

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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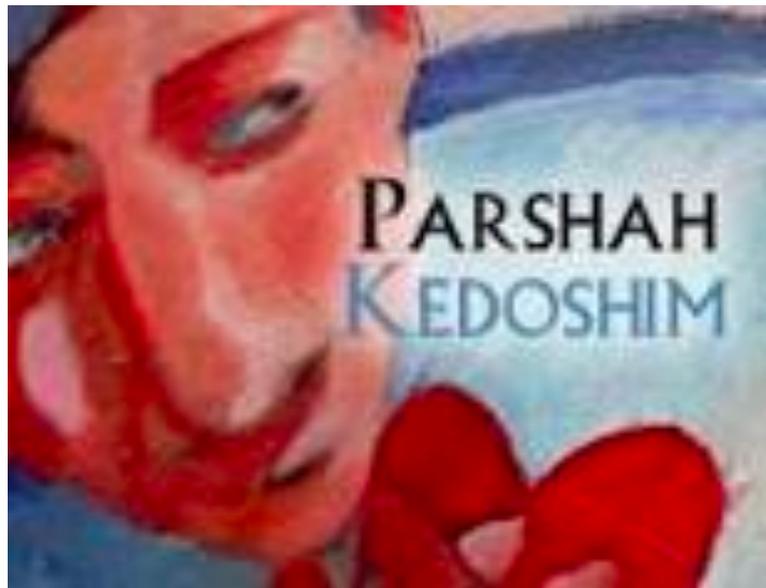
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## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi



### ***The Miracle of Passover: A Kingdom of Priests, A Holy Nation is Born!***

I cannot talk enough about the profound effects that the writings and teachings of Judaism have had on the other two major Western religions, Christianity and Islam. Through those two faiths, concepts of the Creator and principles which *originated in the Torah* have been disseminated worldwide. *The Passover* was a critical link in the development of the Jewish faith-tradition. As we prepare for our annual observance of that ancient holy event, my thoughts turn to what might be the greatest Passover miracle of all: through faith in the Almighty God, a battered down and oppressed group of slaves was ultimately liberated and transformed into a chosen people,

a blessed nation, and a “*light to all nations.*” That light, of course, is to be a reflection of the **Holiness of Adonai**—God’s creation, God’s ways/laws, and God’s purpose for humankind’s future.

The concept of holiness is addressed often in the Torah, but perhaps nowhere more forcefully and succinctly than in Torah portion Kedoshim which we read this month. That portion, the 30<sup>th</sup> weekly portion in the Jewish Torah reading cycle, is the 7<sup>th</sup> reading in the book of Leviticus (19:1-20:27). At 64 verses, it is one of the shortest portions in the Torah reading cycle. Kedoshim is read twice a year, both as part of the weekly cycle and as the special reading on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. Some of you may recall that *Kodoshim* is also the title of the fifth order in the *Mishnah* and *Babylonian Talmud*.

The Torah portion begins, “And Adonai spoke to Moses saying, ‘Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, *you shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.*’” Now, I have said in jest many times that the Almighty did not choose the descendants of Abraham and Sarah because they made good bagels, although they do. The Torah is very clear that these descendants were called for a very specific purpose, to be *a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*. “You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6). The Creator apparently saw in Abraham and Sarah the qualities of loyalty to God, to God’s laws, and to God’s plan for humankind, and the Creator must have known that these qualities would carry on in Abraham and Sarah’s descendants. I like to call this the “Family Plan” for spreading the Torah message to all humankind, because as the descendants of Abraham and Sarah role model these lofty statutes and ethics, the Prophets tell us that eventually all humankind, indeed every nation, will adopt the Creator’s laws and plan. This will lead to a time when war, sickness, and famine will be completely done away with according to the Hebrew Prophets.

Kedoshim is the masculine plural form of *Kadosh*—holy. But, what exactly does holiness mean as the term is used in the Hebrew Bible? When one thinks of holiness one usually envisions a monk, cloistered in a medieval monastery, reading holy writings, meditating on heavenly things, and abstaining from most of the joys of everyday life, such as eating, drinking, etc. This view derives from a Greco-Roman concept of holiness, often referred to as a dualistic worldview, in which the heavenly realm, the spiritual, is deemed to be good, but in which earthly things, the physical, is considered inherently corrupt or tainted. That is *not* the Hebraic view. At the time of creation, Adonai saw *six times* that those things which were created were good. Upon the completion of God’s ultimate creation, man and woman, the Hebrew Bible tells us, “And God saw everything that God had made, and behold, it was *very good*” (Gen. 1:32). So it is, in Jewish tradition, that holiness is not entailed in the *abstinence* from enjoying those elements of creation that God has graciously given to us, but rather in their judicious and moderate use. As summed up in *Talmud, Yevamot 20a*, we are instructed, “Sanctify yourself also regarding that which is permissible to you.”

Holiness in Judaism is not so much a state of mind, and *definitely not* a system of belief. Rather, it is the demonstration of very specific behaviors toward God and toward our fellow human beings. Those behaviors cannot be done in seclusion. That is why many sages have pointed out that the opening words of the Torah portion, “speak to *all* the congregation of the children of Israel...,” have the implication that holiness is not something done while cloistered away, but is something that is engaged in *with* and *for* the community. The specifics of the behaviors that define holiness are not left to subjective choice. Fortunately, they are very clearly spelled out in the Torah and in the later writings of the Jewish sages. Chief among the enumeration of those laws would, of course, be the Ten Commandments, given in the Torah in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. In the *Midrash Rabbah*, Rabbi Levi shows us that the Ten Commandments are, in fact, restated in Torah portion Kedoshim:

- 1) “I am the Lord your God,” is stated here also as “I am the Lord your God” (Lev. 19:3).
- 2) “You shall have no other gods before me,” appears as “Nor make to yourselves molten gods” (19:4).
- 3) “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,” is written here as, “And you shall not swear falsely by my name” (19:12).
- 4) “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” is restated as, “And keep my Sabbaths” (19:3).
- 5) “Honor your father and mother,” is rendered here as “Every man shall fear his mother and his father” (19:3).
- 6) “You shall not murder,” is conveyed in the passage, “You shall not stand by the blood of your neighbor” (19:3).
- 7) “You shall not commit adultery,” appears here as, “Both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death” (19:10).
- 8) “You shall not steal,” is written here as, “You shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie to one another.” (19:11).
- 9) “You shall not bear false witness,” is entailed in “You shall not go about as a talebearer” (19:16).
- 10) “You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor’s,” is more than reflected in, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (19:18).

(Translated in “Parshat Kedoshim in Depth,” [www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org))

It has always impressed me that in this “holiness code,” as it is often called, relatively few of the verses are devoted to our relationship with the Creator and to holy things such as Sabbaths and offerings. The vast majority of verses are devoted to our relations with fellow human beings. The level

of compassion given to that topic in this portion is palpable. Think for a minute about such seemingly simple, but powerful, actions as not reaping to the corners of your field so that there will be gleanings left behind for those who are in need (v. 10), not allowing the wages of someone hired to remain with you even overnight (v. 14), not allowing injustice in judgment even to the extent of being partial to the poor nor deferring to the great (v. 15), not going about as a talebearer, or in other words slanderer, among your people (v. 16). And then, of course, there is the *ultimate commandment*: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (v. 18). This principle has become a cornerstone of most of the world’s major religions. And, lest one think that one’s neighbor *only* refers to fellow countrymen or women, the Torah is crystal clear: “The *stranger* who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you; you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (19:34).

The level of devotion to one’s neighbor and compassion for those in need found in this Torah portion connects strongly with the constant theme of the Hebrew Prophets, *social justice*. Micah sums it up best in the statement, “*What does Adonai require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God*” (6:8). The fact that “love your neighbor as yourself” has become a core belief of so many world religions is proof to me that the Almighty’s “Family Plan” *is* working. When the adherents of those religions *truly apply* those lofty principles, putting them into action through their behaviors, behaviors laid out so specifically in this Torah portion, humankind will surely enter the time spoken of in the Prophets when nations will “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:4). My prayer is that we could live to see this fulfilled in our day. *Ken yehi ratzon*—may this be God’s will.



## The President’s Message

Marsue Davidson, President

Temple Beth Shalom will have our annual meeting on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am** (Coffee and sweets will be served). In addition to the election of officers and members-at-large, we will also be voting on some changes to our by laws. We have planned a full agenda of speakers as well, who will present important information about our TBS board

activities, including temple financial status, safety procedures, Sunday School and adult learning plans, and community projects. Please send me your proxy vote via email if you are unable to attend. A



## TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

By the time you read this we'll have had our annual community Seder! I'm going to assume everything tasted great and everyone had a great time—we always do! Thank you to all who came. A HUGE thank you to Barb Laufer for organizing the sisterhood to put on a terrific celebration. She knows exactly what to do and does it so well. Also thank you to her husband Larry, Henry Greenfield, Tiffany Hull, Susan Rieder, Marion DuBow, Mary Lee Tosky, Kathy Jones, Millie Kaufman, Brenda Callahan and all the others who provided food and time to put this together.

Another thank you to Dennis for leading, and to those who came to help set up the temple on Sunday March 25th. It takes a lot of people giving their time and talents to have such a great Seder—it's very much appreciated.

We'd also like to thank April and Glenn Eckard and their talented helpers from Alexander Central HS. We couldn't put on such a seamless seder without their contributions. We appreciate their work so much!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 18th, 6:30pm at Thai Lotus restaurant, 2601 N Center St (behind McDonald's on HWY 127). We'll discuss how the Seder went, and make plans for other social events. Bring any ideas you have.

We also decided at our last meeting that we'll have another temple Movie Night. It'll be Saturday, April 21st at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Please join us—we've had a lot of fun at our previous Movie Nights. We'll have popcorn and candy—just bring a chair or cushion if you don't want to sit on the temple chairs.

Below are photos taken during our Purim weekend services in March. The first person to email me the names of 7 people in them will win a prize at our next meeting.



## Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund was established by a long-standing Temple member, Burt Sederholm, to honor his wife Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement after 25 years with the Catawba County Department of Social Services. Mr. Sederholm's efforts provided the initial funding from generous family members and friends and it has been added to over the years. The scholarship is available to students. Temple members are looked upon favorably, but one does not need to be a temple member nor Jewish to apply. The scholarship fund dividends are used to provide scholarship awards. Candidates may submit an essay to any one of the committee members. The essay will explain who the candidate is, what they are doing currently, what their plans are for the future, how the scholarship funds will be used and, if applicable, what the connection may be to Jewish life.

Interested students should submit their essay by April 30th. The scholarship season runs from May 1-April 30. All applicants will be notified in writing if their application has been approved or declined by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Awards should be mailed to recipients by May 31st.

The essay should be emailed to any of the committee members: Lin Gentry, Karen Ferguson, or Sandy Guttler.

Naturally, the committee encourages everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.

## Temple Board

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th at 7pm. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Please join us and become a part of our TBS family.

TBS Board members are:

### Student Rabbi:

Dennis Jones

### Officers:

Marsue Davidson, President  
 Barbara Laufer, Vice-President  
 Susan Rieder, Treasurer  
 Tiffany Hull, Secretary

### Members at Large:

Liz Correll  
 Marion DuBow  
 Debra Engelmann  
 Lin Gentry  
 Sandy Guttler  
 Pam Jones  
 Linda Greenfield  
 Mary Lee Tosky  
 Karen Ferguson



*“... you shall keep My sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations...”* Exodus 31:13

“Help needed! We all love the sweet desserts and coming together at our Onegs after the Friday night service, don’t we? Volunteers are needed to host for the May, and June Onegs. Consider doing this mitzvah with a friend, in honor, or in memory of someone. It’s easy and fun, and there’s usually an experienced member there to help out. Thank you!”

## Donations

from **Roberta Atkins** with a Thank You to all who sent her get well wishes and prayers

from **Elaine Zerden** in appreciation for all the Sisterhood has done for her and the temple



Thank You



### Looking for a way to give tzedakah?

Jaimi Jones, daughter of Dennis and Kathy Jones, and School Social Worker for Alexander County Schools, is trying to collect hygiene/cleaning supplies for families of Hiddenite Elementary School students. It is the poorest school in the district and has a high rate of families living in poverty. She has had calls from parents seeking help to be able to send

their children to school with clean bodies and clean clothing. If anyone is willing to help her with this mitzvah by donating some of these supplies, please bring them to the next service at the Temple. **A box will be in the TBS foyer for the collection.**

They are in need of the following items for Kindergarten through 5th graders:

Shampoo    Conditioner    Children's and Adult Toothpaste and Toothbrushes    Body Wash  
Bar Soap    Boy's and Girl's Deodorants    Shaving Cream    Safety Razors    Ultra Thin Kotex  
Toilet Paper    Laundry Detergent    Dish Soap    Lysol Wipes

### TBS Message Board

*In Memory of David Cohen - from Burt Sederholm*

*Thank you to the Sisterhood for the delicious Hamamtashen - from Burt Sederholm*

*Happy Birthday Rabbi Dennis - from Karen and Clyde Ferguson*

If you wish to post a message to acknowledge a special event or achievement, condolence, or send a get well message, give or send your message and a \$5 donation to Marion DuBow at 2752 Brittany Dr., Lenoir, NC 28645. A greeting card will be sent acknowledging your donation and your message will appear here in the next issue of the TBS Bulletin.

## TBS Member Business Directory

Dr. Ron DuBow  
Internist, Geriatric Specialist  
(elderly care) Pediatrician  
2651 Morganton Blvd SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645  
828-757-8950

Dr. Laura Faruque of  
A Womans View  
915 Tate Blvd SE  
Suite170  
Hickory, NC 28602  
828-345-0800

Dr. Mark Faruque of  
Bethlehem Family Practice  
174 Bolick Lane Suite 202  
Taylorsville NC 28681  
828-495-8226

Marsue Davidson, RN DCS  
Epic Health Services  
805 W 25th Street  
Newton. NC 28269  
828-464-0244  
[www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservice.com](http://www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservice.com)



## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle April Events

### Birthdays

Aidan Weatherly 4/2	Jim Correll 4/18
Wayne Cole 4/4	Braeden Richards 4/21
Ron Cohn 4/6	Ben Peltzer 4/22
Amy Hedrick 4/7	Stuart Shubin 4/23
Ryan Laufer 4/10	
Dennis Jones 4/12	
Pam Jones 4/14	

### Anniversaries

Laura and Jon Levinson 4/15  
Pam and David Jones 4/25

### Yahrzeits

David Cohen 4/3  
Sue Brisbane 4/5  
Ruth Leifer 4/19  
Fania Sues 4/25  
Rose Miller 4/26

## Local and Regional Events

### Member Business Directory

Alice Guy

The Hickory Wine Shoppe  
238 Union Square NW  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-334-4441  
[Info@HickoryWine.com](mailto:Info@HickoryWine.com)

Karen Ferguson, MAIT

Certified Professional in Learning  
and Performance  
KB Learning Designs  
[kblearningdesigns.com](http://kblearningdesigns.com)  
[karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com)

Scott and Julie Owens

Taste Full Beans Coffeehouse  
29 2nd St NW  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-325-0108  
[www.tastefullbeans.com](http://www.tastefullbeans.com)

Michelle Oxenberg Jordon

Managing Director of Design  
3166 Main Ave. S.E.  
Hickory, North Carolina 28602  
828.322.3480 Ext. 271  
[michelle@robertabbey.com](mailto:michelle@robertabbey.com)

Dr David Peltzer

Newton Family Physicians  
767 West First Street  
Newton, NC 28658  
828 465-3928  
[www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)



### **Broken Lives: How Ordinary German Jews and Gentiles Experienced the 20th Century”**

Eminent historian Prof. Konrad H. Jarausch, Lurcy, Professor of European Civilization at UNC-Chapel Hill, will give an evening lecture at ASU Thursday, **April 19th 7:30 to 9:00pm** in **Belk Library Room 114**. His talk will also be part of the events co-organized by the Center to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. It is free of charge and no tickets are required.

For more information, call [828.262.2311](tel:828.262.2311).

### **Anti-Semitism in the Chartist**

#### **Movement: Rife or Rare?** with Denis Paz

This event will take place **April 26th** from **7:00 until 8:30 pm** at **ASU in Belk Library and Information Commons, Room 114**.

There will be a display of rare books and other items relating to the lecture in the Rhinehart Room (4th floor of the Library) between 5:45 and 6:45.

For more information please contact Michael Turner ([turnermj@appstate.edu](mailto:turnermj@appstate.edu)).

## B'NAI B'RITH INSTITUTE OF JUDAISM\* RETREAT AUGUST 13 - 16

Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC

Now in its 71st year, the B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism provides an opportunity for the individual to confront, explore, and clarify questions about Judaism in an individual, national, and global context. Our faculty provides four lectures daily, and there is entertainment each evening. Additional activities include patio discussions with the faculty, religious services, athletic pursuits such as hiking and tennis, enjoying the breathtaking beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, or just relaxing.



Online Brochure: [www.bnai-brith.wixsite.com/wildacres](http://www.bnai-brith.wixsite.com/wildacres)

email: [bcarr@ipass.net](mailto:bcarr@ipass.net)

phone: 919.781.4207

### Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Event/Time	Bulletin Deadline
April	6-8 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	March 24
	22 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
May	4-6 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM	April 21
	19 Erev Shavuot Service 7:30 PM (Saturday)	
	20 Sunday School 10:00 AM/ <b>Annual Meeting 10:00AM</b>	
June	1-3 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Ben Levinson Bar Mitzvah Sunday School End of Year Party 10:00 AM	May 19

Want to contribute to the TBS Bulletin? Send entries to Karen Ferguson at [karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com). All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.