

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

News | Activities | Events

## Inside this Issue

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

The President's Message

TBS Sunday School  
Announcements and  
Schedule

Sisterhood Corner and  
Brotherhood

Life Cycle Events

Temple Beth Shalom  
Event Calendar

Harriet Sederholm  
Scholarship  
Foundation

Special Events and  
Announcements

Temple Board of  
Directors

Temple Member  
Business Directory

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## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

*Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi*

### The Heat of Summer is Upon Us!!



We, in the Carolinas, have truly been blessed with some mild and beautiful spring weather. But, anyone who watches the thermometer knows, that the intense heat and humidity of summer has begun. Summer afternoons in the South get so hot, one is often driven to hide in the air conditioning or just take a nap! 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 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 Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka began, July 23, 1942.

(See Tracey R. Rich, “Judaism 101,” <http://www.jewfaq.org/holidayd.htm>).

Customs for mourning 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 Tuesday, July 11. That day is followed three weeks later by the fast of Tisha B’Av on Tuesday, August 1. Our time of rejoicing returns with the festival of the full moon of Tu B’Av on Monday, August 7.

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. He was so impressed 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; therefore, 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!

## **The President’s Message**

*Marsue Davidson, TBS President*

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting. And a special thanks to all of the presenters for giving a thorough report on all activities of the last year and plans going forward. Some highlights were: the announcement of a new finance committee to oversee the temple’s investment accounts; a new bookkeeper was hired, Deborah Went Bookkeeping, to fill the void after Mark Faruque’s departure; interior improvements to the building, funded by the David Cohen bequest, which will take place this summer and will include acoustical panels on the walls, covering of the exposed cinderblocks, several individual audio units for the hearing impaired, new lighting, stained glass windows (rear and sides), new tile flooring, a large presentation screen, and ‘wood’ covers over the outside of the front doors. The meeting ended with unanimous approval of the Board Members-at-Large. The Board welcomes two new Members-at Large this year, Linda Greenfield and Mary Lee Tosky.

Please be on the look out for an email coming to you in July which will contain the TBS Events calendar for 2017-18, and mark your calendars to attend as many as you can. We love to see you, and need your support and participation.

## **TBS Sunday School Program**

*Marsue Davidson, Director Sunday School*

The Sunday School completed a community service project during the Annual Meeting, making decorated snack bags for the Soup Kitchen. Thank you to Jami Jones and Alec Davidson, who worked so hard to make this a meaningful experience for the children.

We will celebrate our accomplishments with a pizza party on the last day of Sunday School for this year, June 4th. And we always want to thank Rabbi Dennis, Kathy, Heidi and Jami, for all their hard work and commitment to the Sunday School program. Without this loving family, the Sunday School program would not exist. Our children are learning about their religion, values, and spiritual connections because of them. We thank you, Jones family, for all you have brought to our temple and the love you continue to share.

We are looking forward to next year, beginning with our focus on the High Holidays. We will have two Bar/Bat Mitzvot this coming year. If you are interested in Adult Hebrew or Torah study, please let us know.



## **TBS Sisterhood**

*Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President*

Our last meeting was a lot of fun, as we brainstormed ideas of future service projects and fun activities. Our collection for the Women's Resource Center's pantry is ongoing, so when you come to temple June 2nd or 3rd, please consider bringing something for the Center.

Some of the service projects we talked about doing included collecting school supplies for an area elementary school, updating the temple bathrooms, and sorting and cleaning out the furnace room in order to sort and clean out the back room downstairs.

Some of the fun activities we talked about were going to the community theatre; to a place where we can paint pictures and imbibe; visiting surrounding temples for services; attending a Crawdads game; and having a game night. We also talked about inviting speakers to some of our meetings next year.

The first person to email me the word sisterhood will win a prize when we next meet.



Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 15 at 6:30pm at O'Charley's on Highway 70. Let me know if you plan to come when I send out the reminder email.

## 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 fund dividends are used to provide scholarship awards. **Scholarship awards are available to students, and may be used for college, summer camp, or other educational enrichment programs.** Temple members are looked upon favorably, but one does not need to be a temple member nor Jewish to apply. Candidates must 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 essay should be emailed to any of the committee members: Lin Gentry, Julie Owens, Sandy Guttler, or Karen Ferguson. The scholarship season runs from May 1 to 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 committee is pleased to announce that two \$600 scholarship awards have been granted this season. Naturally, we encourage everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.

## Temple Board

Our next board meeting is scheduled for May 31st at 7pm. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Please join us and become a participating member of our TBS family.

### TBS Board members are:

#### Student Rabbi:

Dennis Jones

#### Officers:

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

#### Members at Large:

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



## Open Zerden Board Seat

About ten years ago, one of the temple founding-members, Mr. Howard Zerden, died and donated \$500,000 to Temple Beth Shalom. The donation led to the formation of the Howard Zerden Trust. The mandate of the trust is to help fund the cost of a rabbi or student rabbi.

The trust has experienced great success and has reimbursed our temple for rabbinical expenses for the past ten years.

One of our original board members, Esther Greene, has decided to retire from her board seat. For over ten years, Esther has provided excellent focus and dedication to the Zerden Trust.

The board meets once a year for about one hour. Eight of the nine seats are filled and we encourage members to volunteer for the recently vacated ninth board seat.

If you are interested or have questions, kindly contact the Board Chairman, Sandy Guttler, at 828-612-3023.

## Donations

Thank you to Patti and Ted Reingold for the donation of books for our library.

Lisa and Michael Farley \$25 for the general fund.

We also received an anonymous cash donation of \$20.



## 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  
A Womans 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

Marsue Davidson, RN DCS  
Aveanna Healthcare/Epic Health Services  
805 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Newton, NC 28681  
828-464-0244  
[www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservices.com](http://www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservices.com)

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](http://www.HealthHappyYou.com)

## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle June/July Events

### Birthdays

Julia Gold 6/4	Sandra Powell 7/16
Connie Tosky 6/14	Tiffany Hull 7/17
Heidi Jones-Reed 6/14	David Peltzer 7/18
Esther Greene 6/16	Eric Igdal 7/19
Ron DuBow 6/20	Seth Cohn 7/19
Sandy Guttler 6/22	Mitch Weatherly 7/19
Emily Sullivan 6/27	Debbie Engelmann 7/24
Ashley Brooke Cohn 6/30	Benjamin Levinson 7/29
Emily Tosky 7/3	Alison Weatherby 7/30
Robert LaBarge 7/7	Kacee Cole 7/31
Lin Gentry 7/7	
Burt Sederholm 7/9	
Karen Sederholm Ferguson 7/9	
Samantha Westervelt 7/10	
Daniel Jones 7/16	

### Anniversaries

Kathy & Dennis Jones 6/9  
Deb & Rich Engelmann 6/10  
Lin & Frank Gentry 6/14  
Karen & Clyde Ferguson 7/9  
Elaine Zerden 7/18

### Yahrzeits

Harry Leifer 6/1  
Roy Bowen 6/5  
Mazzie Hull 6/11  
Stephen Schonberg 6/24  
Elaine S. Rockstein 7/5  
Sylvia Kaufman 7/6  
Carol Bowers 7/16  
Bernice Fedder 7/20  
Marvin Yelton 7/20



## 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)

Marc Fedder M.D., F.A.C.P.

Frye Care Internal Medicine of Hickory  
915 Tate Blvd Suite 186  
Hickory, N.C., 28602  
828-303-2131

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)

## Community Fundraising

Pete Sobotkin is team captain for the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police team for the American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life All Night walk, Friday and Saturday, June 2nd & 3rd**, at the Catawba County Fairgrounds, raising money for a cure for cancer and to support cancer patients.

If you would like to donate this very important charity, it will be greatly appreciated. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cash or checks made out to the "American Cancer Society" can be given to Pete at temple services or mailed to: Pete Sobotkin, 1004 N Center St, Hickory, NC 28601.

## Local and Regional Events

Free **yoga classes** for adults and teens at Patrick Beaver Memorial library (375 3rd St NE) on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Bring a yoga mat or towel to lay on. Call 828-304-0500 for more information.

**Wintergreen hikes** on Saturdays and Sundays at 11am. A leisurely walk along the one mile Hemlock Nature trail at South Mountains State park. Meet at the Jacob Fork parking area. Call 828-433-4772 for more information.

**B'nai Brith** will have an **annual retreat for adults** at Wild Acres near Little Switzerland August 14-17. This year will be the 70th annual retreat. The cost is \$380 per person - 2 per room, with a \$10 discount for those who register by June 15th. Needs-based scholarships are available. For more information, please call Karen Shectman at 785-554-8078.

See additional information about this very special event at the end of this issue of the TBS Bulletin.



## **2017 B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism Retreat**

### **August 14-17, 2017**

Wildacres Retreat Center, Little Switzerland, NC

Because Learning is a Lifelong Adventure

The Wildacres B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism, set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, will hold the 2017 annual retreat from August 14-17. Although the majority of participants come from the Southeastern states, participants come from all over the country. **Come and celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute of Judaism!**

The Institute is a three day set of nine lectures by outstanding scholars. Additional activities include patio discussions with the faculty, hiking and tennis in the afternoon, religious services before dinner, or just relaxing and enjoying the beauty of the Blue Ridge. The evening entertainment will be Tennessee Schmaltz, a terrific klezmer band.

The Scholars-in-residence this year will be Jonathan Weiler (Professor of Global Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Ruth Messinger ( President and Executive Director of the American Jewish World Service ), and Curtis Ryan ( Professor of Political Science at Appalachian State University).

On Tuesday and Wednesday there are four lectures per day. Subjects include Jews as Global Citizens; The State of the Contemporary Jewish Community; Leadership and Moral Courage; The Transition of Jewish Athletes from the Playing Fields to the Front Office; Jews in the Trump Era; Is There Still a Jewish Vote?; Recent Changes in Jordan-Israel Relations; Shifting Alliances in the Middle East; and Egypt in the 21st Century.

The retreat offers fully kosher meals, breathtaking mountain views, and twin bedded rooms with private bath. Lodging and all meals, along with all lectures and activities, are included in the registration fee of \$380. Attire is very casual.

Registration forms are available by contacting Sandy Apple at 4200 Stratton Village Ln, Wilmington, NC 28409 or by going to [www.bnai-brith.wixsite.com](http://www.bnai-brith.wixsite.com). Checks should be made payable to B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism.

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School-Spring 2017

<b>Date</b>		<b>Events</b>
May	30	Erev Shavuot Service (Tuesday) 7:30pm
June	2-4	<b>Services</b> Friday 7:30pm /Saturday 10am/ <b>Sunday School End of Year Party</b> 10am



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.