



HILLEL HAPPENINGS

Cantor Talya Smilowitz



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dear Friends,

Cantor Talya	1	January meets us at the very beginning of the book of Exodus, not yet at freedom, not yet at miracles, but in the narrowness of Mitzrayim. The Israelites are still enslaved, still uncertain, still waiting. And yet, something has already begun to shift. Redemption does not start with the sea splitting; it starts when people notice suffering and refuse to look away, when midwives choose compassion, when Moses pauses at the burning bush, when a people begin to believe that change might be possible.
President's Corner	2	
Social Action	3	
B'mitzvah Spotlight	4	
Cookbook/ Chesed	5	
January Events	6	
Shabbat Oneg Signup	7	Torah reminds us that holiness often arrives quietly. It shows up in the moment we stop, pay attention, and choose presence over fear. Before the sea opens, the Torah tells us, "vayisa'u" - they set out. They move forward before the path is clear, trusting that God will meet them on the way.
Men's Club	8	
Book Club/ Meetings	9	
Adult Education	10-12	
Youth / JT Connect	13	That feels especially true at the start of a new year. January does not ask us to have everything figured out. It asks us to show up. To take the next step. To trust that even when the road feels uncertain, we are not walking alone.
Development	14-15	
Donations	16	
Yahrzeits	17-18	As we enter this new secular year, may it bring you moments of clarity and calm, strength for the days that feel heavy, and joy in small and unexpected places. May you be surrounded by people who truly see you and walk beside you. And may this season remind us that even in winter, light is quietly gathering beneath the surface, and that God walks with us, from meitzarim, our narrow places, toward renewal and hope.
Simchas/ Torah	19	
Local Business	20	
TBH Info	21	

With blessings for the year ahead,

Cantor Talya

The President's Corner

From the President's Desk: Reflections on Our Hanukkah Celebration

Dear Temple Beth Hillel Family,

As we step into the new year, I can't help but feel a warm glow from the beautiful Hanukkah service we shared last month. It was truly heartwarming to see so many of you come together—not just for the joyous candle lighting and prayers, but also for the wonderful potluck dinner that preceded it. The sense of community and togetherness was absolutely palpable.

From the laughter in the social hall as we shared each other's favorite dishes, to the moment we kindled the menorah and sang together, it was a night that truly embodied what TBH is all about.

As we carry this spirit of light and generosity into the new year, I'd like to gently remind everyone that our temple thrives on your support. If you're able, please consider a donation to help us continue creating these meaningful moments together. Every bit of generosity helps keep our community vibrant and strong.

Thank you all for being a part of such a special celebration. Here's to a bright and fulfilling year ahead!

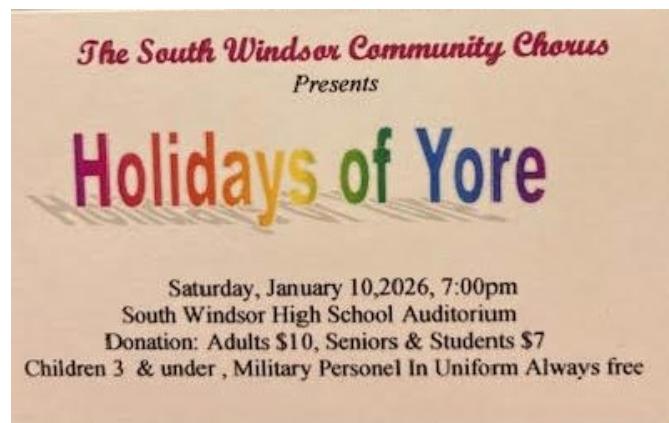
Warmly,

Michael Skott

President, Temple Beth Hillel

Membership Committee

The membership committee has been working tirelessly to welcome new families to TBH, but often hears the concern that we do not have a preschool program. We are so excited to share that we are in the very early stages of working with the religious school team to explore the feasibility of adding a preschool group to our religious school for the 2026/27 school year. Please watch for updates and alert your friends and family who may be interested! Feel free to contact Donna Gittleman, membership@tbhsw.org



JANUARY 2026 SOCIAL ACTION

TEMPLE BETH HILLEL HELPS MORE HOUSEHOLDS BEGIN NEW LIVES VIA HANDS ON HARTFORD (HOH) "WELCOME HOME" KITS

In December, TBH members donated items and assembled four (4) more Welcome Home kits to assist people who previously experienced homelessness and are now moving into apartments. Each kit included over two dozen essential household items to get a lives started, including pots, dishes, cleaning supplies, shower curtains, and more.

TBH is the First Group ever to host Hands On Hartford's "Welcome Home" Project, and the nonprofit organizations in extremely grateful to us.

WE ALSO COLLECT TOILETRIES FOR HOH'S HOMELESS OUTREACH

Always needed: Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Floss, Deodorant, Soap, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Razors, Shaving Cream, Chapstick/Lip Balm, Antibacterial Body Wipes, Sunscreen. Place Toiletries in the collection bins in the Temple lobby.

EASY WAY TO SUPPORT WOMEN & CHILDREN AT A LOCAL SHELTER

TBH's Marla Adelsberger volunteers at a **shelter for women and children** in Springfield that is **mounting a planting project using clean one-liter bottles**. They will cut them in half across the middle, invert the top half and plant in that half, using the bottom half to catch the extra water. The moms and kids really enjoy this low-cost project.

Seeking 24 one-liter soda bottles (NOT 2-liter – too large for this purpose)

To donate, contact **Marla** at 860-668-5501 or marlaLadelsberger@gmail.com

URGENT NEED FOR FOOD for TBH's LITTLE FREE PANTRY CONTINUES

Our outdoor Little Free Pantry is **in GREAT NEED OF** nonperishable food.

TO HELP, please bring items and place into our lobby baskets when you come to Temple for services, special programs, and other times.

Especially needed: canned vegetables/fruit, canned tuna/chicken, breakfast cereal, soups/stews, pasta and sauce, rice, flour, and peanut butter and jelly.

Please sign up to be one of the two food stockers for one month in 2026. You pick up the food inside Temple and place it in our pantry at least once a week.

To choose your month, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4AABA823A0F85-60796682-tbhlittle>

or call Sam in the Temple office at 860-282-8466.

PLEASE NOTE: We do NOT NEED clothing, housewares or linens right now.

Instead, area organizations often welcome them in good condition including **Goodwill, MACC Charities' Community Threads thrift shop, and Savers**, among others).

QUESTIONS? Laura Soll-Broxterman at Lsoll@tbhsw.org or 860-833-4466

Marla Adelsberger at marlaLadelsberger@gmail.com or 860-803-8075

Religious School Update

The students had an exciting month. First we had Julia's Bat Mitzvah! Then we kicked off Hanukkah on a Zoom call with Kibbutz Sufa. As a school we loved latke-making. Lastly, the students really enjoyed the participatory Shabbat; the Gimel class performed an instrumental piece and the Bet classes sang the Hanukah Blessings! It was an eventful and fun month for all.

Spotlight on B'Mitzvah

BAR MITZVAH SPOTLIGHT **EDWIN LASSMAN** **JANUARY 10, 2026**



Alex Lassman and Luz Marelvis Londoño Díaz are pleased to announce that their son, Edwin Lassman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 10, 2026, at 9am. Edwin's great-grandparents were founding members of Temple Beth Hillel, making him the first fourth-generation member of Temple Beth Hillel. We are honored to be able to continue this tradition and uphold this community as it continues to evolve and endure in South Windsor. We would like to express our deep gratitude to those who have come before us and made this possible, and to his mitzvah mate Eileen Clouser, Cantor Tayla, and the wonderful people in the TBH religious school who have prepared him for this moment.

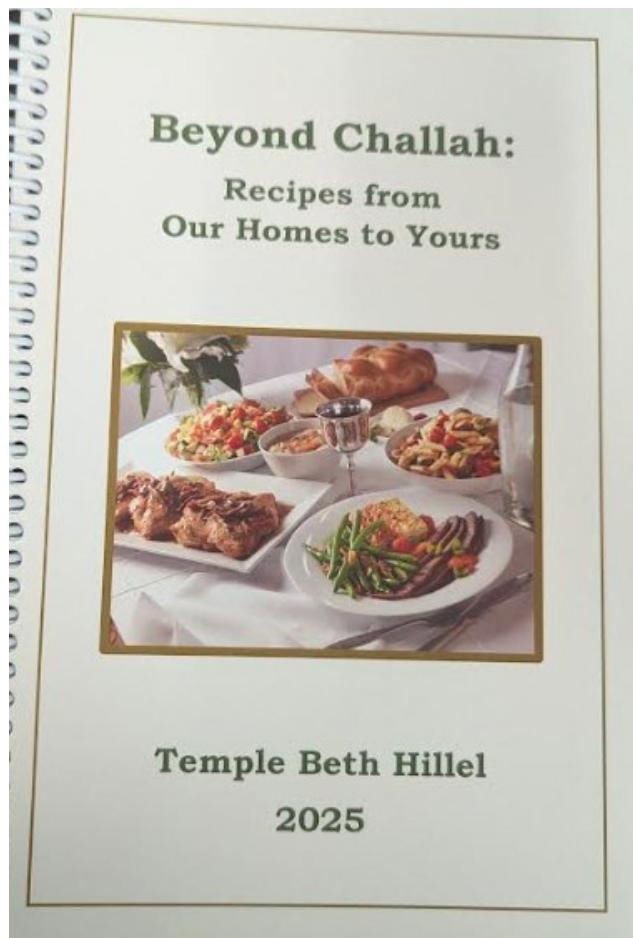
Edwin is in 7th grade at Timothy Edwards Middle School, where he is on the cross country team and plays saxophone in the band. He loves spending time with his sister Grace, his parents, grandparents, his cousins, and our dog Penny. Vacations in Cape Cod and skiing are his favorite things. Edwin also enjoys basketball, swimming, baseball, and reading.

Please come and join our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous moment. There will be a light luncheon following the service. All are welcome.

Cookbook Update from Adult Education

The response to the new TBH Cookbook has been overwhelmingly positive! In fact, we have sold out of our first printing of 50 copies. If you've already paid and haven't picked up your cookbook from the office, please do so!

We are going to place an order for a second printing in the new year, but don't want to over-order. If you haven't purchased a cookbook yet but would like to, please email Amy Healy at amy@login.net by January 15. Thank you!



Chesed Committee

The TBH Chesed committee is here for support and caring through life cycle and other events.

Please contact Cantor Talya, Judy Scott, Deb Halpern or call Sam Cain at the TBH office, if you know where there is a need, or if you would like to volunteer. As a volunteer, you may be asked to provide a meal, give someone a ride, make a home visit or take care of other tasks. This is a meeting-free committee.

The other component of this committee emphasizes self care, as well as physical, emotional, and spiritual health. We have many ideas and exciting programs in the works. Stay tuned for specifics. Feel free to bring us any ideas you may have.

Reminder: TBH is a smoke- and fragrance-free building.

Come Support Our Cantor Talya on Saturday, January 10
Please click the flyer below to learn more and buy tickets!



JAN. 16TH SHABBAT SERVICES REMEMBER DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Our Temple's Friday, January 16th Shabbat Service will include a remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in advance of the nation's observance of MLK Jr. Day several days later. As part of the evening's 7 p.m. services, **Cantor Talya will join our friend Archbishop Dexter Burke of the Walk in the Light of God Church in Hartford, for a special tribute to the iconic civil rights leader.**



Pictured marching with Dr. King is (left) Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a leading Jewish theologian and Jewish philosopher of the 20th century, and close ally who shared a deep spiritual bond over justice and equality.

TEMPLE BETH HILLEL

ONEG SIGNUP

LINK TO ONEG
SIGNUP 5786

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK
ABOVE TO SIGNUP TO HOST
AN ONEG FOR 2025-2026

DEADLINE **ASAP**



TURN BACK THE CLOCK



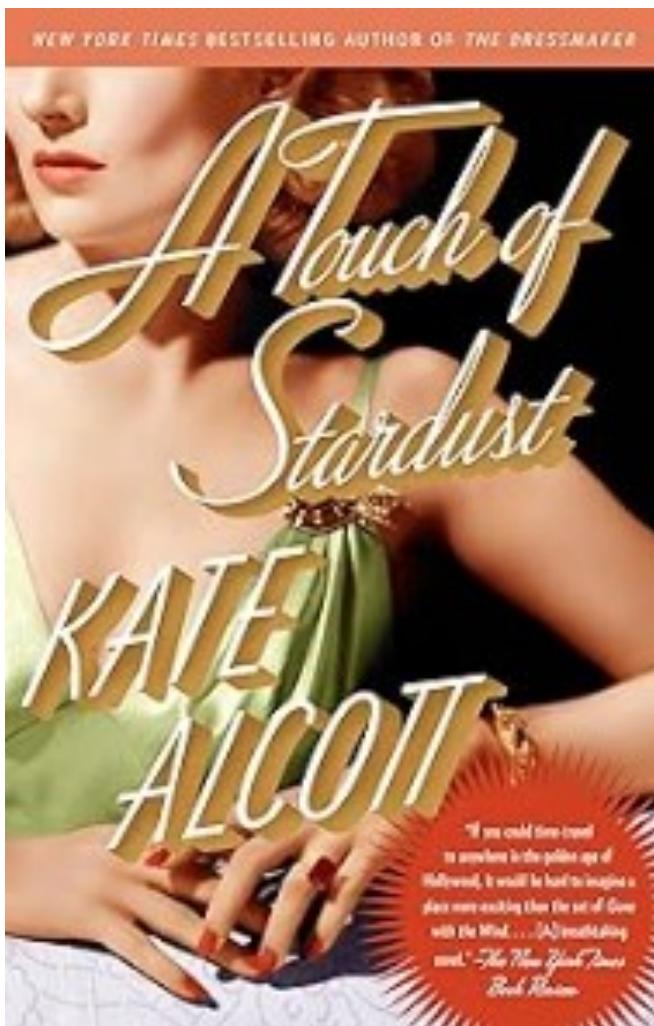
BACK TO THE FUTURE™

SAVE THE DATE!
THE TBH MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL GALA
WILL BE GOING "BACK, BACK TO THE
FUTURE!" ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

**Until then, please consider donating
items for our fundraiser auction!**
**Contact mc_auction@tbhsw.org with any
questions.**

TBH BOOK CLUB

The next TBH Book Club meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 13 at 1 p.m. at Temple**. We will be reviewing *A Touch of Stardust*, by Kate Alcott. Come join us! All are welcome.



TBH Lunch with Friends



Friends of TBH will meet for lunch on **Monday, January 12 at 11 a.m.** at **Oscar's American Grill**, 855 Sullivan Ave in South Windsor

RSVP to barbEK@aol.com or sadelberg211@aol.com

Upcoming

Meetings

1/5
Finance Committee
7 p.m.

1/8
Board of Trustees
7 p.m.

1/11
TBH Concert Subcommittee
1 p.m.

1/15
Development Committee
6 p.m.

1/20
Membership Committee
7 p.m.

1/22
Social Action Committee
7 p.m.

1/26
Adult Education
7 p.m.

1/27
RPC Meeting
7 p.m.

For additional meetings, please go to www.tbhsw.org

TBH ADULT EDUCATION

Beautiful Artwork and Friendship at Framed in Light

TBH Member Angelica Hoffman led a wonderful artistic evening on December 13. Participants enjoyed making beautiful framed sea-glass menorahs. Special thanks from Adult Education to Angelica, to Cantor Talya for leading a meaningful Havdalah service, and to special guest Stuart Markus for his sea shanty songs.



THE TBH ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

Rock Painting

For the holiday of Tu Bishvat

LED BY ERICA GITTELMAN

Saturday, January 31st, 2026.

5:30 pm Havdalah

6:00-8:00 pm Rock Painting

Cost \$20 per person

Come with your ideas and inspiration!



RSVP by 1/16 to amy@logn.net. Limited to 20 people.

THE TBH ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS:
Back by popular demand...

MONTHLY CHAIR YOGA CLASSES

LED BY CANTOR TALYA SMILOWITZ

FREE FOR TBH MEMBERS; \$5 FOR GUESTS

JOIN US ON THE
SECOND THURSDAY
NIGHT OF EVERY
MONTH FROM
6:15-7:00 PM

Mark your calendars now...



starting next month
FEBRUARY 12
MARCH 12
(None in April)
MAY 14
JUNE 11

Please dress comfortably and bring a water bottle.

TBH Youth

The following is a list of organizations that provide Jewish experiences for TBH Youth/Young Adults. Each listing includes the respective ages served, a brief description of what they offer, and a contact for you to reach out to, should you wish to obtain additional information.

TBH Madrichim

Grades 9-12

Volunteer teaching assistant at Sunday morning TBH Religious School classes. Application required, and by invitation only.

Rebecca Chaimovitch, Madrichim Coordinator

TBH Youth Group

Grades 8-12

Planning and running of specific events in support of the TBH Religious School: Sukkah decoration, Purim Carnival, Maccabiah. Opportunities for involvement in NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) Northeast regional educational and social activities.

Nicole Bolduc and Eddie Widofsky, TBH Youth Committee Chairs

JT Connect

Grades 8-12

Regional Jewish educational programming for the Greater Hartford area. Weekly classes offered for East of the River, as well as in West Hartford and Newington. Additionally, signature events scattered throughout the year, that combine social action, education and social opportunities.

Rebecca Chaimovitch, President of JT Connect

ESRY (East Side of the River Youth)

Grades 5-12

Social programming for youth in the Beth Sholom B'nai Israel (BSBI), Congregation Kol Haverim (CKH) and Temple Beth Hillel (TBH) Congregations.

Cantor Talya Smilowitz

Register **NOW** for JTConnect!



We offer 4 program pillars for 8th-12th graders:

- Jewish learning and leadership classes with several day and time options at several locations throughout the Greater Hartford area.
- Social Action projects supporting local community needs and nonprofit organizations
- Yearlong teen philanthropy programs at 2 synagogue sites
- Social events that bring teens together throughout the year

Registered JTConnect students can take classes at any site we offer them, and attend all of our signature programs and events.

Our synagogue sites include:

- The Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT
- Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT
- Beth El Temple, West Hartford, CT
- Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation - Emek Shalom, Simsbury, CT
- Temple Sinai, Newington, CT
- Beth Sholom B'nai Israel, Manchester, CT
- Congregation Kol Haverim, Glastonbury, CT
- Temple Beth Hillel, South Windsor, CT

JTConnect engages teens in fun, interactive and thought-provoking educational & social experiences grounded in Jewish learning and values. JTConnect gives teens the opportunity to continue their Jewish education in compelling and meaningful ways. Together, teens examine religion, history &traditions through innovative, hands-on programming that includes classroom study, volunteer projects and special events.

For more information:
contact Marcus Fink,
Communications Manager
at marcus@jtconnect.org

*Synagogue membership is not required to participate in JTConnect.

FOLLOW US




SCAN ME!

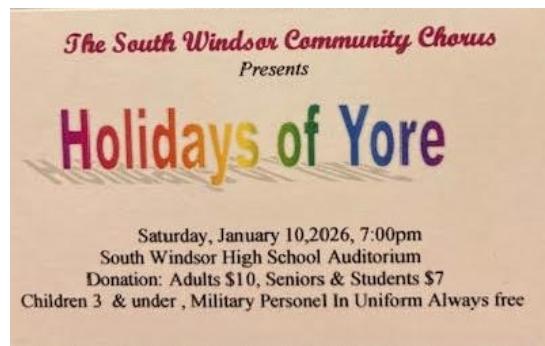


www.jtconnect.org

**Save The Date: Sunday, May 17th, 2026 at 2 p.m.
for a Jazz Concert Fundraiser at Temple Beth Hillel**



Click the flyer below to register online!



GENERAL FUND

Beth Penney & Paula Bradbard	In memory of Donald Finn & Jeremiah Finn, Brother and Father of Paula Bradbard
Robert Rodner	In memory of Alice Rodner, Wife of Robert
Helena Friedman & Jeffrey Kamenetz	In memory of Josef Friedman, Father of Helena Friedman
Helena Friedman & Jeffrey Kamenetz	In memory of Howard Liebman, Husband of Phyllis Liebman
Helena Friedman & Jeffrey Kamenetz	In honor of Cantor Talya's Installation
Pamela & Howard Steinberg	In honor of Howard Liebman & The Liebman family
Joan Baron	In memory of Howard Liebman, Husband of Phyllis Liebman
Ila Sunshine	In appreciation of prayers for Sal Marino
Teresa & Alan Platteis	In memory of Sara Platteis, Mother of Alan Platteis
Eileen & Doug Clouser	In honor of Julia Barnett's Bat Mitzvah
Eileen & Doug Clouser	In honor of Alan Gittleman - wishing good health and recovery
Joyce Ben-Kiki	In honor of Cantor Talya Smilowitz
Joseph P. Verdon	In honor of Howard Liebman, Husband of Phyllis Liebman
Helene Skott	
Joel & Gladys Nadel	In memory of William Morris Nadel, Father of Joel Nadel
Rabbi Jeff & Mindy Glickman	In honor of Nancy Gordon

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alan & Donna Gittleman	In honor of Cantor Talya's Installation
Sheila Alpert	In honor of Cantor Talya's Installation
Joel & Alecia Goldfarb	In honor of Cantor Talya's Installation, supporting Music
Phyllis Green	In memory of Ethel Goldstein, Mother of Phyllis Green

CHESED COMMITTEE FUND

Richard & Carole Guttman

RETIRE THE MORTGAGE FUND

Janet Lassman	In memory of William Harris, Father of Janet Lassman
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EDUCATION FUND

Paula Capaldo	In memory of Ray Hollander, Mother of Paula Capaldo
---------------	---

MEN'S CLUB FUND

Sheila Alpert	In memory of Norman Weiner, Uncle of Sheila Alpert
---------------	--

YOUTH FUND

Robert Rodner	In memory of Samuel Wagner, Father of Alice Rodner
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MUSIC FUND

Marla & Peter Adelsberger	In honor of Cantor Talya's Installation
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ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Nothing this month

YAHRZEIT DATES

On January 3, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Sam Cook	Father of Barbara Dworsky
Mildred Goldenthal Schmitman	Mother of Janet Berman
Josephine Basile	Mother of David Basile
Nathan Pollak	
Jerauld Bloom	
Leonard Rivlin	Father of Michelle Karasik
Rose Fredman	Mother of Myra Scott
Max Meyers	Father of Sally Meyers Goodman
Barabra Dress Miller	
Helen Bernstein	
Evelyn Stockser	
Samuel Wagner	Father of Alice Rodner

On January 10, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Avram Daniel Check	
Benjamin Druckman	Grandfather of Elaine Cantor
George Steiner	
Tillie Cantor	Mother-in-law of Elaine Cantor
Ray Hollander	Mother of Paula Capaldo
Esther Katz	Cousin of Harriet Leitz
Les Tanzman	Father of Bonnie Zinn
Rosalyn Opinsky	
Leonard Goldfarb	Father of Joel Goldfarb
Alice Rodner	Wife of Bob Rodner

On January 17, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Edna Gold	Mother of Susan Simons
James Goldberg	
Adolph Wasserman	
Frimet Matel Lippel	Grandmother of Larry Waksman
Louis Albert	Father of Bev Finnicum
Irving Freeman	Father of Nelson Freeman
Jack Greenberg	
Lena Greenberg	
Lee Goldman	
Harry Gold	Father of Susan Simons
Norman Weiner	Uncle of Sheila Alpert
Susan Wickey	Mother of Rebecca Chaimovitch

Continued on the next page...

YAHRZEIT DATES CONTINUED...

On January 24, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Martin Toback	Husband of Charlotte Toback
Freida Ziskis	Mother of Sharon Jacobs
Darlene Sternberg	
George Katz	Cousin of Harriet Leitz
Harvey Druckman	
Josef Friedman	Father of Helena Friedman
Jeremiah Finn	Father of Paula Bradbard
Edwin Lappen	
Sylvia May	Mother of Barry Simons
Martin Nissenblatt	Father of Mindy Glickman
Arnold Seligson	Uncle of Teri Parrott
Bea Grigorian	
Albert Waxman	

On January 31, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Ruth Dworkin	
Meyer Gere	
Maurice Hyman	Grandfather of Dana Frank
William Morris Nadel	Father of Joel Nadel
Hattie Schepart	
Morris M. Berger	Father of Marilyn Davidson
Anita Bernstein	Mother of Dick Bernstein
Wade Harrison Gleckman	Son of Robert & Sheila Gleckman
William Harris	Father of Janet Lassman
Sylvia Brightman	Mother of Harriet Marek
Rodney Gochros	Father of Donna Gittleman
Irene Weissman	

SIMCHAS

BIRTHDAYS

Michele Snyder	1/2	Frances Factor	1/7	Peter Adelsberger	1/20
Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz	1/5	Rebecca Chaimovitch	1/10	Gary Cohen	1/24
Paula Capaldo	1/6	Rabbi Steven Chatinover	1/14	Mark Bolduc	1/28

Donna Gittleman 1/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Alan & Michele Snyder	1/12	William & Marilyn Reveley	1/20
Daniel Rosow & Robin Kennison	1/19		

TORAH PORTIONS

Parashat Vayechi [Genesis 47:28-50:26](#) Vayechi (“He Lived”) is the final Torah portion in the Book of Genesis. It opens as Jacob prepares for his death, making his son Joseph swear to bury him in the Cave of Machpelah. Jacob blesses Joseph’s two sons and his own 12 sons and then dies. Jacob’s sons bury him. The portion ends with Joseph’s death.

Parashat Shemot [Exodus 1:1-6:1](#) Shemot (“Names”) is the first Torah reading in the Book of Exodus. It opens describing the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt. Moses is born, placed in a basket on the Nile, and adopted into Pharaoh’s household. He later encounters God at a burning bush and begins his mission of demanding that Pharaoh let the Israelites go.

Parashat Vaera [Exodus 6:2-9:35](#) Vaera (“I Appeared”) opens as God promises to redeem the enslaved Israelites and bring them to the Promised Land. When Pharaoh repeatedly refuses to let the Israelites go, God sends a series of plagues: water turning to blood, frogs, lice, wild animals, death of livestock, boils, and hail.

Parashat Bo [Exodus 10:1-13:16](#) Bo (“Come”) recounts the last three plagues that God inflicts on the Egyptians: locusts, darkness, and death of firstborns. God commands the Israelites to offer a Passover lamb sacrifice. After the last plague, Pharaoh and the Egyptians demand that the Israelites leave.

Parashat Beshalach [Exodus 13:17-17:16](#) Beshalach (“When He Let Go”) describes the splitting of the Red Sea and the song the Israelites sing upon crossing through. In the desert, God sweetens bitter water and provides manna and quail. The portion ends recounting the victory of the Israelites against an attack by the Amalekites.

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Fax: 860.644.3668



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E-mail: BenWallace@snet.net



Jason G. Jamrog, CFSP
Manager
Cell: 860-558-0614



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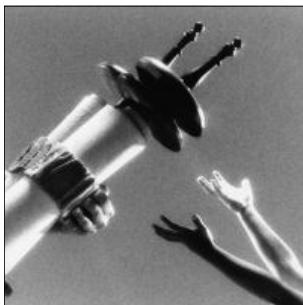
***Call us at 644-5666 for a free estimate
to take care of your cleaning needs!***

Temple Beth Hillel

20 Baker Lane
South Windsor, CT 06074

Phone: 860-282-8466
Fax: 860-282-8466
Email: admin@tbhsw.org
Web site: www.tbhsw.org

From Generation to Generation.



TBH INFORMATION

Clergy/Cantor Talya Smilowitz, cantortalya@tbhsw.org
Temple Administrator Sam Cain, admin@tbhsw.org
Membership: Donna Gittleman, membership@tbhsw.org
Board of Trustees President Michael Skott, mskott@tbhsw.org

OFFICE HOURS

You can reach the TBH Office at 860 282-8466 or admin@tbhsw.org.
Office hours are 9:00 am-2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

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In case of an emergency and you are in need of Clergy, please contact Temple office at admin@tbhsw.org, or by phone, 860.282.8466. In the event the office cannot be reached, contact our President, Michael Skott, at mskott@tbhsw.org
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The deadline for the next Bulletin is **January 23, 2026**. Please forward all e-mailed materials to Admin@tbhsw.org AND to the entire Communications Committee at communications@tbhsw.org:

ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION:

If you are unable to attend in person, you can "join in" our on-line services and events and stay in touch in several ways. **Friday Evening Services begin at 7 p.m.**

To watch...

- Go to the Temple's website: www.TBHsw.org and scroll down.
- Go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TBHsw

Advertising Rates for Hillel Happenings

\$36.00 for a 1/4 page single issue

\$60.00 for 1/2 page single issue

\$100.00 for full page single issue

\$100.00 for business card size ad for all 12 monthly issues

Please contact the Temple to make arrangements. Admin@tbhsw.org