

Temple Israel of Highlands County  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
Sebring, Florida 33870  
863-382-7744 MAY 2025 / 5785



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

#### **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](mailto: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,*

As we begin this month of May 2025, Israel is about to celebrate her 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. The State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, and her Independence Day – in Hebrew, Yom Haatzmaut – is celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Iyar. This year, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Iyar falls on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It is widely believed that Hitler's policy of genocide against European Jews during World War II and the catastrophe of European Jewry during World War II had a decisive influence on the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. For the Jews, the Holocaust triggered a supreme effort toward statehood, based on the belief that only a Jewish state might again avoid the horrors of the 1930's and 1940s. For the nations of the world, shocked by the horror of the extermination and burdened by feelings of guilt, the Holocaust convinced them that the Jews were entitled to a state of their own.

Nevertheless, the political plight of the Jewish people at the end of WWII had not diminished. "They were stateless, powerless -- pawns in the struggle between nations.

Having no country of their own, they were unable to assert their political self-interest or self-defense. Instead, they were forced to rely on others to act on their behalf."

But on May 14, 1948, when the British formally ended their mandate, Zionists in Palestine declared an independent state of Israel, changing everything. After fighting and winning their war of independence, Jews returned to their historical homeland, longed for, for over 2000 years, victims no more.

Also, during the month of May, we will continue chanting the daily count of the Omer, which began the second day of Passover and will culminate with the festival of Shavuot from June 1-3, 2025. After 49 days, our ancient ancestors finally arrived at Mount Sinai and received the Torah. The symbolic "countdown" from Passover to Shavuot tells us that our freedom from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah, which gives our lives purpose and meaning.

We find our Jewish calendar during the month of May filled with historical and spiritual significance!

*B'Shalom,*

*Cantor Riselle Bain*

# Message From the President Julia Ruden

MAY 2025 /5785

Dear Friends and Family;

Our empty Seder table in the center of our Seder with every one of the 59 hostages' names on each plate was extremely moving and definitely yet another strong statement! I'm thankful we did the Seder in their honor! Continued prayers for all who suffer and we re-emphasize, BRING THEM HOME! THE HOPE LIVES ON!

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

Thankxoxoxo you to Sara Rosenbaum, Emma Sherwood, Mary Ann Romer, Seanna Makepeace, Vicky Martin and everyone who helps make everything happen! Thank you, Jimmy "the Greek" and our cook, Fernando, who again catered our delicious traditional Pesach dinner. YUMMY!

Our Yom HaShoah service was meaningful. We give special thanks to our amazing speaker, Howard Kerner, who has a wealth of knowledge about the righteous ones who saved our people during the Holocaust. We greatly appreciated his stories! Thank you to Donna Ruden and Rolph Rosenberg for setting up the Holocaust Tree and the hostage candles at the entrance of our shul for the remaining hostages for Yom HaShoah. WE REMEMBER!!!

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.

Seanna Makepeace would like to be a Trustee. If there are no objections, we will welcome her as Trustee in June.

If there is anyone else that would like to join our Board, please let us know now as the new fiscal year begins June 1st and we need all the help we can get!

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, our Treasurer. If you cannot pay membership, please make special arrangements with us.

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

Happy 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday Israel and may we continue to go from strength to strength!

**As always Thankxoxo you Cantor Riselle Bain!**

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

Love, Julie

# Passover Seder 2025

## settings for 59 hostages still held by Hamas







# Announcements

MAY 2025/ 5785



## LUNCH BUNCH

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch

Monday, May 19, 2025 at 12:30pm

Sophie's Café

120 N Ridgewood Drive

Sebring, FL 33870

**Contact ReneeTepper**

863-414-8811 or

[reneetepper@gmail.com](mailto:reneetepper@gmail.com)

and let her know you'll be there

After the May lunch, the Lunch Bunch will have a hiatus until September 29, 2025



## 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 2025 / 5785



May Onegs are sponsored by:

May 16, 2025 – The Board

May 30, 2025 – 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**

Mail your check to the temple,  
payable to Temple Israel,  
1305 Temple Israel Drive, Sebring, FL 33870

### 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

**ALAN JAY**  
Automotive Network



### Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory



**Craig M. Nelson**

Licensed Funeral Director



# **Announcements May 2025 / 5785**

## **CARDS SENT**

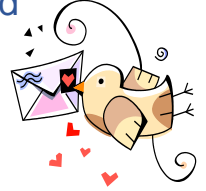
*(All Donations go to Temple Israel)*

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**

### **Get Well Greeting Cards Sent**

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

To: Jill Liebeck, Rabbi Fred Natkin, Sheldon Barasch

### **Thank You Greeting Card Sent**

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

To: Dr. Marie Toussaint for Passover wine donation

To: Howard Kerner, speaker at the Yom HaShoah service and for donating DVD's to the Temple library about some of the heroes who saved Jews during the Holocaust.

# 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

## YAHARZEIT DONATIONS



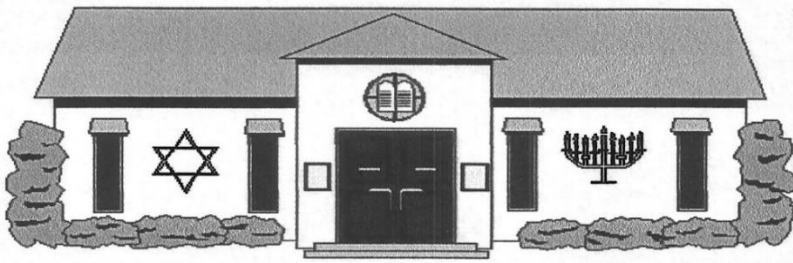
### Given by

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





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OF  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY**  
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**INVOICE**  
**ANNUAL DUES**

June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026

**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.



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 5/16/25 – 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

**Rosh Hashanah Monday, 9/22/25-Tuesday, 9/23/25**

**Yom Kippur Wednesday, 10/1/25-Thursday 10/2/25**

Friday 10/10/25 **Sukkot** (Actual Monday, 10/6/25) This Shabbat Service will also include Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Friday 10/24/25 – Torah Portion Noach

Friday 11/7/25 – Torah Portion Va-yeira

Friday 11/21/25 – Torah Portion Va-yetzei

Friday, 12/5/25 – Torah Portion Va-yishla ch

Friday 12/19/25 – **Shabbat Chanukah** (6<sup>th</sup> night)