

Temple Israel of Highlands County
Sebring, Florida 863-382-7744



May 2021 / 5781

Temple Israel's Web Page www.templeisraelofhcfcl.org

Temple Israel is a Reform Temple that promotes the enduring and fundamental principles of Judaism.

Through prayer, study and friendship we strive to enrich our lives and ensure Jewish continuity in Highlands County.



Congregational Board

Officers:

President:

Julia Ruden

Vice President:

Howard Salles

Treasurer:

Cathy Blumenthal

Trustees:

Phyllis Behrens

Karen del Valle

Lois Lewis

Narola Rosenberg

Sara Rosenbaum

Alan Wildstein

Officiating Cantor:

Cantor Riselle Bain

Rabbi Emerita:

Lorraine Rudenberg

Newsletter Staff:

Michelle Herchick

Bulletin Board:

Howard Salles

At our next service on Friday, May 14th, we will celebrate *Shavuot*, the holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah by God on Mount Sinai some 3,300 years ago. The actual date for Shavuot 2021 is from the evening of Sunday, May 16 until the evening of Tuesday, May 18. Many times, due to our Temple Israel schedule, our commemorations are a little after the fact. This time we will be a little early! And although things are looking brighter for us to come back and be together in person at our beautiful little shul, Shavuot will still be celebrated on Facebook Live!

Shavuot (called the holiday of weeks, since it occurs seven weeks after Passover), may be the least known of our Jewish Holidays. Everyone knows about *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, followed by *Sukkot*. And then there are *Hanukkah* and *Purim*, both rabbinically ordained Holidays. *Pesach* is certainly known by all. But *Shavuot* – not so well known. Why is that? It could be because it is only a two-day celebration (one day in Israel), and there is very little in the way of noting the holiday. Unlike *Pesach*, where we have *matzah* and the *Seder*, or *Sukkot*, where we can sit in a temporary abode (a Sukkah), and dance around on *Simchat Torah*, there is no seemingly outward symbol of *Shavuot*. The only thing that distinguishes *Shavuot* is the eating of blintzes. But the most important focus of the holiday is the Torah, and that this holiday commemorates the event that made us a nation. We stood together on Mount Sinai seven weeks after being freed from the debilitating Egyptian slavery and six weeks after the great miracle of the splitting of the sea.

Cantor Riselle Bain's Message *Continued*

In Exodus 19:2, it is written: "Having journeyed from Rephidim, they entered the wilderness of Sinai and encamped in the wilderness. Israel encamped there in front of the mountain."

Looking at the composition of this verse, we can note that the verb "encamp there, (in Hebrew) did Israel," referring to the foot of Mount Sinai, is in the singular, unlike the previous verbs describing the Children of Israel, which had all be in the plural. The Medieval French Biblical commentator Rashi, posits that the huge multitude of people encamped at the foot of the mountain, awaiting the next guiding move, was like a single person then, with a singular desire.

We all have our own individual personalities, perspectives, and views; each one of us has our own life missions and story to tell, but at that moment, when our ancestors sat receiving the Torah, they were united like one person, with one heart. I feel that we have been together with one heart as we have come together this past year on Facebook Live for our Jewish ritual and spiritual sustenance.

As we have continued to live through the effects of this pandemic, and our religious life in our spiritual home has been so disrupted, let us all hope and pray that we will continue to be safely delivered from this plague of Biblical proportions very soon. And, please God, let us return to our *shul* to celebrate Shabbat and our holidays as we have before.

Message From the President

Julia Ruden

MAY 2021 /5781

Dear Friends and Family;

We are staying safe and locked down for awhile longer and I hope that the vaccine does the trick for this plague! We might be able to open for High Holy Days starting Sept. 5th, 2021 so please get your vaccines in order to attend and pray that no additional variant of Covid takes over before then.

We all miss each other and look forward to when we can open our shul's doors and pray together in person again.

You can visit Cantor Riselle's Clergy page and see any of our previous online services whenever you need to be uplifted. I love that they are recorded and that we can do that.

I look forward to interacting with you at Cantor Riselle's live services on Cantor Riselle Bain's Clergy page. The next service on Facebook with Cantor Riselle is next Friday May 14th, at 6:30 PM.

A Proxy is attached to this email and if you can join us in the decision making and care giving of our shul please let me know before May 15th when we will cast a Unanimous Vote for everyone on the proxy.

Thank you Rolph and Narola Rosenberg for handing out the extra Passover food.

Annual Dues are due June 1st, please mail your check to the Temple \$325 Single and \$525 per Family. Thank you for your continued support. Please contact me or Cathy Blumenthal if you can not pay Membership to make special arrangements.

Continued Prayers Mishabera for all those who are recovering and healing.

Please continue TO BE SAFE AND BE Vigilant and wear your masks.

May we continue to go from strength to strength!

Be thankful for everything, everyone, everyday – I am!!

Love Julie

April 2021 DONATION CARDS

(All donations go to our Temple.)

To send a birthday, anniversary, get well, sympathy or mazel tov card contact Mary Ann Romer.

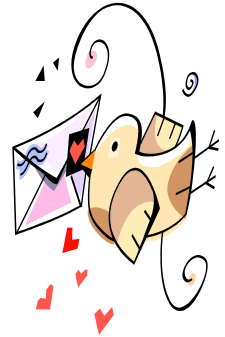
Write "Temple card" in the email subject box.

Send your minimum \$5.00 donation to temple.

April Anniversaries

By: Congregation, Julie Ruden, Howard Salles, Cathy Blumenthal, Cantor Riselle Bain

To: Dixon Taylor & Denny Swing



Happy Anniversary

Herb & Kathleen Weiss 5/12

Robert & Roberta Goodman 5/26

May Yahrzeits

****** *Memorial Plaque in our Shul*

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Louis Davis | Sol Napp** |
| Minna Rose Davis** | Tom Princiotti |
| Martin Elias | Molly B. Robbins** |
| Fanny Erskine | Maurice Rosen** |
| Seymour Fields-Elias | Marilyn Ross** |
| Louis A. Frank** | Rhoda Salles ** |
| Sylvia Glick** | Solomon Salles |
| Bonnie Ann Goergen | Doris Schreibman** |
| Blanka Gold | Joe Sewelson** |
| Jacob Gold | Herbert Sharfman** |
| Pauline Jaret | Rose Liemer Snoll** |
| Kenneth Johnson | Howard Starr |
| Walter Kessler** | Sol Stoller |
| Julia Karp Kirsch** | Sherwood Tietel |
| Edward Leveene | Evelyn Toister** |
| Raymond Levin | Jack Vinik** |
| Daniel Levy** | Nancy Vinik |
| Arthur Loewy | Charles Weiss |
| Holocaust Victims— Prostejov, Czech.** | Ruth Kaye |

YAHRZEIT DONATIONS

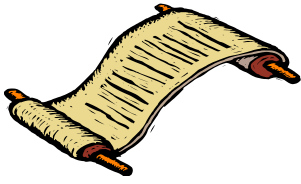
Given by

Marjorie Wohl
Mary Ann Romer
Herb Moscowitz
Herb & Kathleen Weiss

In Memory Of

Molly B. Robbins
Louis Davis, Minna Rose Davis
Harry Moscowitz
Kenneth Johnson





Election Announcements May 2021

Elections are coming up for 2021 – 2023.

We are looking for candidates for Trustee. If you are interested in participating in the administration of your synagogue, contact any member of the Board.

Terms begin June 1st thru May 31st.

The By-laws state that anyone running for the Board of Trustees must have been a member of the Temple for one year.

All of the Officers must run for reelection if they desire to stay in that position.



Celebrate any occasion while benefitting Israel and our temple. For only \$18.00, plant a tree in *Eretz Yisrael*. Simply e-mail the donor and recipient information to Julie Ruden.
Mail your check to the temple, payable to Temple Israel.

Don Elwell

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS
401 U.S. Hwy 27 S. Sebring, FL 33870
Email: don.elwell@ALANJAY.COM
Phone (863) 314-5334



Board of County Commissioners
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870
Email: delwell@hcbcc.net Phone: (863) 402-6835
Cell: (863) 381 - 5622

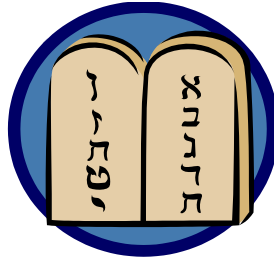


Mrs. Blumie's Porcelain Doll Studio

207 N. Ridgewood Dr.
Sebring, FL 33870

863-402-9190

Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

Your health and safety is of the utmost concern to us. With the situation engendered by the current public health emergency around the country and the world, we want to protect everyone.

Here is the link to access the live services or the saved videos of our past services since we closed our doors due to the pandemic.

<https://www.facebook.com/662042600572611/live/>

Friday, May 14 -- Shavuot

Friday, May 28 -- Torah Portion Beha'alotcha

Friday, June 11 – Torah Portion Korah

Friday, July 9 – Torah Portion Matot Masei

Friday, August 6 – Torah Portion Re'eh

