

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 9142
Hickory, North Carolina 28603
www.hickoryjewishcenter.com

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones



Man is Not Alone—A Philosophy of Religion

By Abraham Joshua Heschel

“The search of reason ends at the shore of the known; on the immense expanse beyond it only the sense of the ineffable can glide” (Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man is Not Alone*, 1951, p. 8).

Abraham Joshua Heschel (January 11, 1907 – December 23, 1972) was the descendant of Hasidic rabbis on both his mother's and father's side. Born in Poland, he received a yeshiva education, studying for Orthodox semicha (ordination). Heschel also pursued a doctorate at the University of Berlin as well as a liberal rabbinic ordination at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, where he later taught Talmud. As the Nazis rose to power, Heschel, living in Frankfurt, Germany at the time, was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to Poland. There, he continued to teach and lecture at the Institute for Jewish Studies in Warsaw. Just before the

German invasion of Poland in 1939, Heschel was able to leave Warsaw for London. Heschel did, however, lose many family members to the atrocities of the Holocaust. By 1940, Heschel made it to the United States, where he served on the faculty of Hebrew Union College, the well-known seminary of Reform Judaism, until 1946. He then taught at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, a Conservative seminary, serving as a professor of Jewish Ethics and Mysticism until his death. In his relatively short but eventful life, Heschel authored six books on Jewish theology. Many people do not know that he was influential in urging the Roman Catholic Church to remove anti-Jewish elements from its liturgy at the Vatican Council II. Heschel, who was also active in the American Civil Rights movement, has emerged as a major theologian and philosopher both in the world of Judaism and beyond.

Man is Not Alone is actually not Heschel's first book on theology. It was preceded in 1951 by *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*, in which Heschel argued that Judaism is a religion of time not of space, and the Sabbath is crucial in conveying the understanding of the sanctification of time. In *Man is Not Alone*, Heschel wrestles with the problem of knowing the unknowable, of apprehending that which is beyond our senses, and in being able to convey that which is beyond thought and words *in words*. Heschel notes, as many philosophers have, that all knowledge involves a certain level of faith—faith in the information delivered by our five senses as well as faith in the objective existence of that which our senses apprehend beyond ourselves. So, Heschel takes this one step further. He claims, “Just as the mind is able to form conceptions supported by sense perception, it can derive insights from the dimension of the ineffable.” (p. 17) Heschel defines the capacity that gives humans the ability to perceive the ineffable as “radical amazement.” Heschel contends that this sense is inherent in all human beings. Since the ineffable exists beyond our knowledge and beyond our ability to define it, the result is, according to Heschel, “...full of spiritual radiance, for which we have neither name nor concept.” (p. 22) And, while the search for the divine is beyond knowledge, Heschel points out, “The approach to the ineffable leads through the depth of knowledge rather than to ignorant animal gazing.” He insists that humankind must not “...make the universal mistake of assuming as known a world that is unknown, of placing the solution before the enigma....” (p.15).

In his efforts to magnify the importance of the pursuit of the ineffable, Heschel in no way impugns science or the acquisition of knowledge. On the contrary, in Heschel's own words, “The sense of the ineffable does not hush the quest of thought, but, on the contrary, disturbs the placid and unseals our suppressed impressionability” (p.15). Heschel states further, “Science extends rather than limits the scope of the ineffable, and our radical amazement is enhanced rather than reduced by the advancement of knowledge” (p.30). With this statement, I could not agree more!

So, from whence derives this human ability to behold the cosmos with radical amazement? It comes, according to Heschel, from the ability to perceive the miracles surrounding us day by day, moment by moment. “Who are we to scan the esoteric stars, to witness the settings of the sun, to have the

service of the spring for our survival? How shall we ever reciprocate for breathing and thinking, for sight and hearing, for love and achievement?” (p.39). But, to Heschel, the apprehension of the divine is not just the mind’s extension of an explanation of causation or order in the cosmos. Rather, Heschel would argue that in its conception of the divine, humankind is actually becoming one with the universe. “To our knowledge the world and the ‘I’ are two, an object and a subject; but *within* our wonder the world and the ‘I’ are one in being, in eternity” (p.39). In this understanding, Heschel builds upon the philosophy of Martin Buber. Heschel conceives this unity between human beings and the cosmos in the apprehension of the divine in quite poetic terms:

Our soul compares with its glory as a breath with all the world’s air. We are introduced to a reality, the mere awareness of which is more precious than our own existence. The thought of it is too powerful to be ignored and too holy to be absorbed by us. It is a thought in which we share. It is as if the human mind were not alone in thinking it, but the whole universe were full of it. We do not wonder at things anymore; we wonder with all things. We do not think about things; we think for all things (p. 65).

In this possibility that the universe is of one mind, and possibly the expression of a supreme mind which lies either within it or beyond it, Heschel parallels the musings of the scientist Albert Einstein, but that is a discussion for another article.

The conundrum for Heschel is, of course, how do humans acquire the knowledge of a force that is beyond knowledge? How do they convey this knowledge to others if, in fact, the divine is, by definition beyond words or understanding? Heschel wrestles with this issue. He states, “There is hardly a symbol which, when used, would not impair or even undo the grasp or remembrance of the incomparable. Opinions confuse and stand in the way of intuitions; surveys, definitions take the name of God in vain” (p. 97). It is, in fact, in this discussion that Heschel begins making references to the Hebrew Bible. He, at the same time, begins smashing some myths about God. For example, he states, “The notion of God as a perfect being is not of biblical extraction. It is not the product of prophetic religion but of Greek philosophy.... In the Decalogue, God does not speak of being ... perfect, but of ... having made free men out of slaves” (p. 101). Heschel points out that the central proclamation of the Jewish faith, the Shema is not, “Hear, O Israel, God is perfect!” but rather, “Hear, O Israel, God is one” (p. 102). Heschel sees this unity as central to the relationship not only between humans and God, but between fellow human beings as well.

“The idea of unity is not only one upon which the ultimate justification of philosophical, ethical and religious universalism depends, but also one which is still beyond the grasp of most people” (p. 111). As Heschel moves in this book from man’s apprehension of the divine to man’s acts on that apprehension in the form of religion, this concept of divine and universal unity is central to Heschel’s understanding of the cosmos’ future. He contends, “In our own age we have been forced into the

realization that, in terms of human relations, there will either be one world or no world” (p. 112). Without question, Heschel argues that the primary purpose of religion should be to bring about what he calls the “restitution” of the unity of God and the world. Heschel points out that according to the Hebrew prophets God is not so concerned with the overarching themes of humankind as God is concerned with the day to day details of human interaction. Time and time again the prophets do not discuss details of sacrifice or religious service, but they repeatedly emphasize feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, freeing the oppressed, in the short, bringing justice into every aspect of human interaction. Being a rabbi of course, Heschel sees modern Judaism as an ideal expression of humankind’s efforts to fulfill the divine will. Individuals of the Jewish faith will, as I was, be energized and reinforced by the profound wisdom of our tradition as they read the second half of Heschel’s treatise. And to Heschel, our restoration of justice and love to our communities and to our world becomes even more profoundly important as time marches on. “Horrified by the discovery of man’s power to bring about the annihilation of organic life on this planet, we are today beginning to comprehend that the sense for the sacred is as vital to us as the light of the sun....” (p. 146).

Heschel maintains that “...religion for religion’s sake is idolatry” (p. 236). And if our religion is to be for God’s sake then according to Heschel the goal becomes as simple as the words of the prophet: “...to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Heschel casts the Hebrew Bible not so much as the history of the Jewish people, but “...as the story of God’s quest of the righteous [person]” (p. 245). Heschel absolutely believes that the quest of humankind for God is reciprocated by the Divine quest for humankind. Why else, Heschel asks, would God have created humankind in the first place? Heschel maintains that humans advance God’s creative intent when they partner with God to bring the divine will into the every day. “The quest for right living, the question of what is to be done right now, right here, is the authentic core of Jewish religion” (p. 269). *Ken yehi ratzon!*—May this be God’s will!

The President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, President

Please join our temple family in congratulating Rabbi Dennis Jones on his ordination. After five grueling years of study and a week of examination he has completed his Rabbinical training. Dennis has made a remarkable transition from convert, to active congregation member, to long time board member, to Rabbi. We hope you will be joining us for services which may be transitional for us as

well. The new schedule of services and Sunday school on the last page outlines Dennis' expanded agenda as he leads us through the year. Please join us on September 21st after Shabbat service to celebrate with us as we congratulate Dennis on the successful completion of his Rabbinical program.

Moving into a new year, Rosh Hashanah offers each of us a chance to redefine our sense of self and spiritual connectedness, or the teshuvah, to which we are called. Yom Kippur, our most special day of the year, provides us with the spiritual unity that comes with forgiveness, or the uplifting sense where "atonement" becomes "at-one-ment." If you are interested in High Holy days Torah honors, please let Rabbi Dennis know. Also, we are asking for volunteers to bring special food for the Break Fast (those whose names fall between "A-J" please bring main dishes and "K-Z" bring desserts).

We value the volunteers that are the heart of our temple community as we prepare for another year of fellowship. And we need volunteers to host oneg shabbat for the remainder of this Jewish calendar year. So please let Mary Lee Tosky know if you will be able to serve along with a board member. The duties of "hosting" are posted below and on the bulletin board and have become vastly simplified with the hiring of April and Glen Eckard to prepare food and clean up after services.

We will have Hickory police to provide security for the High Holy days, and the temple will donate to the Police Benevolent Fund as our charity of the month of September. In keeping with our support of tikkum olam, the schedule for donations includes the Catawba Valley Marine Corps in August and Hickory Soup Kitchen in October. **Please let us know whom you think would be a worthy group to support with a donation.**

Our long time member, Jane Mandle, is in need of our thoughts and prayers, as her husband is very ill. If you have the time, please give her a call, as she would appreciate TBS members keeping in touch with her at this trying time. Jane has been an active and involved member of our congregation. She taught Sunday School, tutored Hebrew, served as TBS president, and currently chairs our cemetery committee.

As we enter this special time of year, I wish you Shanah Nechamah, a year of comfort; Shanah Hazakah, a year of strength; Shanah Skelahavah, a year of commitment and love; Shanah Tovah, a year of goodness and peace.

Hosts for the Rest of the Year

Listed below are board members who have volunteered to host at temple services, but we also need additional member volunteers. Hosts' responsibilities are identified below and if you are willing to volunteer, please email Mary Lee Tosky at marylee.tosky@gmail.com and put TBS Hosting in the subject line. Thank you.

August 23/24

Barbara Laufer and Susan Goldstein

hosts needed

September 20/21	TBD	hosts needed
September 29-30 (Rosh Hashanah)	TBD	hosts needed
October 9 Break fast	Marion and Ron DuBow	hosts needed
November 22-24	Karen Ferguson	hosts needed
December 20-21 (Hanukah party)	TBD	hosts needed
January 17-19	TBD	hosts needed
February 14-15	TBD	hosts needed
March 9 (Purim Party)	TBD	hosts needed
March 20-21	TBD	hosts needed
April 17-18	TBD	hosts needed
May 15-16	TBD	hosts needed
June 19-20	TBD	hosts needed
July 17-18	TBD	hosts needed



Shabbat & Holiday Hosts' Responsibilities

(revised July 2018)

Please consider pairing with board member(s) to host a weekend at Temple Beth Shalom. It is hoped that by members contributing to the life of our

synagogue in this way, we will all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being. This list will hopefully take away the guess work and please remember that all members present will be helping you in any way possible. Your volunteerism is greatly appreciated.

Prior to the Rabbi/Holiday Weekend:

The host(s) should communicate with each other regarding who will do which responsibilities. The host board member should make sure that someone has a key for opening the Temple to make preparations.

Friday Evening Oneg:

1. Three tables are set up with table cloths. One side table should be for coffee, challah, and wine/ juice for a congregational Kiddush. Two tables should be set up with plates, napkins, silverware, and desserts.
2. Hosts should supply desserts. Challah, coffee, cream, sugar, wine, juice, sodas, and ice should already be stocked in the kitchen, but hosts should check for them ahead of time and let the Board know if supplies are not there.
3. Female hosts should set up the Shabbat candles, and perform the lighting of candles when the Rabbi directs. Hosts should also make sure that the yahrtzeit and ner tamid lights are lit prior to services.

4. Near the middle of the Friday evening service, hosts should brew coffee, pour Kiddush cups, and make sure the challah and desserts are set out (desserts and challah can be put out and kiddush cups filled before the service).
5. After the service, the hosts should assist with distributing wine/juice to the congregation.
6. At the end of the evening, hosts should complete host inventory; store all left-overs; clean the kitchen; sweep floor; and take out the trash. Recyclables should be separated into the recycling bin.
7. The host board member should ensure that the Temple is locked up for the evening and a security check done when you get there and when you leave.

Shabbat Morning:

Sabbath morning activities are minimal. Paid kitchen personnel will prepare the food and set-up and clean-up. At the end of the luncheon, they will also gather tablecloths for laundering and take garbage/recycle to the street.

Host couples only need to help with setting up tables and chairs and putting on tablecloths and distributing wine/juice for Kiddush.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

We had a big group at our meeting. We talked about a big event coming up for everyone at the temple, as Sisterhood is sponsoring a “Shabbat on the Lake.” Rabbi Dennis will lead a Friday night service while we tour around on a boat on Lake Hickory on Friday Nov 1st. We have room for 20-30 people, and so far I have 14 people who have told me they are coming. If you wish to join us you can email or text me or let me know at services—it’s “first come, first served.” We’ll meet at the boat at their marina off 321, just past Arby’s over the bridge, at 7pm, and return to the dock about 9:30pm. We will have a candle lighting, wine/juice, challah, an oneg, and copies of the prayers for the service. The boat has an upstairs and a downstairs and a PA system, with covering if necessary. We will go out rain or shine. Let me know if you want to go or you have questions.



Also, save the date on your calendar for our annual Hanukkah Fair—Sunday, December 8th, at the temple, 10am to 1pm.

Our next meeting will be Thursday Sept 12th, 6:30pm, at Davinci's in the Belle Hollow shopping center on Hwy 127. Hope to see you at services on Aug 23rd and 24th.

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator



Sunday School News!

Temple Beth Shalom will have its new year Sunday School Kickoff on Sunday, August 25th, at 10:00am-11:30am. The morning will be a time for Jewish songs and fellowship, registering students, refreshments, a craft activity, and planning for the year. Membership is open to all school age children and grandchildren of Temple members free of charge. All parents/grandparents are expected to be involved with supporting Sunday School according to their abilities and the needs of Sunday School by teaching, leading/helping with activities, or providing snacks/supplies. Sunday School meets about every two weeks throughout the public school year on Sundays from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the temple.

The schedule can be found on the TBS website: [Temple Beth Shalom - Hickory Jewish Center - Hickory NC | Events & Newsletters](#)



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 15th. 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 Tuesday, September 10th, 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:

Rabbi:

Dennis Jones

Officers:

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

Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Marion DuBow
- Lin Gentry
- Amy Hedrick
- Linda Greenfield
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson



Donations

A donation of \$100.00 was made
to the Catawba Valley Marine
Corp for the month of
August

Do you have a favorite charity you would like us to donate to?

Let us know!

TBS Message Board

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane Mandle whose husband, Alan, is gravely ill,
from Sisterhood*

*Condolences to Tiffany Hull on the death of her stepmother,
from Lin Gentry*

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

Test your knowledge of festivals and holy days

Match answers on the left with the holidays on the right

Marks the giving of the Torah on Mt Sinai

A day of fasting and atonement

Happened on August 16th this year

New Year for trees

We celebrate freedom from slavery

Eight candles instead of 7?

This week we eat under the stars, sort of

A celebration of the Torah

The beginning of the year, but not the Torah



Passover

Tenth of Tevet

Simhat Torah

Sukkot

Chanukah

Rosh Hashanah

Shavuot

Yom Kippur

The Fifteenth of Av

TBS Member Business Directory

Let us know if you would like to list your business here in the Bulletin. It is a free benefit of TBS membership

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

Dr. Laura Faruque
A Woman's View
915 Tate Blvd SE
Suite 170
Hickory, NC 28602
828-345-0800

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



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle August Events

Birthdays

Laura Faruque 8/1	Aaron Tosky 8/22
Garrett Richards 8/1	Adam Bonfield 8/23
Rachel Peltzer 8/1	Pierce Reed 8/24
Meredith Gross 8/3	Joanne Nussbaum
Emerson Weatherly 8/5	Marquardt 8/26
Sage Bonfield 8/12	Marion DuBow 8/27
Michael Jones 8/12	

Anniversaries

Ron and Marion DuBow 8/6

Yahrzeits

Ron Taub 8/1
Ralph Kaufman 8/5
Selma Freudmann Kastan 8/13
Peter Cangemi 8/22
Harriet Sederholm 8/25
Sheldon Oxenberg 8/25
Roberta Rose 8/17
Morton Rose 8/10

Local and Regional Events

Member Business Directory

Marsue Davidson, RN DCS
Epic Health Services
805 W 25th Street
Newton, NC 28269
828-464-0244
www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservice.com

Scott and Julie Owens
Taste Full Beans Coffeehouse
29 2nd St NW
Hickory, NC 28601
828-325-0108
www.tastefullbeans.com

Dr David Peltzer
Newton Family Physicians
767 West First Street
Newton, NC 28658
828 465-3928
www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com



Yiddish Language Scholar Miriam Isaacs to Shed Light on Songs by Holocaust Survivors and Offer Yiddish Language Workshop

From October 16-18, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies proudly hosts Dr. Miriam Isaacs, an independent scholar in the fields of Yiddish language and culture, heritage languages, and translation. Dr. Isaacs, a retired Affiliate Visiting Associate Professor of Yiddish Language and Culture at the University of Maryland College Park, has done extensive work on the Yiddish song holdings from the DP Camps in the Benjamin Stonehill Oral History Collection and will focus on the results of her studies in a public evening lecture. Dr. Isaacs will also offer a Yiddish language workshop. For more information, please contact the Center at 828.262.2311



Temple Beth Shalom has an active membership in the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, where Rabbi Dennis serves as president. You can find out more about this organization and its activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>.

Interfaith Council

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2019-2020

Date	Event	Bulletin Deadline
August	23-25 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School Kickoff (10:00am)	August 10
September	8 Sunday School 10:00am	September 7
	20-22 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/Sunday School 10:00am	
	29 Erev Rosh Hashana 7:30 PM (Sunday)	
	30 Rosh Hashana 10:00 AM (Monday)	
October	8 Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:30 PM (Tuesday)	N/A
	9 Yom Kippur 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM Neilah/Breakfast (Wednesday)	
	13 Sukkot 10:00 AM (Sunday) Build & Decorate Sukkah/Blessings/Party	
	22 Simchat Torah Service 7:30 (Tuesday)	
November	1 Friday Night Service on the Lake!! (7:00 PM)	November 9
	10 Sunday School 10:00am	
	22-24 Services /(Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School 10:00am	
	28 Thanksgiving Community Service (10:00 AM at Corinth UCC)	
December	8 Sunday School 10:00am	
	20-21 Services /(Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Hanukah Party/Luncheon	December 7
January	5 Sunday School 10:00am	
	17-19 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School 10:00am	January 4
February	2 Sunday School 10:00am	
	14-16 Services /(Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School 10:00am	February 1
March	9 Purim Megilah Reading 7:30 PM (Monday)	
	20-22 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School 10:00am	March 7
April	5 Sunday School 10:00am	
	9 Passover Community Seder 6:00 PM (Thursday)	April 4
	17-19 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School 10:00am	
May	3 Sunday School 10:00am	
	15-17 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ Sunday School 10:00am	May 2
	29 Erev Shavuot/ Friday Night Service 7:30pm	
	31 TBS Annual Membership Meeting 10:00am	
June	7 Sunday School Final Session 10:00am	
	19-20 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)	June 6
July	17-18 Services (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)	N/A

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