

Temple Israel of Highlands County  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
Sebring, Florida 33870  
863-382-7744 FEBRUARY 2022 / 5781



Temple Israel's Web Page [www.templeisraelofhcf.org](http://www.templeisraelofhcf.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

#### **Secretary:**

Mary Ann Romer

#### **Treasurer:**

Cathy Blumenthal

### **Trustees:**

Phyllis Behrens

Karen del Valle

Lois Lewis Gill

Narola Rosenberg

Sara Rosenbaum

Alan Wildstein

### **Officiating Cantor:** **Cantor Riselle Bain**

Cell: 813-600-8013

\*American Conference of Cantors  
Clergy Committed to Judaism and  
Jewish Music

### **Rabbi Emerita:** **Lorraine Rudenberg**

### **Newsletter Staff:**

Michelle Herchick

### **Bulletin Board:**

Howard Salles

As we enter the month of February, we enter a month that is focused on love and happiness. So how do we define the concept of love in Judaism?

The Jewish expression of love is a triangle: love of self, love of another and love of God. Leviticus 19:18 teaches us, "Love your neighbor as yourself." To love another, one has to first feel and express love for oneself. We all know that this is not always easy to achieve, but it is vital. Finally, a loving relationship is seen as Jewish when the partners acknowledge and value their relationship as holy. Two people in love see the divine. Think of Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables* singing, "To love another person is to see the face of God."

Ultimately, our understanding of God is very much connected to how we love ourselves and others. We believe in the Jewish value of b'tzelem elohim, that we are created in the image of God. In so doing, we strive to see that holy essence in ourselves and in others. With a sense of holiness as that measure for how we treat, care for and love each other, we have the capacity to build truly loving relationships.

## Cantor Riselle Bain's Message *Continued*

In Torah – the V'ahavta – commands us: Love God “with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might.” Torah also commands us “to love the stranger” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” We are asked to receive God's love in the form of Torah, community, history and the wonders of nature. Every mitzvah we keep, every prayer we say, is done and said with the intention of adding more love to this world, opening our hearts, connecting us to the divine essence that is hidden in all things. Psalm 34 asks, “Who is the one with a passion for life, loving every day and seeing the good?” Our Jewish wisdom ignites a passion for life, reminds us to pay attention to the quality of our loving every day and points us toward the essential goodness of being. Learning to love and be loved is the most rigorous spiritual path there is.

Love is the gravity that pulls the universe together.

Our little Temple Israel universe is nourished by much love. We can be so thankful for each and every congregant who adds their divine light and love to the whole community. True, these have been trying times, but we have continued to bring our spiritual energies together in love. Soon may we bring our physical and spiritual energies together inside our sanctuary.

Love is the gravity that pulls the universe together.

B'ahavah v'shalom,

*Cantor Riselle Bain*



FEBRUARY 2022 / 5781

Julia Ruden

# Message From the President

Dear Friends and Family,

Enough of this pandemic already - Oy Veyismier!!! Just barely leaving our homes for the past 2 years is difficult!

Just going to the store when necessary and then back home is the wisest thing to do, and I implore you to keep vigilant about that.

The Plague numbers are still worse, and we are still NOT opening the Temple for February and continue to pray for the numbers to continue decreasing in hopes we have a Purim celebration at the Shul March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Very thankful for technology that we can have services online!

As ALWAYS Cantor Riselle you are Awesome and Thank YOU for ALL YOU Doooo!

We are going to have Pesach one way or another in April.

We will order food and hope we will be able to be together but if not, together we will have the traditional foods and join online if we have to.

Again, prayers that we will be together soon – I miss you all!

Attached is the reservation form for Passover 2022 – please complete and we will plan with prayers!

Also, the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration that Cantor participated in can be seen at the following.

On behalf of The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, we would like to thank you for attending yesterday's International Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration. We always strive and pledge to bring you the utmost in poignant, meaningful, memorable, and quality programming. For those of you who were not able to "attend", the entire event was recorded. [CLICK HERE](#) to take in the beauty of the commemoration. I would also like to encourage you to share the link with your friends and family.

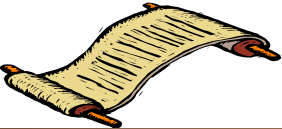
May we continue to go from strength to strength!

Prayers for the sick and those in need – still too many!

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

Thankxoxox you ALL for ALL you Dooooooo!!

*Love, Julie*



# Announcements February 2022 / 5781



**If you would like to sponsor an Oneg contact Karen delValle 863-260-0325**

## LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch Group **Monday, 28 February** at 12:30; Havana Days Restaurant & Bakery, Sebring



Contact Renee Tepper  
**863-414-8811** or  
**reneetepper@gmail.com**

*Happy Anniversary*

Ronald & Renee Tepper 2/17

## YAHARZEIT DONATIONS



### Given By:

Cathy Blumenthal

Herb Moscowitz

Julie Ruden

Jill Liebeck

Mary Ann Romer

Jay & Susie Luck

Beverly Wills

Gloria Soltes

### In Memory Of:

Mary Blumenthal

Frieda Moscowitz

Simon Ruden & Ida Schwartz

Gertrude Pearl

Bella Romer

Judy Mass, David Sheldon

Ida Biener, Nate Sadowsky

Frank Roth





# FEBRUARY 2022 DONATION CARDS

*(All donations go to our Temple.)*

To send a birthday, anniversary, get well, sympathy or mazel tov card, contact Mary Ann Romer at [matromer@aol.com](mailto:matromer@aol.com).

Write "Temple card" in the email subject box.

Send your minimum \$5.00 donation to temple.

## Anniversaries

**By:** *Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees, Cantor Riselle Bain*

**To:** Jay & Rebecca Clarke, George & Pearl Zelma

**By:** *Congregation*

**To:** Judy Albin & Clint Wallbank

## Get Well:

**By:** *Congregation:*

**To:** Michael Cohen.



***Mrs. Blumie's  
Porcelain Doll Studio***

207 N. Ridgewood Dr.  
Sebring, FL 33870

**863-402-9190**

BOARD CERTIFIED



LAKE PLACID EYE CLINIC  
GARY J. PEARCE, M.D.  
EYE PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

211 US 27 South  
Lake Placid, FL 33852  
(863) 465-1880

# 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/>

The following is our schedule of services:

- Friday February 4 – Parashat Yitro – 6:30 PM
- Friday February 25 – Purim – 6:30 PM
- Friday March 11 – Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei – 6:30 PM



Happy  
Valentine's Day!



To plant a tree, email your information of who you're honoring/remembering to [jruden@embarqmail.com](mailto:jruden@embarqmail.com). Mail check (\$18.00/tree) to the temple. Write "Tree" in the memo line on check.

**CELEBRATE PESACH WITH YOUR TEMPLE FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON  
SATURDAY APRIL 15TH AT 6:00 PM  
IN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S SOCIAL HALL  
A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER MEAL WILL BE SERVED**

**\*\*RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATION AND CHECK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:  
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

**1305 TEMPLE ISRAEL DRIVE, SEBRING, FL 33870 TELEPHONE (863) 382-7744**



**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ADULT MEMBERS @ \$36.00 EACH** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ADULT NON-MEMBERS @\$46.00 EACH** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **YOUNG ADULTS (UNDER 18) \$12.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHILDREN 12 & UNDER are Free**

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE LIST NAMES AND CHOICE OF CHICKEN OR BRISKET**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_