

March 2016/5776

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# Temple Beth Shalom

## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message *Shabbat Shekalim*

When congregation Temple Beth Shalom next assembles for the public reading of the Torah on Sabbath, March 5, 2016, we will begin a special series of Torah readings often known as the "Four Parshiyot." These four readings occur in the spring, two are before Purim and two before Passover. The readings are Shabbat Shekalim, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat Parah, and Shabbat Hachodesh. Saturday, March 5, is Shabbat Shekalim. The additional Torah passage for Shabbat Shekalim, done in most synagogues as the *maftir* reading, is Exodus 30:11-16. According to the Mishnah, *Masechet Shekalim* 1, "On the first of Adar a public announcement is made concerning the payment of the shekel." So, customarily, Shabbat Shekalim coincides closely with *Rosh Chodesh Adar*—the first of Adar, the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the Hebrew calendar, or with Second Adar in the years when the 13<sup>th</sup> month is added (as it is this year). This public

announcement then gave the people one month to prepare, as the sages tell us the actual collection occurred historically on the first of Nissan, the 1<sup>st</sup> Hebrew month.

This special reading details instructions for a census that was taken during Israel's wandering in the wilderness where the commandment is given to pay a half shekel "tax" toward the maintenance of the tabernacle in the wilderness. The Torah states, "When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD.... This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary." (Exodus 30:12-13) While the reading for Shekalim is brief, only six verses, the sages of Israel have derived many important teachings from these verses. Some sages have assumed from the reading of the portion that individuals 20 years of age and older paid the half shekel assessment and then the money was counted not necessarily the individuals. This would reinforce the idea that souls are of very high importance in the sight of Adonai and are never mere numbers on a ledger sheet.

(See Tracey R. Rich, "Special Shabbatot," [www.jewfaq.org](http://www.jewfaq.org))

According to the Torah, "The rich shall not pay more, and the poor shall not pay less than the half shekel..." The half shekel assessment was to be paid equally by the well-off and the needy! Not only does this command remind us that all humankind are equal in the eyes of the Creator regardless of financial status, but it also stresses the importance of putting aside personal position in favor of uniting for a common good. Imagine how important this corporate responsibility must have been at the time when a loosely affiliated group of slaves escaped from the greatest superpower on earth and began to establish a new and unified nation. Individual needs and wants would have needed to remain secondary to the good of the community. (See Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsh, Art Scroll Stone Edition of the Chumash.)

The Torah goes on to say, "And you shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel, and shall give it to the service of the tent of meeting." The Talmud is very explicit that in the current absence of either the Tabernacle or the Temple in Jerusalem, we are not technically obligated to the half shekel contribution. Yet, the principle remains that support of holy places, such as houses of learning and

houses of prayer and worship, is a critical part of a person's responsibility to the community. In modern terms, the spirit of this *mitzvah* could be maintained by contributions to our local synagogues. (Most rabbis are quick to point that out...very big wink!)



The reading for Shabbat Shekalim is also connected with the holiday of Purim on another level. Resh Lakish said, "It was revealed and known before the one who spoke and the world came into being that Haman would spend a large sum of money in order to destroy Israel, as it is so written in the third chapter of *Megillat Esther*. Therefore, God preceded Haman's silver by Israel's silver. And, this accords with what the Talmud says in *Masechet Megillah*, 'On the first of Adar, an announcement is made concerning the shekalim.'" You see, the sages were skilled at making connections

based on the Hebrew words. They saw in the phrase "and you shall take the silver/money of atonement," *kesef hakippurim* in Hebrew (Ex. 30:16), another Hebrew phrase, *kesef ha ki purim*—"the silver which is on account of Purim." Thus, it is believed that the atonement money which was paid by the congregation in the wilderness served as the ransom for the deliverance of the children of Israel from the evil plot of Haman centuries later. (See Orthodox Union, "Parshat Shekalim, [www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org))

Another interesting ancient reference to the half shekel census/assessment is found in the Jerusalem Talmud, *Shekalim* 1:4. It states, "Rabbi Meir said, 'the Holy One, may God be blessed, took a type of fiery coin from under the Throne of Glory and showed it to Moshe. God said to him, "This shall they give."'" One might ask what connection the fiery coin might have with the mitzvah of the half shekel. The connection, again, is on the basis of the Hebrew words. The Hebrew word for silver or money is *kesef*. In other verses in the Torah, for example Genesis 31:30, the same Hebrew root is used for the translation "strong longing"—*kasaf*. When one acts upon the principles of Torah with a deep passion for the Creator and a deep longing to serve the Jewish community and all humankind, one truly fulfills

the commandment of the *mechazit hashekel*—the half shekel contribution. This is the meaning of the “fiery coin” that Moses was told we must give to Adonai. (See Rabbi Zvi Belovski, “Shekalim: The Power of the Fiery Shekel,” [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com))

The special Haftorah reading on Shabbat Shekalim is from Second Kings 11:17-12:17. It recounts a time during the history of Israel and Judah when repentance was being made for having engaged in the worship of the Canaanite god, Baal. The Temple in Jerusalem had fallen into disrepair until Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah, once again implemented the practice of using the census money for repairs on the Holy Temple. Interestingly, the priests took a box and put it beside the altar with a hole in the lid for worshipers to make contributions. The priests and the leaders were amazed at the amount of money that was placed in the box. People clearly went above and beyond the half shekel requirement.

Many of the specifics of commandments in the Torah are not possible in our place and time, because we are outside of the Land of Israel or because the Holy Temple no longer stands. But, the lofty ethical principles behind the *mitzvot* endure forever. As the psalmist affirms, “The precepts of the LORD are

right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever.” (Psalms 19:8-9) The Hebrew Prophets tell us that one day, “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14) Support for houses of prayer, worship, and study is an ongoing need. And, those who do so, particularly with a cheerful heart, can rest assured that they are paving the way for a brighter future by fulfilling an ancient command. Will you give your “fiery shekel” today? *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will.



## President’s Message

*Barbara Laufer, TBS President*

Your board has decided to have Friday evening services at 7:30 P.M., starting with the **March 4** service.

Please join us for some exciting events which are always much better when you

are there. There will be a pizza party and Megillah reading at the temple, 6:00 P.M. on **March 25<sup>th</sup>** hosted by the Sunday school parents, so come in costume to support our kids.

After services on Saturday **April 9** there will be a temple security presentation by Larry Laufer (Chairperson) and committee members (Chris Christenbury, Rick Crater, Steve Davidson, Tiffany Hull, David Jones, Gavriela Killian, Heidi Reed, Ben Setser, Pete Sobotkin, and Mary Lee Tosky). This committee has worked very hard to develop multiple additions to the building and to discuss protocols to keep us all safe.

Sisterhood has already begun planning for the Passover Seder on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** so please save the date. One of the changes is that the price has been reduced for those 65 and older. Feedback has been very positive regarding the previous menu of individual Seder plates, chicken soup with matzah balls, brisket, tzimmes, fruit trays, gefelte fish and kugel. This year we will be adding salad fixings to make your own salads.

The deadline for registration is **April 11, 2016** and the registration form is on the last page, checks are to be made out to **Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood** and mailed to Barbara Laufer. There will be

the traditional Manishevitz wine and Kedem grape juice for each table BUT you may bring your own if you want.

Temple member Alice Guy is the owner of the Hickory Wine Shoppe on Union Square and will provide a 10% on kosher wines. The contact person is Vicky Bryant (828-324-4441), orders must be placed on Wednesdays by 2:00 PM up until April 20<sup>th</sup>, and they take credit card orders. The kosher wine suggestions (priced without the discount) are:

- Bartenura Pinot Grigio (\$19.99)
- Bartenura Moscato (\$19.99)
- Baron Herzog Merlot (\$16.99)
- Barkan Classic Cabernet (\$13.99)

Please complete the form on the last page of the bulletin and join us for a wonderful meal and good company.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE**

Ten years ago, Howard Zerden bequeathed \$500,000 to establish the Howard Zerden Fund. The fund is managed by the Howard Zerden Fund Board of Directors.

The fund mission is to help pay the expenses associated with providing the services of a rabbi or student rabbi to Temple Beth Shalom.

Traditionally, there have been nine board members. Sam Shames, one of the original board members, has recently resigned and the board wishes to replace him. It is customary for the Zerden Board to meet annually for a 90-minute meeting. Our next board meeting will likely be scheduled for January 2017.

If you would like to be considered for the vacated board seat, please contact me before April 1, 2016. Thank you for considering this important position.

Sandy Guttler  
828-612-3023  
[Sanfordguttler@mac.com](mailto:Sanfordguttler@mac.com)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to new member Karina Vishnya and her children Gabriella and Peter Cantore.

Anyone interested in a Torah Study group should notify President Barb Laufer ([blaufer@ahrs.net](mailto:blaufer@ahrs.net))

Condolences to member Deane Griffin on the passing of her longtime companion Fred McDonald.

RAD Caps, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Burnsville, NC, whose members design, knit, and distribute caps made of hypoallergenic materials for

individuals undergoing chemotherapy treatments free of charge. Dotty Kutchera, the CEO of this organization, is a member of the Temple of the High Country in Boone. If you would like to donate hypoallergenic yarn or money to this organization, send it with your name and address to Lin Gentry and she'll get it to RAD Caps. Dotty will send you a receipt, as this is a 501c3 organization. .

The [Purim celebration at the N.C. Museum of Art](#) is coming up—this year, it will be on March 26th! It's going to be a fun, lively March Madness mashup with hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music, and dancing. We want people to show support for their favorite team while celebrating Purim. Take a look at the photo album at [www.flickr.com/photos/ncma/sets/72157643018161123/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncma/sets/72157643018161123/) or contact Abigail Lorentzen, Communication Assistant at North Carolina Museum of Art 2110 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607

It is time to update our Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle Events. Please forward to Barbara Laufer, President, and Marsue Davidson, bulletin editor, your family events to update our data base.

We do not want to miss anyone's Birthday, Anniversary or most importantly Yahrzeit.

We would also like to update our email list, so if you have any changes in your emails, please forward to [MarsueDav@aol.com](mailto:MarsueDav@aol.com) and [blaufer@ahrs.net](mailto:blaufer@ahrs.net)

### **SOMETHING TO DO...**

Join, The Reverend Dr. Willie James Jennings with the Institute For Faith & Learning at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

He is presenting at 7:00 pm on March 10<sup>th</sup> in the beautiful Grace Chapel. This event is free and open to the public. Dr. Willie James Jennings won the 2015 Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his groundbreaking work on race and Christianity, most notable his most recent book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. He currently services as Associate Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School. His theological interests include the black church and cultural studies, as well as post-colonial and race theory.

### **TEMPLE BETH SHALOM BOARD**

Our next TBS board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th at 7 pm. As a reminder, all TBS Board meetings are open to all Temple members. Please feel free to join us and share any thoughts. Every board

member is open to suggestions and thoughts so we may continue to improve your spiritual experiences.

### **Temple Board Members**

Barbara Laufer, President  
Marsue Davidson, Vice President  
Tiffany Hull, Secretary  
Mark Faruque, Treasurer  
Members at Large:

- Debra Engelmann
- Whitney Cohn-Dominique
- Aaron Tosky
- Liz Correll
- Robyn Diamond
- Lin Gentry
- Sandy Guttler
- Pam Jones
- Susan Rieder
- Marion DuBow



### **Temple Beth Shalom Sunday School Program**

*Marsue Davidson, Sunday school Chair*

The New Year has started off with a bang! We are meeting again twice monthly and continuing to study the Torah,

chants, prayers and traditions. This month the younger children are continuing to learn their Hebrew letters and words. And the older children are learning their prayers and chants.

In March, we will be taking all the children on a field trip to a local residential care facility. The children will be meeting with the residents, helping to serve breakfast, and hanging their bird houses where they can be seen from the facility. We will share our stories and traditions with the residents and teaching our children to give back to our community. Uniting us all as one.

Please remember to check the next to the last page of this bulletin for Sunday school dates, lesson plans, and services.

### **TBS Sisterhood**

*Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President*

The sisterhood is very busy these days. Here's what's happening:

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 10 at 6:30pm at Madeleine Guy's house. Let me know if you're coming so I can tell Madeleine. She said she'd make vegetable soup for us.

We'll bake hamentaschen on Sunday, March 13 at 1pm at Laura's Hickory house. Bring cookie dough already made and we'll bake that day (One

recipe can be found in the temple cookbook). These are cookies we mail to the college students of our congregation and take to the mature members here in town. If you have a college student who would like a fun package in the mail, we need their address by Saturday, March 5 in order to send them cookies.

We'll set up for the community Seder on Sunday, April 17 at 1pm. Meet us to help set out dishes, silverware, and haggadot. Then the Seder will be on Saturday, April 23 at 6pm.

The registration form is the last page of this newsletter, so get in your reservations before the April 11 deadline. There will be Manishevitz wine served, but if you want to bring your own wine, The Hickory Wine Shop has kosher wines available. Call them for suggestions and to order your preference.

Sisterhood will hold a yard sale on Sunday, May 15 at the temple. If you have anything you want to sell, please add to our selection. The first person to email me the word treasure will win a prize. You may bring items for the yard sale anytime and store them in the basement of the temple.



### **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 and added to it 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 fully invested scholarship fund 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, 2016. The essay should be emailed to any of the committee members Lin Gentry, Julie Owens or Sandy Guttler.

Naturally, the committee encourages anyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time, and a check can be

forwarded to Temple Beth Shalom and earmarked for the Sederholm Fund.

## **Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle Events**

### **Birthdays**

Susie Jones 3/2  
Sarah Jones 3/3  
Jesse Jones 3/5  
Kathy Young-Shugar 3/5  
Elizabeth Powell 3/9  
Ben Kane-Eames 3/16  
Josh Schneider 3/16  
Bonnie Gold 3/22  
Bud Tosky 3/22  
Matthew Bonfield 3/24  
Sara Gold 3/25  
Kenneth Huitt 3/26  
Mark Faruque 3/26  
Sue Cohn 3/28  
Sonia Pelzer 3/2

### **Anniversaries**

Cangemi 3/6  
Shubin 3/15  
Larry/Barbara  
Freiman 3/18  
Shugar 3/24  
Davidson 3/24

### **Yahrzeits**

William Miller 3/16  
Else Simons 3/20  
(Cohn Family)  
Albert Ifergan 3/28

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## **TBS Member Business Directory**

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

**Marsue Davidson, RN DCS**  
**EPIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
805 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Newton, NC 28681  
828-464-0244  
[www.unifournursing.net](http://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](http://www.HealthHappyYou.com)

**Dr. Laura Faruque**  
**A Women's 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

**Linda Fedder (Bee Keeper)**  
**Honey For Sell**  
828-578-6311  
[LiFedder@gmail.com](mailto:LiFedder@gmail.com)

**Marc Fedder M.D. F.A.C.P.**  
**Internal Medicine at Hickory**  
**Internal Medicine**  
828-303-2131

**Professor Gitlin**  
**Hebrew Lessons**  
109 6<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-328-9443

**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 Jordan**  
**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)

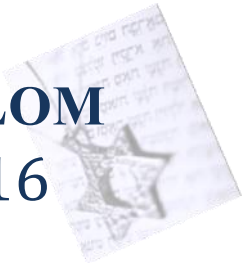
## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2015-2016

<b>DATES</b>		<b>SERVICES SCHEDULE</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINES</b>
March	4	Friday night Services	February 20
	5	Saturday morning Services	
	6	Sunday School/Prepare for Purim	
	20	Sunday School/Prepare for Purim and Passover participation	
	25	6:00 PM Pizza Purim Party/Friday night service/Megillah reading	
April	8	Friday night Services	March 27
	9	Saturday morning Services	
	10	Sunday School/Field Trip to RCF	
	23	6:00 PM Passover Community Seder <i>(Young People participate in Seder service instead of Sunday School)</i>	
May	13	Friday night Services	April 30
	14	Saturday morning Services	
	15	Sunday School	
	22	Sunday School	
June	3	Friday night Services	May 21
	4	Saturday morning Services	
	5	Sunday School End of Year Party	
	11	7:00 Erev Shavuot Service (Saturday night)	



# SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

## invites you to attend the April 23, 2016 Seder at 6:00 P.M.



**EVENT WILL BE HOME COOKING FROM SISTERHOOD WITH ALL YOUR FAVORITES.**

All RSVPs and checks need to be in by **deadline of April 11, 2016** or a late fee of \$5 will be assessed. We can't provide refunds and may not be able to accommodate walk-ins.

Prices are as follows for Temple Beth Shalom Members and their families:

- Children 5 and under free!
- Ages 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 to 64 will be \$25.00
- 65 and over will be \$20.00
- Guests (non-members of TBS) \$30.00



Please send a form with **check made out to Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood** to:

**BARBARA LAUFER  
5231 PENINSULA DRIVE  
GRANITE FALLS, NC 28630**



Please put the number of attendees in space below

- Children 5 and under free
- Ages 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 to 64 will be \$25.00
- 65 and over will be \$20.00
- Guests (non-members of TBS) \$30.00

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please indicate if you have any "table-mate" preferences as there will be assigned seating

\_\_\_\_\_