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# Temple Beth Shalom

## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message.

### The Dog Days of Summer: A Turning Point in the Hebrew Calendar

The dog days of summer are soon to be upon us. Traditionally dated from July 3 till August 11, this period of intense heat can be oppressive to the body and stifling to the spirit. The term "dog days" is believed to have its origins in ancient times, when our ancestors were more attuned to events in the heavens. During the summer months in the northern hemisphere, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (the big dog) is Sirius—the "dog star." The star is so bright that early observers believed its heat added to the heat of the sun to increase the intensity of summer. (<http://www.wilstar.com/dog-days-of-summer/>)

Interestingly, these same days of oppressive heat have long been considered a low point on the Hebrew calendar by the sages of Israel. Beginning with the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz and extending until the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, is a three-week period that has

traditionally been a time of mourning and sadness for the Jewish people, at least as far back as Talmudic times (100-300 C.E.). While the primary purpose of our mourning during this time is given by the sages as the destructions of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians then of the Romans, the sages also saw the darkness of these days as deriving from incidents which occurred at the time of the Exodus. For example, the beginning of the three weeks, the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, the fourth a month of the Hebrew calendar, commemorates the day in 70 C.E. when the Romans breached the walls of the holy city of Jerusalem. Rashi tells us that it also corresponds with the timing of the "golden calf" incident following the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. (Rabbi G. Rubin, "Matan Torah According to Rashi," <http://ohr.edu/991>)

According to the Rabbis of the Mishnah, the time of sadness culminated on the day of Tisha B'Av, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar. They stated, "Five misfortunes befell our fathers ... on the ninth of Av. ... On the ninth of Av it was decreed that our fathers should not enter

the [Promised] Land, the Temple was destroyed the first and second time, Bethar was captured and the city [Jerusalem] was ploughed up.” (*Mishnah, Ta’anit* 4:6) Recall that Moses had sent twelve spies into the land of Canaan ahead of the arrival of the children of Israel, and when those spies returned, they reported to the people that it would be impossible for the Israelites to overcome the inhabitants of the land. According to the Torah, the people believed the spies negative report, and, sadly, Adonai decreed that that doubting generation would not be permitted to enter the land of Israel. (Numbers 13:25-14:45) This “sin of the spies” seems to have put a black mark on the day which has persisted throughout history. Particularly disheartening to the sages was the fact that the focal point of Israelite worship, the holy Temple in Jerusalem, was destroyed first by the Babylonians (586 B.C.E.) then after its rebuilding, by the Romans (70 C.E.) on the *very same day*. And, fresh on their minds were the slaughter of over 500,000 Jews at Bethar and the plowing of the destroyed city of Jerusalem by the Romans at the time of the Bar Kochbah revolt (135 C.E.)

In addition to the tragedies falling on the 9th of Av, as enumerated in the Mishnah, a host of dreadful events have befallen our people on or very

near that day throughout history:

- The First Crusade began, August 15, 1096, in which 10,000 Jews were killed in the first month alone.
- The Jews were expelled from England, July 18, 1290.
- The Jews were expelled from France, July 22, 1306.
- The Jews were expelled from Spain, July 31, 1492.
- Germany entered World War I, August 1, 1914.
- Himmler approved the Nazis’ “Final Solution,” August 2, 1941.
- The deportation of the Jewish population from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka began, July 23, 1942.

(See Tracey R. Rich, “Judaism 101,”

[http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday\\_d.htm](http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday_d.htm), also

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha\\_B'Av#cite\\_note-ohr-8](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha_B'Av#cite_note-ohr-8))

Customs for morning this dark time period in Jewish history have varied from community to community and from time to time, but there has been general agreement that, beginning on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, weddings are not to be performed. As the first day of the month of Av approaches, mourning traditionally intensifies. During the nine days from the first to the ninth, many

observant Jews abstain from cutting their hair or shaving, abstain from the drinking of wine or eating of meat except on Shabbat, and abstain from pleasurable activities and recreation. According to the *Shulchan Aruch*, the fast of Tisha B’Av was to be every bit as strict as the fast of Yom Kippur. Extending from sundown to sundown, the individual is prohibited from eating or drinking, washing or bathing, applying creams or ointments, wearing leather, or enjoying marital relations. The sadness of the day is intensified by the reading in the synagogue of the woeful book of Lamentations from the Hebrew Bible. The only difference from the High Holiday fast of Yom Kippur is that if the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av falls on a Shabbat, it is not observed until the next day. (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, pp. 593-597)

But, did you know that according to at least one sage of the Talmudic period, there was to be a major holiday following the intense summer time of mourning? “Said Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel: There were no greater festivals for Israel than the 15<sup>th</sup> of Av and Yom Kippur.” (*Talmud, Ta’anit* 26b) In fact, the Talmud goes on to record at least six major positive events that occurred on Tu B’Av, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Av. The Mishnah tells us that the “daughters of Jerusalem” would borrow fine linens and

go out to dance in the vineyards. Young men who were not yet married would look upon the maidens to find a suitable wife. (Also *Ta'anit* 26b, Yanki Tauber, "Why Do We Celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> of Av?" <http://www.chabad.org/>) As nights became longer, the intense heat of summer began to fade, and the early cool breezes anticipating fall began to blow, the Rabbis encouraged the Jewish people to turn from their time of mourning to a time of joy. And, this has been a recurring theme of Jewish history, that times of oppression and tragedy have been followed by times of redemption, victory, and joy, by the hand of the Almighty.

If you are moved to recognize these ancient observances this year in keeping with the traditions of our people, the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July—that should be easy to remember! That day is followed three weeks later by the fast of Tisha B'Av on July 25. Since the ninth falls on a Sabbath, the fast will be postponed until Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Our time of rejoicing returns with the festival of the full moon of Tu B'Av on July 31.

Such has been the history of our people from ancient times until now that periods of tragedy and sadness are followed by periods of deliverance, joy, and rebirth. The story is told of a 19<sup>th</sup>

century British politician who was walking outside of a synagogue on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av. From inside the synagogue walls, he heard the reading of the book of Lamentations and the weeping of the people. Upon inquiry, he was informed by a bystander that the Jews were mourning the loss of their ancient Temple and the many tragedies that have befallen their people during this time of year. So impressed was he, that he exclaimed, "Surely a people who mourn with such intensity the loss of their homeland, even after 2000 years, will someday regain that homeland." (Telushkin, p. 595) Amazingly, we have regained that homeland, modern Israel, and are prospering there. And, this return was predicted by the Hebrew Prophets over 2500 years ago. In one such prophecy, Zechariah even refers to the fast of the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the fast of the fourth month (Tammuz 17) and the fast of the fifth month (Av 9) ...will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah; so love truth and peace. ...many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem.... In those days, ten men from the nations of every language will grasp the corner of the garment (*tzitzit*?) of a Jew saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'" (Zech. 8:19-23) As one who has had

the privilege of converting to Judaism, I find the words of this prophecy chilling. Could it be possible that we are witnessing the fulfillment of these ancient words in our own day? *Ken yehi ratzon*—may this be God's will!



## President's Message

*Barbara Laufer, TBS President*

Hard to believe that it has been a year since I took office as your President and I thank you for this opportunity. As I look back I am impressed by the level of dedication of the congregation and their willingness to step forward with time and treasurer to support the temple. Much has been accomplished but I need your help to move forward. Please let me know what you would like to see added OR deleted from services or activities. Dennis Jones will continue as our student Rabbi for next year. The board welcomes a new member Whitney Cohn-Dominique, a bright young women who will be an addition. Sam Shames will no longer be on the board as he feels that seven years is

enough. He will be missed for many reasons. His calm, and deliberate and wise counsel brought a welcomed stability to the board, thank you Sam. Everyone is always welcome to attend the board meetings which are open and posted in every bulletin, please join us. The schedule of services for next year is posted on the web page and attached to this newsletter [www.hickoryjewishcenter.com](http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com) and we hope to see you there. Thank you

## Temple Beth Shalom Event Calendar 2015

### Our Special Event of June 2015 hosted by Susan Rieder in celebration of

### Andrew's Bar Mitzvah

19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Friday night services

20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am Andrew Igdal Bar Mitzvah, Luncheon to follow services

Next year's schedule of Services and Sunday school on last page

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Temple of the High Country in Boone will have their rabbi lead services on June 26 and 27th, and July 10, 17, and 18th. Their Fri night services start at 7:00pm and their Sat morning services start at 10:30am.

The temple is located at 1043 King Street in Boone and their website is [www.templeofthehighcountry.org](http://www.templeofthehighcountry.org).

### **TBS Sunday school Program**

*Marsue Davidson, Sunday school Chair*

The Sunday school program has come to an end and we had so much fun at our final BBQ picnic. All the children and parents of TBS Sunday School program gathered at Zahar Baker Park in Hickory to celebrate. We are so grateful for all the support and commitment the families have made to embrace this new program and bring their children to the temple two Sundays a month.

Dennis and Kathy have created a wonderful program that will be advanced next session and increase our children's ability to speak Hebrew, participated in the services and advance their individual learning level in preparation of their Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

The children's Tzedakah money will be used for to

purchase Bee Hives and donate them to families in need. We are still collecting money at are last Services in June. So if you're interested in supporting this special donation please send a donation to TBS attention Sunday School Bee Hives.

Our continued love and appreciation to Rabbi Dennis for his continued enthusiasm commitment to the youth and spirituality He has developed a bond and connected with every child and encouraged them to live a Jew life and incorporate all his teachings into their day to day activities and life.



### **TBS Sisterhood**

*Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President*

The sisterhood had a great time at our last meeting with the brotherhood. Those who were able to attend enjoyed socializing together very much.

Our next meeting will be on Thurs, June 18 at 6:30 at the Hickory Station downtown.

Be thinking of some activities you'd like to see us do next year and we can brainstorm.

## Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund Announcement

The Sederholm Scholarship was established by a long-standing Temple member, Bert Sederholm to honor his wife, Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement from work in Hickory. Mr. Sederholm provided the initial funding that 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 or Jewish to apply. The scholarship fund is fully invested and the dividends are used to provide scholarship awards.

Interested students should submit an essay explaining their interests and desire for scholarship support by June 15, 2015. The essay can be sent to any of the committee members:

- Lin Gentry
- Julie Owens
- Sanford Guttler

Naturally, the committee encourages anyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time and a check can be sent to Temple Beth Shalom and earmarked for the Sederholm Fund.

## Temple Board

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3rd at 7pm. All board meetings are open to all temple members. Please join us and find out the new and exciting direction for TBS.

## 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  
Womens View PA**

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  
Unifour Nursing**

805 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Newton, NC 28681  
828-464-0244  
www.unifournursing.net

**Robyn Diamond, Certified Health and  
Wellness Coach, Specializing in  
Digestive  
Health and Stress Management**

843-991-6338  
[Robyn@HealthHappyYou.com](mailto:Robyn@HealthHappyYou.com)  
www. HealthHappyYou.com

**Professor Gitlin Hebrew Lessons**

109 6<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-328-9443

## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle Events

### Birthdays

Shaune Tardell 6/3  
Julia Gold 6/4  
Connie Tosky 6/14  
Heidi Jones 6/14  
Sandy Shubin 6/14  
Esther Greene 6/16  
Sandy Guttler 6/22  
Emily Sullivan 6/27

### Anniversaries

Dennis/Kathy Jones 6/9  
Rich/Deb Engelmann 6/10  
Lin/Frank Gentry 6/14

### Yahrzeits

Mazzie Hull 6/11  
Schonberg 6/24  
Libbye Simmons  
Harry Leifer 6/1/91

**Alice Guy of  
The Hickory Wine Shoppe**

238 Union Square NW  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-334-4441  
[Info@HickoryWine.com](mailto:Info@HickoryWine.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)  
[www.robertabbey.com](http://www.robertabbey.com)

**Scott and Julie Owens of  
Taste Full Bean**

29 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-325-0108  
[www.tastefullbean.com](http://www.tastefullbean.com)

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2015-2016

<u>DATES</u>		<u>SERVICES SCHEDULE</u>	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINES</u>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>21-23</b>	<b>SERVICES/ SUNDAY SCHOOL/KICKOFF MEETING</b>	<b>AUGUST 8</b>
September	13	Rosh Hashana 7:00 PM (Sunday)	August 30
	14	Rosh Hashana 10:00 AM (Monday)	
	20	Sunday School/Theme: High Holidays/Sukkot Decorations	
	22	Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:00 PM (Tuesday)	
	23	Yom Kippur 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM followed by Breakfast	
	27	6:00 PM Pizza Party/Decorate Sukkah/Short Erev Sukkot Service/Lulav-Etrog <i>(In lieu of Sunday School that morning)</i>	
October	6	Simchat Torah Evening Service 7:00 (Tuesday)	
	11	Sunday School	
	16-17	<b>Services</b>	October 3
	25	Sunday School	
November	8	Sunday School	
	13-14	<b>Services</b>	October 31
	22	Sunday School	
December	6	Sunday School (Hanukah starts at sundown)	
	11-12	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School/Congregational Hanukah Party Saturday night <i>(In lieu of Sunday School the next day)</i>	
	23 24	Sunday School	
January	8-10	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School	
February	5-7	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School	January 23
	21	Sunday School	
March	4-6	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School	February 20
	20	Sunday School/Prepare for Purim and Passover participation	
	25	6:00 PM Pizza Party/Friday night service/Megillah reading—Purim	
April	8-10	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School	March 27
	23	6:00 PM <b>Passover Community Seder</b> <i>(Young People participate in Seder service in lieu of Sunday School)</i>	
May	13-15	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School	April 30
	22	Sunday School	
June	3-5	<b>Services</b> /Sunday School End of Year Party	May 21
	11	7:00 Erev Shavuot Service (Saturday night)	