

Our LGBTQ Safe Zone emblem, adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2018, has been repositioned alongside the new Temple sign. Thanks to Kurt Quackenbush for building and installing this important public statement of our Reform values.



VOICES of VIRTUAL VASSAR
~ a continuing series ~
7/30/20



A message from Richard Levien

When I moved to Highland in 2010 I had no family in the eastern half of the US, so when I joined Vassar Temple about seven years ago, it truly became my family. I became a Friday night regular, to be with the many “family members” who had become so dear to me, to enjoy the music and to enjoy the spiritual feelings imparted by the services. I am so grateful for the opportunity that our Friday night Zoom services allow me to enjoy and be with my family right in my own home. It is a true Mitzvah!!

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The new **Lila Matlin Technology Fund** supports the expansion of our reach through the use of virtual and other technology, funding both ongoing system upgrades and related professional services. Our new Technology Committee will guide this work as well as support and educate our members in connecting to new offerings. We are grateful for your support of the fund.

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**FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE BY SENDING POSTCARDS  
TO ENCOURAGE VOTERS OF COLOR IN VOTER SUPPRESSION STATES.**

We are joining with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and the Reclaim Our Vote campaign, affiliated with the NAACP and many other national organizations to send postcards to voters of color in six states (Texas, Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, & Mississippi) which have significant problems of voter suppression.

We can supply everything you need to write cards. All you need is the time and motivation to write. Contact [civicengagement@vassartemple.org](mailto:civicengagement@vassartemple.org)

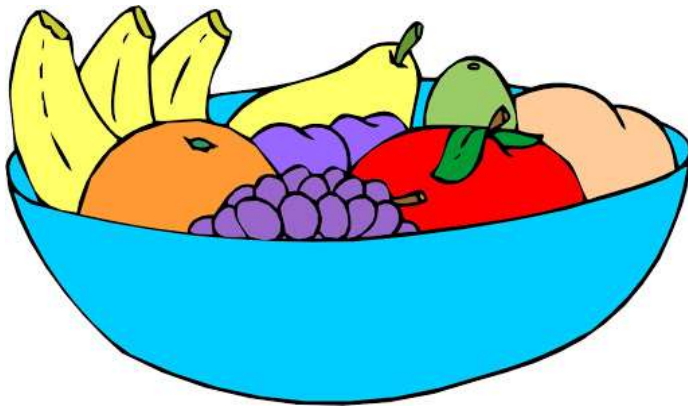
If you have no time to write but still want to participate, you can contribute to the Community Tzedakah fund to support our efforts.

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## **Lunch Box Update - Fruit needed for this Sunday, August 2nd!**

Vassar Temple has stepped up to the plate during the pandemic, meeting the extra need by providing two Lunch Box meals per month, in partnership with our friends at the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association.

Due to health concerns, we cannot get together to cook the main course (we have to patronize a restaurant for that), but we need your help to provide fresh fruit to complement this Sunday's meal.



If you can provide one dozen or more pieces of fresh fruit (soft fruit such as bananas and citrus preferred), please contact the temple office.

Thank you for your support of the life-sustaining project!

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# Jewish Community Preschool

of the Hudson Valley

## **New Jewish Community Preschool Comes to Your Home**

After planning to open its doors in September 2020, our new Jewish Community Preschool (JCP) is going to postpone in-person classes due to the pandemic. While there is great interest and enthusiasm for bringing a Jewish preschool back to Dutchess County, the preschool board felt it could only open when it was safe to do so (VT is on the advisory board, together with local congregations and the Federation).

However, the pandemic will not be keeping the JCP completely closed. We are excited to offer VIRTUAL Zoom/FaceTime programming for preschool-age children, their parents, families, and caregivers, which will be fun and educational. These programs will be free of charge and open to the community. We just ask that you sign up to get the link.

If you questions or you want to be included in our special year of virtual programming for kids and adults, please email us at [jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com).

Interested in being a teacher for the JCP? Please send a cover letter and resume to [jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:jewishcommunitypreschool@gmail.com) to the attention of Karen or Lisa.

Please feel free to visit our website (currently under construction) at [JCPHV.ORG](http://JCPHV.ORG). The JCP will be open to all children, regardless of race or religion with a playful curriculum that is imbued with Jewish values. Please “like” and “follow” our Facebook page at Jewish Community Pre-School of the Hudson Valley - and share our page with your friends and family.



# VASSAR TEMPLE BROTHERHOOD HAPPY HOUR



We invite you to attend a Brotherhood Midsummer Happy Hour. The last virtual happy hour was a success in keeping us in contact with each other and this is another opportunity to connect with your temple friends.

The meeting is informal but I would love to get your input on our Fall activities like erecting and disassembling the Sukkah. The High Holidays Committee is meeting to plan multiple strategies and plan "A" is a hybrid service - that alternative would imply that we put up the Sukkah.



**Topic: Brotherhood Mid-Summer Happy Hour**

**Time: Aug 4, 2020, 05:30 for details, please check the newsletter**

**Will the mystery guest please sign in?**



**Going forward, we are asking everyone who visits the temple to sign in upon entry, and to wear a mask. This will create a record in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary. Thank you and stay safe (hopefully your mask covers your mouth & nose - not your eyes)!**



#### **UPDATE: ASYLUM SEEKERS AT THE BORDER**

If you missed hearing Muriel and Val speak and seeing the compelling video of their journey, "From Beacon to the Border," you can view it at <https://vimeo.com/425568171>. You may also be interested in "To Right the Wrong," border stories, on YouTube Video. For information on helping asylum seekers at the Texas/Mexico border right now during the time of COVID, visit the Facebook page of TeamBrownsville, a respected, effective tax-exempt humanitarian assistance organization.



**SCRIP SALES HAVE RETURNED TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE:** Please continue to support us through this important fundraiser. **Please email the office at [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org) or call 845.454.2570 in advance to place your order, that way we can have your order ready for a safe pickup. Thank you!**



*Need Groceries?*



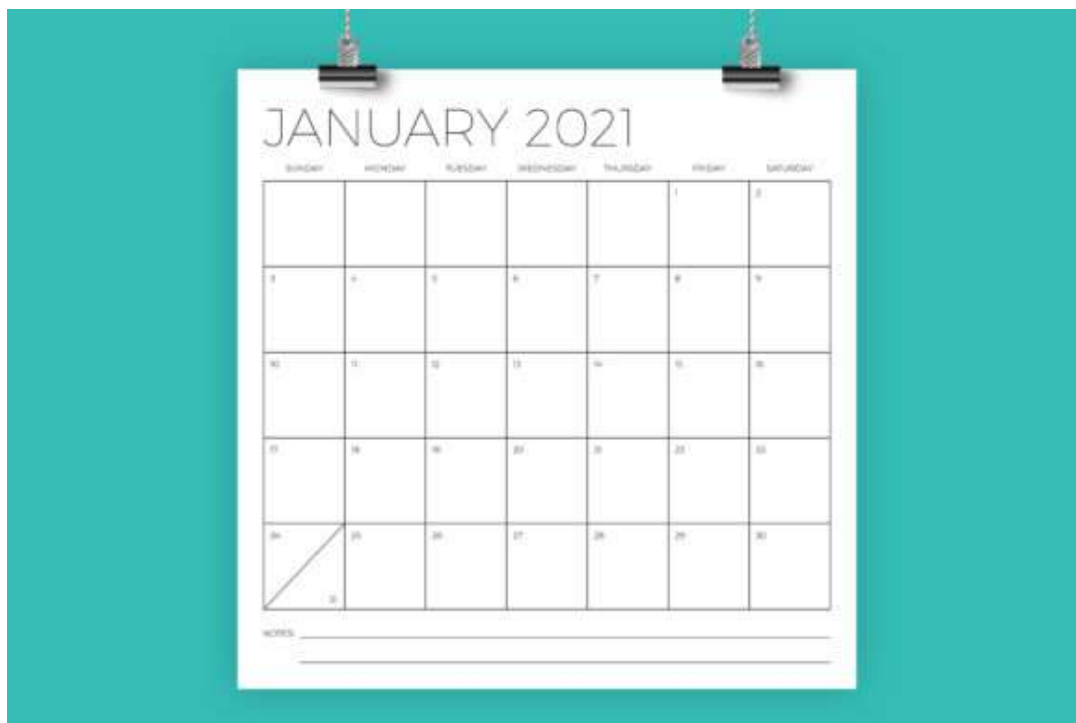
*Purchasing Gifts?*



*Filling up on gas?*



**Attention Sisterhood:** We are putting together a committee to assist with the publication of our 2021 Friendship Calendar. Please contact [sisterhood@vassar temple.org](mailto:sisterhood@vassar temple.org) if you can join our committee to help with mailings, merchant advertising, computer work, photography, or cover design.

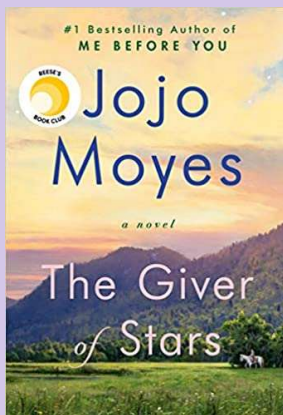




Just as Shabbat Services help brighten our week, so do the Bimah flowers which brighten our Sanctuary. If anyone would like to make a donation to sponsor our silk flower arrangements while services are being held virtually, please call the temple office at 845.454.2570 or email [office@vassartemple.org](mailto:office@vassartemple.org). The sponsor's name and remembrance or Simcha will be acknowledged just like with our fresh Bimah flower arrangements.

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## Book Club to Discuss “The Giver of Stars” on August 19th



Vassar Temple’s Sisterhood Book Club will discuss “The Giver of Stars,” by Jojo Moyes, the author of “Me Before You.” Based on a true story rooted in America’s past, “The Giver of Stars” is set in depression-era America, and is the story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond.

When a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt’s new traveling library, these five women sign on enthusiastically. What happens to them - and to the men they love - becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. Though they face all kinds of danger, they’re committed to bringing books to people who have never had any, sharing the gift of learning, and arming them with facts that will forever change their lives. Described by critics as, “funny, heartbreaking, and enthralling, *The Giver of Stars* is destined to become a modern classic - a richly rewarding novel of women’s friendship, and of true love.” “The Giver of Stars” is available in paperback and large print through Amazon, with multiple copies in the local library system.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 19th, at 2:00 pm.