

Temple Israel of Highlands County
1305 Temple Israel Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-382-7744 *DECEMBER 2024 / 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:

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Julia Ruden

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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**

Sunday, December 1st the new moon for the month of Kislev will appear in the night sky. The blessing for this month celebrates creation, renewal and the connection between nature and tradition. Kislev is the darkest month of the year, yet it is also the time we bring light and love into our lives with the celebration of Chanukah and the anticipation of beginning a new year.

As we come to the end of our secular year, I began to think about the gift of beginning another secular new year, and then I began to think about the concept of gratitude.

Gratitude, or being thankful, is prevalent throughout Jewish texts. It is the theme of the first prayer uttered upon waking up in the morning, Modeh Ani (“I give thanks”), and is a value that drives countless other Jewish practices, traditions, and customs.

One of the things I am grateful for is the very sustenance that has kept me alive and healthy this whole year. In the Birkat Ha Mazon, we express our gratitude to the one who prepared the meal; the ones with whom we eat; as well as to God.

The book of Deuteronomy emphasizes the importance of blessing God after eating and being satisfied, highlighting the spiritual practice of gratitude. Chapter 8 of Deuteronomy, speaks of how the Rabbis of the Talmud expanded upon the command to give thanks after one eats in the form that became Birkat Ha Mazon, to include the Mitzvah of reciting “Ha Motze” before we eat.



Cantor Riselle Bain's Message Cont.

DECEMBER 2024 / 5785

As I thought about this concept of gratitude in Judaism, I thought about why the recitation of those blessings we say before and after we eat are necessary. Then I realized that –as we read in Brikat Ha Mazon: “V’achalta and you shall eat; V’savata and you shall be satisfied: U’vayrachta and you shall give thanks;” – we might think of these words as a command applicable to more than eating in the way we are grateful to God for the gift of life, grateful for our family, friends and even for our Temple Israel, for each of their roles in enhancing the quality of our lives.

The Talmud says that the purpose of these blessings is to make each of us realize that without God, none of us, despite our efforts and labors, would ever enjoy the gifts of this world. It is a clear statement that gratitude is a central value of Judaism.

As our calendar is about to turn to the month of Kislev, the call to gratitude for our physical sustenance and the reminder that we do not live by bread alone can both be found in Deuteronomy 8, along with the commentaries of the Rabbis from the Talmudic times to modernity, seemed to be calling upon me, to not only be grateful for the blessings of my life, but also command me, in the approaching year of 2025 to be a better partner with God in providing physical, spiritual intellectual and emotional sustenance to all.

Wishing you all Light and Love and a

Very Happy Chanukah,

Cantor Riselle Bain



Message From the President

Julia Ruden

December 2024 / 5785

Dear Friends and Family,

We have over 100+ people attending our “Rhapsody for Golda” show on December 1st! Thank you, Mary Ann Romer for filling up our Temple seats and raising that money and selling those tickets! You are amazing and a true blessing!

Our Chanukah celebration is Friday, December 27th. Bring your menorahs and we will have our traditional Latkes and Chanukah gelt!

For our 100th year celebration, invitations will be sent to congregants in January.

Mark your calendars for:

2/14- 100th Shabbat Service 6:30PM,

2/15- Saturday Invitation only event 4:30PM and Sunday,

2/16- 3PM Concert “From Gershwin to Garfunkel”. Mary Ann has those tickets also which cost \$20.00 for the Concert Fundraiser.

Thank you, Sara Rosenbaum, Mary Ann Romer, Vickie Martin, Tyler Carroll, Rolph Rosenberg, Andrew Haines, Seanna Makepeace, Jennifer Allen and of course Naomi our kid, Phyllis Behrens, Donna Ruden and Cantor Riselle Bain for making these fundraiser shows happen!

We are going to have another concert Sunday February 16th, 2025 called “From Gershwin to Garfunkel” and the tickets will sell out fast.

Tickets will be available at the “Rhapsody for Golda” show on December 1st.

Please contact Mary Ann Romer ASAP to get your tickets if you are not going to be at our “Rhapsody for Golda” show on December 1st.

Our Temple is open because of donations. We are all volunteers and the only people who get paid are our clergy Cantor Riselle Bain and our security.

Thank you everyone for all you do and for keeping Temple Israel alive!

I still light a third candle on Shabbat for all the IDF and innocent suffering souls of this war! The hope lives for World PEACE, Tikun Olam!

Continued prayers for Israel and all of the hostages, their families and the world!

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!!

Have a SAFE and Happy Chanukah!

Have a Safe and Happy 2025!

Love, Julie

Announcements

DECEMBER 2024/5785



DECEMBER Onegs are sponsored by:

DEC 13 The Board

DEC 27 Chanukah Party

Challah, wine, decaf coffee & fruit are the basics for our onegs. If you would like to sponsor an Oneg contact Karen delValle.

LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch
Monday, December 30, 2024

Sunset Bar & Grille

2640 U.S. 27S

Sebring, FL

(North of Southgate Shopping Center)

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 for Alan Jay Automotive for our transportation to and from Services! And for ALL YOU Dooo! if you need assistance to get to services,
Please Contact
Cantor Riselle Bain
813-600-8013

December Yahrzeits

** Memorial Plaque in our Shul



Ida Biener	Gerda Levy**
Ida Chinsky	Frieda Moscowitz
Sylvia Cohen	Albert M. Moses**
Ralph E. Crews**	Gertrude Pearl
Ruth E. Davis**	Lena Pintzow
Benjamin Donde	Herman Pintzow Past President
Sylvia Dorfman	Helen Rivers
Elaine Eckles**	Jacob Rosenberg
Isaac Elias	Nate Sadowsky**
Benjamin Garthwait**	Ethel Gottlieb Shapiro**
Ella Garthwait**	Steve Siegel
Roger Jarlow	Marilyn Schustrin
Kathleen Johnson	Joseph Sornstein**
	Mamie Asher Smith
Michael Kahn**	Harry Stoller
Lillie H. Kessler**	Meyer Vinik
Jean Levene**	Ethel Werner
Eleanor R. Trachtenberg	Sam Wolkove**

YAHREZEIT donations

ZICHRONAH LIV'RACHAH

Given by:

Catherine Blumenthal
Mary Ann Romer
Julia Ruden
Nancy Beyer
Elsa Kahn

In Memory of:

Maurice Blumenthal, Ruth E. Davis
Marilyn Schustrin, Edith Romer
Jacob Rosenberg, Zack Kelly
Benjamin Gordon
Michael Kahn, Lillie H. Kessler, Gerda Levy



Temple Israel of Highlands County
Presents a 100th Anniversary Celebration Performance
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 3PM

“From Gershwin to Garfunkel”

Cantor Riselle Bain and Gary Kurnov

Piano accompaniment by Joy Katzen-Guthrie

Tickets: \$20/person made payable to Temple Israel

Order your tickets ASAP by contacting Mary Ann Romer

matromer@aol.com

Cell: 352-442-0830 or Home : 863-314-0422



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

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.



November Greeting Cards Sent

Get Well Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Lois Lewis, Karen DelValle, Renee Tepper, Michael Duncan

Thank you Greeting Card Sent

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

To: Marjorie Wohl for the generous donation to Temple Israel



To plant a tree, email your information of who you're honoring/remembering to jruden@embarqmail.com. Mail check (\$18.00/tree) to the temple. Write "Tree" in the memo line on check.



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

207 N. Ridgewood Dr.
Sebring, FL 33870

863-402-9190

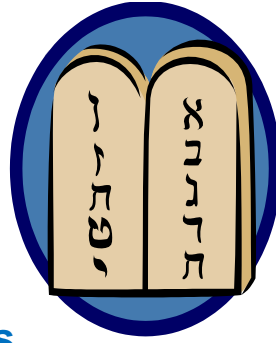
BOARD CERTIFIED



LAKE PLACID EYE CLINIC
GARY J. PEARCE, M.D.
EYE PHYSICIAN & SURGEON

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

Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

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/>

Sunday 12/1/24 – “Rhapsody for Golda” original musical 2PM

Friday 12/13/24 – Torah portion Vayishlach

Friday 12/14/24 – Judaism Class

Friday 12/27/24 – **Chanukah** (3rd night) – Torah portion Miketz

Friday 1/10/25 – Torah portion Vayechi

Friday 1/24/25 – Torah portion Vaera

Friday 2/14/25 – Service

Celebration of 100th Year Anniversary of Temple Israel

Saturday 2/15/25 – Dinner Celebration, Congregation invited

100th Year Anniversary of Temple Israel

Sunday 2/16/25 – 100th Anniversary Temple Celebration Concert

“From Gershwin to Garfunkel” – 3 PM

Friday 2/28/25 – Torah portion Terumah

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