

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 9142
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www.hickoryjewishcenter.com

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi



The Little Holiday with No Name!!

While our trip to France in April was amazing, it broke our hearts to miss Temple Beth Shalom's Passover Community Seder. It has always been one of the high points of our year. The TBS Sisterhood does an amazing job every year of coordinating and preparing the food and of arranging and decorating the tables. The food service, under the leadership of Glenn and April Eckard, just gets better every year. The camaraderie and unity among the guests of many faith traditions is palpable. And, the recounting of the miraculous story of our deliverance from Egypt never gets old. Most of you know, I am sure, that the celebration of Passover also begins the lead-up to our next major tradition—the *Sefirat Ha'Omer*, the Counting of the *Omer*. The *omer* was a unit of measurement used in Temple times for the bringing of grain offerings. The Counting of the *Omer* is the traditional practice of marking the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot.

Now about Shavuot, I am always surprised at the lack of attention this holiday receives in the modern progressive

synagogue. Biblically speaking, in the list of holidays presented completely for the first time in the Torah in Leviticus 23, Shavuot receives its fair share of attention. Seven verses are devoted to the method for counting the time leading up to Shavuot and to the explanation of how the holiday is to be observed. That compares with only two verses in Leviticus 23 devoted to Rosh Hashanah. In fact, that holiday is not even called Rosh Hashanah in the Torah, but rather “*Shabbaton Zikaron Teruah*—a Sabbath memorial of the trumpet blast.” Rosh Hashanah became the holiday’s name in the post-biblical period. And yet today, synagogue seats are filled to overflowing on Rosh Hashanah, but on Shavuot, one finds meager attendance when there is a service at all.

Perhaps it is that Shavuot does not have any prominent symbols that we can cling to—no *shofar*, no *sukkah*, no Hanukah gifts or *menorah*, no *matzah*. In fact, *the holiday does not even have a real name*. The term, *Shavuot*, in Hebrew, only refers to the weeks that we are instructed to count leading up to the observance of the holiday (Lev. 23:15-16; Deut. 16:9-10). It seems ironic that on this oft ignored holiday the rabbis of the Talmud tell us that Israel’s *most precious gift* was bestowed. **According to our sages, it was at the time of Shavuot that the holy Torah was given on Mount Sinai** (*Talmud Shabbat 86b-87b*, see also Ex. 19:1).

The Torah instructs us in Leviticus 23 that Shavuot is to be a full-fledged *yom tov*, on the order of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, first day of Sukkoth, and the first day of Pesach. The Torah states, “On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.” In honor of the giving of the Torah on this day, it has become the custom of many observant Jews to spend the entire night of Shavuot engaged in the study of Torah. Referred to in Hebrew as, “*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*—an act of completion/perfection on the night of Shavuot.” The all night study traditionally ends at daybreak when the participants turn their attention to the saying of *Shachrit*, morning prayers (Rabbi Shraga Simmons, “ABC’s of Shavuot,” <http://www.aish.com>). The saying of morning prayers on Shavuot has become an event of amazing proportions in modern Jerusalem, where several hundreds of thousands of Torah students conclude their evening studies by walking to the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, to engage in morning prayers. This event has occurred since the Six Day War in 1967. While the Temple Mount was liberated in early June of that year, Jews were not allowed into the area where the temple once stood for security reasons. On the holiday of Shavuot in 1967, the Western Wall was first opened to visitors, and upwards of 200,000 Israelis spontaneously crowded into that area (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, p. 593).



Another widespread and ancient custom on Shavuot is the eating of dairy foods *only*. While as many as four possible reasons are given in support of this custom, none is truly definitive. It may connect to the biblical book Song of Songs which is allegorically applied to the Torah, stating, “Your lips...drip honey; honey and milk are under your

tongue....” (Song of Songs 4:11). Alternately, a commandment in the Torah, Exodus 23:19, juxtaposes language connected with Shavuot, “the choice first-fruits of your soil,” with the famous, “you shall not boil a kid in the milk of its mother,” the basis for our prohibition of mixing meat and milk. There is, of course, also the Torah reference to the Holy Land as “a land flowing with milk and honey” (Ex. 33:3). This reference has been cited as a possible reason. Perhaps the most interesting possibility of all is the idea that upon receiving the Torah, the children of Israel for the first time grasped the importance of the laws of *kashrut*, so they ate only dairy until the laws of *sh’chita*, kosher slaughter, could be more fully expounded (Simmons, “ABC’s of Shavuot”).

In the Mishnaic Period (100 B.C.E.-200 C.E.) there was much debate regarding the appropriate Torah reading for the holiday of Shavuot. Some of our sages preferred Deuteronomy 16, which recounts the instructions to the people of Israel to count for themselves seven weeks and then to celebrate the “*Chag Shavuot*—Feast of Weeks” to the LORD their God. That reading was usually paired with a Haftarah portion from the book of Habakkuk. Another group of sages favored the reading of the revelation of the Torah at Mount Sinai contained in Exodus chapters 19 and 20. This reading was followed by the mysterious “Chariot” Haftarah portion of Ezekiel 1. In places outside of the land of Israel, where the holiday of Shavuot is observed for a two day period, both customs are followed in deference. The book of Ruth is also traditionally read on Shavuot, presumably in honor of Ruth, an ancestor of King David, who is connected with Shavuot in that (according to tradition) he was both born and died on that same holiday (Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraeli, “Shavuot: The Day of the Giving of the Torah?” www.ConservativeYeshiva.org).

As I have pointed out many times, the miraculous redemption of the children of Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai were part of an overarching Divine plan for humankind. That plan was to spread the way of God through molding a particular family group into a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6), who through observance of the Creator’s laws would eventually become “a light to the nations, so that [God’s] salvation may reach to the end of the earth” (Isa. 49:6). Our rabbis often referred to the covenant at Sinai between the Almighty and the nation of Israel as a contract or even a marriage. In the words of Rabbi Dovid Rosenfeld, “The Torah was the symbol of our bond, the gift God granted to the betrothed to consummate their relationship. The Talmud (*Berachot* 57a), discussing the verse ‘[the Torah] is the heritage (*morasha*) of the congregation of Jacob’ (Deut. 33:4), comments, “Do not read “*morasha*” (heritage) but “*me’orasa*” (betrothed). We are wedded to God. And as a result, we are wedded to the Torah, God’s wisdom” (“Shavuot: Crazy, Stupid Love,” <http://www.aish.com>).

There is no question that the more we study the laws and precepts of the holy Torah, the more we understand the mind of the Creator God in whose image we were made. It follows that the more we apply the Torah’s commandments, statutes, and acts of loving-kindness to our own daily walk, the closer we will be connected not only to God, but also to our fellow men and women. The Almighty has a plan for the restoration of the cosmos—*tikkun olam*. The gift of the Torah, given at the time of

Shavuot some 3500 years ago, is a *key element of that plan*. Will you join me in observing this coming Shavuot? We will begin the holy day with an Erev Shavuot service on Saturday night, June 8 at 7:30 PM. Join me then for a time of celebration, prayer, and worship. Who knows, we may just stay up all night studying!!

The President's Message

Barbara Laufer, President

It's hard to believe that it has been almost 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 members of our congregation and their willingness to step forward with time and talent to support the temple. Much has been accomplished but we need your help to move forward. Please let me know what you would like to see added to OR deleted from services or activities. Dennis Jones will continue as our rabbi for the next year and will be ordained during the summer. Congratulations to Dennis on a monumental job well done. Congratulations also to Jaimi Jones on the birth of her daughter Adora Sioux, on Thursday, May 16th. Unfortunately for us, Jaimi has resigned from the board in anticipation of the many unforeseen demands of her time and attention with a new baby at home, and also has asked to be replaced as membership chairperson. Linda Greenfield has stepped forward and volunteered to accept that role. Everyone is always welcome to attend the board meetings. The dates are posted in every bulletin, so please join us.

If something is happening in your life, or the life of one of our members who might benefit from support from our temple community, please contact Kathy Jones (Chairperson of the Community Relations and Social Action Committee). Our community is here to offer prayer, nourishment, transportation, companionship, and to fulfill other needs in times of illness, mourning, or any other moments where a helping hand and open heart can make a difference.

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 let Mary Lee Tosky know. Thank you.

May 31/June 1

Kathy Jones and family

hosts needed



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

Exodus 31:13

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

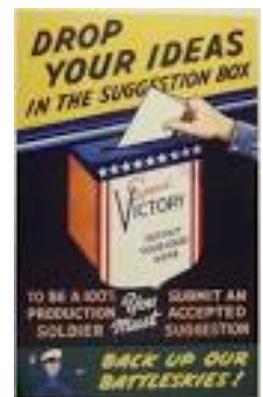
Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

Thank you to those who came to the Sisterhood's Game Night in early May. We had a great time and hope to do it again next year, as well as Movie Nights and Torah Study sessions. We also have plans to hold a Friday night Shabbat service on Lake Hickory next year. All events are open to everyone.

Please let us know if there are activities or special projects you would like to do. Do we want to go see a Crawdads game together? Do we want to bake for an oneg together in our temple kitchen? We have a lot of members who don't attend services or activities at temple—what do you want or need from your temple?

Our next meeting is open to Sisterhood (which is every woman) **and** the Not-The-Brotherhood on Thursday, June 27th at 6:30pm, at The Hickory Station in downtown Hickory. Let me know if you plan to attend so I can let the restaurant know how many are coming.

The first person to email me the words 'Yalla-let's go' will get a prize at our next meeting.



TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator



The Sunday School students have been on break since Passover. All students are encouraged to attend services on May 30th and June 1st. The last Sunday School class of this year will be June 2nd at 10:00 am. Students will be reviewing and given handouts to use over the summer to help them stay up with their Hebrew studies.

Announcement:

Mazel Tov to Jaimi Jones and family on the birth of her daughter, Adora Sioux, 7 lb. 7 oz., on May 16th, 2019. Mother and daughter are doing well. The Jones Family will be hosting a baby naming ceremony during services on June 1st.



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 Wednesday, June 12th, 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:

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

Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Marion DuBow
- Lin Gentry
- Jaimi Jones
- Linda Greenfield
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson



Thank you to all members who attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday May 19th!

Donations

Thank you to Publix for donating its overstock of 2019 Passover items to TBS. Come to our next rabbi weekend (May 31-June 1) and take what you might use home. Whatever is left after June 1st will be donated to the Hickory Soup Kitchen

A donation of \$100.00 was made to the Catawba Valley Guardian Ad Litem District 25 for the month of June.

Can you lend a hand?

While the [Hickory Soup Kitchen](#) serves an average of 215 people 325 plates of food each weekday, they are closed on weekends. Are you available **on June 9th, to be in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church** (237 2nd St NW, Hickory) to help prepare a warm meal or serve it to the clients of the Soup Kitchen?

Open slots are available throughout the day. Click to [volunteer now](#).

TBS Message Board

Congratulations to Jaimi Jones and family on the birth of Adora Sioux on May 16th.

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. 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

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



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle June Events

Birthdays

Bradley Haddock 6/3
Connie Tosky 6/14
Heidi Jones 6/14
Esther Greene 6/16
Ron DuBow 6/20
Sandy Guttler 6/22
Emily Sullivan 6/27
Mathew Parkhurst 6/27
Ashley Brooke Cohn 6/30

Anniversaries

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

Yahrzeits

Harry Leifer 6/1
Roy Bowen 6/5
Mazzie Hull 6/11
Stephen Schonberg 6/24

Member Business Directory

Karen Ferguson, MAIT
 Certified Professional in Learning
 and Performance
 KB Learning Designs
kblearningdesigns.com
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

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



Wishing you all a happy summer!

Local and Regional Summer Events



International Summer Symposium on Education During and After the Holocaust - July 20-25

The 18th Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on “Remembering the Holocaust” will be held on the campus of Appalachian State University. This year’s symposium explores the multifold connections between the Holocaust and education, tracing how the Nazi regime relied on schooling to secure support for its participatory dictatorship and racist policies and how persecuted Jews across German-controlled Europe enlisted education as a form of spiritual resistance and Amidah, even in the ghettos and camps.

The week-long symposium will bring internationally and nationally acclaimed scholars, authors and educators to Boone. The event’s faculty and speakers include Liz Elsby from the International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem, Israel; Christina Chavarria from the William Levine Family Institute for Holocaust Education, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC; Kathy Kacer, a renowned Toronto-based author of Holocaust literature for children, and Susan Warsinger, nee Susan Hilsenrath, who, as the daughter of a Jewish family in Bad Kreuznach, attended public and a private Jewish school in Nazi Germany throughout the 1930s. For more information, contact the Center at 828.262.2311, email holocaust@appstate.edu or see our symposium website (<https://holocaust.appstate.edu/teachers>).

B'NAI B'RITH INSTITUTE OF JUDAISM* RETREAT AUGUST 12 - 15

Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC

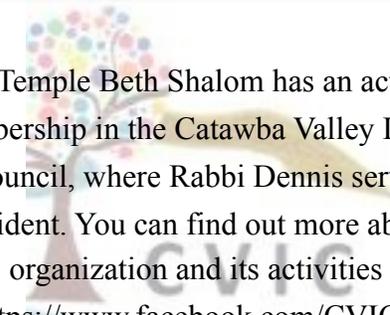


**IT'S NOT TOO LATE
TO DONATE**

Now in its 72nd 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.

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, May 31st & June 1st, at the Catawba County Fairgrounds, raising money for a cure for cancer and to support cancer patients. If you would like to donate to 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.



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

Date	Comments	Bulletin Deadline
May/June 31-2	Services/ Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/Jones baby naming Sunday School End of Year Party 10am	May 18
June 8	Erev Shavuot Service 7:30pm (Sat.)	

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.