

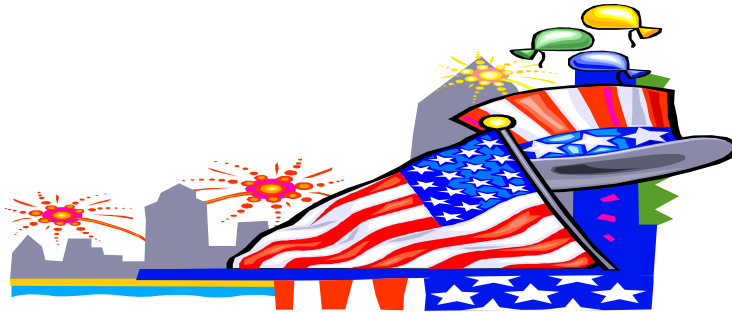
Temple Israel of Highlands County
1305 Temple Israel Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-382-7744 JULY 2024 / 5784

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
Clergy Committed to Judaism and
Jewish Music

Rabbi Emerita: **Lorraine Rudenberg**

Newsletter Staff: **Mary Ann Romer**

What are the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are a series of commandments and prohibitions of the God of Israel in the Hebrew Bible. In it, they appear in two slightly different versions in two passages. It is explained in a little more detail in the Book of Deuteronomy than in the Book of Exodus why everybody should observe the Sabbath as a day of rest. The Decalogue is introduced as a direct speech of God to God's people, the Israelites, and outlines God's will regarding their conduct towards our Divine Creator and our fellow human beings. The Decalogue's commandments had presumably been passed on by word of mouth for several centuries until they found their place in the Torah, the first five books of the Jewish Bible.

Every public classroom in Louisiana, from elementary schools to colleges, will be [required to display](#) the Ten Commandments starting in January under a new law signed by Republican Gov. Jeff Landry on June 19.

What shall be displayed? Is it the version of the Ten Commandments that appears in the Jewish version of Exodus, or the Gospel of Saint Mathew, or the Quran? All of these are holy to different people. Nor are the Ten Commandments the basis for law for people who do not believe the Christian Bible is the word of a single god at all — Sikhs, Hindus, Native American religious practitioners and others.

The Court, for example, has often permitted the Ten Commandments to be displayed in government buildings when it is shown alongside other historical documents that do not convey a religious meaning. The Supreme Court's own courtroom, for example, displays Moses holding the Ten Commandments [alongside 17 other images of mostly secular lawgivers](#)— thus indicating that the Commandments are displayed not as an endorsement of a particular religious belief but merely as one of many examples of famous legal codes.

An interesting issue is that the content of what is displayed and will be displayed in Louisiana schools will contain only the first line of each of the Commandments. It will not be a complete rendition of the great religious statement, but merely a collection of “one-liners.”

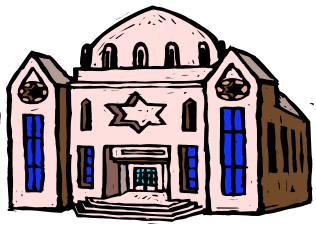
The text shall read as follows:

1. I AM the LORD thy God.
2. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.
3. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

For me, the most revolutionary of the Commandments is the one that institutes Shabbat, the weekly day of rest, because no other ancient civilization had the idea or the courage to proclaim such a law. What is the meaning of the Shabbat? We had those two versions, one in the second and one in the fifth Book of Moses. The first says it is a reminder of the Creation, It states that all human beings, and even the beasts of burden, are entitled to rest a whole day once a week; first, in order to remind us that on the seventh day, the Creation was completed as far as God is concerned, and that now we have to be the co-creators to help God in the work of creation on this earth.

The other is a reminder of the Exodus from Egypt and deals with freedom. A slave has no free day. The fourth Commandment states that not only the people who are free, but also the servants, the slaves, and even the animals of burden are entitled to divine rest. The Pagan world scoffed at this idea. The Roman historian Tasitus said that the Jews are a lazy people because they don't work one whole day a week. Of course, he forgot to mention that the noble Romans had enough slaves to do all the menial labor to give the upper class the rest they felt they deserved all the time!

I feel, that the display of the Ten Commandments in the Louisiana schools and public buildings will not focus on the important issue and true meaning of the Ten Commandments. The issue is one which has to do with Creation. It has to do with Freedom. It has to do with human dignity. For Jews, it is the only law in the ancient world which expresses these ideas in such a beautiful way.



Message From the President

JULY 2024/5784

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you to everyone that has sent in their dues and for the extra donations towards security and our efforts to keep our doors open!

Cantor Riselle will be having an introduction to Judaism class starting Saturday 7/13 at 10:30 AM at the Temple. We hope to have a zoom link for those who can't attend in person, please email Cantor Riselle voiceofgladness@aol.com if you need that zoom link.

It is summertime and HOT! Please take care of yourselves! Hydrate yourselves! Enjoy that 4th of July Independence Day, be safe please!

We still need your stories for our 100 year celebration of our Jewish heritage at Temple Israel of Highlands County. The 100th Anniversary of the Jewish Community in Sebring is in 2025. Please put something together, how you came to be part of Temple Israel of Highlands County, Sebring, FL. Put it on your list of need to Doooo!

Members mark your calendars for February 14th 2025 Friday Shabbat Service, February 15th 2025 Saturday Special Dinner Havdalah Service at the Shul (invitation only for members and no cost to you). We have an anonymous donor for this. Thankxoxo You So Much!

The invitations for the dinner Feb 15th 2025 will go out after High Holidays. Feb 16th 2025 Cantor Riselle and friends will be putting on a concert, Tickets are \$20.00 and limited to 150 people.

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

A Message From Donna Wasson

I returned to Israel during the first three weeks in June. After the October 7 massacre and the taking of hostages I became concerned and involved. I researched organizations that donated equipment, supplies, and vehicles to the Israeli effort to neutralize the Hamas terrorists in Gaza such as our own Jewish Federation, the Friends of the IDF, Adom Magen David (Israel's Red Cross), and the Jewish National Fund. I wrote Congressional representatives and signed petitions to support Israel in this endeavor. However, by spring this year, I felt that I was just not doing enough for Israel. I had to put my own two feet on the ground of our Holy Land. So, I made up my mind that I would go, not to be a tourist, but to offer what I could... myself. I had been trained as a social support for grief groups while volunteering for Hospice and after my own life experience of my husband being killed instantly in December, I knew that I could meet people and listen to their stories. From there, I could walk alongside them with compassion. Additionally, I learned that the IDF soldiers had been stationed in Gaza without leave since November and were war weary. On the Internet I looked up what supplies these mostly young soldiers could use. I bought \$500 worth of Band-aids, antibiotic cream, undershirts, socks, powdered drink packets for energy, and hard candies. I packed them into my baggage. At the time I did not know where they would go, but I was determined that they must go to IDF soldiers in Gaza. I booked a ticket on El Al out of Miami and off I went!

My Hebrew teacher, Cheryl Cohen from Sarasota, heard of my trip and immediately wanted to join me on it. Her Israeli family had been displaced from Kibbutz Melfalsim near Sderot since October 7 and she wanted to be there in person to visit them. Her fluent Hebrew and her connections through her Israeli nephew proved invaluable to my mission. In fact, it was through her nephew that my supplies for the IDF reached a unit that had been stationed in Gaza a long time. The soldiers got word back to me that the "stuff" I had given was exactly what they needed!



A Message From Donna Wasson cont.

Cheryl and I covered a lot of ground in the three weeks. We toured the massacre sites in Sderot, Kibbutz Magen, and the Nova music festival site where we lit candles and said Kaddish. We listened to young IDF soldiers in museums, bus stops, on the train, and in buses. We heard many stories from people we met on the street who had lost friends or family on October 7. Even our own host's 22-year-old daughter had lost 11 friends at the Nova music festival. She herself had been intending to go but had been called in to work that day which saved her life. Four of the hostages were released from captivity on June 8 while we were staying in Tel Aviv. On that evening we joined 1,000 other people on Hostages Square to listen to families of those still in captivity and to show our solidarity of desire for their release.

Cheryl and I were able to spend Shavuot with her family in Herzliya. They had been living in a small flat and a hotel that the government provided after October 7. In fact, the entire kibbutz was living in these quarters. We were told that the displaced children after October 7 had reactions to trauma including bedwetting, refusing to sleep in their own beds and wanting to be with their parents, and, most sadly, recurring nightmares. The kibbutz is doing a wonderful job of providing a lot of activities so that the children have a happy and normal childhood along with trauma counseling.

Cheryl wanted to revisit her memories of being a young newlywed fifty years ago on Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk just south of Akko. So we boarded a train to Akko in which we spoke to IDF soldiers being transported to the north to participate in protecting that border. At the Kibbutz we said Kaddish for a 26-year-old who had grown up there. He had been murdered at Nova. The recitation was put on video to send to his parents in order to know that he was remembered by us. 70,000 citizens have been dislocated from northern communities. Many factories and businesses are being relocated away from the north. As we got back on the train in Akko to return to Tel Aviv we were 12 miles from the border with Lebanon. My phone picked up my location as Lebanon on my weather app.

I will give numerous presentations using photos I took during my trip. I'll let you know when I present at Temple Israel. I also want you to know that I made it to Jerusalem and to the Kotel. I went there as a representative for all of us in our congregation and recited Shechehiyanu and a prayer for Temple Israel and for world peace. Please let me remind you that we have had war in Israel since October 7. Resources are depleted and there is much need for our donations. I am also available to give a talk or to answer questions to any group which requests this.



Announcements

JULY 2024/ 5784



July Oneg is sponsored by:

July 12, 2024 – By 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

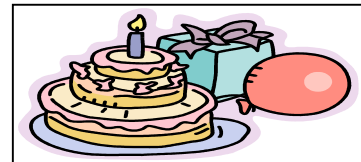
The Ladies Lunch Bunch is on hiatus until October 28, 2023



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

תודה רבה - Thank You

Alan Wildstein for your continued and generous support for Alan Jay Automotive for our transportation to and from Services! Please, if you need assistance to get to services, Contact Cantor
Riselle Bain
813-600-8013



Happy Anniversary

Jay & Susie Luck	07/04
Leslie & Franklin Sands	07/18
Joe & Lisa Bain Crowder	07/19
Bruce & Rabbi Lorraine Rudenberg	07/20
Stephanie & Marc Hauser	07/24



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

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Sebring, FL 33870

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211 US 27 South
Lake Placid, FL 33852
(863) 465-1880

JULY 2024/ 5784
In Loving Memory



July Yahrzeits

**** Memorial Plaque in our Shul**

Mary Cohen Bain	Rose Goldberg	Edward Richmond
David Bellin	Sylvia Jay	Ida Tobias Romer
Elliott D. Blumenthal**	Dr. Leon Kahn**	Sarah Roth
Maurice Max Blumenthal**	Lillian Kamen**	Joan Rotman
Rose Cantor	Evelyn Ladinsky	H. Pat Sibulkin**
George Dudley	Robert Liebeck	Meyer Siegel
Faith Faulds**	Sylvia Meltzer	Rose Liemer Snoll
Bertram J. Frankel**	Frances Miller**	Rita L. Wallbank**
Lewis S. Glick**	Cyril Pearl	Eva Wexler

YAHZEIT DONATIONS

Given by

Judy Albin
Julia Ruden
Mary Ann Romer
Jill Liebeck

In Memory Of

Louis A. Frank, George Albin
Arnold Neumann, Selma R. Neumann
Judith Abrams, Theodore Romer
Robert Liebeck

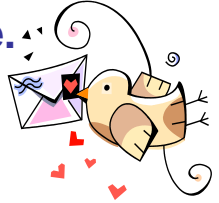
CARDS SENT

(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.



June Greeting Cards Sent

Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Bruce Sherwood & Sara Rosenbaum,

By: Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees

To: Cantor Riselle Bain & Michael Duncan

By: Congregation

To: Nancy & Joe Rockhill, Dr. Lee & Denise Weisberger



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.

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

Board of County Commissioners
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870
Email: delwell@hcbcc.net Phone: (863) 402-6835

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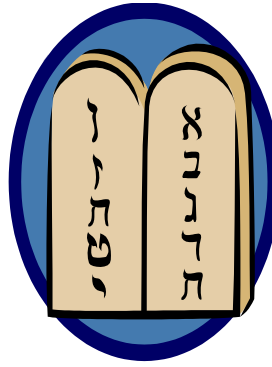
ALAN JAY
Automotive Network



Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory



Craig M. Nelson
Licensed Funeral Director



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 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** (3rd night) – Torah portion Miketz