

The Purim Story as a Model for Fighting anti-Semitism

The 2,000-year-old tale of heroes and villains offers important lessons about successfully responding to hatred in our own time

By Rabbi Michael Knopf, Rabbi of Temple Beth-El, Richmond, Virginia, and a Rabbis Without Borders fellow, *Haaretz*, March 2015



Purim Celebration in Tel Aviv

The upcoming Purim holiday, based on the events of the biblical Book of Esther, reminds me of the truth in William Faulkner's famous line, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

The Book of Esther centers on the first explicit instance of anti-Semitism in recorded history. Nearly two thousand years later, anti-Semitism continues to be a significant global phenomenon, evidenced by recent incidents throughout Europe. A few weeks ago, this reality was brought to my doorstep, when swastikas were spray-painted blocks away from my synagogue in Richmond, Virginia.

For some, the parallel between history and current events might seem a cause for despair. Anti-Semitism, it seems, cannot be eradicated. While it may be true that it is impossible to vanquish irrational human hatred altogether, it seems to me that the Purim story actually offers some important lessons about successfully responding to anti-Semitism in our own time.

1. Enlist and encourage allies. The Jews of Persia would never have survived Haman's genocidal plot if Esther and Mordechai had not cultivated the favor of the king and, later in the narrative, the imperial officials and Persian people. Similarly, we cannot eliminate today's anti-Semitism unless we build bridges of friendship between the Jewish community and as many communities of other backgrounds as possible. Nurturing those relationships, however, is a two-way street. Esther and Mordechai expected King Ahasuerus to save the Jews, but they also tended to his interests. Mordechai even saved his life.

In our time, this lesson invites us not only to expect that decent people of other backgrounds come to our defense when we are persecuted, but also that we Jews must wholeheartedly stand up for people of all other backgrounds when they are threatened or marginalized.

As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former Chief Rabbi of Britain, teaches:

Jews cannot fight anti-Semitism alone. The victim cannot cure the crime... Therefore, if we think there is something we alone can do to cure anti-Semitism, we are making a great mistake... We have to stand together to fight hate; not Jews alone, but every single person who cares for the sanctity of life and for a free and just and tolerant society... We must gather allies, because the hatred of Jews is the hatred of difference, which is the hatred of humanity... That is why we must stand together to fight hate in all its forms.

(Continued on page 5)

PURIM BEGINS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24



**Communitywide Purim Carnival
March 20
See page 5 for details**

JFDC Community Campaign Update

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 11:30 –12:30pm Program
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- March 2 *Women in Gold* with Frana Baruch
- March 9 *Current Events* with Howard Lynne
- March 16 *Voices from the Past* with Frank Marquette
- March 23 *The Benefits of Solar Power* With Chris Tompkins
- March 30 *Living Options as We Age in Place* with Monica Finley

The lunch and program are held at the Hudson Valley Community Center, 120 S Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie.

For additional information, call Jewish Family Services (845) 471-9817. Schedule subject to change. Please call for weather updates.



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Some *Voice* readers have already joined the green bandwagon. Smart readers read *The Voice* online, save trees, paper, publishing and trips to the recycling bin! Plus you'll be able to read *The Voice* a week before everyone else in the world. And you know what can happen in 7 days.

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Community Book & Gift Shops



Temple Beth-El's Book and Gift Shop

The Bookshop has all that you need for Purim: stories, groggers and masks. The Bookshop is featuring PreK-3rd grade books *Sammy Spider's First Shabbat*, *Sammy Spider's Shabbat Fun Book* and *Sammy Spider's First Purim* all written by Sylvia A Rouss and illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. "Ms. Kahn's large, bright mixed-media cut paper illustrations enhance the childlike mood." (*School Library Journal*.)

New to the Bookshop is *And Then Another Sheep Turned Up* by Laura Gehl, illustrated by Amy Adel for Grades PreK-3. Mama set another place. Papa found an extra seat. Hanna squeezed to make more space, thrilled to have a guest to greet. Uh-Oh! As the sheep family Passover seder begins, more and more guests continue to show up!

Now in stock are Jewish cookbooks for Passover including *Matzah101: An Innovative Cookbook Containing "101" Creative Recipes with Matzah* by Jenny Kdoshim and Debbie Bevans; *Passover By Design* by Susie Fishbein, and *Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Jubilee Cookbook*, with section on international Kosher cuisine which includes Passover recipes.

DETAILS

Shops will be closed Sundays in February. Hours are by appointment. 9:30am to 12:30pm hours resume March 6. The Shops will be open on Sundays March 13 & April 3. For information, call the Temple office and leave a message for Geri Bromberg for books and recordings, or for Sheri Raften for year-round ceremonials. (845) 454-0570.



Greetings
need to be
submitted no later
than March 4

Adult Education

Educational Opportunities Abound at Schomre Israel

Rabbi Langer, spiritual leader and teacher at Congregation Schomre Israel, will be holding a number of classes at the synagogue.

Parsha Potpourri—Tues, 10:30am. These classes will deepen understanding of the weekly Torah portion. March 1, Building the Sanctuary, March 8, The First Jewish CPA, March 15, Modern Amalek, March 22, Megilla Insights, March 29, Carmel, Hare and Hyrax

Know Your Book—Thurs, 7:00pm. The class has been studying the book of Nechemia, the Second Commonwealth and the rebirth.

Classes are free and everyone is welcome to attend. For information on weather cancellations and class schedules visit www.schomreisrael.org or call (845) 454-2890

Weekly Adult Study Groups at Vassar Temple

Torah Study, Sat, 9:00am (no class March 12), led by Rabbi Leah Berkowitz. Examine passages from the week's torah portion or haftorah

The Talmud: Modern Ideas from Ancient Texts, Tues, 12:00pm led by Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb

All are welcome to join in lively discussions. No previous training required. Questions? rabbi@vassartemple.org (845) 454-2570

Congregation Shir Chadash Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class

Cantor Hirschenfang teaches an 18-month Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class beginning with the basics for those with little or no Hebrew. Students learn how to read/chant (student's choice) Hebrew portions of worship services and gain a fuller understanding of the meaning of our prayers.

The class follows the school calendar, meeting weekly through May, reconvening Sept 2016-May 2017. Participants will be given Torah portions to study and present in a group B'nai Mitzvah at Congregation Shir Chadash in May, 2017. The program is open to members and non-members.

For information, email Jane Freeman Moore at janeffmoore@gmail.com or call her at (914) 475-9302.

Higher and Higher: Come Grow with Temple Beth-El

Spiritual Awakenings: Rabbinic Tales of Indiscretion, Wed, March 9 at 7:00pm Join us for Jewish Stories during this Rosh Chodesh celebration. Spiritual Awakenings connects Judaism to a full array of spiritual practice such as meditation, folkdance, social action and art

TBE Adult Beit Midrash, which offers individual and small group guided instruction studying Jewish texts and building synagogue skills. Wed, March 2, 9, 16, 30 at 7:00pm & Thurs, March 3, 10, 17, 31 at 12:30pm

Learn to Read Hebrew, want to be able to better follow along during services? Whether you need a refresher or have never learned this class is for you! All welcome. Sat, March 6, 13, 9:30-11:00am

My Jewish Home Makeover: March Edition, Blessings you Say when you wake up in the morning and other blessings of the home. What characteristics makes a home into a Jewish home? How do Jewish values translate into practices in the home? Sun, March 6, 10:00am-12:00pm.

Tough Questions Jews Ask, monthly Q&A with Rabbi Victor, pre-submit questions to answer. Sat, March 5 at 12:30pm.

Davennen Leadership Cohort (DLC), a small group-based initiative that immerses members in spiritual theory and practice. Sat March 28, 1:00pm.

Sunday Religious School, Sun, March 6, 13, and 20

All welcome. Details at the Temple Beth-El website www.tbeny.org. Call the synagogue at (845) 454.0570 or email at info@tbeny.org.

Shabbaton March 11-12: 21st Century Judaism: Responses to Spiritual and Ethical Issues of our Time

All are invited to a Shabbaton jointly sponsored by Vassar Temple and Temple Beth-El, featuring noted author, scholar, social commentator and spiritual leader Rabbi Jay Michaelson, on Friday and Saturday March 11-12. Dr. Michaelson, who will speak on "21st Century Judaism: Responses to Spiritual and Ethical Issues of our Time," brings remarkable breadth of experience and knowledge to this community event, and will speak to a wide range of compelling contemporary Jewish issues.

All Friday evening events will be held at Vassar Temple, beginning with a 6pm dinner and conversation with Dr. Michaelson designed for teens in grades 8-12. The topic will be Jewish sex ethic, with brief recommended readings listed on both temples' websites. During the 7:30pm Shabbat service, to which the entire community is warmly invited, Dr. Michaelson will speak about *Gate of Tears*, his new book on converting sadness and loss into meaningful living. Oneg Shabbat, an opportunity for refreshments and socializing, will follow.

Saturday events will be held at Temple Beth El, beginning with a 9am meditation based on Torah lessons of the week, followed by services at 9:30am, during which Dr. Michaelson will expand on the topic of meditation as he discusses themes from his book, *Evolving Dharma*. At a 12:15 luncheon, which will conclude the shabbaton, he will speak on "Religious Liberty, Civil Rights and Public Policy."

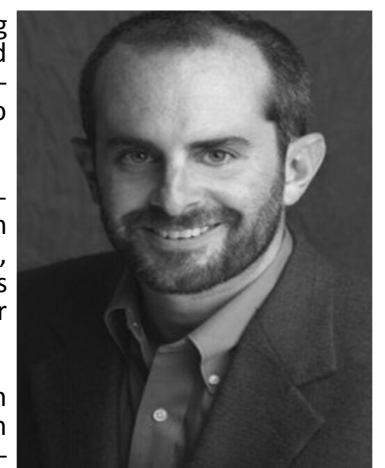
The author of six books and a columnist for *The Daily Beast* and *The Forward*, Dr. Michaelson has appeared on NPR, CBS and MSNBC, speaking on religion, law and LGBT issues. Ordained as a non-denominational rabbi, he is a scholar of Jewish mysticism serving on the faculty of Chicago Theological Seminary. His other book credits include Lambda Award winner *God Versus Gay: The Religious Case For Equality* and *Everything is God*.

This Shabbaton been made possible by grants from the Bertha Effron Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the Groten Fund of Vassar Temple and the Sherman Fund of Temple Beth-El. Reservations are requested for the teen dinner and Kiddush lunch. For more information including suggested advance readings, please visit the Vassar Temple and Temple Beth-El web sites www.vassartemple.org and www.tbeny.org

DETAILS

RSVP for Friday's teen dinner at Vassar Temple to teichs11@gmail.com by March 7

RSVP for Saturday's Kiddush lunch at TBE to programs@tbeny.org by March 7



Editorial

Notes from the Executive Director

Jewish Students on College Campuses Need our Support

by Joyce Schriebman, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

If you truly want to teach, put yourself in your student's space. If your student has wandered far astray, tear yourself away from your own space, feel what it is like to be distant. If your student is in pain, let that pain become your pain. There must be nothing that lies between the student's space and your own.

Teach in this way and you can bring even the most distant student to your own level of understanding. And yet higher: You will learn from this student that which you could never have learned from your own teachers and colleagues.

Based on letters and talks of the Rebbe, Rabbi M. M. Schneerson

We are all teachers. While some of us carry the title through certification, most of us teach indirectly, by example. We inspire others through our behavior—the way we go about our daily routines, transact business and interact with friends and family.

When we let someone into a traffic lane or don't react with road rage when we're cut off, we're teaching by example. When we have a kind word for a bank teller or say hello to a stranger in a coffee shop, we're teaching by example. When colleagues in a meeting lose their tempers and we remain gracious, we're teaching by example.

Every day our choices influence others. We model possibilities of behavior. At a time when public conversations are more discord than discourse, we have the opportunity to choose, and teach, alternatives to hostile and inflammatory rhetoric.

(continued in next column)



Mitzvah Day 2015



SAVE THE DATE

MITZVAH DAY 2016

Sunday, May 15

Planning is now underway.

Email JFS@JewishDutchess.org for more information. Help make this year's Mitzvah Day the best day of service ever.

Letters to the Editor Policy

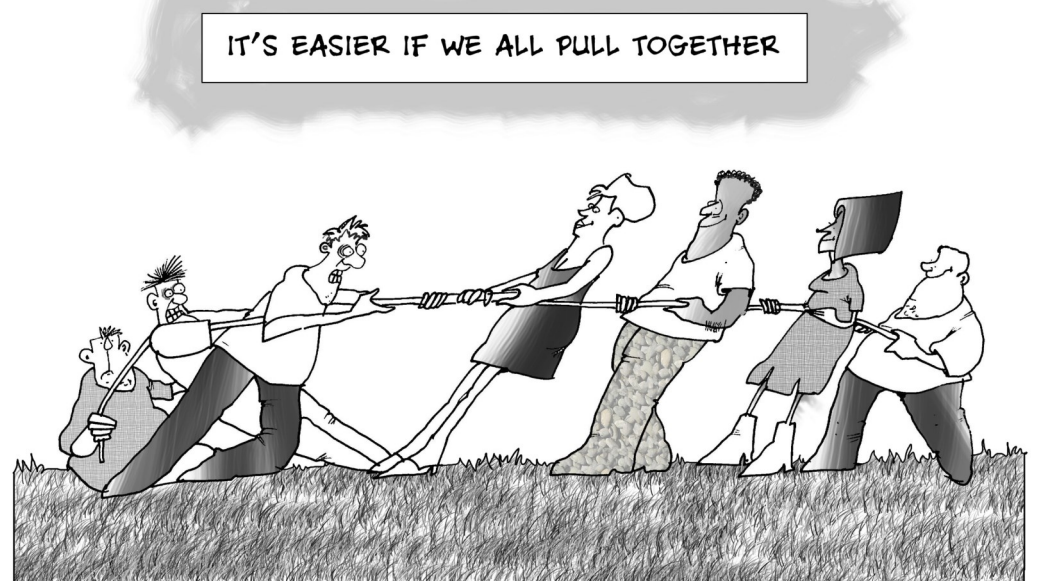
The Voice welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must not exceed 300 words and must be dated and signed with current address and daytime telephone number. The Voice reserves the right to edit letters.

Email submissions to theVoice@JewishDutchess.org

VOICE DEADLINES

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

ISSUE	DEADLINE
April	March 1
May	April 1
June	May 1



Last month's issue of *The Voice* featured two different responses to issues facing Jewish students on the Vassar College campus. The two articles, "The perilous position of being Jewish and pro-Israel at Vassar College" (a blog by a Vassar alumna) and "There's a Fuller Picture of Israel, Palestine, and Jewish Life at Vassar" (by Vassar faculty and administrators) demonstrate the ongoing tension surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at Vassar College.

The opportunity for a respectful exchange of viewpoints on that juxtaposition of perspectives in *The Voice* has been overwhelmed by a louder campaign of social media harangues and national reporting including an op-ed in last week's *Wall Street Journal* entitled "Majoring in Anti-Semitism at Vassar." These writings resulted in hate-filled emails and phone calls from Jews to Vassar administrators, faculty, students and other stakeholders who were accused of supporting anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activities on campus.

At a time when our focus should be on supporting Jewish college and university students, we are confronted with name-calling, threats, accusations and misrepresentations. Instead of asking how we can help create a calmer environment on campus, we adults-outside-the-college are escalating derision and indictments. When we could be modeling effective engagement, we've created obstacles to meaningful dialogue.

In an ironic twist, we've achieved a sort of equilibrium between the vitriol poured forth by the college's detractors and the vitriol exhibited by Israel's detractors.

We are teachers, yes. But we are also learners.

When a string of anti-Semitic comments appeared on a student social media platform [not hosted by Vassar College], Vassar Jewish students responded with:

"People are entitled to their own political beliefs, but the hate speech that has stemmed from those beliefs...is unacceptable and harmful. We don't want to use this post to give attention to anonymous Anti-Semites but rather to remind Vassar that thinking critically and compassionately is necessary for us to remain a community, even when we are divided politically. We encourage Jewish students to contact us for support and to remember that there is a place for them on this campus."

These are our children. They are Hillel and Vassar Jewish Union. They are J Street U. They are Chabad. And they are Jewish Voices for Peace.

As Rabbi Schneerson reminds us: "You will learn from this student that which you could never have learned from your own teachers and colleagues."

The Vassar students are intelligent, questioning, discerning young adults. They deserve our support, not our patronizing and judgmental moralizing.

They are all our children.

They can be our teachers, too.

The Purim Story as a Model...

(Continued from page 1)

- Strengthen and support Israel. That the Purim story is the first-ever account of anti-Semitism and that it is also the first biblical tale to chronicle the events of a Jewish community living in the Diaspora, without political sovereignty, is no coincidence. In the final analysis, it is impossible to know how the Purim story would have played out if there had been a sovereign Jewish state at that time. But our history testifies to the fact that though we may be free and prosperous elsewhere, Jews as a people are ultimately weaker without the ability to assert control over our own national future and provide for our own security.

For this reason, the State of Israel, imperfect though it may be, is essential for world Jewry. It is the only sure refuge in the world for Jews in distress. Israel not only protects those Jews who choose to live within its borders; it also plays an important role in enabling Diaspora Jews to feel empowered to live and practice our faith free of fear. Indeed, I believe the strength and vibrancy of modern Israel has played a large role in encouraging Diaspora Jews to be more public in the celebration of their faith, and to more boldly advocate for their communal interests in the public square. Though I am a proud citizen of the United States, and I do not believe, as some periodically suggest, that every Jew should emigrate to Israel, the persistent reality of anti-Semitism is to me a reminder of the critical importance of a strong and secure State of Israel. This cause requires not only the support of world Jewry, but also the cultivation of strong reciprocal friendships within the family of nations.

- Bolster relationships within the Jewish community. One of the most striking features of the Book of Esther, relatively unique among the books of the Bible, is the apparent unity of the Persian Jewish community of the time. No one Jew, other than the story's protagonists Mordechai and Esther, is given an independent voice in the story. Rather, they respond to the events of the narrative as a monolithic bloc. Does that mean every Persian Jew was alike? Were there no differences of opinion, practice, or religious philosophy among the Jews of that time? Were there no competing communal institutions, no political divides, no contentiously egotistical leaders? Anyone who has ever met two Jews would be hard-pressed to imagine such a Jewish community. And yet, faced with external peril, it seems the Jews of Persia intuited that they would survive only through unity.

That posture is instructive for us today. How much stronger would we be if federations, synagogues, JCCs, advocacy organizations, communal non-profits, and denominations were able to see each other not as competitors or ideological opponents but rather as partners in strengthening the entire Jewish people? What if we championed our own Jewish pathways while also respecting the positions and choices of other Jews, and loving them, even if we disagree? What would happen if we spent more energy finding ways to partner with each other than on ways to grab market share from or delegitimize each other? One cannot be certain, but I think it would better enable us to withstand the Hamans of our time.

We may not be able to eradicate anti-Semitism, but through nurturing relationships within the Jewish community, with people of other religious and ethnic backgrounds, and with the State of Israel, we can, like the Jews of the Purim story, more readily withstand any threat or foe we might face.

The Kotel Compromise...

(Continued from page 12)

as we read the prayer for Women of the Wall: "May it be Your will, our God and God of our mothers and fathers, to bless this prayer group and all who pray within it: them, their families and all that is theirs, together with all the women and girls of your people Israel. Strengthen us and direct our hearts to serve You in truth, reverence and love. ... And for our sisters, all the women and girls of your people Israel: let us merit to see their joy and hear their voices raised before You in song and praise. May no woman or girl be silenced ever again among Your people Israel or in all the world. God of justice, let us merit to see justice and salvation soon, for the sanctification of Your name and the repair of Your world, as it is written: Zion will hear and be glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, over Your judgments, O God. And it is written: For Zion's sake I will not be still, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be silent, until her righteousness shines forth like a great light and her salvation like a flaming torch. For Torah shall go forth from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem. Amen, selah."

For Zion's sake I will not be still, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be silent until her righteousness shines forth like a great light, and her salvation like a flaming torch. (Isaiah 62:1) For Anat Hoffman and that small group of committed people who were not silent and would not rest over all these years, I am deeply grateful. They have changed the world. There is more than one way to be a Jew... even in Israel.

Rabbi Laura Geller is senior rabbi at Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills. She was the first Reform female rabbi to be selected as the senior rabbi of a major metropolitan congregation, and in 1994 was honored with the California State Legislature's Women of the Year Award.

COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 20
10am - 12:30pm

Gold's Gym, 258 Titusville Road
Poughkeepsie (Lagrange)

\$5 admission for kids
Costumes recommended



FUN! FOOD! FESTIVITY!

This community carnival is sponsored by: Congregation Shir Chadash, Congregation Schomre Israel, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, PJ Library, Temple Beth-El and Vassar Temple

Information available at any of the synagogue offices listed above

Beacon Hebrew Alliance Purim Carnival

The Beacon Hebrew Alliance will hold its Purim Carnival. Come for wonderful food, music, and games geared towards preschool and school-aged children. Adults will find fellowship and humor among our congregation, and a wonderful sense of community, also.

DETAILS

March 27, 12:00pm-3:00pm, 331 Verplanck Ave, at the corner of Fishkill Ave, in Beacon. For more information, contact Cantor Ellen Gersh at: ellen@beaconhebrewalliance.org

Congregation Schomre Israel Purim Celebration

Schomre Israel invites the Dutchess County Jewish community to join the congregational family in the celebration of Purim. This joyous holiday commemorates the salvation of the Jews of the Persian Empire from their planned annihilation by the evil Haman. The Biblical book of Esther retells the story and is featured in the evening service which begins on Wednesday evening, March 23 at 7:00pm. Gragers will be distributed to the children (and the youngish at heart) to drown out the name of the villain Haman. Hamentaschen the specialty of the congregational sisterhood are served at the collation which follows.

The Megillah (Scroll of Esther) is read again at the Thurs service at 7:00am. Wednesday the day preceding the celebration is the Fast of Esther recalling Queen Esther's fast before approaching King Achashveros with her plea to save her people from the plot of the King's nefarious aide-de-camp, the notorious Haman

DETAILS

March 23, 7:00pm, reservations are not necessary to join in the services at the modern Orthodox Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie. For more information at www.schomreisrael.org or (845)454-2890

An Inside Out Purim at Vassar Temple

"Inside Out" megillah reading and Purim shpiel! Drawing on Pixar's latest hit, our shpielers will interrupt our regularly scheduled Megillah reading with musical updates brought to us by the five emotions: Joy (Mordechai), Sadness (Esther), Fear (Ahashuerus), Anger (Haman) and Disgust (Vashti). Come in costume and ride the emotional roller coaster! Please bring boxes of unopened pasta and rice to use as noisemakers. After the service, members of the Social Action Committee will deliver the boxes of pasta and rice to the food pantry at Morse Magnet School in Poughkeepsie. Prior to the megillah reading and spiel the Men's Club will serve a pasta dinner.

DETAILS:

Wed, March 23, 5:30pm pasta dinner, \$5 per person or \$15 per family followed by 7:00pm megillah reading and spiel at Vassar Temple. Please RSVP for the dinner to mensclub@vassartemple.org by March 18.

Pareve Cinnamon Dulce De Leche Hamantashen
 Taken from: <http://www.joyofkosher.com/recipes/pareve-cinnamon-dulce-de-leche-hamantashen/>

Ingredients

For the dough:

- 1 cup margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cup flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 tablespoon cinnamon
- Dash of salt

For the Dulce De Leche:

- 2 cup nondairy milk of your choice (almond, coconut, soy)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

For the Dough:

1. Cream margarine and sugar together in a large bowl by hand or with a mixer. Add eggs and mix thoroughly.
2. Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt, stir until dough is formed.
3. Preheat oven to 375 and prepare baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. On a lightly floured surface roll out dough 1/4 inch thick. With a 3 inch cutter (I use a glass) cut out as many holes as possible. Fold up corners to form a triangle, leaving a nice empty hole in the center to fill afterwards.
5. Transfer hamantashen to baking sheet, place in the oven and bake for about 20 minutes, until golden brown. Cool and then using a spoon pour in some dulce de leche.

For the Dulce De Leche:

1. Heat milk and sugar in a saucepan over medium heat. Add vanilla and stir until sugar is dissolved. Add baking soda, stir and bring heat down to lowest setting, allowing to cook on a low simmer for about 2 hours, stirring every so often.
2. Once it turns brown and thickens a bit, strain through a strainer and store in the fridge until ready to use.



Temple Beth-El Presents "Despicable Haman"



Coming to you live Wednesday night March 23, complete with hundreds of minions, slapstick humor, and evil intentions foiled again and again, is Temple Beth-El's Megillah reading and Purim Shpeil "Despicable Haman." Haman's plot to kill all the Jews might have worked, if it hadn't been for his employment of America's favorite gel-cap shaped henchman. Children and adults alike will roll with laughter, while having the opportunity to don yellow shirts and minion goggles. You too can have the chance to aid Haman's rise and eventual collapse. From a script written by Rabbi Daniel Victor and Rabbi Miriam Hyman, you can be sure no piece of the narrative will go untouched by the disastrous hands of our yellow bellied friends. In the end our heroes Mordechai and Esther emerge as the ones who saved the Jews of Persia but we cannot thank the minions enough for once again trying to help a villain try and carry out his dastardly deed. All hail the minions! Come see them live on stage as the holiday of Purim is celebrated with a festive reading of the Megillah, graggers for Haman, bells for Esther, and desserts and Hamantashen for everyone. The party begins at 6:30pm, please call the synagogue office to RSVP or to say, "I want to be one of Haman's Minions!" Here is hoping that all of Poughkeepsie has a merry Minion Purim.



Reactions to Despicable Haman:

"Despicable Haman tells the truth of how the Minions saved Purim" Rolling Stone Magazine

A fitting tribute for Purim fans and Minion Fans alike! - The New York Times Review

"Fans of all ages are positively overwhelmed by the wickedness and tomfoolery of Despicable Haman" - J-14 Magazine

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<p>1-2.5 oz. Select Varieties Osem Bissli & Bamba Snacks 89¢</p>	<p>Where Available 1.9-4.09 oz. Select Varieties Lipton Secret Recipe Soup Mixes 2/\$5</p>

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מגילה
Megillah
meh-GEE-lah



By Bekah Starr, PJ Library Director



Egg-Carton Eye Mask

This is a fun craft with many possibilities. You could create something whimsical, something in the style of an animal, a character out of the Purim story or anything really. You're only limited by your imagination!

Supplies:

- Empty Egg carton
- Scissors
- Smock an/or newspaper (for protecting clothes and tables)
- Paint (washable or acrylic) and brushes
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue
- Optional: glitter, ribbon, googly eyes, jewels, feathers, pipe cleaners, etc.

Directions:

- Cut out 2 connected pieces of egg carton
- Cut the centers out of each carton section. Push your finger through the holes to smooth out jagged edge.
- Paint the sticks & let dry
- Paint your egg carton piece
- (optional) shake glitter onto your wet paint & let dry
- (optional) Add any other embellishment of your choosing
- Attach your stick to the inner edge of the egg carton with glue
- Play, pretend and enjoy

What is bad? What is good? Who is a hero? Who is evil? This month Purim gives us a great opportunity to talk about duality. But is it really that clear or is it two sides of the same coin? Can you be good and do bad things? Why? What are some of these reasons? Even hamantaschen have duality, the crispy hard cookie and the soft gooey filling.

I hope you'll have a wonderful discussion with you child(ren) about this rich topic of duality and how we can be both and see both in the world. Let me know how your conversations go! I love to hear about the thoughts our kids have!

Email me at pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org and post little snippets of your conversation onto our Facebook page PJ Library Mid Hudson Valley

Happy Reading!

Do you receive free PJ Library books? Contact Bekah for more information at (908) 415-6742 or email: pjlibrary@jewishdutchess.org for more information

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Vassar Temple religious school children making paper mache puppets for the Purim spiel

Religious School March 2016

Vassar Temple Religious School

Sunday

Religious School Grades K-7. The school children love! 9:00am-12:00pm (No school March 20, 27)

Wednesday

Hebrew School Innovative Hebrew language program and bar/bat mitzvah prep for grades 5-7. Non-members welcome. 4:30-6pm (No school March 23)

Religious School Grades 8-12. 6:30-8:30pm. Relaxed, flexible program designed for today's teens. (No school March 23)

For information contact Dr. Joel M. Hoffman, director@vassartemple.org (845) 454-2570 www.school-vassartemple.org Member Union of Reform Judaism www.vassartemple.org

Temple Beth-El and Congregation Shir Chadash

Tuesday

Ivrit (Hebrew) School March 1, 8, 15, 29, 4:30 – 6:30pm @ Temple Beth-El for children in grades 3-7

Wednesday

Gesher Youth Program March 2, 9, 16, 30, 6:30-8:30pm @ Temple Beth-El for children in grades 8-12

Temple Beth-El, in partnership with Congregation Shir Chadash, offers an exciting Hebrew program. (845) 454-0570 or education@tbeny.org

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92nd Street Y

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

Thursday, March 17, 7pm Pre-recorded

50 Years After Nostra Aetate: Catholic, Jewish & Latino Relations in the Age of a Latino Pope

2015 marked the 50th anniversary since the groundbreaking Vatican II Council and Nostra Aetate forever transformed Catholic-Jewish relations.

In the U.S. today, the majority of Latino individuals identify as Catholic. Come learn from a distinguished panel on the current state of Catholic-Jewish relations, particularly during the age of Pope Francis, the first Pope from Latin America.



Special Welcome By The Papal Nuncio, the Vatican's Ambassador to the United Nations His Excellency Bernardito C. Auza.

Moderated by **Rabbi David Sandmel, PhD: Director of Interfaith Affairs, ADL**

Distinguished Panelists:

- **Rabbi Aaron Panken, PhD:** President, Hebrew Union College.
- **Reverend Brian McWeeney, D.Min:** Director of Interreligious and Ecumenical Affairs, Archdiocese of New York.
- **Judith Banki, D.H.L.:** Current scholar at the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding. Author of *The Image of the Jews in Catholic Teaching*, a memorandum which paved the way for the adoption of Nostra Aetate.
- **Reverend Jean-Pierre Ruiz, S.T.D.:** Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, St. Johns University, and Past President of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the U.S.

LOCATION: Boardman Library, 141 Boardman Rd, Poughkeepsie

We thank the Norman and Jeannie Green Fund for their generosity in making these programs possible.

Do you have a grandchild or child between the age of 6 months and 8 years? Enroll them today in PJ Library for an age-appropriate book-a-month.



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Dear Reader,

We hope you enjoy reading the *Voice* and its interesting, noteworthy, and enjoyable articles.

As you know, *The Voice* is a free publication of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. But it costs money to produce, print, and mail. As such, my role is to offset these costs by inviting local businesses to advertise in the paper. And we are very fortunate that 15 of them do.

This month, we welcome Stofa's Auto Service to our family of advertisers. Many of you already have Stofa's service your cars, so you know the excellent work they do. Stofa's specializes in Tires, Auto or Collision Repairs, of Advanced Diagnostics. So if you need any of these for your car, support Stofa's

Please continue to do business with our other advertisers as well. Stop into their places of business and mention you saw their name in *The Voice*. Advertising in *The Voice* is a win-win proposition.

Howard Lynne, President, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

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HELP WANTED

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County is looking for a dynamic individual to serve as its director of Jewish Family Services.

Working with the JFDC Board of Directors, Executive Director and Jewish Family Services Advisory Council, the ideal candidate will guide the program using traditional Jewish values of *gemilut chassadim* (acts of loving kindness), *tzedakah* (justice) and *tikun olam* (healing the world).

Qualifications include demonstrated program and community development experience; ability to manage a budget and steward relationships with our generous donors; excellent organizational skills, initiative and creativity; and a positive attitude. Strong written and oral communication capabilities. MS office savvy. Part time, 20 hours a week. Competitive salary.

For information and/or a complete job description send an email to: Director@JewishDutchess.org

Jewish Film Committee

Members Wanted

It's that time. If you're interested in joining the committee
email Director@JewishDutchess.org

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PASSOVER Greetings

Passover is traditionally a time for sharing with family, friends and strangers. While your seder table may not be large enough to fit all these people, you can share the warmth of this holiday with the entire Jewish community of Dutchess County by placing a Passover greeting in *The Voice*.

Passover begins on the evening of Friday, April 22 and greetings will appear in our April issue.

Please look at the designs and choose the one you prefer. The cost of the small ad is \$25 (Styles E, F, G, H), the medium ad is \$36 (Styles A, B, C, D), and the large ad is \$64 (Styles I & J).

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 - **THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 1.**

Make checks payable to: The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.

2016-5776

STYLE A

Happy Passover!



Your Name(s)



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



Your Name(s)

STYLE B



STYLE E



STYLE F

Next year in Jerusalem



Your Name(s)

STYLE C

STYLE D

2016-5776

PASSOVER Greetings

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Style A B C D E F G H I J

Your Name(s) on Greeting _____

Shalom at Pesach!



Your Name(s)

STYLE G

Peace to you this Passover!



Your Name(s)

STYLE H

DEADLINE IS MARCH 1!

STYLE I

Passover Blessings



Your Name(s)

DEADLINE IS MARCH 1!

STYLE J

Chag Pesach Sameach



Your Name(s)

DEADLINE IS MARCH 1

Checks should be made out to the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, Inc., and mailed to P.O. Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 4, 2016
Send your Passover Greetings to:
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Jewish Family Services FUND DRIVE Emergency Fund for Jewish Families

For members of the local Jewish community who are struggling with hard times, the Emergency Fund for Jewish Families can provide emergency financial grants and loans of up to \$800.

Grants are made available to families and individuals who need help with payment of emergency expenses including a utility bill payment, short term food instability, rent, essential medicines or job-search expenses. Applicants in need can seek help by contacting Joyce Schriebman, acting Jewish Family Services Director, and setting up a private meeting. All requests are confidential.

The **Emergency Fund for Jewish Families** is supported solely through donations from the Dutchess Jewish Community.

To make a donation send a check made out to **Jewish Family Services** to Emergency Fund for Jewish Families, PO Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, or call the Federation office (845) 471-9811 for credit card donations. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Jewish Family Services is a program of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. The Emergency Fund for Jewish Families program was established in 2010.

Sisterhood Schomre Israel

33rd Annual

Hamentashen Sale

Raspberry · Apricot · Prune
Poppyseed · Chocolate

\$14/dozen—\$10 half dozen

\$22 Shalach Monot Basket + \$13 postage

Hamentashen available for purchase and pick-up on

Sunday, March 13th from 12:00-2:00pm

Congregation Schomre Israel

18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie

www.schomreisrael.org · (845) 454-2890

Movie Night Presents *Gentlemen's Agreement*

The movie *Gentleman's Agreement* will be screened this month. Made in 1947, this Oscar winning movie explores anti-Semitism in a film noir drama. Gregory Peck, Celeste Holm, John Garfield, and Dorothy McGuire star in this thought provoking film directed by Elia Kazan.

DETAILS

Sat, Mar 16, 8:30pm, Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie. Refreshments will be served. \$5 suggested donation.

Chair Yoga at Schomre Israel

Come join our new class in Chair Yoga. This gentle practice will help you gain flexibility and strength, improve your balance, increase your energy and stamina, and calm your mind. All are welcome.

This is an ongoing class. Come whenever you can. No special equipment is needed but wear comfortable clothing

DETAILS

Mon mornings, 11:30am-12:30pm, at Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave, Poughkeepsie, \$5 per class.

Cold Winter, warm heart, full bellies Vassar Temple fights hunger

Vassar Temple's annual Souper Sale fundraiser provided over 500 large cans of Chunky Soups for area food pantries this winter.

A team of volunteers from the temple delivered cases of the soups to Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry, Dutchess Outreach's Beverly Class Food Pantry, the Community Action Partnership for their pantries in Poughkeepsie, Deacon, Dover and Red Hook, and Interfaith Towers Senior Housing.

In addition to soup, cases of lunch-healthy, protein based foods were also delivered to Morse Magnet Elementary School in Poughkeepsie. Morse Magnet, home to approximately 500 young students, has its own food pantry serving the needs of low income children in need of food on the weekends and school breaks when a free school lunch is not available.

Vassar Temple, a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, is able to provide nonperishable foods to pantries year round through this and other projects that fall under its CanJam social action program. For more info visit www.vassartemple.org.



Upcoming Cuba Trip

Paul Rashba is going to Cuba in April as part of a trip sponsored by the Forward. As part of his participation in this mission, he will bring a significant quantity of supplies for use by the Cuban Jewish Community. He will focus on prescription and over the counter medicines. The bottles can be open but the contents should **not have expired**. No liquids please. Cover up or remove your name from any prescription bottles.

Examples: Prescription medicines: Zithromax, Cipro, Advair, etc., Over the Counter items: Vitamin C, Zyrtec, Ibuprofen (no aspirin-please). Other needed supplies: thermometers, Band-Aids and alcohol pads

Please drop off donations no later than March 31 in the Temple Beth-El office during office hours. Do not leave any supplies in places other than the office. If you have questions contact (508) 338-2375 or (914) 474-9787. Thank you in advance for your support.



The Storycrafters in Our Roots are Showing, Tales & Songs from Jewish & Gaelic Traditions

A lively, participatory family concert

Jeri Burns and Barry Marshall have been working together as The Storycrafters since 1991, delivering their lively, participatory performances. Their natural, energetic style has been featured in major festivals, schools and libraries in the US and abroad, including the National Storytelling Festival.

With awards from Parents Choice, The Openheim Toy Portfolio and Storytelling World, they specialize in original retellings and modern renditions of world folklore, integrating music and song, poignancy and pizzazz. Publishers' Weekly describes them as 'top-notch family entertainment.' The Today Show has called them 'captivating' and the BBC has referred to them as 'brilliant.'

DETAILS

Sunday, Mar 13, 2:30-4:00pm, SUNY Ulster College Lounge. Reservations are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students aged 6-13, and Free for children under 6.

Tickets include light refreshments and an opportunity to meet artists. For more information www.ucif.org or (845) 338-8131

Upcoming New Paths Service

Join us at the next New Paths Shabbat morning service.

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 informal Kiddush follows.

DETAILS

Sat, March 5 & 26 10:00am, Vassar Temple East Chapel. Contact Marian Schwartz: mschw9882@aol.com Rabbi Leah Berkowitz rabbi@vassartemple.org or the temple office (845) 454-2570.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 625

The Private Herman Siegel Post 625 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb 7.

All persons of the Jewish faith who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces (Active, Reserve, or National Guard) are cordially invited to attend and participate in the activities of this JWV Post. As Schomre Israel is strictly kosher, no food or drink may be brought into the synagogue.

DETAILS

Sun, March 6, 9:30am. Congregation Schomre Israel, 18 Park Ave. If you need a ride or further information, please contact Post Commander, Robert L. Morrison, at ROBL56@aol.com.

How to Turn a Circle into a Triangle? Purim Hamentaschen Pick-Up

The kitchen at Congregation Schomre Israel has been the site of a very successful geometric exercise-transforming a circle into a triangle (well sort of a 3-dimensional triangle/pyramid type solid. Please excuse the inelegant math.

The good news for those who may not have ordered hamentaschen in advance that there will be some hamentaschen for sale at that time.

Congregation Schomre Israel is happy to help you meet your hamentaschen needs for Purim.

DETAILS

Sunday, Mar 13, 12:00pm-2:00pm, you can see the result of this exercise by picking up your pre-ordered hamentaschen. Contact: rgrosman@aol.com or www.schomreisrael.org

Study Group ,Hebrew Reading and Language Classes to Resume in May

A small group of dedicated men and women gather in the chapel at Schomre Israel Synagogue to study and share ideas.

This group has discussed the journey of the Israelites from the death of Moses to the death of King Solomon.

Class discussion will continue with the plight of the tribes as the North and South struggle for supremacy. Evelyn and David Horowitz will facilitate the discussion.

At 7:00pm David will continue teaching Hebrew language (prerequisite class of 2015). Evelyn will continue teaching "Improving Hebrew Reading Skills" using the prayer book.

DETAILS

Monday, 6:00pm, May—Sept, Congregation Schomre Israel. All classes are free and open to the Jewish community. For more info contact Dr. David Horowitz (845) 452-5969 after April 10

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA Turn an Ordinary Friday Night into Something Extraordinary

Congregation Schomre Israel will join 100's of synagogues across the continent in taking part in an historical Jewish event that celebrates what unifies all Jews—Shabbat!

Everyone is invited to join us for a user-friendly, Carlebach-style singing service.

Take part in the magic of Shabbat Across America. If you can't join us for dinner, just come to our Friday night service.

(See color ad on back page.)

DETAILS

Mar 4, 5:30pm, a Sabbath dinner will follow, prepaid dinner reservations are required. Reservations before Feb 18: \$36 for adults, \$15 for children 3-12, between Feb 19-26 \$40/\$20.

No reservations will be taken after Feb 26. For more information and a reservation form visit www.schomrisrael.org or call (845) 454-2890

Tiny Temple to Bake Hamantaschen

Calling all tots!

Let's make yummy hamantaschen in anticipation of the joyous holiday of Purim at this month's free Tiny Temple program. All children ages infant to 5 years of age and those raising them are warmly invited to join in the fun.

Tiny Temple is open to all regardless of temple affiliation, always free of charge, and sponsored by the Vassar Temple Sisterhood. Vassar folks will be happy to answer any questions you have about this wonderful program. And they'll put you on the Tiny Temple e-mail list

DETAILS

Sun, Feb. 28, 11:00am-12:00pm. Snow date Mar 13. Vassar Temple, 140 Hooker Ave. Email www.vassartemple.org or RSVP to Laura Brundage and Fern Wolf at tinytemple@vassartemple.org

Schomre Israel Winter Lecture Series

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn will speak on "Bridge to Eternity."

He will address how Judaism understands life, death, and the issues of euthanasia and dignity. Rabbi Zohn is the distinguished president of NASCK, the National Association of Chevra Kadishas, and the foremost expert on matters of end-of-life issues. This lecture is sponsored by our local Chevra Kadisha.

DETAILS

Sun, Mar 6, 10:30am. Programs will be held at 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie

Wine & Cheese Party

Order your Passover wine at Vassar Temple's Wine & Cheese Party, featuring wine tasting from the kosher Kedem Winery in Marlboro.



This will be a lovely afternoon event, enhanced by musical entertainment. Selected wines will be available for tasting, and you will be able to order from a large variety of Kedem products. Your order will be delivered to the temple before Passover. A portion of the proceeds benefit Vassar Temple. Raffle tickets are \$2 (for 2 bottles of wine.) This event is restricted to adults, however on-site babysitting will be available courtesy of the Vassar Temple Youth Group. Wine ordering is available for a limited time following the event.

DETAILS

Sun, Mar 20, 2:00-4:00pm in the Vassar Temple Social Hall. Admission is \$10 and includes tasting and one full glass of wine. RSVP for tickets and babysitting by Sun Mar 13 to Polly Lewis at Bel-la6034@yahoo.com or (845) 476-9778.

Torah-to-Go: Music in the Bible.

Join Rabbi Leah Berkowitz of Vassar Temple to explore the theme of music in the Hebrew Bible. See the Torah scroll unrolled, hear/sing musical renditions of biblical passages and learn how music played a role in Bible stories.

Featuring renowned musician and composer Joe Bertolozzi. No charge; people of all faiths welcome!

DETAILS

Sun, Mar 6, 2:30 pm, The Auditorium, 105 Market St. (next door to Adriance Library) For more info email: rabbi@vassartemple.org





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**Passover 2016
Begins
Friday, April 22**

Calendar

Sunday

Temple Beth-El serves at Lunchbox March 13, 10:00am-2:00pm, Dutchess Outreach, Family Partnership Building, 29 N. Hamilton St. Help Temple Beth-El serve at the Lunchbox. Sign up with Marlene Strauss (845) 454-0570

Congregation Schomre Israel March 6, 10:30am, guest lecture by Rabbi Zohn, *Bridge to Eternity*. For more information (845) 454-2890 or www.schomreisrael.org

Congregation Schomre Israel, March 13, 12:00pm-2:00pm, hamentaschen pick up

Congregation Schomre Israel K4 Men's Group March 27, 9:30am, monthly meeting of K4 men's group (Koffee, Kibbitz, Kvetch Klub), For more information (845) 454-2890 or www.schomreisrael.org.

Monday

Congregation Schomre Israel Chair Yoga—11:30am-12:30pm, Chair Yoga with Toni Farkas

Temple Beth-El Board Meeting March 7, 7:30pm, Temple Beth-El's Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

Tuesday

Join a (Broken) Yiddish Class 11:00am at Hudson Valley Community Center, 110 S. Grand Ave. Poughkeepsie. Did you know that there is a spoken Yiddish class being held at HVCC? That it's free? There are no reservations required? That all you have to do is show up, laugh and shep a lot of naches? That it is totally informal with no agenda? That no one gets teased? That is will be like sitting with your bubba and zaidi again? Contact (845) 471-0430 for more information.

Wednesday

Hebrew Reading Class 4:30pm, at Congregation Schomre Israel, contact Evelyn Horowitz (845) 452-5969 for more information.

Congregation Schomre Israel March 23, 7:00pm, reading of the Megillah in celebration of Purim.

Temple Beth-El Purim Celebration & Megillah Reading March 23, 6:30pm, fun Purim service and celebration. All welcome

Lunch & Learn Program every Wednesday 11am-1:30pm at the Hudson Valley Community Center. For more information contact (845) 471-0430

Thursday

Congregation Schomre Israel March 24, 7:00am, Megillah is read again.

Friday

Vassar Temple Shabbat Services March 4, 11, 18, 25, 6:00pm, worship with Rabbi Berkowitz;

Shabbat B'yachad March 4, 6:30pm, shortened, lively evening service includes Shabbat melodies, candle lighting, mourners' Kaddish. Birthdays are celebrated. Great for all generations. For more information contact Temple Beth-El office (845) 454-0570.

Saturday

Vassar Temple New Paths Sabbath March 5, 26, 10:00am with Rabbi Berkowitz

Vassar Temple Torah Study, March 5, 19, 26, 9:00am with Rabbi Berkowitz.

Congregation Schomre Israel March 19, 8:30pm, movie night *Gentlemen's Agreement*.

Out of Area

Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley Events

23 Albany Ave, Kingston NY 12401, (845) 338-4271 www.templemanuelkingston.org

Kabbalat Shabbat evening service held every Friday at 7:30pm, except the 1st Friday of each month, which begins at 6pm.

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat is the 3rd Friday of the month. Musical Shabbat is the way Shabbat "ought to feel", be prepared to be lifted out of your seat as our fabulous community of musicians bring extraordinary talent, passion, and soul to accompany our Sabbath prayers.

Shabbat Service with Zemer is the 4th Friday of the month.

Tot Shabbat Sat, March 19, 9:00am, a wonderful way to introduce your tot to Shabbat through interactive music with Rabbi Romer & her guitar.

Saturday Morning Service – Sat, 10:00am, Sept-June. Join our community for uplifting and inspiring Saturday morning communal prayer, meditation and Torah study.

Ongoing Adult Education with the Rabbi call (845) 338-4271x101 for class dates/time: Hebrew Trope, Torah Study, Introduction to Judaism, Beginner and Intermediate Conversational Modern Hebrew, Meditation and Parashat Shuvah, Kabbalah, Private Conversion Tutorials.

Speaking Torah—2nd & 4th Thurs, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Oct –May, Taught by Rabbi Yael Romer, from "Speaking Torah Vol. 1 & 2, Spiritual Teachings from around the Maggid's Table" by Dr. Arthur Green Rabbi Ebn Leader, Ariel Evan Mayse & Rabbi Or N. Rose

Rhinebeck Meditation & Torah Study — Thurs, 8:45-10:00am, through June. Led by Rabbi Yael Romer, with meditation and weekly Torah study. Welcome your day with a morning ritual that prepares you to receive the days blessings with fullness, center & breath.

Religious School—Sat, 9:30am-12:30pm, through May. Our students use the URJ's Chai Curriculum and Hebrew course, enhanced by Art, Music & Dance.

Lunch with Rabbi Romer & Guests — Tues, March 1, Join Rabbi Romer for a hot luncheon with discussion following.

Purim Carnival-Sat, March 26, 12:30pm-2:00pm, Family Fun Event! Community event all are welcome!

Purim Service Megillah Reading & Sphiel — Thurs, March 24, 6:00pm-7:30pm, Community events all are welcome.

Rosh Chodesh—3rd Tues, 7:00-9:00pm, through June, a women's gathering exploring our female voices in Jewish traditions. January/February we will be creating our own tallitot (prayer shawls). Please reserve your space (845) 338-4271.

Women's Seder—Sun, April 3, 5:00pm, veggie dairy potluck with no chametz (bread). Reservations requested please contact the Main Office (845) 338-4271 x101

Second Night Seder— Sat, April 23, 5:00pm. Reservations required please contact the Main Office (845) 338-4271 x101.



The Jewish Federation of Ulster County & SUNY Ulster present

"Our Roots are Showing" - Tales & Songs from the Jewish & Gaelic Traditions

A lively participatory family performance led by The Storycrafters -Jeri Burns & Barry Marshall



SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2:30-4:00pm
College Lounge,
Vanderlyn Hall
SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge.

Admission:
\$15 for Adults & Teens;
\$10 for ages 6-12;
FREE for children under 6.

Light refreshments will be served.



For reservations & information: 845. 338. 8131 | www.ucjf.org | info@ucjf.org

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March

Regular Schedule of Services

Beacon Hebrew Alliance

331 Veplanck Avenue • Beacon • (845) 831-2012

Conservative: Rabbi Brent Spodek

Cantor Ellen Gersh/Education Dir. Rabbi Shoshana Hantman

Website: www.beaconhebrewalliance.org

Email: 411@beaconhebrewalliance.org

Service held weekly on Fridays at 7:30 pm and alternating Saturdays at 9:30am. Visit our website for information about services, religious school, and community events

Chabad of Mid-Hudson Valley

63 Vassar Road • Poughkeepsie • (845) 463-5801

Email: chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net

Website: www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com

Rabbi Yacov Borenstein

Friday—Call for time • Saturday—10 am

Congregation Beth David

E. Main Street • Amenia • (845) 373-8264

Email: JonRab33@gmail.com

Website: CongBethDavid.org

Independent: Rabbi Jon Haddon

Services held usually on Saturdays at 10:00am twice monthly except January & February. Please call for schedules.

Congregation Schomre Israel

18 Park Avenue • Poughkeepsie • (845) 454-2890

Email: Schomre1@aol.com

Website: www.schomreisrael.org

Orthodox: Rabbi Eliezer Langer

Monday-Thursday—7 am, Sundays—8 am, Saturday—9 am

Sunday-Thursdays 7:00pm • Shabbat Services vary depending on sundown.

Congregation Shir Chadash

Interim: Freedom Plains Pres. Church • Lagrange • (845) 232-1029

Email: info@shir-chadash.org

Website: www.shir-chadash.org

Reform: Rabbi Daniel Polish

Cantor Gail Hirschenfang

Fridays—Shabbat Services at 7:30pm, Bi-monthly on

Saturdays; Children's Religious School at 9:00am; Torah Study at 9:15am and Sunday Services at 8:30 am

The Rhinebeck Jewish Center

102 Montgomery St • Rhinebeck • (845) 876-7666

Website: rhinebeckjewishcenter.com

Services held at 102 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck.

Rabbi Hanoch & Rebbitzin Tzivie Hecht

Friday Services—Please call for time; Saturday Services—9:30

Temple Beth El

118 So. Grand Avenue, Poughkeepsie • (845) 454-0570

Email: info@tbeny.org

Website: www.tbeny.org

Conservative: Rabbi Daniel Victor

Rosh Tefilah: Rabbi Miriam Hyman

Shabbat B'yachad family service—1st Friday of the month at 6:30 pm, Friday evening—7:30 pm, Saturday Shabbat service at 9:30 am, Weekdays—7:30am daily.

Vassar College Bayit

51 Collegeview Avenue • Poughkeepsie • (845) 451-3920

Rabbi Kerry Chaplin

Email: kechaplin@vassaredu

Friday-6:00 pm service, 7:00 pm dinner, when school is in session

Vassar Temple (Reform)

140 Hooker Avenue • Poughkeepsie • (845) 454-2570

Website: www.vassartemple.org

Reform: Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

Email: office@vassartemple.org or rabbil@vassartemple.org

Friday night services start at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

Torah study every Saturday at 9:00am. New Paths Services on the first and third Saturday of each month at 10:00am. Unless otherwise noted.

March Candle Lighting

March 4 5:32

March 11 5:40

March 18 6:48

March 25 6:56



Congregation Shir Chadash Celebrates Tu B'Shevat

(L to R) The 7 species for Tu B'Shevat Celebration. Rabbi Daniel Polish explaining the significance of the different fruits and nuts. Congregants enjoying their Tu B'Shevat dinner



Rabbi David Cohen speaker at Congregation Schomre Israel on Sunday Jan 31, presenting at the Winter Lecture Series

The Kotel Compromise: Recognizing there is more than one way to be a Jew

Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." In the case of the recently announced historic victory regarding egalitarian prayer at the Kotel (the Western Wall), it was not just citizens. It was Jews from around the world who believe that there is more than one way to be a Jew. It was a small group of brave women — Orthodox, Reform and Conservative, native Israelis and immigrants, and the men who support them — who have been going to the Kotel for the past 27 years, early on the morning of Rosh Chodesh (the new moon), to pray together as a group.

For all those years, there has been abuse and sometimes violence from those opposed to women praying together in public. I have been a part of Women of the Wall over these years, whenever my travel in Israel coincided with Rosh Chodesh. Once, I had my *tallit* confiscated; once, my husband was the man who smuggled the *siddurim* past security; once, I stood on a chair holding an empty Torah mantle to protest the prohibition imposed by the Western Heritage Foundation against women reading from a Torah scroll. For 27 years, many Israeli and North American friends told me not to waste my time on this issue. After all, who really cares about the Kotel? They challenged me by arguing that worship at the Kotel is just a kind of idol worship and that there are more important issues of separation of religion and state, such as civil marriage, divorce and burial.

But ... I really care. This is very personal. I care about the invisibility of women. I care about the access of all Jews and Israelis to public space. I care that women's voices have been silenced when public celebrations and commemorations have taken place on the upper plaza just beyond the prayer sections of the Kotel. I care because these concerns, while just the tip of the iceberg, force people to pay attention to the crucial struggle for the separation of synagogue and state. I care because many of the next generation of American Jews will not be eligible to marry in Israel, because they would not be considered Jewish according to the ultra-Orthodox understanding of Jewish law now accepted in Israel. I care because people whom I have accompanied through conversion have been denied their right to make *aliyah*.

I care because I believe with all my heart that there is more than one way to be a Jew, and Israel, of all the places in the world, must be a beacon of religious freedom. That is what this struggle is ultimately about. That is why this issue has been so important to me over these past 27 years.

And it is personal ... because Anat Hoffman, founder of Women of the Wall, who has led the fight within Israel, is my friend. I have had the great privilege of bringing her to speak at

Temple Emanuel over the past 20 years. The last time was a little more than a year ago, at Purim. She began her remarks by telling us all the ways she was different from Queen Esther. She didn't say, but could have, that she was closer to Queen Vashti, who stood up against patriarchal authority. But there is one important way in which Hoffman is exactly like Queen Esther: A woman who changed history because, when push came to shove, she wasn't afraid to do what was necessary.

Two years ago, when I was in Israel celebrating the 25th anniversary of Women of the Wall, our delegation met with Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He told us that Hoffman was a hero for two reasons: First, that during 25 years of serious abuse and threat, she and her colleagues never gave up. And second, that even at that moment of greatest political power, because the whole Jewish world was watching, she was willing to accept a compromise that recognized the voices of others who understand Judaism in a different way from how she does.

This week, the Israeli government agreed. The compromise proposal is the result of years of negotiating involving the Israeli and North American Reform and Conservative movements, The Jewish Federations of North America and Women of the Wall, along with Sharansky, Israeli Cabinet Secretary Avichai Mandelblit and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. Among the decisions reached are: There will be one main transformed entrance for three sections — men, women and egalitarian; the plaza above the Kotel where national commemoration and celebration can take place will be free of gender-based discrimination; the new egalitarian section will not be under the control of the Western Heritage Foundation, but rather a council of representatives from Women of the Wall, The Jewish Federations, and the Reform and Conservative movements.

This level of recognition for non-Orthodox denominations is historic. Women's prayer groups will have full access to Torah scrolls. The office of the administrator of the Western Wall formally recognizes other Jewish denominations, and there can no longer be criminal sanctions for not obeying "local custom" defined by the ultra-Orthodox. After its construction is complete, the new section will host visiting groups, including Birthright, dignitaries and private and public ceremonies.

The last time I prayed with Women of the Wall was Rosh Chodesh Av this past summer. Then, as at other times, the most moving part of the service for me came right after Hallel,

(Continued on page 5)

Congregation Schomre Israel
18 Park Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

Shabbat Across America

18 Park Avenue • Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
http://www.schomreisrael.org/ • 845-454-2890

Congregation Schomre Israel
Modern Orthodox Congregation
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Shabbat Across America

Turn an Ordinary Friday Night into Something Extraordinary

Come to Schomre Israel on Friday, March 4th, 2016

On March 4th half a million people across America will come together to learn, worship, eat, drink, relax, enjoy and celebrate Shabbat. Congregation Schomre Israel will join hundreds of synagogues across the continent as we take part in an historical national Jewish event that celebrates what unifies all Jews — SHABBAT!

Everyone is invited to join us for a user-friendly, Carlebach style singing on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 5:30 PM. A Sabbath dinner will follow. Prepaid dinner reservations are required for this event.

Prepaid early reservations received on or before February 18 are \$36 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3-12. Prepaid reservations received between February 19-February 26 are \$46/\$20. No reservations will be taken after February 26.

Join us to participate in the magic of Shabbat Across America

If you can't join us for dinner, just come to our Friday night service. For more information and a reservation form please go to the synagogue website at www.schomreisrael.org or call the office at 845.454.2890.

