

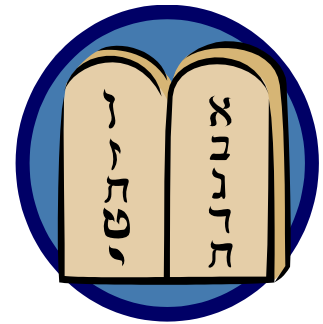
Temple Israel of Highlands County
1305 Temple Israel Drive
Sebring, Florida 33870
863-382-7744 NOVEMBER 2024/ 5785



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:

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,

On Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 3 PM at the ORA on the campus of the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, there will be a commemoration of Kristallnacht and also to honor the 60th Anniversary of the Memorial Scrolls Trust. Our congregation is invited to attend. Our Holocaust Torah #409 will be included in the march of the Holocaust Torahs.

At Temple Israel of Highlands County in Sebring, we are privileged and honored to be guardians of Czech Memorial Scroll #409. It was written in 1890 and is now 132 years old. The tragedy of this extraordinary scroll is that it is the only surviving relic of the Prostejov Jewish community whose members were deported and exterminated in the Nazi death camps during World War II. Every time we read from our Torah #409, we honor the lost lives of our extended mishpacha – our extended Jewish family who lived in Prostejov until the Holocaust wiped them out.

What is the history of our precious Holocaust Torah. Our Temple Israel Torah scroll #409 comes from the town of Prostejov which is right over the border from Vienna in the Czech Republic. This scroll and others like it with its biblical teachings, was used by Jewish communities to guide their conduct and values. It is one of 1564 scrolls which were gathered into an unused synagogue in Prague after World War II. Twenty years later the Communists, who had taken over Czechoslovakia, needing hard cash, sold the scrolls to an art dealer in London who worked with a rabbi to repair them.

What was Prostejov like for the Jews who lived there before it was decimated by the Germans?

Indeed, Prostejov was for centuries home to one of the most significant Jewish communities in the eastern part of the country known as Moravia. The Jewish philosopher Edmund Husserl was born here, and his relatives were buried at the town's Jewish cemetery, as were family members of celebrated author Stefan Zweig.

The local Jews used the cemetery from 1801 until the beginning of the 20th century. Before the Nazis took over, the Jewish community rejected proposals from City Hall to sell the site. After the transport to the Terezin concentration camp of nearly all the town's 1,442 local Jews, as well as 250 others who came as refugees, the Jewish graveyard was doomed to destruction. Only some 200 of those sent to Nazi camps survived the Holocaust, and most of them left the country to live in Israel and elsewhere. Today, there are less than a dozen Jews living in Prostejov.

Confronting the dark legacy of the Holocaust, in 2015, a small team of researchers began working to reassemble the Jewish cemetery in the eastern city of Prostejov that was destroyed during the Nazi occupation. The Nazi death machine killed 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, wiping out a third of world Jewry - and didn't even let those already dead rest in peace.

The Once Lost Jewish Graveyard in Prostejov, Czech Republic, was finally being reassembled. A small team of researchers began looking for 1,924 tombstones that were destroyed by the Nazis circa 1943.

The renovation project was spearheaded by New York philanthropist Louis Kestenbaum (whose father Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum was active in [lobbying for the creation](#) of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad) and [Tomas Jelinek](#), who led the search for "Prostejov's lost graveyard." Louis Kestenbaum first drew attention to the cemetery when he was looking for the tomb of Prostejov Rabbi Zvi Horowitz, who died in 1816.

"His (Rabbi Horowitz's) writings are still revered in Jewish communities throughout the world," Kestenbaum told The Associated Press by email. "For Rabbi Horowitz and other great rabbis from the region, Prostejov was known as a major seat of Jewish learning and culture. This makes the cemetery an important monument in both Jewish and Czech history."

Among the project's earliest discoveries is of a Jewish tombstone that was repurposed and used as a hen house doormat in the small village of Žešov. Turned upside down and after a bit of cleaning, the tombstone found at the entrance to the henhouse revealed a Hebrew inscription that was hidden for decades. Bearing the name Juli Rosenthal, it reads: "Here lies a modest and righteous woman, Mrs. Yittel, the wife of our dear teacher Mr. Leib Rosenthal, may he be long alive, who passed away 76 years old."

Another discovery was a whole backyard of a house in Prostejov that was paved with some 50 large tombstone blocs. One Prostejov resident, Anna Holestova, said she moved to her grandmother's home 25 years ago, and was told her grandfather brought the stones there since they were given out for free during the war.

Using archival material from the Jewish Museum in Prague, the team of tombstone trackers were able to attach identities to some of the stones found. All 1,924 tombstones were desecrated, likely in 1943, and no documents were available to clarify their fate. The search for a site that disappeared such a long time ago in the wartime chaos looked like mission impossible at the beginning, said Tomas Jelinek. "At the start, we had no clue, experts knew nothing," he said. "But we thought that it was impossible for such a big number of stones, and some of them were quite big, to completely evaporate without a trace."

That hunch was proven right after they published an announcement about the project in a City Hall newspaper. The team didn't have to wait long for responses from people with information about stones they had in their homes, or tips on where they could be found.

Preserved plans and details of the cemetery, including the inscriptions stored at the archive of Prague's Jewish Museum, make it possible to identify the people they belonged to. Their living relatives now have an unexpected chance to rediscover their family past - previously considered lost forever.

Our Sefer Torah #409 is a permanent memorial to those martyrs – their lives and their legacy were blotted out, just because they were Jewish. Our Torah is filled with their blessed memories.



A former synagogue in the town of Prostějov is for sale, for a bit more than €210,000. The synagogue, listed as a cultural monument, dates from around 1836. It served as a bet midrash and then the town's main synagogue until World War II. After the war, and the destruction of the local Jewish community, it was used as a warehouse and then as an Orthodox church, which in turn sold it to private owners. It has stood empty for years.

The [Open Reality web site](#) listed it earlier this year and priced it at 5,549,000 Czech crowns, or about \$238,523.04.

Around a year ago, [according to local media](#), the private owners attempted to sell the building to the city for a higher price, and then rejected a much lower bid from the city.

The Open Reality listing describes it as “a unique building with a historical touch and a wide range of possible uses” including “as prestigious offices, for holding exhibitions, a yoga center or as a luxurious private residence. An important advantage is the separate entrance to the building, which leads to the 2+1 apartment unit with its own bathroom and which can serve as a profitable investment for possible rental.”

The [National Monuments Catalogue](#) describes the building as “part of the only intact block of houses of the former Jewish ghetto” and a “remarkable building both for its finely crafted Empire architecture and historically, as evidence of the spiritual life of the Jewish community in Prostějov since the end of the 18th century.”



Message From the President

NOVEMBER2024/5785

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family;

Thanks xoxo to you Mary Ann Romer for selling our “Rhapsody for Golda” show tickets... And for ALL YOU Dooooo!!! “Rhapsody for Golda” show tickets for Dec 1st at 2PM at the Temple. Tickets are \$20.00 please contact Mary Ann ASAP at matromer@aol.com.

- Cantor Riselle Bain, Mary Ann Romer, Donna Ruden and I will be attending the Kristallnacht and 60th Anniversary of the Memorial Scrolls Trust Gathering Sunday November 10,2024 3PM at The Ora 578 McIntosh Rd Sarasota, FL. If you would like to join us, please reach out to Mary Ann Romer matromer@aol.com or me jruden18@gmail.com

Our Highlands County Community has and continues to reach out to us letting us know they are watching our shul and offer to help protect it if we need help.

No Hate! No Fear! No Way! We are so blessed with our Highlands County Community!

- Our Jewish Community in Highlands County will be turning 100 years old and we are starting to plan our 100th celebration! We are the only Reform Jewish Temple within 100+ miles and we must continue to survive for generations to come. We love seeing new faces at our services and our community is starting to grow again halleluiah!

- **Homework** for our congregation: Please write down your story of when you came to Temple Israel. We need your stories and time is sneaking up on us!
- PLEASE DOooo THIS for our 100th year celebration. Invitations will be sent to congregants. Mark your calendars 2/14/2025 100th Shabbat Service, 2/15 Saturday Invitation only event and Sunday 2/16 3PM Concert. Mary Ann has those ticket also \$20.00 for the Concert Fundraiser.

Thank you, Sara Rosenbaum, Mary Ann Romer, Vicky Martin, Tyler Carroll, Rolph Rosenberg, Andrew Haines, Seanna Makepeace, Jennifer Allen, Naomi and Phyllis Behrens for participating with the Pioneer Daze with the Sebring Historical Society. You DOoo Fine work!!

We still light a third candle on Shabbat for all the IDF and innocent suffering souls of this war! The hope lives for PEACE!

- 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 grateful for everything, everyone, everyday – I am!!

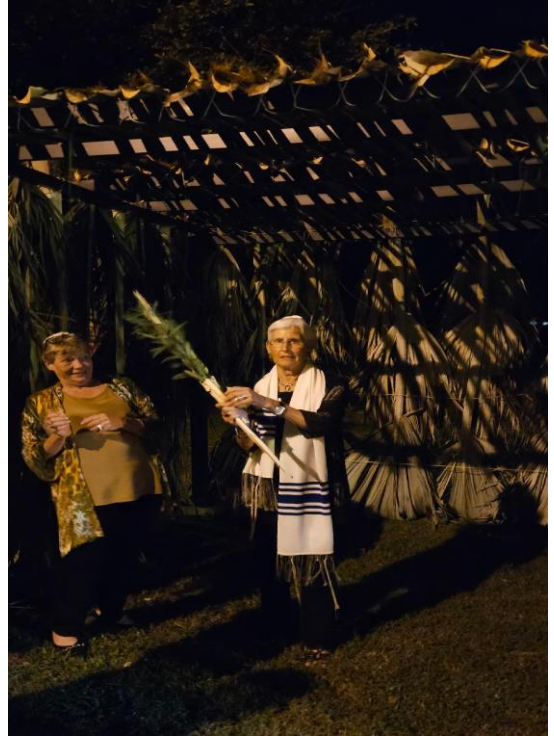
Have a SAFE and Happy Thanksgiving! God Bless America!

Love Julie

Temple Israel represented at the Sebring Historical Society Pioneer Daze - 2024



Temple Israel celebrating Sukkot, shaking the lulav



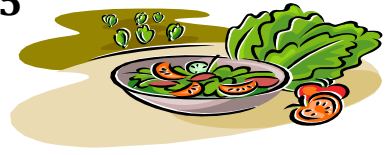
Simchat Torah at Temple Israel





Announcements

NOVEMBER 2024/5785



LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch Group
Monday,

November 25 at 12:15PM

Nutmeg's Café

3953 US Hwy 27S

Sebring, FL

Contact Renee Tepper

863-414-8811 or

reneetepper@gmail.com

and let her know you'll be there.

NOVEMBER Onegs are sponsored by:

Nov. 8 The Board

Nov. 22 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

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!

Please Contact Cantor Riselle Bain 813-600-8013 if you need assistance to get to services.



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

Kristallnacht Commemoration & 60th Anniversary Memorial Scrolls Trust Gathering

Register: <https://jfedsrq.org/event/kristallnacht-memorial-scrolls-trust-event-bearing-witness/>

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee cordially invites you to join us in

BEARING WITNESS

Kristallnacht Commemoration AND 60th Anniversary Memorial Scrolls Trust Gathering

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024 • 3PM
The Ora • 578 McInosh Rd, Sarasota

Among the group of 1,564 scrolls collected by the Jewish Community in Prague during the Nazi occupation, the 98 scrolls being kept in the State of Florida represent the vibrant cultural and religious life of Czech Jewry that once existed. On this day, we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Memorial Scrolls Trust who has entrusted us to safeguard these scrolls that bore witness to the atrocities of the Holocaust.

— FEATURED SPEAKERS —

Jeffrey Ohrenstein
Memorial Scrolls Trust Trustee and Chairman
London, England

Lois Roman
Memorial Scrolls Trust Trustee
New Jersey, USA

TORAH SCROLL PROCESSIONAL
MAGNIFICENT INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCES

Torah Scrolls will be on display in the ballroom directly after the program.

RSVP to [JFEDSRQ.org/Events](https://jfedsrq.org/Events)

For further information please contact:
Bette Zarit, Holocaust Education Initiative
Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
bbzarit@jfedsrq.org • 941-228-3676

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CO-CHAIRS
Hayley Englander
Agnes Schipper

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

 Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY PRESENTS

"RHAPSODY FOR GOLDA"

Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 2PM

1305 Temple Israel Drive

Sebring, FL 33870

Tickets \$20

Contact: Mary Ann Romer, matromer@aol.com

Playing multiple characters, Sharon Ohrenstein brings to life the remarkable journey of Golda Meir from poverty to Prime Minister with the tuneful original score and piano accompaniment of David Ohrenstein



SaraSolo Productions, Sarasota Jewish Theatre &
The Players Centre present a DSO Works production of

RHAPSODY FOR GOLDA

A NEW MUSICAL ABOUT GOLDA MEIR

Book and Lyrics by
Sharon Ohrenstein

Music by
David & Sharon Ohrenstein

Directed by
Blake Walton





WE REMEMBER



November Yahrzeits ** Memorial Plaque in our Schul

Maurice Blumenthal**	Sadie Kahn **
Murray Brenner **	Dr. Harold Kirshner **
Ed Carter	Frank Roth
Jeno Greenstein **	Bernice Snoll
Samuel Levy	Eva Stoller
Elsie Gross **	Ruth Witler
Dora Hurwitz	Martin Wohl **
Meyer Hurwitz	



Yahrzeit Donations



GIVEN BY:

CATHERINE BLUMENTHAL
MARJORIE WOHL
DONALD AND JOE SNOLL
ELSA KAHN

DR. & MRS. BRUCE KIRSHNER

IN MEMORY OF:

MAURICE BLUMENTHAL
MARTIN WOHL
BERNICE SNOLL
SADIE KAHN, DORA HURWITZ,
MEYER HURWITZ

DR. HAROLD KIRSHNER



To plant a tree, email your information of who you're honoring/remembering to jruden18@gmail.com.
Mail your check (\$18.00/tree) to Temple Israel.
Write "Tree" in the memo line on the check.

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 Israel

Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Avi & Rivka Gomez

By: Congregation

To: Dr. Neil & Dawn Shechtman



Thank You Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Marjorie Wohl for her generous contribution

To: Marilyn & David Redmon for donations of Jewish artifacts and memorabilia from the home of Bob & Bobbi Goodman

Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory



Craig M. Nelson
Licensed Funeral Director

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



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/>

Friday 11/8/24 – **Kristallnacht** – Torah portion Lech L'cha

Friday 11/22/24 – Torah Portion Chayei Sarah

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

Friday 12/13/24 – Torah portion Vayishlach

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 100 Years Anniversary of Temple Israel

Saturday 2/15/25 – Dinner Celebration

100 Years Anniversary of Temple Israel

Sunday 2/16/25 – Temple Celebration Concert – Sunday 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

