

Temple Beth Shalom, Polk

Chai Lites

January 2026

As we begin 2026, we do so with reflection, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose. The start of a new year invites us to look back on the journey that brought us here, while opening our hearts to the opportunities that lie ahead for our community.

The year 2025 was a year of transition for our congregation. With the retirement of Rabbi Herzfeld and the passing of our former president, Joseph Rodriguez, we experienced moments of change, remembrance, and adjustment. Both men served Temple Beth Shalom with devotion, compassion, and a deep commitment to Jewish life, and their leadership continues to shape the foundation upon which we stand.

During this period of transition, we are grateful for the steady leadership of Rav Guyster, who has guided our community with warmth, wisdom, and care. Under his leadership, Temple Beth Shalom has continued to grow, gather, and strengthen its sense of connection and spiritual life.

As we move into 2026, we do so with optimism and hope, embracing this new chapter together. We look forward to deepening our relationships, welcoming new members, and continuing to build a vibrant, inclusive, and caring congregation.

We warmly invite everyone to join us for our New Member Service on Sunday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m., as we celebrate those who have recently joined our temple family and the shared journey ahead.

May this new year bring peace, strength, and continued blessings to our entire community.



President's Musings

By Uriah Rose

Dear Beloved Members of Our Temple Family,

As we step into the fresh promise of January and the new year, I am honored to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you. May this season bring renewed hope, spiritual growth, and the comforting presence of our Creator as we gather in fellowship and worship.

Together, let us embrace the blessings and challenges that lie ahead, supporting one another with love, compassion, and steadfast faith. Thank you for your dedication and devotion; it is the foundation upon which our community flourishes.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyous start to 2026.

With gratitude,

Uriah Rose
President, Board of Trustees
Temple Beth Shalom

just4 today
(863) 292-0722

From the Rav

By Rav Will Guyster

Dear TBS Mishpocha! In this season of thanksgiving, it seems that we at Temple Beth Shalom have much for which to feel thankful.

We have seen many new faces and friendly old faces come through our doors these past few months, along with increasing attendance at each service.



We've relaunched a monthly Torah study which, Bezrat HaShamayim, will only increase in frequency. So too, the sheer number of volunteers who make each gathering come alive is always a spectacular sight to witness!

But of all the notable mentions, we have our first (*in a very long time!*) **baby naming ceremony** coming up on Saturday, December 6 (16 Kislev). I hope you'll all come out to join me and the Feldman family to wish them and their little angel the best of mazel during our community's very special simcha.

Not only will there be good food, singing, and good company, but we will also incorporate a special ritual during the baby naming that itself goes back to Abraham and Sarah welcoming the three angels into the Biblical Land of Israel.

May we have much to be thankful for and many more blessings continue to visit us and visit our darling community in the times ahead.

Gut Shabbos and Shabbat Shalom, Rav Guyster

Rav Guyster Puts up a Mezuzah



Temple Beth Shalom Officers

2026-2027

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, January 13th.

The January choice is:

The View of Lake Como by Adriana Trigiani



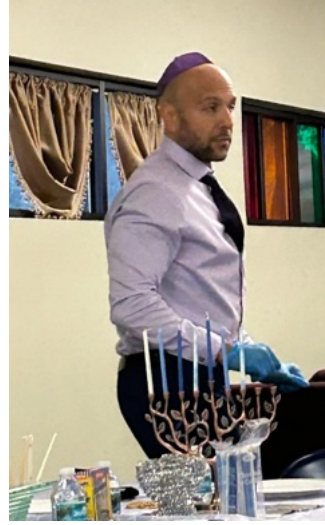
Feldman Family Baby Naming



Hanukkah Dinner



Rabbi Herzfeld joined us for the holiday



Uriah Rose Served Dinner



Korina Masters & Sharon Johnson



Our Guest of Honor, Meryl Crews and Family



Tails of the Wild

On Sunday, December 28th at 3:00 p.m., members of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood enjoyed a memorable and engaging visit to Tails of the Wild, where they had the opportunity to get up close with incredible animal ambassadors and experience the magic of wildlife firsthand.

During the guided tour, participants went behind the scenes to meet rescued exotic animals, hear their inspiring stories, and learn about the important work being done to raise awareness and promote conservation of their wild counterparts.

Following the tour, the group continued the afternoon together with dinner at Polk City BBQ, enjoying good food, conversation, and camaraderie. It was a wonderful outing that combined learning, shared experiences, and fellowship.



Krystal Rose, Lee Ann Martinez and Sandi Grinker

January Calendar

Jan 4	9:00 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Putters on the 9th
Jan 6	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 6	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 10	9:15 a.m.	Torah Study
Jan 10	10:15 a.m.	Shabbat Service
Jan 11	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting
Jan 13	10:00 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 13	11:00 a.m.	Book Club
Jan 13	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 20	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 20	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Jan 23	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
Jan 25	12:30 p.m.	Western Theme Game Day and Luncheon
Jan 27	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Jan 27	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Feb 1	9:00 a.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood at Putters on the 9th
Feb 3	10:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga with Joyce Preston
Feb 3	12:00 p.m.	Maj Jong
Feb 8	9:30 a.m.	TBS Board Meeting

For more information, please email 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.

@ 9:30 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

The January 4th meeting will be held at

Putters on the 9th at 9:30 a.m.

The Hamptons Golf & Country Clubhouse

900 Southampton Blvd. Auburndale, FL 33823



Game Day



Sunday January 25, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

Come dressed as your favorite western character.

Catered by Sonny's BBQ

Choice of Chicken dinner \$12.00 Brisket dinner \$15.00.

Includes three sides.

Please send your check by January 10th to:

Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood.

P.O.BOX 313 Winter Haven FL. 33882.

Contact Polly Weinmann 540-793-3543 or
Sandi Grinker 863-207-7440 for more info.



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

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	BIRTHDATE (NO YEAR)	ANNIVERSARY
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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 863-207-7440.



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

January 23	Judy and Michael Richter
February 27	Diana Kramer
March 27	Bobby and Diane Baum



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 managing our email account and our Zoom account.
- Thank you to Polly Weinmann for sending Thank You cards and greeting cards.
- Thank you to Ethan Feldman for managing our website.

Donations

- Barron Krisher has made a donation in honor of the Jewish people.
- Lou & Alan Katz have made a donation in memory of Jeanne & Jerry Heyman.
- Judy and Michael Richter have made a building fund donation.
- Lorraine Mixter has made a *yahrzeit* donation in honor of John Mixter and Sandra Rosen.
- Sandy Grinker has made a donation in honor of the Feldman Baby Naming.
- Arlene Greenberg has made a donation for repainting the building.
- Arlene Greenberg has made a donation in honor of the birth of the Feldman's baby.
- The Feldman family has made a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.
- Margo Fleisher made a donation in honor of all those who helped to serve, cook and clean up the Hanukkah Dinner.

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	Arlene Greenberg	1-Sept	2026
Korina Masters	31-Oct	2026	Varda Rottenberg	3-Mar	2026

January Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit Date	Deceased	Relationship
Jan	Charles Cooper	perpetual yahrzeit
Jan	Anna Starlight	grandmother of Steve Zwerling
Jan	Charles Starlight	grandfather of Steve Zwerling
Jan	Robert Stiles	perpetual yahrzeit
Jan	Herman Zwerling	father-in-law of Susan Zwerling
1-Jan	Lena Briklod	grandmother of Meryl Chayt
4-Jan	Joseph Greenberg	Father-in-law of Arlene Greenberg
6-Jan	Marc Randall Kahn	son of Marvin and Elsa Kahn
6-Jan	Isadore Shuller	father of Sharon Shuller
8-Jan	Jeanne Sundheim Siegel	sister-in-law of Adrienne Sundheim
8-Jan	Gladys Spitzer	sister of Joe Epstein
10-Jan	Richard (Dick) Ross	father of Arthur & Robert Ross
11-Jan	Sadie Heyman Bergman	mother of Jerry Heyman
12-Jan	Harry Hershman	father of Marilyn Fisher
12-Jan	Leo Kleinman	father of Irwin Kleinman
12-Jan	Morris Kohen	grandfather of Margo Fleisher
14-Jan	Martha Shuller	grandmother of Sharon Shuller
14-Jan	Stanley Sundheim	father of Rabbi Frank Sundheim
19-Jan	Stanley Friedman	father of Scott Friedman
19-Jan	Norman Greenberg	husband of Arlene Greenberg and father of Steven Greenberg
21-Jan	Arthur Kastner	cousin of Meryl Crews
23-Jan	Abraham Silverstein	father-in-law of Dick Ross
24-Jan	Charlotte Browde	sister of Arlene Greenberg
24-Jan	John Mixter	husband of Lorraine Mixter
24-Jan	Donald Maize	husband of Elsa Maize
25-Jan	Pola Bromberg	mother of Varda Rotenberg
25-Jan	Stephen Zwerling	husband of Susan Zwerling
26-Jan	Bella Polley	mother of Polly Weinmann
27-Jan	Harry L. Podoll	grandfather of Janis Koike
27-Jan	Phyllis Smith	mother of Julia Smith
28-Jan	Sandra Rosen	aunt of Lorraine Mixter
30-Jan	Debra Segal	mother of Jett Segal; perpetual yahrzeit

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: Sandi Grinker for more information

sandigrinker@gmail.com 863-207-7440



Thank you to all the members and families who donated and thank you to our 2026 Advertisers:

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Temple Beth Shalom Brotherhood/Sisterhood

Joyce Preston