Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

November 2026 **Cheshvan/Kislev 5787**
Volume #33 ***Issue #8***

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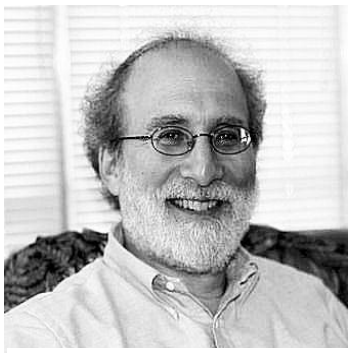

Rabbi Michael Rascoe

RABBI'S REFLECTIONS
Hope, Fear and Thanksgiving

Why celebrate Thanksgiving? What is it, and what emotions does it convey?

The English word comes from thought/mind/gratitude combined with giving and providing something, existing in all cultures. Thanksgiving is an ancient concept with different motivations mostly based on fear and hope, always expressing cultural values.* Thanksgiving in the USA always had religious overtones based on Biblical and practical ideas.

The Bible grounds it in both agricultural feasts and historical festivals, making it mostly hopeful. The agricultural base elicits some fear along with hope.

(Rabbi—continued on page 2)

(Rabbi—continued from page 1)

The historical part minimizes fear, emphasizing God's love calling forth gratitude, pushing aside the anxiety because God is above nature; thus, God provides for and protects.

Even the temporary shelters, sukkot, which started as harvest huts maximizing the time people spent in the field, stresses God's ability to deliver and redeem.

Joy is unmitigated (Sukkot is the season of our rejoicing). The Rabbis further center thanksgiving in b'rakhot, blessings, moving it even further away from fear.

We created something unparalleled in the US, a civil gratitude celebration (different from the Roman civil religion; cf. that part of the endnote).

Besides the Macy's parade, turkey trots, feast and football, we have turkey pardons, and volunteering, like food drives, serving meals to the less fortunate, interreligious services and family get-togethers.

Every culture understands and expresses gratitude but views it culturally. The more hope, the more unmitigated the gratitude.

On Thanksgiving, we have plenty for which to give thanks, but we should find a way for the more giving part of the holiday. Hence, our tradition claims that all offerings and prayers will be abolished in the world to come, except ones of thanksgiving (cf. Va-yiqra Rabbah 9:7). Happy Thanksgiving.

*In the Ancient Near East, thanksgiving holidays had a bit of celebration, but a real fear of

(Rabbi—continued on page 10

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WINTER HOURS

Start Friday, Nov. 6th

Friday night services
Will be at 5:30 p.m. **on Zoom only.**

In person

family services and dinners

will be held

once a month on the following Friday nights:

Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 22, Feb. 12, Mar. 12

Following Shabbat dinner

Saturday morning services continue
at 9:30 a.m.
in person and via Zoom

Please join us for services

Temple Israel of Riverhead

*The Winter **Shabbat Family Dinners** are just around the corner!*

Our **family-friendly dinners** will be held once a month on Friday night, after **family Shabbat services,** which begin at 5:30 p.m. Join us for services and dinner. It is a wonderful evening and a great way to begin Shabbat.

UPCOMING DINNER DATES:

- Nov 6th –
- Dec 4th – Graham Diamond - first night of Hanukkah
- Jan 22nd – Tu B'Shevat Seder & Dinner
- Feb 12th –
- Mar 12th –

DINNER SPONSORS NEEDED!

Consider sponsoring a Shabbat dinner for $540.00.
Contact the temple office if you would like to be a dinner sponsor.
Whether you are a sponsor or not please join us.

RSVP

As always, reservations are required for attendance.

Temple Israel of Riverhead
is now accepting registration for

Hebrew School

Jewish Culture
Alef Bet
Holidays & Customs
Traditional Prayers
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prep

Wednesdays starting September 23, 2026
4:15 - 5:45 PM | Ages 5+

More info & register at
TempleIsraelRiverhead.org

Hanukkah
Community Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 4, 2026
5:00 p.m. at Riverfront Park

Followed by Shabbat services and dinner at the temple.

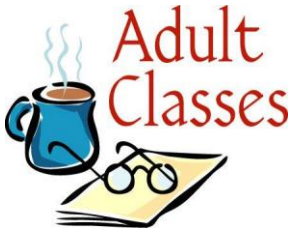
RSVP

TODAH RABAH!

Donations to Temple Israel of Riverhead

Donation Jewish Recovery—Mr. & Mrs. Richard Israel
Donation—Thomas Deland
Yahrzeit for Lana Zarbhanelian—Sister of Gary Siegel
Yahrzeit for Andrea Siegel—Sister of Gary Siegel
Yahrzeit for Pauline Siegel—Mother of Gary Siegel
Yahrzeit for Lana Zarbhanelan—Sister of Jaime Siegel
Yahrzeit for Andrea Siegel—Sister of Jaime Siegel
Yahrzeit for Jacqueline Levine—Mother of Howard
Yahrzeit for Martin Alpert—Grandfather of Cynthia Alpert
Yahrzeit for Morris Prussick—Grandfather of Kelly Rosati Keenan
Yahrzeit/Oneg—Irwin Abrams—Father of Harley Abrams
Yahrzeit/Kiddush—Lenny Kagan—Brother of Bruce Kagan

Kol Nidre 5787:
Mr. Gary Siegel
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Goldsmith
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Seitles
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Israel
Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Israel
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kagan



With
Rabbi Rascoe

Jewish Philosophy

Join **Rabbi Rascoe** and explore **Jewish Philosophy** via Zoom. Classes will be held on Tuesdays. We are currently discussing Rabbi Irving Greenberg, *The Triumph of Life.*

Talmud Classes: *Tractate Pesahim*

Rabbi Rascoe's Talmud classes are studying Tractate Pesahim via Zoom. This class meets on Wednesdays. There is always review, and no advance reading is required. Attendees receive an introduction to Talmudic logic, thought, and law.

Bible Study: *Exodus*

Rabbi Rascoe will be holding these classes via Zoom on Thursdays .

New Class: *The Prophets*

Rabbi Rascoe has added a class on the Prophets. This class meets on Wednesdays, via Zoom. The first prophet discussed will be Amos.

Interfaith Bible Class

The Interfaith Bible Class will meet via Zoom 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.

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)

Feeding the gods hopefully created a positive relationship. Romans saw it was as part of the civil religion designed to keep the state functioning through pax deorum, peace with the gods. It was a state duty seen as debt management. Through keeping law and vows, they expected the state to continue, constituting a mix of fear and hope. Southeast Asian cultures also viewed it as a mix of fear and hope, fear of offending the local gods and causing crop failure, illness and general bad luck, but hope for a prosperous and healthy community.

Candle Lighting Times

11/6	4:16 PM
11/13	4:21 PM
11/20	4:16 PM
11/27	4:12 PM
12/4	4:10 PM
12/11	4:10 PM
12/18	4:12 PM
12/25	4:16 PM

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.
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PrePlan - call for information

Monuments by I.J. MORRIS, INC.

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 mem- bers. For details on their Affinity Membership Program, stop in at any branch if you are al- ready 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 need- ing 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

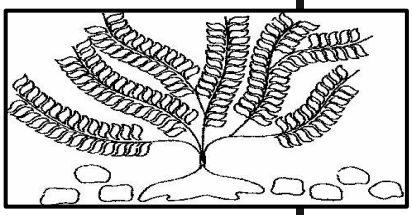
You can have a tree planted in Israel for a donation of $18. Contact **Carole Jones** at the TIR office, 631-727-3191. All checks should be made out to Temple Israel of Riverhead, or you can use PayPal from our website.

An Easy Way to Help TI—Go Food Shopping!

Gift cards are now available for most major supermarkets:

- **ShopRite**
- **Stop & Shop**

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 Mitz- vah, 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

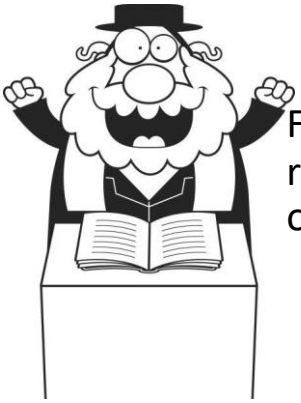
Where to purchase kosher food locally

Goldberg's Bagels & Deli, at 65 Main St, Westhampton Beach, has a wide selection of kosher bagels and appetizing available. The bagels are only kosher if not sliced, and only the lox that is marked kosher is kosher. they also carry some other marked packaged items that are certified kosher.

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

BJ's and **Costco** carry some kosher cookies. Some are pareve and some are dairy. They also carry other kosher items.

Citarella in Westhampton Beach carries cut up chicken and ground meat.



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.

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YAHRZEITS

We remember these lives on the approaching anniversary of their passing.
May their memories be a blessing.
November Cheshvan/Kislev 5787

11/2	Paul Brander	Heshvan 22
11/2	Frances Press	Heshvan 22
11/2	Selma Schecter	Heshvan 22
11/2	Sadie Slaw	Heshvan 22
11/3	Mordecai Brown	Heshvan 23
11/5	Albert Barbanel	Heshvan 25
11/5	Irving Nathanson	Heshvan 25
11/5	Arthur Sandberg	Heshvan 25
11/6	William Gerber	Heshvan 26
11/6	Harry Sacks	Heshvan 26
11/6	Arthur Smith	Heshvan 26
11/7	Irma Hahn	Heshvan 27
11/7	Alfred Hefter	Heshvan 27
11/7	Naomi Saffer	Heshvan 27
11/7	Pincus Sturm	Heshvan 27
11/8	Raymond Goldstein	Heshvan 28
11/9	Diane Richter	Heshvan 29
11/9	Harry Yurman	Heshvan 29
11/11	Florence Collins	Kislev 1
11/11	Samuel Greenberg	Kislev 1
11/11	Harold Okin	Kislev 1
11/12	Moe Goldstein	Kislev 2
11/12	Lena Mask	Kislev 2
11/12	Joe Moiseff	Kislev 2
11/14	Hinda Scheinberg	Kislev 4
11/15	Louis Brander	Kislev 5
11/15	Ruth Grubman	Kislev 5
11/17	Solomon Carasso	Kislev 7
11/17	Maurice Harding	Kislev 7
11/17	Frances Siegel	Kislev 7
11/17	Edda Wimpfheimer	Kislev 7
11/18	Edna Harris	Kislev 8
11/18	Leonard Kagan	Kislev 8
11/19	Abraham Horowitz	Kislev 9
11/20	Joseph Lehrer	Kislev 10
11/21	Della Eisenman	Kislev 11
11/22	Charles Hyman	Kislev 12
11/22	Kirsten Orcutt Johnson	Kislev 12
11/23	David Davidson	Kislev 13
11/23	Rose Katz	Kislev 13
11/23	Joseph Starkman	Kislev 13
11/24	Dotty Karlin	Kislev 14
11/24	Dorothy Marchbein	Kislev 14
11/24	Irma Reitman	Kislev 14
11/25	Rose Goldstein	Kislev 15
11/25	Rose Lipetz	Kislev 15
11/26	Todd Cohen	Kislev 16
11/26	Vicki Cohen	Kislev 16
11/27	Maksha Maise	Kislev 17
11/28	Francis Brown	Kislev 18
11/28	Elizabeth Cross	Kislev 18
11/29	Henry Arbeeny	Kislev 19
11/29	Robert Benstock	Kislev 19
11/29	Leonard Cohen	Kislev 19
11/29	Tylda Trepel	Kislev 19
11/30	Sadie Oppenheimer	Kislev 20

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 5:45 PM Talmud Class (Zoom); 7:45 Prophets	6:00 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	6 5:50 PM Kaballat Shabbat Services and dinner	7 9:30 AM Services
8	9	10 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	11 9:30 AM Interfaith Bible; 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 5:45 PM Talmud Class (Zoom); 7:45 Prophets Class	12 6:00 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	13 5:30 PM Kaballat Shabbat Services	14 9:30 AM Services
15	16	17 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	18 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 5:45 PM Talmud Class (Zoom); 7:45 Prophets	19 6:00 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	20 5:30 PM Kaballat Shabbat Services	21 9:30 AM Services
22	23	24 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	25 4:15 PM Hebrew School; 5:45 PM Talmud Class (Zoom); 7:45 Prophets	26 Thanksgiving	27 5:30 PM Kaballat Shabbat Services	28 9:30 AM Services
29	30 7 PM Board meeting					

For Information:		
Advertising and Public Relations	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
Book Club	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
Bulletin	Jaime Siegel nyclincoln@aol.com	631-653-3985
Capital Campaign	Richard Israel	727-5500 x11
Cemetery	Lisa Israel	727-5500 x10
Custodian Contact	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Education	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Fundraising	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
High Holidays		
House Manager	Rob Brown	631-298-2608
Judaica Shop	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
Membership	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Oneg Shabbat	Barbara Smith	631-664-6584
President	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Programs and Events		
Ritual Committee	Lisa Israel	727-5500 x10
Social Hall	Jaime Siegel	631-653-3985
Special Gifts	Howard Collins	631-779-3042
Temple Office	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
Trees in Israel	Carole Jones	631-727-3191
Tree of Life	Phyllis Van Dyne	631-734-7511
Supermarket Certificates	Carole Jones (Office) Lorraine Richter	631-727-3191 631-653-9028

Officers:

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Lorraine Richter

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 6	**First Winter Shabbat Family Dinner**
Nov. 30	**Board Meeting**
Dec. 4	**Community Menorah Lighting**
Dec. 4	**First Night of Hanukah**
Dec. 4	**Winter Shabbat Family Dinner**
Many adult classes are being offered with Rabbi Rascoe. See inside for details.	