



Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

June 2020
Volume #26

Sivan/Tammuz 5780
Issue #5

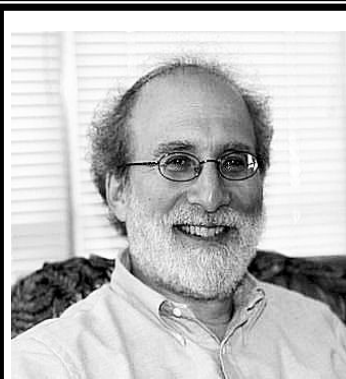
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Rabbi Michael Rascoe (713) 208-0555

RABBI'S REFLECTIONS:

'An'im Zemirot': On God, Reality, Science, & Religion

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Rabbi Michael Rascoe

Shavuot is about God's revelation. Prayer and behavior are the two human responses. One prayer that I have loved since childhood is called Shir Ha-Kavod, "Hymn of Glory," also known as 'An'im Zemirot from its opening words. To me, this song from the mystical tradition (attributed to Judah the Hasid or his father Samuel, 12th century German Pietists, Hasidei Ashkenaz) addresses some fundamental philosophical issues which, with some reinterpretation, may shed light on certain problems we have today: God, reality, prayer, history, philosophy, psychology, and revelation. (See pages 185-186 in Sim Shalom).

"Hymn of Glory" is an alphabetical acrostic with a four verse prologue and a four verse epilogue. Each line contains sixteen syllables and consists of two half-lines which rhyme. The poet shifts person at various points. He opens by

(Rabbi—continued on page 2)

stating his intention to "weave" together verses in rhyme and meter into a hymn. He sings of his longing for God and of his need to glorify God. At the same time he acknowledges that, philosophically, God is transcendent (far away and out of reach); yet he also uses highly anthropomorphic (human) and immanent (near and touchable) images like God's hands, tefillin, black hair. He images God as young warrior and as an elderly judge. The poet also writes about Jerusalem, salvation, and the eternal righteousness of God's laws.

The hymn is a conscious, serious attempt to appropriate ancient, anthropomorphic symbols of the revelatory God of Torah and mystical knowledge. Being Biblical, he affirms both the unreachable, unknowable, unimaginable, transcendent God and the caring, active, understandable, immanent God. He cannot give up either one. Both explain reality. The transcendent God is a logical, reasoned, scientific, and philosophical need; the immanent God a psychological, emotional, spiritual, and religious need. The poet accepts the paradox of the seemingly logical contradiction of both realities. He reasons that since God is simple and not natural, God is everything, and precisely because God is nowhere, God is everywhere. To us, with the assumption of a scientific, logical world and the beginning of an understanding that science still cannot explain all of reality, we too can accept the paradox and find meaning in affirming both our

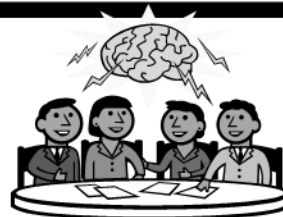
minds and our emotions. (I'm not discussing the mystical meaning and allusions).

Prayer fits into this scheme. Logically, prayer to a transcendent God is irrelevant, but religiously, prayer is necessary and must involve God. In fact, to speak of God requires using human language. Once we use human language, it stands to reason that the more intense the religious experience, the more concrete the language needs to be to express our encounter, even as we acknowledge the inadequacy of language to fully capture the experience. In doing so, we also unite the God of history and the God of revelation. The two images of young warrior and older judge reflect the union of Torah and history, mitzvah and salvation.

Embedded in this scenario, according to the structure of the poem, we find the Jew's role in the really real. History and Bible affirm the Jew's high place, while daily life emphasizes the Jew's low status in the surrounding world. A Jew doing prayer, Torah, mitzvot to a responsive, revealing God, who will judge in history once again, will redeem the Jew and the world at time's end.

These concerns of God, history, prayer, behavior (mitzvot), and salvation are in the realm of religion and have been since the beginning of human thought. The contradiction between the reality of religion and the reality of science for many still remains today.

Temple Israel of Riverhead Annual Meeting Will be held online via Zoom



Installation of Officers & Trustees.
Come meet our Board, our committee chairs,
and learn about everything that is going on in our temple.
Voice your opinion. Be involved.

Thursday, June 18, 2020, 7:00 PM

Instructions to enter the Zoom meeting
will be included in the mail with your proxy.



HOLIDAY WEEKEND BBQ'S Covid-19 Updates



Fourth of July Weekend, Friday, July 3
Labor Day Weekend, Friday, September 4

Cancelled
Stay Tuned



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Dear Temple Family,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during these strange times.

Although our physical building remains closed, we continue to hold Shabbat services every Friday night and Saturday morning via Zoom. We will also have Shavuot services via Zoom. The rabbi's adult ed classes, the book group, and our upcoming annual meeting will all be held via Zoom as well.

Please stay in touch. Let us know how you're doing or if there's any way we can help you.

With Love,

Jaime Siegel
President

Modified Shabbat Services via Zoom



Join us for shortened Shabbat services
on the 1st Shabbat of the month.

June 6, 2020

July 4, 2020

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

A circular logo for Beach Bakery. It features a chef in a white hat and apron, holding a tray with three loaves of bread. The chef is surrounded by wheat stalks. The text "BEACH BAKERY" is written across the middle of the circle, and "GRAND CAFE" is written at the bottom.

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Book Club

We continue with our series based on the topic:

From Immigration to Assimilation: The Jewish-American experience post-WW II

Adventures of Augie March by Saul Bellow
June 25th online via Zoom

Enemies, A Love Story by Isaac B. Singer
July 16th location TBA & via Zoom

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume
August 20th location TBA & via Zoom

Contact Harley Abrams or Barbara Smith with any questions.



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With
Rabbi Rascoe

Please note: Congregants will receive emailed instructions for attending Rabbi Rascoe's classes via Zoom.

Rabbi Rascoe Discusses Buber's *I and Thou*

Rabbi Rascoe continues discussions of Martin Buber's book, *I and Thou*, on Tuesdays in June and July at 6 PM.

Talmud Classes

Talmud classes continue every Wednesday in June and July, at 6 PM. 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 meet on Wednesday, June 10, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Please call Mike Griske (631-849-1744) Club President, with any questions.

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Lawrence Grahn
President



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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.

Plant a Tree in Israel



You can have a tree planted in Israel for a donation of \$18. Contact **Carole Jones** at the TIR office, 631-727-3191. All checks should be made out to Temple Israel of Riverhead, or you can use PayPal from our website.

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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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We believe to be a good funeral director, you should serve the community in times of growth and happiness as well as times of grief. It's not surprising we've served the Jewish community for over 100 years. How we've served is the surprising part. David Rubin and his entire staff work tirelessly in serving the Jewish community, but then, that's part of our philosophy and tradition. We believe to be a good funeral director, you should serve and give back to the community.



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TODAH RABAH!

Donations to Temple Israel of Riverhead

In memory of Douglas Anker —Myra Korman, Jaime Siegel, Deanna Saltzman, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hefter, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Peters, Cynthia Wellins, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Van Dyne.

In honor of Lisa's birthday —Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Israel.

Yahrzeit for Walter Brown—father of Robert Brown.

Yahrzeit for Gertrude Sandberg—mother of George Sandberg.

Yahrzeit for Irving Siegel—father of Jeffrey Siegel.

Yahrzeit for Irving Siegel—father of Jaime Siegel.

Yahrzeit for Herman Zipser—father of Marcia Hefter.

Yahrzeit for Herman Zipser—father of Myra Korman.

Yahrzeit for Isidor and Sophie Scheinberg—parents of Shep Scheinberg.

Yahrzeit for Lena Alpert—mother-in-law of Esther Alpert.

Yahrzeit for Arthur Warner—father of Scott Warner.

Yahrzeit for Sheldon Gusky—father of Allison Gusky.

Yahrzeit for Jack Korman—husband of Myra Korman.

Yahrzeit for Barbara Beil—Ruth Beil.

Yahrzeit for Samuel Lockman—father of Judith Lockman.

Yahrzeit for William Thompson—father-in-law of Sondra Thompson.

Yahrzeit for Irwin Thompson—husband of Sondra Thompson.

Yahrzeit for Malvine Knopfler—grandmother of Charles Raffé.

Yahrzeit for Murray Sanders—brother of Arthur Sanders .

TODAH RABAH!

Donations to Kol Nidre 5780 Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Israel

Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Israel

Golden Oldies

This month's Golden Oldie (below) features George Sandberg and Alice Resnikoff Howard, with Rabbi Resnikoff's wife behind the stroller.

Don't forget, this photo is also available on our website under the **More** tab.



Candle Lighting Times

Date	Time
6/5	8:01 PM
6/12	8:05 PM
6/19	8:07 PM
6/26	8:08 PM
7/3	8:07 PM

(Rabbi—continued from page 2)

Perhaps we can appropriate and rework the solution of this medieval poem for the dilemmas of modern Jews. Maybe we can hold these contradictory ideas at the same time if each explains reality (like we believe that Newtonian physics works on one level of reality while quantum mechanics works on another level of reality). May we too comfortably talk about and to God as this poet once did.

An Easy Way to Help TI—Go Food Shopping!

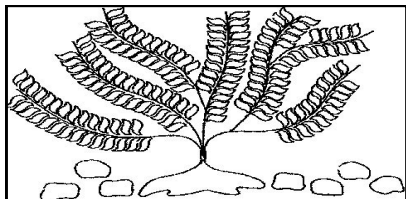
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- **Stop & Shop**
- **King Kullen**



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.

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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The Israel Family

Yahrzeits

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

June Sivan/Tammuz 5780

6/1	Abrams, Florence	Sivan 9
6/1	Anker, Lewis	Sivan 9
6/1	Chizever, Henry	Sivan 9
6/1	Remler, Norman	Sivan 9
6/2	Goldstein, Esther	Sivan 10
6/2	Goldstein, Sophia	Sivan 10
6/4	Davis, Rae	Sivan 12
6/5	Nisenbaum, Benjamin	Sivan 13
6/6	Kohansimeh, Aziz	Sivan 14
6/8	Krasnow, Deborah	Sivan 16
6/8	Segal, Corinne	Sivan 16
6/9	Elphand, Louis	Sivan 17
6/9	Gaster, Conrad	Sivan 17
6/9	Klein, Sidney	Sivan 17
6/10	Kagan, Bella	Sivan 18
6/12	Crowitz, Ida	Sivan 20
6/14	Anker, Edward	Sivan 22
6/14	Korus, Max	Sivan 22
6/14	Sonkin, Etta	Sivan 22
6/15	Itkin, Morris	Sivan 22
6/15	Kaplan, Bella	Sivan 23
6/15	Weiner, Max	Sivan 23
6/16	Hochheiser, Helen	Sivan 24
6/17	Marienthal, Owen	Sivan 25
6/17	Weiner, Minnie	Sivan 25
6/18	Harding, Sam	Sivan 26
6/18	Hefter, Sanford	Sivan 26

6/18	Squires, Irving	Sivan 26
6/19	Goldstein, Lillian	Sivan 27
6/19	Sacks, Julius	Sivan 27
6/20	Role, Philip	Sivan 28
6/21	Bloom, William	Sivan 29
6/21	Hefter, Lillian	Sivan 29
6/21	Karlin, Charles	Sivan 29
6/23	Acard, Irving	Tammuz 1
6/23	Schneider, Benjamin	Tammuz 1
6/24	Goldstein, Abraham	Tammuz 2
6/26	Goldberg, Samuel William	Tammuz 4
6/27	Cohen, Harry	Tammuz 5
6/27	Friedenberg, Matilda	Tammuz 5
6/27	Heller, Herbert	Tammuz 5
6/28	Caplan, Isabelle M.	Tammuz 6
6/28	Israel, Marcel	Tammuz 6
6/29	Beil, Frances	Tammuz 7
6/29	Belanger, Jean	Tammuz 7
7/1	Dresher, Lena	Tammuz 9
7/2	Berg, Lena	Tammuz 10
7/2	Grossman, Sophie	Tammuz 10
7/5	Hollander, Beatrice	Tammuz 13
7/5	Spector, Ruth	Tammuz 13
7/6	Dragonetti, Daniella	Tammuz 14
7/6	Greenberg, Gussie	Tammuz 14
7/6	Wimpfheimer, Jerome	Tammuz 14



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**Best wishes to
Temple Israel
from**

Siegel and Segal

June 2020

Please check your email and our website for information about using Zoom to attend these events.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 PM Board meeting	2 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	3 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	4	5 7:00 PM Services	6 9:30 AM Modified Shabbat Services
7	8	9 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	10 9:30-11:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class; 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	11	12 7:00 PM Services	13 9:30 AM Services
14	15 Bulletin submissions deadline	16 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	17 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	18 Temple Annual Meeting 7 PM via Zoom	19 7:00 PM Services	20 9:30 AM Services
21	22	23 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	24 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	25 Book Club via Zoom	26 7:00 PM Services	27 9:30 AM Services
28	29	30 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom				

July 2020

Please check your email and our website for information about using Zoom to attend these events.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	2	3 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	4 9:30 AM Modified Shabbat Services
5	6	7 6 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom	8 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	9	10 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	11 9:30 AM Services
12	13	14 6 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom	15 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	16 Book Club via Zoom	17 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	18 9:30 AM Services
19	20	21 6 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom	22 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	23	24 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	25 9:30 AM Services
26	27	28 6 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom	29 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	30	31 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	

For Information:		
Advertising and Public Relations	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
Book Club	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
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Oneg Shabbat	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
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Programs and Events		
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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Note: All events will be conducted via Zoom. Watch your emails!</i>	
<i>June 6 & July 4</i>	Shortened Shabbat Services
<i>June 18</i>	Annual Meeting
<i>June 25 & July 16</i>	Book Club
<i>Tuesdays in June & July</i>	Adult Ed—Buber's <i>I and Thou</i>
<i>Wednesdays in June & July</i>	Adult Ed—Talmud Classes