

## **Outdoor Shabbat Experience** **Saturday, August 14 at 10:30 am**

Join us for a spiritual outdoor shabbat morning experience, followed by an optional hike, in bucolic Peach Hill Park. You are invited to bring a reading related to a nature theme, or some appropriate music to enhance the experience. There are picnic tables, but bring a folding chair just in case, along with any refreshments and beverages you'd like. Afterward, there will be an optional hike to the highest spot in the Town of Poughkeepsie. If you wish to attend Torah Study first, the park is only a 9-minute drive from the temple. The event is on, light rain or shine. Peach Hill Park is off Salt Point Turnpike, located, at 32 Edgewood Drive, Poughkeepsie 12603 (opposite Dutchess Racquet/Tennis Club). For questions, if you are planning on coming, or if you are bringing a reading or music, please contact Ron Rosen at [nature@vassartemple.org](mailto:nature@vassartemple.org)

## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON VOTING RIGHTS,** **Sunday, August 1, 8:30 - 9:30 pm**

Please join us in representing our congregation at a RAC-NY Zoom meeting with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to talk about two key bills to protect voting rights: The [For The People Act \(S.1\)](#) is a broad voting rights bill and the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act \(S.4\)](#) addresses racial discrimination in voting. Our Reform Movement strongly supports passage of both bills as important steps towards racial justice in this country. This Zoom meeting will take place on Sunday, August 1, 8:30 - 9:30 pm. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Senior VP of the URJ and Director of the RAC will be speaking. You can [register here for the meeting with Senator Schumer](#). The more people from our congregation who join the Zoom

meeting with Senator Schumer, the more impact we will have. There is an even split in the Senate between the pro- and anti-voting forces. The more people we have on the webinar, the stronger message we send to Senator Schumer that he must do everything in his power to make sure the freedom to vote is protected and these two voting rights bills pass. To learn more about these bills and the Reform Movement's campaign for racial justice, go to <https://rac.org/issues/racial-justice>. We look forward to seeing you at the Zoom meeting with Senator Schumer. [Please register now](#).

## Calling all Vassar Temple Chili Makers!

**We need more Chili!** We ran short of chili this month and are asking all chili-makers to replenish our supply. If you can't make the full recipe (below), then just make what you can and place it in the Vassar Temple freezer. *Please Note: we are also discontinuing the cornbread because Lunchbox/Dutchess Outreach gets a lot of bread-like donations. They really need the main course...and they love our Chili!* Our next Lunchbox Chili meal is on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Please make your chili whenever it is convenient and place it in freezer bags in the Vassar Temple freezer. Questions? Please contact us at [lunchbox@vassartemple.org](mailto:lunchbox@vassartemple.org)

Thank you for your continued support to feed our hungry neighbors. *Andi & Paul Ciminello*

Please join our local interfaith community's CROP Walk Against Hunger Sunday, October 17. The event opens at 10 am. Walk all

or part of the safe six-mile route in Poughkeepsie, with a group from the temple at 1 pm, or with family or friends. If you want to participate, but prefer to be more socially distanced, feel free to create a special walking experience of your own. 25% of funds raised come back to combat hunger in our own community; the rest goes to projects that empower people to combat hunger nationally, globally, and at disaster sites. You can sign up to walk at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/vassar-temple> and contact Ron Rosen, our Temple team leader, for more information at [cropwalk@vassartemple.org](mailto:cropwalk@vassartemple.org)

### **Book Club to Discuss “The Assignment” on August 18**

Vassar Temple’s Sisterhood Book Club will discuss “The Assignment,” by Liza Wiemer. Inspired by a real-life incident, “The Assignment” explores discrimination and antisemitism from the perspective of high school students. Seniors Logan March and Cade Crawford are instructed by a favorite teacher to argue for the final solution - the Nazi plan for the genocide of the Jewish people. Logan and Cade decide to take a stand, and soon their actions draw the attention of the student body, the administration, and the community at large. How do you defend the indefensible? But not everyone feels as Logan and Cade do, and it’s not long before the situation explodes, and acrimony and anger prevail. Showcasing the power of student activism “The Assignment” is available in paperback, through Amazon, with copies available in the local library system. The meeting will take place through Zoom, on Wednesday, August 18, at 2:00 pm. As an exciting bonus, the author, Liza Wiemer, will be joining our discussion. To RSVP or get more information, please contact [bookclub@vassartemple.org](mailto:bookclub@vassartemple.org).

**Join our Hebrew for Adults - Beginner Class**

15 weeks (September - January) / Cost \$75 plus materials

Contact Marcia Tanzman at [hebrew@vassartemple.org](mailto:hebrew@vassartemple.org) if you are interested. Day and time will be determined.