



North Fork Reform Synagogue

The Only Reform Congregation
on the North Fork
Founded 1992



Congregation Tifereth Israel, Greenport



Temple Israel of Riverhead

Rich History of Long Island's Synagogues Revealed In Book and Author Program Hosted By Three North Fork Congregations

The public is invited at no charge

Sunday April 22, 2018 at 2:00PM

After WWII, thousands of Jewish soldiers returned from the war, looking for a life in the suburbs. In 1946, to accommodate the new arrivals on Long Island, Rabbi Elias Solomon called a meeting of Conservative rabbis in Manhattan to map out a plan. The group came up with a scheme to provide a synagogue at every railroad stop along the south shore of Long Island, from Valley Stream to Patchogue. Later, once Reform Judaism took hold in the later decades of the 20th century, Central Synagogue of Nassau County and Beth El in Great Neck each grew more than 1,000 families strong. More recently, the growth of the Chabad movement has spurred an increase of Orthodox Judaism. Synagogues to accommodate the three branches of Judaism – Orthodox, Conservative and Reform – continue to flourish.

The public is invited to learn about these and other compelling stories of Jewish history in a book and author program with Ira Poliakoff, the writer and researcher of *Synagogues of Long Island*, just published by The History Press. The program is sponsored by three North Fork synagogues – Congregation Tifereth Israel in Greenport, the North Fork Reform Synagogue in Cutchogue, and Temple Israel of Riverhead – and will be held in the community room of the Greenport synagogue on Sunday, April 22, at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend at no charge. Light refreshments will be offered.

The author has studied the histories of nearly 300 synagogues, some that once thrived and others that continue to prosper in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. His research is documented by dozens of photographs and also copies of rare documents of development and incorporation. In his book and his talks, he reveals the oldest synagogues in both counties, and includes Congregation Tifereth Israel among the historic synagogues now listed on the National and State Registries of Historic Places. This history-unveiling catalogue illuminates the synagogues and congregations that have shaped Long Island's Jewish past and present.

Ira Poliakoff grew up in Manhattan and in Rockville Center on Long Island. He served as a youth director at the Oceanside Jewish Center and the Queensboro Hill Jewish Center. A retired small business owner, he now lives with his wife in Wynnewood, PA, where they are active members of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.

Congregation Tifereth Israel is located at 519 Fourth Street in Greenport, immediately south of the intersection of Fourth and Front Streets. For more information about the book and author program, call the synagogue at 631-477-0232.