

Hanukkah is just around the corner...

Sunday, November 28 - thru Monday, December 6 at nightfall

NEW items for Hanukkah are available at the Judaica Shoppe:

- Candles
- Menorahs
- Dreidels
- Hanukkah Socks
- Goodnight Bubbala book
- Chocolate Gelt and more

Vassar Temple Sisterhood's Judaica Shoppe is open from 10 am -2 pm on Weekdays - with a special shopping date: Sunday, November 21 from 9 am -12 pm

Hanukkah Candle Lighting Shabbat Service, Friday, December 3, 6pm

Come join our family-friendly Hanukkah Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Altman and Cantor Goldmann, with participation by our Temple teens. It will be a hybrid service; in-person and on Zoom. Bring your Hanukkah menorah and candles, or if you're attending on Zoom, be ready to light your menorah along with us at home. We'll carry on our tradition of adding hilarious verses to the "I Have a Little Dreidel" song, so if you have a new verse to contribute, please contact vtritchair@gmail.com ASAP! Holiday To-Go-Neg goodies will be distributed to those attending in person. Chag Sameach! Happy Hanukkah!

Resettlement of Afghan refugees

You may recall that several years ago, we sponsored a refugee family. Then all such matters were shelved for four years.

We are preparing to apply to HIAS to become a Sponsor Circle, which will function independently, but with logistical support from HIAS if we need it. There are several requirements. Most important at this time is that we need a minimum of six people to form a Circle.

If you are interested, please contact me at refugee@vassar.org. Once we are approved, a project-specific email account will be set up.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to become involved in this important and desperately needed process.

Volunteer at Morse School!

If you have even just a few hours a month to give, you can change the life of a child. Morse Elementary School, Poughkeepsie, is in receivership because of the low achievement level of its student population.

While the children there are excited to learn, they need extra help. Opportunities abound for volunteers to read to classes in the library, as well as to do 1:1 or small group tutoring in the classroom. Subject areas of most urgent need are math and reading. You can select the grade level(s) you want to work with, and, in many cases, the days and hours. There will also be openings for volunteers to help children check out books in the library (training provided). However you choose to help, it will make a difference. For further information, please contact schoolvolunteer@vassartemple.org.

"Giving Thanks for Our Diversity"

Virtual Interfaith Music Festival & Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 21 at 2 pm

Featuring singers and speakers from a wide array of faith communities here in Dutchess County, many recorded inside their houses of worship. Concluding with our tradition of everyone singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth".

The link to access this event is <https://youtu.be/9Jly9wz8q3w>

Lunchbox Update

We have a lot of Chili in the freezer, but our hungry neighbors still need us. If you're one of our regulars, we thank you for your continued support. If you have not yet made Chili...what are you waiting for? Your house will smell great and you will be helping to feed our community. If you need the recipe, please let us know - lunchbox@vassartemple.org

Thank you!

Story Circle in Rectangles

Thursday, December 2 at 7 PM

Theme: Light Up the Darkness

Sponsor: Dutchess County Interfaith Council

At this time of year, the days shorten and the nights grow longer. In this story circle, we will explore tales from our various faith traditions about lighting up the darkness. To get the Zoom link, send an email to DCICstory@optonline.net

Book Club to Discuss *AMERICAN DIRT* on December 15

Vassar Temple's Sisterhood Book Club will discuss *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins. Already being described by critics as a *Grapes of Wrath* for our time, and a new American classic, *American Dirt* is a moving exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for the chance of hope.

Lydia lives in Acapulco. She has an eight-year-old son, Luca, and a wonderful husband, who is a journalist. But after her husband's tell-all profile of the newest drug lord is published, none of their lives will ever be the same. Forced to flee, Lydia and Luca find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence.

This timely and poignant story, reflective of what is going on in our world now, is available in paperback, through Amazon and local bookstores, with multiple copies available in the Mid-Hudson Library System. The meeting will take place through Zoom on Wednesday, December 15, at 2pm. Marian Schwartz will lead the discussion, to which everyone is welcome. To RSVP or get more information, please contact Linda Babas at bookclub@vassartemple.org.