

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

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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Officiating Cantor:

Cantor Riselle Bain

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



And the Celebration Continues!

We begin our first Shabbat with the perfect Torah portion “Terumah” – “Gifts or Contributions.”

There are not enough ways to say thank you to all who donated their time, energy, and financial generosity to make our 100 Year Temple Israel Anniversary a weekend of pure joy and love.

Our one-hundred-year celebration began with our first life cycle event of a double wedding—Julie Ruden to Donna Ruden and Seanna Makepeace to Jennifer Allen.

Our first service into our second hundred years begins with the Conversion service of Seanna Makepeace and Jennifer Allen. We are definitely “The Little Shul That Can” and will continue for another wonderful century. As our president, Julie says, “Let us go from strength to strength and continue to strengthen each other.”

March brings us to the celebration of Purim, which we will celebrate on the exact date!!!! Friday March 14th is the 14th of Adar in the Hebrew calendar.

The Book of Esther says that the name Purim comes from the Hebrew word pur, which is generally translated as “lots,” as in lottery or drawing lots.



Cantor Riselle Bain's Message Cont.

The festival of Purim celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman's plot to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women in a single day. Does this sound familiar in today's world? We know who Haman is today.

In the story, there is a miraculous turn of events in which every piece of the story plays a role in bringing about our national salvation. It is interesting to know that God's name does not appear at all throughout Megillat Esther – The Scroll of Esther. But in the absence of God's explicit presence, the story of Purim reveals God's hidden involvement in our world that never ceases. This is the message and the promise of hope that this holiday carries, even in today's world.

So, get ready for Mordecai, Esther, Vashti, Ahashuerus, and Haman!!! We will begin our preparation of the wildly funny but still meaningful Purim Spiel on Saturday, March 1st as part of our Continuing Jewish Education class. Come be with us to dive into Purim and be part of the continuing celebration at Temple Israel!

B'shalom,
Cantor Riselle Bain



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Message From the President

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family;

Our historical 100th Anniversary celebration was the best celebration yet-- 140+ for dinner and 188 tickets sold for our fundraiser show "From Gershwin to Garfunkel".

Our magical wedding ceremonies, our special speakers, Kim Adler and Bettie Zaret from the Sarasota - Manatee Jewish Federation, Elisabeth "Libby" Kahn, Elsa Kahn, and Sara Rosenbaum who all covered the history beautifully!

Thank you, Phyllis and Bruce Behrens, Mary Ann Romer, Cathy Blumenthal, Sara Rosenbaum, Rolph Rosenberg, Vicky Martin, Tyler Carol, Seanna Makepeace our whole Board, and Cantor Riselle Bain for all the effort you put into our Temple for our 100th celebration as well as for all of our celebrations!

Special thanks to Jimmy the Greek and Fernando. The food was delicious and Alicia Torres' servers did a wonderful job!

Additionally, we want to give a round of applause to our performers for "From Gershwin to Garfunkel: Gary Kurnov, Joy Katzen- Guthrie and our Cantor Riselle... WOW! What a show!!

Thankxoxox you so very much EVERYONE! We are truly blessed with LIFE! The Life is YOU! It is always great to see you!

Our congregation SHOWS UP. That makes all the difference, like at the reading of the 100th Anniversary Proclamation presentation by the City of Sebring Mayor John Shoop.

We need participants for our Purim spiel March 14th. Please tell Cantor Riselle that you will participate as soon as possible so you have time to rehearse as time flies so fast.

Passover is April 12th Saturday. Please make your reservations as soon as possible!

We continue to 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 = World Peace!
Continued Prayers Mi Shebeirach for all who are recovering and healing!
May we continue to go from strength to strength and keep one another strong and stronger.

Be thankful for everything, everyone, everyday – I am!!
Stay Safe! Enjoy Purim. Love Julie

Temple Israel 100th Anniversary Celebration 2-14 to 2-16-2025



Havdalah service



Israeli dancing



Donna & Julia Ruden under the Chupah



Seanna Makepeace & Jennifer Allen under the Chupah
SPEAKERS



Libby Kahn History of Sadie Kahn



**Michelle Backus reading
Elsa Kahn's comments**



**Sara Rosenbaum &
original Torah cover**



**Bette Zaret
Holocaust Education Initiative**



**Kim Adler
JFED Sarasota-Manatee**



**Terry Mendel, Sebring City Councilwoman
Presenting Proclamation for Temple Israel's
100th Anniversary Celebration**

L'Dor V'Dor

Temple Israel celebrates
100th anniversary weekend

By SHARON WEATHERHEAD
CONTRIBUTOR

Sebring's Temple Israel celebrated last weekend 100 years of a Jewish community in Highlands County by observing 10th, family, friends and fun.

The celebration began on Friday evening, Feb. 14, with the traditional Shabbat Services. Some special speakers enhanced the celebration with information from the days of George Sebring and the Kahn family.

Saturday evening, Feb. 15, was an invitation-only event that was attended by almost 100 guests. The biggest surprise was that two couples were to be joined together in marriage as part of the celebration.

The evening began with the Havdalah, a Jewish religious ceremony that marks the end of the Shabbat and usher in the new week. The ritual involves lighting a special candle, blessing a cup of wine and smelling sweet spices.

"You shall be a blessing," Rabbi David Ben said. "You are the beginning of the new life cycle event that begins the second century of Temple Israel in Highlands County."

The couples, Julie and Donna Buden and Jennifer Allen and Seanna Malapace, gathered under their respective chuppahs (wedding canopy), to symbolize a new home and a new life.

After the weddings, there was singing and Israel dancing to the familiar "Hava Nagila." A nice dinner was served.

On Feb. 4, a proclamation was read by Sebring Mayor John Adams. The proclamation was shared with guests on Feb. 15 as it was read by Sebring City Councilmember Lucy Monico.

A special speaker Elizabeth "Libby" Kahn, called upon her parents and grandparents, who are pillars of the Sebring community.

"I'm now 84 and Sadie Kahn's 14 grandchildren. They were Highlands County pioneers. In the 1930s, they came here to meet George Sebring, who wanted to create a new town. He wanted that town to have religious diversity. He said he would give them land if they brought their home."

"When Mike passed in 1948, Sadie had to leave the citrus business. She struggled through the fields in pants and boots and earned respect quickly. Once she sprayed the wrong chemicals on some grapefruit, but it turned out great. She never let them know it was an error," Elizabeth Kahn said.

The Kahn family helped pave the way in the Jewish community of Highlands County. Their many contributions are well known.

The celebration continued on Sunday with a performance by Ben and Gary Kurnow, accompanied by Joy Kozminski on piano. "From Gershwin to Tchaikovsky" was an eclectic mix of solo, duets and songs in Yiddish.

Ben became Jewish clergy in 2005 through Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Since 2015, she has been the spiritual leader at Temple Israel.

She has had an extensive career in theatrical arts. She was Miriam in the film "The Ten Commandments," Hodel in "Fiddler on the Roof" (Sarasota Civic Light Opera) and Eva Peron (the Second National Tour of "Evita").

Kurnow is well known in Sarasota for her stage talents and powerful tenor voice. He recently starred in the Maimonide Performing Arts production of "Oklahoma." He is frequently a featured cantorial soloist for Temple Emanu-El in Sarasota.

ISRAEL | 7



Center: Julie Kahn sings "Somewhere" from George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" musical during the 100th anniversary celebration at Temple Israel in Sebring last weekend.



Gary Kurnow performs a song in Yiddish about a rabbit who creates a festive party with kabbalah, drums and symbols. His theatrical stage help to understand the song.



Brides, from left, Jennifer Allen with baby Naomi, Seanna Malapace and guitarist Stacy Kordinsky perform during a Jewish wedding ceremony last Saturday at Temple Israel. It was a special surprise at the Temple's 100th anniversary celebration in Sebring.

ALL PHOTOS BY SHARON WEATHERHEAD/CONTRIBUTOR

ISRAEL

FROM PAGE 1

Katzen-Guthrie is an accomplished pianist, composer, arranger, recording artist, instructor and speaker. Temple Israel had a full house, selling about 200 tickets. Friends and

families were excited for the show to begin. "We're so happy to be here will all of you today," Bain said. "So many things to be thankful for, be thankful for each and every day." Bain began with an original version of "I've Got Rhythm." Her lyrics were, "I've got rhythm,

I've got music, I got Temple Israel, who could ask for anything more." Her version of "I am the Greatest Star," originally sung by Barbra Streisand, was amazing. Her other solos included "Summertime" from George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," "Papa, Can You Hear Me" from "Yentl" and

Liza Minelli's, "Cabaret." "Did you know 2025 marks 50 years that women could be cantors? 'Yentl' was a Barbra Streisand movie about a girl who had to disguise as a boy to become a cantor." Duets with Kurnov included "West Side Story's" "A Place for Us," and a "Fiddler on the Roof"

medley that included songs such as "Tradition," "If I Were A Rich Man," "To Life!" and "Matchmaker." Their finale was a favorite by Simon and Garfunkel, "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." Temple Israel is beginning its second hundred years in Highlands Country and has no plans

to stop moving forward in their mission of faith. "L'Dor V'Dor" means from generation to generation. I am who I am because I knew you and I have been changed for good. We here at Temple Israel are small but mighty. We are the little Shul that can," Bain said.



ALL PHOTOS BY SHARON WEATHERHEAD/CORRESPONDENT

Brides Donna Ruden, left, and Julie Ruden, right, listen as Cantor Riselle Bain speaks.



Cantor Riselle Bain, left, and Gary Kurnov rehearse with Joy Katzen-Guthrie who accompanies them on piano.



Mary Ann Roemer holds the proclamation recognizing Temple Israel's 100th anniversary. Sebring City Councilwoman Terry Mendel, left, read it to the crowd last Saturday. Sebring Mayor John Shoop, who was unable to attend, read the Temple Israel Proclamation at a council meeting on Feb. 4.



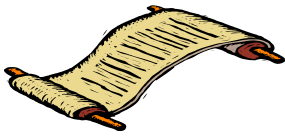
After the weddings last Saturday at Temple Israel, everyone enjoys an Israeli dance to "Hava Nagila."



Elizabeth "Libby" Kahn speaks about how her parents and grandparents left their mark on Sebring.



Cantor Riselle Bain and Gary Kurnov accept roses for their fabulous performance.



MARCH 2025 / 5785



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We Remember



March Yahrzeits

*** Memorial Plaque in our Shul*

Alexander Amster**	David Miller**
Ruby J. Blumenthal**	Harry Moscowitz
Linda Blumenthal Cantrell**	Margaret Novich**
Herbert Cowell**	Anne Perlman
Christopher J. Dobbe**	Leo Rosenbaum**
Mildred Duncan	Gwen Siegel
Fannie Erskine	Ina Bertha Smith
Esther Ettinger	Virginia Spence
Edward Levi Fields**	Leon Toister**
Minnie Gorsetman	Marshall Toister**
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Stephen Ross Kaphan**	Charles Francis Weiss
Dean Lemelle	Claude Wilson
Sophie Levy	Harold Wilson
Sadie Markowitz**	

Yahrzeit Donations



Given by

**Rolph Rosenberg
Mary Ann Romer
Bonnie & Sharee Salles**

**Joe Snoll
Jill Liebeck
Karen delValle
Andrew Haines**

In Memory Of

**Germaine Rosenberg
Frances V. Heyman
Sophie Levy, Elliot Salles,
Rabbi Moses Sapir
Solomon Snoll
Judith Liebeck
Ina Bertha Smith
Edgar Meredith**



Announcements

MARCH 2025/ 5785



March Onegs are
sponsored by:

March 14, 2024 – The Board - PURIM
March 28, 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, March 24, 2025 at
12:30pm

Organically Local
121 N Ridgewood Drive
Sebring, 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 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

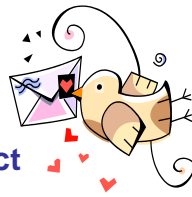


Happy Anniversary

Daniel & Brittanie Franklin 3/09
Max & Sarah Sherwood 3/23

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 the temple.

February Greeting Cards Sent

Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Ronald & Renee Tepper

Thank You Cards Sent For Donations for 100th Anniversary & Weddings

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

To: John & Pamela Allen, Sharon & Reidar Andersen, Kevin & Teresa Bock, Diane & Juan Casanova, Rose Cullen & Pod Erin McCoy, Marsha Gibbs, Dr. Merrie Meyers, Vivi & Manny Colon Rivera, Samantha & Mathew Roll, Chris & Paula Ruden, Michael Ruden & Brandon McKynzie, Paula Ruden, Alan Jay Wildstein, Marjorie Wohl, Arnez Worthing

Thank You Cards Sent for performance of "From Gershwin to Garfunkel"

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

To: Joy Katzen-Guthrie (Pianist), Gary Kurnov, Sharon Weatherhead (reporter)

Thank You Cards Sent for preparing for the 100th Anniversary Weekend Celebration

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

To: Seanna Makepeace (sound), Vickie Martin Meyer (printing), Mary Ann Romer (ticket sales), Sara Rosenbaum (menu),

Thank You Cards Sent for Speaking at 100th Anniversary Dinner

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

To: Bette Zaret Holocaust Education Initiative, Kim Adler of the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, Terry Mendel, Councilwoman, Sebring City Council presenting the Proclamation



To plant a tree, email your information of whom
you're honoring/remembering to

jruden18@gmail.com

Mail check (\$18.00/tree) to Temple Israel. Write
"Tree" in the memo line on check.

Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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

Friday 3/14/25 – Purim

Friday 3/28/25 – Torah portion Pekudei

Saturday 4/12/25 – Passover

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

CELEBRATE PESACH WITH YOUR TEMPLE 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 YOUR IN 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. _____