

Temple Israel of Highlands County
1305 Temple Israel Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-382-7744 NOVEMBER 2022 / 5783



Temple Israel's Web Page 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 insure Jewish continuity in Highlands County.



Congregational **Board**

Officers:

President:

Julia Ruden

Secretary:

Mary Ann Romer

Treasurer:

Cathy Blumenthal

Trustees:

Phyllis Behrens

Karen delValle

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

Dear Congregants,

The Jewish Way of Thanksgiving

Our Matriarch Leah named her fourth son Judah. The name Judah, or Yehuda, means, “I am grateful.” It was in naming her son for the gratitude she felt that emerged the tribe of Judah, from which the Jewish people would become known as “Yehudim”—and we get the word “Judaism.”

Ensnared in the building blocks of language, the Jewish people would become a people rooted in gratitude, giving thanks and pursuing gratitude all the time. Truly, this was an attitude of gratitude right from the start.

In the hustle and bustle of our lives today, finding moments to discover and offer gratitude can be difficult. We may find ourselves in a life moment that is soul-crushing or heart-wrenching, or we feel stuck or unsure of ourselves. Even in difficult life moments, how might it change our perspective to internalize, “I’m alive and for this I give thanks.”

What if our gratitude extended even to inanimate objects? There is a story that whenever Rabbi Menachem Mendel, the Chasidic Kotzker Rebbe, who lived from 1787-1859, replaced a pair of worn-out shoes, he would neatly wrap up the old ones in newspaper before placing them in the trash, and he would declare, “How can I simply toss away such a fine pair of shoes that have served me so well these past years?” We can imagine the delicate way he held his beloved shoes and gently offered them thanks.

The Hebrew term for “gratitude” is “hakarot hatov,” which means, literally, “recognizing the good.” Practicing gratitude means recognizing the good that is already yours, paying attention to what you do have instead of focusing on what you don’t. It would be quite fitting in this month where we celebrate the secular holiday of Thanksgiving, to set aside special moments to focus our hearts on the good we have in our lives.

At Temple Israel, we have so many things for which to be thankful:

1. Our wonderful building – Although it did sustain some damage which dearly needs attention, it is still standing after Hurricane Ian, so that we can be together.
2. Our President, our Board, and our Volunteers, who give of themselves without focusing on power for themselves, but on the doing good for our congregants and for our synagogue in a loving way – we call it *derech erez*.
3. Each member of our Temple Israel – we are small in numbers and so each and every person is not only a part of **BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE WHOLE!**

So, as we gather around a Thanksgiving table this year, let us give thanks for each other, for Temple Israel, and also offer a special thank you to Leah, who transformed her life and ultimately the Jewish people by recognizing goodness and giving thanks for the blessing of life.

B'shalom,

Cantor Riselle Bain



Message From the President

NOVEMBER 2022/5783

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family;

We are in need of donations as soon as possible.

The repairs caused from hurricane IAN will be closer to \$10,000 and we have collected \$5,500.ish from a few congregants AND THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

Please take the time to send that check, Chai = \$18.00 = Life, ANYTHING to help us complete the repairs of our beautiful and loved sanctuary.

We have so much to be thankful for and I count our blessings everyday!

Our Jewish Community in Highlands County needs an updated account of the History of our Temple Israel. OUR small mighty Temple that “does” and remains open year after year soon will be 100 years old in 2025. We carry on our traditions always with respect and love for the ones before us who worked diligently to keep our Jewish Community ALIVE! THANKXOXOX YOU and AMEN.

I am asking that each one of you write your recollection / a history of your experiences and memories of your Temple Israel of Highlands County, FL and say those names of the past that gathered with us that we miss and also say the names of those we still enjoy today... take the time to write a few lines and email them to Mary Ann Romer, our Temple Secretary, Donna Wasson and cc me and Cantor Riselle Bain please.

Wishing everyone a Safe, Peaceful, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Prayers for all those who are sick, Speedy recovery! We miss you and hope to see you soon.

Thankxoxox you ALL for ALL you Dooooooo!!

May we continue to go from strength to strength!
Be thankful for everything, everyone, everyday – I am!!

LOVE Julie

Donna Wasson

On November 9-10, every year we remember Kristallnacht, “The Night of Broken Glass,” which happened in 1938. We take the time to remember the terror, the shock, the destruction, the sounds of glass shattering, and the heartbreak. When I was a teacher in Berlin, I walked with a candle in my hand in a commemorative silent walk through the streets. It was silent. It was safe. The victims of that time were never safe again. Kristallnacht is considered to be the beginning of the Holocaust.

Holocaust Education is mandated in Florida schools. Our youth are taught to remember, to reflect, to make the world a better place by taking action against hatred, intolerance, and prejudice.

The Holocaust Memorial Butterfly Garden at Temple Israel of Highlands County began as a reaction to the acts of antisemitism that have occurred right here in the United States in the past decade, as well as to commemorate the blessed memory of the victims of the Holocaust. It is a garden for reflection, peaceful thoughts, and beauty. The butterflies frolic, feed and continue to reproduce among the colorful blossoms that provide them with life-sustaining nectar.

The planting and the continued gardening of the Temple Israel’s Holocaust Memorial Butterfly Garden is always done with prayers for the victims and survivors of acts of violence. We choose to remember.

In our beautiful garden, you will see the golds of Jerusalem, the blues and whites of the flag of Israel, the whites of the robes of the Kabbalists of Safed, and also the reds of the blood shed of innocent people. (The red Penta flowers along the front border are one of the best nectar plants for butterflies.)

May we continue to be inspired to live with loving kindness and to make a difference in today’s world, as we remember and honor the blessed souls who were treated so inhumanely in the past.

Holocaust Museum using technology to preserve survivor testimonies

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local-news/holocaust-museum-using-technology-to-preserve-survivor-testimonies>



Announcements

NOVEMBER 2022/5783



NOVEMBER Onegs are sponsored by:

Nov. 4th The Board

Nov. 18th The Board

Challah, wine, decaf coffee & fruit are the basics for our onegs. If you would like to sponsor an Oneg contact Karen del Valle 863-260-0325

LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch Group **Monday**, November 28, Thai House, 3750 US Highway 27, Sebring @ 12:30



Contact Renee Tepper 863-414-8811 or reneetepper@gmail.com and let her know you'll be there.

Happy Anniversary
Michael & Donna Wasson

תודה רבה - Thank You Alan Wildstein for your continued and generous support for Alan Jay Automotive for our transportation to and from Services! And for ALL YOU Dooo!
Please Contact Cantor Riselle Bain 813-600-8013 if you need assistance to get to services.



WE REMEMBER



November Yahrzeits ** Memorial Plaque in our Schul

Murray Brenner **	Dr. Harold Kirshner **
Jeno Greenstein **	Frank Roth
Samuel Levy	Bernice Snoll
Elsie Gross **	Eva Stoller
Dora Hurwitz	Ruth Witle
Meyer Hurwitz	Martin Wohl **
Sadie Kahn **	Maurice Blumenthal**



Yahrzeit Donations



GIVEN BY:

CATHERINE BLUMENTHAL
MARJORIE WOHL
DONALD AND JOE SNOLL

IN MEMORY OF:

MAURICE BLUMENTHAL
MARTIN WOHL
BERNICE SNOLL



2 trees were planted in Israel in loving memory of Barbara Zoberg from Renee and Ron Tepper. Her life is a Blessed Memory for Good!

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

NOVEMBER 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.

Write "Temple card" in the email subject box.

Send your minimum \$5.00 donation to temple.

Anniversary Cards Sent

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

To: Rolph & Narola Rosenberg

By: Congregation

To: Dr. Neil & Dawn Schectman

Donations: Thank You Cards Sent

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

To: Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for Hurricane Ian recovery,
Donald Snoll for Hurricane Ian recovery,
Narola & Rolph Rosenberg for Hurricane Ian recovery,
Cathy Blumenthal for Hurricane Ian recovery,
Walter & Lisa Crowder for Hurricane Ian Recovery & High Holy Day Services

Thank you Cards Sent

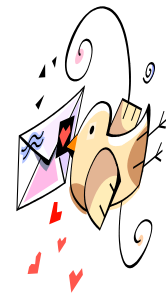
By: Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees, Cantor Riselle Bain

To: Mia & Jay McDermott for Videography for Yom Kippur services 5783,
Nancy Creighton donation of Keurig Coffeemaker for Temple,
Wauchula Bank for storing the Torahs during Hurricane Ian

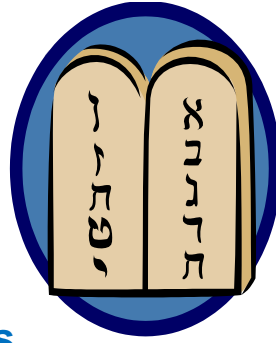
Condolence Cards Sent

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

To: Family of Yvette Pressman



Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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

Friday 11/4 – Torah Lech L'cha – observe Kristallnacht, actual date 11/9

Friday 11/18 – Torah Chayei Sarah

Friday 12/2 – Torah Vayetzei

Friday 12/23 – Chanukah

Friday 1/6 – Torah Vayechi

Friday 1/20 – Torah Vaera – Observe Holocaust Remembrance actual date 1/27

Friday 2/3 – Tu B'Shevat / Beshalach

Friday 2/17 – Torah Mishpatim

Friday 3/3 – Purim

Friday 3/17 – Torah Vayakeil / Pekudei

Wednesday 4/5 – Passover

Friday 4/21 – Torah Tazria / Metzora

Friday 5/5 – Torah Emor

Friday 5/19 – Yom Yerushalayim / Shavuot



**Monarch Waystation Garden
Lovingly Planted by Donna Wasson**

