



Simchat Shabbat

Family Friendly Chanukah Candle Lighting Service

Friday, December 11, 6 pm - on Zoom

- View the chanukiah being ceremoniously lit in the sanctuary!
- Enjoy a Chanukah story and favorite songs and games. Be prepared with an original verse to add to the “I Have a Little Dreidel” song!
- To continue our tradition of displaying all our lit menorahs together:

***We invite you to send us either a photo or a video of your family lighting your menorah set up for the second day of Chanukah. Send your photo or video to [templevideos@vassartemple.org](mailto:templevideos@vassartemple.org) ASAP.***

- We’ll combine them, with a beautiful musical background, to be displayed at the end of the service. If you make a video, you may recite the blessing, & if you have a special or historical menorah, we’d love to hear a few words about it!
- Let’s all light our own menorahs simultaneously, at home, at the end of the service. Have your menorah set up to light for the second night of the holiday!

**NEW!!!** For each of the 8 nights of the holiday (December 10 - December 17), at 6 pm, join a member of the temple family on Zoom as they light their own menorah in their own homes.

\*Watch for all Zoom links in next week’s e-mail.\*



## “Back to the Sources”



### Adult Education with Rabbi Altman:

#### *An introduction to Codes and Responsa Literature*

Unravel the mysteries of basic Jewish texts and their role in establishing Jewish practice through this introduction into the world of rabbinic literature. No prior background or knowledge of Hebrew required.

**Wednesday, December 9 at 7:30 pm**

Vassar Temple will be joining with other small URJ congregations for an exciting program for Hanukkah hosted by Temple Concord of Binghamton, NY:



## ***Shards: Putting the Pieces Together***

**A one-man show with Cantor Evan Kent**

**Live from Jerusalem!**

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm**

Cantor Kent will transport us from the streets of Jerusalem to the villages of Eastern Europe to the suburbs of Long Island in the 1960s, sharing stories of his grandparents' immigration to the United States at the beginning of the 20th century interwoven with his own tales of his Aliyah (immigration to Israel) just a few years ago. "Shards" takes us on a poignant, often humorous journey that spans continents, decades, and generations.



The theatrical adventure includes 1 actor, 21 characters, 3 puppets, 4 generations, and 8 songs adding up to 1 unforgettable theatrical adventure. Ultimately "Shards" is the story of finding home, finding homeland, and along the way learning a bit more about yourself. At the end of the performance, Cantor Kent will talk to the zoom audience- giving us all a greater sense of connection. This will be followed by Havdalah and lighting Hanukkah lights together in our homes.

Other participating congregations include Congregation Shaarey Zedek, East Lansing, MI; Temple Israel, Columbus, GA; Temple Beth Israel, York, PA; B'nai Abraham, Elyria, OH; and Temple Beth El, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Please contact the office for registration information.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

# COMMUNITY HANUKKAH VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

ALL ARE WELCOME

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED



9:30 am	Improvisation Games with The Bible Players Pre K – Grade 2 and families
10:00 am	Welcome all participants  Milton the Menorah: A Hanukkah Adventure starring The Bible Players  Community Hanukkah Celebration Film
11:00 am	Improvisation Games with The Bible Players Grade 3 & Up and families

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CONGREGATION OR ORGANIZATION

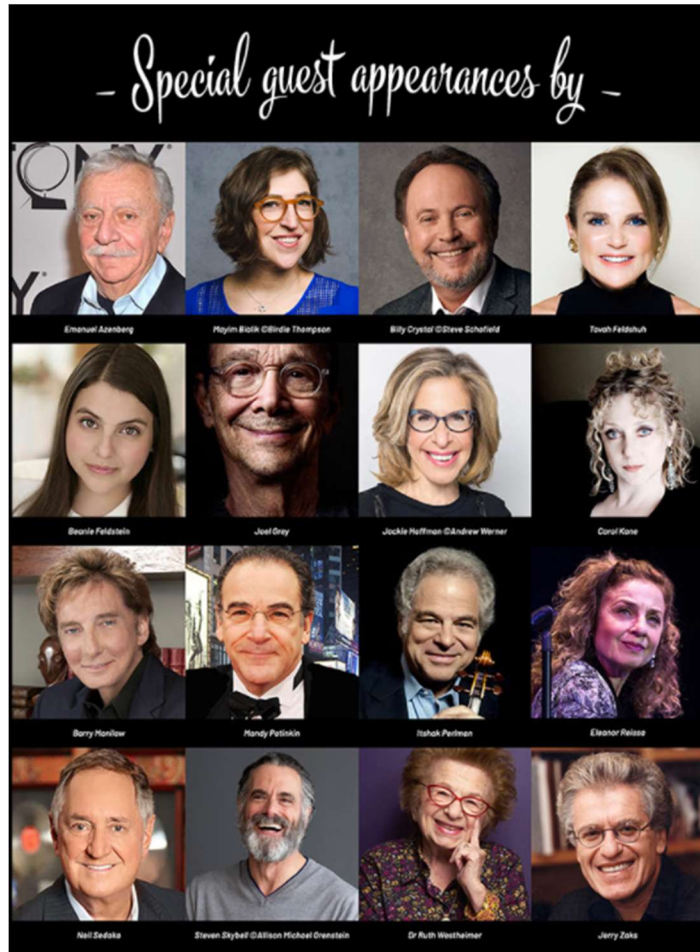
THIS PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE ANN AND ABE EFFRON  
DONOR ADVISED FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY



# Folksbiene Chanukah Spectacular

Tuesday, December 8th, 7 pm

An evening of music and community spanning the globe  
with over 50 stars from Broadway and the Yiddish stage





**Sisterhood General Meeting  
Monday, December 14, 2020, 6:30 PM**



## Celebration time for Chanukah

### Shop for gifts at the Sisterhood Judaica Shop



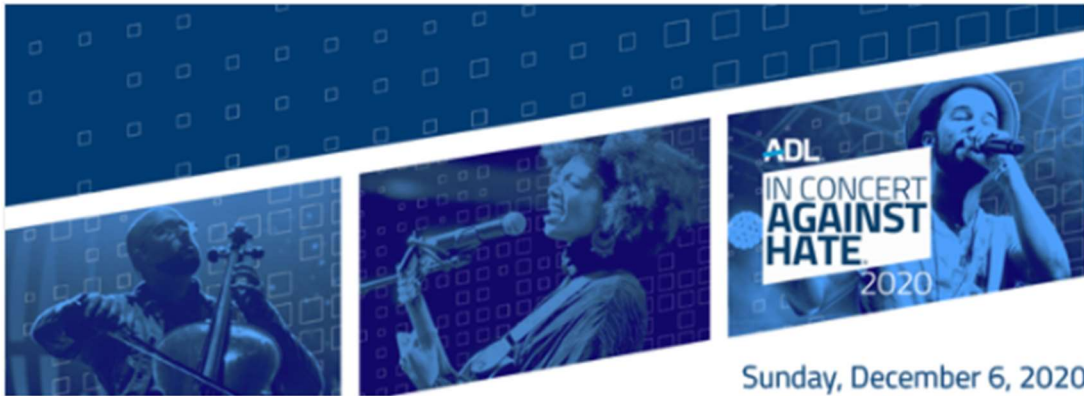
**The Mensch on a Bench** wants to be in a home this year with a family of Vassar Temple. \$20

- Adding More Funukkah to Hanukkah: The Mensch on a Bench is a NEW Hanukkah Tradition meant to bring families together
- Mensch on a Bench was created by a Jewish father who wanted to teach his sons about the Jewish holiday while adding new traditions for the family
- First came the story of Moshe the Mench who helped Judah Maccabee at the temple. Moshe played dreidel, loved gelt, and was a true Mensch.
- The Mensch on a Bench set is a 12" doll and book!
- The book tells the eight rules of having a Mensch, which are meant to drive more Jewish family traditions and reinforce the values we want to hand down to our children



**Bag of Chanukah Books** to cover all the nights of Chanukah. \$50





Debra Messing



Adam Levine



Kenny Loggins



Andra Day





## Kosher, Quality, & Value: The Wines of Israel Sunday, February 7th at 4 pm

Please join us for a two-hour virtual event including:

- An introductory-level seminar on Israeli wines (industry history, geography, grapes, and the story of Israel's Barkan Wine Cellars)
- A guided tasting of four Barkan Classic Series kosher wines



**The deadline to register is January 15th** to allow for wine ordering and pickup. (After this date, participants are welcome but we cannot guarantee wine availability.)

- To register, send an email [wine@vassar temple.org](mailto:wine@vassar temple.org)
- Mail a check to Vassar Temple with "wine tasting" on the memo line
- Cost: \$20 per individual participant, to benefit Vassar Temple
- Zoom link will be provided to participants in advance

The four wines will be available for pickup from  
MyWine at The Shoppes at South Hills



### **Calling all Chili Makers and Bakers...The Lunchbox Needs You!**

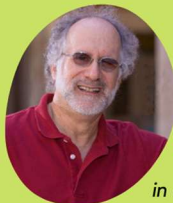
Vassar Temple continues its longstanding commitment to The Lunchbox in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Islamic Society. While we are not yet able to return to the kitchen for meal preparation and serving, we can continue to support our neighbors-in-need at The Lunchbox. We are providing two meals per month. One meal is restaurant-purchased and the other is homemade by our communities. We provide meals for up to 100 local residents on the first Sunday of the month and another 80 the third Thursday. Now, more than ever, we need you! Here is how you can continue to support the Vassar Temple Lunchbox program from the safety of your homes.

- **Make Chili.**
- **Bake Cornbread.**
- **Bake Cookies or Brownies.**
- **Make a donation to Lunchbox!**

If cooking or baking isn't possible, we have limited opportunities for on-site serving at The Lunchbox and also the delivery of food from Temple to The Lunchbox. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please reach out to [Lunchbox@VassarTemple.org](mailto:Lunchbox@VassarTemple.org)

## Adult Education: THURSDAY LUNCH & LEARN

All classes to be held on zoom. Registration link will be sent out in advance.



### Professor Ken Wald

*Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism*

JANUARY 7

*American Jews have built a political culture based on the principle of equal citizenship in a secular state. In his book, Wald traces the development of this culture by examining the controversies and threats that stimulated political participation by American Jews.*

### Esther Safran Foer

*I Want You to Know We're Still Here*

FEBRUARY 4

*Armed with a black-and-white photo, a hand-drawn map, and a handful of leads that only came to light after the publication of her son Jonathan's novel Everything is Illuminated--Foer travels to Ukraine to find the shtetl where her father hid during the war.*



### Bill Haltom

*Why Can't Mother Vote?*

MARCH 4

*The story of Joseph Hanover, an Orthodox Jew who fled Poland in 1895, and found a new life in Memphis, TN. As a young citizen of the US, he read the Constitution and not understand why the right to vote was not extended to all Americans. He led the fight for the ratification of the 19th Amendment.*

### Jonathan Kaufman

*The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China*

APRIL 8

*Kaufman tells the history of how the Sassoons and Kadoories, two Jewish families doing business in China for over a century, participated in an economic boon that opened China to the world.*



### Ariel Sabar

*Veritas: A Harvard Professor, a Con Man and the Gospel of Jesus's Wife*

MAY 6

*In 2012, Harvard professor Karen King found an ancient scrap of papyrus in which Jesus calls Mary Magdalene "my wife." If early Christians believed Jesus was married, it would upend the 2,000-year history of the world's predominant faith.*

### Professor Hillary Levey Friedman

*Here She Is: The Complicated Reign of the Beauty Pageant in America*

JUNE 3

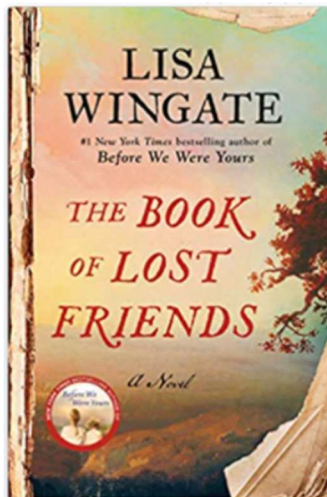
*Beauty pageants have had a role in many of the feminist movement's signature achievements, including bringing women into the public sphere, helping them become leaders in business and politics, providing increased educational opportunities, and giving them a voice in the age of #MeToo.*





As the secular new year approaches, you may have tax deduction opportunities such as making charitable donations, including the early payment of temple dues or completing the payment of the current year (July 2020 - June 2021) temple dues. To determine what donations may benefit you please consult a tax professional. You may benefit from the added tax deduction, and the non-profit organization, including the temple, will benefit from the increased cash flow. As always, we are extremely grateful for our members' generous support.

**Book Club to Discuss “The Book of Lost Friends”  
Wednesday, December 16, 2:00 pm via Zoom**



**Vassar Temple’s Sisterhood Book Club**

**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.

