

Temple Israel of Highlands County  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
Sebring, Florida 33870  
863-382-7744 *APRIL 2025 / 5785*



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

#### **Treasurer:**

Cathy Blumenthal

#### **Secretary:**

Mary Ann Romer

### **Trustees:**

Phyllis Behrens

Karen DelValle

Lois Lewis

Pamela Paralikis

Rolph Rosenberg

Donna Ruden

Herb Weiss

Alan Wildstein

### **Officiating Cantor:**

**Cantor Riselle Bain**

[voiceofgladness@aol.com](mailto:voiceofgladness@aol.com)

Cell: 813-600-8013

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

### **Rabbi Emerita:**

Lorraine Rudenberg

### **Newsletter Staff:**

Mary Ann Romer

Since the October 7th attacks, Passover takes on a new, somber significance, prompting Jews to reflect on the current suffering in Israel and the hostages while remembering the Exodus and its lessons of freedom and redemption.

As we prepare to celebrate Passover, we find ourselves in uncharted territory. We celebrate freedom during Passover, but what is the definition of freedom this year? We still feel the pain from the horrors of October 7, and the events both in Israel and in the United States. We still pray for our hostages, and we are left with many questions, and not many answers. That does feel particularly appropriate to Passover, as the asking of questions along with answers is central to the Seder. How are we thinking about the definition of freedom this year? How do we read the Jewish liturgical poem in the Haggadah Vehi She'amdah. The phrase "Vehi She'amdah" is a key part of the Passover tradition, reminding Jews that throughout history, God has always been there to protect them from enemies. The poem serves as a reminder of the Jewish people's resilience and God's unwavering protection, even in the face of adversity. which emphasizes God's promise to protect the Jewish people. And yet, we continue to see on a daily basis those who "seek our destruction"? What is the meaning in L'shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim?

My friends, I doubt we can answer with assuredness all those questions, but we can still be so grateful right here at Temple Israel to have the freedom to gather together as friends and family and to celebrate our history and to probe to find answers as to how we can be responsible for the betterment of our and the world's future – Tikkun Olam! I look forward to sharing our special Haggadah with you and bringing you all in as participants, as our Temple Israel Seder is truly your Seder!

*Cantor Riselle Bain*

# Message From the President

**Julia Ruden**

***April 2025 / 5785***

Dear Friends and Family;

Our Purim Spiel was AWESOME!

Thankyouxoxox so much to Cantor Riselle, Rolph Rosenberg, George Rosenberg, Andrew Haines, Sara Rosenbaum, Cathy Blumenthal, Judith Eckstein, Mary Ann Romer, Vicky Martin, Tyler Carroll, Phyllis Behrens, and our guitar accompanist, Seanna Makepeace, for pulling off the best Purim yet!! I loved that some of our congregation also came with costumes and dressed up when they arrived. A Fun time was had by all. Well Done!!

**PASSOVER Seder** will be Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Please get your reservations and checks to the Temple as soon as possible. The deadline has passed but we will squeeze you in if you hurry! \$40.00 for members, \$50.00 for non-members. Please indicate chicken, brisket, or vegetarian or other food requirements (Gluten free) on the check subject line for your meal. The reservation form is at the end of this newsletter. The food will be delicious and the Seder will mean a lot. So make plans. As the mail is slow, **PLEASE, contact Sara Rosenbaum ASAP to let her know that you want to come to the seder and what your meal choices are.**

If you can donate more this year, it will be greatly appreciated!! Our 100<sup>th</sup> celebration was awesome and costly!

Last year for our elections we voted for 2-year terms so no voting this year except if someone else would like to join our Board as a Trustee.

Please let me or any of our Board members know that you would like to be on our Board and we will gladly welcome more Board members to help with everything at Temple. It does take a village to keep our little Shul going.

You can visit Cantor Riselle's clergy page on Facebook and view any of our previous online services whenever you need to be uplifted. They are kept for only 30 days on Facebook. I love that they are recorded and that we have the ability to do that.

We are upgrading our sound system for our online viewers with some growing pains and, with progress, our next service should sound great! Thank you to Seanna again.

Continued Prayers Mi Shebeirach for all who are recovering and healing! We have many on the list for prayers. Thank you for checking in on others.

May we continue to go from strength to strength! We just finished the book of Exodus and we said, "Chazak, chazak, v'nit chazek!" (Be strong, be strong, and we therefore will all be strong!)

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

Love to all, Julie Ruden

Temple Israel will be commemorating Yom Hashoah Friday **April 25, 2025**

Renowned guest speaker Howard Kerner will speak on:

## **“Why Don’t We Know the Names of the Good”**

Those who helped save the Jews during the Holocaust.



## ***Howard Kerner***

*Howard taught for 47 years at the high school, community college, and university levels and has written analyses of literary works often focusing on the Holocaust. He has given several presentations to the Heartland American Israeli Initiative (HAI) group in the past...Howard is an engaging speaker who keeps us spellbound with his historical recitations of the WWII era and the saving of Jewish lives.*

Howard will speak about

**“Why Don’t We Know the Names of the Good?”**

*The many non-Jews who risked their lives to help save Jews during WWII to escape the horrors of the Holocaust.*

## *Elections are coming up for 2025 – 2026*

*We are looking for candidates for Trustee. If you are interested in participating in the administration of your synagogue, contact any member of the Board.*

*Terms begin June 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup> .*

*The By-laws state that anyone running for the Board of Trustees must have been a member of the Temple for one year.*

*Candidates for Secretary and Treasurer must have served on the Board for at least one year.*

*Candidates for President and Vice-president must have been on the Board for at least two years consecutively.*

*Only one member of a family may serve on the Board of Trustees.*

### TEMPLE ISRAEL PURIM SPIEL 2025





**TEMPLE ISRAEL CELEBRATES THE CONVERSION OF  
SEANNA MAKEPEACE & JENNIFER ALLEN  
AT SERVICES ON MARCH 28, 2025**





# April Yahrzeits We Remember



**\*\* Memorial Plaque in our Shul**

Deana Bezark **	Germaine Rosenberg
Leslie Bezark **	Leo Rosenberg
Sarah L. Blumenthal **	Schanet Rosenberg
Louis Davis	Susan Sari Ruden
Maurice Jankower **	Ann Salles
Carolyn L. Kaplan **	Sylvia Schaffer
David Karp	Charles Sewelson
Haima Kelly	Mary Sherman Smith **
Edith Kravitz **	Hyman Tepper
Herb Liebeck	William Wallace **
Isador Liss	Morris Weiss
Harry Moscowitz	David Werner



## YAH RZEIT DONATIONS



### Given By:

***Herb Moscowitz  
Cathy Blumenthal  
Sara Rosenbaum  
Julie Ruden  
Ron & Renee Tepper  
Jill Liebeck  
Bonnie & Sharee Salles  
Herb & Kathleen Weiss  
Mary Ann Romer  
Rolph Rosenberg  
Marjorie Wohl  
Cantor Riselle Bain***

### In Memory of:

***Rose Frankel  
Sarah L. Blumenthal, Maurice Jankower  
Leo Rosenbaum  
Schanet Rosenberg & Susan Sari Ruden  
Hyman Tepper  
Herb Liebeck  
Ann Salles & Sophie Levy  
Morris Weiss, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Jr.  
Louis Davis  
Germaine Rosenberg  
Thomas Wohl, William Wohl  
Abraham Allen Bain***

## 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](mailto:matromer@aol.com).

Write "Temple card" in the email subject box.

Send your minimum \$5.00 donation to the temple.

### March Greeting Cards Sent

### Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Max & Sarah Sherwood, Brittanie & Daniel Franklin

### Get Well Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Fred Paralikis, Pamela Jay Paralikis, Phyllis Behrens, Karen DelValle,  
Dixon Taylor, Lois Lewis



Celebrate any occasion while benefitting Israel and our temple. For only \$18.00, plant a tree in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Simply e-mail the donor and recipient information to:  
[jruden18@gmail.com](mailto:jruden18@gmail.com)

Mail your check to the temple,  
payable to Temple Israel.

## Don Elwell

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING  
& PUBLIC RELATIONS  
401 U.S. Hwy 27 S. Sebring, FL 33870  
Email: [don.elwell@ALANJAY.COM](mailto: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](mailto:delwell@hcbcc.net) Phone: (863) 402-6835  
Cell: (863) 381 - 5622



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

207 N. Ridgewood Dr.  
Sebring, FL 33870

**863-402-9190**





## Announcements

APRIL 2025 / 5785



April Onegs are sponsored by:

April 12, 2024 –PASSOVER SEDER

April 25, 2024 – The Board

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



Robert & Sunny Klopper 4/24



### LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch Group

Monday, April 28, 2025 at 12:30PM

### PERUFRESH

207 Circle Park Drive  
Sebring, FL

Contact Renee Tepper

863-414-8811 or

[reneetepper@gmail.com](mailto:reneetepper@gmail.com)

and let her know you'll be there.

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

Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home  
& Crematory



Craig M. Nelson  
Licensed Funeral Director

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

**CELEBRATE PESACH WITH YOUR TEMPLE ISRAEL FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON**

**SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

**IN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S SOCIAL HALL**

**A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER MEAL WILL BE SERVED**

**\*\* RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 20, 2025 \*\***

**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 @ \$40.00 EACH** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ADULT NON-MEMBERS @ \$50.00 EACH** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **YOUNG ADULTS (UNDER 18) \$18.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHILDREN 12 & UNDER are Free**

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE LIST NAMES AND CHOICE OF CHICKEN OR BRISKET**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

# Cantor Bain's Schedule:



## Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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

Friday 4/25/25 – Yom Hashoah -- Torah Portion Shmini

Friday 5/16/25 – Torah portion Emor

Friday 5/30/25 – **Shavuot** -- Torah portion Bamidbar

Friday 6/20/25 – Torah Portion Sh'lach L'cha

Friday 7/25/25 – Torah Portion Mattot -Mas'ei

Friday 8/29/25 – Torah Portion Shoftim

Friday 9/12/25 – S'lichot

**Rosh Hashanah Monday, 9/22/25-Tuesday, 9/23/25**

**Yom Kippur Wednesday, 10/1/25-Thursday 10/2/25**

Friday 10/10/25 **Sukkot** (Actual Monday, 10/6/25) This Shabbat Service will also include Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Friday 10/24/25 – Torah Portion Noach

Friday 11/7/25 – Torah Portion Va-yeira

Friday 11/21/25 – Torah Portion Va-yetzei

Friday, 12/5/25 – Torah Portion Va-yishla ch

Friday 12/19/25 – **Shabbat Chanukah** (6<sup>th</sup> night)