



Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

December 2019
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Issue #10

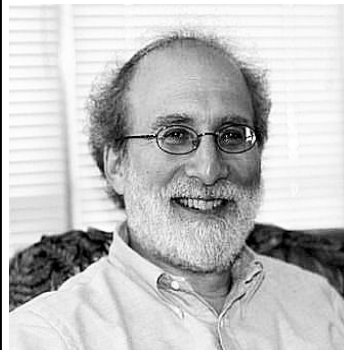
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RABBI'S REFLECTIONS:

Happy Month/Troublesome Problems

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Rabbi Michael Rascoe

I write this as I prepare for teaching and Shabbat. Christmas, a joyful, beautiful, peaceful time, is in the air—we see, smell, hear, and taste it at schools, work, shops, relaxing, walking, driving. I overhear: “silly girl, of course you believe in Santa Claus”; “my son wants everything that begins with ‘a’—a bike, a video game...”; “I feel badly when I say ‘No’ to my little girl”; “why can’t we have a Christmas tree?”; “Christmas is a secular, national holiday”.

Christmas is a Christian religious holiday. Only scrooges buy Tom Lehrer’s lyrics: “Hark the Herald Tribune sings, advertising wondrous things”; “Our Father who art on high, told us to go out and buy.” Good Christians decry the materialism. Pre-World War II folk do not understand, and so resent, all the hoopla. Christmas celebrates the Christian savior’s birth, and to bring its symbols into Jewish homes in any form (I’m not writing about how to deal with Christian relatives), even trying to Judaize it, slights both Judaism and Christianity. What follows is why.

(Rabbi—continued on page 2)

(Rabbi—continued from page 2)

Christmas decorations have spiritual meanings, some reflect midrashim (teachings) on the Sinai revelation. (Christians started as Jews; some of our symbols have a pagan origin, like the menorah, from a plant.) The tree represents the cross. It's green because trees bloomed and bore fruit in cold, snowy winter to affirm God's earthly incarnation—revelation on earth (which pigheaded Jews refused to notice). "For it is a symbol of Christ, as the tree of life who offers freely to all his gifts of light, life, and wisdom." The evergreen signifies Jesus's eternal life. St. Boniface (8th century) traveled from England to Germany, and felled a sacred pagan tree, revealing a small fir tree symbolizing the new faith which he brought them.

As Martin Luther walked in a forest, awed by the stars shining through the evergreens, he recalled "him who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven". Home, he set a fir tree with lit candles on its limbs to depict those stars

and their heavenly message of miracle and redemption. They also signify the stars and lights which brought the gift-bearing wise men to baby Jesus, "the light of the world," who will dispel darkness.

Tinsel, "angel's hair," recalls the heavenly hosts attending Jesus's miraculous birth. The holly wreath represents the thorn crown he wore; its red berries symbolize his purifying blood; and the bright color in winter his immortality. The apple (ethrog to many Jews) refers to Adam and Eve's original sin, eating from the forbidden tree. Jesus's death atoned for it—the apple's seeds grew into the tree used for the cross. While crucified, the earth opened and his blood dripping on their bones purified them of their sin. In a hymn, "the mistletoe bough at our Christmas board shall hang to the honor of Christ our Lord, for he is the evergreen tree of life". Another ornament signifies the Eucharist wafer, salvation's symbol/ Jesus's body.

(Rabbi—continued on page 11)

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Winter Shabbat Dinners

Continue through March 6th, 2020



Friday night Shabbat services will begin at 5:30 PM, followed by a community dinner. Join us for services and dinner. It is a wonderful evening, and a great way to begin Shabbat.

Thank you to our upcoming sponsors:

Date	Candle Lighting	Sponsors
12/6	4:04 PM	Harvey and Leni Goldsmith-sponsoring dinner and speaker
12/13	4:05 PM	Menachem Kastner & Sherry Shaw
12/20	4:07 PM	Michael & Alice Ganz
12/27	4:11 PM	Jaime Siegel in honor of Pauline's Yahrzeit

Contact the temple office if you are interested in sponsoring a Friday night dinner for \$180.00; and please join us, whether or not you are a sponsor.





With
Rabbi Rascoe

Rabbi Rascoe Discusses Buber's *I and Thou*

Rabbi Rascoe continues discussions of Martin Buber's book, *I and Thou*. The next sessions will be held on Tuesdays, December 10 and 17; and January 7 & 21, at 7 PM, at Temple Israel.

Talmud Classes

Talmud classes continue on the following Wednesdays: December 4, 11, 18, and 25; January 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 6 to 7:30 PM. **Rabbi Rascoe** invites you to join us. There is always review, so no previous attendance is required. Attendees receive an introduction to Talmudic logic, thought, and law.

Interfaith Bible Book-of-the-Month Club

The Interfaith Bible Class will resume meetings on Wednesdays, December 11 and January 15, from 9:30-11:30 AM, at St. Marks Church, 105 Randall Road, Shoreham. Please call Mike Griske (631-849-1744) club President, with any questions.



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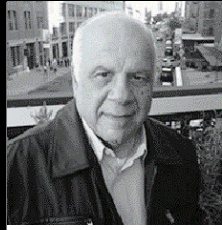
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**Best wishes to
Temple Israel
from**

Siegel and Segal



Temple Israel of Riverhead

Presents our December
Shabbat Dinner Speaker



Saul Silas Fathi on Friday, December 6, 2019, at 5:30 PM

Nuremberg Trials

The Nuremberg trials were a series of military tribunals held in Nuremberg, Germany by the Allied forces after World War II, for the prosecution of prominent members of the political, military, and economic leadership of Nazi Germany. The Tribunal tried 23 of the most important political and military leaders of the Third Reich, not including Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler, and Joseph Goebbels, all of whom had committed suicide several months prior. On 1 November 1943, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States published their “Declaration on German Atrocities in Occupied Europe”.

About Saul Silas Fathi: Mr. Fathi was born to a prominent Jewish family in Baghdad, Iraq. At age 10 he and his younger brother were smuggled out of Baghdad through Iran, and eventually reached Israel. He enrolled in the Israel Air Force Academy of Aeronautics, a 4-year program, where he earned his High School diploma and became certified in Electrical Engineering. In 1958 he worked his way to Brazil, starting his own electrical business, and earned a patent for climate-controlled windows.

In 1960 he came to the United States on a student visa and soon volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. After basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia, he was sent to Helicopter School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and enrolled at the University of Virginia. Afterward, he served in the famed Helicopter Division in Vietnam.

Back in the U.S., Saul battled the Immigration Department while studying at the University of Virginia to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. This launched a career as an executive with several Fortune-500 companies. Later he founded and managed three high-tech companies.

Saul retired in 2003 and began writing his memoirs: “Full Circle: Escape from Baghdad and the Return.” Today he lives on Long Island with his wife Rachelle. Mr. Fathi has authored 4 books. He is a certified linguist, fluent in English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Portuguese.

This program is generously sponsored by **Leni & Harvey Goldsmith.**

Shabbat Services at 5:30 PM followed by dinner & lecture.

This is a free event. Kindly RSVP to the Temple office to attend.

Hanukkah Community Menorah Lighting & Latkes



Sunday, December 22, 2019, 5:00 PM, Riverfront Park

Hanukkah Candlelighting Instructions

The *hanukkiyah* (*menorah*, candelabrum) has nine branches—eight customarily in a straight line as all eight days are equal, and one holding the *shamash* (servant) from which we light the others. Ideally, we place it to the left of a door opposite the *mezuzah*, (or a window if a door is not practical), for passers-by to see the light, and thereby we fulfill the *mitzvah* of publicizing the miracle.

The first night, place the *shamash* in its holder and the first candle on the far right. Each night, place the candles from right to left, oldest to newest, but light them in reverse order—from left to right, newest to oldest. The first night, light the *shamash*, say all three blessings: (1) kindling the Hanukkah lights, (2) the miracle of Hanukkah, (3) time (*She-heheyanu*), then light the candle. After lighting, say *Ha-nerot hallalu* (“These lights we kindle”) and *Ma-oz Tzur* (*Rock of Ages*). Some add Psalm 30. The next nights, say the first two blessings and then light the newest day’s candle first. If one misses the first night, say all three the first time you do light. Friday, light them before Shabbat candles. Saturday, light them after *havdalah*.

Below is a table with candle lighting dates and times:

12/22	after 4:26 PM	12/26	after 4:29 PM
12/23	after 4:27 PM	12/27	before 4:11 PM
12/24	after 4:27 PM	12/28	after 4:51 PM
12/25	after 4:28 PM	12/29	after 4:31 PM

Modified Shabbat Services Continue



Test out our shortened Shabbat services
on the 1st Shabbat of the month.

December 7, 2019

January 4, 2020

Services begin promptly at **9:30 AM**, with a minyan, and end at **11:00 AM**.
Followed by a Kiddush luncheon.


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Please contact Lana Anker (lana410@aol.com,) Lorraine Richter (631-553-7635,) or the Temple office to arrange a purchase. The total profit from card sales is donated to the general fund each year. Please support this silent fundraiser.



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Why Does my Bulletin Occasionally Arrive Late?

As a general rule, we try to complete the bulletin with enough time to get it printed and mailed so that you will receive it by the first of the month. However, from time to time, there are printer delays that are beyond our control. We apologize for this inconvenience.

As a reminder, the bulletin is emailed and posted on our website before the end of the month.

Ongoing Silent Fundraisers for Temple Israel

TD Bank: Stop in at the Westhampton Beach branch to find out about all the special offers for TIR members. TD bank will make contributions to TIR based on activity from our members. For details on their Affinity Membership Program, stop in at any branch if you are already a TD Bank customer.

Peninsula Wines and Liquors offers wine at discounted prices, delivered directly to the temple. A percentage of the cost is donated back to us each time you buy. Anyone needing wine or liquor can contact **Jaime Siegel**, or call Peninsula Wines directly at 516-374-0900. Ask for Jim Cari, and be sure to mention Temple Israel.

Donate an old car to Temple Israel for a tax deduction. It's easy—just call (866) 392-4483, or click on the link on our website. Be sure to designate Temple Israel of Riverhead as the recipient.



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Kol Nidre Appeal 5780



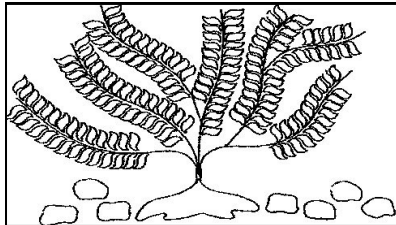
As we move into 5780, we continue to need our membership and friends to preserve the health and well-being of our beloved temple. It is a tradition in congregations to establish a Kol Nidre Appeal Fund; at Temple Israel this fund is vital to help supplement the dues and thus cover our operating expenses. Therefore, we ask each one of you, if you have not already donated, to be as generous as possible, in order that our temple may continue to meet the growing needs of the Jewish community.

Please forward your check, payable to Temple Israel Kol Nidre Fund, to: Temple Israel of Riverhead, P.O. Box 1531, Riverhead, NY 11901. You can also pay online using PayPal. Thank you.

Something to Kvell about? Let us know!

Please let us know if you have an event you would like to celebrate: the birth of a child or grandchild, a special graduation, an accomplishment of a close relative, or any of the other joys of life. Email the information to Allen Silver at asilver9@gmail.com.

Leaves on the Tree of Life



An engraved leaf on the lovely Tree of Life which graces our Social Hall is a joyous reminder of a Bat or Bar Mitzvah, an anniversary, a wedding, or a special birthday, and also a fitting tribute to the memory of a loved one. The cost of a leaf is \$180 for members. Please contact **Phyllis VanDyne** at 631-734-7511 for information, .

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Our Judaica Shop

If you need Shabbat or holiday items for yourself, or for a gift, you will find them right in the Temple. Our Judaica Shop boasts a large inventory of beautiful items, many of them displayed in the Social Hall's glass cases. Kiddush cups, glass platters, Shabbat-to-go, kipot, Seder and matzoh plates, menorahs, children's books and toys, cookbooks, and candlesticks are all there.

Phyllis Van Dyne operates the Temple's Shop, acquiring new items several times a year. She will also fill special orders; if you see something you'd like, she can get it for you. Or, if you need ideas for a gift, she will be happy to suggest something in your price range, perfect for your occasion and recipient. For more information and personal service, just call Phyllis at 631-734-7511.

Kosher Food For Our Events



Bagel Patch, in Patchogue, frequently provides the food for our special events. The Best Yet Market on Route 58 carries pareve cookies and cakes. BJ's and Costco also have pareve cookies in their bakeries.

Beach Bakery, in Westhampton Beach, is under kosher supervision.

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The Israel Family

Many trace Santa Claus and gift-giving to St. Nicholas, the Archbishop of Myra, supposedly a kind, generous man who gave the poor, especially children, gifts. Santa's costume represents the bishop's robe and hat.

Christmas, a religious holiday, celebrates the Christian divine messiah and savior's birth. Everything closes since most Christians won't work or use government and business services. The White House display is on a person's home who's always been a Christian. It's not a national holiday.

It's OK to share the good spirit, wish Christians well, see displays, learn about Christmas in a multicultural context, or study religious music in a music appreciation class. Often adults feel discomfort, though children, who don't like feeling different, will have some unease. Yet that makes our country strong—we are diverse, and respect this as a basic right. Some children try to get what they want by pitting their wits against their parents'. Yet families do different things and stress distinct values—bed- and meal-times, punishments, vacations, handling money. One can say, “we do this, but we don't do

that”. Children learn at a friend's birthday party to celebrate with them, though it's not theirs. Christmas is Jesus's birthday. Parents who feel comfortable being Jewish and celebrate all the Jewish holidays of the year do not need to compensate, compete, or imitate. We are Jews in a predominantly Christian country, which has its temptations, but we can cope and help our children and grandchildren come to terms.

One high school student was asked, “What do you do on Christmas?” and quipped, “I sleep late”. Or in one boy's words, “I'm the luckiest boy. I love all the presents I get for Hanukkah and I don't have to go to school on Christmas.” If we celebrate Jewish holidays meaningfully all year round, we won't miss or be bothered by the Christian holiday we don't celebrate, and we can enjoy the season's overall good spirit. To try to incorporate Christian symbols into Judaism, or to treat Christmas as a secular holiday, mocks its believers' meaning. As the late-sleeping high schooler also wrote, “Me worry about Christmas? I've got to get ready for Shabbat.”

Shabbat Shalom. Hanukkah same-ah. Sabbath peace, Happy Hanukkah.

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Tell and Kvell

Mazel Tov to Marilyn and David Tawfik, on the engagement of their daughter Alexandra Rose Tawfik to Jacob Ari Englander. Congratulations to all!

A Message from Rabbi Rascoe

I have received inquiries regarding some new classes. One suggestion was for a **Hebrew class**. Mondays would work best for our teacher. The other is a class in **Qabbalah**, one form of Jewish mysticism.

Let me know if you are interested in either class, Please provide dates and times. As a reminder, my other classes occur every Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM, and the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7-8 PM. The classes can be weekly, semi-monthly, monthly; any day (if Shabbat, then there is no writing). Looking forward to seeing you in class!



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For Samantha's Bat Mitzvah—granddaughter of Dr. & Mrs. Grubman.

Donation—Josif Roytman.

Yahrzeit for Gary Joseph—husband of Lois Joseph.

Yahrzeit for Lena Mask—grandmother of Jaime Siegel.

Yahrzeit for Andrea Siegel—sister of Jaime Siegel.

Donations to Kol Nidre 5780 Fund

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kagan

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Y A H R Z E I T S

*We remember these lives on the approaching anniversary of their passing.
May their memories be a blessing.*

December

Kislev/Tevet 5780

12/2	Arnold, Rubin	Kislev 4
12/2	Scheinberg, Hinda	Kislev 4
12/3	Brander, Louis	Kislev 5
12/3	Grubman, Ruth	Kislev 5
12/3	Polonet, Hilda	Kislev 5
12/5	Carasso, Solomon	Kislev 7
12/5	Harding, Maurice	Kislev 7
12/5	Siegel, Frances	Kislev 7
12/5	Wimpfheimer, Edda	Kislev 7
12/6	Harris, Edna	Kislev 8
12/6	Sulitzer, Alyse	Kislev 8
12/7	Horowitz, Abraham	Kislev 9
12/8	Hollander, Andrea	Kislev 10
12/8	Lehrer, Joseph	Kislev 10
12/9	Eisenman, Della	Kislev 11
12/10	Hyman, Charles	Kislev 12
12/11	Davidson, David	Kislev 13
12/11	Katz, Rose	Kislev 13
12/11	Starkman, Joseph	Kislev 13
12/12	Karlin, Dotty	Kislev 14
12/12	Reitman, Irma	Kislev 14
12/13	Goldstein, Rose	Kislev 15
12/13	Lipetz, Rose	Kislev 15
12/14	Cohen, Todd	Kislev 16
12/14	Cohen, Vicki	Kislev 16
12/15	Maise, Maksha	Kislev 17
12/16	Brown, Francis	Kislev 18
12/16	Cross, Elizabeth	Kislev 18
12/17	Arbeeny, Henry	Kislev 19
12/17	Benstock, Robert	Kislev 19
12/17	Cohen, Leonard	Kislev 19
12/17	Trepel, Tylda	Kislev 19

12/18	Oppenheimer, Sadie	Kislev 20
12/19	Vinacour, Paul	Kislev 21
12/20	Mendell, Manuel	Kislev 22
12/21	Froehlich, Zackery	Kislev 23
12/21	Wimpfheimer, Herbert	Kislev 23
12/22	Honig, Sylvia	Kislev 24
12/23	Galitzer, Rose	Kislev 25
12/23	Kastner, Renee	Kislev 25
12/23	Ritigstein, Rose	Kislev 25
12/25	Crowitz, Louis	Kislev 27
12/25	Weber, Nora	Kislev 27
12/26	Talsky, Joyce	Kislev 28
12/29	Shapiro, Mildred Louis	Tevet 1
12/30	Lambert, Flo	
1/1	Lazarus, Samuel	Tevet 4
1/1	Lowy, Frederick	Tevet 4
1/1	Raffe, Flora	Tevet 4
1/1	Scheinberg, Henry	Tevet 4
1/1	Senft, Mollie	Tevet 4
1/1	Siegel, Pauline	Tevet 4
1/2	Deutsch, Shirley	Tevet 5
1/2	Frankel, Lena	Tevet 5
1/2	Schulman, William	Tevet 5
1/3	Benstock, Roslyn	Tevet 6
1/3	Levy, Sylvia	Tevet 6
1/3	Richter, Maurice	Tevet 6
1/3	Zuck, Joseph	Tevet 6
1/4	Mathews, Maxwell J.	Tevet 7
1/4	Schackman, Nathaniel	Tevet 7
1/4	Seidner, Sidney	Tevet 7
1/5	Lotzky, Isaac	Tevet 8

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6 PM Talmud class	5	6 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner & speaker	7 9:30 AM Modified Shabbat Services
8	9	10 7 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and Thou</i>	11 9:30-11:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class; 6 PM Talmud class	12	13 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	14 9:30 AM Services
15 Bulletin submissions deadline	16	17 7 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and Thou</i>	18 6 PM Talmud class	19	20 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	21 9:30 AM Services
22 First night of Hanukkah—public Menorah lighting	23	24	25 6 PM Talmud class	26	27 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	28 9:30 AM Services
29 Last night of Hanukkah	30	31				

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 PM Talmud class	2	3 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	4 9:30 AM Modified Shabbat Services
5	6 7:00 PM Board meeting	7 7 PM Book Discussion, / and Thou	8 6 PM Talmud class	9	10 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	11 9:30 AM Services
12	13	14	15 9:30-11:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class; 6 PM Talmud class	16	17 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	18 9:30 AM Services
19	20	21 7 PM Book Discussion, / and Thou	22 6 PM Talmud class	23	24 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	25 9:30 AM Services
26	27	28	29 6 PM Talmud class	30	31 5:30 PM Services followed by dinner	

For Information:		
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Membership	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Oneg Shabbat	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
President	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Programs and Events		
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Social Hall	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
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Tree of Life	Phyllis Van Dyne	631-734-7511
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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<i>December 1, January 4</i>	Shortened Shabbat Services
<i>December 6</i>	Special Speaker
<i>December 22</i>	First Night of Hanukkah
<i>December 10 & 17; January 7 & 21</i>	Adult Ed—Buber's <i>I and Thou</i>
<i>Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25; Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29</i>	Adult Ed—Talmud Classes