



Temple Israel of Riverhead Bulletin

June 2025
Volume #32

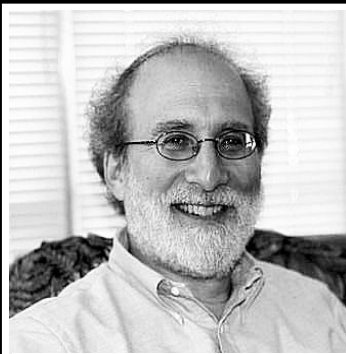
Sivan/Tamuz 5785
Issue #5

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RABBI'S REFLECTIONS On Weddings and Shavu'ot¹

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Rabbi Michael Rascoe

Since many rabbis don't consider counting the Omer as being a Biblical requirement, they wonder why celebrate Shavu'ot? We are Rabbinic Jews. The Rabbis say Shavu'ot occurs on the 6th of Sivan,^{2,3} and they connect it to God giving the Torah to the People of Israel in *midrashim*, stories.⁴ Shavu'ot, unlike other major holidays, has no dedicated Talmudic tractate.⁵

In observance, a few Jews chant Torah under a *huppah*, marriage canopy. More decorate the synagogue in greenery, which counts as a variety of *huppah*.⁶ Some read a *ketubbah*, marriage contract, specifying the contract between God, the groom, and the People of Israel, the bride. Various references to Song of Songs predominate.⁷ Moreover, we see the number two, as in two tablets of the 10 Pronouncements, two *hal-lah* loaves, the *piyyut*/poem *Aqdamut* is a double acrostic, etc.

(Rabbi—continued on page 2)

Shavu'ot emphasizes relationships. Jews promise that they accept only God, and God gives them a land and a more intimate, although not exclusive, status. Like a marriage, the couple is closer, but each person still has friends and family. Learning requires a partner and a teacher. In both, we see the importance of communication. Even with arranged marriages in the ultra-Orthodox world, the man and woman must talk to each other with understanding before they can wed.

Shavu'ot lacks real impactful symbols, which suggests that the relationship matters, nothing else. Inner intention counts, not external actions. We might remind ourselves of God with wearing tephillin and wrapping the straps around the arm seven times like the seven wedding blessings, and reciting a betrothal formula when we wrap the straps around the finger,⁸ like the wedding ring, but none of this occurs on Shavu'ot. Inner intention exclusively dominates the holiday. When inner feeling leaves, neither an outward symbol nor a contract will save the marriage. The same with our relationship with God. The Torah is housed in an ark, *aron*. The same word *aron*, also means coffin. When the spark of Torah leaves, the relationship dies, just as with a couple — when the inner feeling is destroyed by neglect, disrespect, or abuse, so too is the marriage.

I close with two stories. A Scotsman leaves home. His worried mother calls, to ask how he's doing. "Fine." "How about your neighbors?" "One moans all day, and the other bangs his head against the wall all day." "Stay away from them." "I do. I just stay home all day and play my bagpipes."

(Rabbi—continued on page 4)

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Shavuot

Services

Led by Rabbi Rascoe

Learning Session:

Sunday evening , June 1, 7:00 p.m.
Details to be announced

Services:

Monday, June 2, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 3, 9:30 a.m., including Yizkor

**Services followed by a light brunch
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When Moshe, Moses, came down on Shavu'ot with the 10 Pronouncements, they were as light as a feather. When he saw the Israelites sinning with the Golden Calf, the letters flew off, the stone became really heavy, so he dropped it, and it broke.

A contract with no inner feeling cannot keep a relationship; without communication, understanding, and sensitivity, the relationship dies.

On Shavu'ot we stress our relationship with God. This relationship requires presence, understanding, sensitivity, love, and concern, all of them kept alive by communication. Our inner feelings are expressed by fulfilling God's demands on us, as God discerns what we need. Shavu'ot stresses our relationship with God and the work that it entails to keep it going, just like in a marriage. Hag same-ah, happy holiday.

¹ I officiated at a wedding which accounts for this topic. My thanks to Rabbi Joseph Radinsky, z"l, obm, for some ideas.

² Talmud Bavli Shabbat 86b; note Rabbi Yosi says 7 Sivan.

³ While RaMbaM *Mishneh Torah*, *Sepher Z'manim*, *T'midin U-musaphin* 7:22-25 says Omer is Biblical so Shavu'ot is Biblical, RaMbaN on Lev 23:14, among many, says Omer is Rabbinic because we no longer bring the barley offering, but he finds a Biblical basis elsewhere for observing Shavu'ot.

⁴ Specifically Exodus Rabbah (33:7), Talmud Bavli Pesachim (49b), Midrash Tanhuma (16), Pesiqta d' Rav Kahana (12:19), Zohar Emor 98a, and in general Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer Chapter 41, Numbers Rabbah 12:8, Ta'anit 26b, Songs of Songs Rabbah 3:11, Exodus Rabbah 52:5, Numbers Rabbah 12:8, Midrash Tanhuma, Exodus, P'qudei 8; Numbers Rabbah, Bamidbar 5, and Pesiqta d'Rav Kahana 1:3, 22:5, Talmud Bavli Yoma 86a, RaMbaM Hilkhos T'shuvah 10:3; and Mishnah Ta'anit 4:8 claims the 2nd giving of the 10 Pronouncements on Yom Kippur is a wedding, so the 1st must have been.

⁵ Shavu'ot means both oaths, and Holiday of Weeks/Pentecost.

⁶ A midrash, story, claims God held Mount Sinai over the Israelites heads, which is seen as a form of huppah, Mekhilta d'RaShbi 19:7, Talmud Bavli Shabbat 88a, Mekhilta d'Rabbi Yishma'el 19:7 (not as a threat), Song of

Songs Rabbah 8:1; cf. Exodus Rabbah 41:5.

⁷ 3:11 (O maidens of Zion, go forth / And gaze upon King Solomon / Wearing the crown that his mother / Gave him on his wedding day, / On his day of bliss), which RaShI connects the reference to wedding to the giving of Torah, also using Mishnah Ta'anit 4:8; 4:11 read as likening Torah to honey, etc.

⁸ Hosea 2:21-22: And I will espouse you forever: / I will espouse you with righteousness and justice, / And with goodness and mercy, / And I will espouse you with faithfulness; / Then you shall be devoted to God.

Coming soon...

2025 - High Holidays - 5786

SELICHOT:

Sat., Sept 13, services/program & time TBA

ROSH HASHANAH:

Mon., Sept. 22, 7:00 p.m.

Tues., Sept. 23, 9:00 a.m.

Tashlikh followed by Minhah and Arvit at the riverfront

Wed., Sept. 24 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch

YOM KIPPUR:

Wed., Oct. 1, Kol Nidre

Thurs., Oct. 2, 9:00 a.m. with Yizkor following Torah Service

Study session 3:30 p.m. followed by Minhah, Ne'ilah, & Break the Fast

Sukkot:

Tues., Oct. 7, 9:30 a.m., Wed., Oct. 8, 9:30 a.m.

Shemini Atzeret:

Tues., Oct 14, 9:30 a.m., Yizkor following Torah Service

Simchat Torah:

Tues. evening, Oct. 14, time TBA, Wed., Oct 15, 9:30 a.m.

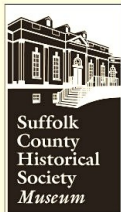
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Temple Israel of Riverhead's
Speaker Program Presents:

Rabbi Stephen A. Karol

Friday, June 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.



“PSALMS: WHERE ‘HALLELUJAH’ GOT ITS START”

The Book of Psalms is one of the most respected and valued literary creations in the history of the world. Consisting of 150 “chapters,” it is an amazing collection of poetry, songs, and prayers expressing joy and sorrow, faith and despair, hope and doubt, comfort and anger, gratitude and complaints. I will discuss some of the psalms that are included in our liturgy and life-cycle occasions and can motivate and inspire us.

Rabbi Stephen A. Karol is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Isaiah in Stony Brook, New York, and the author of *Finding Hope and Faith in the Face of Death: Insights of a Rabbi and Mourner*. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati in 1977, and has served at Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo, New York, Congregation Sha'aray Shalom in Hingham, Massachusetts, and Temple Isaiah. He teaches at Temple Isaiah and also at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Stony Brook University. Rabbi Karol lives in Port Jefferson Station, New York, with his wife Donna.

Services followed by speaker and dessert.

This program is generously sponsored by Jaime Siegel, in honor of the yahrzeits for his father, Irving and his brother Jefferey

This is a free program. RSVP required.



Holiday Weekend Shabbat BBQs/Dinners

**Good food, good company,
good times!**

•4th of July Weekend BBQ

Friday, July 4, 2025, 5:30 PM

BBQ sponsored by Gail & Arthur Miller
in honor of Gail's birthday



•Labor Day Weekend BBQ

Friday, August 29, 2025, 5:30 PM

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

My Farewell Message

Dear Congregants: Nearly 20 years ago I took over the Temple Israel Bulletin and website, from Paul Lowy. Over the years a lot has changed, but not the commitment and leadership of our Temple. Through several rabbis, Temple Israel has endured and adapted to the times, and I have enjoyed working with all involved.

The April issue was my last bulletin. It has been a pleasure working with our supporters, and ensuring a quality product each time.

- Al Silver

I wish my successor the best of luck in chronicling the events, comings,

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. No cover.

Thursday, June 19, 2025, 7:00 pm

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



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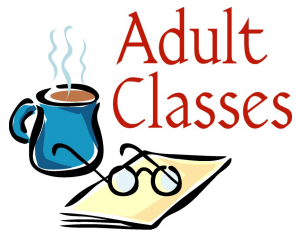
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With
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Jewish Philosophy

Join **Rabbi Rascoe** and explore **Jewish Philosophy** via Zoom. Classes will be held at 6 PM on Tuesday June 24th and all Tuesdays in July. We are currently discussing Eugene B. Borowitz's *Liberal Judaism*.

Talmud Classes: Tractate Pesahim Chapter 10

Rabbi Rascoe's Talmud classes are studying Tractate Pesahim, Chapter 10, via Zoom, at 6 PM. This class meets on Wednesdays June 25th and all Wednesdays in July. The chapter details what we say at the Passover Seder, which later becomes the Haggadah. 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, at 6:30 PM on Thursday June 5 & 26, and all Thursdays in July.

Interfaith Bible Class

The Interfaith Bible Class will meet via Zoom on July 9, 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:

Donation—Peri Hoffer-Hinden & Randall Hinden

Donation—Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Lancer

Donation—Sponsor May BBQ—Leonard Wasserman & Abigail Moore

Donation—Kiddish May 31, 2025—Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Marchbein

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Yahrzeit for Sheldon Gusky—father of Allison

Yahrzeit for Irwin Thompson—father of Lori Thompson

Yahrzeit for Walter Brown—father of Robert Brown

Yahrzeit for Lena Alpert—Grandmother of Cynthia Alpert

Yahrzeit for Herbert Diamond—father of Lisa Israel

Yahrzeit for Harry Goldstein—Josh Printz

Yahrzeit for Harry Prussick—father of Kelly Keenan Rosati

Yahrzeit for Reuben Joseph—father-in-law of Lois Joseph

Yahrzeit for Benjamin Kutlow—grandfather of Jocelyn Tobin

Yahrzeit for Mildred Tockman—mother of Michael Tockman

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6/13	8:10	PM
6/20	8:12	PM
6/27	8:13	PM
5/30	7:57	PM

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

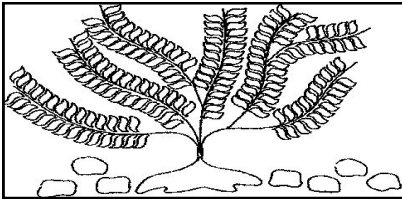
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Yahrzeits

*We remember these lives on the approaching anniversary of their passing.
May their memories be a blessing.*

April

6/1/2025 Frank, Louis	Sivan 5, 5785
6/2/2025 Goldstein, Esther	Sivan 6, 5785
6/2/2025 Korman, Jack	Sivan 6, 5785
6/2/2025 Segal, Cokey	Sivan 6, 5785
6/2/2025 Thompson, Sondra	Sivan 6, 5785
6/3/2025 Lubetsky, Harry	Sivan 7, 5785
6/4/2025 Gerlitz, Chaim	Sivan 8, 5785
6/5/2025 Abrams, Florence	Sivan 9, 5785
6/5/2025 Anker, Lewis	Sivan 9, 5785
6/5/2025 Chizever, Henry	Sivan 9, 5785
6/5/2025 Remler, Norman	Sivan 9, 5785
6/6/2025 Goldstein, Esther	Sivan 10, 5785
6/6/2025 Goldstein, Sophia	Sivan 10, 5785
6/8/2025 Davis, Rae	Sivan 12, 5785
6/8/2025 Nathanson, Zelda	Sivan 12, 5785
6/9/2025 Nisenbaum, Benjamin	Sivan 13, 5785
6/11/2025 Rascoe, Eric	Sivan 15, 5785
6/11/2025 Ritigstein, Jerry	Sivan 15, 5785
6/12/2025 Krasnow, Deborah	Sivan 16, 5785
6/13/2025 Elphand, Louis	Sivan 17, 5785
6/13/2025 Gaster, Conrad	Sivan 17, 5785
6/13/2025 Klein, Sidney	Sivan 17, 5785
6/13/2025 Lefkowitz, Harry	Sivan 17, 5785
6/14/2025 Kagan, Bella	Sivan 18, 5785
6/16/2025 Crowitz, Ida	Sivan 20, 5785
6/16/2025 Orland, Sylvia	Sivan 20, 5785
6/17/2025 Siegel, Jeffrey	Sivan 21, 5785
6/18/2025 Anker, Edward	Sivan 22, 5785

6/18/2025 Korus, Max	Sivan 22, 5785
6/18/2025 Sonkin, Etta	Sivan 22, 5785
6/19/2025 Itkin, Morris	Sivan 23, 5785
6/19/2025 Kaplan, Bella	Sivan 23, 5785
6/19/2025 Weiner, Max	Sivan 23, 5785
6/20/2025 Hochheiser, Helen	Sivan 24, 5785
6/21/2025 Weiner, Minnie	Sivan 25, 5785
6/22/2025 Harding, Sam	Sivan 26, 5785
6/22/2025 Hefter, Sanford	Sivan 26, 5785
6/22/2025 Squires, Irving	Sivan 26, 5785
6/23/2025 Goldstein, Lillian	Sivan 27, 5785
6/23/2025 Sacks, Julius	Sivan 27, 5785
6/25/2025 Bloom, William	Sivan 29, 5785
6/25/2025 Hefter, Lillian	Sivan 29, 5785
6/25/2025 Karlin, Charles	Sivan 29, 5785
6/27/2025 Acard, Irving	Tammuz 1, 5785
6/27/2025 Schneider, Benjamin	Tammuz 1, 5785
6/28/2025 Goldstein, Abraham	Tammuz 2, 5785
6/30/2025 Goldberg, Samuel William	Tammuz 4, 5785
7/1/2025 Cohen, Harry	Tammuz 5, 5785
7/1/2025 Friedenberg, Matilda	Tammuz 5, 5785
7/1/2025 Heller, Herbert	Tammuz 5, 5785
7/2/2025 Caplan, Isabelle M.	Tammuz 6, 5785
7/2/2025 Israel, Marcel	Tammuz 6, 5785
7/3/2025 Belanger, Jean	Tammuz 7, 5785
7/5/2025 Dresher, Lena	Tammuz 9, 5785
7/5/2025 Okin, Robert	Tammuz 9, 5785

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7 PM Shavuot Evening of Learning (Zoom)	3 9:30 AM Shavuot Services	4 9:30 AM Shavuot Services 7PM Board Meeting	5 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	6 7:00 PM Services (Zoom only)	7 9:30 AM Services
8	9	10	11	12	13 7:00 PM Services in person, followed by speaker & Oneg Shabbat	14 9:30 AM Services
15	16	17	18	19 7:00 PM Annual Meeting	20 7:00 PM Services (Zoom only)	21 9:30 AM Services
22	23	24 6 PM Class: Jewish Philosophy (Zoom)	25 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	26 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	27 7:00 PM Services (Zoom only)	28 9:30 AM Services
29	30					

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	2 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	3 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	4 5:30 PM BBQ followed by Services (in per- son & Zoom)	5 9:30 AM Services
6	7	8 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	9 9:30 AM Inter- faith Bible Class 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	10 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	11 7:00 PM Services (Zoom only)	12 9:30 AM Services
13	14	15 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	16 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	17 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	18 7:00 PM Services (Zoom only)	19 9:30 AM Services
20	21	22 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	23 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	24 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)	25 7:00 PM Services (Zoom only)	26 9:30 AM Services
27	28	29 6 PM Class: Jewish Philoso- phy (Zoom)	30 6 PM Talmud Class (Zoom)	31 6:30 PM Bible Study Class (Zoom)		

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Programs and Events		
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Special Gifts	Howard Collins	631-779-3042
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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

June 2, 3, 4	Shavuot Learning Session & Services
June 13	Speaker Program: Rabbi Stephen A. Karol
June 19	Annual Meeting
Many adult classes are being offered with Rabbi Rascoe. See inside for details.	