

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



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

Cell: 813-600-8013

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

Rabbi Emerita:

Lorraine Rudenberg

Newsletter Staff:

Mary Ann Romer

Dear Congregants,

As we begin this month of May 2025, Israel is about to celebrate her 77th birthday. The State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, and her Independence Day – in Hebrew, Yom Haatzmaut – is celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar on the 5th day of the month of Iyar. This year, the 5th day of Iyar falls on Saturday, May 3rd.

It is widely believed that Hitler's policy of genocide against European Jews during World War II and the catastrophe of European Jewry during World War II had a decisive influence on the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. For the Jews, the Holocaust triggered a supreme effort toward statehood, based on the belief that only a Jewish state might again avoid the horrors of the 1930's and 1940s. For the nations of the world, shocked by the horror of the extermination and burdened by feelings of guilt, the Holocaust convinced them that the Jews were entitled to a state of their own.

Nevertheless, the political plight of the Jewish people at the end of WWII had not diminished. "They were stateless, powerless -- pawns in the struggle between nations.

Having no country of their own, they were unable to assert their political self-interest or self-defense. Instead, they were forced to rely on others to act on their behalf."

But on May 14, 1948, when the British formally ended their mandate, Zionists in Palestine declared an independent state of Israel, changing everything. After fighting and winning their war of independence, Jews returned to their historical homeland, longed for, for over 2000 years, victims no more.

Also, during the month of May, we will continue chanting the daily count of the Omer, which began the second day of Passover and will culminate with the festival of Shavuot from June 1-3, 2025. After 49 days, our ancient ancestors finally arrived at Mount Sinai and received the Torah. The symbolic "countdown" from Passover to Shavuot tells us that our freedom from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah, which gives our lives purpose and meaning.

We find our Jewish calendar during the month of May filled with historical and spiritual significance!

B'Shalom,

Cantor Riselle Bain

Message From the President Julia Ruden

MAY 2025 /5785

Dear Friends and Family;

Our empty Seder table in the center of our Seder with every one of the 59 hostages' names on each plate was extremely moving and definitely yet another strong statement! I'm thankful we did the Seder in their honor! Continued prayers for all who suffer and we re-emphasize, BRING THEM HOME! THE HOPE LIVES ON!

It was wonderful to see everyone at the Seder, truly awesome!

Thankxoxoxo you to Sara Rosenbaum, Emma Sherwood, Mary Ann Romer, Seanna Makepeace, Vicky Martin and everyone who helps make everything happen! Thank you, Jimmy "the Greek" and our cook, Fernando, who again catered our delicious traditional Pesach dinner. YUMMY!

Our Yom HaShoah service was meaningful. We give special thanks to our amazing speaker, Howard Kerner, who has a wealth of knowledge about the righteous ones who saved our people during the Holocaust. We greatly appreciated his stories! Thank you to Donna Ruden and Rolph Rosenberg for setting up the Holocaust Tree and the hostage candles at the entrance of our shul for the remaining hostages for Yom HaShoah. WE REMEMBER!!!

It is truly beautiful what happens at our Shul! Thank you all for always taking my calls. I am amazed when you answer knowing it's me probably asking you to help with something else. Thank you to our Board of Directors and for those who are joining the Board in the decision making of our Temple.

Seanna Makepeace would like to be a Trustee. If there are no objections, we will welcome her as Trustee in June.

If there is anyone else that would like to join our Board, please let us know now as the new fiscal year begins June 1st and we need all the help we can get!

Annual Dues are due June 1st. Please mail your check to the Temple: \$325 Single and \$525 per Family. Thank you for your continued support. Please contact me or Cathy Blumenthal, our Treasurer. If you cannot pay membership, please make special arrangements with us.

Continued prayers Mi Shebeirach for all who are recovering and healing!

Happy 77th Birthday Israel and may we continue to go from strength to strength!

As always Thankxoxo you Cantor Riselle Bain!

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

Love, Julie

Passover Seder 2025

settings for 59 hostages still held by Hamas





Announcements

MAY 2025/ 5785



LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch

Monday, May 19, 2025 at 12:30pm

Sophie's Café

120 N Ridgewood Drive

Sebring, FL 33870

Contact ReneeTepper

863-414-8811 or

reneetepper@gmail.com

and let her know you'll be there

After the May lunch, the Lunch Bunch will have a hiatus until September 29, 2025



Happy Anniversary

Herb & Kathleen Weiss

5/12

Rachel & Eric Spero-Hoy

5/16

תודה רבה - Thank You

Alan Wildstein for your continued and generous support for Alan Jay Automotive for our transportation to and from Services! If you need assistance to get to services.

Please Contact:

Cantor Riselle Bain

813-600-8013



**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



Announcements

May 2025 / 5785



May Onegs are sponsored by:

May 16, 2025 – The Board

May 30, 2025 – Sara Rosenbaum

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



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**

Mail your check to the temple,
payable to Temple Israel,
1305 Temple Israel Drive, Sebring, FL 33870

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



Announcements May 2025 / 5785

CARDS SENT

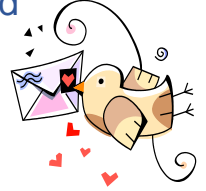
(All Donations go to Temple Israel)

To send a birthday, anniversary, get well or mazel tov card

Contact Mary Ann Romer at matromer@aol.com

Write "Temple Card" in the subject box

Send a minimum of \$5.00 to Temple Israel



April Greeting Cards Sent

Get Well Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Jill Liebeck, Rabbi Fred Natkin, Sheldon Barasch

Thank You Greeting Card Sent

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

To: Dr. Marie Toussaint for Passover wine donation

To: Howard Kerner, speaker at the Yom HaShoah service and for donating DVD's to the Temple library about some of the heroes who saved Jews during the Holocaust.

In Loving Memory



May Yahrzeits

**** Memorial Plaque in our Shul**



Louis Davis	Minna Rose Davis **	Martin Elias
Fannie Erskine	Seymour Fields-Elias	Louis A Frank **
Sylvia Glick	Bonnie Ann Goergen	Jacob & Blanca Gold
Pauline Jaret	Kenneth Johnson	Ruth Kaye
Walter Kessler **	Julia Karp Kirsch	Edward Leveene
Raymond Levin	Daniel Levy **	Arthur Loewy
Sol Napp **	Tom Princiotti	Molly Robbins **
Maurice Rosen **	Marilyn Ross **	Rhoda Salles **
Solomon Salles	Doris Schreibman **	Joseph Sewelson **
Herbert Sharfman **	Rose Liemer Snoll **	Howard Starr
Sol Stoller	Sherwood Tietel	Evelyn Toister **
Jack Vinik **	Nancy Vinik	Charles Weiss

Yahrzeit Donations

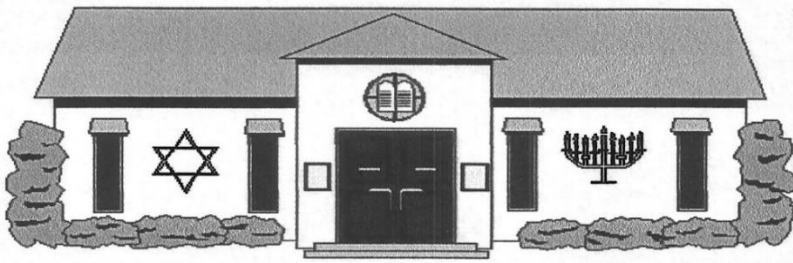


Given by

Marjorie Wohl
Mary Ann Romer
Herb Moscowitz
Herb & Kathleen Weiss

In Memory Of

Molly B. Robbins
Louis Davis, Minna Rose Davis
Harry Moscowitz
Kenneth Johnson



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OF
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INVOICE
ANNUAL DUES

June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026

NAME: _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$ _____

ENHANCEMENT DUES: \$ _____

WOMAN'S CLUB DUES (\$15.00): \$ _____

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS (\$18.00): \$ _____

SECURITY DONATIONS: \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

FAMILY: \$525.00

SINGLE: \$325.00

Please make check payable to:

Temple Israel of Highlands County, FL TOTAL \$ _____

Dues payable upon receipt of This Invoice.

*If you are able to increase your dues, it would be greatly appreciated!!!

NOTE: Special arrangements must be made with the President and/or Treasurer prior to the end of the first quarter or by September 1st of the calendar year.



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 6:30pm unless otherwise listed:

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** (6th night)