

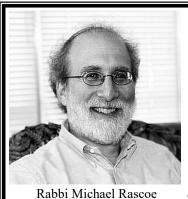
## Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

November 2023 Volume #29 Heshvan/Kislev 5784 Issue #9

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## RABBI'S REFLECTIONS: Death and Life–A Culture Clash

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The deadline for the bulletin was a week after the Hamas invasion of Israel.

A dilemma on what to write. Whatever I write will be old news by the time this arrives. Writing about something else is rather unsettling; life is not normal. Seeking faith in tradition car-

ries its own risks. Observe a fast day, light Shabbos candles. I could come up with plenty of reasons to do or not do both (of course I'd light Shabbat candles anyway). However we respond, makes certain assumptions on life and values. How we think of death says a great deal about how we view life, and what we hold dear.

Before discussing death as an outlook on life, I want to explore another practice that also makes claims on what we hold dear. Often, we take a drink, usually both a regular thing and one done at a death. Many cultures accompany it with a toast. Usually it relates to health: salud, na zdarovye. Prost/prosit comes from benefit. Others are: cheers, good luck, down the hatch, here's to you. A Jew says l'hayyim, to life

<sup>(</sup>Rabbi—continued on page 2)

(although in today's world, we also hear to raise a glass to the deceased person's soul in heaven). Health is a good thing, though whether drinking alcohol really helps is a different issue. But luck, happiness, and pleasure, the other toasts, don't say much about what we think holds great meaning. Do we really want a life based on luck or personal pleasure, \* or even happiness? I'd like to think that life is more than luck, pleasure, and happiness, not that I'm opposed to pleasure and happiness. Nor do I want a world based on luck, which implies that nothing we do will matter if luck goes against us. (I won't get into what I think about characterizing luck as a lady.) What we say matters. What we believe matters. What values we hold dear matters.

Osama bin Laden characterized the Muslim view of death and life as Islam's strength, and the West's view of life to avoid death as its weakness. He said, "O young people of Islam: Follow the orders of the Almighty God and His messenger, and kill those people. Follow the example of Muhammad Bin-Musallam<sup>^</sup> and his companions. Death is better than living on this earth with the unbelievers amongst us, making a mockery of our religion and prophet, God's peace and blessings upon him. Fear God, try to please Him, and do not consult with anyone regarding the killing of those unbelievers." Various leaders including those of Hamas, Fatah, Hizballah, Iran, ISIS, Palestinian Authority, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, said similar things.

Isaiah 22:13, Proverbs 23:35 Ecclesiastes 8:15 says eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die; yet in the end all agree with Ecclesiastes 12:8, "Utter futility...all is futile." In Judaism, we don't see life as futile, so pursue pleasure or riches, etc. Nor do we see it as only preparation for either paradise or the complete, abject submission to God. As Joshua Loth Liebman wrote, "We must make up for the...brevity of life by heightening the intensity of life." In Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to count our days rightly, that we may obtain a heart of wisdom." Disraeli said, "Life is too short to be little."

The Torah starts with the creation of an automaton, then pairing it, and then setting them up to disobey God, so creating a free-will being that furthers God's plan. After Jacob is dead and buried, we read (Genesis 49:1) that he lived. The values with which we grow up, live, survive, and pass on to the next generation are the sum of our lives. Not pleasure, not death, and not even unthinking submission to God's will make us human. What makes us human, as the Bible constantly reminds us, is being moral, and interacting with God (not solely submit). The beginning of the Bible raises these issues, and the rest of the Bible records our attempts to answer the questions by which God wishes us to further the Divine plan: after the first sin, God calls out to the Human, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). Of course, God knows the first humans' physical location. God wants a different answer. Then in Genesis 4:9, after the first murder, God asks Kayin, Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" to which he replies, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" The Bible never tells us where we are or what it means to be the keeper of other humans. We must answer for ourselves.

<sup>(</sup>Rabbi-continued on page 16)

# Prayer Vigil for the State of Israel Held at Temple Israel

On Sunday, October 15th, members of the community gathered at Temple Israel of Riverhead to pray for the state of Israel. The sanctuary was filled with people of all faiths and denominations. The prayer vigil was arranged by Barbara Sheryll from the North Fork Reform Synagogue, and it included 4 Rabbis, and several local Reverends and Ministers. Prayers, psalms, songs, poems, and meditations were shared by the clergy, including Oseh Shalom, Prayer for the State of Israel, El Maleh Rachamim, Mourner's Kaddish, and concluded with the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah, the Hope.

## Speakers

•Rabbi Sheila Goloboy—North Fork Reform Synagogue, Cutchogue.

- •John McNamara—Saint Anthony's Church, Rocky Point.
- •Admire Togra— Salvation Army, Corp. Officer of the USA Eastern Territory, Wading River.
- •Pastor Peter Kelly—First Presbyterian Church, Southold.
- •Pastor Richie King—Cutchogue Presbyterian Church.
- •Rev. Bohdan Hedz—Saint John The Baptist Ukranian Catholic Church, Riverhead.
- •Rabbi Margie Cella—Jewish Center of the Moriches.
- •Rabbi Michael Rascoe—Temple Israel of Riverhead.
- •Rabbi Barbara Sheryll—North Fork Reform Synagogue, Cutchogue.

(Apologies for any names accidentally omitted above.)

Selected prayers and photos from the event can be found on our website.





# **Our Winter Shabbat Family Dinners are Back!**



Our family-friendly dinners will be held once a month, with the in-person services beginning at 5:30 PM. All other Friday night services are only on Zoom.

Join us for services and dinner.

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



## **Upcoming Dinner Dates**

- Nov 17<sup>th</sup>—sponsored by the Milligan family.
  - Dec 8<sup>th</sup>—Hanukkah dinner, sponsored by the **Smith family.**
- Jan 5<sup>th</sup>—sponsored by **Jaime Siegel**.
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>—Tu B'Shevat Seder, sponsored by the Kaplan-Walbrecht family.
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup>—available

## One more dinner sponsor needed!

Consider sponsoring a sponsorship of a Shabbat dinner for \$540.00. Partial sponsorships accepted (or sharing of sponsorships allowed). Contact the temple office if you would like to be a dinner sponsor. Whether you are a sponsor or not, please join us.

# **Hebrew School**



Remaining class dates for the 2023-24 school year:

November 1, 8, 15, 29; December 6, 13, 20; January 3, 10, 17, 🌬 24, 31; February 7, 14, 28; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Dates subject to change.

For information, please contact the Temple Office, or Jaime Siegel at 631-653-3985.

### 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.



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We love our Rabbi, he's the best But we need some gelt to feather his nest His driveway is crumbling, he needs some landscaping We have to beautify the place, of that there's no escaping He needs irrigation sprinklers too Without donations this we can not do So please dig deep into your heart And send some money so projects we can start Give a little, give a lot We need to raise a hefty pot When we're done about his house the Rabbi will kvell And once again in our temple all will be well.

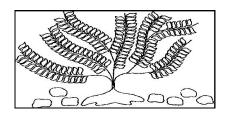
Jaime Siegel, President





Fundraiser for the Rabbi's house is in progress Send your donations to the temple office. All donations are greatly appreciated





#### 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.



**Temple Israel of Riverhead** 

November 2023



With Rabbi Rascoe

#### Jewish Philosophy

Join **Rabbi Rascoe** and explore **Jewish Philosophy** via Zoom. Classes will be held at 6 PM on Tuesdays in November and December. We will be discussing *Strauss, Spinoza, & Sinai: Orthodox Judaism and Modern Questions of Faith* by Jeffery Bloom, Alec Goldstein, and Gil Student. This book is a collection of seventeen essays from a wide variety of thinkers and doers, discussing various aspects of Judaism.

### Talmud Classes: Tractate Megillah

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

#### Bible Study: Starting with Genesis

**Rabbi Rascoe** will be holding these classes via Zoom, at 6:30 PM on Thursdays in November and December, except November 23.

#### Interfaith Bible Class

The Interfaith Bible Class will meet via Zoom, on November 8 and December 13, 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 Roscoe'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.

# Save The Date!

Friday, January 5, 2024, 5:30 PM

Our Winter Shabbat Speaker Program presents Rabbi **Stephen Karol** *Heroic Women in the Hebrew Bible: Miriam, Esther, and Ruth* 

Shabbat services followed by dinner and speaker.

#### 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.

#### Kol Nidre Appeal 5784



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 from our website, using PayPal. Thank you.



#### 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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## 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.

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

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

<sup>D</sup> **BJ's** and **Costco** also have pareve cookies in their bakeries.

#### **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.

Briarcliff Sprinklers Beach Bakery GRAND cafe is Now KOSHER. Irrigation Specialists GRAND C? 22355 County Road 48, Unit #22 Cutchogue, NY 11935 TERRANCE P. MARTIN (631) 734-6395 www.beachbakerv.com FAX (631) 734-8821 112 Main St. Westhampton Beach, NY 11978 (631) 288 - 6552 or (631) 288 - Cake

**Temple Israel of Riverhead** 

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# TODAH RABAH!

#### **Donations to Temple Israel of Riverhead**

In honor of Jaime & Rabbi's birthdays-Leonard Wasserman & Abigail Moore. In honor Robin Prussic Jacobs-Kelly Keenan. For Rabbi's classes—Susan Pashman. For Sandy's birthday—Eve Epstein. In memory of Allan Asherman—Nan Rachel and John Peele. For repairs on Rabbi's house-Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kagan. Yahrzeit for Lana Zarbhanelian—sister of Jaime Siegel. Yahrzeit for Manual Mendell—father of Lorne Mendell. Yahrzeit for Andrea Siegel-sister of Jaime Siegel. Yahrzeit for Martin Alpert—grandfather of Cynthia Alpert. Yahrzeit for Jacqueline Levine-mother of Howard Levine. Yahrzeit for Alan Olewitz—cousin of Amy Csorny. Yahrzeit for Jani Olewitz—cousin of Amy Csorny. Yahrzeit for Irwin Abrams—father of Harley Abrams. Yahrzeit for Douglas Ganz—son of Michael & Alice Ganz. Yahrzeit for parents-Manana Boter. Yahrzeit for Gary Joseph—husband of Lois Joseph. Yahrzeit for David Wasserman—father of Lois Joseph. Trees for Israel: in memory of Mimi Lief-the Musella family.

#### Kol Nidre 5784

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Goldsmith	Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Hagler
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kagan	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Calka
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Silver	Mr. & Mrs. John Peel

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Levine

#### **Please note:**

This bulletin will **not** be printed and mailed. It will be emailed and made available on our website.

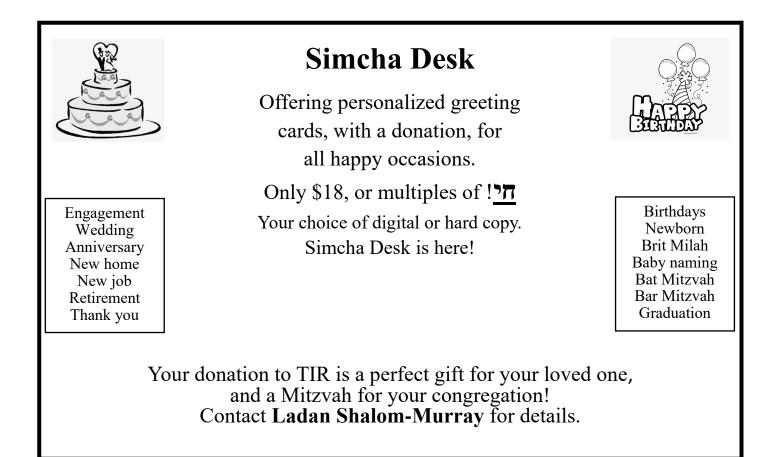
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11/3	5:26	PM
11/10	4:18	РM
11/17	4:12	РМ
11/24	4:08	РM
12/1	4:05	РМ
12/8	4:04	РМ

YAHRZEITSWe remember these lives on the approaching anniversary of their passing.<br/>May their memories be a blessing.<br/>NovemberNovemberHeshwar /W: 1

11/1	Shapiro, Gilbert	Heshvan 17
11/2	Goldsmith, Michelle	Heshvan 18
11/2	Katz, Sima	Heshvan 18
11/2	Siegel, Andrea	Heshvan 18
11/3	Squires, Myron	Heshvan 19
11/4	Finkelstein, Claire	Heshvan 20
11/4	Schackman, Samuel	Heshvan 20
11/4	Trefilio, Blanche	Heshvan 20
11/6	Brander, Paul	Heshvan 22
11/6	Press, Frances	Heshvan 22
11/6	Schecter, Selma	Heshvan 22
11/6	Slaw, Sadie	Heshvan 22
11/7	Brown, Mordecai	Heshvan 23
11/9	Barbanel, Albert	Heshvan 25
11/9	Nathanson, Irving	Heshvan 25
11/9	Sandberg, Arthur	Heshvan 25
11/10	Gerber, William	Heshvan 26
11/10	Sacks, Harry	Heshvan 26
11/10	Smith, Arthur	Heshvan 26
11/11	Hahn, Irma	Heshvan 27
11/11	Hefter, Alfred	Heshvan 27
11/11	Saffer, Naomi	Heshvan 27
11/11	Sturm, Pincus	Heshvan 27
11/12	Goldstein, Raymond	Heshvan 28
11/13	Richter, Diane	Heshvan 29
11/13	Yurman, Harry	Heshvan 29
11/14	Collins, Florence	Kislev 1
11/14	Greenberg, Samuel	Kislev 1
11/15	Goldstein, Moe	Kislev 2
11/15	Mask, Lena	Kislev 2
11/15	Moiseff, Joe	Kislev 2
11/17	Scheinberg, Hinda	Kislev 4

11/18	Brander, Louis	Kislev 5
11/18	Grubman, Ruth	Kislev 5
11/20	Carasso, Solomon	Kislev 7
11/20	Harding, Maurice	Kislev 7
11/20	Siegel, Frances	Kislev 7
11/20	Wimpfheimer, Edda	Kislev 7
11/21	Harris, Edna	Kislev 8
11/21	Kagan, Leonard	Kislev 8
11/22	Horowitz, Abraham	Kislev 9
11/23	Lehrer, Joseph	Kislev 10
11/24	Eisenman, Della	Kislev 11
11/25	Hyman, Charles	Kislev 12
11/26	Davidson, David	Kislev 13
11/26	Katz, Rose	Kislev 13
11/26	Starkman, Joseph	Kislev 13
11/27	Karlin, Dotty	Kislev 14
11/27	Reitman, Irma	Kislev 14
11/28	Goldstein, Rose	Kislev 15
11/28	Lipetz, Rose	Kislev 15
11/29	Cohen, Todd	Kislev 16
11/29	Cohen, Vicki	Kislev 16
11/30	Maise, Maksha	Kislev 17
12/1	Brown, Francis	Kislev 18
12/1	Cross, Elizabeth	Kislev 18
12/2	Arbeeny, Henry	Kislev 19
12/2	Benstock, Robert	Kislev 19
12/2	Cohen, Leonard	Kislev 19
12/2	Trepel, Tylda	Kislev 19
12/3	Oppenheimer, Sadie	Kislev 20
12/4	Vinacour, Paul	Kislev 21
12/5	Coladner, Rosalind	Kislev 22
12/5	Mendell, Manuel	Kislev 22





The Rabbis (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5, as part of the judicial process of warning people of the consequences of testimony), note that in talking to Kayin, God says that his brother's bloods cry out to God. Why the plural? They say that when one dies, so do the potential descendants. Then they observe that his blood was over the trees and stones, i.e., everywhere. God is moral and expects it from us. To act in God's name and not be moral is anathema. God expects morality and commands us to uproot evil, while still remaining human and moral, though in the physical world this is rare. God commands basic morality from everyone, Jew and non-Jew alike. God refuses people to submit to God at the expense of morality. Amaleq is the quintessential example. He attacks people at the camp's rear: women, children, elderly, and wounded. Everyone knows that you never attack them and claim it to be moral. This behavior earns God's eternal enmity. The Bible says that this behavior continues through the generations, all the way through Haman. God opposed this behavior as abhorrent. In Judaism, the ends never justify the means, not even for God's sake.

What does Judaism hold? Morality is the highest end, and nothing can excuse it even as we pursue evil, which we must. To justify murder, rape, torture, and to use people to shield oneself from the consequences of this behavior is the kind of morality of Amaleq that cannot be excused. There not only is no moral equivalency in what Hamas did and what Israel is doing at the time I write this; there can't be. Moreover, anyone who practices this type of behavior is evil, and this is without reservation, and the behavior must be stopped and punished, Furthermore, anyone who excuses this type of behavior has no morality; confused morality is no morality.

We do not worship death. We do not seek it. Bin Laden and his ilk were right, we do exalt life, but it creates a much better view of the world. It can be our strength. When we encounter death, we deal with it, and then drink a schnapps afterwards and say l'hayyim. Religion and morality are about life, not death. L'hayyim, to life, is our strength.

\* Herodotus, the Histories, Chapter 2:78, Rawlinson p130: At rich men's banquets, after dinner a man carries round a wooden image of a corpse in ^coffin, painted and carved in exact imitation, a cubit or two cubits long. This he shows to each of the company, saying "Drink and make merry, but look on this; for such shalt thou be when thou art dead." Such is custom at their drinking-bouts.

Petronius, the Satyricon, 2:34, similarly writes that they carry in a silver skeleton and say, "Poor man is nothing in the scheme of things / And Orcus grips us and to Hades flings / Our bones! This skeleton before us here / Is as important as we ever were! / Let's live then while we may, and life is dear." Many people write that this is a somewhat common feast practice.

<sup>^</sup>There are various ways of spelling his name; this is the one the US government used, translation of Bin Laden's 52minute audiotape posted on Jihadist Website, 4/27/06). He was a contemporary of the Islam's prophet Muhammad, and is known as the "Knight of Allah's prophet" to Muslims. November 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:15 PM He- brew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	2 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	<ul><li>3 7:00 PM</li><li>Services and</li><li>Oneg Shabbat</li></ul>	4 9:30 AM Services
5 Return to Standard Time	-20	7 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	<ul> <li>8 9:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class;</li> <li>4:15 PM Hebrew</li> <li>School; 6 PM Tal-mud Class (Zoom)</li> </ul>	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 Philoso- phy (Zoom)	15 4:15 PM He- brew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	16 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	17 5:30 PM Services fol- lowed by Shab- bat dinner.	18 9:30 AM Services
19	20	<ul> <li>21 &amp; P.M. Class:</li> <li>Jewish Philoso-</li> <li>phy (Zoom);</li> <li>&amp; P.M. Interfaith</li> <li>Thanksgiving</li> <li>Service</li> </ul>	22 4:15 PM He- brew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	23 Thanksgiving	24 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	25 9:30 AM Services
26	27	28 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	29 4:15 PM He- brew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	30 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)		

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December 2023

Please check your email and our website for information about using Zoom to attend these events.	
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	2 9:30 AM Services
	4 7 PM Board Meeting	5 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	<ul> <li>6 4:15 PM He- brew School;</li> <li>6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>7 6:30 PM Bible</li> <li>Study Class</li> <li>(Zoom); First Night</li> <li>of Hanukkah</li> </ul>	8 5:30 PM Services followed by Hanukkah dinner & speaker	9 9:30 AM Services
	=	12 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	<ol> <li>13 9:30 AM Inter- faith Bible Class;</li> <li>4:15 PM Hebrew School; 6 PM Tal- mud Class (Zoom)</li> </ol>	14 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	15 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	16 9:30 AM Services
	18	19 & PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	20 4:15 PM He- brew School; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	21 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	22 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	23 9:30 AM Services
	25	26 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	27 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	28 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	29 5:30 PM Services (Zoom only)	30 9:30 AM Services

**Temple Israel of Riverhead** 

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



# **CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

November 10	Friday night Services Return to 5:30 PM Start
November 17	Winter Shabbat Family Dinners Return
December 7	First Night of Hanukkah
December 8	Hanukkah Dinner &Speaker Program
December 10	Hanukkah Menorah Lighting
January 5, 2024	Speaker Program
Many adult classes a for details, page 9.	are being offered with Rabbi Rascoe. See inside