



# Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

June 2023  
Volume #29

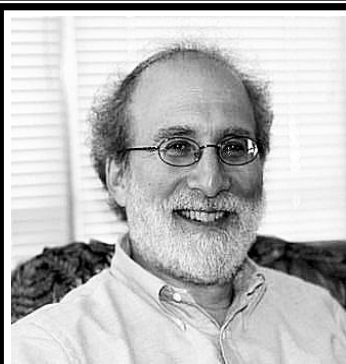
Sivan/ Tammuz 5783  
Issue #5

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## RABBI'S REFLECTIONS: Do We Really Pray?

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Rabbi Michael Rascoe

One hot, dry summer day, a group of farmers met in their church to pray for rain. After the service, a young girl asked her father, "Do people really expect it to rain?" Her father answered, "Of course, or we wouldn't be here." She asked, "how come nobody has an umbrella?"

Yes, I have done a prayer service for rain. And yes, it did rain a little while later. And no, I don't think we really had anything to do with it. This raises thoughts about prayer, about which, not only have I been teaching a class, I've been sermonizing on it a fair amount recently. It is particularly pertinent because people often look at a traditional service and notice how many words it contains and how quickly we race through it. Indeed, sometimes, we don't even get the words right. So what is prayer?

I addressed this question several times both at the beginning of the class, and in some of the sermons, so I'm only going to repeat a little. Prayer is not about request, what we want from God. In Judaism, this kind of prayer is the least common, and mostly shoved into just the

*(Rabbi—continued on page 2)*

weekday Amidah. Prayer is about many other things, like, for example, praise and thanks, as I've mentioned. But prayer doesn't exist in a vacuum, either. We have a role; indeed, we have the primary role. Moreover, it exists as the end of a process. Without basic preparations and assumptions, prayer has no meaning.

To quote the great Bard, Shakespeare, in Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 3: "My words fly up; my thoughts remain below; Words without thoughts never to heaven go." (While it would be fun to analyze all the irony and theology behind this statement, and it even is pertinent, you can look it up and reread the play.) King Claudius feels that his prayers remain in him. He points out a remarkable truth about prayer: it requires things within us in order for prayer to be prayer. Prayer requires preparation, setting and *kavvanah*—intention, sincerity, conviction, and trust. Prayer rests on the faith and conviction that it has purpose and value. To shorten Lewis Carroll's dialogue between the March Hare

and Alice through the example provided by the Mad Hatter, "I mean what I say and I say what I mean." (It's also worth reading the story.)

Prayer requires a foundation and knowledge. It requires belief in the words, the setting, and the parties. Prayer requires us to think outside of ourselves and our usual wants, which is also why it requires community. For prayer to work, it requires thought and intention, faith and belief, and an ability to rise above ourselves. Anything less makes prayer mechanical; or worse, hypocritical.

Since this is a tall order to do all the time, it is OK to start without them, and see if you get inspired. At the very least, use it as a time to think about yourself and your values, and if you reflect at all on the words of the traditional liturgy, you in fact will have prayed. Judaism is well aware that prayer is demanding; yet as long as you keep trying, you will achieve it.

## Yom Hashoah Program

Temple Israel's Yom Hashoah program this year focused on how the children of survivors have been secondarily affected by the experiences of their parents.

In a very revealing session, our speaker, author A.J. Sidransky, interviewed Shari Gotowner Lopez, the daughter of survivors. She spoke of her parents' fears and overprotective nature. While completely understandable, their protectiveness had an effect which she had to come to grips with in her own life.

While the number of survivors sadly is dwindling each year, the full psychological effects of the Shoah won't be erased, it seems, for many generations, and we must recognize this, and try to heal it.

Submitted by **Linda Prizer**

# 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. Get involved.

**Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7:00 PM**

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

## Please Note:

In an effort to reduce our postage and printing expenses, this bulletin is not being mailed. It will be distributed via email, and posted on our website.



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President



**Holiday Weekend Shabbat BBQ's/Dinners**  
**Good food, good company,**  
**good times!**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend BBQ,**  
**Raffle Drawing,**  
**and Musical Performance**



Friday, June 30, 2023, 5:30 PM

Sponsored by Abigail Moore & Len Wasserman

**Labor Day Weekend BBQ**  
**and Speaker Program**



Friday, September 1, 2023, 5:30 PM

Our speaker is sponsored by **Nan & John Peel**

BBQ sponsor is still needed.

**Each BBQ followed by Kaballat Shabbat**



**Kindly RSVP if you plan to attend so we can shop and prepare accordingly.**

**Sponsors Needed:**

**Contact Jaime Siegel to sponsor a BBQ/Dinner**



Friday  
June 30, 2023  
5:30 PM

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend BBQ,  
Raffle Fundraiser,  
and musical performance by  
our member, Bruce Kagan**



Thank you to our BBQ sponsors:  
Abigail Moore & Len Wasserman



**GET LUCKY!**

**\$5,000 Cash Raffle**

Drawing on June 30<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 PM

**\$100 per ticket.**



If less than 100 tickets are sold  
the prize will be 50/50

Contact Jaime Siegel, Richard Israel or Jim Smith to purchase your tickets.

## Musical Performance June 30, 2023—July 4th Weekend BBQ

### *Bruce Plays Klezmer*

Join musician **Bruce Kagan** for a 30-minute concert of flute and song. Lift up your voice, in the spirit of Klezmer (in between bites), and become “a vessel of light”. Join our community. Celebrate identity as Jews and World Citizens.

*Klezmer*—derived from two Hebrew words *kli zemer* which translates to “an instrument of song,” states Giora Feidman (Klezmer clarinet great). Music is art, bringing light and spirit to our lives.

### **Program** (subject to change)

*Simple Gifts*— Shaker hymn, 1848

*Bei Mir Bistu Shein*— Yiddish jazz standard, 1930s

*Go Down Moses*— Spiritual

*Hava Nagila*— Hasidic folk song, Ukraine, (mid 1800s)

*The Tarantella Napoletana*— a lively tribute to our Italian friends (Flute)

*This is my Song*— Jean Sibelius, National Anthem of Finland, 1900

*Song of Peace Pact*— Ojibway (Chippewa) (Flute)

*America the Beautiful*— first stanza

*Hatikvah*— Israeli National Anthem

**In Memory of  
Segal**

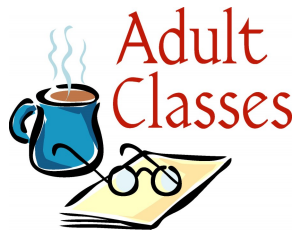
**From Siegel**



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With  
Rabbi Rascoe

### ***New Monday Class***

We are considering offering a new series of classes, dealing with short topics, lasting from 1-6 classes each. If you have suggestions for topics, let **Rabbi Rascoe** know. We are considering a 6 PM start. Classes will meet on Mondays in June and July, except July 3.

### ***Possible New Tuesday Class***

This would be a true beginners class, covering the basics of Judaism, assuming little knowledge. If you are interested let **Rabbi Rascoe** know. With enough people, we will switch this time slot from *Prayer*. Classes would meet on Tuesdays in June and July, except July 4, and start at 7:30 PM.

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

**Rabbi Roscoe's** Talmud classes continue, via Zoom, at 6 PM on Wednesdays in June and July, except July 26. 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: Starting with Genesis***

**Rabbi Rascoe** will be holding these classes via Zoom, at 6:30 PM on Thursdays in June and July, June 15 and July 27..

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

**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.

### Interfaith Bible Class

The Interfaith Bible Class will meet via Zoom, on June 14 and July 12, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Please contact the Rabbi for information and the link.




### 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.

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



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## Temple Israel of Riverhead Celebration of Israel Independence Day on April 27, 2023

On Thursday, April 27, at 6:30 PM, Temple Israel of Riverhead proudly hosted a delegation of wounded Israel Defense Force (IDF) soldiers in honor of Yom HaAtzmaut 75, Israeli Independence Day. Our social hall was decorated with beautiful Israeli-themed balloons and Israeli flags. The snack buffet included Israeli dishes such as bourekas, Moroccan cigars, falafel, hummus, and more. The room was crowded with guests from various communities on the North and the South Forks.

TIR's Vice President Barbara Smith welcomed the guests. Then TIR's Secretary, Linda Prizer introduced Jennifer Hines, a congregant and opera singer, who sang *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*, and invited us to join in the chorus with her. It was an amazing performance.

Then Linda introduced the Israeli delegation leader, Rabbi Amos Cohen from Hod HaSharon, Israel. He explained that for the last 10 years a nonprofit, self-funded organization, Together For Them, has been traveling to the United States and visiting synagogues and schools around the country to tell the true story of life in Israel from the hearts of wounded IDF soldiers. Three wounded soldiers shared their unbelievable personal stories, which moved and touched everyone in the room. They concluded that no matter how injured they were, they still volunteered to continue serving IDF because of their love for their families and friends, and their responsibility to the Jewish people in the diaspora to always have a homeland to come to). They expressed that Eretz Yisroel belongs to and is a home to all Jews everywhere, and that no matter how different the political views are, we are all united and solid together.

This memorable evening and celebration moved everyone in the room, sometimes to tears and sometimes to much laughter. These 4 men were one of us, and with us. They easily mingled and chatted with all guests afterward. We were also joined by Lirin Shay Goshen, Director of the Randie Waldbaum Malinsky Center for Israel, and Senior Shlichah (emissary) of the Sochnut Jewish Agency for Israel. She added her own interesting perspective to the conversation. Much wonderful feedback has been received. Many found it amazing, informative, and just emotional and uplifting. The evening ended with guests carrying the handheld Israeli flags that had adorned the tables. What a strong statement and a beautiful scene to see!

This celebration was possible and funded by the kind generosity of: **Nick Victory, Dr. George, Helene, and Jennifer Hines, Nan & John Peel, Aviva Wieder & Michael Tuchner, Linda Prizer & Michael Tockman, Dr. Richard & Lorraine Richter, Jaime Siegel, Barbara & Jim Smith, Rebecca & Mitch Hagler, and Ladan Shalom & Billy Murray.**

## **We're Back!** **Friday night Oneg Shabbats**

To our Temple Israel family,

Up until the arrival of the pandemic in 2020, the tradition of hosting an Oneg Shabbat had been a part of our Friday night service for many years. Now that the pandemic has ended and we are returning to a regular operating schedule, we ask for your participation in this community activity, which we hope to start in June. We request each member unit to contribute to this weekly community event. If there is a special date that you would like to commemorate with your participation, please let us know. You can honor a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, etc. The hospitality committee will do the shopping, and we will acknowledge all participants.

I / we would be happy to contribute \$72.00 to cover the cost of an Oneg Shabbat, which would be provided by the Hospitality Committee, and herewith enclose a check for same. (Check payable to "Temple Israel of Riverhead- Oneg"). Please indicate the date you would like to sponsor.

---

Name

---

Address

---

City, State, ZIP

---

Phone # / Email Address

---

Date / Honoring

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Smith at 631-664-6584 or email:  
[zagsmith.bs@gmail.com](mailto:zagsmith.bs@gmail.com)

Please send to:        Temple Israel of Riverhead  
                                  Attn: Oneg Shabbat Committee  
                                  PO Box 1531  
                                  Riverhead, NY 11901

Thank you for your participation!

The Oneg Shabbat Committee

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

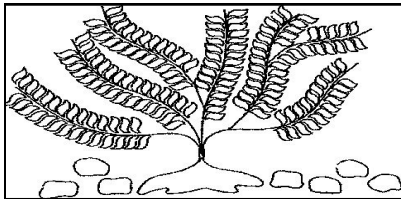
Gift Cards are now available for most major supermarkets...

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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.

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David M. Rubin  
Funeral Director,  
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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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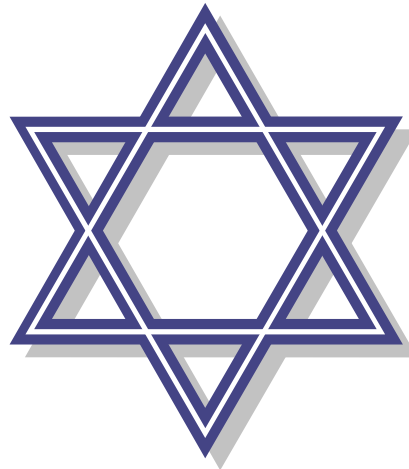
## Our Judaica Shop

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.

### Candle Light- ing Times

6/2	7:58 PM
6/9	8:03 PM
6/16	8:06 PM
6/23	8:08 PM
6/30	8:08 PM
7/7	8:06 PM



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Bar Mitzvah  
Graduation

Your donation to TIR is a perfect gift for your loved one  
and a Mitzvah for your congregation!  
Contact **Ladan Shalom-Murray** for details.

# TODAH RABAH!

## Donations to Temple Israel of Riverhead

In memory of Bruce Leimsidor—Laurence Tucker.

Passover Yizkor—Gary Siegel.

Yahrzeit for Walter Brown— father of Robert Brown.

Yahrzeit for Kenneth Klein—brother of Alice Ganz.

Yahrzeit for Irving Siegel—father of Jaime Siegel.

Yahrzeit for Fanny Glickstein—Linda Prizer.

Yahrzeit for Morris Glickstein—Linda Prizer.

Yahrzeit for Rebecca Prizer—Linda Prizer.

Yahrzeit for her parents—Ruth Prizer.

Yahrzeit for Lena Alpert—grandmother of Cynthia Alpert.

Yahrzeit for Annette Joseph—mother-in-law of Lois Joseph.

Yahrzeit for Herman Zipser—father of Marcia Hefter.

Yahrzeit for Harry Goldstein—Josh Printz.

Yahrzeit for Esther Goldstein—Josh Printz.

Yahrzeit for Arthur Warner—father of Scott.

Yahrzeit for Barbara Beil—Ruth Beil.

Yahrzeit for Sondra Thompson—mother of Lori Thompson.

Yahrzeit for Irwin Thompson—father of Lori Thompson.

Yahrzeit for Herman Zipser—father of Myra Korman.

Yahrzeit for Sheldon Gusky—father of Allison Gusky.

# 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.*

June/July

Sivan/Tammuz 5783

6/1	Davis, Rae	Sivan 12	6/18	Bloom, William	Sivan 29
6/2	Nisenbaum, Benjamin	Sivan 13	6/18	Hefter, Lillian	Sivan 29
6/4	Rascoe, Eric	Sivan 15	6/18	Karlin, Charles	Sivan 29
6/4	Ritigstein, Jerry	Sivan 15	6/20	Acard, Irving	Tammuz 1
6/5	Krasnow, Deborah	Sivan 16	6/20	Schneider, Benjamin	Tammuz 1
6/6	Elphand, Louis	Sivan 17	6/21	Goldstein, Abraham	Tammuz 2
6/6	Gaster, Conrad	Sivan 17	6/23	Goldberg, Samuel William	Tammuz 4
6/6	Klein, Sidney	Sivan 17	6/23	Polaniecki, Helen	Tammuz 4
6/6	Lefkowitz, Harry	Sivan 17	6/24	Cohen, Harry	Tammuz 5
6/7	Kagan, Bella	Sivan 18	6/24	Friedenberg, Matilda	Tammuz 5
6/9	Crowitz, Ida	Sivan 20	6/24	Heller, Herbert	Tammuz 5
6/9	Orland, Sylvia	Sivan 20	6/25	Caplan, Isabelle M.	Tammuz 6
6/10	Siegel, Jeffrey	Sivan 21	6/25	Israel, Marcel	Tammuz 6
6/11	Anker, Edward	Sivan 22	6/26	Belanger, Jean	Tammuz 7
6/11	Korus, Max	Sivan 22	6/28	Dresher, Lena	Tammuz 9
6/11	Sonkin, Etta	Sivan 22	6/29	Berg, Lena	Tammuz 10
6/12	Itkin, Morris	Sivan 23	6/29	Grossman, Sophie	Tammuz 10
6/12	Kaplan, Bella	Sivan 23	7/2	Spector, Ruth	Tammuz 13
6/12	Weiner, Max	Sivan 23	7/3	Greenberg, Gussie	Tammuz 14
6/13	Hochheiser, Helen	Sivan 24	7/3	Wimpfheimer, Jerome	Tammuz 14
6/14	Weiner, Minnie	Sivan 25	7/4	Sonkin, Ruth	Tammuz 15
6/15	Harding, Sam	Sivan 26	7/5	Horowitz, Sabina	Tammuz 16
6/15	Hefter, Sanford	Sivan 26	7/5	Rothman, Ruth	Tammuz 16
6/15	Squires, Irving	Sivan 26	7/6	Katz, Robert	Tammuz 17
6/16	Goldstein, Lillian	Sivan 27	7/6	Schnapp, Dr. Max	Tammuz 17
6/16	Sacks, Julius	Sivan 27	7/7	Brown, Vera-Jean	Tammuz 18
6/18	Bloom, William	Sivan 29	7/8	Mathews, Rose	Tammuz 19



# June 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 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	2 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	3 9:30 AM Services
4	5 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	6 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	7 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	8 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	9 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	10 9:30 AM Services
11	12 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	13 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	14 9:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class; 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	15 7 PM Annual Meeting (Zoom)	16 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	17 9:30 AM Services
18	19 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	20 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	21 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	22 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	23 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	24 9:30 AM Services
25	26 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	27 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	28 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	29 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	30 5:30 July 4th Weekend BBQ & raffle followed by Kaballat Shabbat	

# July 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	6 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	7 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	8 9:30 AM Services
9	10 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	11 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	12 9:30 AM Interfaith Bible Class; 6 PM Talmud	13 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	14 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	15 9:30 AM Services
16	17 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	18 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	19 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	20 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	21 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	22 9:30 AM Services
23	24 6 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	25 7:30 PM: New Class TBD (Zoom)	26	27	28 7:00 PM Services and Oneg Shabbat	29 9:30 AM Services
30	31 6 PM: New Class TBD (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
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<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>	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
<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

**Temple Israel of Riverhead**  
490 Northville Turnpike  
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Riverhead, NY 11901

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



## **CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

<b>June 15</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Raffle Fundraiser, BBQ &amp; Entertainment</b>
<b>Many adult classes are being offered with Rabbi Rascoe. See inside for details, pages 8 &amp; 9.</b>	