

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

August 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.



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voiceofgladness@aol.com

Cell: 813-600-8013

*American Conference of Cantors
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Jewish Music

Rabbi Emerita: **Lorraine Rudenberg**

Newsletter Staff: **Mary Ann Romer**

As I write this newsletter for August, we have entered a time in our Hebrew calendar where we will be reading what are called the “Three Haftarot of Rebuke.” They are read during the three weeks period from the Hebrew dates of Tammuz 17 to Av 9. Our Shabbat service in August falls on the 5th of the Hebrew month of Av.

Broadly speaking, these “Three Haftarot of Retribution” (also called the “Three Haftarot of Affliction”) were chosen to represent prophetic visions of the sins of the Hebrews that led to the first destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. This period is a time of mourning for the destruction of the Temple and the beginning of exile, or galut.

The first two “Haftarot of Rebuke” are chapters 1 and 2 of Jeremiah, which describe the prophet's anticipation of necessary societal upheaval. The third haftarot which we will read at our August Shabbat service comes before Ninth of Av. It is called Shabbat Chazon, or "Shabbat of Vision" from the prophet Isaiah.

The 9th of Av commemorates various tragedies that befell the Jewish people throughout history, particularly the destruction of the two temples in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

The following seven Sabbaths after Tisha B'Av lead us up to Rosh HaShanah, and the special haftarot read on those Sabbaths are known as the "Seven Haftarot of Consolation" (“Sheva D'Nechamata”) because on each of these Sabbaths the Haftarah reading contains a prophecy of comfort.

The idea of patterns in time is fundamental to understanding the Hebrew calendar. Most Jewish people are familiar with the cycle of the Jewish year. As much as the holidays commemorate significant events, they also signify times of the year that have certain spiritual characteristics.

We follow these haftarot as they escalate their words and symbols toward the tragic day of Tishah B'Av. We see how again and again the redemptive opportunity was not taken up by our ancestors. Layer upon layer of each of the messages of the haftarot read before Tishah B'Av echo the repetition of tragic history, as destruction ensues over and over on the ninth of Av.

The contents of these haftarot suggest to me that we might consider a reassessment of the meaning of Tishah B'Av in our own times. What would it mean if we spent that day in communal self-reflection focusing on self-evaluation regarding the legal, economic, social, moral, and religious issues of our own time—rather than on the ancient destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem? If we were to institute such a program, we would be following the lead of rabbis in the Land of Israel who used these three haftarot, as well as the next seven, as the basis for a remarkable collection of midrashic sermons found in *P'sikta D'Rav Kahana* (a 5th or 6th century-C.E. collection of homilies for special Sabbaths and holidays) that deal with just these subjects.

What does it mean for God to be angry and why would God rebuke us? Rabbenu Bachya (1255–1340) in his commentary on the Torah portion *Chukat* says in the name of the *Rambam* that when we learn God became angry with Moshe, it was because of the emergence of a moral blemish in Moshe. This blemish itself arose from Moshe's anger with the people of Israel. When we speak of God being angry, what we really mean is that we are not living up to the standards that God has set for us and that our own shortcomings elicit a response from God that seems unpleasant to us. When God rebukes us, it is to correct us for our own good.

The pattern of retribution and consolation is a symbolic lesson. After darkness—there is light. Following the preface to tragedy and catastrophe epitomized by Tishah B'Av, there is consolation. We can find value in this design of haftarot – a symbolic prequel to our worst of times – some of which our brothers and sisters in Israel are living through right now. We can find merit in the commemoration of Tishah B'Av, the remembrance of the blackest historical moments we endured as a people. It becomes a buffered signpost, as we to continue to live through other yearly moments of the best of our Jewishness and in celebration.

Cantor Riselle Bain



Message From the President

August 2024/5784

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family,

Our High Holy Holidays are around the corner. How time flies! Make It Count! Try something new before the years end! Enjoy everyday and find the good every day!

Cantor Riselle will be reaching out as she does every year for Holy Day Honors; please participate as asked as everyone needs time to practice.

Thank you all who have paid your yearly dues that helps to keep our Temple doors open and our Jewish heritage alive here in Highlands County. The extra donations are truly appreciated and goes towards security.

This is the last summer once a month service and we are back to twice a month services in September. I miss everyone in the summertime and continued prayers for all traveling!

We are 6 months away from one of our events of celebrating our 100th Jewish Heritage Anniversary. Reminder for the weekend of February 14. We will start dance rehearsals soon if you would like to participate please contact Cantor Riselle Bain. Please please write something of how you came to our shul. Email it to me jruden18@gmail.com. We need to get our stories together as soon as possible.

The next service is August 9th and I can't wait to see you!

Continued prayers for Israel and all of the hostages and Israel and the world!

Continued Prayers Mi Shebeirach for all those who are recovering and healing.

May we continue to go from strength to strength!

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

Love to all, Julie



Announcements

August 2024 / 5784



August Oneg sponsored by:

August 9, 2023 – 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 Ladies Lunch Bunch will be on hiatus until October 28, 2023.

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

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

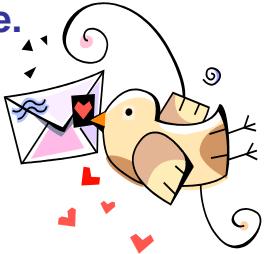
Anniversaries

Bruce & Phyllis Behrens	8/17
David & Evelyn Stahl	8/19
Stanley & Pamela Paralikis	8/24
Kathy & Ben Kaleky	8/28



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.
Write "Temple card" in the email subject box.
Send your minimum \$5.00 donation to Temple.



July Greeting Cards Sent

Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

By: Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees, Cantor Riselle Bain
To: Leslie & Franklin Sands, Bruce & Rabbi Lorraine Rudenberg, Stephanie & Marc Hauser, Jay & Susie Luck, Joe & Lisa Bain Crowder



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In Loving Memory

August Yahrzeits

**** Memorial Plaque in our Shul**



Jennie Elias	Diana Frank**	Arya Mayer Frankel**
Ira Meyer Franbkel**	Nathan Garshick	Maud Harriet**
Hattie Jankower**	Murray Jay	Annette Kahn**
Jacob Kaminer	Ruth Silinsky Kirshner**	Gustav Levy**
Selma Levy**	Neil T. Lewis**	Frances Liebeck
Joseph Lippman	Harry Pearlman	Sally Rotman
Joseph Schwartz	Annie Sherman**	Jane Sherwood
Esther Sibulkin**	Abraham Silverman	

Yahrzeit Donations

Given by

Mary Ann Romer
Lois Lewis
Bruce Kirshner

In Memory Of

Joseph Lippman
Neil T. Lewis
Ruth Silinsky Kirshner



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

Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory



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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



2024 / 5784

Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Services will be at the Shul.

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 Fridays at 6:30 unless otherwise listed:

Friday 8/9/24 – Torah Portion Devarim

Friday 9/13/24 – Torah portion Ki Teitzei

Wednesday 10/2/24 -- 6:00PM Rosh Hashanah

Thursday 10/3/24 -- 10:00AM morning service Rosh Hashanah

Thursday 10/3/24 -- after morning service Tashlich at Lake Jackson pier

Friday 10/11/24 -- 6:00PM Yom Kippur

Saturday 10/12/24 – 10:00AM morning service Yom Kippur

Saturday 10/12/24 -- 3:00pm Yiskor– Yom Kippur

Saturday 10/12/24- Pot Luck Break the Fast after Yiskor

Friday 10/25/24 – Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzeret, Simchat Torah

Friday 11/8/24 – Kristallnacht – Torah portion Lech L'cha

Friday 11/22/24 – Torah Portion Chayei Sarah

Friday 12/13/24 – Torah portion Vayishlach

Friday 12/27/24 – Chanukah (3rd night) – Torah portion Miketz