

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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[www.hickoryjewishcenter.com](http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com)

## The President's Message

Barbara Laufer, President

### COMMUNITY SEDER CANCELLED

It is with regret that the board announces that the Sisterhood sponsored Community Seder, scheduled for April 9, 2020, is cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We encourage home celebrations and if you need a Haggadah let us know. This is truly sad after such a joyous Purim celebration that hosted about 40 people. Thank you to Kathy Jones and Sheri Stock for making this a fun and memorable event.

According to Medicare.gov and the CDC, older adults and people who have severe conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease are at a higher risk if they contact the COVID-19 virus. Their recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure:

❓ **Avoid crowds**, especially in poorly ventilated spaces with limited air circulation.

❓ **Defer all cruise ship travel worldwide**, particularly if you have underlying health issues.

❓ **Avoid situations that put you at increased risk**, including non-essential travel such as long plane trips.

❓ **Remember:** Medicare covers the lab tests for COVID-19. You pay no out of pocket costs and Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations.

The temple is also following recommendations from other temples in the area by refraining from hugs and kissing, greeting members and guests with elbow bumps or foot taps instead. We will keep you posted and informed of changes to the temple schedule as we know more. Shalom and good health.

### 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. If you are willing to volunteer, please email Mary Lee Tosky at [marylee.tosky@gmail.com](mailto:marylee.tosky@gmail.com) and put TBS Hosting in the subject line. Or use this link to sign up <https://bit.ly/2t9uEPH>. Thank you.

March 20-21	Aaron & Mary Lee Tosky	Maria & Andy Rieder
April 17-18	TBD	hosts needed
May 15-16	Lin Gentry	Tiffany Hull
May 29 (Erev Shavuot)	TBD	hosts needed
June 19-20	TBD	hosts needed
July 17-18	TBD	hosts needed

**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. There is a sign up sheet and ‘what to do’ list posted in the kitchen that makes it easy. And please remember that all members present will be helping you in any way possible. Volunteers are greatly appreciated.



## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi’s Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

### L’Shanah Tovah—Again!!

Purim has just recently passed, and I see that my article on that holiday is still available on the web at <http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com/>



[messages.html](#). Please check it out!! Now 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??? Our next Torah reading service, Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, marks Shabbat Hachodesh. 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, 2020, Nissan 1 is on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The twenty verses in the Shabbat Hachodesh special *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 according to what the School of Shammai, and the School of Hillel say 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 Israelites 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 they did not have an earthly kingdom of their own. But their 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.

“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 was 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!

## TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President



Thank you to all those who helped make and deliver hamentaschen on Sunday, March 1st. Tiffany, Kathy, Jodi, Sheri, Leila, Beverly, and I were rolling, cutting, filling, and folding away! We sent them to 17 very appreciative people (including Elaine Zerden, pictured left) and made some for the Purim service at temple—so, thank you so much. They were delicious!

**Community Seder**—scheduled for Thursday, April 9th, at 6:00pm **has been cancelled** due to safety precautions related to the COVID-19 virus.

**Our next meeting** will be Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30pm, at Bob Evans (2330 15th Ave SE, Hickory).



## 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 18th 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:

**Officers:**

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

**Members at Large:**

- Liz Correll
- Marion DuBow
- Lin Gentry
- Amy Hedrick
- Linda Greenfield
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson
- Kathy Jones

Please note this change to our upcoming events calendar:

**TBS Community Seder has been cancelled**

**Donations**

A donation of \$100.00 was made to the Humane Society for the month of March

**Do you have a favorite charity you would like us to donate to? Let us know.**



Many thanks to Ghiora Mehler for the delicious fafafels he donated for our Purim Party.



**Please consider these funds for your next donation:**

- Building and Grounds
- Security
- Sunday School
- Community Relations

### Looking for a way to give tzedakah?

Sunday School is collecting personal/hotel size hygiene supplies, backpacks, and manual can openers for the local homeless population. Please help by bringing these items to temple and placing them in the tote box in the foyer.



### TBS Message Board

*The board sends get well soon wishes to Esther Green who is recovering from a fall*

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 Temple Beth Shalom Message Board, PO Box 9142, Hickory, NC 28603. 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

*Let us know if you would like to list your business here in the Bulletin. It is a free benefit of TBS membership*

**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  
Suite170  
Hickory, NC 28602  
828-345-0800

**Dr. Mark Faruque**  
Bethlehem Family Practice  
174 Bolick Lane Suite 202  
Taylorsville, NC 28681  
828-495-8226

**Ghiora Mehler**  
The Southern Chickpea  
Falafel Truck  
[thesouthernchickpea.com](http://thesouthernchickpea.com)  
828-999-0496



## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle March Events

### Birthdays

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

### Anniversaries

Larry and Barbara Freiman 3/18

### Yahrzeits

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

## Member Business Directory

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)

Dr David Peltzer  
Newton Family Physicians  
767 West First Street  
Newton, NC 28658  
828 465-3928  
[www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)

## Local and Regional Events



**Prof. Dr. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum**, the director of the renowned Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University Berlin, Germany, will give a lecture entitled "Gender, Sex and Violence: Race Defilement in Nazi Germany." It will take place in **Belk Library** and Information Commons, **Room 114**, on **Thursday, March 26**, from **5:00** until 7:00 pm. Prof. Schüler-Springorum's talk is also the keynote of the Southeast German Studies Workshop that will be held--co-organized by the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies--on the ASU campus on March 26-27. Free and open to the public.

The noted **traveling exhibit "Shoah: How Was it Humanly Possible?"** from **Yad Vashem**, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem will be on display on the first and fourth floors of **Belk Library** and Information Commons from **March 17 until April 17, 2020**. The exhibition examines major historical aspects of the Holocaust, beginning with Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Europe and ending with the liberation of Nazi concentration and extermination camps across the continent and the remarkable return to life of the survivors.

The exhibit comes to ASU as a result of a cooperation between Yad Vashem, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, and Belk Library and Information Commons. In light of the renewed rise of anti-Semitism and racial hatred, white supremacy, and deadly terrorist attacks from Halle, Germany, to Pittsburgh, U.S., to Christchurch, New Zealand, the exhibit could not be more timely. The accompanying program includes a visit and presentation by the 1930-born **Holocaust and Auschwitz survivor Dr. Zev Harel**. For more information, contact the Center at 828.262.2311 or [holocaust@appstate.edu](mailto:holocaust@appstate.edu).



I walked all night  
so that one day,  
*we will walk in a  
world without cancer*



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

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, Saturday, May 2nd, 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.

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2020

Date	Event	Bulletin Deadline
<b>March</b>	20-22 <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am	March 7
<b>April</b>	5 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am	
	9 <b>Passover Community Seder</b> 6:00 PM (Thursday) <b>CANCELLED</b>	April 4
	17-19 <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am	
<b>May</b>	3 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am	
	15-17 <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am	May 2
	29 <b>Erev Shavuot/Friday Night Service</b> 7:30pm	
	31 <b>TBS Annual Membership Meeting</b> 10:00am	
<b>June</b>	7 <b>Sunday School Final Session</b> 10:00am	
	19-20 <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)	June 6
<b>July</b>	17-18 <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)	N/A

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.