

Temple Israel of Highlands County
1305 Temple Israel Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-382-7744

FEBRUARY 2024 / 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.



Congregational Board

Officers:

President:

Julia Ruden

Vice President:

Sara Rosenbaum

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Mary Ann Romer

Treasurer:

Cathy Blumenthal

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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

Should Jews Celebrate Valentine's Day?

How kosher is this romantic day that is named for a saint?

The origins of Valentine's Day are linked to a saint, though the connections are dubious and even the Catholic Church has removed Valentine's Day from its calendar. Some would say there is no reason why Jews cannot celebrate Valentine's Day, though others might argue that, as a holiday rooted in Christian tradition, it would be a bit peculiar.

In his paper *St. Valentine, Chaucer and Spring in February*, 20th-century literary scholar Jack B. Oruch debunks this theory, showing that it was based on a mistaken understanding of Church chronology put forth by the English antiquarian Alban Butler in 1756 and propagated by other scholars in the 19th century.

A number of halachic (Jewish law) rulings have been written in response to questions of whether or not Jewish law allows for the celebration of non-Jewish holidays such as Valentine's Day. The most relevant is from the [Rama](#) (Rabbi Moshe Isserles, Poland, 1520-1572) who explains that there are four criteria that must be met in order to permit Jewish celebration of rituals initiated by Gentiles (Rama Y.D. 178:1 as interpreted by Rabbi Michael Broyde).

- Does the debated activity have a secular origin or value?
- Can one rationally explain the behavior or ritual apart from the gentile holiday or event?
- If there are idolatrous origins, have they disappeared?
- Are the activities actually consistent with Jewish tradition?

In the case of Valentine's Day, sending cards and chocolates and giving gifts can be explained as expressions of love and appreciation independent of possible Christian roots. In addition, the possibility stemming from Christian roots has been questioned by scholars, as well as the Catholic church.

The academic work of Oruch and other scholars further proves that Valentine's Day is not derived from a pagan holiday. Finally, the desire to express love and to offer gifts as a symbol of those feelings is certainly in line with Jewish tradition and values. The idea of a special day set aside to encourage coupledness is also well rooted in the Jewish tradition: [Tu B'Av](#), the 15th day of the Jewish month of Av, was an ancient day of matchmaking that has experienced something of a revival in modern times.

Therefore, while it does not represent every opinion in Jewish literature, the source from the Rama does provide the most important criteria for making a decision about celebrating Valentine's Day according to Jewish law and it is the basis upon which many clergy support Jewish participation in Valentine's Day rituals.

So, I encourage you to send all your cards of love and let us all enjoy some sweet chocolate hearts together!

Cantor Riselle Bain



Julia Ruden

Message From the President

Dear Friends and Family;

Thank you Phyllis and Bruce Behrens, Mary Ann Romer, Dixon Taylor, Cathy Blumenthal, Sara Rosenbaum, Donna Wasson, Rolph Rosenberg, our whole Board and Cantor Riselle Bain for all the effort you put into our Temple and our celebrations!

The "Celebration of Broadway Divas" concert February 18th, 2024 at Temple and Cantor Riselle will be performing is SOLD OUT. Thank you Mary Ann Romer. If you can't come please let us know as soon as possible; there is a waiting cancellation list!

We need participants for our Purim spiel next month. Please let Cantor Riselle know you want to participate as soon as possible so you have time to rehearse, time flies so fast.

There is another nasty flu going around (Covid too). I woke up last Monday thinking today is my last day, and with meds I can breathe again but it will take time to get rid of this bug.

Health is wealth and I know everyone has their issues and we learn how fragile life is over and over again. Enjoy this day and know that I love you all and I feel and see all the Love we have at Temple Israel!

We are truly blessed with LIFE! The Life is YOU! It is always great to see you!

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, Tukin Olam! No Hate, No Fear, No Way!

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!!

Stay Safe!

Love Julie



Announcements

FEBRUARY 2024 / 5784



February Onegs are sponsored by:

February 9, 2024 – The Board
February 23, 2024 – 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, February 26, 2024
at 12:15pm
Thai House Restaurant
3750 US Hwy 27N
Sebring, FL 33870
Contact Renee Tepper
863-414-8811 or
reneetepper@gmail.com
and let her know you'll be there.



Happy Anniversary

Ronald & Renee Tepper

2/17

תודה רבה - Thank You
Alan Wildstein for your
continued and generous
support by
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.

SOLD OUT



"A Celebration of Broadway Divas"

Cantor Riselle Bain and Joy Katzen Guthrie

Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3:30 PM

Temple Israel

1305 Temple Israel Drive

Sebring, Florida

Tickets -- \$20.00

To purchase contact Mary Ann Romer, matromer@aol.com

CARDS SENT

(All donations go to Temple Israel.)



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.

January Greeting Cards Sent

Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Jay & Rebecca Clarke, George & Pearl Zelma,
Amy Rose & Melvin David

By: Congregation

To: Judy Albin & Clint Wallbank

Thank You Cards Sent for Yahrzeit Donations

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

To: Norman & Anna Spero, Rolph Rosenberg, Elsa Kahn, Nancy Gordon, Ron & Renee Tepper

Donation Card Sent

By: Ron & Renee Tepper

To: Donna Wasson in memory of her beloved husband, Michael Wasson

Get Well Card Sent

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

To: Deborah Steward, Julie Ruden, Renee Tepper

Condolence Cards Sent

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

To: Donna Wasson on the tragic passing of her beloved husband, Michael

To: Tyler Carroll & Family on the passing of his grandmother, Orene Johns

To: Jay & Susan Luck on the passing of Jay's mother, Carolyn Luck



We Remember



February Yahrzeits

*** Memorial Plaque in our Shul*

Max Blumenthal **	Martha C. Ross **
Donald Chinsky	Hyman Rotman
Selma Yarrow	Elliot Salles
Horace G. Davis **	Rabbi Moses Sapir
Dorothy Donde	Hilda K. Schamis **
Dr. Vincent R. Faulds **	Jacob N. Schamis **
Fanny Glazer	Beatrice Schwartz
Sylvia Goldstein**	Abraham Sherman **
Shelly Greenstein	Ileana Lilly Sherman **
Kenneth S. Gross **	Solomon Snoll **
Celia Leveene	John Stimple
Judith Frances Liebeck	Ida Tepper
Thelma Napp**	Dr. Hershel Ullman
Sarah Rosenbaum **	Richard Wilson
Sylvia Rosenthal **	Fritz Rosenberg
Harry Romer	Ruth Kahn Davis
Harold Abrams	Dora Tarabori



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



Yahrzeit Donations



ZICHRONAH LIV'RACHAH

Given By:

Cathy Blumenthal

Jeff Donde

Jill Liebeck

Mary Ann Romer

Sara Rosenbaum

Bruce Kirshner

Rolph Rosenberg

Marvin & Elsa Kahn

Ron & Renee Tepper

Joseph Snoll

In Memory Of:

Max Blumenthal

Dorothy Donde, Rita Donde

Judith Frances Liebeck

Horace Davis, Selma Yarrow,

Harry Romer, Harold Abrams

Sarah Rosenbaum, Max Rosenbaum

Dr. Harold Kirshner

Fritz Rosenberg

Marc Kahn, David Levy, Ruth Kahn Davis

Ida Tepper

Solomon Snoll



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

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

Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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

Friday 2/9/24 – Torah Portion Mishpatim

Sunday February 18 – Concert with Cantor Riselle Bain
“A CELEBRATION OF BROADWAY DIVAS”

Friday 2/23/24 – Torah Portion Tetzaveh

Friday 3/8/24 – Torah Portion Vayakhel (Rosh Chodesh Adar II)

Friday 3/22/24 – Purim

Friday 4/5/24 – Torah Portion Shmini

Tuesday 4/22/24 -- PASSOVER SEDER

Friday 5/10/24 – Yom Hashoah/Yom Haatzmaut – Torah Portion K'doshim

Friday 5/24/24 – Torah Portion Behar

**CELEBRATE PESACH WITH YOUR TEMPLE FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON
WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2024 AT 6:00 PM
IN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S SOCIAL HALL**

A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER MEAL WILL BE SERVED

****RESERVATION DEADLINE IS April 2, 2024**

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. _____

5. _____

6. _____