

Temple Beth Shalom, Polk

# Chai Lites

October 2025



And just like that we arrive at 5786.

Rabbi Guyster and Margo Fleisher created a lovely and meaningful Rosh Hashanah experience for us by including many members and guests during the services.

Debbie Grinker led us in many familiar songs. Howard Kerner sang *Ritzei* in honor of Phil Grinker, who for many years sang the moving prayer.

Thank you to the many guests who joined us. We hope you will worship with us again soon.



# President's High Holiday Appeal

**by Uriah Rose**

Shana Tova.

I stand here before you today as your new president, and I'll be honest—this is a steep learning curve for me. I'm not a professional fundraiser, not a public speaker, and certainly not a polished rabbi. I'm a truck driver. I spend a lot of time on the road, moving goods, but also thinking about how I can help move this community forward.

I'm also a gym rat—I spend hours lifting weights. And I've realized that building muscle isn't that different from building a synagogue. Every rep makes us stronger. But it doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen without effort, commitment, and yes—support.

We are blessed right now with new energy. We have a new rabbi, and in a short period, he has shown us what is possible—his vision, his warmth, his passion to get every single one of us involved. He's already been to so many services, meeting people, learning who we are, and helping us dream about what we can become.

And I want to dream with you.

If we had more resources, more financial strength, here's what I see for our future: more services for all ages, more adult learning opportunities, more ways for us to connect with each other and with Judaism in meaningful ways. I imagine a synagogue that feels alive every day of the week, not just on the High Holidays.

But dreams don't fund themselves. They depend on us, this room, this community. We are only as strong as the support we give. Just like in the gym if we keep pushing, keep stretching, we get stronger together.

So today, I am asking you—inviting you—to help us strengthen this congregation. Please give generously to our High Holiday appeal.

And I also want to say this: if financial giving is not possible for you right now, you are no less important to this community. Your time, your creativity, your presence, they are just as vital. Teach a class, help plan an event, share an idea, lend a hand. There are so many ways to help us grow.

This synagogue was not built by rabbis or presidents alone. It was built by all of us, lifting together—whether that's with dollars, hours, or talents.

Let us make this year the one where our temple becomes stronger than ever.

Shana Tova, and thank you. Uriah Rose, TBS Board President

# Temple Beth Shalom Officers

## 2025-2026

President: Uriah Rose

Secretary: Margo Fleisher

Treasurer: Michael Craig

Past President: Lorraine Mixer

Brotherhood/Sisterhood President: Beverly Lerner

Trustees:

Lee Ann Martinez

Diana Kramer

Arlene Greenberg

Bobby Baum

Ethan Feldman

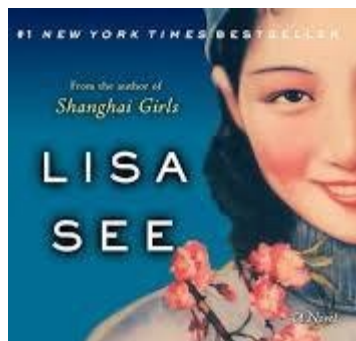
Jeffrey Goldblatt



The Book Club will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The October choice is:

*Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See



**We've extended the date for submission of Directory Ads  
October 30<sup>th</sup>.**



Temple Beth Shalom is the only reform Jewish congregation in Polk County, located in Winter Haven, Florida.

Our congregation is celebrating over 40 years of devotion to Polk County!

We are preparing our annual Directory. Please help us by supporting this fund-raising project by purchasing a Personal or Commercial Ad for our Chai Notes Directory.

All donors will be acknowledged for their generosity in our monthly newsletter, Chai Lites.

You will find the personal and commercial ad forms attached. Please make checks payable to:  
Temple Beth Shalom  
P.O. Box 313  
Winter Haven, FL 33882-0313

We appreciate you helping us to make our directory a useful community tool.

With warm regards,

Uriah Rose  
Congregation President  
bodysbyrose@gmail.com

Temple Beth Shalom  
Polk County Reform Jewish Congregation  
863-292-0722 (messages only)  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 313  
Winter Haven, FL 33882-0313

**2025 - 2026**  
**Temple Beth Shalom**  
**High Holidays Chai Notes**  
**Family Message Form**

It's that time of year when we work together to make the source that  
enables us to connect with each other by mail, telephone or email:

**The Temple Beth Shalom Annual Directory.**

Members and guests are invited to express holiday greetings to the  
congregation. Please send this completed form and payment to;  
Temple Beth Shalom, High Holidays Chai Notes, P.O. Box 313,  
Winter Haven, FL 33882-0313

Or email your order to: Lorraine Mixter; [lorrainemixter@aol.com](mailto:lorrainemixter@aol.com)  
Please return by August 31, 2025



Large Message  
\$36



Small Message  
\$18

Temple Beth Shalom  
Polk County Reform Jewish Congregation  
863-292-0722 (messages only)  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 313  
Winter Haven, FL 33882-0313



**2025- 2026**  
**Temple Beth Shalom Directory**  
**Commercial Ad Order Form**

Please complete a separate form for each ad. We can provide limited design work for ads using your art.

Bill to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Print message clearly or attach digital artwork. Please do not staple or fold artwork.

☐ Full page ( 4 ¼" x 7 ½" ) / \$300.00

☐ Half page ( 4 ¼" x 3 ¼" ) / \$175.00

☐ Quarter page ( 4 ¼" x 1 7/8" ) / \$90.00

Please send this completed form, art and payment to:  
Temple Beth Shalom, High Holidays Chai Notes, P.O. Box 313  
Winter Haven, FL 33882-0313  
or email your order to: [lorrainemixter@aol.com](mailto:lorrainemixter@aol.com)



# October Calendar

Oct 1	7:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre Service
Oct 2	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
Oct 2	3:00 p.m.	Discussion
Oct 2	4:00 p.m.	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
Oct 2	4:30 p.m.	Stone Service, Yiskor
Oct 2	5:00 p.m.	Neilah
Oct 2	6:00 p.m.	Break Fast
Oct 5	9:00 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Putters on the 9th
Oct 7	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Oct 7	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Oct 12	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
Oct 14	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Oct 14	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Oct 14	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Oct 19	3:30 p.m.	Trip to the AGB in Lakeland with Brotherhood/Sisterhood
Oct 21	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Oct 21	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Oct 24	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Oct 28	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Oct 28	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Nov 2	9:00 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Putters on the 9th

For more information, please email [web@templebethshalompolk.org](mailto:web@templebethshalompolk.org)  
or call: 863-292-0722

# **Temple Maintenance Project Fund**

Dear Temple Members,

Our facility on Bradbury Road was completed in 2003. Since then we have not really invested in any real exterior maintenance which at this point should be considered a necessary goal.

I have received a quote of \$11,680 to perform the following:

Pressure clean the building

Repair and caulk exterior cracks

Caulk all windows and doors

Seal exterior to receive paint

Paint two coats on exterior including walls, fascia, soffits, gutters and downspouts

Paint vinyl siding on gables and roof vinyl with vinyl friendly paint

Sand and re-stain 2 front doors

Paint rear and side door

Paint portico ceiling

Use Sherwin Williams Superpaint, sealer and vinyl paint

Donations to this project would be appreciated.

Alternative quotes and modifications to the above can be made, but the general goal is \$11,680.

Thank you for considering this project.

Robert K. Lerner





The Brotherhood/Sisterhood membership is open to all  
TBS members and their spouses.

Come join us on the First Sunday of each Month.  
@ 9:00 am for social time, monthly meeting following.  
Dues are \$25.00 per year for Family Voting Rights.

*Everyone is Welcome to all our Events.*

Beverly Lerner, president  
Jeffrey Goldblatt, vice president  
Sandi Grinker, treasurer  
Ethan Feldman, secretary

Please contact the Vice President of Brotherhood/Sisterhood –  
Jeff Goldblatt at: [auinoh@gmail.com](mailto:auinoh@gmail.com) for more information while  
President Beverly Lerner recuperates from a broken leg.

The October meeting will be held at Putters on the 9<sup>th</sup> located at  
The Hamptons Golf & Country Clubhouse  
900 Southampton Blvd. Auburndale, FL 33823



# The Secure Community Network

On September 11, 2025 the Secure Community Network made available to us a presentation on a strategy to increase our synagogue's safety in these turbulent times: *Navigating Conflict: the Power of De-Escalation*. It was an informative discussion on how we all can increase our safety in using our listening skills to keep ourselves and others calm to reduce the risk in an escalating situation. There was important information on identifying what situations can be de-escalated and what situations cannot. De-escalation is called for if we have one or more people with us that are emotionally upset and need help to calm down. In these situations there is no immediate plan to cause harm, only to vent anger or distress. De-escalation is not helpful if someone comes to us with a plan to disrupt our services or harm people inside our sanctuary. Since the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and October 7 in Israel, anti-semitic violence seems to be increasing; as are attacks on houses of worship in general recently. Many of us in the last several years are more concerned about this second kind of security risk. We cannot talk our way out of these. What can we do? There are multiple strategies Temple Beth Shalom is implementing:

- One of the first and most practical measures was an electronic entry system. This is why you use a key fob to get into the building. Recent history showed that assailants like easy targets and if they cannot get in the building they are not going to keep trying for long. This is a good time to remind you not to prop the door open or let someone you don't know follow you into the building. We can screen visitors to the temple and help keep each other safe.
- Temple Beth Shalom has security team volunteers that have completed active shooter or other security training through the Sheriff's Department, a private contractor, or in consultation with the US Marshals' office and are prepared to provide security leadership. They are trained at monitoring the entrances and keeping an eye on the congregation during services.
- The Polk County Sheriff's Department has shown a lot of interest in our safety and posted cameras to monitor the outside of our building. They reached out to us many times in the last several years and provided us with a contact at their offices. This past year they began posting a deputy outside any time we tell them our building will be occupied. The PCSD is doing a lot to show that the safety of our synagogue and its participants are important to them.

- We are applying for grants to support extensive security upgrades to the temple building such as stronger doors and greater ease of emergency exits, a better monitoring system, more cameras. We hope we can get these projects going this year.

Some of the best security strategies are in preparation and mindfulness, and your Board and congregation have these in great supply for you.



Joseph Rodriguez' daughter, Lauren Hisey, has shared Joseph's memorial page with us to view. It's lovely to see Joseph's photo as we remember him, and to read about all of his accomplishments and organizations to which he contributed, including ours. These and his family are his legacy. May his memory continue to be as a blessing.

<https://www.altogetherfuneral.com/obituaries/d-20742913/auburndale-florida/joseph-rodriguez/june-2025>



### Good Cheer Committee

Our resident artist, Polly Weinmann is our new Chairperson of the “Good Cheer Committee”.

Please share your name and date if you wish to receive greetings on your birthday, anniversary or at times when you just need an uplifting note.

Email: [mom2furkids1@gmail.com](mailto:mom2furkids1@gmail.com)

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	BIRTHDATE (NO YEAR)	ANNIVERSARY
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## Onegs (also known as Kiddush)

**The mitzvah of sponsoring an Oneg is a wonderful way to celebrate any milestone from a birth, birthday, bar/bat mitzvah, anniversary, graduation, or a loved one's yahrzeit.**

A Congregational Oneg not only provides a meaningful tribute to a loved one with an acknowledgement in Chai Lites and a charitable donation receipt, but it more importantly provides blessings to the family with the words spoken by friends, members, and attendees to the sponsoring family. Kiddush/Oneg sponsorship helps strengthen your connection to the community while enhancing our community's Shabbat experience.

To celebrate your milestone with an Oneg, please contact Arlene Greenberg.  
Please contact Arlene to reserve your Oneg spot or to volunteer to take over this responsibility at:  
[arlenegreenberg@gmail.com](mailto:arlenegreenberg@gmail.com)

October 2	Break the Fast Dishes Needed
October 24	Lorraine Mixter



## Maj Jong Ladies



The Mah Jong ladies meet every Tuesday at noon.

We love our Maj Ladies. They are sharing the expense of using our building. Thank you, ladies, for your contributions of water, soda, paper towels, flatware, etc.!

Feel free to bring your lunch and eat with them before they play. If you would like to learn how to play Mah Jong, they will teach you.

For more information [sandigrinker@gmail.com](mailto:sandigrinker@gmail.com) 863-207-7440.

## Thank You's: there is always something to be thankful for!



- Thank you to Diana Kramer for organizing *Aliyahs* on Shabbat.
- Thank you to Bobby Baum for providing delicious homemade Challah.
- Thank you to Arlene Greenberg for organizing our Onegs.
- Thank you to Margo Fleisher for her photography and directing skills during our Zoom Services and our Board meetings as well as her secretarial skills.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for sending greeting cards.
- Thank you to Rob Lerner for cleaning the exterior of our building.

## Donations

- Barron Krisher has made a donation in honor of the Jewish people.
- Sharon Shuller has made a donation in memory of Jerry Heyman.
- Debbie Grinker has made a donation in memory of Jerry Heyman.
- Herb LeShay has made a donation in memory of Jerry Heyman.
- Lisa Leve has made a High Holiday donation.
- Deena Williams has made a donation to the building fund.
- Korina Masters & Steve Hindin have made a donation to the building fund and a High Holiday donation..
- The Feldman Family has made a High Holiday donation.
- Mark and Nancy Belfer have made a High Holiday donation.
- Arlene Greenberg has made a High Holiday donation.
- Beverly Lerner has made a High Holiday donation.
- Sharon & Richard Johnson have made a High Holiday donation.
- Mona Williamson has made a High Holiday donation.
- Howard Korn has made a High Holiday donation.
- D.L. Schwartz has made a High Holiday donation.
- Caroline Neuberger has made a High Holiday donation.
- Trisha Safer has made a High Holiday donation.
- Rhoda Levine has made a High Holiday donation.
- Myra Soberman has made a High Holiday donation.
- The Cokee Family have made a High Holiday donation.

Temple Beth Shalom introduces:

Chai Lites Boosters, a Wish List for much needed upgrades for our building.

By donating Chai, \$18 your name will be published as a "Chai Lites Booster" in our monthly newsletter for a period of one year.

Yes, I want to be a Chai Lites "Booster."

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Please show my name as: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate Chai Lites Booster on your check.

Please mail your check to: Temple Beth Shalom

Attn: Boosters

P.O. Box 313, Winter Haven, FL 33882

### Chai Lites Boosters

Donor Name	Month	Expiration	Donor Name	Month	Expiration
Diana Kramer	3-Mar	2026	Joseph Rodriguez	13-Aug	2026
Janis Koike	26-Jan	2027	Beverly Lerner	9-Jun	2028
Brotherhood/Sisterhood	4-May	2031	Jeffrey Goldblatt	13-Jun	2026
Jerry Kosten	19-Jul	2026	Jerry Heyman	16-Jun	2026
Bobby Baum	3-Mar	2026	Herb LeShay	7-Aug	2027
Barbara Brooks	28-Aug	2027	Your name here		

Your name here			Varda Rottenberg	3-Mar	2026
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October Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit Date	Deceased	Relationship
Oct	Arthur Seligman	grandfather of Michelle Chain
Oct	Sara Tarnower	grandmother of Jett Segal
Oct	Abraham Zwerling	grandfather of Steve Zwerling
1-Oct	LaVerne Luke	mother of Janis Koike
2-Oct	Edward Coleman	nephew of Sue Zwerling
2-Oct	Irene Coleman	sister of Sue Zwerling
2-Oct	Mary Coleman	niece of Sue Zwerling
3-Oct	Claire Geller	perpetual yahrzeit
5-Oct	Judith Nufeld	sister-in-law of Varda Rotenberg
5-Oct	Nathan Siegel	father of Saul Siegel
7-Oct	Stanley Braverman	husband of Victoria Braverman
7-Oct	Ronald Weintraub	brother of Jo Ann Lesnett
10-Oct	David Sniderman	father of Barbara Brooks
14-Oct	Stanley Bauer	father of Adrienne Sundheim
14-Oct	Harry Schwachter	grandfather of Barbara Brooks
15-Oct	Joyce Friedmann	Perpetual yahrzeit
16-Oct	Erna Mayer	mother of Max Mayer
23-Oct	Simeon Heller	Uncle of Polly Weinmann
25-Oct	Lorraine Chain	mother of Lloyd Chain
26-Oct	Jules Adelman	grandfather of Jay Adelman; perpetual yahrzeit
28-Oct	MaryJane Forbes	grandmother of Melissa Morris
30-Oct	Jessie Haas	perpetual yahrzeit
31-Oct	Mollie Miller	perpetual yahrtzeit
31-Oct	Warren Goldbert	nephew of Sandi Grinker

**Yahrzeit Reminders - May their memories be a Blessing.**  
**A candle should be lit the night before at sundown.**

You may say Kaddish with the Temple Beth Shalom community during Friday services.



Candles may be purchased at the temple.

It is customary at this time to give tzedakah in memory of your loved one.

To make a donation to any Temple Beth Shalom fund or to purchase a yahrzeit plaque,



A great action photo of the Tuesday morning Yoga practice.

From Left to Right: Joyce Preston (yogi), Sybil Weiss, Arlene Greenberg, Beverly Lerner, Judy Richter, and Sandi Grinker.

### **Chair Yoga at the Temple**

Join us for chair yoga at the Temple. Temple member and certified yoga instructor Joyce Preston guides us through this gentle, beneficial activity using simple props, music, and clear directions. Joyce makes it fun and easy while still challenging for even our more advanced participants.

Come join us. \$5 per session.

Contact Beverly Lerner for more information. 863-294-6042 (home)

[Bevlerner@aol.com](mailto:Bevlerner@aol.com)



**Thank you to all the members and families who donated and thank you to our 2025 Advertisers:**

**Stay tuned for 2026 Advertisers!**

**Baum and Knowles College Advising**

**Full Cover Insurance Solutions**

**Mayer Jewelers**

**Publix**

**Putters Restaurant on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Restaurant and Bar**

**Steven Greenberg Insurance**

**B'nai Brith Lodge**  
**Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood/Sisterhood**  
**Joyce Preston**  
**Crews Transportation**