The Voice of the Dutchess Jewish Community
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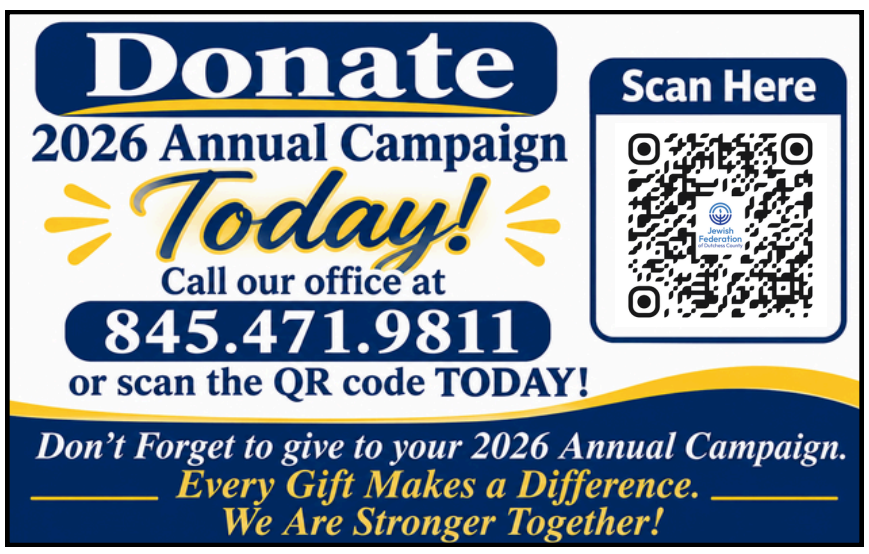

Frontline: Federations hiring 100 new professionals to combat antisemitism

From Jewish Federation of North America, October 21, 2026
Source: jewishfederations.org/blog

Jewish Federations across North America are strengthening our communities' response to rising antisemitism by adding 100 new professional positions to our frontline advocacy and community relations teams. Focused on local and state advocacy, K-12 and higher education, and interfaith and intergroup partnerships, these professionals join the experienced teams already on the ground, adding the depth and breadth of support needed to push back against the hate that is rearing its head in too many areas of civic life.

The 100 new professionals are being hired through the Jewish Federations of North America's Frontline initiative. With support from over 25 funders, this $35 million initiative is providing targeted grants to 120 local Federations, while also ensuring that Federations' local efforts are backed by training, shared tools and resources, and expert guidance to address this growing challenge.

Since the October 7th attacks, antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed, with antisemitic physical assaults reaching a record high last year, and Jews targeted in 64% of religiously motivated hate crimes. In the U.S., 65% of Jews say that the country has "a lot" of antisemitism, up from 45% in 2020.

These professionals are our community's first line of defense, building strong relationships to represent our community's needs and address antisemitism wherever it surfaces, whether in city council meetings, in health care settings, on school boards or education curricula, or in other civic spaces.

"Federations have been deeply engaged in the work of community relations and civic engagement for decades. Today, we require new strategies and increased resources to address the dramatic rise of antisemitism that is permeating every facet of civic life. Federations are on the 'frontlines' of this work every day," said Shira Hutt, Executive Vice President of Jewish Federations of North America. "Frontline is a game-changing initiative that will equip Federations with the talent, support, and resources they need to confront the increasingly complex and growing challenges they face, whether in government, in educational institutions, in media, or our other civic spaces."

Strategically strengthening our communal ties is a critical element of fighting antisemitism, but we know there are other areas of work that must be addressed. We need to communicate our message effectively, to mobilize the community across important issues, and to start planting the seeds for the next generation

Continued Page 13



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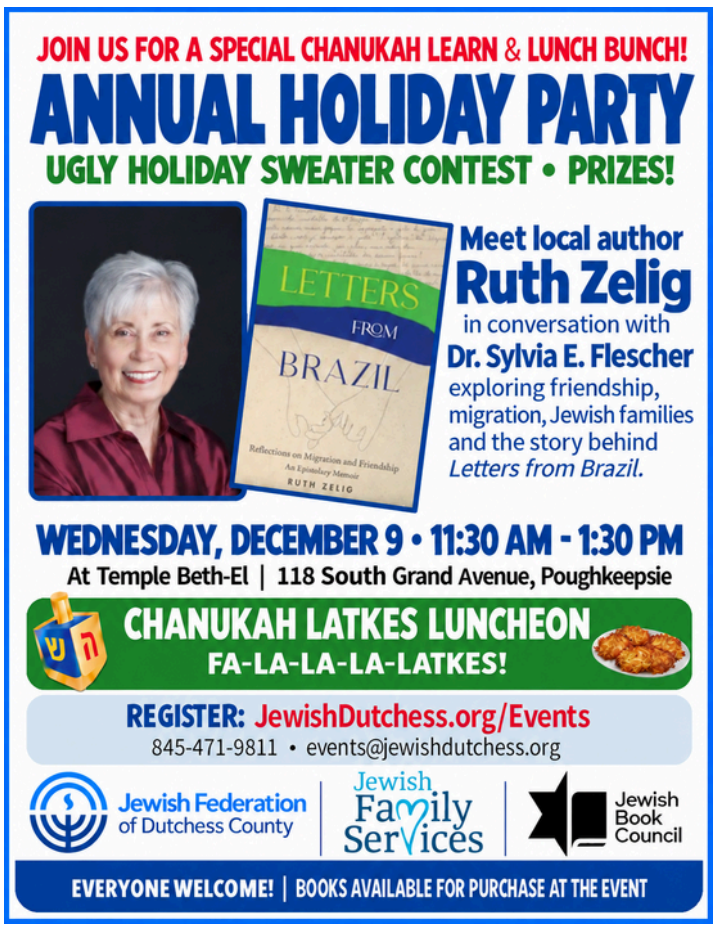

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What is Jewish Family Services (JFS)?

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

The Voice of the Dutchess Jewish Community

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LEARN & LUNCH BUNCH

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

Location
Temple Beth-El
118 S Grand Ave
Poughkeepsie NY

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

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

*Gluten free options available upon request in advance
*Menu is subject to change

Please do not bring outside food into the temple.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS Join us!

December 9 – "Letters from Brazil" presented by author Ruth Zelig." Discover Ruth's remarkable story of a lifelong friendship that survived distance, time and changing cultures through 20 years of letters. Join Ruth and Dr. Sylvia E. Flescher as they explore friendship, Jewish family life and the journey behind her memoir. **Don't Forget to wear your Ugly Sweater for our Annual Contest! Hanukkah celebration menu:** latkes, gluten free latkes, applesauce, sour cream, mini pizza bagels, ice cream cake and fruit.

December 23 – Public Libraries: The Great Good Place, presented by Anna Lillian Moser, LaGrange Association Library Director. Quiet, solitary libraries are a thing of the past! Discover all the dynamic things your area libraries are getting up to, and learn about their growing importance in an increasingly monetized world. **Menu:** minestrone soup, noodles, garlic bread, salad and gelato.

TO REGISTER, call the office at (845) 471-9811
or online at: www.JewishDutchess.org/events
****Advanced registration needed for food planning purposes****

Learn & Lunch Bunch is partially funded by the Ann & Abe Effron Fund and Bernard and Shirley Handel Foundation Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and an anonymous Charitable Trust thanks to the guidance of Adam Belok, Board Member and Financial Consultant.











Office for the Aging

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

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

As They Say in Sweden…

Det finns inget dåligt väder, bara dåliga kläde
That's Swedish for the Nordic saying "there's no such thing as bad weather - only bad clothes."

Being ready for whatever winter throws at us is essential in Dutchess County, especially for older adults, who are more likely to be affected by cold, snow, and ice. Many medications affect the body's ability to regulate its temperature, and older adults tend to lose body heat more quickly.

These are factors you can anticipate with your choice of winter clothing. And are we not the generation that walked uphill to school, both ways, in blizzards, and liked it?

Preparation now will go a long way toward a winter with more time to enjoy the winter scenery, and less time worrying that you'll take a spill on an icy driveway or sidewalk.

Prepare While You're Still Indoors

There's no need to hurry to your destination, not this time of year. Wait until the roads are clear before venturing outside; and, if possible, bring a companion with you. When you do head outside, be sure you put on warm socks, a heavy coat, a warm hat, gloves and a scarf, taking extra precautions to cover exposed skin as the temperature drops. Be sure you're wearing shoes with good traction and non-skid soles. If you've got a cane, replace the tip if it's worn out.

Another indoor precaution against winter weather is to be ready for power outages. Step one: fresh batteries for your flashlights and radios, and a battery backup for your home computer if you use one. Keep your mobile devices charged, too.

Extended outages could spoil frozen and refrigerated food, so have enough non-perishable goods ready. Have plenty of warm blankets handy, and you'll need the aforementioned warm clothing if the power outage also knocks out your heat.

See **www.dutchessny.gov/winterchecklist** for more.

Prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, phone (845) 486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging Social media: www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA

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The Harding Club

Friends Making A Difference

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

Friendships can be fostered in many ways. One way is when people work together to accomplish something. The Harding Club's tzedakah committee both sponsors active good work and financial support for local organizations. This past year the Club aided a wide variety of local initiatives including efforts to combat food insecurity, provide access to healthcare, and enhance education for needy students.

The Club, founded during the Harding Administration, has flourished for over 100 years. The Club is one of the nation's oldest Jewish men's social clubs located outside a major metropolitan area. We believe the long life of our club reflects lasting happiness achieved by enabling new, and deeper, friendships among Jewish men; as well as providing opportunities for interested members to make a difference in our community.

Harding Club meetings take place once or twice a month, for dinner or lunch, at a local eatery. Each meeting mixes socializing, camaraderie and good fellowship; with speakers who address timely topics across the spectrum of life, including business, the arts, recreation, health, money management, politics and history. Recently, a club speaker discussed the societal risks, and options for remedies, posed by rapid advances in artificial intelligence.

The Club is always open to new members. If you would like to join our group of friends, we are excited to welcome you!

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

THE MILLBROOK CHANUKAH COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO THE LIGHTING OF THE MILLBROOK MENORAH

Sunday, December 6, 2026

On the lawn of the Thorne Building Franklin Avenue

Festivities begin at 4:00PM

Followed By:

HOT LATKES - HOT APPLE CIDER - COFFEE - BAKED GOODS - SINGING

at Babette's kitchen
3293 Franklin avenue
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Sponsored by Millbrook Community Members

We apologize in advance for any spelling errors in the Holiday greetings.
Questions, please email admin@jewishdutchess.org or call the Federation office at 845.471.9811



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Best Wishes
For a Happy Hanukkah!



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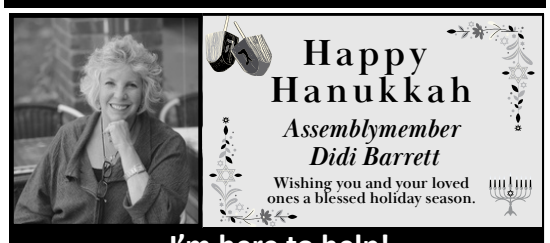
Wishing You and Yours a Happy Hanukkah!

Sue Serino
Dutchess County Executive





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Dutchess County Legislator

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



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May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



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Peace to all!



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Bob Ulrich

Peace to all!



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Peace to all!



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Rabbi's Blog *by Rabbi Michael Fessler*


Rabbi Michael Fessler

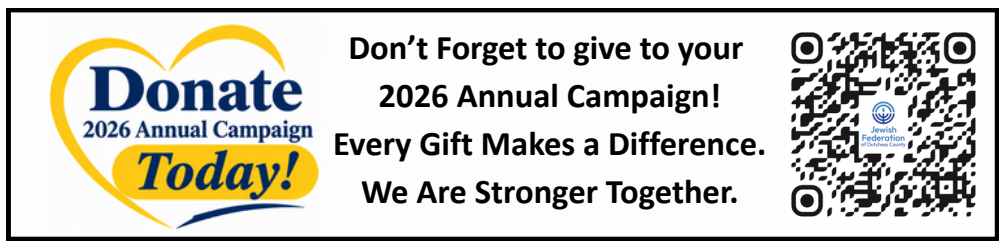
Hanukkah arrives extra early on the Gregorian calendar this year - or is December arriving extra late on the Jewish calendar? Whenever Hanukkah falls, however, it brings a profound message of hope.

We all know the broad outlines of the holiday's history: the Assyrian Greek King Antiochus launches a campaign of forced assimilation against the Jews of the land of Israel, forbidding Jewish practice and desecrating the Temple. The Maccabees lead a revolt that seems doomed from the outset: a small brave core standing steadfast against the might of an empire. Against all odds, they win, restore Jewish independence, and rededicate the Temple.

A more detail look at the period's history complicates this picture - the Hasmonean dynasty founded by the Maccabees quickly degenerates into corruption and mediocrity. It is perhaps for this reason that when the rabbis of the Talmud describe Hanukkah, they focus not on the military victory, but on the story of the miracle of the oil: a small container that far outlasted its expected lifetime. The later tradition focuses on how we light the Hanukkah menorah as a re-enactment of the Maccabees' leap of faith.

The Hanukkah menorah holds yet more symbolism. Each of its branches holds its own, distinct flame - each contributing to a light that builds over the course of the holiday, starting as a solitary flickering ember, and culminating with a radiance that shines brightly against the darkness. Like the menorah, the Jewish community contains many branches. But, like the menorah, our many branches are connected at the base - reminding us that the Jewish people is made stronger through its diversity of thought, practice, and values. At this time of polarization, it can be a struggle to hear from those with whom we disagree on vital issues. Hanukkah invites us not only to share our own light, but to welcome the light of others - for it is only together that our combined lights can reach their full strength. Only together can we shine against the darkness.

Chag sameach!







Meet Your Neighbor *by Karen Hochhauser*

Each month, we ask a Member of the Tribe (MOT)* the following questions and feature their answers for a fun and insightful way to meet your neighbors. This month, we are excited to introduce **Karen Dipnarine-Saroop,** who took time from her new volunteer role as Interfaith Community Liaison. *WELCOME TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION TEAM!*


Karen Saroop

1. **What is your favorite/least favorite word?**
   Favorite: *In Trinidad & Tobago, there is a French creole word "Malgretoute" which means "come what may" despite everything, a philosophy of resilience.*
   Least Favorite: *Hate. I feel we have too much already in our world.*
2. **What inspires you?** *Resilience of the human spirit and the intelligence of nature.*
3. **What is your favorite song?** *"Olam Chesed Yibaneh" by Rabbi Menachem Creditor.*
4. **What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?** *A volcanologist. I am fascinated by volcanoes and their tremendous energy.*
5. ***What profession other than your own would you not like to attempt?*** *Undertaker though I have enormous respect for what they do.*
6. ***What do you most like and dislike about yourself?***
   Like: *That I am curious and try to find wonder in the world.*
   Dislike: *How I overthink things.*
7. **What is your favorite Jewish food/dessert?** *Chocolate Babka – Muriel Horowitz introduced me to it.*
8. **What is one interesting thing that people don't know about you?** *I grew up in Trinidad and Tobago attending the Catholic church and Hindu Temple. I went to a Presbyterian primary school and Anglican High School. I am shaped by all these traditions and maybe I was destined to do this interfaith work after all.*
9. **If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?** *I want to be able to be invisible. I want Harry Potter's invisibility cloak.*
10. **What is your greatest achievement/something you are most proud of?** *I've tried to build a life of love, and hopefully I have done that with my husband Sudesh.*
11. **Do you have a "bucket list" and, if so, what is on it?** *If I had one, it would include spending more time in India and having a tiny cottage next to a stream in the Adirondacks.*
12. **What is your earliest Jewish memory?** *For a long while, the only exposure was learning about WWII. Those lessons leave lasting impressions.*
13. **What is your favorite Jewish memory?** *Meeting Rabbi Neal Loevinger. We can sit and talk about so much that we have in common.*
14. **If there were one thing you would hope others do in the interest of our future, what would that be?** *I think about how we raise our children. They should be compassionate and courageous. It has to start from the family.*
15. **In what ways, does or can JFedDC impact our Jewish community?** *Helping people feel connected, supported and safe. Building bridges and community – have good relationships long before we need to use them.*
16. **If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?** *I want my father to be waiting there for me and God say, "Well done child. I'm proud of you. Welcome home."*
17. **What is a question you wish we asked and what is the answer?**
    Q: What gives you hope?
    A: The story of why we plant trees for our future, even if we never see the fruits of our actions or feel the shade from the trees. I am rooting for us.

    Q: What do you look forward to in your new roles as Interfaith Community Liaison?
    A: I think interfaith work is an important part of the every day fabric of our community. I look forward to cultivating a community where no one has to feel alone. By knowing each other, we can stand together when we need it the most.

**Member of the Tribe - in the case, adopted member of the tribe*



JFedDC Holiday Hits 2026



Wasser Overnight Camp Scholarship is BACK!

Give your child the opportunity to make lasting memories and lifelong friendships at camp!

Explore this year's scholarship opportunities, complete your application, and don't miss the chance to give your child a summer they'll never forget!

Hear from one of our Wasser Overnight Camp Scholarship recipients about their experience.

"At **URJ Eisner Camp** I had many positive experiences. First off I made many friends. I also connected more with my Jewish identity through all of the songs and teachings. I had many meaningful experiences there, including being with and connecting with the Israeli staff and learning things from them. I really enjoyed making friends and being able to connect with them through time we spent in the bunk and in other places.

Overall, this program gives kids who wouldn't have been able to experience a Jewish summer camp an opportunity to try it out. In fact I enjoyed it so much that I have gone for the past 2 summers and I'm hoping to go to **URJ Eisner Camp** for the full summer this year. In conclusion this program is great and expanding it would help out many other families and children.

Thank you so much for helping me go to Eisner and have these awesome experiences!"
Sincerely,
Ben



Shabbat Yeladim at Vassar Temple
Saturday Dec. 5 at 10:15 am

Shabbat Yeladim is a Jewish space for wiggles, music, stories, and the kind of Shabbat joy that might just get everyone to nap time—or a good Shabbos shluff. Yeladim means "children" in Hebrew, and we mean that with intention: young children at the center, families all around them, and a community celebrating Shabbat with music, movement, and joy. There is nothing we sing, learn, or do that isn't meant to be accessible—from our littlest learners to grown-ups and grand–grown-Yeladimups alike.

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

Your young family is invited to attend a shabbat service together, led by Rabbi Jeff, in a way that feels joyful, warm, and full of life. This month, in addition to sharing Sabbath joy, we will be looking ahead to the upcoming fall Jewish holidays. Snack will follow the service. Please **RSVP**' so we can plan accordingly, to office@vassartemple.org or 845.454.2570 .



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MASA Program
Sunday mornings, grades K-7
Wednesday afternoon "LASS" Class
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chabadmidhudsonvl@prodigy.net

CONGREGATION SHIR CHADASH

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

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

PARDESS HEBREW SCHOOL

Sunday, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

For information
www.mypardess.org/hebrewschool

RHINEBECK JEWISH CENTER

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

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

KULANU SCHOOL at TEMPLE BETH-EL

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

Our educational programs are designed to grow with your child, from Shalom Tots (ages 2–Pre-K) through B'nai Mitzvah preparation. Families can enjoy a mix of weekend classes, monthly Shabbat Tables, online learning, and individualized tutoring, creating meaningful opportunities to connect with Jewish traditions, values, and community throughout the year.

Shalom Tots (Ages 2–Pre-K) meets once a month and is a fun and welcoming introduction to Jewish life for our youngest learners and their families.

Gan (Kindergarten–Grade 2) meets weekly and builds a foundation of Jewish learning through engaging classes, celebrations, and community experiences.

Grades 3–B'nai Mitzvah is a comprehensive program that combines classroom learning, online instruction, and personalized preparation.

Explore our website at **www.tbeny.org/learn** and for more information contact Karen Jacobs at **educationassist@tbeny.org**

VASSAR TEMPLE

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

The Seth A Erlebacher Religious School for grades K-7 meets Sunday mornings under the administration of our Religious School Director. Hebrew language instruction for grades 4-7 and bar/bat mitzvah preparation are offered Wednesday afternoons for grades 4-7 under the direction of Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh.

Teens may work as madrichim (teachers aides) in the Sunday School. New enrollments are welcome throughout the year.

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

חֲנֻכָּה

Dedication

Hanukkah

My Dedication Menorah
Source: Original craft/Source unknown



Materials:
- Blue or white construction paper
- Yellow/orange crayons, markers, or paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional: glitter, stickers, or foil

Directions:
1. **Make the menorah.**
   Draw or cut out a simple menorah with nine branches—eight for the nights of Hanukkah and one for the shamash.
2. **Add the flames.**
   Cut out nine small flame shapes from yellow or orange paper and glue them above the candles.
3. **Add a dedication.**
   At the bottom of the page, have each person complete:

   "**This Hanukkah, I dedicate myself to _____.**"
   You can encourage answers such as:
   - being kinder
   - helping my family
   - being a good friend
   - learning more Hebrew
   - helping someone who needs me
   - trying something difficult
   - doing one good deed every day

4. **Decorate!**
   Students can add stars, dreidels, glitter, Hebrew letters, or anything else that makes their menorah special.

The Big Idea

When the craft is finished, remind everyone that Hanukkah means dedication. The candles remind us that even a small light can make a big difference and that's a pretty beautiful lesson for kids—and grown-ups, too.

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

Hanukkah - Dedication
by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

Have you ever worked really hard to do something you believed was important? Maybe you practiced something until you got better, helped someone who needed you, or kept trying even when something was difficult. That is a little bit like what Hanukkah means!

Jewish people were living under the rule of the ancient Greeks. A group of Jews called the Maccabees fought to protect their Jewish traditions and their right to practice Judaism.

After the Maccabees won, they returned to Jerusalem and found that the Temple had been damaged and desecrated. They cleaned it, repaired it and rededicated it to Jewish worship. This rededication is what gave the holiday its name: Hanukkah—Dedication.

According to the traditional Hanukkah story, when the Maccabees wanted to light the Temple's menorah, they found only enough specially prepared oil to keep the lamp burning for one day, but something amazing happened. The small amount of oil lasted for eight days—long enough for new oil to be prepared. That is why we celebrate Hanukkah for eight nights, lighting one additional candle each night on the hanukkiah.

What Does Hanukkah Mean Today?

Hanukkah reminds us that dedication can take many forms.

We can dedicate ourselves to:
- helping others
- learning something new
- standing up for what we believe is right
- taking care of our community
- keeping Jewish traditions alive
- never giving up when something is difficult

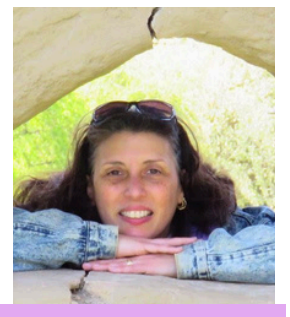
And just as one small flame can help light up a dark room, one small act of kindness can make a difference, so when we light the hanukkiah, we can think about more than the ancient story. We can ask ourselves, "What is something good that I want to dedicate myself to?"

PJ Library
Bring Jewish stories home

Tamatha



Suzanne



Thankful Thinking
by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

While Thanksgiving has passed, I find myself thinking about the importance of gratitude. One aspect in my life that I am grateful for is my role at PJ Library and the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. For those of you who may not know me, I wanted to take this time to introduce myself. Although I typically write articles that reflect upon events, I feel compelled to connect with my readers on a deeper level. With that said, I hope you enjoy getting to know me.

My name is Tamatha and I am very blessed to have three children. My two older children are quite grownup; my son pursuing his doctorate and my oldest daughter now a 3rd-grade teacher! My youngest daughter is about to turn 8. Amazing how quickly the years seem to pass. When my youngest daughter was a toddler, I was introduced to PJ Library. Wanting to make more Jewish connections, I was fortunate to obtain a role as a PJ Library Parent Connector. Connecting with families one-on-one, designing programming to engage families and using my creativity to produce flyers and invent crafts, quickly became a tremendous fulfillment for me. A few years later, I was given another opportunity, a director role for PJ Library and a multifaceted role for the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.

As the PJ Library Director, I work to continuously engage and connect with families, utilizing large events as well as small get-togethers to foster friendship and belonging. By incorporating PJ Library books and thematic activities, I am able to weave Jewish culture and tradition into my programming. This year, PJ Library Mid Hudson Valley received a most generous anonymous endowment to support collaborative events with the Mid Hudson Discovery Museum (MHDM). While heading up this pilot program, I inadvertently discovered how significant my position is to the Jewish community and our community at large. At our previous MHDM event, we encouraged friends and families of PJ Library to attend. Opening participation to families of varying faiths allowed for exposure to Jewish practices and Jewish values. Parents, caregivers and children learned and sang songs with Jewish themes, and they had the opportunity to take home a Shabbat gift bag that included challah and grape juice. In a place of discovery, not only did our families get to explore the museum, they were able to learn, laugh, engage and practice acceptance amongst one another. As PJ Library Director, I will continue to create and promote large events as well as more intimate opportunities that support unity and receptivity for all.

Previously, I mentioned that I also work in multi-faceted roles for the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. These roles include writing monthly articles such as this one for *The Voice*. Additionally, I am responsible for updating, editing and adding all materials for JFedDC's weekly newsletter, "Jewish in Dutchess". PJ Library content in the weekly newsletter is created by me, including event flyers and event write-ups. I also started the Foodie section in the newsletter and each week try to bring my readers a recipe based on the season, upcoming holiday or just foods I would love to eat. I am quite passionate about writing but I also am fortunate to work with ARC's School to Work students. In this capacity, I create work for the students and with the assistance of our JFedDC volunteer Vicki Grillot, I oversee their work. Most recently, I designed a holiday card for the students on which they were able to add their own sentiments and art. Their work also coincides with my additional responsibilities related to Senior Holiday Gifts. We distribute over 250 Senior Holiday Gifts multiple times a year and with the help of the students and community volunteers, the gift bags are labeled, filled, boxed and distributed throughout Dutchess and neighboring counties.

I am very blessed to be able to engage with families, students, and the community in my varying roles and also hold positions that support my interests to write, design, develop and create. Our upcoming Community Hanukkah Celebration is on December 6 from 11:00-12:30 PM and our next PJ Library/Mid Hudson Discovery Museum event is scheduled for January 23 from 5:00-7:00 PM. I hope you will come and celebrate with us and if you don't already know me, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me. I can't wait to meet you. Thankful thinking indeed!

If you would like to plan a get together or reach out, feel free to email me at programs@jewishdutchess.org or call the office at 845.471.9811 and leave a message for me. If you would like to support PJ Library programming, please visit www.jewishdutchess.org/donate and select PJ Library



Beginning in January, **Kulanu School moves to Saturdays,** giving our students the opportunity to experience Shabbat alongside our congregation while continuing their religious studies.

A Kiddush lunch will follow services each week. For more information, contact our Education Director, Rabbi Miriam Hyman, at **education@tbeny.org.**



Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Roz & Stan Cooper

Happy Hannukah
The Hentel Family

Happy Hannukah
Roni & Charles Stein

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Gwen Greene

Happy Hannukah
The Hankin Family

Happy Hannukah
Elyse & Neil (z"l) Mansfield

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Betsy Kopstein

Happy Hannukah
Love, Fritzy & Jack (z"l) Goodman

Happy Hannukah
Mary & Jonah Ritter

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Candy & Lou Lewis

Happy Hannukah
Grete & Marty Finkelstein

Happy Hannukah
Judith & Michael Elkin

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Barbara Scheer and Family

Happy Hannukah
Miriam & Frank Rubin

Happy Hannukah
Marcy Schwartz

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Deanie Gordon and the Levine, Israel, and Gordon Families

Happy Hannukah
Anne Burger

Happy Hannukah
Rose, Brion, Joshua, and Amanda Sharpiro & Annaliese

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
The Korfmans - Martin, Eleanor, Elise, Rachel & Deena

Happy Hannukah
Rabbis Miriam Hyman & Michael Fessler and Family

Happy Hannukah
Cindy & Maurice Shnaider

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Sharon & Howard Lynne

Happy Hannukah
Sandra & John Blair

Happy Hannukah
Joe Kisch, Betsy Effron & Jean Friedman

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Sue & Rich Levine, Happy Holiday

Happy Hannukah
Len Grosman & Family

Happy Hannukah
Karin & Jack Fein

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Carole (z"l) & Stu Chimkin & Family

Happy Hannukah
David Cohen, Susan G. Hecht, Philip & Eva

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Debbie & Tom Erichson

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
The Gershuny Family

Happy Hannukah
The Cutler Family

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!
Jane, Jonathan & the Friedland Family

Happy Hanukkah!

The Federation Board's Voice



Russel Rothman

At the recent General Assembly meeting in Washington, DC attended by our esteemed Executive Director, Karen Hochhauser (QOTJ), where thousands of people from the North American Jewish Diaspora met, discussing the great issues affecting Jews today. Celebrity speakers, political, entertainment, and media wonks, all presented their perspectives, many providing keen insight to the problems vexing Jewish communities today. You will hear more about this from Karen herself, but one thing is quite clear; our small Federation in Dutchess County punches well above its weight class. With our small but dedicated staff and relatively small budget, we are able to provide a wealth of diverse programming to our community, to all age groups, from the cradle to grave. We have developed multiple partnerships with a variety of Houses of Worship, within and outside the Jewish Community. We have a strong partnership with the Poughkeepsie Public Library System that provides a wealth of programs, speakers, and authors. Through various grants from JFNA, we have provided security at programs and services for our community's children and young families attending. Through another grant, we will be hiring someone who will specifically be working on the issue of antisemitism in Dutchess and Orange County.

As for our robust Jewish Family Services, we conduct food and clothing drives via Mitzvah Day and Mitzvah Now initiatives, also providing other services throughout the County. We provide scholarships for Jewish education and Jewish Summer Camp and youth trips to Israel. Our Medical Loan Referral program provides free medical equipment for anyone in need. We also assist families during family or personal crises, helping out with emergency repairs or winter utility issues. Our weekly bereavement group has helped many individuals cope through the most challenging times of their lives.

These programs do not happen in thin air or by magic. They require time, resources, and a dedicated squad of staff and volunteers. Many of you reading this have participated in these programs over the years and are familiar with them. I hope when you are called during our annual campaign, you will give generously so that we can continue to amaze, surprise, satisfy, gratify, and provide for the entire community.

Our Executive Director



Looking forward

Some of my favorite analogies recently refer to cars. For example, life is but a journey with many routes but one destination, and while we can think that we know the way, often detours happen that we can never anticipate. A second one I love is that in a car, the windshield is larger than the rear windshield because it is more important to focus on what is coming ahead than what happened in the past, and if we focus too much on where we were, it causes challenges for where we are going.

So while at the Federation we are looking forward and to all that 2027 will bring, we thought it would be of value to share some of the highlights from 2026 that will continue into 2027:

- **LiveSecure** - Focusing on the safety and security of the Jewish community. Through the initial grant, we were partnered with Pat Regan, Senior Regional Security Director of the Community Security Initiative (CSI). Federation now covers all the costs, enabling Pat to be accessible as a security resource to everyone in Dutchess County.
- **Tepper Foundation Grant** – For a second year, we were able to help generate and allocate $50,000 for the hiring of security guards for Jewish events and services that include young children.
- **Frontline** – JUST SECURED – this grant has enabled us to hire an additional team member to help address and fight antisemitism. We share this grant with Orange County. Welcome Zach!
- **Karen Dipnarine-Saroop** – We are pleased to welcome Karen not only back to Dutchess County but also to our team as our volunteer Interfaith Community Liaison. Welcome Karen!
- **PJ Library - Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum grant**. Thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors, we held exclusively private PJ Library events at the Museum. We are thrilled this grant will continue in 2027!
- **Wasser Camp Summer Scholarship** - We are thrilled to offer the opportunity again for children to experience Jewish overnight camp.
- **Continuing** with the Jewish Book Council series, bringing amazing authors here; our weekly bereavement sessions (thank you Judy!); collaborations with the Poughkeepsie Public Library and our L'Chaim series; Jewish community celebrations; events with the FDR Presidential Library, Rhinebeck Reformed Church, the Dutchess County African American Clergy Association, DCIC, the ARC, and others.
- **AND OF COURSE** – all the amazing work our team, Board, and volunteers do with our Federation, Jewish Family Services, PJ Library, and Learn & Lunch Bunch programming! Please be sure to thank Pam, Heather, Tamatha, Suzanne, and Beth for all of their efforts in 2026. Kol Hakavod! I am blessed to have such a great team and Board to do all that we do.

And last but not least - A big **THANK YOU to ALL OF YOU** who support us by donating your time and money, attending events, reading this newspaper, supporting it with holiday greetings, and helping us make an impact and legacy in this community we call our home.

So cheers to 2026 and hello to 2027...or should we just say Shalom?

Stay safe, healthy, and engaged!
Karen Hochhauser, Executive Director



Holiday Greetings From

Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!

Congregation
Schomre Israel

Happy Hannukah

Sisterhood
Schomre Israel

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Beacon Hebrew Alliance



The ROMEOs
(Retired Older Men Eating Out)

Best wishes for a joyous Hannukah Holiday!

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

And in memory of all departed members.

Warm Hanukkah Wishes!
from
Vassar Temple Sisterhood

Visit our Vassar Temple Sisterhood Hanukkah Shop
Monday- Friday 10-2, Sunday 9-12, thru Hanukkah.

Contact Judaica@vassartemple.org for a shopping appointment.
140 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 • www.vassartemple.org
(845) 454-2570

Happy Hanukkah To All
From
The Harding Club

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









May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



The Family & Staff at Michael Torsone Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Gil & Cantor, P.C. - Attorneys at Law



From Our Family
to Yours,
Sugar & Spice Café
and Spice Catering

We apoligize in advance for any misspellings in the Hanukkah Greetings.



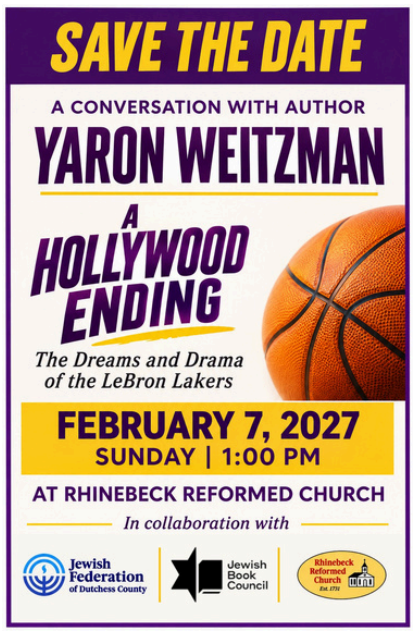
From Our Family
to Yours,
The Matchbox Cafe,
Rhinebeck



From Our Family
to Yours,
Wm. Miller & Son
Funeral Home, Inc.



From Our Family
to Yours,
Avalon Assisted Living and
Wellness Center in
Wappingers Falls





Jane Silver Timm and Family

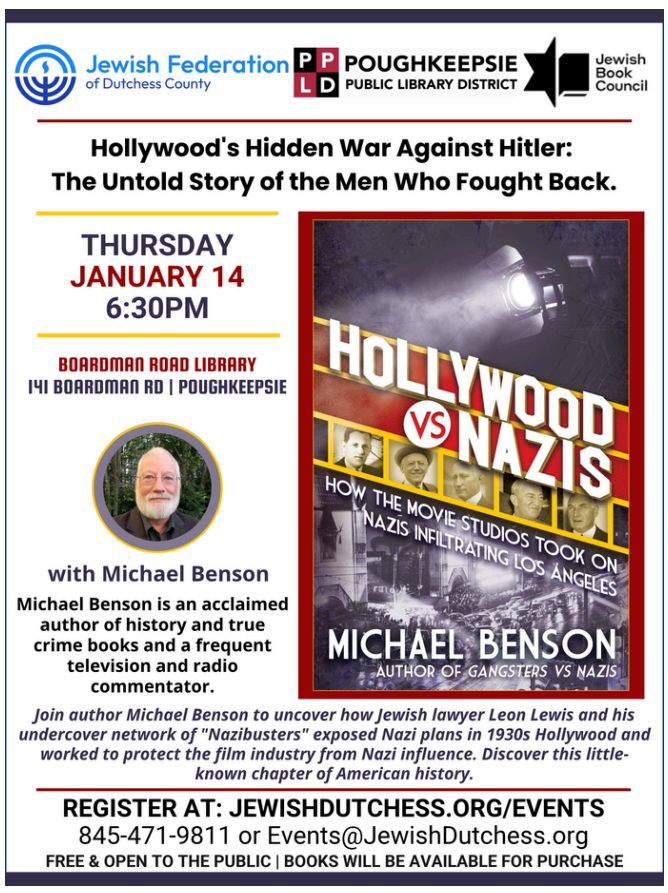
Be on the lookout for your campaign letter in the mail! Together, we can strengthen our community, support one another, and make a lasting difference. Your generosity makes it possible.



Marilyn & Michael Schwartz



Bernardo & Sharon
Steinvurzel and Family







Suzanne & Len Turetzky

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



Lynne Versaci

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!



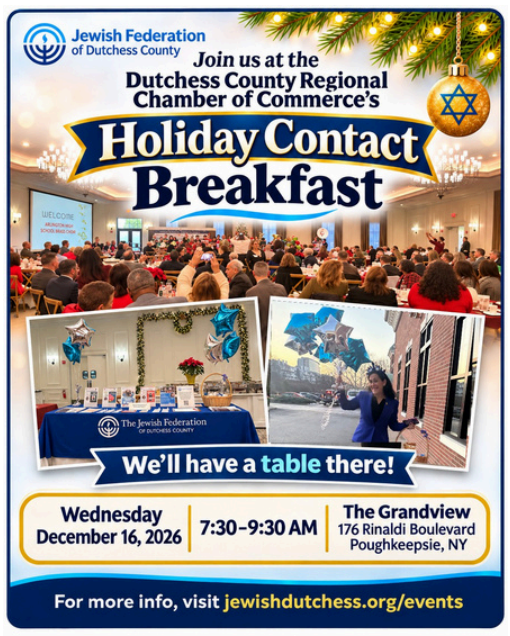
Karen & Bruce Elias

Don't Wait—Make Your 2026 Annual Campaign Gift Today!

Your support helps make meaningful programming possible, strengthens our community, supports security efforts, and helps fight antisemitism. Make a lasting legacy for our Jewish community by giving today.

Together, we can build a vibrant, connected, and enduring Jewish community for generations to come.

What will your legacy be?



Introducing our new Frontline Antisemitism Response Coordinator


Zachary Lewis

My name is Zachary Lewis and I am the new Jewish Federation Frontline Antisemitism Response Coordinator for Dutchess and Orange Counties.

My work is built around one goal: helping our communities share a basic understanding of antisemitism and a lasting commitment to fighting it.

To that end, I plan on focusing on four things: Building a larger, more connected Jewish community, supporting every Jew who faces antisemitism, implementing the Jewish Students Bill of Rights, and growing a supportive local coalition of faith and political leaders.

After October 7, 2023, I decided to join the board of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County because I wanted to be more active in standing up against antisemitism in the area. Today, I live in the Hudson Valley with my wife and children where I enjoy playing with my three dogs, tending to my chickens, hiking, and training in martial arts.

I'd truly welcome the chance to meet, whether over coffee, a phone call or a visit to your congregation, school or office. I'm grateful to be part of this community, and I look forward to working alongside you.

JEWS IN THE NEWS.

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

Jesse Lunin-Pack: Helping Retirees Live Healthy, Wealthy, and Connected Lives



Congratulations to Jesse Lunin-Pack, CFP®, Founder and Managing Partner of Lunin-Pack Financial Group on the creation and launching of his new podcast, "The Healthy, Wealthy, and Connected Retirement Podcast". Every episode examines one or more of three pillars: health, wealth, and connection. Health matters because a longer life is a gift only if we stay strong enough to enjoy it. Wealth matters because financial security creates choices. Connection matters because relationships, purpose, and community give those years their meaning. Jesse believes a good retirement is about far more than money.

The podcast is rooted in personal experience. Jesse has seen how quickly late life can unravel when health, finances, and relationships falter, and those lessons shape every conversation. Episodes explore longevity research, staying physically capable into one's 80s and 90s, and how much retirees can truly afford to spend. Recent guests include Adam Schersten, host of PBS's GardenFit, talking about how to maintain the ability to move smoothly and without pain as we age, and mother-daughter duo Deborah Grayson Riegel and Sophie Riegel discussing strategies to maintain interfamily relationships as roles and capabilities change.

Jesse has worked in the financial industry since 2001 and launched his own practice in 2010. His focus is helping people who are approaching or living in retirement turn a lifetime of savings into dependable, lasting income to fund their version of their best life. Jesse invites you to listen to Healthy, Wealthy, and Connected on your favorite podcasting app, YouTube, or at www.healthywealthyandconnected.com. To learn more about Jesse and Lunin-Pack Financial Group, visit www.lunin-pack.com.

Poughkeepsie native appointed to New York State Holocaust Memorial Advisory Commission



Gov. Kathy Hochul has appointed **Dave Reckess**, who grew up in Poughkeepsie and serves as executive director of **3GNY-Descendants** of Holocaust Survivors, to the New York State Holocaust Memorial Advisory Commission.

Reckess joins 18 other leaders from across the state to help shape the design and educational goals of a permanent memorial in Albany. The memorial will commemorate the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and other victims of Nazi persecution, honor survivors, and serve as a place of remembrance and learning.

"As the grandson of Holocaust survivors, I'm honored to represent 3GNY and bring the voices and experiences of survivors' descendants into this work," Reckess said. "Creating a permanent memorial at the seat of state government sends an important message about the responsibility New York takes seriously: to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and teach future generations about the dangers of antisemitism and hate."

Continued From Front Page

Frontline: Federations hiring 100 new professionals to combat antisemitism

That's why frontline also includes investments in the following programs to support Federation professionals in these efforts:

- **Year-round training and learning:** Aimed at strengthening the knowledge, skills, and network of these professionals and their Federations.
- **The Project Halo messaging hub:** Project Halo provides high-level, real-time, data-driven strategic messaging guidance on the key issues and narratives regarding our security and support of Israel.
- **Student to Student:** A high-school initiative that is now active in 50 communities, which helps engage young members of the Jewish community, build early bridges to non-Jewish teens, and strengthen our ties within school systems. In the last three years, Student to Student engaged over 60,000 non-Jewish teens, nearly half of them in the last year alone.
- **One Mitzvah A Day (OMAD):** An engagement and mobilization platform that has already reached a daily distribution list of 25,000 people, and is growing.

"In the aftermath of October 7th, our community was very disappointed to see that many people we thought were our allies stayed silent. We learned the hard lesson that our civic engagement efforts must be more focused, more targeted, and more outcomes based, and that is exactly what Frontline is designed to do," said Julie Platt, Chair of Frontline and Jewish Federations of North America's immediate past Board Chair. "Only through deep, sustained, and strategic engagement can we ensure that antisemitism is neither tolerated nor normalized, and that our communities remain safe."

Frontline builds on a model Jewish Federations established with **LiveSecure**, the $130 million initiative to ensure that every Federation community has a professionally run security program. When a shooter attacked our community at Tree of Life in 2018, fewer than 20 communities had professionally-run Community Security Initiatives that met the necessary standards to protect their communities. LiveSecure built out a national security infrastructure, growing that number to over 140 in just four years and making communities measurably safer, more closely coordinated with law enforcement, and better equipped to respond to threats.

Frontline similarly works to scale and build out a system-wide infrastructure, community by community, to bolster our strategic civic relationships and equip our communities with the tools they need to fight antisemitism.







Congratulations on being nominated for Destination Dutchess' 2026 Awards of Distinction Finalist Spotlight: Newcomer

Deb Lifshey, Owner, Fika & Hygge: Fika & Hygge is a Scandinavian candy and coffee shop in Poughkeepsie built around the idea that life is better when you slow down long enough to enjoy it. We combine a traditional Scandinavian pick-and-mix candy experience with specialty coffee, Nordic-inspired drinks and pastries, household and pantry items imported from all five of the Scandinavian countries, and a bright, playful space designed to make people want to stay awhile. What makes us different is that we're not simply importing Scandinavian products - we're trying to share some of the culture behind them, particularly fika, the Swedish ritual of pausing for coffee and connection, and hygge, the Danish idea of warmth, comfort, and contentment. At its heart, Fika & Hygge is about creating a little moment of joy and communityin the middle of everyday life.



Stop by and visit Fika & Hygge at 21 Raymond Ave, Poughkeepsie.

Congregation Information

Congregation Schomre Israel

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

Weekly Services:

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

Adult Education:

Monday
Chair Yoga with Suzanne Turrisi 10:00 am
Ethics of the Fathers 5:00 PM (Avot), Through the Prism of the Maharal of Prague and Rabbi Samson Rephael Hirsch with Rabbi Krasner; continuing with the third chapter.

Thursday
Chair Yoga with Suzanne Turrisi - 10:00 am
Mitzvots for Society/The Jewish Guide to Being Human 7:00 pm, No class on December 31. Gratitude, anger, jealousy, happiness, ambition, forgiveness, loneliness, friendship, aging, anxiety, resilience, and purpose—what does Judaism have to say philosophically and practically about these aspects of being human? We will delve into these interpersonal and intrapersonal Mitzvot.

Other Events:

Please refer to our calendar of holiday services on the synagogue website.

Sunday
Sisterhood Chanukah Dinner, December 6, 6:00pm, by reservation only.

Thursday
Rosh Chodesh breakfast, December 10, following 8:00am services to celebrate Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Friday
Rosh Chodesh breakfast, December 11, following 8:00am services to celebrate Rosh Chodesh Tevet. This is a two day Rosh Chodesh.

Saturday
Chinese Dinner and a Movie, December 26, 6:15 pm. Reservations for the buffet dinner must be made by December 16. The cost of dinner is $15 per person. Late reservations cost $20 Movie TBD, will follow at 7:20 pm

Contact
rabbishlomok@gmail.com
for current information
or visit the website
www.schomreisrael.org

Congregation Shir Chadash

(Reform)
Interim: Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, Lagrange
(845) 232-1029
Rabbi Glenn Jacob
Website: www.shir-chadash.org
Email: info@shir-chadash.org

Weekly Services:

Fridays: 7:30 pm In-Person & Zoom
Saturday: 9:15 am In-person,
Bi-monthly Torah Study with Rabbi Jacob, all welcome to attend.

Adult Education:

Saturday
Torah Study, 9:15 am. An informal discussion about the Torah portion of the week with Shir Chadash's spiritual leader, Rabbi Jacob. Everyone has a chance to participate. Bring an inquisitive mind, curiosity about our tradition, and a willingness to share your thoughts.
For info: (845) 232-1029,
email: info@shir-chadash.org

Other Events:

Sunday
Rosh Chodesh Reading Group
Those interested in reading are invited (now held virtually) to our interesting and provocative discussions. Dates & times TBD. Participants meet to discuss memoirs, fiction, poetry, and drama in a variety of works that offer Jewish themes and a variety of interesting perspectives. Have a topic or suggestion? Please let us know! For more info, please call (845) 232-1029,
via email: info@shir-chadash.org

Contact:
info@shir-chadash.org
for current information
or visit the website
www.shir-chadash.org





ATTENTION MAH JONGG PLAYERS

Believe it or not, it's that time of year when we start collecting for the 2027 Mah Jongg cards. The price has increased so the Mah Jongg League can maintain and extend the League's charitable donations. The prices are $16 for Regular print and $18 for Large print. The cost is the same no matter where you order your card. When you order through Temple Beth-El, we get a donation from the League which goes to Dutchess County's Outreach Lunchbox Program. Last year we received a check for over $1500. I asked for your help in reaching our goal of $2000 for 2026. Well, you were absolutely amazing! This year we received a check for $3272!
Thank you to everyone especially those of you who sent in large orders. Let's see if we can beat this amount this year. With your help, we can do it. Please help spread the word to your friends and family near and far. Your card will be mailed to you via first class mail from the League around the first week of April.

The Mah Jongg League accepts only one payment for the entire order; therefore please make your check payable to: Phyllis Rosenfield, 32 Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601

Payment must be received by January 15, 2027. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Temple Beth-El

(Conservative)
118 S Grand Ave, Poughkeepsie
(845) 454-0570
Rabbi Michael Fessler
Rosh Tefilah Rabbi Miriam Hyman
Website: www.tbeny.org
Email: info@tbeny.org

Weekly Services:

Friday & Saturday Shabbat Services are both in-person and Zoom.
Monday— Friday Minyan 8:00 am. Monday & Thursday in person & Zoom, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday only on Zoom
Call the Temple Beth-El office for the current schedule.

Adult Education:

For information about ongoing Adult Education at Temple Beth-El, please contact the synagogue office : (845)454-0570.

Other Events:

Sunday
Shalom Tots Program December 20 & January 23; 10:00 - 11:30 am. Young children and their grown-ups are invited to join us for a fun morning of friendship, play, and Jewish learning. Contact Karen at educationassist@tbeny.org for more information.
Temple Beth-El Serves at Lunchbox 2nd Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help serve a meal at Lunchbox at Dutchess Outreach. You can also help by making a donation to help cover the cost. Contact Nancy Judson & volunteer (845) 216-7563

Monday
Tai Chi 10:30 am; This gentle practice promotes balance, flexibility, and relaxation, making it a wonderful way to start the week. All experience levels are welcome.
Book Club December 14 -Theo of Golden by Allen Levi at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, Short story TBD). Our Book Club continues to meet monthly and is currently selecting books for the coming year. If you enjoy thoughtful conversation, meaningful reading, and connecting with fellow readers, we'd love to have you join us. Contact Merrie at moondoggie7@optonline.net for more information.

Wednesday
Mitzvah Knitters December 2 & 16, January 6 & 20 at 10:30 am to 12 pm. Whether you're an experienced knitter or have never picked up a pair of needles, all are welcome. We'll help you get started while creating projects that benefit those in need. Come knit, learn, and enjoy good company while making a difference. Please contact the Temple office at 845-454-0570 for more information.

Friday
Join us for a special Shabbat **December 4-5** when Temple Beth-El hosts *Pizmon*, the a cappella group from Columbia University, Barnard College, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Special concert on Saturday December 5 at 7pm. Tickets available at the door and online (https://forms.gle/ZmmBEGyTeLEZt7Sy7).
Shabbat Table We're excited to gather together for Shabbat Tables **January 15** at 6:00 pm. Shabbat Tables are welcoming Friday evening dinners featuring music, stories, Torah study, dessert, and Kaddish. RSVP is required, and a nominal fee applies. Contact Joël at adminasst@tbeny.org for more information.

Contact:
info@tbeny.org
for current information
or visit the website
www.tbeny.org



Vassar Temple

(Reform)
140 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie
(845) 454-2570
Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh
Rabbi Emeritus Renni Altman
Website: www.vassartemple.org
Email: Office@VassarTemple.org or rabbi@vassartemple.org

Weekly Services:

All services are hybrid. For Zoom link contact office@vassartemple.org.

Friday:
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 pm December 4, 18 & 25.
December 11, Family Friendly Chanukah Candle Lighting Shabbat Service, 6pm, Potluck dinner 7:15pm
Saturday:
New Paths Shabbat morning worship, December 5 & 19; 10:15 am.
Shabbat Yeladim (especially for families with children), December 5.

Adult Education:

All are welcome to our lively discussions-- no former training necessary-- no cost to attend.

Monday
Talmud Study with Senior Scholar Rabbi Paul Golomb meets, usually twice monthly on select Mondays at noon, generally on Zoom only. Contact pjgolomb@verizon.net to be placed on the Talmud Study e-mail list.

Saturday
Torah Study (hybrid) with Rabbi Jeff Stombaugh 9:00am, every Saturday morning. Contact the office office@vassartemple.org to be placed on the Torah Study E-mail List.

Other Events:

Wednesday
VTS Book Club December 16, 2:00 pm *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy

An affluent Indian family is forever changed by one fateful day in 1969 in Arundhati's New York Times Bestseller novel. Seven-year-old twins, Estha and Rahel, see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to an illicit liaison and tragedies accidental and intentional, exposing 'big things [that] lurk unsaid' in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest. (Amazon)

Discussion of this novel will be in-person at the Collegeview Tower **Apt. 602**, 141 Fulton Ave, Poughkeepsie. All are welcome. For questions contact: bookclub@vassartemple.org.

Friday
December 11, 6pm: Hanukkah Candle Lighting Service, 7:15pm: Potluck Dinner.
NEW THIS YEAR: The dinner will immediately FOLLOW our family-friendly Hanukkah Menorah-Lighting Shabbat service, to which everyone is welcome (hybrid). Bring your menorah & candles. Bring a dairy, fish, or vegetable dish for 12. (no meat or peanuts).

- Sisterhood will provide latkes, applesauce, challah, salad, and beverages.
- The cost for the dinner is $18 per family or $6 per individual
- Email HanukkahDinner@vassartemple.org or call the temple office at 845.454.2570 by December 8 to let us know you are coming.
- Please send your payment for the dinner made payable to: Vassar Temple Sisterhood, 140 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (write Hanukkah Dinner on the check memo line). We also accept Zelle payments at VTSisbanking@gmail.com (The confirmation will say Congregation Brethren of Israel).

Saturday
New Paths Service December 5 & 19, 10:15 am hybrid. The moving liturgy includes both traditional and contemporary writing, mostly in English and participants may contribute supplemental materials to share. "We take the time to let the service get through us, rather than getting through the service." Each New Paths service provides a unique and thoughtful, spiritually - oriented Shabbat morning experience, including music, with Rabbi Jeff in an intimate, informal worship setting. A brief kiddush follows. Contact (845) 454-2570 or office@vassartemple.org to be put on the New Paths email list, if you need the Zoom link, or to borrow our special prayer book.

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

Mazel Memories





Mazel Tov to Pam and Howard Spilke on their 53rd Anniversary!

Congregation Information

Pardess Center for Jewish Life

(845) 440-7592
Rabbi Zalman Sandhaus
Website: www.MyPardess.org
Email: info@MyPardess.org

Contact:
info@MyPardess.org
for current information
or visit the website
www.MyPardess.org

The Rhinebeck Jewish Center

102 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck
(845) 876-7666
Rabbi Hanoch Hecht
Rebbitzin Tzivie Hecht
Website:
www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com
Email:
RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com

Weekly Services:
Fridays: Call for time.
Saturdays: 9:30 am

Contact:
RSVP@RhinebeckJewishCenter.com
for current information
or visit the website
www.RhinebeckJewishCenter.com

Chabad of Mid-Hudson Valley

63 Vassar Rd, Poughkeepsie
(845) 463-5801
Rabbi Yacov Borenstein
Website:
www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com
Email:
ChabadMidhudsonvly@prodigy.net

Weekly Services:
Fridays: Call for times.
Saturdays: 10:00 am Chabad Hebrew School

Adult Education:

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

Special Events

Sunday
Bagels, Lox, Torah (Tefillin too!) 9:00 am led by Rabbi Yacov Borenstein. Morning minyan will follow Torah discussion on the coming week's Torah portion, upcoming holiday, or topic of Jewish interest.

Contact :
ChabadMidhudsonvly@
prodigy.net
for current information
or visit the website
www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com

Beacon Hebrew Alliance

(Conservative)
331 Verplanck Ave, Beacon
(845) 831-2012
Rabbi Justin David
Rabbi Emeritus Brent Spodek;
Email:
411@beaconhebrewalliance.org

Weekly Services:
Friday Shabbat, 5:30pm Mini Minyan with Luke Wygodny & 6:00pm Potluck Shabbat Dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat
Check our Community Calendar for services times, generally every Friday & one Saturday per month:
www.beaconhebrewalliance.org/calendar

Contact:
for current information
or visit the website
www.beaconhebrewalliance.org

Congregation Beth David

(Reform)
East Main St, Amenia
(845) 373-8264
Rabbi Jon Haddon
Website: www.CongBethDavid.org
Email: JonRab33@gmail.com

Weekly Services:
Saturdays 10:30 am.

Contact:
jonrab33@gmail.com
for current information
or visit the website
www.CongBethDavid.org

Vassar College Bayit

51 Collegeview Ave, Poughkeepsie
(845) 728-4792
Rabbi Bryan Mann
Rachlin Director of Jewish Student Life at Vassar College
Email: bryanmann@vassar.edu

Weekly Services:
Fridays: 6:00 pm
7:00 pm dinner when school is in session

Contact :
for current information
bryanmann@vassar.edu

Chabad Beacon

Rabbi Shaya Itkin
Phone: (845) 288-0170
Email: rabbichabadbeacon.com

Contact:
rabbichabadbeacon.com
for current information
or visit the website
chabadbeacon.com

Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley

243 Albany Ave, Kingston
(845) 338-4271 ext 101 Rabbi's Study:
(845) 338-4384 ext 102

Rabbi Jack Sherratt:
rabbijack@hvc.rr.com
Weekly Services:
Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm,
Saturday
Morning Minyan 10:00 am
Education:
Mediation & Torah Study 8:45 am via Zoom
Hebrew Trope 12:00 pm, via Zoom,
Dates TBD.
Hebrew, Shebrew! 4:00 pm, via Zoom.
Talk Back with Rabbi Jack 8:45 am, via Zoom,

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

Bard College

Rabbi Joshua Boettiger
Jewish Chaplain, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Humanities
Phone: (802) 733-6342
Email: jboettiger@bard.edu

Contact:
jboettiger@bard.edu
for current information

Woodstock Jewish Congregation

1682 Glasco Tpke, Woodstock
(845) 679-2218
Admin: admin@wjcshul.org

Weekly Services:
Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm,
Kid Friendly Intergenerational Shabbat First Fridays 6:00 pm
Saturday
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

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

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

The Junior ROTC of Poughkeepsie High School assisted the **Jewish War Veterans** in cleaning May Street of litter. The street, adjacent to the high school, bears a commemorative sign because it was the home of Pvt. Herman Siegel, the first Jewish troop from Poughkeepsie to be KIA in WWII. Herman had just turned 19 and was himself a graduate of the school. Each year the JWV Post contributes toward a math award presented to a deserving PHS student in Pvt. Herman Siegel's memory.



Ten members of **JWV Post 625**, along with Evan Rieger, a volunteer for the JFedDC, held a poppy event to raise money to benefit local veterans, particularly patrons of the food pantry and clothes closet at the Castle Point V.A. The Post holds these events twice a year, around Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The red paper poppies they hand out to donors symbolize the fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice, and dates back to the WWI poem "In Flanders Field".





The Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Post 625

Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625, Jewish War Veterans of the US, meets monthly at Congregation Schomre Israel, Poughkeepsie. We are the only active post between Westchester and Albany! Upcoming meeting date is Sunday, December 13 (9:00 am schmooze, 9:30 am meeting). Some transportation assistance is available by prearrangement. In case of bad weather, we will automatically meet on Zoom. The location is strictly kosher and tasty refreshments are provided. All are welcome to attend and/or join, both veterans and anyone else who would like to support our cause. We provide community service and support local veterans' facilities. We advocate against antisemitism and for the rights and benefits of all American military members and veterans. For more info, contact Commander Ralph Schwartz at (845) 849-0025 or email Rschwa9881@aol.com.

Stay Up to Date with Our News!

Make sure you're signed up for "Jewish in Dutchess," our weekly email newsletter. Email events@jewishdutchess.org or call the JFedDC office at 845-471-9811 to be added to our email list.



December
Candle Lighting Schedule
December 4 - 4:07 pm
December 11 - 4:07 pm
December 18 - 4:09 pm
December 25 - 4:13 pm

RHINEBECK
Hometown Holiday EVENT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 | 3:30 - 7:00 PM
Historic Village of Rhinebeck

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

A Beloved Rhinebeck Tradition!

Bring family and friends for an afternoon and evening of festive fun in the heart of Rhinebeck's historic village. Enjoy a parade, a visit with Santa, free hot cocoa and cookies, family activities, live music, and local food.

VISIT OUR TABLE

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and PJ Library will be there! Stop by our table to say hello, pick up a PJ activity or giveaway for your kids, and learn about our programs, upcoming events, and ways to connect with Jewish life in Dutchess County.

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County | PJ Library

Wishing Light and Peace for All!

Happy Hanukkah!

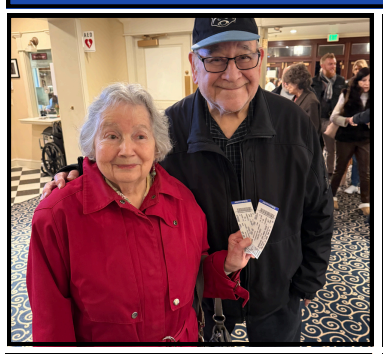
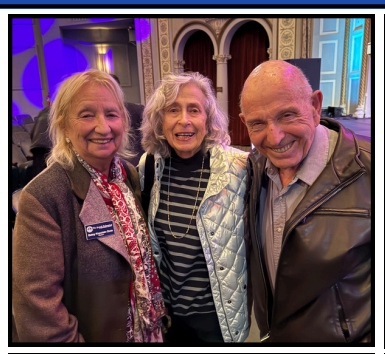
Vassar Temple

Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh
Cantor Elizabeth Goldman
Micah Modell, President

office@vassartemple.org
www.vassartemple.org

HAPPY HANUKKAH

YidLife Crisis at the Bardavon with The Poughkeepsie Public Library













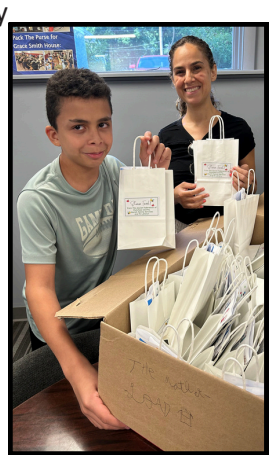



Senior Holiday Gifts bring smiles to so many faces! We couldn't do it without our wonderful volunteers. Thank you for making it possible!

Do You Know a Senior Who Would Enjoy a Special Hanukkah Holiday Gift?

Help us spread some holiday cheer! If you know a senior who would appreciate receiving a gift, please call our office at 845.471.9811 and let us know.



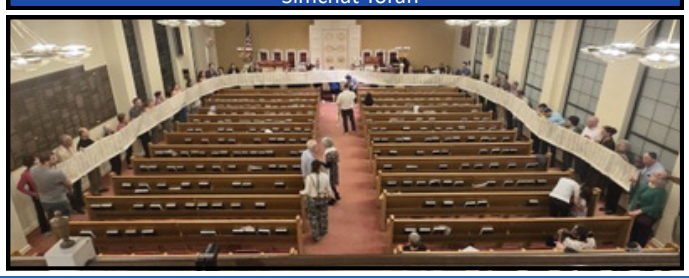





Teenage madrachim at Vassar Temple lead a mini-service for the religious school students during Sukkot.



The annual Unrolling of the Scroll at Vassar Temple on Simchat Torah





Hudson Valley Hospice

Be a Part of Something Extraordinary

Become a Hospice Volunteer Today!

Our Volunteers play a vital role in the care we provide. From companionship to practical assistance, they support patients and families and help make each moment more comfortable.

Join Our Amazing Team: volunteers@hvhospice.org • (845) 240-7524



Hope comes in many forms

For some, it means experiencing the magic of the holiday season through their eyes, one last time.

Hudson Valley Hospice

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