



HILLEL HAPPENINGS

Cantor Talya Smilowitz



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Dear Friends,

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

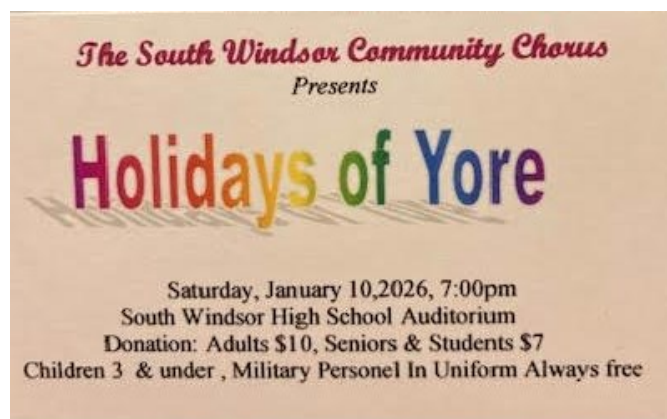
Warmly,

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

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.

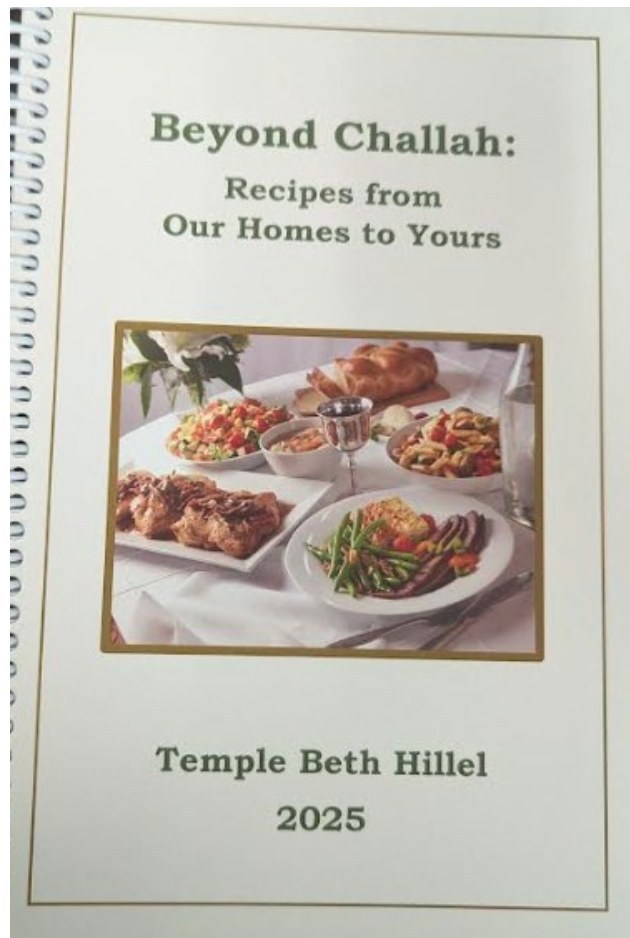
Edwin is in 7th grade at Timothy Edwards Middle School, where he is on the cross country team and plays saxophone in the band. He loves spending time with his sister Grace, his parents, grandparents, his cousins, and our dog Penny. Vacations in Cape Cod and skiing are his favorite things. Edwin also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



SAVE THE DATE!

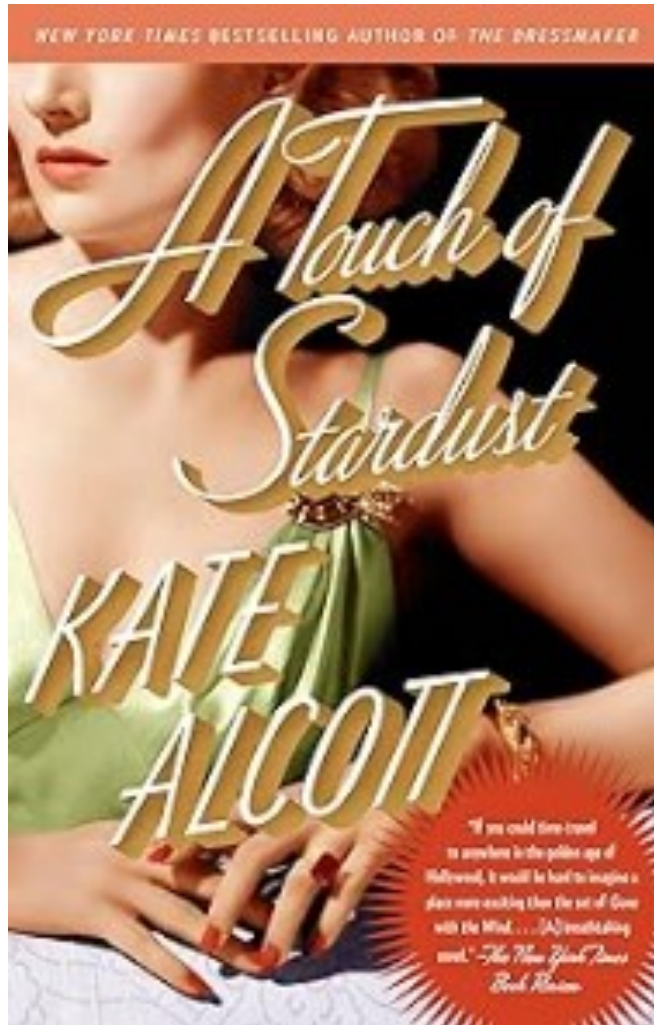
**THE TBH MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL GALA
WILL BE GOING "BACK, BACK TO THE
FUTURE!" ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH**

**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 GITTLEMAN

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 Shalom 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.





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.

*Synagogue membership is not required to participate in JTConnect.

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 Shalom B'nai Israel, Manchester, CT
- Congregation Kol Haverim, Glastonbury, CT
- Temple Beth Hillel, South Windsor, CT

FOLLOW US




SCAN ME!



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

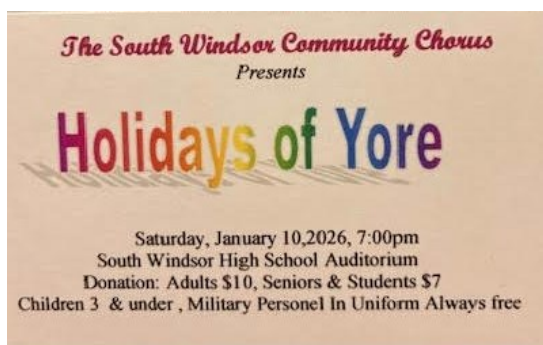
*Scholarships are available

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!



YAHREIT DATES

On January 3, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Sam Cook
Mildred Goldenthal Schmitman
Josephine Basile
Nathan Pollak
Jerauld Bloom
Leonard Rivlin
Rose Fredman
Max Meyers
Barabra Dress Miller
Helen Bernstein
Evelyn Stockser
Samuel Wagner

Father of Barbara Dworsky
Mother of Janet Berman
Mother of David Basile

Father of Michelle Karasik
Mother of Myra Scott
Father of Sally Meyers Goodman

Father of Alice Rodner

On January 10, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Avram Daniel Check
Benjamin Druckman
George Steiner
Tillie Cantor
Ray Hollander
Esther Katz
Les Tanzman
Rosalyn Opinsky
Leonard Goldfarb
Alice Rodner

Grandfather of Elaine Cantor

Mother-in-law of Elaine Cantor
Mother of Paula Capaldo
Cousin of Harriet Leitz
Father of Bonnie Zinn

Father of Joel Goldfarb
Wife of Bob Rodner

On January 17, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Edna Gold
James Goldberg
Adolph Wasserman
Frimet Matel Lippel
Louis Albert
Irving Freeman
Jack Greenberg
Lena Greenberg
Lee Goldman
Harry Gold
Norman Weiner
Susan Wickey

Mother of Susan Simons

Grandmother of Larry Waksman
Father of Bev Finnicum
Father of Nelson Freeman

Father of Susan Simons
Uncle of Sheila Alpert
Mother of Rebecca Chaimovitch

Continued on the next page...

YAHRZEIT DATES CONTINUED...

On January 24, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Martin Toback
 Freda Ziskis
 Darlene Sternberg
 George Katz
 Harvey Druckman
 Josef Friedman
 Jeremiah Finn
 Edwin Lappen
 Sylvia May
 Martin Nissenblatt
 Arnold Seligson
 Bea Grigorian
 Albert Waxman

Husband of Charlotte Toback
 Mother of Sharon Jacobs

Cousin of Harriet Leitz

Father of Helena Friedman
 Father of Paula Bradbard

Mother of Barry Simons
 Father of Mindy Glickman
 Uncle of Teri Parrott

On January 31, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Ruth Dworkin
 Meyer Gere
 Maurice Hyman
 William Morris Nadel
 Hattie Schepart
 Morris M. Berger
 Anita Bernstein
 Wade Harrison Gleckman
 William Harris
 Sylvia Brightman
 Rodney Gochros
 Irene Weissman

Grandfather of Dana Frank
 Father of Joel Nadel

Father of Marilyn Davidson
 Mother of Dick Bernstein
 Son of Robert & Sheila Gleckman
 Father of Janet Lassman
 Mother of Harriet Marek
 Father of Donna Gittleman

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.

1496 Sullivan Avenue
South Windsor, CT 06074
Bus: 860.644.5667
Fax: 860.644.3668



wallacetetreault.com



Ben Wallace

Broker / President, GRI

Cell: 860.214.0270

VM: 860.644.5667 x101

E-mail: BenWallace@snet.net



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

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Facsimile (860) 648-1836

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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.

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

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