

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

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 insure Jewish continuity in Highlands County.



## **Congregational Board**

### **Officers:**

#### **President:**

**Julia Ruden**

#### **Vice President:**

**Sara Rosenbaum**

#### **Secretary:**

**Mary Ann Romer**

#### **Treasurer:**

**Cathy Blumenthal**

### **Trustees:**

**Phyllis Behrens**

**Karen delValle**

**Lois Lewis**

**Pamela Paralikis**

**Rolph Rosenberg**

**Herb Weiss**

**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:**

**Mary Ann Romer**

**Michelle Herchick**

Dear Congregants,

As this year is coming to an end, we are still grieving for the hate and terror and antisemitism that we witnessed towards Israel and for Jews as a people, wherever they might live. In the Book of Isaiah 42:6 we read: "I the LORD have called unto you in righteousness, and have taken hold of your hand, and submitted you as the people's covenant, as a light unto the nations.

And so, we will bring light into this world through our prayers and our deeds. Chanukah begins at nightfall on December 7<sup>th</sup>, which corresponds to the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, and ends with nightfall on December 15<sup>th</sup>, which corresponds to the third day of the Hebrew month of Tevet, lasting for eight days. Each night, we will light our Chanukah candles and continue to pray for peace. As our president, Julie reminds us, "We pray for the world."

As our ancestors before us did so many years ago, we have prevailed. When there is darkness in the world, it is so important for us to bring light into the world – to find light within ourselves and to emanate that light to others.

Each year, I think about the lighting of our chanukiahs (menorahs for Chanukah). Each year, my prayers continue to be filled with hope for a world of peace, health, respect, and harmony. The great teacher Hillel taught us to add light each night. This year, I will again rededicate the light of each of my Chanukah candles for the eight nights of Chanukah to one of our cherished Jewish values.



## Cantor Riselle Bain's Message Cont.

DECEMBER 2023 / 5784

The first candle to **FREEDOM**. The Maccabean revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes and his forced Hellenization of the Jews (167-160 B.C.E.) was a struggle for freedom – for their very existence – for rights of the minority without threat of repression. Let this candle's light inspire us to protect freedom for all. We pray for the freedom of those innocent bystanders so brutally taken into hostage by Hamas on October 7th.

The second candle to **TOLERANCE**. Let us continue to strive for a world in which the voice of hatred is no longer taught. Let this candle light the way for us to work for a world of mutual respect and tolerance among all the peoples of the world.

The third candle to **PEACE**. Let us use our precious freedom to create a world that uses words to build bridges among people and does not employ weapons of destruction – a world in which “they shall beat their swords into plow-shares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, and they shall not learn war anymore.”

The fourth candle to **COURAGE** – most importantly to have the courage to stand strong with our moral ideals and convictions. Let this light remind us that without that kind of courage, those ideals will remain unfulfilled. Let us always make the courageous choice when it comes to protecting ourselves and others.

The fifth candle to **KNOWLEDGE**. The quest for Jewish knowledge for ourselves and our children can enrich our lives as Jews, and so enable us to transmit the beauty and depth of our heritage to future generations.



Let this light symbolize our commitment to expanding our Jewish knowledge.

The sixth candle to **TZEDAKAH – TO JUSTICE** – by giving of ourselves and easing the burdens of others. Let this light remind us of other's needs, physical, emotional, spiritual -- and inspire us to share what we have and what we are with generosity and love. A phone call to check on a friend at this time is a great mitzvah.

The seventh candle to **RESPONSIBILITY** – that we understand that each of us has a significant degree of responsibility for the welfare of others. Let the light of this candle remind us that we can proudly bear this responsibility.

The eighth candle is to the **CONTINUITY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE** – to be an active participant in Jewish life, so that future generations will learn the joy and beauty of their Jewish heritage from our actions as well as our words. May the light of this candle encourage us to make all the wonderful aspects of Judaism a priority in our lives, intrinsic to our very being. May we never give up on the teachings of our heritage.

In lighting our Chanukah candles, in singing our songs of freedom, in the telling of our people's stories, we will join with Jews all over the world – today – in the past – as well as in the future. May the candles illuminate our minds and warm our hearts and rekindle our commitment to each other and to the Jewish people.

*Happy Chanukah!*

*Cantor Riselle Bain*



## Message From the President

**Julia Ruden**

**December 2023 / 5784**

Dear Friends and Family;

Our Chanukah celebration is December 8<sup>th</sup>, bring your menorahs and we will have our traditional Latkes and Chanukah gelt!

We are going to have a concert **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at Temple Israel and the tickets will sell out fast. Cantor Riselle will be performing **"A Celebration of Broadway Diva's"**. Our congregation is first to purchase tickets for \$20.00 at our Chanukah Celebration, then it goes public and Mary Ann will have those 125 tickets sold by the end of December.

Please contact **Mary Ann Romer, [matromer@aol.com](mailto:matromer@aol.com)**, ASAP to get your tickets if you are not going to be at our Chanukah Celebration.

If you are not able to attend our Fund Raising concert please send in a donation for our shul that has been renovated and help our negative balance sheet as much as you can.

Our Temple is open because of donations, we are all volunteers and the only one that gets paid is our clergy, Cantor Riselle Bain.

Thank you everyone for all you do and keeping Temple Israel Alive!

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

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 Chanukah!



# Announcements

DECEMBER 2023/5784



DECEMBER Onegs are sponsored by:

**DEC 8th Chanukah Party:**  
**The Board, Donna Wasson, Cathy**  
**Blumenthal, Julie Ruden**

**DEC 22<sup>nd</sup> The Board**

**Challah, wine, decaf coffee & fruit are**  
**the basics for our onegs. If you would**  
**like to sponsor an Oneg contact Karen**  
**delValle.**

## LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch  
**Monday, Dec. 18** at 12:30 at  
Hibachi Express  
490 US Hwy 27, Lake Placid, FL



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

**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!**  
if you need assistance to get to  
services,  
Please Contact  
Cantor Riselle Bain  
813-600-8013



# December Yahrzeits

## \*\* Memorial Plaque in our Shul



Ida Biener	Albert M. Moses**
Ida Chinsky	Gertrude Pearl
Sylvia Cohen	Lena Pintzow
Ralph E. Crews**	Herman Pintzow Past President
Ruth E. Davis**	Helen Rivers
Benjamin Donde	Jacob Rosenberg
Sylvia Dorfman	Nate Sadowsky**
Elaine Eckles**	Ethel Gottlieb Shapiro**
Isaac Elias	Steve Siegel
Benjamin Garthwait**	Marilyn Schustrin
Ella Garthwait**	Joseph Sornstein**
Roger Jarlow	Mamie Asher Smith
Kathleen Johnson	Harry Stoller
Michael Kahn**	Eleanor R. Trachtenberg
Lillie H. Kessler**	Meyer Vinik
Jean Levene**	Ethel Werner
Gerda Levy**	Sam Wolkove**
Frieda Moscowitz	

### YAHRZEIT Donations

**ZICHRONAH  
LIV'RACHAH**

Given by:

**Catherine Blumenthal  
Mary Ann Romer  
Julia Ruden  
Nancy Beyer  
Elsa Kahn**

In Memory of:

**Maurice Blumenthal, Ruth E. Davis  
Marilyn Schustrin, Edith Romer  
Jacob Rosenberg, Zack Kelly  
Benjamin Gordon  
Michael Kahn, Lillie H. Kessler, Gerda Levy**



An Excerpt from a thank you letter received from the  
Sebring Historical Society  
for the Temple's participation in "Pioneer Daze" 2023



Sebring Historical Society, Inc.

321 West Center Avenue Sebring, FL 33870-3109 863-471-2522

November 23, 2023

Temple Israel of Highlands County  
Attn: Ms. Mary Ann Romer  
3268 E. Pebble Creek Dr.  
Avon Park, FL 33825

Dear Sir/Madam:

During this Thanksgiving week, the Sebring Historical Society would like to **THANK YOU AGAIN** for being a part of our inaugural *Pioneer Daze* held Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at Highlands County Convention Center, in Sebring. We believe it was a very successful first-time event, which we could not have done without **YOUR TEMPLE'S** creative display of your long history and impact for God in our Community. As one of our *Pioneer Daze* valued guests, you will periodically receive communications from the Sebring Historical Society until Aug. 31, 2024. We are delighted that your partnership with us allowed us the privilege of pursuing our Mission to engage the Highlands County community to protect, preserve, educate and share its history. **Thank you so much for sharing your history with us and all of Highlands County.**

**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

**ALAN JAY**  
Automotive Network

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



**Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home  
& Crematory**



**Craig M. Nelson**  
Licensed Funeral Director



## CARDS SENT

*(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.



### November Greeting Cards Sent

#### Thank You Cards Sent for Donations

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

**To:** Marjorie Wohl, Elsa Kahn, Joe Snoll, Donald Snoll for Yahrzeit donations to Temple Israel

**To:** Sarah & James Lashley for donation to Israel

#### Get Well Cards Sent

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

**To:** Bruce Sherwood

#### Condolence Cards Sent

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

**To:** Eric Hollman on the passing of his father



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.



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

207 N. Ridgewood Dr.  
Sebring, FL 33870

**863-402-9190**

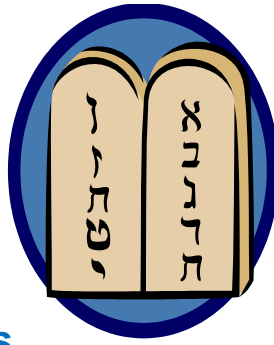


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GARY J. PEARCE, M.D.  
EYE PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

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

BOARD CERTIFIED

# Cantor Bain's Schedule:



## Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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

- Friday 12/ 8 – Chanukah
- Friday 12/22 – Torah Portion Vayigash
- Friday 1/12 – Torah Portion Vaera
- Friday 1/26 – Torah Portion Bo/Beshalach
- Friday 2/9 – Torah Portion Mishpatim
- **Sunday February 18 – Concert with Cantor Riselle Bain**  
***“A CELEBRATION OF BROADWAY DIVAS”***
- Friday 2/23 – Torah Portion Tetzaveh
- Friday 3/8 – Torah Portion Vayakhel (Rosh Chodesh Adar II)
- Friday 3/22 – Purim
- Friday 4/5 – Torah Portion Shmini
- **Tuesday 4/23 Passover Seder**
- Friday 5/10 – Yom Hashoah/Yom Haatzmaut – Torah Portion K’doshim
- Friday 5/24 – Torah Portion Behar