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We apologize for any spelling errors or omissions.

THANK YOU to our generous sponsors, wonderful attendees, and incredible silent auction donors for helping make our **9th Annual Federation Celebration Gala** such a tremendous success! Your support and generosity mean so much to us and help strengthen Jewish life throughout Dutchess County. We are truly grateful! See more photos on pages 5, 8, & 11. To see the whole gallery: www.jewishdutchess.org/gala



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Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County



We are now accepting nominations
for the **2026 Maccabee Awards!**

The Maccabee Award honors individuals
who are making an exemplary and bold
effort to fight antisemitism and
antizionism in Dutchess County.

Help us recognize the people in our community
who stand up, speak out, and lead with courage.

NOMINATIONS DUE
SEPTEMBER 14

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
events@JewishDutchess.org

RECIPIENTS WILL BE HONORED AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 30, 2026
MONDAY | 6:30 PM
Boardman Road Branch Library, Poughkeepsie
JewishDutchess.org/Events | 845-471-9811

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Jewish Federation of Dutchess County
(845) 471-9811

JFedDC Executive Director Karen Hochhauser
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Layout: Pamela Mason

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Jewish Family Services

What is Jewish Family Services (JFS)?

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

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.

Please do not bring outside food into the temple.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS Join us!

August 12 - **Extra virgin olive oil: 101-** presented by John Canevari, from *The Blue Olive*. Discover olive oil tasting, bottles will be available. All olive oils are kosher.
Menu: bagels, lox, cream cheese, tofutti, tuna salad, toss salad and ice cream

August 26 - Overview of how our memory is processed and how we can reverse its decline by using established practices that slows down its aging, presented by Ariah Neuwirth.
Menu: taco salad: grillers, cheese, rice, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, black beans, corn chips, salsa and brownies

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

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

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



In honor of Reverend Jesse Bottoms, as part of our Federation Celebration Gala, we included a *Mitzvah Now* “Pack the Pantry” for the Beulah Baptist’s Food pantry.



Office for the Aging

submitted by Brian Jones, Outreach Coordinator, Dutchess County Office for the Aging

"Where Will You Live in 2031?"

If you've ever interviewed for a job, or been the one conducting the interview, this question almost always comes up: Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

Readers who are retired may have thought they'd never encounter that question again. On the contrary: It's the kind of question that becomes increasingly important as we age. We each need to make decisions on what to do with our time, including where we'll live, before something makes that decision for us.

New York State single family homes are the nation's oldest as measured by median age: 65 years, according to Census data. Homes of this age are common in Dutchess County, where we experienced continuous double-digit population growth from 1930 to 1980, along with a commensurate housing boom.

The homes from that era that are still standing are showing their age, even when well-maintained. Census data indicates that homes built before 1940 are nearly 30 times more likely to be in inadequate condition, and cost nearly 10 times more in routine maintenance than homes built after 2022. The annual cost just to maintain a home built before 1940 is \$1,615; but deferring maintenance means even larger bills later.

"But I Like Where I Live"

Most older adults want to live in the place that feels most familiar to them. Still, staying in one place requires just as much preparedness as moving to a new home - maybe more, if you're in one of the older homes we mentioned.

We can only control some of the future. Where we'll live over the years is a question that requires ongoing consideration, whether we live in an apartment where we're content, or a single-family house that may be worth selling as you downsize.

Even with hundreds of units of new senior housing being built, the demand for senior-friendly housing in Dutchess County will continue to outstrip the supply. With waitlists for senior housing as long as five years at some complexes, you may have less time to plan than you assume. Contact OFA to explore your options, at 845-486-2555 during business hours, or ofa@dutchessny.gov if you want to reach out while the issue is fresh in your mind. OFA can help you reach decisions you'll feel comfortable with.

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

For A Happier Life



As we move toward the fall, many of us are often ablaze with ideas for enriching our lives: We make commitments to exercise more, work less, start a new hobby or hundreds of other changes.

Sadly, academic researchers find that most people, for any number of reasons, are unable to realize resolutions, of this type, associated with the change of a season or the start of a new year.

Fortunately, there's one resolution that's easy to execute, leads to new friendships, and creates a happier life: Join the Harding Club.

Life is more fun when it's shared with friends. 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.

The Club, founded during the Harding Administration, has flourished for over 100 years. We believe the long life of our club reflects the lasting happiness achieved by enabling new, and deeper, friendships among Jewish men.

Harding Club meetings take place once or twice a month, for dinner or lunch, at a local eatery. Each meeting mixes socializing and camaraderie; with speakers who address timely topics across the spectrum of life, including business, the arts, recreation, health, money management, politics and history. In late September, the Club will also enjoy a Hudson River evening cruise and dinner.

If you would like to join our circle of friends, we are resolved and 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

Thank you Federation Celebration Gala committee for your help in making the event a success!

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ROSH HASHANAH
SENIOR HOLIDAY GIFTS
Beginning of September

Help us pack & deliver sweet New Year wishes to local seniors.

Call us at 845-471-9811
or email events@JewishDutchess.org



Jewish Federation
of Dutchess County



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Page 3: Wm. G. Miller & Sons Funeral Home, Inc., David Feinstein Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, B Riley Wealth, Optique Elegance, Michael Torsone Memorial Funeral Home, Red Cap Cleaners, and PAZ.

Page 12: Hudson Valley Hospice, and Hudson Valley Palliative Care

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VOICE DEADLINES	ISSUE	DEADLINE
Note deadlines listed.	September	August 1
Email:	October	September 1
TheVoice@JewishDutchess.org	November	October 1
if you have questions.	December	November 1

Federation Celebration Gala



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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.tbey.org/learn and for more information contact Karen Jacobs at educationassist@tbey.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

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For Questions: Pam Mason
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The deadline is
August 7!

See page 10
for details.

YOU'RE INVITED:

FRIDAY 8/28 5:15-7:15 PM

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Celebrate the end of summer with a Starry Night at the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum! Spend an exclusive evening with PJ Library exploring the wonders of the night sky:

- Create glowing fireflies in a jar
- Discover the stories and science behind the constellations
- Draw your own Starry Night inspired masterpiece
- PJ Library story time
- Balloon art by Darryl Bielski
- Light fare, music and more

Enjoy this rare opportunity to explore the museum after hours!

Admission is free. The first 4 PJ Library families* to register and attend the event on Fri, August 28th will receive a 1 year family membership to the MHDM! Scan the QR code to register today.

This program is funded by an anonymous Charitable Trust created to support PJ Library thanks to the guidance of Adam Belok, Board Member and Financial Consultant.
**Applicable for Families with Children Ages 0-9*



“Elul Heart Shofar Reminder”

A big paper heart shaped like a shofar, decorated with Elul ideas like kindness, forgiveness, and mitzvot. *Source: Unknown*

What you need:

- Red, pink, or tan construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: stickers or glitter (if you’re feeling brave 😊)

How to do it:

1. Give each person a large heart cutout.
2. Have them gently curl one side of the heart into a shofar shape (you can pre-draw a spiral guide if helpful).
3. Glue or tape it so it holds a curved “shofar” look.
4. On the heart, you write or draw:
 - One mitzvah they want to do
 - One way to be kinder
 - One person they want to say sorry to or thank you

In Elul, I want to become someone who...”



A Night At The Museum

by Tamatha Williams, PJ Library Director

PJ Library has partnered with the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum (MHDM) to provide enriching learning experiences in a fun, positive environment where Jewish culture and values are woven through play and discovery. Our last collaborative event with the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum celebrated Almost-Summer as we learned about the solar system & the summer solstice. Families joined the MHDM educators in the portable planetarium for a whirlwind adventure about the sun, seasons and the Earth’s tilt. Children designed their own pearler bead planets and created a painted sun. A special hands-on Lego exhibit was provided by Anthony Tobar and children had the opportunity to build their very own spaceship Lego MOC (My Own Creation).

We are excited to be a part of the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum experience and hope that you will join us for our next event, A Night At The Museum, on Friday August 28th beginning at 5:15 PM. During this special evening time at the museum, the museum will be exclusively open to PJ Library members, community friends and family.

As we celebrate the end of summer, we will explore the wonders of the night sky, create glowing fireflies in jars, discover the stories and science behind the constellations, draw a Starry Night inspired masterpiece, listen to a special PJ Library story time and enjoy some shabbat songs. Our fun-filled after hours event, A Night At The Museum, will also include a pizza party, balloon art by Balloon Artist Darryl Bielski and a take away shabbat gift bag with grape juice and challah!

Admission is free so please invite your friends, neighbors and family to enjoy this rare opportunity to explore the museum after hours with PJ Library.

The first 4 PJ Library families* to register and attend the event on August 28th will receive a 1 year family membership to the MHDM!

This program is funded by an anonymous Charitable Trust created to support PJ Library thanks to the guidance of Adam Belok, Board Member and Financial Consultant.

*Applicable for Families with Children Ages 0-9

Elul

by Suzanne Turrisi, PJ Library Assistant Director

Elul is the last month of the Jewish year. It is a special time when we get ready for **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**.

Think of Elul like getting ready for an important visitor. We clean our homes before guests arrive. During Elul, we “clean” our hearts by trying to be kinder, more helpful, and more thoughtful. Like a backpack.

During the year, things get stuffed into it:

- Arguments with friends
- Times you didn’t listen
- Times you forgot to help

By Elul, the backpack feels heavy!

Elul is a chance to open the backpack, take things out, and start fresh. We can say “I’m sorry,” make better choices, and fill the backpack with kindness instead.

Things We Do During Elul

Hear the Shofar

- The shofar is blown every weekday.
- It reminds us to wake up and think about our actions.

Do Teshuvah

- Teshuvah means returning to our best selves.
- We think about how we can improve.

Ask Forgiveness

- If we hurt someone’s feelings, we try to make it right.

Do More Mitzvot

- We look for extra ways to help others and show kindness.

We can ask ourselves :

1. What is one mitzvah you are proud of this year?
2. What is one thing you would like to improve?
3. How can you help someone this week?
4. Why do you think the shofar is called a “wake-up call”?

We can try to:

Help someone without being asked

- Say something kind to a friend
- Thank a family member
- Apologize if you make a mistake
- Do one extra mitzvah

Elul teaches us that every person can grow. No matter what happened yesterday, today is a new chance to be our best selves . Elul is the month when we practice becoming the person we want to be in the new year.”

Just as we clean our rooms and organize our desks, during Elul we organize our hearts and think about how we can be kinder, more helpful, and closer to Hashem.



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!

The Federation Board’s Voice



Adam Belok

My Ukrainian Babushka

Four years ago, I began writing this family memoir in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the land of my dearest grandparents. But now with significant Jewish sechel (ingenuity), Ukrainian armed forces actually do “hold (some) cards” after being bullied and being told they had none.

Our Eastern European grandparents and great grandparents were extraordinarily tough and proud of their heritage: overthrowing “the Mongol Tarter Yoke”

(read Jules Verne’s swashbuckling novel “Michael Strogoff” illustrated first by Jules Férat, later by NC Wyeth, both American illustrator icons). Remember that Czarist Royalty’s imperialism was trashed, then Stalin’s dictatorship purges killed thousands, and he was removed. Recently, Putin has been telling the world Ukrainian identity will be erased “because they are all Russian anyway”.

My grandma was proud to wear her traditional Ukrainian national hair design: a “crown braid” that circled over the top of her head until her death at age 86. Grandma, Sarah Weiser, and Sam Schubert had 4 children within 4 years on a truck farm in Hightstown, NJ, growing vegetables. After Grandpa Sam became frustrated and saddened by how Heinz truckers treated his best tomatoes crudely at their pickup, he sadly gave up farming to become “the best tailor in Washington Heights”, according to our mom. Grandma Sarah soon moved her brood (minus the geese and chickens) to 162nd St. where many Jews had gathered.

Our Mom was 17 when they left the farm, soon graduated Hunter College in 1935 with straight A’s in Physiology. But the local public school system would not hire her due to her “immigrant accent”, until she organized the



Sam and Sarah (Weiser) Schubert
Circa 1959

local Teachers’ Union and finally prevailed. Eventually our mom taught “Home Economics” at G.W. High School, sold Consumers Union subscriptions on the A Train on her way to and from Hunter & Columbia Teachers’ College. Jews had a hard time getting jobs.

Grandma was proud of our mom, her only daughter, and her four grandsons, me being the youngest. She sewed all her own clothes

and taught my mom how to sew anything (reversing worn shirt collars, replacing broken zippers, rips in our jeans, you name it). Apparently, we were Litvaks, householders, decidedly not the Glitziana businessfolk.

Grandma lived with us for the last 5 years of her life, away from the projects that had become too dangerous. Once I asked my mom why Grandma seemed to hide bread in her fist during dinner? “She had been afraid of roaming Cossacks,” Mom sadly replied. “Growing up in the Old Country, Russian Cossacks could walk into our Grandma’s childhood home unexpectedly and take anything, everything.” (Think “Fiddler on the Roof”).

So when you are preparing for High Holidays in September, think about your ancestors and their stories. “We Must Remember Them!” Recall those lost in European and Middle Eastern conflicts and purges of Jews. Let’s honor ourselves, as we are genetic remnants, survivors, here to motivate each other to thrive into the future, maintaining traditions, and cultivating our unique intelligent resourcefulness to enjoy success in our lives.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Belok

Our Executive Director



What grows from grief?

Over the past few years, I have attended several funerals. Living in a community with an aging population, this becomes one of life’s realities. Two key reasons I attend funerals: respect and responsibility. Attending a funeral and shiva is done out of respect for the deceased, especially their family. Responsibility, in my opinion, is what it means to be part of a community. I was taught to respect my elders, which really extends to all members of the community. Being part of a community means we

should be present and provide support to families in mourning. There is also a built-in responsibility, as you cannot have a minyan without 10 people.

At a recent funeral, I was so touched and impacted by the eulogy that I received permission to share parts of it with you. Edward Stern spoke the following during the eulogy of his mom, Ellen C. Stern, of blessed memory.

When I faced heartbreak in my life, or when we faced death in our family, my mom sat me down and gave me a piece of wisdom that I have carried with me every single day since. She told me that grief is not a sign of weakness, and it isn’t something to be feared. She said, “Grief is just all the love you have and want to give to someone, but physically can’t anymore.”

She taught me that you cannot have profound love without profound grief. Grief is the very soil that love grows from. She reminded me that there is no timeline on mourning, and that it is entirely okay if you miss someone forever. But she promised that if you manage that grief, love will eventually sprout from it, and it will heal you.

We are all farmers in one way or another. We need to focus and care for the soil from which relationships grow. We need to water and fertilize. We need to identify the poison ivies and remove the weeds. We must never take for granted the gardens we hold dear to our hearts. We must remember that some plants and crops are seasonal, but many others flourish day in and day out.

As a Federation, we continue to toil the fields of Dutchess County, the Hudson Valley, and the greater Jewish community. We want everyone to feel connected and have their own seedlings to plant, keeping in mind that Judaically, the fruit grown the first three years is forbidden to be eaten. When planting seeds for new relationships, remember that time is needed to benefit from the harvest.

As a Federation, we will continue to try to create connections and fields to harvest friendship and love. If you have suggestions for how we can make that happen, we always welcome it...as long as you bring resources with you (time, people, and potentially some funding). With the Jewish New Year looming on the horizon, it may be time to reinvest energy into harvesting the love and connection from the relationships we have while looking to and being open to new gardens and harvests for the New Year.

While we begin to prepare for the New Year, it may be helpful to consider that one never gets over grief but has to learn how to move forward with it.

Wishing you a good harvest and new planting season.

Karen Hochhauser
JFedDC Executive Director
ExecDirector@JewishDutchess.org

Federation Celebration Gala



Order your Rosh Hashanah Greetings by August 7

2026 Holiday Greetings

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

This year we will once again be offering a 3-pack of Holiday Greetings which includes: Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Chanukah.

Please look at the designs and choose an individual greeting or the 3-pack. If you choose the 3-pack, please choose the same size ad for all holidays.

The cost: Small ad: \$30 each or 3 for \$80
Medium ad: \$40 each or 3 for \$110
Large ad: \$70 each or 3 for \$190

Please fill out the form and mail it back to us with your payments to:
THE VOICE, PO Box 2525, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Or complete online: www.jewishdutchess.org
DEADLINE for Rosh Hashanah Greeting is August 7th

2026 Holiday Greetings

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Holiday	Small	Medium	Large
Passover (circle one)	A B	C D	E F
Rosh Hashanah (circle one)	A B	C D	E F
Chanukah (circle one)	A B	C D	E F

Your name(s) on the Greeting: _____

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

Passover Greetings

Small—A

Peace to you this Passover!

Your Name

Medium—C

Happy Passover

Your Name

Small—B

HAPPY PASSOVER!

Your Name

Medium—D

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

Your Name

Large—E

Passover Blessings

Your Name

Large—F

CHAG PESACH SAMACH

Your Name

Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Small—A

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

Your Name

Medium—C

L'Shanah Tovah

Your Name

Small—B

Have a Sweet New Year!

Your Name

Medium—D

L'Shanah Tovah

Your Name

Large—E

Best Wishes For a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Your Name

Large—F

L'Shanah Tovah Have a sweet year! Happy New Year!

Your Name

Chanukah Greetings

Small—A

Peace to all!

Your Name

Medium—C

Wishing you peace in this season of miracles!

Your Name

Small—B

Hanukkah Blessings

Your Name

Medium—D

Happy Hanukkah!

Your Name

Large—E

HAPPY HANUKKAH

From Our Family to Yours,

Your Name

Large—F

May your Hanukkah shine bright with happiness!

Your Name

Stay Tuned! We have some exciting new authors coming this year in collaboration with the Jewish Book Council and other community partners! Be sure to check out the sneak peek in the September Voice.

Rabbi's Blog by Rabbi Zalman Sandhaus

The end of the year in any enterprise is a serious time. Whether it's a business, school or government agency, every twelfth month there is an urgency in the air. Projects are due, accountings are expected and preparing for the new cycle brings with it an extra level of focus.

Judaism is the same and our annual month to account for the past and prepare the coming year begins on Friday August 14 at the start of the Jewish month of Elul. Gearing up for Rosh Hashanah, we add in our

daily prayers and blow the Shofar every day (aside for Shabbat) reminding us of higher purpose and divine service. But strangely enough its daily routines are religiously no different than any other weekdays of the year.

Chabad Chassidic teaching offers a beautiful image to the month of Elul in the guise of a story of a benevolent king typically ensconced in the palace surrounded by guards, servants and ministers. Gaining a royal audience is impossible for ordinary subjects and on the rare occasion someone is granted entry to the throne room, they must dress in special clothing and behave according to strict protocol.

Once a year the king wishes to meet the commoners on their turf. He dons peasant clothing and ventures out to the fields alone, without the usual entourage of ministers and guards. It is there, without the usual pomp and ceremony, that the king is in a marvelous mood and becomes accessible to all.

This is the essence of Elul. During the rest of the year there are "palace moments"—Shabbos, Yom Tov, prayer, and Torah study—when we naturally feel closer to G-d. Elul, however, is different. Like the king in the field, G-d comes to meet every person with a welcoming countenance, inviting us to strengthen our relationship with Him and prepare ourselves for the upcoming holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Different realities of our world can be defined as “palace” and “field.” Holy days and spaces are the “palaces” of G-d’s kingdom and the mundane regular times and spaces in our lives are the “fields.” Those “palace” days and spaces come with certain expectations and protocols and provide a context in which one feels more easily elevated and spiritual, whereas the “fields” are informal and devoid of accessible inspiration.

It's only natural to feel more Jewish and fulfilled when praying in the synagogue on Shabbat than while sitting in standstill traffic on the way to work on a Tuesday morning. It's easier to be aware of a higher purpose when studying Torah than while mowing the lawn or out grocery shopping.

The month of Elul, with its paradoxical mundaneness and elevated spirituality, teaches us that our task in this world, and perhaps our resolution for the coming year must include more than just our commitment to increasing our synagogue attendance or adding to our Torah study schedule. Elul reminds us that holiness isn't reserved for the synagogue. It can be found in the office, the kitchen, the classroom, the commute, and every ordinary conversation.

As in the story of the king, G-d wants to be present in our “fields” - in our regular daily routines - just as He is present in our “palaces” - our special holy days and spaces. Take a moment and reflect on how everything in life is orchestrated from Above and how every encounter, event and enterprise can be a conduit for added goodness and meaning in our world.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet new year.



Rabbi Sandhaus

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

SAVE THE DATE

10th ANNIVERSARY

10th Annual Federation Celebration Gala

Celebrating a decade of strengthening Jewish life in the Hudson Valley

Wednesday, June 16, 2027

The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, NY

Silent Auction • Dinner • Dancing

Details to follow

JewishDutchess.org/events

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY'S INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

2026 Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 30TH 6:30 PM

Boardman Road Branch Library

141 Boardman Road | Poughkeepsie

Join us as we acknowledge our Board, honor this year's Maccabee Award recipients, and hear from a special guest speaker.

2026 MACCABEE AWARDS

Recognizing those who stand up for the Jewish community and make a bold impact in the fight against antisemitism and antizionism in Dutchess County.

2026 MACCABEE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HONOREES

TO BE REVEALED

Registration Information Coming Soon

www.JewishDutchess.org/Events

845-471-9811 | events@JewishDutchess.org

JEWS IN THE NEWS.

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



After more than four decades of serving clients and shaping one of the Hudson Valley's most respected law firms, **Jeffrey M. Feldman**, founding partner of **Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP (FKC&S)**, has announced his retirement.



MHCM

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(845)298-9230 | office@midhudsoncm.com

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 HudsonValley
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
241682 Glasco Tpke, Woodstock
(845) 679-2218
Admin: admin@wjcsul.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@wjcsul.org for all events and current info or visit the website www.wjcsul.org



Vassar Temple Sisterhood presented Polly Lewis with a colorful Woman of Valor vase commemorating her past three years as Sisterhood President.



VT Sisterhood also, honored Susan Colodner with the coveted Evelyn Kahn Award for exemplifying the values of Sisterhood.



Susan Budson Fink (center) is presented the 2026 Vassar Temple Founders' Service Award by last year's recipients, Paul and Andi Ciminello. The award honors Susan for her 60+ years of service to Vassar Temple as well as to the local community.



Vassar Temple

Vassar Temple's information booth at Poughkeepsie Pride Day 2026.

Federation Celebration Gala



The Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Post 625

Pvt. Herman Siegel Post 625, Jewish War Veterans of the US, meets monthly at Congregation Schomre Israel, Poughkeepsie. We are the only active post between Westchester and Albany! Upcoming meeting dates are Sundays, 8/9/26, (9:00 am schmooze, 9:30 am meeting). The location is strictly kosher and tasty refreshments are provided. All are welcome to attend and/or join, both veterans and anyone else who would like to support our cause. We provide community service and support local veterans' facilities. We advocate against antisemitism and for the rights and benefits of all American military members and veterans. For more info, contact Senior Vice Commander Ralph Schwartz at (845) 849-0025.



Honoring our Jewish War Veterans at the 9th Annual Jewish Federation Celebration Gala.

Whoever You Are, Whatever Your Family Makeup

Congregation Shir Chadash Welcomes You!

**A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
FOR FAMILIES & ALL AGES**

We are a warm, inclusive congregation where everyone belongs. From children to seniors, singles to multi-generational families — you'll find a community that celebrates Jewish life, learning, and connection.

**THE HEART OF OUR
COMMUNITY: OUR CHOIR**

Music lifts our spirits and brings us together. Our vibrant choir enhances our High Holiday services and special events, creating a powerful and moving worship experience. All who love to sing are welcome!



FLEXIBLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Designed to meet your child's or family's needs.

- Engaging curriculum
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Supporting Jewish learning at every stage.

Join us for

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

A TIME FOR REFLECTION, RENEWAL & COMMUNITY



Engaging choir music & tradition



Inspiring Jewish experiences



Meaningful services for all ages

ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL BELONG.



Congregation Shir Chadash
— of the Hudson Valley —

No Fee, Donations Greatly Appreciated
(for Security Reasons: Registration Required for Attendance — Kindly Register at info@shir-chadash.org)

Experience the joy of our Vibrant Reform Congregation led by **RABBI GLENN JACOB** with Choir Music

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Welcoming • Inclusive • Community
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info@shir-chadash.org
845-232-1029
Shir-Chadash.org
Shir Chadash of the Hudson Valley



*Congratulations
Graduates*

Graduation Goodness & Mazel Galore!

We have so much to celebrate that we do not have enough space to share it all this month. Look for the rest of our graduates in next month's Voice!

Matan Alpersen
Rhinebeck HS

Leah Barlow
University of Delaware

Carly Dugan
Green Level HS, Cary NC

Vassar Temple

Where You Belong

A community engaged in worship, learning and the pursuit of justice.

Join a welcoming congregational family

Participate in projects that improve our world



Delight in spiritual and intellectual growth

Experience our innovative Religious School

Be inspired at High Holy Day, Festival and Shabbat Services

Contact us to RSVP for High Holy Day Services and membership inquiries
No charge to attend High Holy Day services - Donations appreciated
See service schedule on our web site

Membership information: membership@vassartemple.org
140 Hooker Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-454-2570 ♦ vassartemple.org





Hannah Effron
Lehigh University

Hadami Gendron
Spackenkill HS

Elijah Goldberg
Shaker HS, Albany

Haley Kflowitz
University at Albany

Daniela Koplin
Tufts University

Seth Lunin-Pack
Haldane HS

Owen Reckess
MPH School, Syracuse.

Zach Silbergleit
Vassar College

Samuel Sims
Arlington HS

Avery Williams
Roger Williams University

Hudson Valley Medical Health Choices

Life challenges? We can help!

Our new office is open and accepting patients!
1 Webster Avenue, Suite 402B in Poughkeepsie.
To schedule an appointment or to learn more, visit
hvpalliativecare.org or call **845.240.7557.**





Hope comes in many forms

For some, it means feeling seen, heard and supported, every step of the way.

Hudson Valley Hospice

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

www.jewishdutchess.org | 12