

# Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

December 2024  
Volume #30

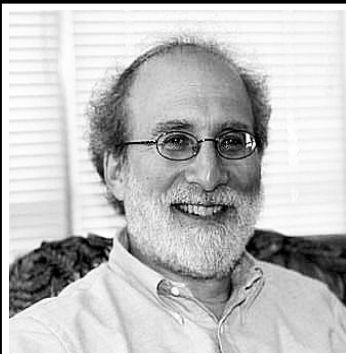
Kislev 5785  
Issue #10

490 Northville Tpke., P.O. Box 1531, Riverhead, New York 11901-0954  
Email: TempleIsraelRH@optonline.net  
www.TempleIsraelRiverhead.org

Temple Office: (631) 727-3191  
Rabbi's Study: (631) 369-5997  
Rabbi Michael Rascoe (713) 208-0555

## RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

### On Latkes/Donuts and Miracles, Then and Now



Rabbi Michael Rascoe

To publicize the miracle of Hanukkah, we light the hanykkiyah, the 8/9-branched candelabrum often called a menorah. What miracle are we publicizing? The earliest miracle refers to the military victory in First Maccabees, and appears in the additions to the Amidah,

the Standing Prayer, and Birkat Ha-mazon, Grace After Meals. The more well-known one, the story of one day's oil in the rededicated 7-branched Temple menorah lasting for 8 days, first appears in the Talmud. We eat foods made with oil, for us latkes or donuts, in honor of this later story. Other traditions enjoy berenjenas con miel, deep-fried eggplant rounds; buñuelos, a light-as-air fried dough; frituras de malanga, taro fritters; gulam jamun, deep-fried milk balls; keftes de prasa/espinaca, leek/spinach fritters patties; malawach, flaky fried flatbread; samsa, sweet fried dumplings; sfenj, deep-fried yeast donuts; jalebi, crispy fritters like funnel cakes; rosquitas, circular fried pastries; tostones, twice-fried smashed plantains; pannelle, fried chickpea fritters; platanos fritos, fried sweet plantains; or zalabia, fried dough.

(Rabbi—continued on page 2)

### *In This Issue*

<i>Shabbat Family Dinners Return</i>	3-4
<i>Community Menorah Lighting</i>	5
<i>Adult Education</i>	6

The oil reflects the Talmudic story, but may teach another lesson: food requires human work. By adding effort to the oil, we refer to another Talmudic dictum: we do not rely on miracles (Shabbat 32a, Ta'anit 20b, P'sahim 64b). Maybe food tells us that we can't rely on miracles alone. Miracles only happen if we act first. A popular Israeli folk saying was that if you don't believe in miracles, you're not a realist. We should understand it alongside a saying by Chaim Weitzman, Israel's first President: "Miracles sometimes occur, but one has to work terribly hard for them." A miracle begins with great human effort.

This initial human effort underlies the Hanukkah story miracle. Hanukkah means dedication, indicating the Temple's rededication. It required a group of dedicated Jews who fought to make it happen against the odds by opposing a superior force. But it wasn't just the Seleucid army and King Antiochus the 4th Epiphanies, it was a revolt against other Jews with a different view of Judaism. They assimilated much Greek culture into their Judaism. They adopted Greek gods, Greek language, Greek sports, Greek dress, and Greek names. They limited Shabbat and festivals; some males even underwent a painful procedure that made it look like they weren't circumcised so that they could appear nude in the public arena like others. They threw in the tallit. If they had won, Judaism and our distinctive lifestyle and morals would no longer exist. Because they dared to be different, they'd rather fight than switch, the Maccabees cared deeply enough about their Judaism that they literally fought for more, and in the early days actually broadened their coalition to include others who opposed the Greek model, and in particular the Temple

acquiescence. Which is why the first rebellion ended when they won the right to run the Temple as they saw fit, and left the Seleucid government and its troops in place. Without the human component, the miracle wouldn't have occurred, the Temple not rededicated, Judaism gone, and accordingly the world as we know it.

Interestingly, now people often say that they don't believe in miracles, yet act, or behave, as if they expect miracles. As the food metaphor suggests, a miracle follows great effort. Expecting something to happen without that concomitant great human labor actually implies that one expects a miracle to occur. With no trouble, toil, trial, and tribulation, one relies on a miracle. In 1939, Vera Lynn, in the film *Love Affair*, sang, "Wishing Will Make It So" and it's been the basis of many movies since. As the Hanukkah story and its foods shows, this glib optimism defies reality. Wishes rarely accomplish anything unless combined with the hard work to make it a reality.

A student once asked the rabbi why God created skepticism, since God created everything for a beneficial purpose. The rabbi replied, "Sometimes, we shouldn't have much faith in God. When a poor person comes to you for help, do not send the person away, saying that God will provide by some miracle. In this case, don't believe that God will provide. Be skeptical. and provide for the person yourself." If we want Jews of Israel to survive, we must work at it. If we want to stand for integrity, honesty, generosity, etc., then we cannot wish it but must make the effort.

*(Rabbi—continued on page 8)*



## WINTER HOURS



Friday night services  
start at 5:30 PM on Zoom only.

In-person family services are held  
once a month on the following Friday nights:  
Dec. 27, Jan. 17, Feb. 7, Mar. 7  
followed by Shabbat dinner

Saturday morning services continue  
at 9:30 AM  
in person and via Zoom

Please join us for services

**In Memory of**  
**Segal**

**From Siegel**



*When you buy a car at Apple Honda, mention Temple Israel  
and we will make a \$100.00 donation in your name*

1375 Old Country Road  
Riverhead, N.Y.11901

Phone (631) 727-0555  
Fax (631) 727-8453

# Temple Israel of Riverhead

*The Winter **Shabbat Family Dinners** are here!*



Our family-friendly dinners are held once a month on Friday night, after family Shabbat services, which begin at 5:30 PM.

Join us for services and dinner.

It is a wonderful evening and a great way to begin Shabbat.

## Upcoming Dinner Dates

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> Hanukkah Dinner sponsored by **Leni & Harvey Goldsmith,**

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Sponsored by the **Milligan family,**

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Tu B'Shevat Seder, sponsored by the **Kaplan-Walbrecht** family

Mar 7<sup>th</sup> Sponsored by **Harley Abrams**

## RSVP

**As always, reservations are required for attendance.**

# Happy Hanukkah



## Hanukkah

Community Menorah Lighting

Saturday, December 28, 2024  
5 PM at Riverfront Park

Followed by refreshments at the temple.

### Candle Light- ing Times

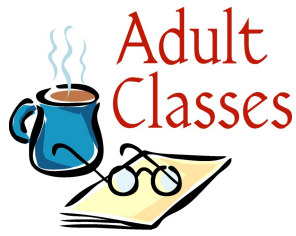
12/6 4:04 PM

12/13 4:04 PM

12/20 4:07 PM

12/27 4:11 PM

1/3 4:17 PM



With  
Rabbi Rascoe

### ***Jewish Philosophy***

Join **Rabbi Rascoe** and explore **Jewish Philosophy** via Zoom. Classes will be held at 6 PM on Tuesdays in December and January. We are currently discussing Eugene B. Borowitz's *Liberal Judaism*.

### **Talmud Classes: *Tractate Megillah***

**Rabbi Rascoe's** Talmud classes continue, via Zoom, at 6 PM on Wednesdays in December and January. There is always review, and no advance reading is required. The text can be found at: <https://www.sefaria.org/Megillah.8a?lang=bi>. Attendees receive an introduction to Talmudic logic, thought, and law.

### **Bible Study: *Exodus***

**Rabbi Rascoe** will be holding these classes via Zoom, at 6:30 PM on Thursdays in December and January.

### **Interfaith Bible Class**

The Interfaith Bible Class will meet via Zoom on December 18 and January 11, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Please contact the Rabbi for information, and the link.

***Please note: Congregants will receive emailed instructions for attending Rabbi Rascoe's classes via Zoom.*** Classes may be cancelled when the class decides to take a break, and you may come late or leave early. Contact Rabbi Rascoe for more information.

# TODAH RABAH!

## Donations to Temple Israel of Riverhead

For classes—Susan Pashman.

Donation—Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kagan.

Yahrzeit and Shabbat Kiddush for Leonard Kagan—Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kagan.

Yahrzeit for Jacqueline Levine—mother of Howard Levine.

Yahrzeit for Michelle Goldsmith—daughter of Harvey & Leni Goldsmith.

Yahrzeit for Douglas Ganz—son of Michael & Alice Ganz.

Yahrzeit for Rachel Ganz—mother of Michael Ganz.

Yahrzeit for Raymond Goldstein—Josh Printz.

Yahrzeit for Louis Tockman—father of Michael Tockman.

Yahrzeit for Morris Prussick—grandfather of Kelly Rosati.

Yahrzeit for Frances Press—mother of Louise Press.

Yahrzeit for Alfred Hefter—father of Robert Hefter.

## Kol Nidre 5785

Ken Stein

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Levine

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mainzer

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Marchbein

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Goldsmith

Robert Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Nathanson



Healing Begins with Jerusalem Memorial Chapels

Traditional Jewish Funeral Services Available

2024 10th Annual Best of Nassau County FIRST PLACE WINNER

[jmchapels.com](http://jmchapels.com)



**516.418.7000**  
(Call or text)  
**Adam Novak**  
Funeral Director

Scan for more information



JERUSALEM MEMORIAL CHAPELS • 3026 Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown, NY 11756

SPECIALISTS IN TOTAL INDOOR COMFORT

**WEBER & GRAHN**

**Air Conditioning & Heating**

**(631) 728-1050**

216 E. Montauk Hwy.  
Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Lawrence Grahn  
President

## Kol Nidre Appeal 5785



As we continue into 5785, we 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 from our website, using PayPal. Thank you.

## 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. Contact Carole Jones at the TIR office, 631-727-3191, with any requests.

*(Rabbi—continued from page 2)*

The story goes that after a lecture about miracles, the king asked the speaker to give an example of one. The person replied, “The Jews.” The real miracle of Hanukkah is not the oil, but the fact that we’re still here. We’re here because some Jews in every generation refuse to give up their Judaism

and disappear. This ability to survive is the miracle, and it results from great effort, devotion, sacrifice, and dedication. Hanukkah reminds us that we believe in miracles, but the fried food reminds us that we don’t live on miracles alone, but must work toward them. Happy Hanukkah.

## 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.

## Philanthropy • Public Service • Volunteering

We know what it takes to make a strong  
Jewish community.  
Doing our job well is just the beginning.

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.



David M. Rubin  
Funeral Director,  
Vice President

## I.J. MORRIS, INC.

*Jewish Funeral Directors Since 1888*

21 E. Deer Park Road, Dix Hills	(631) 499-6060
55 North Station Plaza, Great Neck	(516) 487-8600
46 Greenwich Street, Hempstead	(516) 486-2500
1895 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn	(718) 377-8610
114-03 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills	(718) 263-5365
21 W. Broad Street, Mt. Vernon	(914) 664-2062
4714 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL.	(561) 966-5217
2230 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, FL.	(954) 921-1776

[www.ijmorris.com](http://www.ijmorris.com)



PrePlan - call for information

Monuments by I.J. MORRIS, INC.

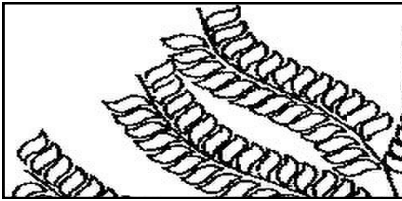
## An Easy Way to Help TI—Go Food Shopping!

Gift cards are now available for most major supermarkets:

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



Please contact 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.

## Richmond Realty Corp

889 Harrison Avenue, Second Floor ♦ Riverhead, NY 11901

**631-727-5500**

[www.richmondrealtycorp.com](http://www.richmondrealtycorp.com)

Specializing In East End Real Estate

- ♦ New Construction ♦ Custom Homes ♦ Commercial Construction
- ♦ Office Renovations ♦ Development ♦ Investment Properties

*The Israel Family*



## Where to purchase kosher food locally

**Justin's Chop Shop**, in Westhampton Beach, (631) 288-5532, now carries some kosher meat, poultry, and other items, along with the non-kosher items always in stock.

**Goldberg's Bagels & Deli**, at 65 Main St, Westhampton Beach, has a wide selection of kosher bagels and appetizing available.

**The Mill Road Cheese Shop**, Westhampton Beach, (631) 998- 0483, now carries some kosher items.

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

**BJ's** and **Costco** also have pareve cookies in their bakeries.




## Did you know?

For a donation of only \$180.00,  
you could sponsor the rabbi's sermon  
on any Shabbat!

You choose the subject, or the teaching, with  
Rabbi Rascoe's approval.

For a donation of \$360, if you'd like,  
we offer a Shabbat service without a sermon.



Beach Bakery  
GRAND cafe is  
Now KOSHER

www.beachbakery.com  
112 Main St. Westhampton Beach, NY 11978 (631) 288 - 6552 or (631) 288 - Cake

*Briarcliff  
Sprinklers*



*Irrigation Specialists*

22355 County Road 48, Unit #22  
Cutchogue, NY 11935  
(631) 734-6395

**TERRANCE P. MARTIN**  
FAX (631) 734-8821

# 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.*

November

Kislev 5785

12/2	Collins, Florence	Kislev 1
12/2	Greenberg, Samuel	Kislev 1
12/2	Okin, Harold	Kislev 1
12/3	Goldstein, Moe	Kislev 2
12/3	Mask, Lena	Kislev 2
12/3	Moiseff, Joe	Kislev 2
12/5	Scheinberg, Hinda	Kislev 4
12/6	Brander, Louis	Kislev 5
12/6	Grubman, Ruth	Kislev 5
12/8	Carasso, Solomon	Kislev 7
12/8	Harding, Maurice	Kislev 7
12/8	Siegel, Frances	Kislev 7
12/8	Wimpfheimer, Edda	Kislev 7
12/9	Harris, Edna	Kislev 8
12/9	Kagan, Leonard	Kislev 8
12/10	Horowitz, Abraham	Kislev 9
12/11	Lehrer, Joseph	Kislev 10
12/12	Eisenman, Della	Kislev 11
12/13	Hyman, Charles	Kislev 12
12/13	Orcutt Johnson, Kirsten	Kislev 12
12/14	Davidson, David	Kislev 13
12/14	Katz, Rose	Kislev 13
12/14	Starkman, Joseph	Kislev 13
12/15	Karlin, Dotty	Kislev 14
12/15	Marchbein, Dorothy	Kislev 14
12/15	Reitman, Irma	Kislev 14
12/16	Goldstein, Rose	Kislev 15
12/16	Lipetz, Rose	Kislev 15

12/17	Cohen, Todd	Kislev 16
12/17	Cohen, Vicki	Kislev 16
12/18	Maise, Maksha	Kislev 17
12/19	Brown, Francis	Kislev 18
12/19	Cross, Elizabeth	Kislev 18
12/20	Arbeen, Henry	Kislev 19
12/20	Benstock, Robert	Kislev 19
12/20	Cohen, Leonard	Kislev 19
12/20	Trepel, Tylda	Kislev 19
12/21	Oppenheimer, Sadie	Kislev 20
12/22	Vinacour, Paul	Kislev 21
12/23	Coladner, Rosalind	Kislev 22
12/23	Mendell, Manuel	Kislev 22
12/24	Froehlich, Zackery	Kislev 23
12/24	Wimpfheimer, Herbert	Kislev 23
12/25	Honig, Sylvia	Kislev 24
12/26	Galitzer, Rose	Kislev 25
12/26	Kastner, Danny	Kislev 25
12/26	Ritigstein, Rose	Kislev 25
12/28	Crowitz, Louis	Kislev 27
12/29	Talsky, Joyce	Kislev 28
12/30	Lambert, Flo	Kislev 29
1/1	Shapiro, Mildred Louis	Tevet 1
1/4	Lowy, Frederick	Tevet 4
1/4	Raffe, Flora	Tevet 4
1/4	Scheinberg, Henry	Tevet 4
1/4	Senft, Mollie	Tevet 4
1/4	Siegel, Pauline	Tevet 4

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	4 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	5 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	6 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	7 9:30 AM Services
8	9	10 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	11 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	12 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	13 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	14 9:30 AM Services
15	16 Bulletin Deadline	17 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	18 9:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class; 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom);	19 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	20 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	21 9:30 AM Services
22	23	24 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	25 First Night of Hanukkah; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	26 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	27 5:30 PM Services followed by Shabbat Dinner.	28 9:30 AM Services; 5 PM Community Menorah Lighting at Riverfront Park
29	30	31 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)				

# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Eighth Night of Hanukkah; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	2 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	3 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	4 9:30 AM Services
5	6	7 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	8 9:30 AM Inter-faith Bible Class; 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom);	9 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	10 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	11 9:30 AM Services
12	13	14 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	15 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	16 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	17 5:30 PM Services followed by Shabbat Dinner.	18 9:30 AM Services
19	20	21 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	22 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	23 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	24 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	25 9:30 AM Services
26	27	28 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	29 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	30 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	31 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	

<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 Holidays</b>		
<b>House Manager</b>	Rob Brown	631-298-2608
<b>Judaica Shop</b>	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
<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
<b>Temple Office</b>	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
<b>Trees in Israel</b>	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
<b>Tree of Life</b>	Phyllis Van Dyne	631-734-7511
<b>Supermarket Certificates</b>	Carole Jones (Office) Lorraine Richter	631-727-3191 631-653-9028

### **Officers:**

President	Jaime Siegel
1st Vice President	Barbara Smith
Treasurer	Richard Israel
Secretary	Linda Prizer

### **Trustees:**

Harley Abrams
Robert Brown
Rebecca Hagler
Lisa Israel
Lorraine Richter

### **Bulletin Committee:**

Allen Silver	Lee Ann Silver
Jaime Siegel	

**Temple Israel of Riverhead**  
490 Northville Turnpike  
P.O. Box 1531  
Riverhead, NY 11901

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
Permit No. 26

**TIME-SENSITIVE MAIL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

---

*TEMPLE ISRAEL OF RIVERHEAD is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*



## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<b>December 27, January 17</b>	<b>Shabbat Family Dinners</b>
<b>December 28</b>	<b>Community Menorah Lighting</b>
<b>Many adult classes are being offered with Rabbi Rascoe. See inside for details.</b>	