

Temple Israel of Highlands County
1305 Temple Israel Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-382-7744 **NOVEMBER 2023/ 5784**

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.



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Cell: 813-600-8013

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

Rabbi Emerita:

Lorraine Rudenberg

Newsletter Staff:

Mary Ann Romer

Michelle Herchick

Dear Congregants,

Today, as I walked through the weekly Farmer's Market in Sarasota, a group was giving away balloons, Israeli flags, and flyers showing an entire Israeli family that had been kidnapped. The flyers read "Please help bring them home alive." We are living with the horror of imagining how families have been brutally separated or killed since the pogrom of October 7.

More than two weeks after Hamas abducted their loved ones amid a brutal massacre in southern Israel, the families of Israeli hostages held in Gaza have embarked on an international tour.

In the United States and in Europe, they are speaking with the media and making pained appeals in public meetings with politicians "Bring them home now."

The cause of the hostages has resonated across the political spectrum, drawing emotional support from both Democrats and Republicans in our bitterly divided Congress. Jewish advocacy groups stand united in their forceful demand for their release.

We pray that these impassioned appeals will really make a difference. Sometimes, the goal is simply to help these distraught families feel that they are not alone.

At an empty Shabbat table in front of the Lincoln Memorial on Friday, October 27th, more than 100 empty chairs representing the missing hostages lined up at an empty white table set with blue glasses. Many attending held Israeli flags and others carried the banners of other nations whose citizens were kidnapped. It's part of the effort to make the hostage crisis an international — rather than an Israeli or American cause. Israel has reported that more than half the hostages held by Hamas have foreign passports from 25 different countries.

Israel believes Hamas has held 229 hostages in Gaza since October 7, when it launched the deadliest terrorist attack in the country's history, killing 1,400

people and destroying a number of towns along the border. Israel's military response has killed at least 6,000 Palestinians, according to Hamas' officials in Gaza.

Israel says the hostages were taken to Gaza but their exact whereabouts within the enclave are unknown, making their rescue more complicated. Officials have said many could be held in the hundreds of miles of tunnels under Gaza that Israeli troops call the "Gaza Metro".

The Big Questions:

- Can Israel's military move into Gaza and still protect the hostages?
- Will Israel, the U.S. or other countries be willing to offer concessions to Hamas in exchange for the freedom of the hostages? In the past, Hamas has demanded the release of its members held in Israeli prisons.

In November, we will remember Kristallnacht, a memory that evokes the beginning of the Holocaust as Nazi squads transitioned from oppressive discrimination to outright violence against the Jews of Germany. Kristallnacht represents a point of utter powerlessness for Jews.

As Jews, we are accustomed to looking backwards to our past to interpret our present and our dream of the future. If we imagine this modern atrocity in Israel as merely the latest in a chain of destructions stretching back into the recesses of our Jewish past, we turn ourselves into passive victims of history rather than authors of our future.

Kristallnacht took place in a far different world, one in which Jews lacked a sovereign state with an army emphatically backed by the world's strongest superpower. That lethal antisemitism remains should not blind us to these key differences between past and present.

Am Yisrael Chai. We will survive.

B'shalom,

Cantor Riselle Bain



Message From the President

NOVEMBER 2023/5784

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family;

Thank you Mary Ann Romer and Rebecca Clarke and all the others for waving our Israeli flag on Hwy 27 to show support for Israel. Am Yisrael Chai!

Our Highlands County Community has and continues to reach out to us letting us know they are watching our shul and offer to help protect it if we need help.

If you See Something, Say Something.

The flowers that were left at our front doors are touching our Jewish hearts. The love is overwhelming! Thank you so much Highlands County!

No Hate! No Fear! No Way!

Our Jewish Community in Highlands County will be turning 100 years old in 2025 and we are starting to plan for a year long celebration! We are the only Reform Jewish Temple within 100+ miles and we must continue to survive for generations to come. We love seeing new faces at our services and our community is starting to grow again. Hallelujah!

Homework for our congregation: Please write down your story of when you came to Temple Israel. This is for our 100th year celebration. We need your stories and time is sneaking up on us!

Thank you Sara Rosenbaum, Mary Ann Romer, Donna Wasson, Lois Lewis, Rolph Rosenberg, and Phyllis Behrens for participating at the Pioneer Daze sponsored by the Sebring Historical Society. You Dooo Fine work!!

I still light a third candle on Shabbat for all the IDF and innocent suffering souls of this war! The hope lives for PEACE!

Continued Prayers Mi Shebeirach for all who are recovering and healing!

May we continue to go from strength to strength!

Be thankful for everything, everyone, everyday – I am!! Have a SAFE and Happy Thanksgiving!

Love, Julie

On October 7, 2023, Israel was attacked by Hamas. In solidarity for Israel, on October 19, 2023, Temple Israel congregants participated in a flag wave on State Road 27 in Sebring, FL, displaying both the Israeli and American flags. There were numerous positive honks by passing vehicles.



On October 21, 2023 the Sebring Historical Society sponsored a Pioneer Daze where there were over 70 vendors, community services, local churches and other religious organizations represented. Temple Israel had a table which displayed Judaica, Jewish religious books and authors, and the history of the synagogue, which will have its 100th anniversary in 2025.





Announcements

NOVEMBER 2023/5784



LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch Group **Monday**, November 27 at The Vault of Sebring
200 Circle Park Drive
Sebring, FL 33870



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



NOVEMBER Onegs are sponsored by:

Nov. 3rd Evelyn & David Stahl
Nov. 17th 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

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.



***Mrs. Blumie's
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207 N. Ridgewood Dr.
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863-402-9190

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



WE REMEMBER



November Yahrzeits ** Memorial Plaque in our Schul

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



Yahrzeit Donations



GIVEN BY:

CATHERINE BLUMENTHAL
MARJORIE WOHL
DONALD AND JOE SNOLL
ELSA KAHN

DR. & MRS. BRUCE KIRSHNER

IN MEMORY OF:

MAURICE BLUMENTHAL
MARTIN WOHL
BERNICE SNOLL
SADIE KAHN, DORA HURWITZ,
MEYER HURWITZ

DR. HAROLD KIRSHNER



To plant a tree, email your information of who you're honoring/remembering to jruden18@gmail.com.
Mail your check (\$18.00/tree) to Temple Israel.
Write "Tree" in the memo line on the check.

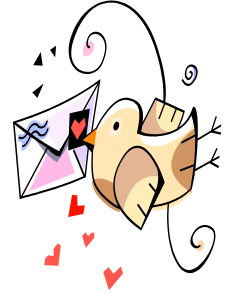
NOVEMBER 2023 DONATION CARDS

(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 Israel



Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory



Craig M. Nelson

Licensed Funeral Director

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

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870

Email: delwell@hcbcc.net Phone: (863) 402-6835

Cell: (863) 381 - 5622



Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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

Friday 11/3 – Torah Vayera

Friday 11/17 – Torah Toldot (We will also remember Kristallnacht, actual date 11/9)

Friday 12/8 – Chanukah

Friday 12/22 – Torah Vayigash

Friday 1/12 – Torah Vaera

Friday 1/26 – Torah Bo/Beshalach

Friday 2/9 – Torah Mishpatim



Sunday 2/18 – Concert – “A Celebration of Broadway Divas”

Friday 2/23 – Torah Tetzaveh

Friday 3/8– Torah Vayakhel (Rosh Chodesh Adar II)

Friday 3/22 -- Purim

Friday 4/5 – Torah Shmini

Tuesday 4/23 – Passover Seder

Friday 5/10 – Torah K'doshim -- Yom Hashoah/Yom Haatzmaut

Friday 5/24 – Torah Behar

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

