



The Menorah

Rabbi's Message



Many American Jews are becoming increasingly uneasy with any public acknowledgment of their religion. Events of the last few months have shown that there is indeed a rise in both the number and the level of anti-Semitism incidents here in the USA. I believe that the vast majority

of Americans are sympathetic to the Jewish community, and can be powerful partners in combatting all forms of hatred and bigotry.

Thanks to the wisdom of the authors of the constitution, we were given a sanctuary where we can flourish in freedom. We are living proof of the power of free markets, access to education and social mobility. We cannot allow the haters to diminish our public presence. We need to continue to stand proud of our identity and take pride in our past.

Over the past two centuries, the Jewish people have led lives of unprecedented blessings in the United States. We have struggled for acceptance, marched for tolerance and enjoyed breakthroughs in every field. The Jews are perhaps the best evidence for the potential of the cherished American value of freedom. Given the chance, Jews manage to excel in every vocation, from Broadway to boxing, garments to gambling, physics to physique...we even compose classic Christmas carols!

I pray we baffle demographers predicting our demise by initiating a Jewish renaissance in our beloved home away from Homeland. May a renewed focus on the Joy of Judaism encourage American Jews to affiliate, propagate, and engage in mitzvot and have fun in the process. No need to reinvent the wheel. The Jewish People have the formula for survival...we just need to reread our notes! G-d willing the United States, by adopting our mission statement, will continue to share our divine mandate as a light unto nations.

I invite you to join us at services as well as our social functions and help put Temple Emanuel on the map here in Lakeland. There is a future for Jews here in Lakeland, we just have to put our minds, our hearts, and our hands to work to make it so.

Happy Hanukkah! Rabbi David Goldstein

Inside this issue

- School News 2
- Book Club..... 2
- Going on Elsewhere 3
- Giving Tuesday.....3
- Archives by Cat 4
- Archives con't..... 5
- Profile..... 6
- Profile con't.....7
- Chanukah Party.....8
- President's Message.....9
- Chagall.....10
- Live Artfully..... 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHANUKAH BEGINS

12/2/2018

BOOK CLUB

12/4/2018

CHANUKAH PARTY

12/8/2018

SHABBAT DINNER

12/14/2018

SHABBAT AWAY

12/21/2018

Call office for details.

LIVE ARTFULLY: A TASTE OF MOROCCO

2/16/2019

Visit our [website calendar](#) & our [Facebook page](#) for details on all events!

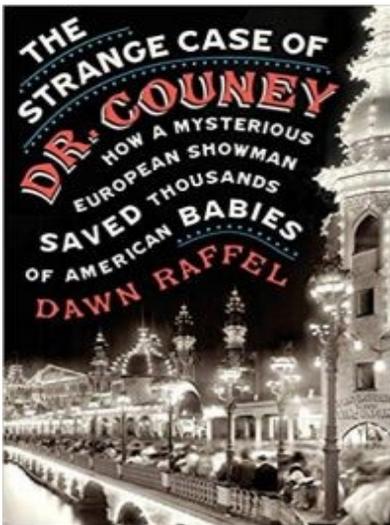
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - from Lori Dougherty and Lizandra Izsak

What a busy time we have had so far in Sunday school. We started off with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, sending out Rosh Hashanah cards and making shofars. We then made decorations for the Sukkah and had a lovely dinner. We learned how to shake the lulav and the etrog. Onto Simchat Torah, where we made Israeli flags and danced while carrying out Torahs. We are now preparing for Chanukah.

In Hebrew school all classes are learning the Friday night services so that we can participate in our monthly Friday night Shabbat.



BOOK CLUB— by Jane Renz



Our next Book Club will meet Tuesday, 12/4/18 at 11am in the Media Center of our Education Building, followed by an optional lunch out. Our selection is: “The Strange Case of Dr. Couney: How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies”. The author, Dawn Raffel, was featured at the opening night of the Tampa JCC Jewish Book Festival on 11/1/18.

“A mosaic mystery told in vignettes, cliffhangers, curious asides, and some surreal plot twists as Raffel investigates the secrets of the man who changed infant care in America.... It’s a fascinating historical footnote, compassionately told.” —NPR

The Temple Emanuel family extends deepest condolences to Dan and Joy Leviten & family upon the passing of Dan’s dad, Jerome at age 101 and a half.

May his memory be for a blessing.



GOING ON ELSEWHERE:

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota/Manatee is celebrating its 60th Anniversary and has scheduled several exciting events that you might be interested in attending. For tickets or further information their website is jfedsrq.org/events

*February 7, 8pm, ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA with Conductor Zubin Mehta, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Sarasota, Box Office 941-953-3368

*February 11, 7pm, COMMUNITY LECTURE WITH DR. DANIEL GORDIS (\$18)

Hyatt Regency, 1000 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota

“How to Heal: Healing the Rift between Israel and American Jews”

Dr. Gordis is the award winning author of more than 10 books. He is a regular columnist for the Jerusalem Post and the New York Times. His most recent book, Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn, received the 2016 National Jewish Book Award as “Book of the Year.”

*March 6-17, 10th ANNUAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

A premiere line-up of 12 films themed around the creation of the state of Israel and modern life in Israel today. Go to jfedsrq.org for more information on movie selections, locations and movie times.

GIVING TUESDAY:

Huge thanks to those who generously donated to the Temple Emanuel Giving Tuesday Fundraiser: Joe Speizer, Linda Friedt, Ana Lipson, Brian and Jane Renz, Tammy Serebrin, Galina Vugman, Marilyn Signer, Michael Riskin, Melissa Meyers, Amy Morris, Debb Stern, Alexandra Wein, Jodie Snyder, Erica Woodruff, and Irma Cole. \$919 has been raised to purchase tablets for our



Hebrew School students. It is not too late to donate to this worthy endeavor. Please give online this week at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/2149085612019089/> or by clicking on the DONATE button at the top of the home page on our temple website at Templemanuelakeland.com Thank you for your support!

“Prime Real Estate”

About the Archives by Cat. Eskin

I have written many times about the dynamic duo of Tillie and Sam Estroff. In October, I capitalized on their story for a paper at an academic conference in Ybor City. As I prepared for that lecture, one of the most fruitful resources was the Lakeland Room at the Lakeland Public Library (if you’ve never been, I highly recommend a trip during business hours). Armed with the names of Jewish community members from a letter written by Tillie in 1925 and early Ladies’ Auxiliary minutes, I began searching up Jews in the old City Directories (1924-1936). What I noticed were geographical concentrations of Jewish-owned businesses and residences. The vagaries of the Florida land market and the impact of the Great Depression are marked all over the trends I discovered. What follows is a taste of what looking in phonebooks helped me discover.

In 1925, the City Directory for Lakeland lists a “Nathan & Estroff” department store run by Sam Estroff and Harris Nathan at 226 Pine Street; it likely occupied the second storefront of the Clonts Building (built in 1903 and shown here as it stands today). Situated at the corner of Pine and Kentucky, the building was just north of the train platform (the station has since moved to Main and Lake Mirror) making it a prime spot for attracting customers. I have no real information on Harris Nathan, the Estroff’s partner who disappears within a year, but I did find several human imports who served as clerks and salesmen at the new store. Elliot Gottlieb—of Gottlieb’s Bakery in Savannah, GA—is listed as a salesman at the shop in 1925. Gottlieb is gone by 1926-27, when Nathan & Estroff is renamed the Empire Store, grows to occupy three storefronts from the original one (224, 226 & 228 East Pine Street), and develops from just “dry goods” to “Ladies’ Ready-to-Wear, Men’s Clothing, etc.” The exit of Nathan and Gottlieb signals other changes: Sam is now partnered with Harry Barkin, Tillie’s elder brother, and the staff now includes Bernard Schneider, a local boy who leaves his job as a salesman at the Globe Department store (1925) to join the Estroffs at the newly dubbed Empire (1926-7). As some new residents lose heart in the wake of the Florida Land Bust, Tillie’s family appear not just in her business, but other Jewish businesses in town—brother Isidore arrives with Harry in 1926, working as a clerk at Morris Roth’s dry goods store on Main St.



Downtown was not large and many of the Jewish merchants had their shops on the same blocks: the 200 block of Pine Street included at least three Jewish businesses, according to the 1925 Directory. Fannie Blate, who ran a dry goods place just two doors down from Estroff & Nathan, was 32 in 1925 and two of her children were still school aged (Florida Census, 1935). The Estroffs likely met people immediately upon their arrival, when they lived first in a boarding house on Tennessee Avenue; while they rented a place in Dixieland (610 Patterson Street); and when they purchased a home on the “south side” (2212 S. Florida Avenue at Poinsettia Street—the



house was later moved by Nathan Estroff, who is listed as living with the couple year later, in 1935). The location was convenient to both the elementary school (Dixieland) and downtown by car. The year the family moved in, Tillie’s brothers were living about ten blocks away (1217 S. Florida) and the Blumenfelds—Samuel & Rebecca with at least two male relatives—lived just a few blocks from the new home.

Harry and Isidore Barkin stand on either side of their sister, Tillie, c.1917

I can only speculate about the relationships the Estroffs may have formed with the people they met during those early years. Even a casual glance at the Directories during the years 1925-1930 reveals shifts in economic conditions. Fannie Blate persisted until sometime around 1929; the 1930 census lists her as head of her household—indicating that she was likely a widow; Blate is back in Polk County for the 1935 census, though she has moved to Winter Haven. Tillie’s brothers, Harry and Isidore, leave by 1928—Sam becomes the sole owner of the business. The Goldfarbs, a family from Georgia about whom Tillie wrote in a 1925 letter, left after only a year or two. Meyer and Fannie Greenberg also arrived around 1925; Meyer ran the Arcade Barber Shop. The couple left sometime in 1929 to return to Connecticut (1930 Census). Abe and Eva Levy arrive the same year as the Estroffs (1925), opening a jewelry store on S. Tennessee Ave. They move to what appears to have been a smaller shop space on E. Main Street in 1928 and disappear altogether by 1931. The uncertainty of the time, not knowing whether your next-door neighbor would be around the next month or year, must have been disconcerting. Given the conditions of the US economy by 1931, we should not be surprised by the experience of Jewish families.

Exact dating is particularly difficult because there is a break in the City Directories between 1928 and 1931—a gap in data that is somewhat alleviated by the 1930 US Census records. By 1931, the businesses neighboring The Empire on Pine Street have changed; The Reliable, The Serve Yourself and the Wonder Store are all Jewish-owned and all have a vested interest in the future of Jewish Lakeland. In a city of churches, Jewish residents recognized the importance of faith to their customers. The choice, in late 1932, to purchase a small church building on West Patterson St and S. New York Ave and form the Jewish Alliance is both a cultural and a strategic one. Much of the community lived in the Dixieland and Lake Morton developments and had businesses in the nearby downtown. The community celebrated its first bar mitzvah—Tillie & Sam’s son Melvin—in December of 1933. Just months before, the women form the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish Alliance. The central location of the “clubhouse” allows the organization to host a “delightful affair” to benefit the synagogue (“Enjoyable Benefit Party”) the same year. The names which appear in the newspaper clipping are not exclusively Jewish, most notably mentioning Mrs. W.A. Spivey and Mrs. M.D. Cleghorn, members of Lakeland’s elite—and decidedly gentile—social world. Having a brick-and-mortar location for the community allowed it to join the other religious institutions—if not on an equal footing, at least in their feeling of relative importance.

Those early years (1925-1935) were buzzing for new, active Jewish citizens. In addition to their businesses, the new residents were settling down on the Southside of Lakeland. Brothers Samuel and Irving Rosen managed businesses for the Estroffs and, at least for the first year (1931), they lived just a few blocks away from Tillie and Sam. Sam and Anna Rosen had four children, fairly close in age to Melvin and Selig. Rose Davidow, whose husband Samuel opened the Reliable Store around 1932, was even closer to the Estroff homestead with her two young sons. Cousins Louis Silberstein and Harry Slakman open the H&S store and their younger cousin, Reuben Miller, opens the Serve Yourself Store two doors down from the Empire. These women and men formed the core of an emerging social life that would energize and empower the community into the next century.

The Slakmans and the Silbersteins in Beacon Hill neighborhood, c.1932



I realize that phone books are now passé—they are no longer the source we go to when we are looking for a plumber or want to know the number of a friend we’ve just met. But they were likely a key resource for early residents and I can vouch for their continued vitality in the study of 20th century Jewish history.

**** This month we continue our new profile feature. We were moved by a post on Facebook by Temple Member Jennifer Audette recounting her adventure with son Josh this past summer hiking part of the Appalachian Trail. With her permission we share their story with you now.*

Did I Really Hike the Appalachian Trail? By Jennifer Audette

I am finally giving myself some time to process my very first hike this summer.

Throwing myself right back into car rider lines, fixing school lunches and work plus taking a red-eye flight back to Florida didn't allow much time for reflection or personal celebration – beyond the hug and knuckles my 11-year-old son and I exchanged and one exhaustive and grateful drop to the ground upon safely returning to our campsite.

When a friend – a sophisticated world traveler - came up to me a few weeks ago and said, "I still can't believe the hiking trip you took. That was so brave," I realized I never got to sit back and say, "I did it!"

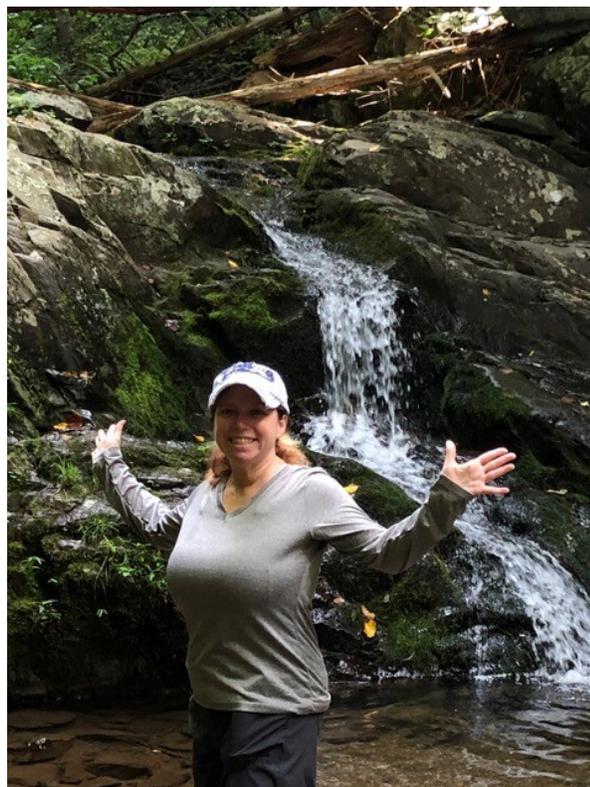
I DID IT! I still don't know how. The odds were so very much against us.

- We almost missed our flight to Virginia. I left my cell phone at home and had to go back to get it. We were still standing in the TSA line 30 minutes before our flight was to take off and the line was growing long and sluggish. I was trying not to freak out. All of a sudden, a TSA Checkpoint - Orlando International Airport (MCO) officer stepped in and rerouted all the passengers to bypass the whole taking-off-shoes check, and before we knew it, we were sitting on the plane ordering coffee and chocolate milk.
- I'd never hiked or camped before. As in never ever. A cabin at sleepaway camp is the closest experience for me. So we practiced opening and pitching a tent at home. We worked out. I read books and websites. I researched this trip like none other. I was constantly (obsessively) reading about tick bite prevention and what to do if we encountered a bear. No amount of reading or rehearsing fully prepares you for what you are about to experience in nature though.
- Uber app was not my friend. Because we were flying into the Charlottesville Albemarle Airport, we'd need a taxi ride to and from the Loft Mountain Campground site, about an hour away. Because there was no cell coverage in the mountains, I wanted to book both my arriving ride and return ride in advance, but the Uber app on my particular phone didn't offer that function. After many emails and Tweets with Uber, my husband just added me to his Uber account and he could always call for a ride at the agreed-upon time and location. Thankfully, we had a great Uber driver on the way in who offered to pick us up on his own time. Done.
- I had to throw out my bear spray. Twelve hours before our flight, it occurred to me that while we were being meticulous about how many ounces our bug spray and toothpaste weighed to get through TSA, I never checked to see if my peace-of-mind bear deterrent spray would make it through. With severe reluctance, I removed it from my backpack and said farewell as I set it on the dining room table.
- I lost my maps. I am so directionally challenged that my biggest fear was getting lost, bigger than being attacked by bears, ticks or snakes. I had packed three different maps, including one that detailed and highlighted the three day hikes we planned to take. I put the maps and guidebook down to adjust my backpack at the airport and I never picked them back up.

- Our food was stolen. We packed enough food in our backpacks to last us the three days, but it was stolen from communal food storage bins.

- Josh panicked. Halfway through our day hike to a nearby waterfall, we came upon a sign warning us that bears were active in that area. It was at the start of a trailhead, but it was the middle of our hike so our eyes grew wide and our hearts started beating fast. Should we continue on? Was a waterfall worth the risk? Josh's indecisiveness almost convinced me to turn around. But I told him let's go, this is what we came for and this is what we were going to see.

- Our first attempt at a day hike right after we arrived and pitched our tent was foiled and my son seemed frustrated and maybe a little homesick and losing faith. He said he wanted to go home as we fell asleep the first night. He was the impetus for the hike, as he really wanted to be a part of our friends' five-month hike on the Pacific Coast Trail. This was the next best hike I could offer, so I needed to step up our game the next day and teach him how fun hiking in the mountains would be and that peaceful doesn't have to mean boring.



But when it comes down to it, you don't need most of what I mentioned. It's just you, the sky and the land. You don't need showers, or bear spray, or maps. The food magically reappeared that night – minus a chocolate bar or two. It rained – OK, it poured – and this city girl knew exactly what to do. We never got wet. That's an incredible feeling to know there is one piece of fabric between you and a downpour – and you were the one who “built” that shelter.

We didn't ever get lost. We only once didn't go far enough and gave up too early. That feeling never left us, by the way – the notion that maybe we'd gone too far or missed a turn. When you start trusting your instincts and start getting a feel for how long a mile is for your pace, the journey becomes smoother and more predictable.



We had such great conversations. Like meaningful, undivided attention. That never happens these days. Even if it's not electronics distracting us, there's laundry to do, dinner to make and other people (and pets) who need attention and care. We talked about what kind of berries we saw, how the gigantic trees had possibly fallen, the elevation, the chipmunks, the sounds we heard, the deer who visited our campsite, and when we would take our next drink stop. Josh kept telling me, “It really IS about the journey, Mom.”

As cliché as it is, he is right. The willpower that brought us to the Appalachian Trail and the faith that helped us survive for 72 hours with nothing but the packs on our back and the heads that are on our shoulders were stronger than any elevation or distance we covered.

Read more about Jennifer and prior member profiles at: <https://templemanuelakeland.com/member-profiles/>



JOIN US AT TEMPLE EMANUEL
Saturday 12-8-18 from 5 to 8 pm
ANNUAL CHANUKAH CELEBRATION



LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!

DINNER | MUSIC | GAMES | BINGO | PINATA

BRING YOUR OWN MENORAH AND CANDLES FOR OUR OUTDOOR CANDLE LIGHTING

Adults \$10~ Children* \$5~ Family Max. \$30 ~*Sunday School children free

RSVP by 12/5 <https://templeemanuellakeland.com/events/Chanukah-party>
or call the office at 863-682-8616

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: from Allen Shane

I would like to begin by reflecting on the events that have occurred over the past month in our country. First, we had the horrific shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and then the wildfires in California. Both events affected the Jewish community nationwide. I am proud that Rabbi Goldstein and our Temple family in less than one day organized a community wide service of remembrance and unity for the congregants that lost their lives. We had over 200 people attend including, community members, local churches, law enforcement, and our elected officials.



The following Shabbat, Temple Emanuel participated in a nationwide effort to Stand in Solidarity with the Pittsburgh community and encouraged the nation to attend Shabbat Services. Our members and friends packed Renz Hall for Friday evening and again on Saturday for Shabbat morning services, as a sign to show evil acts are always overcome by good

Following the Pittsburgh tragedy, we experienced the wildfires in California. Many Jewish communities, synagogues, camps, business, and congregants were lost in the fires that burned out of control. United Synagogue and the Los Angeles Jewish Federation set up funds to help the those that lost everything in the fires. Some of our congregants again graciously sent money to help.

As we approached Thanksgiving the Temple partnered with Volunteers in Service to the Elderly to help provide Thanksgiving dinners to 1800 of their clients. Our Religious School students, and many congregants again stepped up to assist with decorating placemats, collecting seasonal foods, baking pumpkin goodies, snapping beans and helping to deliver meals. As a Temple we are looking for other ways to provide service and support to the community.

Since the High Holy Days, our Religious School students have participated monthly in Shabbat Services, and we have held a Shabbat dinner the same evening. So far, we have had great attendance, wonderful dinners, and enjoyable services led by our Religious School students. Thank you also to the families that have graciously sponsored the dinners for our Religious School teachers, students, and parents that attend.

Since the events in Pittsburgh the board has increased security during Shabbat Services and Sunday School. We met with Police Chief Larry Giddens and Sheriff Grady Judd and they have pledged to keep our Temple safe. The Executive committee is currently reviewing safety and security plans and exploring ways to additionally secure the buildings. We take the safety and security of our members and guests very seriously and are doing what is prudent to create a safe place to worship.

We have our Annual Chanukah Celebration coming up on December 8th. As always, there will be plenty of latkes, food, games, music, and prizes. Bring your Menorah for the candle lighting. It will be a fun time for all. I hope to see everyone at the party.

I want to Thank our Temple members, friends, and Board that give many hours of their time to make the Temple great. There are many ways that you can assist. Watch the weekly Message and The Menorah for up-coming services, events and activities. We also have our Annual Fundraiser "Taste of Morocco" coming up on February 16th. I look forward to seeing everyone at Temple Emanuel.

MARC CHAGALL EXHIBIT: by Tammy Serebrin

On November 5, 2018 Temple Emanuel sponsored a Salon Monday at the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland. Twenty eight people enjoyed an in-depth tour of the 42 works of art by renowned Jewish artist Marc Chagall that are on display into January 2019. Curator, Dr. Alex Rich explained this extraordinary show of Marc Chagall's work which is the only one of its kind in Florida and the only one in the country that pairs his Fables of La Fontaine etchings (1952) with his Story of Exodus lithographs (1966). The group also enjoyed a dessert reception.

Pictures of our visit can be viewed here: templeemanuellakeland.com/photos/

If you haven't seen the exhibit yet, there is still time and admission is always free!

POLK MUSEUM OF ART AT FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

Smithsonian Affiliate

Open Tuesday through Saturday | 10am to 5pm,

Sunday | 1 to 5pm

800 EAST PALMETTO STREET

LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33801-5529



Marc Chagall (1887-1985) was born into a poor Jewish family in Russia and began studying painting at age 20, where his distinctive fantastical style centering on images from Russian folklore, family history, and his own childhood began to emerge. He moved to Paris for a brief sojourn between 1910 and 1914, where the influence of the leading Cubist, Surrealist, and Fauve painters of the time would leave an impact for the remainder of his career. In addition to recurrent motifs that evoke his Eastern European upbringing, much of Chagall's artwork is influenced by universal themes of human morality, steeped deeply in allegory and religion. As in the case of this exhibition, Chagall often takes timeless stories — such as those from the Bible and famous fables — and provides dream-like illustrations for them in his inimitable manner. Featuring Chagall's work in various media including painting, gouache, and lithography, *Chagall: Stories into Dreams* is a uniquely-curated show that takes viewers on an unforgettable artistic and historical journey through the artist's beloved illustrations of the *Fables of La Fontaine* and *The Story of Exodus*.



live
Artfully

A TASTE OF MOROCCO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018 • 7PM
600 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, Florida 33803

**Live Entertainment • Silent Auction
Hors D'oeuvres • Cocktails • Dessert**

ADMISSION: \$50 per person **DRESS:** Party Chic!

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 11
863-682-8616 or
temple.emanuel18@gmail.com

A fundraiser benefiting Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel
600 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland FL 33803
863-682-8618
Office@templeemanuellakeland.com

www.templeemanuellakeland.com
<https://www.facebook.com/>

Deadline for the next Menorah is February 28, 2019.

Please send info to irmacole26@gmail.com