



# Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

May 2020  
Volume #26

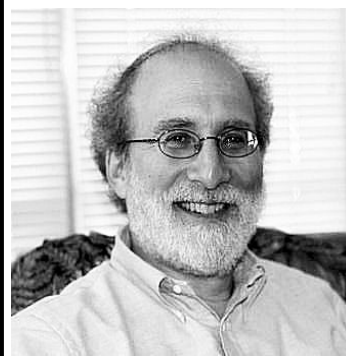
Iyar/Sivan 5780  
Issue #4

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Rabbi Michael Rascoe (713) 208-0555

## RABBI'S REFLECTIONS: God, Torah, Rabbis, You

<b><i>In This Issue</i></b>	
<i>COVID-19 Announcement</i>	3
<i>Shavuot Services</i>	4
<i>Holiday Weekend BBQs</i>	5
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	5
<i>Modified Shabbat Services</i>	6
<i>Book Club</i>	7
<i>Adult Education</i>	8



Rabbi Michael Rascoe

In our world and country, people think and behave in extremes. We're entrenched in this, in the USA, in a way not seen since the Civil War. We've reached the point where Trump supporters won't marry Trump opponents, and vice versa. As recently as 2016, people still married political opposites. A James Carville/Mary Matalin kind of marriage now seems over.

Politics is just one example. Religion is another. (So is race, which is lessening, but beyond this column.) Look at the way liberal and secular Jews see the ultra-Orthodox, so we shouldn't wonder why they feel this way. But the ultra-Orthodox have become more extreme. I dislike extremes, nor do I lump everyone on any side part of a monolith.

When I hear the religious extremists (remember plenty of ultra-Orthodox in both the USA and Is-

*(Rabbi—continued on page 2)*

rael followed the rules) question it, of course I'm irked. As I am at young people who don't follow them, and secularists who don't, and the elderly who don't, etc. The secularists, who attack the religious on everything else, made them slow to believe the secularists about this.

But when they use God, Messiah, or piety to justify it, they cross a line. Worse, a theology that lets them blame this pandemic on modern sins, or believe that the Messiah will come and save them, or that their learning will save them, really irks me as a complete misuse of religion and God. It may be classic Jewish theology to look to our sins and even our generation's sins for our woes, but it is not classic theology to blame others. The point of this theology is not to blame others but to see what we can do better ourselves. To think that God caused this for someone else's sins is a real blasphemy, and clearly violates a Biblical command not to desecrate God's name by leading people away from belief in God, a law appearing in particular four times in Leviticus and once in Ezekiel; which clearly means that even in the Bible this kind of theology is rejected.

To rely on the Messiah saving us also is blasphemous. The Talmud is clear-if you're planting a tree and someone tells you that the Messiah is coming, finish planting and then look. We've seen false Messiahs, but the world is still the same. People who believe the

Messiah is coming don't live in this world, and do dangerous things since the end is near.

To say that my Torah observance is better than yours, and that yours causes these problems, is another blasphemy. Nobody can observe all the laws. All pick and choose, and only God knows which ones matter. Midrash has many stories about who gets into heaven, and those who do often are a surprise. One rabbi assumed that by occupation the person was like the rest of the bad Roman officials.

Finally, to say that for money a great rabbi will pray for and save you, and a lesser sum gets hand-selected people, and a still lesser sum will get you one to pray for you, and that a note will be placed in the Western Wall, all are blasphemies. Judaism long ago rejected needing an intermediary and limiting God to one place. Prayer never hurts, but these people are crooks.

Everyone has their own God and Torah, secularists included. I think their God and Torah can be even more dangerous. God is whomever/whatever we place above all else, e.g. money or one's self. Torah is whatever rules one chooses to follow. I think that the traditional Jewish ones are best.

The Rabbis made a point about this kind of fundamentalism. Psalm 119:16, "It is time to act for the Lord, for they have broken Your law," the Rabbis turned on its head, and taught that it

## Dear Temple Family,

The safety and health of all Temple participants and staff is of paramount importance. Temple is closely monitoring the developments in regard to the coronavirus (COVID-19). There are many unknowns about how and where the virus is spreading, and information changes daily. In the quickly-evolving situation in which we find ourselves, your Temple Board has considered various aspects of Temple life and has made the following decisions, which will affect Temple operations until such time as the restrictions imposed by the state and local governments are lifted.

If anyone needs assistance (not religious), please reach out and we will make every attempt to get you what you need.

### Shabbat services

These will not take place at Temple. Rather, they will be conducted on-line using Zoom, a meeting-hosting app. If you have a computer, iPad, or smart-phone, you will be able to access Temple services. Temple members will receive an email with a link to our Zoom service. By clicking on the link, you will “enter” the service. This new way of conducting our service will be a work in progress. We hope to see you there.

Temple leadership is monitoring information from our local Health Department, and as the situation continues to evolve, so, too, does our response.


### Temple Office

The Temple office will be monitored periodically. Rabbi Rascoe is available and ready to support any Temple member in whatever way he can during this very uncertain and strange time through which we are all living. If you want to contact him, please phone the Temple office at 631-727-3191.

Please check the website frequently for updates.

We wish everyone safety and good health.

Jaime Siegel  
President



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# Shavuot Services



Online via Zoom

Led by Rabbi Michael Rascoe

Friday, May 29, 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 30, 9:30 AM, including Yizkor

## Are You Interested in Long Island History?

**Harley Abrams** has found a very interesting article by Helene Gerard on the internet. *Yankees in Yarmulkes: Small-Town Jewish Life in Eastern Long Island* is 34 pages long and contains interesting information about Riverhead and Greenport. It also has information about the Agudas Achim Cemetery in East Setauket. It even has a 1926 photo of Sam Harding opening his second store in Riverhead. The article can be found at:

[http://americanjewisharchives.org/publications/journal/PDF/1986\\_38\\_01\\_00.pdf](http://americanjewisharchives.org/publications/journal/PDF/1986_38_01_00.pdf)

There is also a link in the *More* section at our website. Many thanks to Harley for finding this fascinating article.



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## HOLIDAY WEEKEND BBQ'S

### Covid-19 Updates



Memorial Day Weekend BBQ, Friday, May 22

Cancelled

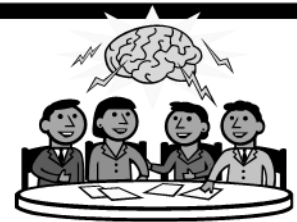
Fourth of July Weekend, Friday, July 3

Stay tuned

Labor Day Weekend, Friday, September 4

We can only hope

## 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.

## Introducing Golden Oldies

Our president, **Jaime Siegel**, is in possession of a collection of old photos relating to Temple Israel. Over time, we will be publishing them in the bulletin and on our website under the **More** tab.



This photo features the **Browns**, one of the founding families of Temple Israel. It was taken at their home in East Quogue around 1909. Left to right are Mary (b.1898), Sarah Sacks Brown (b.1870), Simon (b. 1896), Max (b. 1868) and Fannie (b. 1900). Mary married Louis Frank in 1917. Fannie married Morris Harding in 1922. The big round window above the bimah is named for the Hardings, and there is a window in the classroom for Max and Sarah Brown. This photo was shared by Joel Glasser, a great grand-child.

## Modified Shabbat Services via Zoom



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

**May 2, 2020**

**June 6, 2020**

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



# Book Club

Our next four book selections will be based on the topic:

## **From immigration to assimilation: The Jewish-American experience post-WW II**

***Goodbye, Columbus*** by Philip Roth  
May 21<sup>st</sup> online via Zoom

***Adventures of Augie March*** by Saul Bellow  
June 25<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 May and June at 6 PM.

### **Talmud Classes**

Talmud classes continue on the every Wednesday in May and June 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 resume meetings on Wednesdays, May 13 and June 10, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Please call Mike Giske (631-849-1744) Club President, with any questions.

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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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Donation—Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Mitchell for Passover.

Yahrzeit for Pauline Israel—mother of Richard Israel.

Yahrzeit for Isaac Israel—father of Richard Israel.

Yahrzeit for Pauline Israel—grandmother of Isaac Israel.

Yahrzeit for Isaac Israel—grandfather of Isaac Israel.

Yahrzeit for David Levinton—son of Richard Levinton.

Yahrzeit for Martin Lowenthal—uncle of Richard Levinton.

Yahrzeit for Essie Levine—grandmother of Elaine Kimpel.

Yahrzeit for Sarah Sanders—mother of Arthur Sanders.

Yahrzeit for Paul Schmalz—father of Eva Sanders.

Yahrzeit for Ruth Lefkowitz—grandmother of Amy Csorny.

Yahrzeit for Pauline Fivel—mother of Sylvia Hagler.

Yahrzeit for Ted Alpert—husband of Esther Alpert.

Yahrzeit for Kenneth Klein—brother of Alice Ganz.

Yahrzeit for Sheila Schneider—mother of Terri Milligan.

Yahrzeit for Walter Brown—father of Robert Brown.

Yellow Candle Program—Dr. & Mrs. Martin Van Dyne, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mainzer.

Kol Nidre 5780 Fund—Mr. & Mrs. James Csorny.

## An Easy Way to Help TI—Go Food Shopping!

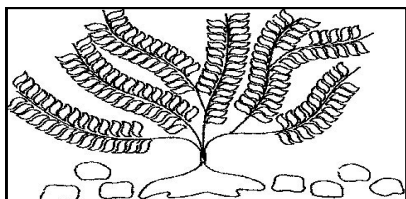
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Please contact Lana Anker (lana410@aol.com,) Lorraine Richter (631-553-7635,) or the Temple office to arrange a purchase. The total profit from card sales is donated to the general fund each year. Please support this silent fundraiser.

## 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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means, “There is a time to act for God even if it means breaking God’s Torah.” This teaches that once in a while, it is not good for survival to follow the letter of the law. One of the biggest changes that the Hanukkah story Maccabees made was when they realized that not fighting on Shabbat would lead to death. They decided that it is better to violate one Shabbat, so that we can observe many more.

Even in religion, things are unusual now. Our Pesah seder was unlike any we’ve had. We have Zoom services even though usually I don’t think that we can count people virtually in a minyan (the Reform Movement agrees). Nor are funerals done as usual. Times are not normal and sometimes, to keep things going, and people healthy, we look at the rules differently.

At some point, life will go back to normal. It probably will, and this will become a memory, a key one maybe, but not likely to change most people’s behavior unless this goes on for much longer. Life will go back to normal, and so will Jewish observance. We must recall that things change, and so does Torah. The Rabbis teach that God wants us to remember it when the rare occurs.

## Candle Lighting Times

Date	Time
5/1	7:30 PM
5/8	7:37 PM
5/15	7:44 PM
5/22	7:50 PM
5/29	7:56 PM
6/5	8:01 PM



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**Best wishes to  
Temple Israel  
from**

**Siegel and Segal**

# 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.*

May                      Iyar/Sivan 5780

5/1	Spitzer, Jessie	Iyar 7
5/1	Thompson, William	Iyar 7
5/2	Shinder, Israel Louis	Iyar 8
5/3	Cohen, Jerry Joseph	Iyar 9
5/3	Knopfler, Malvine	Iyar 9
5/4	Finkelstein, Essie	Iyar 10
5/4	Leavitt, Theodore	Iyar 10
5/4	Slaw, Helen Cohen	Iyar 10
5/6	Krasnow, Marc	Iyar 12
5/6	Spector, Walter	Iyar 12
5/7	Hyman-Auerbach, Estelle	Iyar 13
5/8	Salpeter, Mildred	Iyar 14
5/9	Goldstein, Hyman	Iyar 15
5/10	Alpert, Lena	Iyar 16
5/10	Brander, Anna	Iyar 16
5/10	Goldstein, Harry	Iyar 16
5/10	Levy, Lawrence	Iyar 16
5/10	Richter, Jacqueline	Iyar 16
5/10	Yurman, Nathan	Iyar 16
5/11	Gusky, Sheldon	Iyar 17
5/11	Jaeger, Benjamin	Iyar 17
5/11	Kallman, Irving	Iyar 17
5/11	Sanders, Murray	Iyar 17
5/12	Frank, Conrad	Iyar 18
5/12	Weiss, Nathan	Iyar 18
5/13	Bartick, Jerry	Iyar 19
5/13	Beil, Lawrence	Iyar 19
5/14	Feiler, Lillian	Iyar 20
5/14	Gerber, Kate	Iyar 20
5/15	Ettinger, Sara	Iyar 21
5/16	Brander, Irving	Iyar 22
5/16	Joseph, Reuben	Iyar 22
5/16	Leon, Sophie	Iyar 22
5/16	Warner, Arthur	Iyar 22

5/16	White, Jacob	Iyar 22
5/17	Thompson, Irwin	Iyar 23
5/19	Bartick, Mildred	Iyar 25
5/19	Korus, Fannie	Iyar 25
5/20	Hahn, J. Jacob	Iyar 26
5/20	Siegel, Irving	Iyar 26
5/20	Zipser, Herman	Iyar 26
5/21	Spitzer, Julia	Iyar 27
5/23	Beil, Barbara	Iyar 29
5/23	Dresher, Benjamin	Iyar 29
5/23	Hochheiser, Harold	Iyar 29
5/25	Cohen, Joseph	Sivan 2
5/25	Eisenman, Bernard	Sivan 2
5/26	Cohen, Samuel	Sivan 3
5/26	Goldman, Sam	Sivan 3
5/27	Diamond, Herbert	Sivan 4
5/27	Faine, David	Sivan 4
5/28	Frank, Louis	Sivan 5
5/29	Goldstein, Esther	Sivan 6
5/29	Korman, Jack	Sivan 6
5/29	Lockman, Samuel	Sivan 6
5/30	Lubetsky, Harry	Sivan 7
5/31	Gerlitz, Chaim	Sivan 8
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

# May 2020

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	6 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	7	8 7:00 PM Services	9 9:30 AM Services
10	11 7:00 PM Board meeting	12 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	13 9:30-11:30 AM Interfaith Bi-able Class; 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	14 Bulletin submissions deadline	15 7:00 PM Services	16 9:30 AM Services
17	18	19 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	20 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	21 Book Club via Zoom	22 7:00 PM Services	23 9:30 AM Services
24	25	26 6 PM Book Discussion, / and <i>Thou?</i> via Zoom	27 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	28	29 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM Shavuot Services	30 9:30 AM Shavuot Services including Yizkor
31						

# 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, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom	3 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	4	5 7:00 PM Services	6 9:30 AM Modified Shab- bat Services
7	8	9 6 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and 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, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom	17 6 PM Talmud Class via Zoom	18 Temple Annu- al Meeting 7 PM via Zoom	19 7:00 PM Services	20 9:30 AM Services
21	22	23 6 PM Book Discussion, <i>I and 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, <i>I and Thou?</i> via Zoom				



<b>For Information:</b>		
<b>Advertising and Public Relations</b>	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
<b>Book Club</b>	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
<b>Bulletin</b>	Allen Silver asilver9@gmail.com	631-744-7551
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	Richard Israel	727-5500 x11
<b>Cemetery</b>	Lisa Israel	727-5500 x10
<b>Custodian Contact</b>	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
<b>Education</b>	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
<b>Fundraising</b>	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
<b>High Holy Days</b>		
<b>House Manager</b>	Rob Brown	631-298-2608
<b>Judaica Shop</b>	Phyllis Van Dyne	631-734-7511
<b>Membership</b>	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
<b>Oneg Shabbat</b>	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
<b>President</b>	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
<b>Programs and Events</b>		
<b>Ritual Committee</b>	Lisa Israel	727-5500 x10
<b>Social Hall</b>	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
<b>Special Gifts</b>	Howard Collins	631-779-3042
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<b>Trees in Israel</b>	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
<b>Tree of Life</b>	Phyllis Van Dyne	631-734-7511
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 Rebecca Hagler  
 Lisa Israel  
 Linda Prizer  
 Lorraine Richter

**Bulletin Committee:**

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<b><i>Note: All events will be conducted via Zoom. Watch your emails!</i></b>	
<b><i>May 2, June 6</i></b>	<b>Shortened Shabbat Services</b>
<b><i>May 21</i></b>	<b>Book Club</b>
<b><i>May 29 &amp; 30</i></b>	<b>Shavuot Services</b>
<b><i>June 18</i></b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
<b><i>Tuesdays in May and June</i></b>	<b>Adult Ed—Buber’s <i>I and Thou</i></b>
<b><i>Wednesdays in May and June</i></b>	<b>Adult Ed—Talmud Classes</b>