

Temple Israel of Highlands County

1305 Temple Israel Drive

Sebring, Florida 33870

863-382-7744 NOVEMBER 2025 / 5786

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

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Sara Rosenbaum

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Lois Lewis

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Rolph Rosenberg

Donna Ruden

Herb Weiss

Alan Wildstein

Officiating Cantor:

Cantor Riselle Bain

voiceofgladness@aol.com

Cell: 813-600-8013

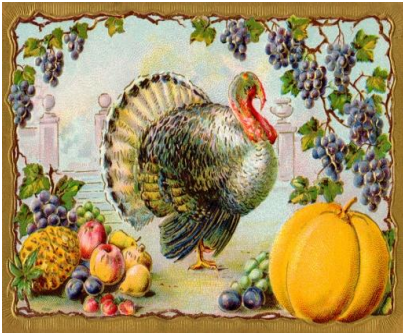
*American Conference of Cantors
Clergy Committed to Judaism and
Jewish Music

Rabbi Emerita:

Lorraine Rudenberg

Newsletter Staff:

Mary Ann Romer



Giving Thanks in Judaism -- Hoda'ah

Tis the season for giving thanks. So, as we prepare to gather with friends and family for turkey and stuffing and apple pie, what is the Jewish concept of giving thanks?

In Jewish tradition, the connection between *hoda'ah* (gratitude) and *chesed* (loving-kindness) is fundamental and inseparable. Gratitude is not merely a passive emotion but an active force that is expressed through action. Acknowledging the goodness bestowed by God and others creates a powerful impulse to extend that same goodness to the world.

Hoda'ah begins with an inner recognition of blessings (*hakarat hatov*), such as being alive or having food. This inward reflection leads to an outward response of kindness toward others. A grateful heart evolves to a generous heart.

A core Jewish principle is *imitatio Dei*—imitating the attributes of God. Since God's world is built on kindness (*chesed*), humanity is tasked with doing the same. By performing acts of loving-kindness, humans give back to God in a way that is most pleasing. Gratitude for God's creation, provisions, and continued benevolence is most genuinely expressed by acting as a partner in that creation.

Today, the traditional Jewish concepts of *hoda'ah* (gratitude) and *chesed* (loving-kindness) are expressed through a wide range of contemporary practices. Modern practices of *hoda'ah* focus on cultivating a mindset of gratitude, which science confirms improves mental and emotional health.

Following the ancient Jewish practice of saying 100 blessings a day, many people keep a daily journal to record blessings or positive things that happen. One popular technique for families is listing "three good things" every night.

The first prayer upon waking, *Modeh Ani* ("I thank") is already an ancient practice of immediate gratitude. It is a short prayer that immediately expresses gratitude to God for restoring the soul for another day. In a modern context, this can be expanded to include other personal affirmations of gratefulness upon waking.

Saying a blessing (*bracha*) before a meal or in response to a beautiful sight helps integrate these rituals into our busy lives.

In Judaism, gratitude is not passive but demands a response. This means translating a thankful heart (*hoda'ah*) into acts of kindness (*chesed*) and charity (*tzedakah*). Giving to others is a primary way of thanking God for one's own blessings.

So, let us cultivate the mindset to recognize these special moments not only during the season of Thanksgiving, but let us continue to integrate Hoda'ah into our lives every day. Thank You, God!

Cantor Riselle Bain

Sukkot & Simchat Torah Celebration

November 2025 / 5786





Message From the President

Julia Ruden

November 2025 / 5786

Dear Friends and Family;

THIS is a moment to kvel as President....

Our services are so wonderful and the days of wondering if we are going to have a minyan are over! Not only that, but we also have a minyan at our Saturday morning classes!

This is because of ALL OF YOU!!! THANKXOXOXO YOU!!!

Cantor Riselle Bain is truly a blessing, along with our 100% volunteer Temple Board and Helpers, who are ALWAYS in motion making things happen! I am thrilled and humbled!

Cantor Riselle Bain, Mary Ann Romer, Donna and I will be attending the Kristallnacht performance at the Jewish Federation of Sarasota on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM at The Ora 578b McIntosh Rd. Sarasota, FL. This is **FREE** and If you would like to join us, **please register online:** <https://mailchi.mp/jfedsrq/e1qchluqf9-15090336?e=3711635f19>

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

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

Mark your calendars Sunday February 15, 2026 for a concert by Cantor Riselle (program will be announced!)

Mary Ann Romer will sell those tickets at \$20.00 for the Concert Fundraiser.

Thank you: Sara Rosenbaum, Mary Ann Romer, Cathy Blumenthal, Vicky Martin, Tyler Carroll, Donna Ruden, Rolph Rosenberg, Lois Lewis, Andrew Haines, Seanna Makepeace, and Phyllis Behrens for participating in everything we Dooooo!!! The Sukkah dinner was a success!

We still light a third candle on Shabbat for all the IDF and innocent suffering souls of the October 7th 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!!

We give a grateful nod to our veterans this month. Have a SAFE and Happy Thanksgiving! God Bless America!

Love, Julie

3PM, Sunday, November 9, 2025

**We look forward to welcoming you to a once-in-a-lifetime performance,
commemorating Kristallnacht.**

**This special event promises a unique musical experience that should not be missed.
Please note, advanced registration is required.**

**Nov 9
2025**

**Free
TO ATTEND**

KRISTALL NACHT

Commemoration

FEATURING



**Chair
Judy Fox**



**Performances by the musicians of the
Polish Chamber Musicians' Association**



**Grzegorz Mania
Piano**

**Karolina Mikołajczyk
Violin**

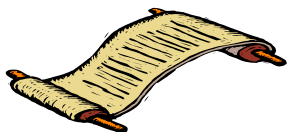
**Iwo Jedynecki
Classical accordion**



**President of Holocaust Music Lost & Found
Janie Press**

**"Music has shaped my life since I was a little girl.
With HMLF, that force continues in a beautiful
and complex new way. Let's let music be a cord
to the past and a weapon to fight anti-Semitism
in the present and future."**





Announcements

NOVEMBER 2025/5786



NOVEMBER Onegs are sponsored by:

Nov. 7, 2025	The Board
Nov. 21, 2025	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 next Ladies Lunch Bunch Group
Monday,

November 24, 2025 at 12:30 PM

The Grill at Lake Jackson

751 U.S. Hwy 27 South

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 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



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	



YAHARZEIT 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: Steve Lawrence, Balfour Capital Group for his generous donation to Temple Israel

To: Dina David for her presentation of Iraqi history and preparation of Sephardic food

To: Donna & Julia Ruden for hosting the presentation of Dina David

Get Well Greeting Cards Sent

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

To: Bruce Behrens, Leah Kahn, Pamela Jay & Stanley Paralikis, Dixon Taylor,

Emma Sherwood, Sara Rosenbaum, Aaron David, Luz Pagan, Thea Rubenstein

Mazel Tov Greeting Card Sent

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

To: Luz Pagan on her Conversion to Judaism

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 11/7/25, 6:30pm – Torah Portion Va-yeira

Saturday 11/8/25, 10am – Judaism Class & breakfast

Friday 11/21/25, 6:30pm – Torah Portion Va-yetzei

Saturday 11/22/25, 10am – Judaism Class & breakfast

Friday, 12/5/25, 6:30pm – Torah Portion Va-yishlach

Saturday 12/6/25, 10am – Judaism Class & breakfast

Friday 12/19/25, 6:30pm – **Shabbat Chanukah** (6th night)

