

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

FEBRUARY 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

What's the buzz? Tell me what's a happening? The Hundredth Anniversary Celebration of our little Temple's dedication and existence, 1925-2025, that's what's happening!

The date of our celebration February 14-16 will also be 16th, 17th, and 18th of the Hebrew month of Shevat 5785.

I have wondered what it might have been like when our Temple opened the doors in 1925 of our first building located on South Orange Street one hundred years ago. What did they sing for their opening hymn? Could it have been Hinei Ma Tov, as we do every Shabbat when we are together?

How did the congregants of one hundred years ago feel that first time they were able to do a hakafah – the Jewish tradition of walking the Torah around the congregation so that each person can touch her – with the newly purchased Torah that Michael Kahn and Alfred Wolfe found in New York City? One hundred years later, that same Torah still resides in our Ark, and we proudly parade her around the congregation. Our congregants read and chant the Torah portion Nitzavim from her every year on Yom Kippur morning!

When the original building was damaged and could not be used anymore, our people came together to build the present structure 1305 Temple Israel Drive. The land was donated by Tommy and Marjorie Wohl. Ron Handley built the structure but did not charge for the labor, only the materials. The mural on the back wall of our social hall was created by Elsa Kahn and her artist friends and represents the city of Jerusalem.

Our dear Phyllis Behrens and Pamela Jay Paralikis, along with other members, designed and painted the area around the Bimah (altar) in the front of the Sanctuary.

The stained-glass windows add more beauty to our sanctuary, especially the one donated by Dr. Lisa Earle, which is dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust.

We treasure our Holocaust Torah #409 on permanent loan to us from the Holocaust Memorial Trust Fund. Some synagogues keep their Holocaust Torahs in a glass case on display. We continue to read, chant, and learn from her most every Shabbat, in a way acknowledging the memory and the souls of those who perished from her original home in Prostejov, Czechoslovakia.

One hundred years have passed, and each time we walk into Temple Israel, it is as if we are walking into a little gem. Our Temple was founded in the spirit of brotherly love, and it has continued to exist in that way for a century. We are truly “The Little Shul That Can.”

A big thank you to each and every congregant who volunteers, who participates in our services, and who helps us financially. You keep our synagogue alive. Let us continue to be worthy of the blessings we have inherited and carry them forward as builders for the next generation!

Cantor Riselle Bain



Message From the President

Julia Ruden

Dear Friends and Family;

We are on the final approach to our 100th Anniversary celebration starting 2/14/2025 at 6:30PM, when we will gather for our Shabbat service.

Saturday 2/15/2025 is our invitation-only 100th year celebration dinner and the beginning of our next century of continued Jewish Community and Traditions in our community of Highlands County, Florida.

Sunday February 16, is our Gershwin to Garfunkel fundraising concert (\$20 per ticket) which is SOLD OUT!!! Thank you, Mary Ann Romer!! If you can't attend, please let us know as soon as possible as there is a waiting cancellation list for these tickets!

Thank you to Sara Rosenbaum, Mary Ann Romer, Cathy Blumenthal, Phyllis and Bruce Behrens, Vicky Meyer, Tyler Carroll, Dixon Taylor, Rolph & George Rosenberg, Donna Ruden, Seanna Makepeace, Andrew Haines, our whole Board and other volunteers as well as our Cantor Riselle Bain for ALL the efforts you put in to our Temple and our celebrations!

Speaking of celebrations... **We need participants for our Purim spiel next month, March 14th.** Please reply as soon as possible to Cantor Riselle when she reaches out for your role in this year's spiel so you have time to rehearse; time flies so fast!

Passover is also around the corner on April 12th. The reservation form is included in this newsletter. Please print it and mail it in to the Temple with your checks as soon as possible.

We are truly blessed with LIFE! The Life is YOU! Thankxoxoxo YOU!
It is always great to see and celebrate with you!

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, Tikkun Olam!

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

May we continue to go from strength to strength!

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

Stay Safe!
Love Julie

Announcements

FEBRUARY 2025 / 5785



February Onegs are sponsored by:

February 14, 2024 – Susie & Jay Luck
February 28, 2024 – 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



Happy Anniversary

Ronald & Renee Tepper

2/17



LUNCH BUNCH

The next
Ladies Lunch Bunch Group
Monday, February 24, 2025
at 12:30PM

Nutmeg's Café
3953 U.S. Hwy 27 S.
Sebring, FL 33870

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 by 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.

**Temple Israel of Highlands County
Presents a 100th Anniversary Celebration Performance
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 3PM
“From Gershwin to Garfunkel”
Gary Kurnov and Cantor Riselle Bain
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**



CARDS SENT
(All donations go to Temple Israel.)



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.

January Greeting Cards Sent

Anniversary Greeting Cards Sent

By: Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees, Cantor Riselle Bain
To: Jay & Rebecca Clarke, George & Pearl Zelma, Amy Rose & Mel David, Rob & Marni Zuckerman

By: Congregation
To: Judy Albin & Clint Wallbank

Thank you for Donations

By: Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees, Cantor Riselle Bain
To: Rabbi & Mrs. Stuart Altshuler for the 100th anniversary celebration
To: Dr. David & Francine Rosenberg for the 100th anniversary celebration
To: An anonymous donor for the 100th anniversary dinner celebration

Get Well Greeting Cards Sent

By: Congregation, Board of Directors & Trustees, Cantor Riselle Bain
To: Karen DelValle, Lois Lewis, Evelyn & David Stahl, Annette Owens



**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



We Remember



February Yahrzeits

** Memorial Plaque in our Shul

Max Blumenthal **	Martha C. Ross **
Donald Chinsky	Hyman Rotman
Selma Yarrow	Elliot Salles
Horace G. Davis **	Rabbi Moses Sapir
Dorothy Donde	Hilda K. Schamis **
Dr. Vincent R. Faulds **	Jacob N. Schamis **
Fanny Glazer	Beatrice Schwartz
Sylvia Goldstein**	Abraham Sherman **
Shelly Greenstein	Ileana Lilly Sherman **
Kenneth S. Gross **	Solomon Snoll **
Celia Leveene	John Stimple
Judith Frances Liebeck	Ida Tepper
Thelma Napp**	Dr. Hershel Ullman
Sarah Rosenbaum **	Richard Wilson
Sylvia Rosenthal **	Fritz Rosenberg
Harry Romer	Ruth Kahn Davis
Harold Abrams	Dora Tarabori



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



YAH'RZEIT DONATIONS



ZICHRONAH LIV'RACHAH

Given By:

Cathy Blumenthal
Jeff Donde
Jill Liebeck
Mary Ann Romer
Sara Rosenbaum
Bruce Kirshner
Rolph Rosenberg
Marvin & Elsa Kahn
Ron & Renee Tepper
Joseph Snoll
Andrew Haines

In Memory Of:

Max Blumenthal
Dorothy Donde, Rita Donde
Judith Frances Liebeck
Horace Davis, Selma Yarrow, Harry Romer, Harold Abrams
Sarah Rosenbaum, Max Rosenbaum
Dr. Harold Kirshner
Fritz Rosenberg
Marc Kahn, David Levy, Ruth Kahn Davis
Ida Tepper
Solomon Snoll
Mary Dellmann, Edward Haines

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
Cell: (863) 381 - 5622



*Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home
& Crematory*



Craig M. Nelson
Licensed Funeral Director

Cantor Bain's Schedule:



Future Erev Shabbat Services

6:30 PM (subject to change)

<https://www.facebook.com/662042600572611/live/>

Friday 2/14/25 – Shabbat Service

Celebration of 100th Year Anniversary of Temple Israel

Saturday 2/15/25 – Havdalah/Dinner Celebration,

Congregation members 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

Friday 6/20/25 – Torah Portion Sh'lach L'cha

Friday 7/25/25 – Torah Portion Mattot -Mas'ei

Friday 8/29/29 – Torah Portion Shoftim

Friday 9/12/25 – S'lichot

**CELEBRATE PESACH WITH YOUR TEMPLE FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON
MONDAY APRIL 12, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

**IN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S SOCIAL HALL
A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER MEAL WILL BE SERVED**

****RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 20, 2025**

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATION AND CHECK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

1305 TEMPLE ISRAEL DRIVE, SEBRING, FL 33870 TELEPHONE (863) 382-7744



NAME _____

_____ **ADULT MEMBERS @ \$40.00 EACH** \$ _____

_____ **ADULT NON-MEMBERS @ \$50.00 EACH** \$ _____

_____ **YOUNG ADULTS (UNDER 18) \$18.00** \$ _____

_____ **CHILDREN 12 & UNDER are Free**

_____ **TOTAL** \$ _____

PLEASE LIST NAMES AND CHOICE OF CHICKEN OR BRISKET

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____