

Temple Israel of Highlands County  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
Sebring, Florida 33870  
863-382-7744 MAY 2024 / 5784



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

#### Secretary:

Mary Ann Romer

#### Treasurer:

Cathy Blumenthal

### Trustees:

Phyllis Behrens

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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

In a year of unimaginable suffering and ongoing war, Israel's 76th birthday is upon us. This year has raised a plethora of questions about Israel's future: What will the "day after" look like? How will Israel's democracy sustain itself? How will the dream of a safe, secure, and just Israel be realized? Is there a possibility for peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians? There are obviously no easy answers to these questions.

Yom Haatzmaut --Israel's 76th birthday -- will begin on the evening of the 5th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, which is Monday, May 13th, and will end on the evening of Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Israeli government has unveiled the new logo for this year's Israeli Independence Day. The image to mark the 76th annual celebration of the independence of the modern State of Israel shows a Star of David intertwined with the color yellow, which has become synonymous with the release of the hostages kidnapped by Hamas to Gaza. The image is accompanied by a phrase reading "Israeli Heroism" in Hebrew. Citizens have placed yellow ribbons on their clothing and on the door handles of their cars in hopes of keeping awareness of their plight alive, even as international pressure for their release has slowly subsided.

Despite the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza, celebrations will continue, though with certain limits unlike in years past. The main event every year is a torch lighting which typically takes place at Mount Herzl, Israel's national cemetery and the final resting place of many fallen Israeli soldiers and former presidents and prime ministers.

This year, however, there will be multiple torch lightings, one at Mount Herzl and a simultaneous candle lighting at 12 sites attacked by Hamas terrorists in southern Israel on October 7, such as [Kibbutz Be'eri](#) and the site of the [Nova Music Festival massacre](#).

In total, Hamas-led Palestinian terrorists on October 7 murdered more than 1,200 people and kidnapped 253 others as hostages, launching the current war in Gaza with their surprise invasion.

Due to the VIP participation and scale of the Mount Herzl event, there will reportedly be extra anti-missile defense systems placed around the site to protect it from rocket fire.

Independence Day events this year will also be designed to respect the mental health of Israeli soldiers. The Jerusalem Municipality, which is home to the Mount Herzl torch lighting, announced that officials will [cancel fireworks and explosives](#) during the celebrations.

Independence Day events will still begin at the end of Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of the Wars of Israel and Victims of Actions of Terrorism --Yom HaZikaron in Hebrew -- who fell in the wars.

In Jerusalem, Independence Day will be celebrated with a salute to the IDF and the security forces, to the martyrs and their families, and to the wounded and abductees. Israelis have been asked to [avoid using toy explosives](#) on the Jewish holiday. The loud, sudden sounds could cause panic attacks or stress to soldiers who may hear them as gun shots or actual explosives. A prayer will be offered for the speedy return of those held in captivity, and for the strength and glory of the State of Israel.

The close relationship between Yom Haatzmaut and Yom Hazikaron highlights Israel's collective memory and resilience. Yom Hazikaron serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by soldiers for Israel's independence. The swift transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Haatzmaut, occurring immediately after sunset, symbolizes the seamless connection between honoring the fallen and celebrating freedom.

Am Yisrael Chai – We, here, pray for Israel.

*Cantor Riselle Bain*



# Message From the President

**Julia Ruden**

**MAY 2024 / 5784**

Dear Friends and Family;

Our empty Seder table in our parking lot with every hostage's name on each plate was extremely moving and definitely made a statement, The names were hanging from the tree by the front entrance. I'm thankful we did that in their honor! Continued prayers for all who suffer and BRING THEM HOME! THE HOPE LIVES!

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

Thank you Sara Rosenbaum, Emma Sherwood, Donna Wasson, Rolph Rosenberg, Mary Ann Romer, Tyler Carroll, Vicky Martin, Sandy Lopes and The Potter House people and Cantor Riselle for another wonderful Passover Seder. Thank you Fernando and Jimmy the Greek who catered that delicious traditional Pesach dinner, YUMMY!

Phyllis Behrens (P. Jones) your painting for the Hostages is amazing, you are so talented and share so much of that talent with us, Thank you so much!

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.

Mazel Tov again to Robert and Sunny Klopper on their marriage at the Shul last month.

Annual Dues are due June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 if you can not pay Membership to make special arrangements.

Our next Service is Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 PM.

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

Happy 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Israel and may we continue to go from strength to strength!

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

Love Julie



# Announcements

MAY 2024/ 5784



## LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch  
Monday, May 20, 2024 at 12:30pm

Mae Lee's Deli  
445 N Ridgewood Drive  
Sebring, FL 33870

Contact ReneeTepper  
863-414-8811 or  
reneetepper@gmail.com  
and let her know you'll be there.



## 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 2024 / 5784



**May Onegs are sponsored by:**  
**May 3, 2024 – Rivka & Avi Gomez**  
**May 24, 2024 – 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](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



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



## *Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory*



**Craig M. Nelson**  
Licensed Funeral Director



# Announcements May 2024 / 5784

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

Write "Temple Card" in the subject box

Send a minimum of \$5.00 to Temple Israel



### April Greeting Cards Sent

#### Mazel Tov Card Sent

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

To: Robert & Sunny Klopper on their marriage on April 24, 2024 at Temple Israel

#### Thank You Card Sent

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

To: Norman & Anna Spero for their generous donation in honor of the conversions of Tyler Carroll and Donna Wasson

#### Get Well Cards Sent

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

To: Joyce Wiebbecke, Dixon Taylor

#### Condolence Card Sent

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

To: Herb & Kathleen Weiss on the passing of Melvin F. Weiss

# Robert & Sunny Klopper Wedding, April 24, 2024 at Temple Israel





# Passover Seder, Temple Israel April 23, 2024

## Remembering the hostages remaining in Gaza



Cantor Riselle Bain will be participating at this service.

**GATHER. COMMEMORATE. REMEMBER.**



**Sunday, May 5**

**6:00pm**

Temple Beth Sholom

1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota

Gather to remember those who were lost during the Holocaust.

The event will feature Lotem Levy, a 3rd generation Survivor,  
and her daughter, Ellie.

**REGISTER**

Questions? [CONTACT](#) Temple Beth Israel

Cantor Riselle Bain,  
along with Gary Kurnov,  
will be entertaining the  
Brotherhood of Temple Emanu-El, Sarasota  
at their annual "Fun and Fundraiser"  
on May 11, 2024.

# PLAY-TEE-BILL

Temple Emanu-El

Brotherhood Presents  
The Annual Fun & Fundraiser

## A TASTE OF BROADWAY WITH A SCHMEAR

**SATURDAY  
MAY 11, 2024 AT 6 PM  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**

Dinner and Music from Broadway Musicals:  
*Fiddler on the Roof, Funny Girl, plus  
Gershwin Favorites and more!*  
Sung by GARY KURNOV and  
CANTOR RISELLE BAIN.

### DINNER OPTIONS

Beef Tenderloin, Chicken Francaise,  
or Vegetarian Strudel.  
Includes appetizers, wine, served dinner, & dessert.

\$80 / Reserved Seating  
\$920 / Table for 8 - Orchestra seating  
Best seats in the house!

Tickets, Ads, & Tributes available at  
[www.sarasotatemple.org](http://www.sarasotatemple.org)

Registration Required by May 7

\*\* No Walk-In's \*\*



### BENDERSON FAMILY HALL

151 MCINTOSH RD | SARASOTA, FL 34232



**Cantor Riselle Bain**, spiritual leader of Temple Israel in Sebring, Florida with high energy and gorgeous singing voice who has appeared in numerous musicals such as *Fiddler* and many more.



**Gary Kurnov**, temple member with a voice to level for, who recently portrayed Curly in the Manatee Players production of *Oklahoma*, and numerous singing performances with various New York City theater groups.

Questions? Contact Howard Schapiro at [hlschapiro@gmail.com](mailto:hlschapiro@gmail.com)

## Brotherhood - A Taste of Broadway with a Schmeat

Saturday, May 11, 2024 • 3 lyar 5784

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Benderson Family Hall

# 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

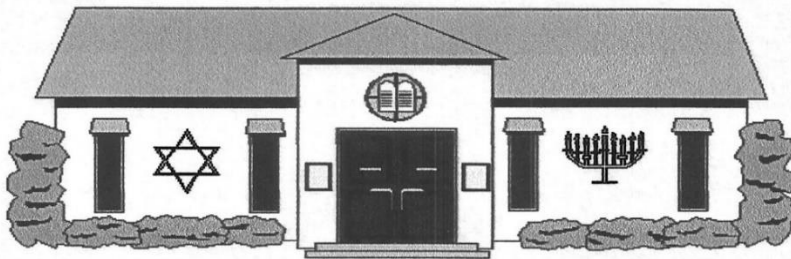
#### Given by

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





**TEMPLE ISRAEL  
OF  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY**  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
SEBRING, FL 33870  
863-382-7744  
[www.templeisraelofhcf.org](http://www.templeisraelofhcf.org)

**INVOICE**  
**ANNUAL DUES**

June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025

**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 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year.**

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 6:30pm unless otherwise listed:**

Friday 5/3/24 – Yom Hashoah/Yom Haatzmaut – Torah Portion K'doshim

Friday 5/24/24 – Torah Portion Behar

Friday 6/7/24 – Torah portion Bamidbar

Friday 7/12/24 – Torah portion Chukat

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** (3<sup>rd</sup> night) – Torah portion Miketz