

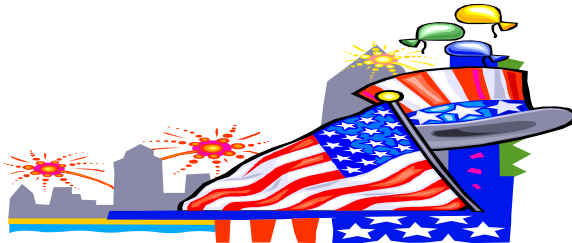
Temple Israel of Highlands County  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
Sebring, Florida 33870  
863-382-7744 JULY 2025 / 5785

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

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Phyllis Behrens

Karen DelValle

Lois Lewis

Seanna Makepeace

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,

*I saw this article in My Jewish Learning, and I thought it was something relevant for us to read as we grapple with the continuous assaults on Israel during our lifetime.*

## *Is it Kosher to Pray for the Death of Our Enemies?*

Since ancient times, Judaism's most central prayer has included a curse against our enemies, both internal and external. The 12th blessing of the weekday [Amidah](#) reads as follows:

Let there be no hope for informers, and may all wickedness instantly perish; may all the enemies of Your people be swiftly cut off, and may You quickly uproot, crush, rout and subdue the insolent, speedily in our days. Blessed are You, Adonai, Crusher of enemies and Subduer of the insolent.

This blessing has long been a controversial one. Beginning in the Middle Ages, secular authorities forced the rewriting of this blessing, which in its original form (preserved in the 1,000-year-old [Siddur of Rav Saadia Gaon](#)) refers to a "kingdom of insolence," rather than "the insolent." This phrasing clearly indicates that the external enemy in question was a political entity. The first reference to an insolent kingdom is in the [Book of Jeremiah\(50:31-32\)](#), where it refers to the Babylonians who destroyed the First Temple. Later this kingdom was associated with Egypt, our original tormentors, and later still Rome, which destroyed the Second Temple.

The blessing has also been controversial among Jews who, beginning in the 19th century, grew sheepish about it and self-censored the text. In America, it was absent from [Reform](#) liturgy for more than 100 years, and it never appeared in Reconstructionist liturgy. [Conservative](#) and most Orthodox prayer books, following censored texts from the Middle Ages, simply dropped the reference to a kingdom.



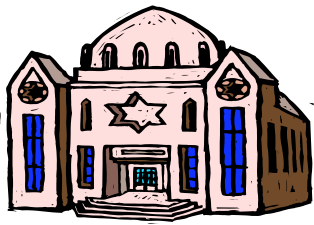
## Cantor Riselle Bain's Message Cont.

It is important to note what we are praying for in this blessing — and what we are not. It is not a call for revenge for its own sake, or even for the outright death of our enemies (although some later versions include harsher words). The 14th-century prayer book commentator Rabbi David Abudraham [asked](#) how it is possible that we can curse anyone in the Amidah. In answering his own question, he notes that our blessing does not call for explicit destruction of our enemies (which is forbidden by the [Talmud](#)). We are praying only that they be stopped.

To be sure, some Jews in the past have used this prayer to call for bloody revenge. In some extreme quarters today, they still do. But this would seem to be a perversion of the spirit of the prayer. One 19th-century authority, Rabbi [Yaakov Tzvi Mecklenberg](#), claimed that we cannot be praying for the death of evil people, rather that evil people be thwarted. Presumably, this includes war and other physical acts to stop them, which may indeed lead to their death, but it might also include negotiated solutions. The specifics are not legislated. The essential nature of the prayer is that the kingdom be uprooted — that is, rendered ineffective in its attacks on Israel.

Our most basic prayer recognizes the reality of Jewish vulnerability; we have enemies, and they should be stopped. Nevertheless, a moral outlook on this request necessitates a limited approach to neutralization: one that focuses on necessary steps to subdue, but not bloody revenge. Giving voice to our prayers against enemies is a balancing act: praying for their dissolution while upholding our ethical values.

*We pray for Israel - Cantor Riselle Bain*



# Message From the President

JULY 2025/5785

**Julia Ruden**

Dear Friends and Family,

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

Thankyou, Seanna Makepeace, for the extra “cush in our tush”! Seanna has redone our chairs so services will be even more enjoyable!

Our next service is July 25<sup>th</sup> and **note that Cantor Riselle's class is cancelled for Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.**

We will have a *Havdallah* Service and build-your-own-pizza-potluck-topplings-bake-your-own-pizza-slices night. The basic pizza dough will be provided.

Please let Donna Ruden know what you will bring for toppings [druden18@gmail.com](mailto:druden18@gmail.com) or text her. We will also be showing a movie (will be a comedy) on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Temple 5:00 P.M. I hope to see everyone in town there for this fun evening. I miss seeing everyone!

**Since we are at a heightened security alert status, you must stop at our security check as you drive to the parking lot.**

It is summertime and HOT!! Please take care of yourselves! Hydrate yourselves often!

Enjoy that 4<sup>th</sup> of July Independence Day and stay safe, please!

Prayers for 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!!**

Love to all, Julie



# Announcements

JULY 2025/ 5785



July Oneg is sponsored by:

**July 25, 2025 – 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 27, 2025



**Contact Renee Tepper**  
863-414-8811 or  
[reneetepper@gmail.com](mailto:reneetepper@gmail.com)

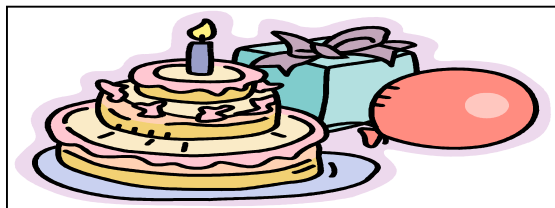
**תודה רבה - Thank You**

**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**

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

**JULY 2025/ 5785**

*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

*Yahrzeit Donations*

**Given by**

**Cathy Blumenthal**

**Sara Rosenbaum**

**Mary Ann Romer**

**Joe Snoll**

**Herb Moscowitz**

**Jill Liebeck**

**In Memory Of**

**Elliot D. Blumenthal, Maurice Max Blumenthal**

**Lora Starr, Betty Rosenbaum**

**Ida Tobias Romer, Rose Cantor, George Kaufman**

**Rose Liemer Snoll, Solomon Snoll**

**Frieda Moscowitz, Rhoda Moscowitz**

**Robert Liebeck**



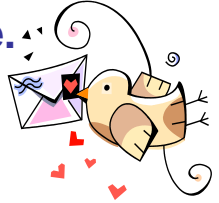
## CARDS SENT

*(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](mailto: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

**To:** 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](mailto: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](mailto:don.elwell@ALANJAY.COM)  
Phone (863) 314-5334

**ALAN JAY**  
Automotive Network

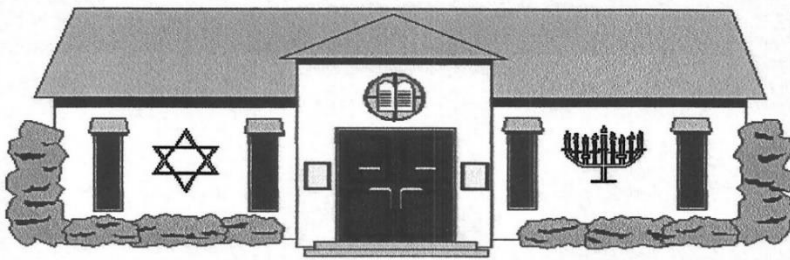
Board of County Commissioners  
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2  
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870  
Email: [delwell@hcbcc.net](mailto:delwell@hcbcc.net) Phone: (863) 402-6835  
Cell: (863) 381 - 5622



### Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory



**Craig M. Nelson**  
Licensed Funeral Director



**TEMPLE ISRAEL  
OF  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY**  
1305 Temple Israel Drive  
SEBRING, FL 33870  
863-382-7744  
[www.templeisraelofhcf.org](http://www.templeisraelofhcf.org)

## **INVOICE**

### **ANNUAL DUES**

June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>ANNUAL DUES</b>	\$ _____
<b>ENHANCEMENT DUES</b>	\$ _____
<b>WOMAN'S CLUB DUES (\$15.00)</b>	\$ _____
<b>NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS (\$18.00)</b>	\$ _____
<b>SECURITY DONATIONS</b>	\$ _____

### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

**FAMILY: \$525.00**  
**SINGLE: \$325.00**

**Please make check payable to:**

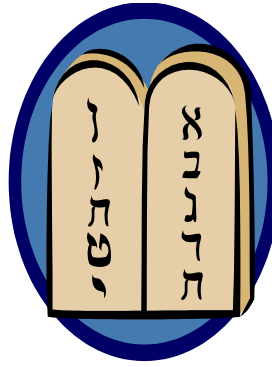
**Temple Israel of Highlands County, FL TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**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 6:30 unless otherwise listed:**

**Judaism classes on the Saturday following Friday night services at 10:30am – Bagels, etc at 10am**

Saturday 7/12/25 – 5:00pm Havdallah Service, Pizza and a Movie

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

Friday 8/22/25 – Torah Portion Reeh

Saturday 8/23/25 – Judaism Class 10:30am, Bagels etc. at 10am

Friday 9/12/25 – S'lichot

Saturday 9/13/25 – Judaism Class 10:30am, Bagels etc. at 10am

**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)