

The Temple Beth Torah Times

November 2025

Cheshvan / Kislev 5786

Volume LV No. 73



After fasting and atonement on Yom Kippur, we came together to celebrate in the Sukkah during some fun and meaningful Sukkot programs, including a Blessing of the Pets ceremony and a Pizza, Beer and Football Men's Club event.



Off the Bimah

May We Go from Strength to Strength by Rabbi Jack Dermer



Dear Friends,

Over the course of the last month, we have lived through Jewish history in the making. I am writing this article on the morning of October 13th, Erev Shemini Atzeret. The news of 20 living hostages, held in unthinkable conditions in Gaza for 738 days and now returning to their families

and to their people, fills our hearts with joy and with gratitude. Still, our hearts are heavy as we reflect upon the deep emotional, physical, and spiritual toll these years of war have taken on both the people of Israel and the Jewish people collectively. As a people, we have endured a roller coaster of challenges and blessings, of setbacks and fears, and G-d willing, there will be many new opportunities for progress to come. Rachel Goldberg Polin, mother of murdered hostage Hersch Goldberg Polin, recently reflected on this moment at the crossroads of Jewish history quoting from the book of Ecclesiastes, which we just read over Sukkot: There is a time to weep and a time to laugh – and we have to do both right now! There is a time to hug, and a time to hold back from hugging – and we need to do both right now! There is a time to tear and a time to heal – and we need to do both right now! There is a time to be silent, and a time to speak out – and we need to do both right now!” And, as she herself struggled with her own tears, “There is a time to sob, and a time to dance – and we need to do both right now!”

There are still so many questions about what the future will bring for our Holy Land, and the extent to which G-d’s vision for a land of peace, progress, and blessing will be realized in the coming years as we heal from the challenges of this war. Still, as we look toward the month of November and our winter months following what was for me a deeply meaningful Holiday season, whatever these months may bring, I am proud of our Temple community for the way in which we supported one another, and the land and people of Israel, our brothers and sisters, in these years since October 7th of 2023. Just as we will never forget the horrors of the Shoah, we will never forget the hor-

Continued on Page 3

Acknowledgment and Thanksgiving by Cantor Scott Sokol



This past month we spent a great deal of time in shul, celebrating Jewish holidays that spanned a wide range of emotions from remembrance, fear, and awe to joy and celebration. We now find ourselves in a brief lull, at least Jewishly, but poised to mark what I consider the most important secular holiday:

Thanksgiving. It seems fitting, then, to pause and reflect on the Jewish understanding of the term thanksgiving.

As I’ve often discussed, Jewish prayer can be understood as falling into three broad categories: *shevach* (praise), *bakasha* (request), and *hodayah/hoda’ah* (thanksgiving). Our daily liturgy often mirrors this progression. Like a child approaching a parent, we begin by offering words of praise to gain favor, then we make our requests, and finally, we express our thanks. Indeed, the morning service follows this pattern, from *pesukei d’zimrah* (verses of praise), to the *Amidah’s* petitions, and finally to *Modim anachnu lach*, in which we acknowledge and thank God for life’s blessings. However, to my mind this makes prayer feel far too transactional and not actually reflective of Jewish theology.

Consider the first words we are meant to say each morning: *Modeh ani lefanecha*, “I am thankful before You.” Before we even open our eyes fully, we thank God for returning our souls, for granting us the gift of another day. This, perhaps, is the truest expression of gratitude humans can offer. More broadly, though, I believe that all prayer, in one way or another, returns to *hodayah/* thanksgiving.

The Hebrew root of *hodayah* means both “to thank” and “to acknowledge.” In Hebrew, to thank is to recognize a truth about another, and about our relationship with them. When we thank God, we are simultaneously acknowledging the vast distance between human comprehension and the Divine, and yet expressing wonder that God chooses to care for us. I am reminded here of the first prayer of Yizkor which asks, “Oh God, what is man that You take note of him?” Gratitude thus becomes both an act of aware-

Continued on Page 3

Press from Our Leaders

Press from the President by Ken Maltz, President



Those of you who heard my speech on Kol Nidre may recall that I concluded by asking “what’s it worth.” We so often ask ourselves if the things we accomplish, the goals we strive for, are worth the efforts we make in order to achieve them. When we go shopping, we have an idea if the cost of

what we are looking to purchase represents a good value. But for the truly important things that add meaning to our lives, it’s a little more difficult. There’s isn’t a Consumers Reports that would be helpful to help guide us.

Way back when computers were first introduced, the techies had a phrase “garbage in, garbage out.” Without making a serious effort to input quality data in the proper format, the resulting output was meaningless. Our lives are no different. It takes effort and determination to arrive at a way of life that offers a chance to achieve all that we can; to be an asset to society, to be a mensch. Wisdom doesn’t come without experience and experience doesn’t come easily or without some pain. Most of us, I would offer, realize that even if we encounter some difficulty along the way, the hard work, the time spent... it’s worth it.

As a member and officer of Temple Beth Torah, many mornings, afternoons and evenings have been spent in conversations and meetings dealing with the running of the shul. We are blessed with a clergy that is both responsive and inclusive, reaching out to lay



leadership when various questions, plans and projects come up; Rabbi Dermer and Cantor Sokol are more than nominally represented in my inbox. It takes time to go over their ideas and add my own; time that I may have used

for other activities. Yet, it’s worth it. I cannot put a price tag on what this time and effort has enabled. When I see smiles on the faces of our members while they enjoy our activities...it’s worth it. When I observe congregants deeply engrossed in conversation about

Rabbi (Continued from Page 2)

rors of that day. The scars we bear will be with us for all time. Yet we are walking forward toward the light, with all the strength and all the resilience that have always made up the story of the Jewish people. Most importantly, we are walking together. May we go from strength to strength in the coming year, and may this year of 5786, be a year of good things for Am Yisrael, and for our beloved Temple community,

Rabbi Dermer

Cantor (Continued from Page 2)

ness and an act of faith, an admission that we see only dimly, but that we are nevertheless seen.

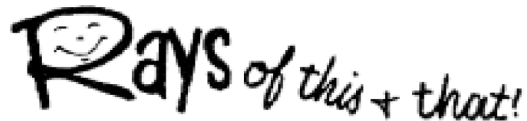
Even when we make requests of God, our prayers contain implicit gratitude. When we ask, “Heal us,” we begin with the recognition that God is the One who heals; when we say, “Judge us mercifully,” we appeal to the Divine attribute of mercy already known to us. In other words, we are thanking God for God’s previous posture, and requesting something by acknowledging (there’s that word again) that God has previously demonstrated that very same attribute. In this way, request embodies acknowledgment and thanks.

As we approach Thanksgiving, may we remember that gratitude in Judaism is not reserved for moments of plenty, but is woven into every breath we take and every prayer we utter. To live a life of *hodayah* is to live in awareness of blessing, of relationship, and of the sacredness of being alive. In giving thanks, we acknowledge not only what we have received, but the One who continually grants us the capacity to give, to love, and to hope.

Jewish subjects...it’s worth it. When my son and his family happily speak about a new shul that they joined, and participate enthusiastically in its services, believe me...it’s worth it. We always speak about our involvement with Temple Beth Torah when we visit them and I guess that seeing how happy we are, they figured that...it’s worth it.

I’ve always believed that whatever I contributed to my shul, whether it was in the form of membership committees, boards and volunteerism, or monetarily through cash donations, it was always worth it. And more so. We have a currently running Kol Nidre campaign that would welcome any amount you can contribute. If you are wondering if its worth it; it surely is. Please help; you will not regret it.

Around the Congregation



Our condolences to the **Lesser** family on the passing of **Marilyn Bergmann**, mother of **Leslie**, mother-in-law of **David**, grandmother of **Michael** and **Matthew**.

Our condolences to the **Seidman** family on the passing of **Gloria Geller**, sister of **Charles Seidman**, sister-in-law of **Monica**, aunt of **Robin** and **Adam**.

Recipe from Our Sisterhood: Apple Roses

Ingredients:

- 3 large red apples, 2 sheets of puff pastry (thawed)
- 6 Tablespoons of apricot preserves
- 4 Tablespoons of water, Sugar
- Juice of 1/2 lemon or 2 Tablespoons lemon juice

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly spray or grease a muffin tin. Remove the puffed pastry sheets from the freezer and thaw according to the package. Core and thinly slice the apples from top to bottom.
2. Fill a medium size bowl half full of water. Squeeze the lemon juice into the water.
3. Place the sliced apples in the water and microwave for 5 minutes until slightly tender.
4. Drain the apples in a colander. Place the thawed pastries flat on a floured surface.
5. Roll the pastries out with a rolling pin to slightly flatten. Cut each pastry into 6 equal strips.
6. Brush each strip with apricot preserves.
7. Place 7-9 apple slices along one half of the pastry strip with the peel side facing up and sticking up over the top edge of the pastry sheet.
8. Fold the pastry strip in half to cover the apples (the peel edge should be visible).
9. Starting with one end, roll the pastry and apples.
10. Place the rolled pastry in the muffin tin.
11. Prepare the remaining pastry strips in the same manner until you have 12 apple roses.
12. Place a pan of water on the bottom rack of oven so the pastries do not burn.
13. Bake at 375 degrees for 40-45 minutes.
14. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar when cool.

Temple Beth Torah

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Sunday, 11/2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Tuesday, 11/4 - Election Day
- Wednesday, 11/5 - Rabbi's Class
- Saturday, 11/8 - Veteran's Shabbat & Kristallnacht Memorial
- Tuesday, 11/11 - Veteran's Day - Office Closed
- Wednesday, 11/12 - Rabbi's Class
- Monday, 11/17 - Executive Board Meeting
- Wednesday, 11/19 - Rabbi's Class
- Thursday, 11/20 - Sisterhood Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Kayley
- Thursday, 11/20 - Table Talk
- Thursday, 11/20 - Friday, 11/21 - Rosh Chodesh Kislev
- Saturday, 11/22 - TBTot Shabbat
- Monday, 11/24 - Board of Trustees Meeting
- Wednesday, 11/26 - Rabbi's Class
- Thursday, 11/27 - Thanksgiving - Office Closed

LET'S BE THANKFUL TOGETHER!

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Sisterhood Lunch & Learn

November 20th @ Noon

Join Sisterhood & Rabbi Kayley for a light lunch & learn about Sarah and Hagar, two dedicated mothers at odds in the book of Genesis.

RSVP to Lauren at 516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org

Recent Events

Celebrations in the Sukkah: After our fasting and atonement on Yom Kippur, we came together to celebrate in the Sukkah during some fun and meaningful Sukkot programs. On Sunday, October 5, we were excited to bring back our Blessing of the Pets event in the Sukkah. Congregants brought their furry family members and enjoyed a bagel breakfast (and kosher treats for the pets!). The pets were blessed by Rabbi Dermer for a great year to come. Later that afternoon, our Men's Club hosted a Pizza, Beer and Football event in the Sukkah. The afternoon of great food, tailgating and enjoying the Giants and Jets games were enjoyed by all.

Harry Rapaport: A Story of Holocaust Tragedy and Survival: On Tuesday, October 21, Temple member Harry Rapaport shared his family's Holocaust story at the Hamlet Main Clubhouse. Harry was born in a Displaced Persons Camp in 1946 to two Holocaust survivors. Temple Beth Torah members and friends were welcome and encouraged to join this deeply moving and important presentation. We have the privilege of reading from Sifrei Torah rescued from the Holocaust by Harry and his extended family on Shabbat and holidays, and we are grateful to Harry for the work he does in promoting Holocaust education at schools and community centers throughout the year.

Rabbi Dermer Participated in an Interfaith Ethics Panel: On Sunday, October 26, Rabbi Dermer joined an interfaith ethics panel, reflecting alongside other faith leaders on "Questions of Life and Death" at the Westbury Public Library. This program, sponsored by the Interfaith Institute of Long Island, was free and open to the public. All were invited to learn Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives on the ethical questions presented, and to share in an important interfaith dialogue alongside Rabbi Dermer, Reverend Eddie Alleyne, and Islamic Center President Isma Chaudhry.

Follow Temple Beth Torah on Facebook to see additional pictures.



Recent Events



Recent Events



Upcoming Events: November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Daylight Saving Time Ends 2 Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	3 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Election Day 4 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	5 Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
9 Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	10 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Veterans Day 11 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	12 Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
16 Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	17 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	18 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	19 Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
23 30 Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	24 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	25 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	26 Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events: November 2025

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 5:35 p.m.
6 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	7 Candle Lighting, 4:26 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	8 Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Veterans Day & Kristallnacht Shabbat Observance Minha Services, 4:25 p.m.
13 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	14 Candle Lighting, 4:20 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	15 Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 4:20 p.m.
20 Sisterhood Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Kayley Table Talk, 7:00 p.m. Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rosh Chodesh Kislev 21 Candle Lighting, 4:15 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	22 Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat Minha Services, 4:15 p.m.
Thanksgiving 27 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	28 Candle Lighting, 4:11 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	29 Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 4:10 p.m.

Our leadership and clergy work tirelessly to craft experiences which will be inspirational, meaningful and safe for all involved.

Temple Beth Torah is active and thriving. If you haven't come by lately, please do!

There's always something going on here at Temple Beth Torah!

We value our members and your opinions.

If you have ideas for future programs or events, or if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office, our Executive Board and/or our clergy.

Upcoming Events

Temple Beth Torah

TABLE TALK

TABLE TALK IS BACK!
THURSDAY'S @ 7PM - TBT LIBRARY

November 20 - December 11 - February 26 -
March 26 - April 23 - May 14 - June 25

**FAMILY, FRIENDS, FRUSTRATIONS,
WORRIES, STRESS, JOYS!**
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

SHARE SOME OF LIFE'S ONGOING CHALLENGES IN A
SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND SUPPORTIVE SPACE.

CAROLYN NEWMAN, A CERTIFIED SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGIST, WILL FACILITATE.

Contact Lauren @ TBT for more information:
516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

TBTOT SHABBAT

UPCOMING DATES

Saturday, 10/11

Saturday, 11/22

Saturday, 12/13

- ✓ Ages 6 months to 6 years
- ✓ Parent of Caregiver Must be Present
- ✓ Older Siblings Welcome

For more information, please contact:
admin@templebethtorahli.org

Temple Beth Torah
243 Cantiague Rd., Westbury

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Join us for a Mitzvah Project:

**Help Make
Hanukkah Care Packages
for our Troops**

SUNDAY, NOV 23RD AFTER MINYAN
We will be working with working with Chaplains
locally and abroad to support troops and enhance
Jewish soldiers' celebration of Hanukkah!

Visit, share and purchase items from their
Amazon wishlist. Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR
Code to access the page. The packages will be
sent directly to TBT for us to pack. Then come
help us put the gifts together for mailing!



RSVP to Lauren at 516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org



Temple Beth Torah Presents

Chanukah in Song and Celebration



Featuring a Concert of
The Jewish American Songbook

with Cantors Scott and Benjamin Sokol, Ken Maltz
and other world class musicians!

**Sunday December 14,
3:00 pm**

Join us for music, candle lighting,
latkes, sufganiyot and holiday fun!



TICKETS:

\$36

per person



RSVP by 12/8 by scanning the QR
Code or sending a check to TBT or
contact Lauren: 516-334-7979 or
admin@templebethtorahli.org



A Guide to Temple Beth Torah

CONTACT US

TEMPLE OFFICE: (516) 334-7979

WWW.TEMPLEBETHTORAHLI.ORG

Lauren Ackerman, Executive Director
admin@templebethtorahli.org

Rabbi Jack Dermer
rabbi@templebethtorahli.org

Cantor Scott Sokol
cantorsokole@templebethtorahli.org

President
Ken Maltz
president@templebethtorahli.org

Executive Board
fundraising@templebethtorahli.org
membership@templebethtorahli.org
buildings@templebethtorahli.org
security@templebethtorahli.org
ritual@templebethtorahli.org
treasurer@templebethtorahli.org
secretary@templebethtorahli.org
pastpresident@templebethtorahli.org
prescouncil@templebethtorahli.org
finsec@templebethtorahli.org
sisterhood@templebethtorahli.org
mensclub@templebethtorahli.org

PURCHASE TORAH CARDS

Contact Linda Pochtar, Betty Weiss or the
Temple office for additional information



TEMPLE FRIENDS INITIATIVE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

TEMPLE BETH TORAH IS MORE THAN JUST A TEMPLE; WE ARE A RELIGIOUS FAMILY WHO CARES ABOUT EACH OTHER. WE HAVE A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, IN ADDITION TO OUR CLERGY, WHO TAKE TIME TO ASSIST TEMPLE MEMBERS IN NEED. WHETHER IT'S A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL, VISITS FROM FULLY VACCINATED VOLUNTEERS, PRESCRIPTION PICK UP, KOSHER SNACKS AND HOMEMADE TREATS DELIVERED, POST-SHIVA AND BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – AT TEMPLE BETH TORAH, WE ARE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. ALL INFORMATION SHARED IS CONFIDENTIAL. CONTACT MICHELE LIPPMAN OR RABBI DERMER.



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

DAILY SERVICES

EVENING MINYANS (SUN - THURS), 8:30 P.M.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES, 9:00 A.M.

SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENING, 6:30 P.M.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9:30 A.M.

SATURDAY MINHAH/HAVDALAH, SUNDOWN

(SAME TIME AS CANDLE LIGHTING)



TEMPLE BETH TORAH GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Honor or Memorialize your loved ones while giving back to TBT



BRICKS

4x8 brick including 3 lines & mini souvenir replica - \$175
8x8 brick including 6 lines & mini souvenir replica - \$380

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Plaque - \$400
Reserve a plaque location - \$100

PRAYER BOOKS

Etz Hayim Torah & Commentary - \$144
Siddur Lev Shalem for Shabbat & Festivals OR
Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekday Siddur Sim
Shalom for Weekdays - \$118

TREE OF LIFE

Rock - \$700 Acorn - \$500 Leaf - \$250

KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Friday Night Oneg - \$75 Shabbat Kiddush - \$215

KIDDUSH OR HOLIDAY FLOWER SPONSOR

\$90

TBT PROGRAMMING FUND

Any \$ Amount

RABBI'S CHARITY FUND

Any \$ Amount



For more information, contact Lauren @ 516-334-7979 or
admin@templebethtorahli.org

Advertisements and Classifieds



Mike Silvestri
(516) 931-3598
Licensed/Insured

M & S PLUMBING & HEATING

Kohler / Moen / Delta

Baseboard Heat	Hot Water Heaters
Boilers	Kitchens & Baths Renovated
Drains Electrically Cleaned	Radiant Heat Repairs
Faucets & Sinks	Repairs & Service
Gas Conversions	Violations Removed
Separate Heat Zones	Legalize Bathroom

Discount for members of
Temple Beth Torah



GIG-A-BYTE
631-223-8231

Aron Newman
8 Locust Ave
E Farmingdale, NY 11735

Serving all your technology needs

Computer and Network Services



Computer Upgrade • Repair
Virus Removal • PC Cleanup
Optimization • Installation
At Home Service • & More

Digital and Internet Services

Digital Strategy • Hosting
Web Development • SEO
Social Media • eCommerce
Email Marketing • Analytics



www.gigabyteny.com



*The Expert Security Service
You Expect.*

Leave the Job to the Professionals

Our Services

Protective Services

*Armed and Unarmed
Houses of Worship
School Security
Public Library
Executive Protection
Estate Security*

Investigative Services

*Private Investigation Services
- Criminal & Civil
Pre-Employment Background Checks
Business Vetting
Surveillance Photos - Video
Company ID Cards*

Upfront Security Associates, LLC

Ph. 347-988-0199

Info@upfrontsecurityassociates.com

www.upfrontsecurityassociates.com

535 Broadhollow Road Ste. B40 Melville, NY 11747

Advertisements and Classifieds

Proudly Assisting the Families of Temple Beth Torah



**MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS NOW,
SO YOUR FAMILY WON'T HAVE TO LATER.**



JUST STEPS AWAY FROM

- NEW MONTEFIORE
- BETH MOSES
- WELLWOOD
- MT. ARARAT
- PINELAWN MEMORIAL PARK

BECAUSE IN THE END, EVERYTHING MATTERS...



KEVIN GRAY & ANDREW NOVAK
1236 WELLWOOD AVENUE · WEST BABYLON, NY 11704
631-454-9600 | STAROFDAVIDCHAPELS.COM



Gutterman's

FUNERAL DIRECTORS SINCE 1892 INC

One of The Largest Family Owned & Operated Jewish Funeral Homes Serving Long Island, New York & Florida

Directors:

*** STEWART GUTTERMAN • PHILIP GUTTERMAN
STEVEN KANOWITZ • *HOWARD C. KOTKIN
* ROBERT SHERMAN • * ELLIOTT H. WOLFE**

Chapels In:

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L.I.: 175 N. Long Beach Rd. • **516-764-9400**
WOODBURY, L.I.: 8000 Jericho Turnpike • **516-921-5757**
BROOKLYN: 1283 Coney Island Avenue • **718-284-1500**

In Florida:

GUTTERMAN-WARHEIT MEMORIAL CHAPEL
1-800-992-9262
SERVING MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH & MARTIN COUNTIES

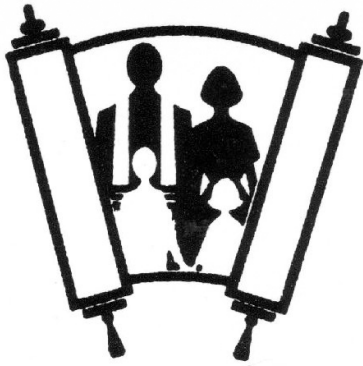
Arrangements for Out-of-State Burials

** Of Blessed Memory*

MONUMENTS BY GUTTERMAN'S

www.guttermansinc.com

1021257



Temple Beth Torah

243 Cantiague Rock Road
Jericho Gardens, Westbury, NY 11590

www.templebethtorahli.org
(516) 334-7979

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hicksville, N.Y.
Permit No. 427

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

