

## FAQ FOR OUR VISITORS

Our congregation welcomes Jewish guests, whether they are new in town, visiting, or looking for a synagogue they can call "home." We encourage Jews who come on a regular basis to become members and part of the Temple Israel of DeLand community.

Non-Jews are also welcome to attend services in our Synagogue as guests, as a learning experience or simply to join a friend or family member in celebration of a Jewish life cycle event.

**Below are some questions frequently asked by people before coming to our synagogue:**

**Q. What should I do before attending services at Temple Israel of DeLand?**

A. These days' synagogues are very conscious about security. If you are planning to attend a service, we require you to call three days ahead of time, to introduce yourself and let us know your plans. Please arrive a few minutes early when you come to services, so we can meet you and answer any questions you may have.

**Q. How should I dress?**

A. Business casual is always appropriate. In our synagogue all men, Jewish and non-Jewish, are asked to cover their heads. There are yarmulkes (skullcaps) available at the front door. Women are not required to wear head coverings.

**Q. How do I know what is happening during the service?**

A. The prayer book that we use has English printed on each page, which makes the service easier to follow. You may join in with as much or as little of the prayer service as you feel comfortable participating in. When the Ark is opened and when the Torah is carried to or from the Ark, everyone who is physically able should stand as a sign of respect. At any other time where worshippers stand, non-Jews may stand or sit.

**Q. What should I NOT do?**

- A.
1. Please refrain from using any personal electronics.
  2. Smoking is not permitted in the synagogue building.
  3. Photography is not permitted during Sabbath and holiday service.
  4. When the Ark containing the sacred Torah scrolls is open, do not enter or leave the Sanctuary.
  5. Proselytizing and "witnessing" to the congregation is not permitted.

**Q. Other than services, what activities take place at the synagogue?**

A. Synagogues are meeting places for the Jewish community and are used for a number of religious and non-religious functions.

Some of these include:

- Torah Study
- Religious school for children and adults
- Lectures
- Concerts
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Meetings
- Sisterhood events
- Social events

Non-Jews interested in participating any of these functions should inquire ahead of time about attending.

**Q. How can I make a donation to the synagogue?**

A. Donations to Temple Israel are always welcome. They can be made in memory of someone who has passed away; for a celebration such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah or wedding; or for any occasion. It is traditional to make donations in multiples of 18 (\$18, \$36, \$54, etc....), though all donations are appreciated.

**"I will bless those who bless [Israel]" – Gen 12:3**

**Donations may be made in the following manner:**

1. There is a Tzedakah (donation) box near the entrance of the sanctuary. Donations of cash or checks may be made by putting them in the box.
2. You can also make a donation online via the PayPal link on our website, [www.templeisraelofdeland.org](http://www.templeisraelofdeland.org).
3. You can write a check payable to Temple Israel of DeLand, and mail it to Post Office Box 1808, DeLand, FL 32721-1808. Please put a note on the check as to what the check is for if you are donating in someone's honor.
4. You may purchase space in our annual calendar. Further information can be found on our website, [www.templeisraelofdeland.org](http://www.templeisraelofdeland.org).



# Temple Israel of DeLand

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DeLand, FL 32724  
386-736-1646

[www.templeisraelofdeland.org](http://www.templeisraelofdeland.org)



Be sure to visit our website  
[www.templeisraelofdeland.org](http://www.templeisraelofdeland.org)

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SYNAGOGUE!**



## Religious School

Religious School for school-aged children and adults is available. Please contact the temple for more information.

B’Nai Mitzvah training and tutoring are also available for children and adults, and is taught by Joe and Lynn Goldovitz. Please call the temple for more information.

## Sisterhood

Membership is open to all adult females of the congregation. The Sisterhood holds fundraising projects throughout the year benefiting the synagogue, religious school, scholarship fund, and the community. Call the temple or check the website or Facebook for more information.

## Other Activities

Social activities are held throughout the year and include holiday celebrations, seders, Shabbat dinners, serving at the local Interfaith Kitchen, Sunday afternoon concerts, Sisterhood, Men’s Group, and many of our congregants become lifetime friends.

Come see what we are all about  
and join our temple family.  
We are ADA compliant.



## RITUAL INFORMATION

*Temple Israel is an independent Synagogue. We like to call ourselves, “Reformadox,” which means we take our customs and rituals from Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox traditions. We welcome you to come and experience our unique and inspiring services. Below you will find information on our Synagogue’s customs. We strive to insure that our religious practices are unmistakably Jewish in style and substance.*

### Clothing and Ritual Garments:

1. We prefer our congregants to wear business casual and/or appropriate attire for Shabbat and Yontiff services. Social events are casual and neat.
2. Men and boys are required to wear a Kippah (yarmulke) or other head covering in the synagogue. When called to the Bima, a Jewish man must wear a Tallit. Non-Jewish men are not required to wear a Tallit (prayer shawl).
3. Head covering for Jewish women is encouraged on the Bima. Tallits are optional.

### Bima (Altar) Honors:

1. Jewish persons called to the Bima to make an Aliyah and/or read Torah must be at least 13 years old. The exception to this is for children younger than 13 who are preparing for Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
2. To be called to the Bima for an Aliyah, or to read the Torah, is an honor. Traditionally, a donation to the synagogue is made for this honor, which is optional, and encouraged. The amount does not have to be large. The donation can be mailed to the synagogue after Shabbat or left in the Tzedaka box which is located near the entrance to the sanctuary.
3. Non-Jewish attendees are called to the Bima if they are part of a Life Event such as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah/Wedding/ etc., and are permitted to participate in the following activities:

- a. They may open the curtain to the Ark.
- b. They may do a reading in English provided by the Rabbi.
- c. They may stand beside a Jewish family member while they are reading and/or carrying the Torah.

### Readings from the Prayer Book During Services:

1. The Rabbi periodically calls on Jewish members and non-members to do a reading from their seat during the service.
2. Non-Jewish attendees may be called on to read, at the Rabbi’s discretion.

### Memorials:

Our Yahrzeit Boards honoring loved ones who have passed on are a sacred part of our Shul. Only members of Temple Israel of DeLand, or their immediate family, may purchase a memorial plaque on the Yahrzeit Board. The person being honored may or may not be Jewish.

For our non-Jewish attendees wishing to honor a loved one, we have a Tree of Life with “leaves” that may be engraved and added. Anyone can purchase a leaf or plaque on the tree. There can be no non-Jewish symbols, words, or blessings on this leaf or plaque.

### Weddings:

Our rabbi must approve any officiant who performs a wedding ceremony in our synagogue. At this time our Rabbi will only perform a wedding for a man and woman who are both Jewish.

An interfaith or same-sex marriage may take place in our synagogue. The ceremony may be officiated by another Rabbi or civil official, at our Rabbi’s discretion.