, FEDERATIONS, AND THIS MOMENT IN AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE Part 2

Excerpt taken from an article written by Dr. Beth Cousens, Associate Vice President, Jewish Education and Engagement at the Jewish Federations of North America

A FEDERATION RESPONSE: (HOW WE BUILD ON OUR ENGAGEMENT WORK FOR TRUE CHANGE)

Our Approach: Engagement (Community, Intimacy, Meaning, and Humanness) It is within the context of and in response to these trends that Federations' work in Engagement has developed. It has begun as a series of activities: coffee dates, the formation of parent playgroups or NextGen clusters, hosting holiday tastings in grocery stores. But it has become—or maybe has always been—an approach, a way of interacting, working, and being that emphasizes relationships, intimacy, and the building of community. Engagement focuses on humanness, on the ups and downs of being people, on vulnerability, and on genuinely inspiring and important content. It focuses those engaged in meaning. By emphasizing relationships, it plays on the trend toward networks. As such, it offers more than only an opportunity to engage people newly in Jewish life. It is a bridge between 21st century organizational trends and Federation.

To say this differently: When Federations adopted Engagement as a platform and as part of their mission, we adopted an approach that allows us to deepen our organizations' positions as ones of meaning. But to maximize our work in this way, Engagement needs to be incorporated properly into the rest of the organization. It needs to be linked to Federations' education function, and to allocations and grantmaking, and even to FRD. And this synergy needs to develop alongside our traditional work, as we also work with those at the heart of our organizations, doing both well. How do we succeed? By holding both in our heads and hands at the same time, by doing what we have always done while stepping into the unfamiliar with full hearts, humility, and openness to true synergies and collaboration

CONCLUSION

When parents are paired with parents to talk about the challenges of parenting, they are able to be authentically themselves, to share their greatest fears or hopes for themselves as parents and for their children. When near-engaged couples are gathered for conversations about their future homes and conflicts related to couplehood, when twenty-somethings create a Havdallah bonfire where they tell their stories, when grandparents share their confusion about the universalism of their grandchildren, they all similarly share their hopes and fears. At its best, Engagement helps people be their best, in the context of Jewish tradition.

We thought Engagement was a series of activities. In the context of relationships and in the meaning space, it plays to the current zeitgeist while also helping us to make Jewish tradition come alive. To maximize Engagement as a response to the world today, we can and should let it influence all of our work. We are in new territory but as a system, this work is within our reach.

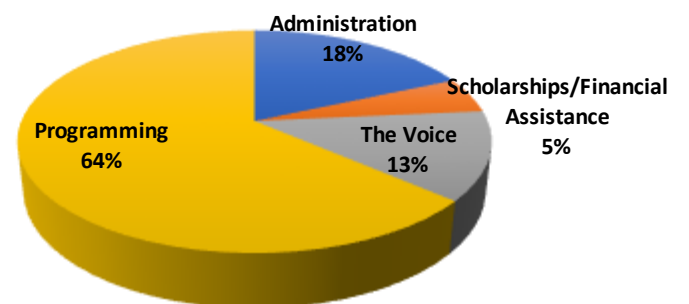
Message from the JFDC Executive Director and the Board:

This is where we need YOU!!

A survey will be coming out next month which will provide an opportunity for you to share with us exactly what you want and who you need the JFDC to be today and tomorrow. If you have any ideas (right now), please share them with us at Admin@JewishDutchess.org

Where do Federation dollars go?

Money goes to:



■ Administration ■ Scholarships/Financial Assistance ■ The Voice ■ Programming

2018 Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

We welcome your comments on the activities and impact of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. Do you have ideas about how to enrich our Jewish community? Do you want to get involved?

Contact us at (845) 471-9811 or email us at Director@JewishDutchess.org to start a conversation.

Next month: Where Do Federation Dollars Come From?

JFDC

- Educating the public
- Building community
- Advocating for Israel
- Subsidizing tuition for young Hebrew learners

PJ Library

- Connecting young Jewish families to Jewish life
- Bringing Jewish children's books into Jewish homes
- Engaging Jewish families

Jewish Family Services

- Assisting during a personal or family crisis
- Providing medical equipment for those in need
- Creating a senior social circle and network
- Rallying community around service

Planning for 2018

- Jewish Federation Gala "Israel @ 70"
- Launch Young Jewish Professional Social Group
- Conduct Engagement Sessions and Survey
- Expand program offerings



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Save the Dates:

Annual Yom Ha Shoa Commemoration April 11

1st Annual JFDC Gala May 3

Mitzvah Day May 6

Sisterhood Schomre Israel

35th Annual
Hamentashen Sale

Raspberry · Apricot · Prune
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\$14/dozen—\$10 half dozen
\$22 Shalach Monet Basket + \$13.50 postage

Hamentashen available for purchase and pick-up on Sunday, February 18th from 12:00-2:00pm

Congregation Schomre Israel
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Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

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LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County presents weekly cultural, social and educational programs.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS and MENUS

- February 7** **Adopting habits of health to improve overall well being** with Bill Linacre. Learn tips to improve our quality of life. Menu: Salad Fiestas: Israeli, tuna, egg and macaroni salad, coffee/tea, dessert
- February 14** **My life at 10, 20, 30...Jewish views of what happens at every age** with Rabbi Victor
 Menu: bagels, schmear, coffee/tea, Valentine dessert
- February 21** **Recycling in Dutchess County** with Kerry Russell
 Learn about the benefits of recycling and how to promote recycling into our daily lives.
 Menu: Soup, salad, coffee/tea, dessert
- February 28** **Gilded Age Scandals** with Don Fraser
 Learn about what occurred at a time when you didn't think these things occurred
 Menu: assorted wraps, coffee/tea, dessert

INFORMATION

For details including weather updates, last minute schedule changes or menu updates, you can call the Jewish Federation office (845) 471-9811.

Learn & Lunch Bunch activities are open to the public.

WHERE

118 South Grand Ave
 Poughkeepsie, NY
 (Temple Beth-El)

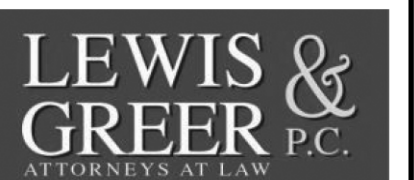
SCHEDULE

11:00 –11:30am
 Coffee & Nosh
 11:30 –12:30pm
 Program
 12:30pm —Lunch

\$6.00—Lunch and program
 \$4.00—Program, coffee, nosh



Purim begins February 28



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Community

Book
&
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Shops**Temple Beth-El's Book and Gift Shop**
submitted by Geri Bromberg

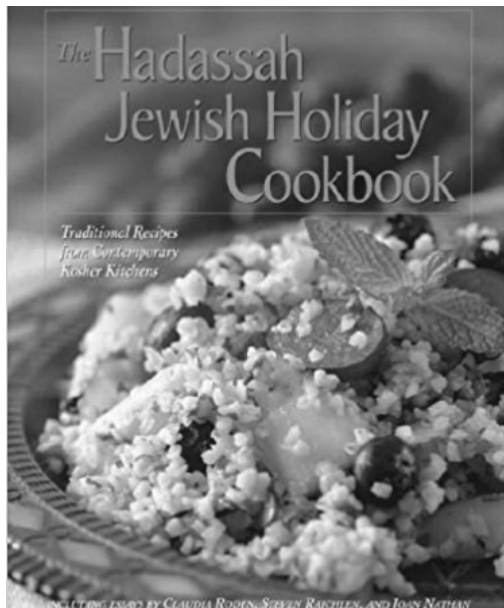
The Temple Beth-El Judaica Book and Gift shops will be closed each Sunday in February and March 4 & 11. There will be hours by appointment until Sunday hours, 9:30am to 12:30pm, resume on March 18.

The Bookshop has all that you need for Purim: stories, groggers and masks, as well as year-round ceremonials and host and hostess gifts.

The Bookshop is featuring *Sammy Spider's First Shabbat*, *Sammy Spider's Shabbat Fun Book* and *Sammy Spider's First Purim* all three written by Sylvia A. Rouss, all illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn and all for Grades PreK-3. "Ms. Kahn's large, bright mixed-media cut paper illustrations enhance the childlike mood" from *School Library Journal*. New to the Book Shop is *Purim is Coming!* by Tracy Newman, illustrated by Viviana Garofoli for Grade PreK.

Another in the popular Jewish holiday series by Newman and Garofoli, a family and their adorable dog celebrate the kid-friendly holiday of Purim with its megillah reading, baking hamantaschen, parade and carnival.

Back in stock is *Barnyard Purim* written by Kelly Terwilliger with illustrations by Barbara Johansen Newman for Grades K-3. Purim is a topsy-turvy time, even on the farm. The animals decide to stage a Purim play and chicken assigns the parts. But when they try to transform shy little sheep into mean-looking Haman, something unexpected happens.



From the cookbook corner is *The Hadassah Jewish Holiday Cookbook* which was edited by Joan Schwartz Michel. Organized according to the Jewish festival calendar, this stunning large-format volume presents 250 of the best traditional recipes contributed by Hadassah members from the United States and Israel. Features full-color photos.

DETAILS
For more info, call the temple office at (845) 454-0570 and leave a message for Geri Bromberg for books and recordings and/or Sheri Raften for year-round ceremonials. Temple Beth-El is located at 118 South Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie.

Rosh Chodesh Reading Group
presented by
Congregation Shir Chadash

Those interested in reading have been invited to a potluck brunch and discussion held every month. 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 suggestion, please let us know! Date and location to be decided.

For more information, contact Sandy Lash at (845) 232-1029, email: info@shir-chadash.org or website: www.shir-chadash.org.

Adult Education

Educational Opportunities Abound at Schomre Israel

Know Your Book with Rabbi Langer Tuesday, February 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30am. Class and discussion Feb. 6—Advise and Council, Feb. 13—Who was Hammurabi? Feb. 20—Biblical Palindromes, Feb 27.— Is there a new Hitler?

Classes with Rabbi Langer Thursday, February 1, 8, 15, 22, (No Class March 1), 7:00pm. Class and discussion Feb. 1—Wedding Veils: Why hide the bride?, Feb. 8—Rabbinic Authority Scope and Limitation, Feb. 15—May I shoot down the drone in my backyard?, Feb. 22—So what about tattooing?

Classes are free. All are welcome. Visit our website, www.schomreisrael.org for a full complement of recordings of previous classes of the following topics: books of the Bible, controversial issues in Israel, new perspectives on the holidays, Jewish biographies, crash course on Jewish history and more.

For information on weather cancellations and class schedules visit www.schomreisrael.org or call (845) 454-2890.

Weekly Adult Study Groups at Vassar Temple

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from an Ancient Text, Tuesday, February 13, 27, 12:00pm. Taught by Senior Scholar, Rabbi Paul Golomb. All are welcome to come, learn and join in the lively discussions at both classes--no previous training required! No charge to attend. Questions? pjgolomb@verizon.net

All My Life's a Circle: The Jewish Life Cycle, The Jewish tradition provides a wealth of ways to make life-cycle moments meaningful. Whether we are welcoming a baby into the covenant, celebrating with a couple as they build a home together or caring for the mourner following the death of a loved one, the Jewish community comes together to support individuals during life's big transitions. Together, we will explore traditional rituals and their meanings, as well as modern interpretations and innovations. All in the community are welcome to attend and no previous knowledge is required. The course will be taught by Rabbi Leah Berkowitz of Vassar Temple (www.vassartemple.org), in partnership with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District. Classes will be held at the Boardman Road library branch at 7:00pm on the following three Tuesdays:

Feb. 13 New Beginnings: From Birth to B'nai Mitzvah, Feb. 20 Signed, Sealed & Delivered: The Jewish Wedding, Feb. 27 To Be Remembered is to Live Forever: Death and Mourning.

Torah Study every Saturday, 9:00am, with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. Examine passages from the week's Torah portion or haftarah.

All welcome. No charge to attend. No previous training required. For more information or if you have questions email vassartemplerabbi@gmail.com (845) 454-2570.

Higher and Higher: Come Grow with Temple Beth-El

Chaverim/Amigos/Friends: A Modern Jewish Discussion Group. The purpose of this program is to bring friends together in an informal setting (outside Temple Beth-El) to discuss topics involving Jewish ideas and lifestyles. Here is a chance for you to invite Rabbi Victor into your home to discuss any one a number of topics. To discuss details email Merri Sedgwick at moondoggie7@optonline.net.

People of the Book with Rabbi Daniel Victor, Thursday, 12:30pm, at The Crafted Kup, Raymond Avenue. Jews often refer to themselves the people of the book. Although the "Book" originally referred solely to the *Tanach*, Jews expanded the phrase to encompass post-biblical literature. *The Mishnah*, which is comprised of six tractates of study is the most basic book of the post-biblical literature (The Oral Torah) and considered the key to the rest. This ongoing class is studying *Mishnah Sukkah* (from the tractate of Shabbat and Holidays), No charge for the class and everyone is welcome.

On Eagles Wings: Adult Discovery Course, 9 months of exposure to Jewish History, Spiritually and Practice
Adult discovery course for both non-Jews journeying towards conversion and Jews looking to strengthen their basic Jewish foundations. Class meetings will be determined at that time based on participating student's availability. The cost for attending the class is determined individually based on one's journey and can be determined through conversations with Rabbi Daniel Victor. Please call the synagogue at 845.454.0570 to speak with Rabbi Daniel Victor if you are interested in attending. We look forward to engaging in this meaningful experience with you.

Adult Hebrew Class Ongoing Saturday's, 9:30am through March 10. Learn to read and speak Hebrew with Naomi Kamlot. RSVP to educationassist@tbeny.org or contact the office (845) 454-0570. Donation for the class is suggested.

All welcome. Details at the Temple Beth-El website www.tbeny.org or (845) 454-0570 or email info@tbeny.org.

Chabad Center Classes

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

Please visit our website www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com

Congregation Shir Chadash

Saturday Torah Study resumes Saturday, February 3, 10. 9:15am. An informal discussion about the Torah portion of the week with Rabbi Polish while enjoying a light breakfast. Everyone has a chance to participate. No expertise or knowledge of Hebrew is needed. Just an inquisitive mind, a curiosity about our tradition and a willingness to share your thoughts. All welcome to attend. Bi monthly, check website calendar for exact dates.

For more information call (845) 232-1029, email info@shir-chadash.org or www.shir-chadash.org.

Book Club to Discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, by award-winning author Celeste Ng, Wed., Feb. 21 at 2:00pm in the Community Room at Collegeview Tower, 141 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie. All welcome to the discussion, which will be led by Irma Jacobs.

In Shaker Heights, a placid suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the color of the houses, to the layout of the winding roads. No one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic single mother, who arrives in this "idyllic" suburb with her teenage daughter, Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When an old family friend of the Richardsons attempts to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that divides the town – and puts Mia and Elena on opposite sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets of Mia's past. But her obsession will result in unexpected and devastating costs.

There are multiple copies of *Little Fires Everywhere* in the local library system. To RSVP or for information, please contact Linda Babas at 473-7931 or linda.babas.41@gmail.com. Your book suggestions for future meetings are always welcome.



Debbie's VOICE



"These three are the marks of a Jew: a tender heart, self-respect and charity." --- Jewish Proverb (at least according to Google!) I found this quote recently and thought I need to write about this!

It resonated with me because I thought it was interesting how there is no mention of prayer or organized religious activities in the makings of a Jew. I, like so many others in my generation (oy, does that make me sound old!) define ourselves as culturally Jewish because we don't necessarily have a spiritual connection to Judaism.

I do, however, possess a tender heart. Recently I was waiting for my son's asthma medication to be filled at CVS. While on line, an elderly woman walked back into the waiting area clearly sobbing. The pharmacist asked, "Can I help you?" and she replied, "no." She sat down on a chair and continued to sob. I walked over and said, "Ma'am, would you like a tissue?" She replied, "No thank you." I said,

"Ma'am, would you like a hug?" She looked up and nodded yes. I hugged her and asked, "What happened?" She proceeded to explain that her husband had just passed away.

We spent the next several minutes talking about her husband. They'd been married for 58 years, which she admitted "really didn't give her the right to be sad." I told her it did but that she had 58 years of memories too. CVS called my name, so I said goodbye to the woman and went on to my next errand.

I share this story because I think it's so important in today's world that we put down our cellphones and notice the world around us. Take a few minutes to talk with someone. Hand the person in line behind you that extra coupon in your bag that you could use but you know they need to use. You get the idea and hopefully my children do too because they're constantly reminded to do one thing for someone else every day...

Self-respect is obviously a huge topic right now. You can't turn on the news without it being discussed. I think self-respect, isn't something we are born with but is something we must learn. I think, especially for women, it comes with age and maturity. Looking back, how many of us truly possessed self-respect in high school? Now, in my (gulp!) mid-40's, I not only possess self-respect but surround myself with friends that do as well.

I've been thinking about charity a lot recently too. Charity has always been a huge part of my life, whether it's giving of my time or money. Now that my boys are getting older, I've been able to start giving more of my time. I try and volunteer at our temple and the boys' schools. Every week, I volunteer a couple of hours in the library at the Morse Elementary School in Poughkeepsie. I was shocked to learn that the library had been eliminated from the budget. I passionately believe that all children should have access to books, and to take that opportunity away from those without other means to access books, is just disheartening. I encourage any of you with the time and inclination, to please volunteer in the library. They desperately need more volunteers and the joy on the children's faces as they take out their first school library book will inspire you to return again and again.

The purpose of this article is not to say how great I am (but feel free!) but rather to encourage others to try and duplicate in simple ways some of what I described.



Young Jewish Professionals in Dutchess

This month meet: Elissa Davidson

Reporter's Note: Every month, I will be interviewing a youngish Jewish professional in our area. Please feel free to email us with any suggestions! - -- Debbie Silbergleit

Elissa grew up in Long Island, near Jones Beach. She was raised a conservative Jew but chose not to become a bat mitzvah because she was painfully shy. Her shyness was so severe that it limited her from not only becoming a bat mitzvah herself but made her uncomfortable witnessing her sisters become bat mitzvahs. She didn't overcome her shyness until her mid-20's and at this stage of her life, there is not even a trace of shyness. Elissa is truly one of the warmest, outgoing and engaging people I have gotten to know in our community.



Elissa Davidson

Elissa has a liberal arts degree from SUNY Purchase. A few years later, she received a degree in art therapy from the College of New Rochelle.

She spent a dozen years working as an art therapist with at-risk kids but switched over to photography because between the job burnout and her two young kids at home, she wanted a career that wasn't as mentally exhausting. Her photography career started taking off in 2000 and by 2002, she was able to become fully self-employed as a professional photographer.

Her favorite thing to photograph are people. More specifically, Elissa loves to capture the interactions between people, turning moments into tangible memories. Her least favorite photographic subject is fashion photography. When photographing Jewish events, Elissa always feels a deeper connection to her clients. Additionally, she loves when her clients come back year after year for family portraits. She loves seeing the changes in the kids and really enjoys having that special connection in their lives.

Growing up, her favorite Jewish holiday was always Purim. Elissa loved Purim because she always got to bake hamentashen with her grandmother. Now, the High Holidays have become her favorite holidays because she's able to completely stop everything and simply focus on those reflective moments in temple. Elissa volunteers weekly at the Geshar program because "I need involvement within the Jewish community and since my schedule doesn't generally give me time to attend services, it's a way of staying connected."

Elissa has decided this is the year she's going to read from the Torah. She's confident that she'll be able to do it and wants to do it for herself. The painfully shy girl from Long Island is a distant memory and she's "ready to go for it!"

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Email submissions to theVoice@JewishDutchess.org

VOICE DEADLINES

Note deadlines below. Email TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org if you have questions.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
March	February 1
April	March 1
May	April 1

Please note:

In the January edition of **The Voice** YJP article Dr. Adam Rubinstein's name was spelled incorrectly. We sincerely apologize for this error. We appreciate all those who contribute monthly articles to **The Voice** and want to ensure our readers are receiving a quality paper.

HELP WANTED

Social Media Coordinator

In need of someone who is:

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Rabbi's Blog

Miracles at the Vatican

By Rabbi Daniel Polish

How was your Chanukah? Miraculous? Of course it was. After all, the whole celebration is about the miracle of that cruse of oil that was supposed to burn for just one day and lasted for eight. So every Chanukah is miraculous for all of us. But forgive me, I need to celebrate my Chanukah this year that felt especially miraculous. Let me turn my column over briefly to Rabbi David Sandmel Director of Interreligious Engagement of the Anti-Defamation League to tell you what felt so miraculous for me this year. Rabbi Sandmel writes:

"On the first night of Chanukah, Mr. Oren David, Ambassador of Israel to the Holy See hosted a festive reception in the library of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. The reception was not only in honor of Chanukah, but also to acknowledge the visit to the Vatican by a delegation from the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC). Ambassador David welcomed all the guests. Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Commission, said a few words and lit the shamash (the "servant" candle used to light other candles). Rabbi Daniel Polish, chair of IJCIC, briefly explained the holiday and lit the first candle, and Rabbi David Rosen of Israel, a past chair of IJCIC, a veteran of interreligious relations and a well-known figure in Rome, led the blessings. Among the guests were other Vatican officials from the Congregation for Promoting Christian Unity and the Secretariat of State, as well as scholars from the Cardinal Bea Center for Jewish Studies and the Biblicum. Also in attendance were the president of the Jewish community of Rome and the charge d'affaires of the American Embassy to the Holy See."

IJCIC has been described as a miracle brought about by the Vatican. The Second Vatican Council and promulgation of its declaration *Nostra Aetate* inaugurated a sea change in Jewish-Catholic relations; every Jewish organization suddenly wanted to meet with the Vatican and have audiences with the pope, an overwhelming proposition for the authorities in Rome. In the early 1970's, at the behest of the Vatican, the major Jewish civic organizations and the three major denominational movements formed IJCIC and for over forty years it has served as the Vatican's official dialogue partner from the Jewish community. IJCIC's membership today consists of the major international Jewish civic organizations (ADL, American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, World Jewish Congress), the Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America; the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly; the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis; and the Israel Jewish Committee for Interreligious Relations. Given the tensions between the various sectors of the Jewish community and especially between the religious streams, that such an organization has lasted as long as it has and continues to work effectively by consensus can rightly be described as a miracle!

Lighting a Chanukah/Chanukah menorah in the Vatican? Impossible to imagine, I know. But while it is still fresh in my mind as I write this, let me revel in it a bit more. For me, the whole event was very much a miracle. What I told the assembled group was that none of our grandparents could have imagined the events of that night. The very idea of a group of Jews visiting the Vatican would have been unbelievable enough. But to imagine lighting a Chanukah there would have been too much of a stretch for their imaginations. And I am sure that the grandparents of the Catholic attendees would have been equally astounded at the scene that unfolded on this particular first night of Chanukah. Their descendants playing host to a visiting delegation of Jews? In the Vatican? Lighting a Chanukah candelabrum? Clearly the stuff of outlandish fiction. And yet here we were. I almost had to pinch myself.

And it is also true that Chanukah is about increasing light. It falls during the darkest time of the year, when the days get shorter, the nights longer and it feels like darkness will triumph. And how do we respond? We start with lighting one candle and then another and another each of the nights until we have enlarged the realm of light. We have become agents of light. And around the same time of year Christians celebrate Christmas which also emphasizes light. On this night, all of us present became bearers of light in a very special way. I like to think of the kind of meetings we held at the Vatican, gatherings of Jews and Catholics, as its own form of adding to the triumph of light. There is enough darkness in our world, enough places where religious identity sets neighbor against neighbor. The meeting of Jews and Catholics not as combatants but as friends, is a model for what the whole world must aspire to. We did more than share Chanukah together, we became the light that we each celebrate.

And, of course, there is significance in the name Chanukah itself. The word Chanukah literally means dedication. The work of reconciliation requires constant attention. It is like a garden that needs to be tended regularly. Meetings like this one are really about the rededication of Catholics and Jews to the bridges that have been built and the relationships that have been established painstakingly over the years. We dare not take our progress for granted. We are called to rededicate ourselves to keeping it vital and fresh. Our sharing the lighting of the Chanukah was, in the end, a symbol of that rededication on behalf of both of our communities.

And so, yes, every Chanukah is miraculous. But this one felt especially so for me. A Chanukah of profound significance. A Chanukah miracle I am deeply grateful to have shared in.



Rabbi Daniel Polish

Inside the Jewish Studio

By Debbie Silbergleit

This questionnaire originated in the French series, *Bouillon de Culture*, better known as the closing questions asked by James Lipton on the celebrity interview TV show, *Inside the Actor's Studio*. The questions are re-adapted for this column.

Each month, I ask a MOT* these questions and feature their answers.

This month, a special thank you to Judi Tereno Stokes, Director of Communications and Public Relations for Dutchess Community College who kindly took time out of her busy day to answer my questions...

1. What is your favorite word?
Humanity
2. What is your least favorite word?
Cancer
3. What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally?
These are good questions because they're things we talk about. I think it comes down to new challenges and positive people—those keep me energized and moving forward.
4. What turns you off?
Closedmindedness
5. What is your favorite curse word?
(Laughing hysterically) This sounds like a password clue. Ok, definitely clusterf...although I only say cluster because everyone knows what comes after that!
6. What sound or noise do you love?
I love cats purring.
7. What sound or noise do you hate?
My husband will kill me, but snoring!
8. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
At this point in my life, it's not happening? I've been impressed by the work of speech pathologists, so maybe speech pathology.
9. What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt?
I don't think I would want to be a dental hygienist
10. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?
I would want God to say that I used my time well. I would love God to say now come and give your parents a hug.

* Member of the Tribe



Judi Tereno Stokes

Shir Chadash Celebrates Tu B'Shevat

Congregation Shir Chadash will celebrate Tu B'Shevat on Saturday, February 3 at 10:45am. There will be a special service and Tu B'Shevat seder featuring the crops of Israel. Included in the seder will be the seven species: wheat, barley, olives, pomegranates, grapes, figs and dates. The seder will be led by Rabbi Daniel Polish along with a beautifully illustrated companion booklet. A vegan lunch will also be served provided by Robbie Schiff in honor of her late father.

DETAILS

Saturday, February 3, 10:45am For more information or to RSVP, please call (845) 232-1029, email info@shir-chadash.org or at www.shir-chadash.org.

Purim Schedule from Schomre Israel

Ta'anit Esther (Fast of Esther) - Wednesday, February 28
Fast begins: 5:22am
Fast ends: 6:27pm

Purim - Commences on Wednesday night, February 28
Mincha 5:15pm/Maariv and Megillah reading 6:00pm
Refreshments will be served after the Megillah reading.

Purim Day—Thursday, March 1
Morning Service and Megillah reading 7:00am
Second Megillah Reading 9:30am

Purim Celebration & Spiel at Congregation Shir Chadash

Celebrate Purim by enjoying a special Purim service and an original Purim Spiel on Friday, March 2 at 6:30pm.

If you love Purim and appreciate an unique take on things, this spiel is for you! Come and listen to the story you know, but with a different twist. Enjoy the fun, the music and, of course, delicious homemade Hamantaschen! (Costumes & hats optional). All welcome!

Please note the early time (to make it easier for families with young children to participate). For more information, please contact (845) 232-1029 email: info@shir-chadash.org or www.shir-chadash.org.



Rabbi Daniel Polish, Chair, IJCIC, lighting the Chanukah Menorah in the Library of Cardinal Koch in Vatican office.



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Winter Wonderland

by Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Education Director & Cantor Devorah Gartner, Youth & B'nai Director

Shabbat School opened with its usual fanfare. Our 4 & 5 graders have been presented with their own personal *Etz Chayim* chumashim (the five books of Moses, plus the weekly haftarah selections). They will find them useful for many years to come, especially as they prepare for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, some two to three years from now.

The children of our Early Childhood Program took to the bimah to share what they have learned about the lunar calendar, the Jewish holiday cycle and Shabbat. As they taught us about the sun and the moon, it was clear to everyone that they are definitely all stars.

The B'nai Mitzvah Class joined Cantor Devorah Gartner on the bimah to chant the haftarah blessings and a paragraph or two of her Bat Mitzvah anniversary portion for Shabbat Shirah. As always, they did their usual splendid job. What an incredible group of Torah (and haftarah!) readers and service leaders they are becoming.

Teens, from both the Youth Group and Gesher Hebrew High School, put their heads together to host a Kadima (meaning "forward") overnight event of "fruit-ful" proportions. Welcoming students grades 5-8 from the Tzafon region of United Synagogue Youth, members from Poughkeepsie, Albany, Schenectady and Pittsfield, MA chapters came together. The celebration began with ice-breaker activities, including Havdalah and a fondue party. Up bright and early for breakfast and a teen-led, creative Shacharit [morning service], they then plunged into a wonderful Torah study and tzedakah activity celebrating Tu b'Shevat.

Gesher Hebrew High School began its sparkling second trimester with course offerings such as: Art, Cooking Shabbat Dinner, Holocaust Heroes, The Jewish Story and Jews That Rock.

All are welcome to our bi-monthly intergenerational Friday night dinners. Families with children of all ages join our TBE bubbies and zaydes for pre-Shabbat stories, crafts and activities. These are followed by a simple and delicious Shabbat meal prepared by our dedicated volunteers. After dinner, Rabbi Daniel Victor and Rabbi Miriam Hyman lead a lively musical Shabbat program. Call the TBE office today (845) 454-0570 to make your reservations for March 2

January was pure joy and February looks to be even more fun and fabulous as we start to get ready for Purim. Shabbat School continues as we practice our megillah readings, design masks, decorate groggers and plan our costumes. The Youth Group is gearing up for its third annual delicious Mishloach Manot project and everyone is looking forward to the Community Purim Carnival. Mid-winter doldrums here? Not a chance!

Bat Mitzvah

Hannah Sophia Gendron, Vassar Temple. Daughter of Bruce and Eve Gendron.

Hannah is in the eighth grade at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie.

Hannah loves animals, especially horses, participates in a 4-H horse club and takes riding lessons. She is an avid reader, and developing an interest in photography.

Hannah says, "For my mitzvah project, I'm doing photography for Scenic Hudson for their use in public education projects regarding the conservation of Hudson River wetlands. I have been photographing tidal marshes and other low-elevation riverside areas that are at risk from rising water levels. I plan to continue to photograph these places throughout the year to truly capture the beauty of the Hudson Valley."



Thanks to Hannah for using her special gift of photography to further the cause of environmental conservation, as well as to help us better appreciate our home in the beautiful Hudson Valley!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

CHABAD MID-HUDSON VALLEY

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

For information about preschool, new pre-bar/bat mitzvah class, contact Hindy Borenstein, Director (845) 463-5801 or chabadmidsouthvalley@prodigy.net

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 Tzvie Hecht, Director (845) 876-7666 or tzviehecht@gmail.com

SHIR CHADASH

Congregation Shir-Chadash religious school will be entering the second trimester of their new curriculum, *Studying & Having Fun with Bible Stories*. Member families' children from Kindergarten to 2nd grade are welcome to attend at no charge for a full year. New enrollments always welcome.

Classes meet two Saturdays a month at 9:00am. See website for dates and special new membership rate.

For information, contact (845) 232-1029 or www.shir-chadash.org

TEMPLE BETH-EL

At Temple Beth-El, education is something truly celebrated! From kindergarten through the last year of high school, Temple Beth-El instills a love of Judaism and a lifelong hunger for Jewish learning.

Tuesday, Ivrit (Hebrew) School 4:30-6:30pm, grades 3-7

Wednesday, Gesher Youth Program 6:30-8:30pm, grades 8-12

Saturday, Shabbat School 9:30am-12:30pm, grades PreK-6

Saturday, B'Nai Mitzvah Class 9:30am-12:30pm, grade 7

Sunday, Judaic Studies 9:30am-12:30pm, grades PreK-6

For information, contact (845) 454-0570 or education@tbeny.org

VASSAR TEMPLE

Vassar Temple provides a program of Jewish education within the Reform Movement's guidelines, which deepens a student's Jewish experience and knowledge in an accepting and stimulating 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." Temple membership not required.

Sunday Religious School
Sundays, No class Feb 18, Purim
Carnival Feb 25
9:00am-12:00pm, grades K-7

Hebrew Language School
Wednesdays, No class Feb 21
4:30pm-6:30pm, grades 4-7

Innovative individualized Hebrew language instruction and bar/bat mitzvah preparation. New enrollments always welcome.

For information contact Julie Makowsky, Director (845) 454-2570 or rsdirector@vassartemple.org

The Jewish Community of Dutchess County Presents

Community Purim Carnival

**COSTUMES!
PARADES!**



**CONTESTS!
PRIZES!**

February 25, 2018 ★ 10:00am-12:30pm

Games ★ Crafts ★ Popcorn ★ Snacks ★ Goody Bags
Bouncy Houses ★ Balloon Art ★ Entertainment ★ Hamentaschen

...and a special **ROVERS** Preschool Carnival!



**Gourmet Coffee Bar!
Adult Costume Prize!**

Admission \$5 at door for participating children

At Temple Beth El, 118 S Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Contact: Melinda Margulies pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org



The Harding Club



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MATERIALS

- Scissors or decorative edgers
- Cardboard or corrugated kraft paper
- Markers
- Craft glue, such as Sobo
- Ice-pop stick or tongue depressor
- Hole punch
- Waxed twine
- Beads or buttons



STEPS

1. Using scissors or decorative edgers, cut two identical circles from cardboard or corrugated kraft paper.
2. Using markers, decorate one side of each circle.
3. Glue the two pieces together with craft glue, sandwiching an ice-pop stick or tongue depressor in between the pieces for a handle.
4. Using a hole punch, make holes around the edge of the cardboard circle, about 1 inch apart. Thread 3- to 5-inch lengths of waxed twine with beads or buttons, and tie the free end to holes.

Twirl the stick in your hands to make the sound and drown out Haman's name!

**Temple Beth-El Stories, Songs, Torah & Fun!
Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Neal**

Join the community for Shabbat Kiddush afterwards. Parents and children ages 0-6 (and their siblings) are welcome! Bring friends!

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
The third Saturday of the month at 11:15am.

New Happenings at Shir Chadash's Religious School

Shir Chadash is very excited to announce that we have a Tots class (k-1st grade) under the tutelage of Leah Polish. Leah is a graduate herself of Shir Chadash religious school and the daughter of Cantor Gail Hirschenfang and Rabbi Dan Polish. Having recently returned from working in a school in Israel, she has a lot to share. The tots class is learning about the symbols and meanings of the Jewish holidays by using crafts and stories. Any child who would like to sit in on a class is welcome to give it a try. Membership of Shir Chadash is not required to be enrolled in the Tot class. All are welcome to attend at no cost. A donation is appreciated to cover the cost of materials.

The fourth graders are excited that they will be joining the Jr. Choir. They will be singing with their older counterparts for the first time at the upcoming Shabbat service on Saturday, February 10. Please come to hear their enthusiastic voices and provide your support.

Students in the Aleph and Bet classes will be continuing their study of Bible stories, using role playing, crafts, storytelling and other creative ideas to find meaning in each of the stories.

Parents of children who have not attended religious school are encouraged to have their children try a class for a month with no obligation. Children learn about Jewish culture, holidays and history while having fun and making friends. Classes meet two Saturdays a month at 9:00am, see website for exact dates. Come early (8:45) and have breakfast on us! All welcome. For more information, please contact Sue Marcoe, School Director, at (845) 723-4045, email info@shir-chadash.org, or at www.shir-chadash.org.

Not a part of PJ Library yet?

Receive a FREE children's book each month and become part of the PJ Library family.

Register online at www.PJLibrary.org

Monthly e-newsletters. Special program invitations! Call (845) 471-9811 or email PJLibrary@JewishDutchess.org



Melinda

Kim

Emily

Purim is a holiday that feels like it's made for families. Traditions include dressing up, sharing gift baskets or *mishloach manot* with friends, making noise by shaking groggers and staying up late with your friends and community. People read the Book of Esther, or *megillah*, which shares the story of how the Jews of Persia were saved from annihilation, and also do *tzedakah* (charity).

Although Purim is an amazing holiday to enjoy with kids, the story behind Purim isn't exactly family-friendly. There's violence, betrayal, humiliation and death--so how do parents share this story with kids? The link below shares resources, talking points, videos and a link to a children's *megillah*. <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/march-2016/kid-friendly-purim-story> from www.pjlibrary.org/purim.

In our PJ Library programs and in nursery school classrooms with kids under 6, we tend to focus on courage (Esther was very brave), *tzedakah* (charity) and the fun of a great party when we celebrate Purim. When we tell the story we focus less on murder and betrayal and instead, focus on having the courage to do the right thing even when it is hard. We celebrate strong women and wise elders. We dress up, bake hamantaschen and create baskets of sweet treats to share with others (*mishloach manot*).

In Dutchess County, we have a long tradition of creating a Community Purim Carnival, supported by our synagogues and other Jewish organizations like The Federation and PJ Library. Carnival games, festive foods, skits and plays, music and fun are created by us, for us. The children in religious school classes and PJ Library neighborhoods create and run games for their friends. Candygrams and costume contests, adults being silly and lots of prizes to be won add to the festivities.

This year, we are adding something special for the grownups: an adult costume prize and a gourmet coffee bar! Adults are free, and just \$5 for each participating child age 2 or older. Admission includes a *mishloach manot* bag for each child. Be sure to come in costume!

The 2018 Community Purim Carnival will be February 25 from 10:00am—12:30pm at Temple Beth-El in Poughkeepsie. We are so grateful that Temple Beth-El has agreed to host this year and we are hoping this begins a new tradition with a different area synagogue hosting each year. They will be providing the space, it is up to all of us to make the carnival special! If you are not part of a synagogue or other Jewish organization and you would like to help us plan and execute this day of fun, please contact us at pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org.

We will see you soon!

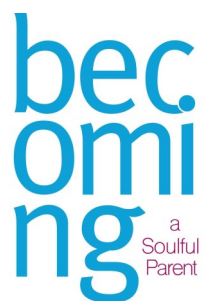
Your PJ Library Mid-Hudson Team, Melinda, Kimberly, and Emily

Become a More Soulful Parent!

An exciting new group, *Becoming A Soulful Parent*, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm, Vassar Temple. This 4-week long group will be facilitated by Emma Arnoff and is open to all Jewish parents in the area.

Becoming a Soulful Parent is a program, grounded in Jewish wisdom, that helps guide participants to reflect on the kind of parent (and partner) they want to become. *Becoming a Soulful Parent* gives participants room to be honest about their struggles as an important first step in experiencing more joy as a parent. If you'd like to be less concerned with how your children behave, and more concerned with valuing your children as they are, then join us on a journey of *Becoming a Soulful Parent*.

For more info please contact Emma Arnoff at emmaf86@gmail.com.



PJ Library is made possible through gifts from the Jewish Federations of Dutchess and Ulster Counties, the Harding Club, and the generous support of PJ Library donors. To make a donation online, go to www.JewishDutchess.org

Thank you!



Working with Mosaic Artist, Sharon Alder, at Temple Beth-El for their 90th Anniversary Celebration.



Dancing like a dreidel for Hanukah at Temple Beth-El.



Dancing with the Vanaver Caravan at the Temple Beth-El 90th Anniversary.



Vassar Temple teens had fun baking, decorating, munching and selling Chanukah cookies to raise money for the Youth Group.

The Federation President's Voice



Dear Friends:

What was on your New Year's Resolution Wish List this year? One of my wishes as President of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County is for more people to become knowledgeable about this extraordinary organization. So, I decided to try something completely different. I decided to invite you to participate in a contest, and I am going to use this column to make it happen. Here's how we are going to do it: I am going to pose a series of questions and then I am inviting you to respond directly to me at, bkopstein@hotmail.com, with your answers.

So, here are the questions:

- When did Federation begin?
- What is Federation's mission?
- What does Federation do locally? Nationally? For Israel?
- Who are some of the past presidents of JFDC in Dutchess County?
- Who has received the benefits from Federation locally?
- What is Federation's theme for the year 2018?

This is a contest run exclusively between you, my readers, and myself. There will be a prize for those who correctly answer all of the above questions. Seriously, we are trying to engage each and every one of you. To do this we need you to know what Federation is and that it is here for you. I hope to hear from each of you soon.

Fondly,
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, President, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

Our Executive Director



Xin Nian Kuai Le! Happy Chinese New Year, Year of the Dog!

2018 is going to be a magical year at JFDC for many reasons - even looking at the "2018" number speaks volumes. The number 8 is a very lucky number in Chinese. In our religion, 8 is magical too...some may even say miraculous, as in the miracle of the oil lasting 8 days. When looking at the 18, life is better and better for as we know, 18 is chai, or life and we are looking forward to having a year at JFDC full of life, learning, culture and fun! Another reason for the uniqueness of this year is the special Anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel, which started its "life" 70 years ago.

With all those signs, and your support, this is going to be a fabulous year.

In addition...Based on the Engagement Kickoff feedback we received in December, we are in the process of putting together a small committee to revisit and revise our Mission, to be aligned with who we are as the JFDC and who we want and need to be today and going forward. In addition, next month we will be sending out a survey to all of our membership to gain your thoughts, comments, and feedback.

So fasten your seatbelts and get ready for a fun and crazy ride.

Gong Xi Fa Cai!
Karen Hochhauser,
Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

92nd Street Y

92nd Street Y programs are a collaboration of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

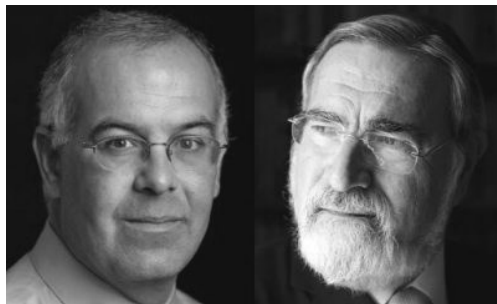
Thursday, February 15, 7pm, Boardman Road Branch Library
Rabbi Naomi Levy and Juliana Margulies: Einstein and the Rabbi

Bestselling author Rabbi Naomi Levy, the founder of Nashuva, a renowned Jewish spiritual movement, is joined by Julianna Margulies (*The Good Wife*) for a conversation about the rabbi's new book, *Einstein and the Rabbi*, an exploration of the meaning and purpose of the soul, inspired by the famous correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi. [recorded previously]



Thursday, March 15, 7pm, Boardman Road Branch Library
David Brooks with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks: Finding a Moral Compass in Challenging Times

David Brooks has been an Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* since 2003. He's a commentator on PBS's *NewsHour*, NPR's *All Things Considered* and NBC's *Meet the Press*. His most recent book is *The Road to Character* (2015), and named as one of the best books of the year by *The Economist*. Other recent books include the novel *The Well-Kept Secret* (2013) and *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement* (2011). David Brooks worked at *The Washington Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, serving as a foreign correspondent and then op-ed editor. He was also a senior editor at *The Weekly Standard* and contributing editor to *The Atlantic* and *Newsweek*. He teaches at Yale University and is a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.



An international religious leader, philosopher, award-winning author and respected moral voice, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks was recently named the winner of the 2016 Templeton Prize. He served as the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013 and has taught at various academic institutions; he is currently the Ingeborg and Ira Rennert Global Distinguished Professor at New York University. Rabbi Sacks is the author of more than 30 books; his most recent is *Not in God's Name*, which was awarded a 2015 National Jewish Book Award in America and was a top ten *Sunday Times* bestseller in the UK. He is sought after as a contributor to radio, television and the press, and he has been awarded 17 honorary doctorates. In 1995 Rabbi Sacks received the Jerusalem Prize for his contribution to diaspora Jewish life, and in 2005 he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

LOCATION: Boardman Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

This is a collaboration between the Library District and The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, made possible in part, through a grant from the Norman and Jeannie Greene Fund.

To view a 92nd St Y talk, go to www.92yondemand.org and click on TOPICS, then JEWISH INTEREST to select from a list of programs. You'll find a great number of lectures by such notables as Alan Dershowitz, Elie Wiesel and topics including God and Israel.

HELP WANTED Advertising Representative for *The Voice*

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County seeks an energetic, outgoing and creative individual.

Would you like to earn extra money as the Advertising Representative for our monthly newspaper *The Voice*?

The job entails four aspects -

- Providing outstanding customer service to our existing advertisers,
- Seeking out new advertisers
- Informing community members opportunities to greeting in our three holiday papers (Passover, Rosh Hashana and Chanukah)
- Distributing *The Voice* to our local businesses and Federation supporters

A good car in working order is required. Compensation is commission based. Training will be provided. Friendly work environment.

Interested? Call us at Jewish Federation of Dutchess County (845) 471-9811

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<p>12 oz.*Select Varieties Where Available </p> <p>Manischewitz Egg Noodles 2/\$3</p>	<p>14.1 oz. Canister</p> <p>Osem Mini Mandel 3⁴⁹</p>
<p>8.8 oz.</p> <p>Osem Toasted Couscous 1⁹⁹</p>	<p>4.2 oz.*Select Varieties Where Available</p> <p>Kedem Tea Biscuits 5/\$3</p>
<p>1-2.5 oz.*Select Varieties Where Available</p> <p>Osem Bissli & Bamba Snacks 4/\$3</p>	<p>1.9-4.3 oz.*Select Varieties Where Available</p> <p>Lipton Kosher Recipe Secrets Soup Mixes 1⁹⁹</p>

Meat Including a selection of Glatt Kosher Fresh and Frozen Beef, Chicken & Turkey.

<p>Empire Kosher 8 Piece Cut-Up Chicken \$2.99 Lb.</p> <p>Empire Kosher Fresh Chicken Breasts 5⁹⁹ lb.</p>	<p>7 oz. </p> <p>Empire Kosher Sliced Turkey, Turkey Salami or Turkey Pastrami 3⁷⁹</p>
<p>Patties \$8.29 Lb. or</p> <p>Meal Mart Ground Beef 7⁹⁹ lb.</p>	<p>39 oz.</p> <p>Meal Mart Stuffed Cabbage 11⁹⁹</p>

Fish Including a selection of Salmon Fillets & Steaks.

<p>12 oz. </p> <p>Cream or Wine</p> <p>Nathan's Herring Snacks 4⁹⁹</p>	<p>4 oz. </p> <p>PICS Smoked Salmon 5⁹⁹</p>
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We carry Renfell's Fine Kosher Baked Goods & Breads – delivered fresh from Montreal.
Exclusively at the Poughkeepsie Store
2585 South Road • 452-1005



Prices effective Sunday, January 28 thru Saturday, February 24, 2018.

Movie Night at Schomre

Please visit www.schomreisrael.org to find out what movie will be shown

Enjoy popcorn, beverage and the movie.

DETAILS
Feb. 10, 7:00pm at the synagogue. A donation of \$5 is suggested. All are welcome.

Schomre Israel Post Purim Dinner

The Sisterhood of Congregation Schomre Israel will host a post Purim/Shabbat dinner.

You can expect great food and an extension of the festive atmosphere of Purim at the dinner.

DETAILS
Friday, March 2, following 5:30pm services. Reservations must be made by Feb. 19. The cost of the dinner is \$36 for adults and \$15 for children from ages 2 to 12. To make reservations contact the synagogue at schomre1@aol.com or call (845) 454-2890. All are welcome.

Did You Remember to Order Hamentashen?

The deadline for your prepaid orders for hamentashen from Sisterhood Schomre Israel is February 12.

These 'shul made' kosher pareve Purim treats are available in prune, poppy seed, raspberry, apricot and chocolate fillings at \$14 per dozen or \$10 per half dozen. Pickup will be on Sunday, Feb. 18, between 12:00-2:00pm. Special arrangements can be made for pick up.

Sisterhood of Schomre Israel also is preparing Shaloch Monot baskets which contain hamentashen, candy, nuts, fruit and a beverage. The cost is \$22. If you wish your basket or your hamentashen mailed there is a \$13.50 shipping charge.

This year is the 35th year of our sale. The camaraderie and devotion of the Sisterhood members and friends who volunteer to help with this Purim projects enhance the special deliciousness of these hamentashen.

To order contact rgrosman@aol.com or the synagogue at (845) 454-2890.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 625

Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States holds regular monthly meetings.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in the armed forces and others of the Jewish faith are cordially invited to attend and participate. At 9:00am there will be an informal coffee and cake "schmooze."

Congregation Schomre Israel is strictly kosher so no outside food may be brought in. We look forward to seeing you there.

DETAILS
Sunday: Feb. 11, March 4, April 8 at 9:30am. 18 Park Ave. Questions? Contact Rob Rubin, Presiding Officer qbee5@optonline.net

Make Merry at Pasta Dinner & Purim Schpiel!

Join us at Vassar Temple for a most entertaining Purim schpiel--a lively megillah reading featuring parodies performed by talented Temple teens and adults.

Adults, children, everyone---come in costume! Prizes will be awarded to costume-wearers of all ages! Special prizes for the most creative! And don't forget to bring unopened boxes of pasta to shake as noisemakers during the megillah reading.

After Purim, the boxes of pasta will be delivered to a local food pantry. Prior to the Purim schpiel, Men's Club will be serving a pasta dinner in the social hall.

DETAILS
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30pm Purim Schpiel, 6:00pm pasta dinner. Cost for the meal is \$5 per adult, children under 12 free. Please RSVP for the dinner to mensclub@vassartemple.org by February 23.

Save the Date: April 22
Congregation Shir Chadash's Annual Spring Concert
Sunday, April 22 at 5:00pm
in the Villard Room at Vassar College

New Paths Morning Worship

Join us at New Paths Sabbath morning service in the informal, intimate setting of Vassar Temple's East Chapel.

The moving liturgy of the *New Paths* prayer book includes both traditional and contemporary writings, mostly in English. Participants may bring supplemental materials to share.

Each New Paths service, whether lay-led or rabbi-led, provides a unique and thoughtful Shabbat morning experience. A brief mini Kiddush follows.

DETAILS
Saturday, Feb. 3, 17, 10:00am. For info, contact Rabbi Leah Berkowitz: rabbil@vassartemple.org, email Marian Schwartz: mschwa9882@aol.com or call the temple office (845) 454-2570.

Trip to Poland and Israel

Rabbi Eliezer Langer of Congregation Schomre Israel is planning a historical tour to Poland and Israel from May 6-22, 2018. We will experience both the beauty and the destruction of European Jewry by seeing first hand the communities where our ancestors lived for centuries prior to emigration and annihilation.

Visiting former Chassidic centers, concentration camps and mass burials sites will give perspective and greater appreciation as we then travel to Israel, the modern and ancient.

First-class hotels, air-conditioned buses and excellent guidance will assure you an experience of a lifetime on this unique Schomre Israel Tour.

The trip is open to the public. For info please email Rabbi Langer at rabbil@schomreisrael.org or call (845) 454-2890.

Look for the Engagement Survey in the March issue of *The Voice*

Queer, Jewish, and in Prison: A Mini-Shabbaton with Evie Litwok
Saturday Feb. 24, 2018 10 a.m. at Vassar Temple

Evie Litwok never thought that someone like her could end up in prison, much less solitary confinement. She walked out of prison homeless and penniless, and committed herself to advocating for prisoners' rights. Come hear her experience of denied human rights, which millions of incarcerated men and women in the United States continue to suffer from, and how her connection to Judaism became her lifeline to hope. The community is invited to hear Ms. Litwok speak during Shabbat morning services and then continue her talk during a light kiddush lunch. Please RSVP for the lunch by Feb. 17 to ritual@vassartemple.org, where you may also address any questions about this event, for which there is no charge.

She is the founder and director of Witness to Mass Incarceration, a national advocacy and policy reform organization whose mission is to collect oral histories of formerly incarcerated women and LGBTQ people and train them to become storytellers and activists. Litwok has an MA in psychology and is working on a Masters in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

HELP WANTED

Do you want to work with the PJ Library team? Then we want to talk to YOU!

We're looking for a talented, self-starter to find out what parents want in Mid-Hudson Valley Jewish programming. Can you schmooze and network with the best of 'em? Do you have creative ideas and think outside the box? If you have a passion for Jewish child and parent engagement, this could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

Part-time, contract position for six months, five hours a week. This is a grant-funded position with good possibility for extension. Email pjlibrary@JewishDutchess.org if this is you.

2018 Holiday Greetings

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

This year we will once again be offering a three pack of Holiday Greetings which includes Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Chanukah. If you like, you can still purchase the individual holiday greetings.

Please look at the designs and choose one, two or three greetings. If you choose the three pack, please choose the same style for all three greetings.

The cost: **Small ad: \$25/each or 3 for \$60**
Medium ad: \$36/each or 3 for \$90
Large ad: \$64/each or 3 for \$170

Please fill in the form below and mail it back to us with your payment to:
THE VOICE, P.O. Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

2018 Holiday Greetings

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Passover: (circle one) A B C D E F G H I J
Rosh Hashanah: (circle one) A B C D E F G H I J
Chanukah: (circle one) A B C D E F G H I J
Your name(s) on Greeting: _____

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

Deadline Extended to Feb. 8
Passover Greetings

Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Chanukah Greetings

STYLE A: Passover Greetings
STYLE B: Happy Passover!
STYLE C: May you be blessed with peace, prosperity and joy this Passover!
STYLE D: Next year in Jerusalem
STYLE E: No text, just your name
STYLE F: Happy Passover!
STYLE G: Shalom at Pesach!
STYLE H: Peace to you this Passover!
STYLE I: Passover Blessings!
STYLE J: Chag Pesach Sameach!

STYLE A: Happy New Year
STYLE B: Have a Happy and Peaceful New Year!
STYLE C: May the sounds of the Shofar welcome in a new year of health and happiness
STYLE D: L'Shanah Tovah
STYLE E: Happy Rosh Hashanah
STYLE F: Have a sweet new year!
STYLE G: Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

STYLE A: May the lights of Hanukkah shine in your hearts forever.
STYLE B: Wishing you peace in this season of miracles
STYLE C: Happy Hanukkah!
STYLE D: Have a warm & peaceful Hanukkah!
STYLE E: Peace to all!
STYLE F: Hanukkah Blessings!
STYLE G: Warm Hanukkah Blessings to You!
STYLE H: No text, just your name
STYLE I: From our Family to Yours, Happy Hanukkah!
STYLE J: May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!

Local

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.
Congregation Schomre Israel K4 Meeting (Koffee, Kibitz, Kvetch Klub) February 25 9:30am, continuing discussion on the direction of the group.
Temple Beth-El serves at Lunchbox February 11, Volunteers always needed to keep this program running. Please call (845) 454-0570 if you can help
Vassar Temple Tiny Temple Purim Party February 4, 10:30am-11:30am. The tots along with the Religious School will learn about Purim through crafts, story, and song in a relaxed and friendly setting and a special holiday snack will be served. Parents, grandparents, families and children ages infant to 5 are warmly invited to join in the fun. Tiny Temple is open to all regardless of temple affiliation, is always free of charge, and is sponsored by the Sisterhood. To assist in our planning, please RSVP to Emma Arnoff and Jas Russo at tinytemple@vassar temple.org They will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful, free, monthly program, and to put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list.

Monday

Congregation Schomre Israel Chair Yoga with Toni Farkas, 11:30am. \$5 per session, all welcome.
Temple Beth-El Board Meeting February 12, 7:30pm. Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

Tuesday

Wednesday

Learn & Lunch Bunch every Wednesday, 11:00am-1:30pm. 118 So. Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie. For information, menu and program schedule, see page 2 of *The Voice* or contact (845) 471-9811.
Temple Beth-El Purim Celebration and Service February 28, 6:00pm. All welcome to join us for a festive, creative and fun Purim service and celebration. Megillat Esther, Purim antics, comedy, costumes and Hamanstaschen.
Vassar Temple Dinner and Purim Spiel February 28, 6:00pm pasta dinner, 7:30pm Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel

Thursday

Friday

Congregation Shir Chadash Kabbalat Shabbat Service February 2, 9, 16, 23, 7:30pm, evening service with Rabbi Daniel Polish and Cantor Gail Hirschenfang. Followed by community Oneg. All welcome.
Vassar Temple Kabbalat Shabbat February 2, 16 6:00pm.
Vassar Temple Kabbalat Shabbat Happy Hour February 9 6:00pm service, with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein, 7:30pm Happy Hour
Vassar Temple Kabbalat Shabbat February 23 with Cantorial Intern Laura Stein
Temple Beth-El Evening Service each week, 8:00pm, Conservative, egalitarian Shabbat Service. All welcome.
Temple Beth-El Shabbat Intergenerational Family Program March 2, 5:00pm. We invite families with children ages 0-7, along with grandparents and siblings, to join Rabbi Daniel Victor and Rabbi Miriam Hyman for a Shabbat dinner, a musical program, story and special treat. Dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 2-12, maximum \$36 per family. Please RSVP in advance so we can prepare food, (845) 454-0570 or info@tbeny.org. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted. Financial assistance is available, contact Rabbi Victor.

Saturday

Congregation Shir Chadash Sharing Shabbat and Religious School Programs February 3, 10, 9:00-10:30am, if you haven't already done so it's not too late to register. Come early (8:45) and have breakfast on us. All welcome.
Congregation Shir Chadash Tot Program February 3, 10, 9:00-10:30am. Children ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult learn through doing crafts, food and games. Free and open to all families.
Congregation Shir Chadash Morning Torah Service February 3, 10, :45-11:30am. Led by Rabbi Daniel Polish & Cantor Gail Hirschenfang. Bagels and coffee prior to service. All welcome to attend.
Vassar Temple New Paths Shabbat Morning Worship February 3, 17 10:00am.
Vassar Temple Shabbat morning Torah Service February 10, 10:00am.
Vassar Temple Mini Shabbaton February 24, 10:00am.
Temple Beth-Shabbat Morning Service every week, 9:30am, Lively, inclusive, Conservative, egalitarian Shabbat.
Temple Beth-El Tot Shabbat, Kid-dish and Kadimah February 10 and March 10, 11:00am, Families with young children can join us for a bimonthly Saturday Tot Shabbat program, as well as a First Friday Family Shabbat Dinner. Kid-dish is for children ages 0 to pre bar/bat mitzvah AND THEIR PARENTS. Kid-dish starts with a story or game, followed by a snack for children with delicious things. Tot Shabbat is a special program for tots and their caregivers and Kadima is for kids ages 8-12 For more information, contact education@tbeny.org.
Congregation Schomre Israel Movie Night February 10 7:00pm. Consult www.schomreisrael.org for movie title \$5 suggested donation.

Out of Area

Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley Events
 23 Albany Ave, Kingston NY 12401 (845) 338-4271 www.templemanuelkingston.org.
 All Services held in our Chapel are available to live stream. Visit our website: www.cehv.org and click on the live stream link on the homepage. You can also view archived services and classes.

Kabbalat Shabbat evening service First Friday evening, 6:00pm, with a symbolic Oneg following. All other Friday's 7:30pm with an Oneg following.
Musical Kabbalat Shabbat is the third Friday of the month.
Shabbat Service with Zemer Choir Participation Fourth Friday of the month.
Tot Shabbat February 24, 9:00am, A wonderful way to introduce your tot to Shabbat through interactive music with Rabbi Romer and her guitar.
Saturday Morning Service 10:00am, Join us for uplifting morning communal prayer, meditation and Torah study.
Ongoing Adult Education with the Rabbi Call (845) 338-4271(x101) for class dates/time: Hebrew Trope, Torah Study, Introduction to Judaism, Beginner and Intermediate Conversational Modern Hebrew, Meditation and Parashat Shuvah, Kabbalah and Private Conversion Tutorials.
Rhinebeck Meditation & Torah Study Tuesday, 8:45am; 9:15am weekly Torah study, Led by Rabbi Yael Romer.
Religious School September through May, Saturday's 9:30am-12:30pm, Enrollment is ongoing. The school day includes a youth led service with prayer, song & dance. Religious education at Temple Emanuel works in partnership with the home to foster a commitment to Judaism and Israel. Contact our Religious School Director Samara Green (845) 338-4271 ext. 110 for more information. Also offering a Pre-K class from 9:30am-11:00am.
Confirmation Class with Rabbi Romer Meeting first Wednesday, Shabbat Dinner the third Friday, Community service TBD monthly on either second or fourth Thursday. Religious School registration required.
Intro to Judaism with Rabbi Romer Meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 6:00pm.
Mussar Class with Rabbi Romer Meet the second and fourth Thursday of the month 5:30pm—7:00pm.
Lunch with Cantor Bob and Guests February 6, 12:00pm. Join Cantor for a hot luncheon with discussion following.
Rosh Chodesh The third Tuesday of each month 7:00pm-9:00pm. Explore your female voice in Jewish Traditions.
Congregation Trip to Israel April 23—May 3 For itinerary and pricing, visit <http://www.israelmaven.com/minisite/cong-emanuel/>

Calendar

February

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Beacon Hebrew Alliance (Conservative)
 331 Veplanck Avenue, Beacon (845) 831-2012
 Rabbi Brent Spodek; Cantor Ellen Gersh; Education Director, Ashley Baker
 Website: www.beaconhebrewalliance.org
 Email: 411@beaconhebrewalliance.org
 Services: Fridays, 7:30pm and alternating Saturdays at 9:30am. Visit website for information about services, religious school, and community events

Chabad of Mid-Hudson Valley
 63 Vassar Road, Poughkeepsie (845) 463-5801
 Rabbi Yacov Borenstein
 Website: www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com
 Email: ChabadMidhudsonVly@prodigy.net
 Services: Fridays, call for time and Saturdays at 10:00am

Congregation Beth David (Reform)
 East Main Street, Amenia (845) 373-8264
 Rabbi Jon Haddon
 Website: www.CongBethDavid.org
 Email: JonRab33@gmail.com
 Services: usually Saturdays, 10:00am twice monthly except January and February; call for schedules

Congregation Schomre Israel (Orthodox)
 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 454-2890
 Rabbi Eliezer Langer
 Website: www.schomreisrael.org
 Email: Schomre1@aol.com
 Services: Monday-Thursday, 7:00am, Sunday, 8:00am, Saturday, 9:00am Sunday-Thursday 7:00pm
 Shabbat Services vary depending on sundown

Congregation Shir Chadash (Reform)
 Interim: Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, Lagrange (845) 232-1029
 Rabbi Daniel Polish, Cantor Gail Hirschenfang
 Website: www.shir-chadash.org
 Email: info@shir-chadash.org
 Services: Friday, 7:30pm; bimonthly Saturday children's religious school, 9:00am, Torah study, 9:15

The Rhinebeck Jewish Center
 102 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck (845) 876-7666
 Rabbi Hanoch Hecht and Rebbitzin Tzivie Hecht
 Website: www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com
 Email: RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com
 Friday services call for time; Saturday services, 9:30am

Temple Beth El (Conservative)
 118 So Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 454-0570
 Rabbi Daniel Victor, Rosh Tefilah Rabbi Miriam Hyman
 Email: info@tbeny.org
 Website: www.tbeny.org
 Services: Friday, 7:30pm, Saturday Shabbat service at 9:30am, weekdays, 7:30am daily

Vassar College Bayit
 51 Collegeview Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 451-3920
 Liz Aeschlimann, Rose and Irving Rachlin Director of Jewish Student Life at Vassar College
 Email: eaeschlimann@vassar.edu
 Services: Friday, 6:00pm service, 7:00pm dinner when school is in session

Vassar Temple (Reform)
 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie (845) 454-2570
 Rabbi Leah Berkowitz, Education Dir Julie Makowski
 Website: www.vassar temple.org
 Email: Office@VassarTemple.org or rabbil@vassar temple.org
 Services: Friday, 7:30pm unless otherwise noted, Torah study Saturday, 9:00am. New Paths 1st and 3rd Saturday every month, 10:00am unless otherwise noted

February Candle Lighting

February 2 4:54pm
February 9 5:03pm
February 16 5:12pm
February 23 5:21pm

Want to share your thoughts about *The Voice*? Got an idea you'd like to see in print? We're listening. Email us at TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org



Delivering clothing supplies to the Morse school as part of the Temple Beth-El Bright Nights project in December.



Latkes and applesauce and lots more-Chanukah dinner at Congregation Schomre Israel



Congregation Shir Chadash Lights up the Night at their Chanukah celebration



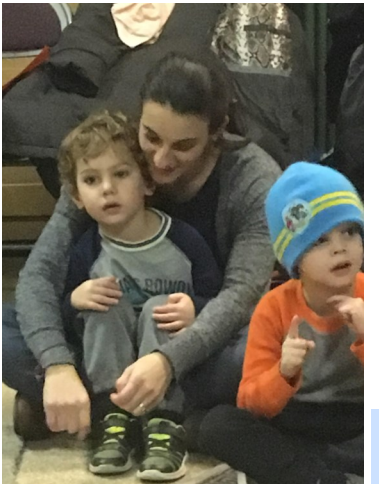
Vassar Temple Families serving at LunchBox



Congregation Shir Chadash members & friends enjoying their annual dinner.



Vassar Temple observed Chanukah with an intergenerational celebration, Chanukah crafts for the children, a sing along and holiday dinner for all, and basked in the glow at the annual candle lighting service.



PJ Library Chanukah Party

