

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

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi

L'Shanah Tovah—Again!!



Of course, Purim is just around the corner, and if you would like to revisit my last article on that holiday, it is still available on the web at <http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com/messages.html>. But I want to turn our attention to another holiday that is just a bit later this March—the Jewish New Year. Did I get your attention??? In last month's bulletin I discussed the Spring readings known as the "Four Parshiyot." Two are before Purim and two before Passover. The readings are Shabbat Shekalim, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat Parah, and Shabbat Hachodesh. Saturday, March 17th, is Shabbat Hachodesh. The additional Torah passage for Shabbat Hachodesh, done in most synagogues

as the *maftir* reading, is Exodus 12:1-20. Shabbat Hachodesh is the Sabbath that corresponds with or immediately precedes Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the first day of the Hebrew month of Nissan. This year, 2018, Shabbat Hachodesh falls on the first of Nissan.

The twenty verses in the Shabbat Hachodesh *maftir* reading detail the taking of a Paschal lamb into the home in preparation to observe the Passover, followed by instructions for the seven days for the eating of *matzah*, unleavened bread. The passage opens, “Now Adonai said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ‘**This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.**’” (Ex. 12:1-2) This is quite an amazing statement to a modern Jew who has grown up with the understanding that Rosh Hashanah, the first of Tishri, is the Jewish New Year. The Talmud records an interesting debate between Rabbi Eliezer who believed the world was created in Tishri and Rabbi Joshua who believed the world was created in Nissan. “It has been taught: Rabbi Eliezer says: in Tishri the world was created; in Tishri the patriarchs were born; in Tishri the patriarchs died. Rabbi Joshua says: Whence do we know that the world was created in Nissan? Because it says, ‘And the earth brought forth grass, herb yielding seed after its kind, and tree bearing fruit.’ Which is the month in which the earth is full of grass and trees [begin to] produce fruit? You must say that this is Nissan.” (*Rosh Hashanah* 10b-11a) The ruling, based on the Mishnah, *Rosh Hashana* 1:1, is that “There are **four New Years**; the first of Nissan is the New Year for kings and for festivals; the first of Elul is the New Year for tithing animals; the first of Tishri is the New Year for years, for agriculture, and for vegetables; the first of Shevat is the New Year for trees, the School of Shammai, and the School of Hillel say it is on the fifteenth.”

It should not seem unusual to a modern reader that a year might contain many beginnings. The beginning of our calendar year is January 1, but a fiscal year typically begins on July 1. The school year traditionally begins in early September. It has also been pointed out that the progression of times and seasons is cyclical. You will recall that a circle famously has no beginning or end. So, truly, any point on the circle might be designated as the beginning. (See, e.g., “Our Other Head,” by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, <http://www.chabad.org/>) What is interesting is that this very first commandment given to the Israelite people as a nation involves time at all. According to Rashi, these verses are “the true beginning of the Torah.” (“Shabbat Hachodesh,” Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, <https://www.ou.org>) You see, prior to Exodus 12, the Almighty had already given humankind ten laws, according to the sages. The first, of course, was the command to “be fruitful and multiply,” found in Genesis 1:28. That is followed by the seven Noahide laws, derived by the rabbis from Genesis 9. These eight taken together would apply to all humankind. Later in Genesis we read that God gave our father Abraham the commandment of circumcision specifically for himself and his descendants. (Gen. 17:10-14) The tenth ordinance in the Torah is the prohibition given to Jacob and his descendants of eating the sciatic nerve of any animal. (Gen. 32:33)

What makes the laws of Exodus chapter 12 different is that they are given to the *entire* nation of Israel and that they relate to *time*. Moses and Aaron, upon the receipt of these instructions, are commanded,

“Speak to *all the congregation of Israel.*” (v. 3) It is significant that these first national commands involved the keeping of time. Slaves do not need to mark time. They go to bed, get up, eat, and work as they are commanded by their master. Free peoples, on the other hand, are in control of their own destiny and thus have the need to order and budget their time. Even more importantly, the new nation of Israel was being called to a very specific purpose, according to the Torah, to be witnesses to the Creator God and to role model the Creator’s laws to the other nations of the earth. The Torah records the Almighty’s passionate words to Moses while on the holy mountain, Sinai, “Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:5-6) A crucial part of being witnesses for Adonai was the observance of “holy time,” most notably the weekly Sabbath, the seventh day, as instructed in the Ten Commandments. (Ex. 20:8-11) The Sabbath calls humankind’s attention to God’s creative work, but also to God’s redemptive work as the One who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt to be a holy nation. (See Deut. 5:15) In addition to the weekly Sabbath are the annual festivals, which the Almighty refers to in Torah as, “Adonai’s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these.” God is referring, of course, to Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. These holy times are detailed quite clearly and concisely in Leviticus, chapter 23.

But the whole concept of marking time in general, and holy time in specific, begins for the Israelite nation in the 12th chapter of Exodus. One can understand why Rashi viewed this as the true beginning of the Torah. It is instructive that the rabbis of the Mishnah viewed the first of Nissan as the “New Year for kings and for festivals,” for surely a large part of the responsibility of being a “kingdom of priests” is the observance and communication to others of the importance of Adonai’s holy times. It is a sad fact that for many centuries the vision of the Jewish people to be a kingdom was purely a matter of the heart. Living in exile we did not have an earthly kingdom of our own. But our longing for one never faded, as is summed up poignantly by this poem of the German-Jewish poet, Ludwig August Frankel, from a century and a half ago. It is entitled, “Juda’s Farben (Judah’s Colors)”:

The Jew turns his gaze to the east
 And the worries of his soul;
 He thinks of his kingdom’s fate
 And the morning of freedom.

Like a ruler who has been banished,
 Who, in the pains of exile
 Still feels himself in his heart
 To be the king of his lost country.

from “Judaism: The Meaning of Shabbat Hachodesh,” Daniel Pinner, <https://www.ou.org>

I have remarked many times, what a miracle it is that we have lived to see the reestablishment of a Jewish homeland in our ancient, sacred land. Something that was only a dream for our people for almost 2000 years is now a reality. But, with this great miracle/gift comes great responsibility. May we as a people never waver from the high ethical standards of the holy Torah that is entrusted into our care. So, as we begin the biblical cycle of another Hebrew year, will you join me in recommitting to those lofty statutes and to this high calling. *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God's will!

The President's Message

Marsue Davidson, President

Just for fun, and because Purim begins on March 1st, the Jones family will be hosting a Purim G'nosh on Friday, March 2nd at 6:30pm. We will dress up like our favorite characters from the Megillah and have light hors d'oeuvres, punch, and celebrate the true spirit of Purim. Afterwards, Rabbi Dennis will lead us in the Friday night service and the reading of the Megillah. Everyone, please come dressed for a party and share this time together with our family and friends.

Temple Beth Shalom will have our annual meeting on Sunday, May 20th at 10am. (Coffee and danish will be served). We will have a full agenda of speakers who will present important information about our TBS board activities, including temple financial status, safety procedures, Sunday School and adult learning plans, and community projects. Please send me your proxy vote via email if you are unable to attend. A reminder email and hardcopy proxy vote will be sent to all paid voting TBS members by the end of April 2018.

Please reach out to any board member if you have any suggestions for improvements. Your input is important to the board at TBS. The temple is blessed with a congregation that freely expresses their wishes for continued improvement. We greatly appreciate your feedback.

Thank you to Rabbi Dennis for all your support and spiritual teachings. Your explanation and insight of the Torah readings month after month, has brought the children and adults closer together. Time spent with family and friends reflect the Jewish values of family and community. Thank you all for your continued support of Temple Beth Shalom.

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator

The Sunday School students continued to work on learning Hebrew and Jewish traditions this past month. Their next meeting will be March 4th, when they will be busy fulfilling the **Mishloach manot** tradition (Purim gifts of food to the poor) by packing lunches to be donated to the Hickory Soup Kitchen. The congregation can participate in this mitzvot by donating single serve, long shelf life, lunch items. Just bring these food items to the March 2-3 TBS services and place them in the tote box in the foyer.



In honor of the Birthdays of Elaine Zerden and Madeleine Guy, they both were called to the Torah during Shabbat Service last month.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

By the time you read this, we'll have had our first ever Sisterhood Shabbat service. I hope you were there to enjoy it!

We'll have also baked hamentaschen for our college students and the mature members of our congregation. We always have fun doing that!

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 15th, at 6:30pm, at Hickory Station, in downtown Hickory.

After that, the next item will be setting up

for the annual community Seder, on Sunday, March 25th, at 11:00am, at the temple. We'll put out tables, chairs, dishes, and everything else we'll need.

Please come help. The Seder is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st, at 6:00pm. Be sure to send in your reservation by March 21 (reservation form can be found on the last page of this bulletin).

The first person to email me the word charoses will win a prize at our next meeting.

The Mitzvah of Mishloach Manot: We Must Not Forget the Poor!

Mishloach manot literally means, "sending of portions". It is commonly known as the sending of a Purim basket in which gifts of food or drink are sent to family, friends, and others on Purim day. The mitzvah of giving mishloach manot derives from the the 9th chapter of the Book of Esther, which states (v. 19): "Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the 14th day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and of sending portions to one another." It is meant to ensure that everyone has enough food for the Purim feast, and to increase love and friendship among Jews and their neighbors. It requires that we also make sure that we include the poor in our giving of food so that they too can feast.

This year Purim falls on Thursday, March 1. The following evening, March 2nd, Shushan Purim, we will begin with a Purim G'nosh at 6:30pm followed by the evening service and reading of the Megillah, the sounding of graggers, and then of course eating of lots more goodies. The regular Torah service and luncheon will follow the next morning on March 3rd. The Sisterhood and Sunday School requests that the congregation please join them in making a food donation to the Hickory Soup Kitchen in honor of Purim. A collection box will be in the Temple foyer during both services for anyone able to donate.

The items requested are long shelf life, single serve, ready to eat/drink items that the Sunday School students can pack into lunch bags. They may be any of the following:

- Boxes of raisins
- Pop top cans of tuna
- Pop top Vienna sausages
- Packages of crackers
- Fruit cups
- Apple sauce cups
- Pudding cup
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Bags of mixed nuts/peanuts
- Sip ups
- Bottled waters



Passover Seder
Saturday, March 31st
6:00 pm

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, March 7th 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:

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

Members at Large:

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



“... you shall keep My sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations...” Exodus 31:13

“Help needed! We all love the sweet desserts and coming together at our Onegs after the Friday night service, don’t we? Volunteers are needed to host for the April, May, and June Onegs. Consider doing this mitzvah with a friend, in honor, or in memory of someone. It’s easy and fun, and there’s usually an experienced member there to help out. Thank you!”

Donations

\$100 was sent from TBS to the Catawba Regional Hospice



Looking for a way to give tzedakah?

Jaimi Jones, daughter of Dennis and Kathy Jones, and School Social Worker for Alexander County Schools, is trying to collect hygiene/cleaning supplies for families of Hiddenite Elementary School students. It is the poorest school in the district and has a high rate of families living in poverty. She has already had calls from parents seeking help to be able to

send their children to school with clean bodies and clean clothing. If anyone is willing to help her with this mitzvah by donating some of these supplies, please bring them to the next service at the Temple. **A box will be in the TBS foyer for the collection.**

They are in need of the following items for Kindergarten through 5th graders:

Shampoo Conditioner Children's and Adult Toothpaste and Toothbrushes Body Wash
 Bar Soap Boy's and Girl's Deodorants Shaving Cream Safety Razors Ultra Thin Kotex
 Toilet Paper Laundry Detergent Dish Soap Lysol Wipes

TBS Message Board

Thank you to the Sisterhood for volunteering to lead a service! -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 next issue of the TBS Bulletin.

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
A Womans View
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
Epic Health Services
805 W 25th Street
Newton. NC 28269
828-464-0244
www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservice.com



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle March Events

Birthdays

Susie Jones 3/2	Matthew Bonfield 3/24
Sarah Jones 3/3	Sara Gold 3/25
Jesse Jones 3/5	Mark Faruque 3/26
Bonnie Gold 3/22	Sue Cohn 3/28
Bud Tosky 3/22	

Anniversaries

Barbara and Larry Freiman 3/18

Yahrzeits

Else Simons 3/20
William Miller 3/16
Mildred Asch 3/16
Albert Ifergan 3/28
Helen Schonberg 3/27

Member Business Directory

Alice Guy
 The Hickory Wine Shoppe
 238 Union Square NW
 Hickory, NC 28601
 828-334-4441
Info@HickoryWine.com

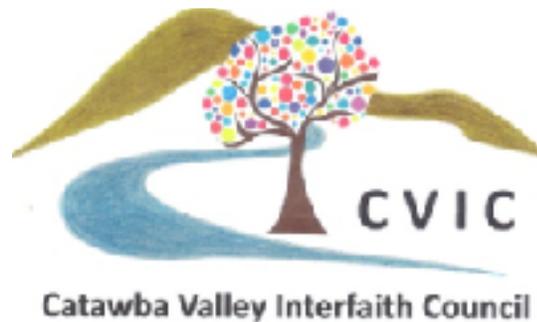
Karen Ferguson, MAIT
 Certified Professional in Learning
 and Performance
 KB Learning Designs
kblearningdesigns.com
karen.sederholm@gmail.com

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

Michelle Oxenberg Jordon
 Managing Director of Design
 3166 Main Ave. S.E.
 Hickory, North Carolina 28602
 828.322.3480 Ext. 271
michelle@robertabbey.com

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

Local and Regional Events



The Catawba Valley Interfaith Council Invites You To A Four Part Study of the **ABRAHAMIC FAITHS**

Last part
March 4th - Dr. Mindy Makant, 2:30pm
Belk Centrum LRU, Hickory

You are invited to attend and bring a friend. There will be a question and answer period. The book that will be a basis for this study is Abraham...A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths by Bruce Feiler.



The Center is pleased to invite the public to an evening lecture entitled "Defiance and Protest: Forgotten Individual Jewish Reactions to the Persecution in Nazi Germany" by the renowned Holocaust scholar, **Professor Wolf Gruner**, on Monday, **March 19**. It will take place from **7:00 until 9:00 pm** at ASU in Belk Library and Information Commons, Room 114.

For more information call 828.262.2311



A Royal Invitation: You Are Invited!

King Ahasuerus (and Rabbi Dennis) requests your presence (all of TBS) at a royal Purim G’nosh in honor of your relative, Queen Ester, and her uncle, Mordechai. This regal event shall occur promptly at **6:30 PM, on Friday March 2nd** at Temple Beth Shalom (one hour prior to the regularly scheduled Friday night service/Megillah reading). Hors d’oeuvres, punch, and spirits, appropriate for a true Purim celebration shall be served. Royal attire (costumes) is encouraged. Some masks, etc. will be available for those guests who do not have such clothing (and are willing to wear them). Come join in this festive hour of socializing.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Event/Time	Bulletin Deadline
March	2-4 Purim G’nosh 6:30pm/Purim Festive Attire encouraged Services Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM Purim (Megillah Reading as part of Friday night service) Regular Sunday School on March 4	February 17
	18 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	31 Passover Community Seder (Saturday) 6:00 PM	
April	6-8 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM 22 Sunday School 10:00 AM	March 24
May	4-6 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM 19 Erev Shavuot Service 7:30 PM (Saturday) 20 Sunday School 10:00 AM/ Annual Meeting 10:00AM	April 21
June	1-3 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School End of Year Party 10:00 AM	May 19

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.



SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH SHALOM invites you to attend the March 31, 2018 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 March 21, 2018** or a late fee of \$10/person 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 immediate families:



- All children under age 5 free!
- Aged 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 and up \$25.00
- 65 and over will be \$20.00
- Guests (non-members of TBS) \$30.00



Please remit with check made out to Sisterhood Temple Beth Shalom to:



Barbara Laufer
5231 Peninsula Drive
Granite Falls, NC 28630



Please put number of attendees in space below:



5 and under free _____

13 -64: \$25.00 _____

65+: \$20.00 _____

6 -12: \$15.00 _____

Guests to TBS: \$30.00 _____



Names: _____

Please indicate if you have any "table-mate" preferences as there will be assigned seating

