

Rabbi Dr. Ariel Burger, whose memoir, *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom*, offers intimate first-hand moments and lessons from Wiesel's life and teachings, was originally scheduled to speak at our Community Shabbaton last Spring.

While the Shabbaton did not happen due to COVID, we will now have an opportunity to hear Rabbi Burger's planned presentations virtually on Sundays at 7:30 pm:

February 21: Elie Wiesel: Witness to the Shoah. *Emerging from the horrors of the Shoah, Wiesel taught the lessons of activism against hate and injustice; his message was one of both particularism in his commitment to Israel and to the Jewish people, and universalism, as expressed by his concern for suffering anywhere.*

February 28: Elie Wiesel's Lessons from Jewish Tradition. *In addition to his activism, Wiesel had a passion for Judaism, especially for the biblical personalities and the teachings from the Hassidic tradition.*

March 7: Elie Wiesel: What messages would he have for us today? *What would Wiesel say about the challenges we are facing today, such as living through a pandemic, America's current confrontation with racial injustice, and the polarization that plagues our nation?*

Copies of Dr. Burger's book *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom* may be purchased through Temple Beth-El (845.454.0570 or Rabbi@tbeny.org). This community program is generously supported with funding from the Irving & Gloria Schlossberg Family Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the Harding Club, the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, and generous private donors.



**Sunday
February 21
10:30am-
11:30am**

Kindly RSVP:

www.JewishDutchess.org/events

Community Drive-Thru Purim Carnival

Congregation Schomre Israel Parking
Enter at 18 Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie

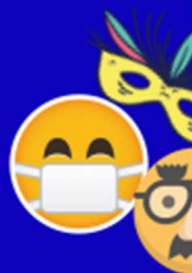
Drive-Thru Activities

- Yummy Mishloach Manot with Carnival Prizes
- Grogger Kits on the go
- Popcorn Booth
- Balloon Booth
- Crafts on the go
- Tzedakah "Bean Haman" Booth
Please bring soft boxes of beans/rice/pasta to throw at Haman!
All collections will be donated to a food pantry.

Optional Park & Socially Distanced Gathering

- Costume Contest Photo Booth
- To Go Coffee & Hot Chocolate
- Socially Distanced Fire Pits

**Come in Costume!
Wear a mask!
And wear a mask!**



**CHABAD OF
MID-HUDSON VALLEY**



Purim in Oz

Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 pm



Follow us down the yellow brick road

and we'll travel somewhere over Zoom to meet the Wizard of Shushan. So grab your good witch (or bad witch), friends and family -- and Toto, too -- for a Zoom family Purim service and spiel on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 pm when we will remember, "There's no place like Vassar Temple."

Don't forget to bring along a box of pasta to shake like a grogger and drown out the name of the villain Haman when it is read. Following the holiday, we'll deliver all your boxes of pasta to a local food pantry. When you come to drop off your pasta at the temple, on any weekday in February (except Wednesdays), you are also invited to bring in other much-needed items requested by the pantry at Dutchess Outreach for our Purim Pasta "Plus" Drive. So come Make Merry and share the joy with others this Purim at Vassar Temple!



Refugee Shabbat Evening Service
Friday, March 5 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Co-sponsored by Vassar Temple, Temple Beth El, and Congregation Shir Chadash. The clergy of all three congregations will participate.



Guest speaker: Miriam Feffer, HIAS Vice President for Development. Q&A during oneg.

Last spring we had to cancel our Community Shabbat evening service, but at last, we will get together to worship during this special Shabbat. HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), whose motto is "Welcome the Stranger and Protect the Refugee," originally served Jewish immigrants arriving in the USA, and today serves refugees of all religions worldwide. Hosted on Zoom by Vassar Temple. Join Us!



PURIM PASTA "PLUS"

Food and Hygiene Drive for February

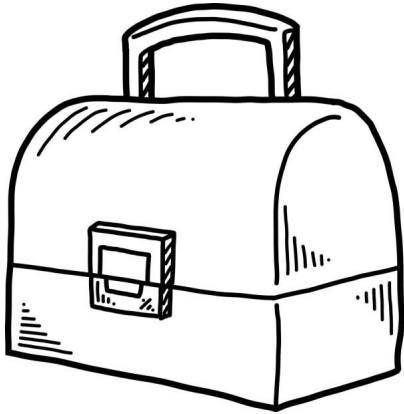
It is a Jewish tradition to give gifts of food and to donate to charity on Purim, and it is Vassar Temple's tradition to always help our neighbors. Given the increased state of need this year, we invite you to bring any of the following items, which were requested by Dutchess Outreach's Beverly Closs Food Pantry, to the temple during the month of February, in addition to your boxes of Purim pasta:

Food: spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned soup, canned vegetables, tuna, instant coffee, tea bags, baby formula, cereal (and pasta)

Personal Hygiene: toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, razors, shaving cream, toilet paper, tissues, diapers, baby wipes

Please do not donate unrequested items, previously opened containers, or outdated packages. You can drop items off at the temple any time the office is open, EXCEPT please avoid Wednesdays. If you must drop off at a different day or time, you can drop off at my home near the Temple - just contact me.

If you would like to donate to Purim Pasta "Plus" but cannot shop, you may make a financial donation to Vassar Temple, designated for the Community Tzedakah Fund. Thank you for helping in any way you can!
socialaction@vassartemple.org



Lunchbox update!

Thank you to the Vassar Temple Chili Makers and Bakers! We delivered over 70 servings of chili and cornbread to The Lunch Box for today's (February 18th) mid-day meal.

It's time to fill up the freezer again. Our next chili meal is scheduled for April 18. Our next shared meal with Mid Hudson Islamic Association (MHIA) is March 7th.

Here's what you can do to support Lunchbox:

1. Fruit donations for March 7th. Please bring bananas, oranges, or apples to the Temple before the week of March 1st. Make Chili and Cornbread. Buy ingredients, cook at your own convenience, and put in Temple Freezer. Volunteer for serving at Lunchbox on March 7th. Serving opportunities are limited - but contact us to let us know your availability.

With our deepest appreciation for your ongoing support.



Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 3:00pm

Nadine Strossen, a professor at New York Law School, past president of the American Civil Liberties Union, and author of HATE: Why We Should Resist it with Free Speech, Not Censorship,

and Richard Wilson, professor of law and anthropology at the University of Connecticut and the author of Incitement on Trial: Prosecuting International Speech Crimes.

They will speak on “Law and hateful speech – what is to be done?”



Thank you to all our generous members for their candy donations. The sweet treats were delivered to hospital workers to thank them for being on the front line during the pandemic.



**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. The sponsor's name and remembrance or Simcha will be acknowledged just like with our fresh Bimah flower arrangements.

