

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

Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 9142
Hickory, North Carolina 28603
www.hickoryjewishcenter.com



From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

“With What Shall I Come Before Adonai?”

As we transition from February into March this year, 2021, Adar to Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, we move from the book of Shemot (Exodus) to the book of Vayikra (Leviticus) in the Torah reading cycle. Now, as you know, the writer of Leviticus devotes many chapters and verses to a detailed explanation of the offering and slaughter of animal sacrifices. This section of the Torah can be difficult subject matter for the modern progressive Jewish reader. What is interesting to me is that as far back as the first century of the Common Era, our wise sages began to associate Haftorah readings with these sacrificial passages from the Hebrew Prophets that were *quite critical* of, if not antithetical to, the sacrificial practice.

Traditionally, the Prophets section of the Hebrew Bible (*Nevi'im* in Hebrew) extended from the book of Joshua through

the book of Malachi. These books have traditionally been seen as unfolding the history of Israel from the time it began its occupation of the land promised to Abraham and Sarah, until the time when the tribe of Judah was returning from exile in Babylon. The prophetic section is divided into two portions by scholars, the “Former Prophets—*Nevi'im Rishonim*,” and the “Latter Prophets—*Nevi'im Aharonim*.” In general, the Former Prophets could be classed as historical books and cover the time period from the conquest of the land, until the Assyrian captivity of Israel and the Babylonian captivity of Judah. The books of the Latter Prophets are more literary in nature. These Prophets would have been active from a time during the incursions of Assyria and Babylon to the time of the return from the Babylonian captivity. The Latter Prophets are often subdivided into two categories, based largely on the size of the prophetic books. The term Major Prophets has come into general scholarly use when referring to Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, and The Twelve—*Shenim Asar* in Hebrew, called the “Minor Prophets” in some sources, consisting of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi (<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/prophets-neviim/>).

A majority of these Prophets seem to have so little regard for the ritual or ceremonial commands of the Torah, particularly for animal sacrifice, that biblical scholars in the 18th and 19th centuries speculated that these prophetic works may have been written before the finalized version of the Torah. While that view has been largely abandoned it is instructive to see that the Prophets had such a negative view of the sacrificial practices of the time. See for examples:

“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings” (Hos. 6:6).

“The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?” says the LORD. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats” (Isa 1:11).

“Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice peace offerings, I will have no regard for them” (Amos 5:22).

“With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? [Implied NO!] God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Mic 6:6-8).

Perhaps the most vociferous opponent of the sacrificial system was Jeremiah who states very plainly: “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat flesh. **For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.**’ But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you will be my people; and you will walk in the way which I command you, that it may be well with you’” (Jeremiah 7:21-23). [Bold mine, of course!]

This anti-sacrificial sentiment is found also in Psalms:

“Sacrifice and offering **you did not desire**—but my ears you have opened—burnt offerings and sin offerings **you did not require**” (Ps 40:6).

“**You do not delight** in sacrifice, or I would bring it; **you do not take pleasure** in burnt offerings” (Ps 51:16).

If I had to summarize the overall teaching of the Hebrew Prophets in a few sentences, it is that devotion to Adonai and the turning from other gods is the primary duty of the Israelite nation and that any engagement in idolatry would result in punishment and exile. The so-called Latter Prophets also pick up the theme of devotion to Adonai and opposition to idolatry, but with a much greater emphasis on expressing faith in Adonai through the performance of *acts of charity, lovingkindness, and social justice*. To the Latter Prophets, Israel maintained a special place among the nation as “*God’s witnesses*” and thus as “*a light to the nations.*” It was the vision of the Prophets that once a majority of the Israelite nation, and by extension the entire world, began engaging in acts of charity and social justice, a time of peace and prosperity would dawn upon the world, ushering in, as it were, a golden or “messianic” age. The cause and the effect are most concisely summarized by the Prophet Micah, who says, “God has told you, O human, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (v. 6-8). And, when a critical mass of humanity achieves this, according to Micah:

And it shall come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. And it will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. And many nations will come and say, “Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that God may teach us about God’s ways and that we may walk in God’s paths.” For out of Zion will go forth the Torah, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And God will judge between the many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. And each of them will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, with none to make them afraid....

Micah 4:1-4

Ken ye’hi ratzon!!—May this happen soon and in our day!

President's Message

Susan Goldstein, President

Dearest Friends,

Learning opportunities abound all across the internet! In February, the Shalom Hartman Institute (SHI), a pluralistic Jewish think tank in Jerusalem, offered an online series entitled “Truth, Difference, & Loyalty: An Interfaith Symposium.” As always, studying with SHI fellows was a true joy. One of the highlights was a session called “A Religious Jew’s Introduction to Islam and Christianity,” taught by Yossi Klein Halevi. Yossi is an American-born writer who has lived in Jerusalem since 1982 when he and his family made *aliyah*. He is a senior fellow of SHI and, together with Imam Abdullah Antepli of Duke University, directs SHI’s Muslim Leadership Initiative (MLI).

On September 11, 2001, Yossi was in New York City for the launch of a book he had written about his visiting mosques and monasteries in an attempt to experience something of the inner lives of his Muslim and Christian neighbors. Given the events of that day and the aftermath, the book (unlike his others) was not a big hit. In fact, he noted that he came to regard the book as a burden as he worried



about encouraging a dangerous innocence that ignored Middle East reality. But then he received an email from Abdullah Anteppli, a Turkish-born iman living in America. Having read Yossi’s book and noted that he’d been moved by the love and respect Yossi had shown toward Islam. He wanted to reciprocate with a journey into Judaism, and he hoped that the two of them would work together to help heal the Muslim-Jewish wound.

Together, Yossi and Abdullah, with the full support of SHI’s leadership created the MLI at SHI and welcomed the first cohort of American Muslim emerging leaders to Jerusalem. As is his way, Rabbi Donniel Hartman, head of SHI in Jerusalem, welcomed them warmly, stating, “This is a place of study where any question, on any issue, is welcome. The very fact that you’ve risked your reputations in your own communities by coming to an Israeli institution obligates us to reciprocate your trust in us. Our commitment is that we will treat you as we would a Jewish group that comes through our doors. We will not be defensive or apologetic. We invite you to challenge us, to be partners in our internal Jewish conversation and struggles.”

And so it began. Though Yossi calls the MLI still an experiment, today, the MLI is a success with not only American Muslims going to Israel to study, but American Jews going to Morocco. Yossi noted that MLI is a success as it continues to confound skeptics about the possibilities of a different kind of relationship between Muslims and Jews. If you'd like to know more, read Yossi's latest book, *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land*. Yossi and Abdullah expanded their journeys and included Christians in their search. It's an amazing story. Have a good read!!

Virtual hugs to all,
Susan



TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

There is a lot to celebrate in March. It's International Women's Day on March 8th, Women's History Month, and Spring arrives! We can also celebrate having a female vice president of the US, just as we celebrated Esther at the end of February.

Unfortunately we weren't able to bake hamentaschen together at the temple this year, but I want to say a big thank you to Kathy, Sheri, and Jaimi. They continued the

tradition of delivering goodies to our mature members, who were very appreciative.

Another tradition at our temple is the community second night Seder, but because of COVID, we will be gathering remotely again this year. If you want the temple's recipe for matzah kugel, I'll be glad to send it to you.

Let's try another trivia night on Saturday, April 17 by zoom. Check your email for the link a couple of days before. This is for everyone, hope you can join us.

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

Sunday School students continued their virtual Zoom classes in February, studying Hebrew, making flash cards, and learning Jewish traditions. We added two new students, Werner and Aurora Cohn, bringing our total count to 10 now. Welcome Werner and Aurora!



This month, students learned about the giving of the Torah to Moses and also about the historical significance of Purim. Parents made and delivered mishloach manot baskets, filled with goodies and party items, to all of the students as well as some of our senior congregants. A special thanks goes to Sheri Stock and Jaimi Jones for making the wonderful hamantaschen! Sheri even made lots of extra hamantaschen which she delivered to all TBS members who requested some! To top off the month, we had a virtual Purim Party on Friday, February 26th! Many congregants and guests attended and listened to the B'nai Mitzvah students read the Megillah. If you didn't tune in, you missed seeing some great costumes!

Our next Sunday School class, via Zoom, will be March 7th at 10am. Anyone wishing to know more about TBS Sunday School and to receive the Zoom links, should contact Sunday School Principal, Kathy Jones, at krsjones2002@yahoo.com.

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 will be **Wednesday, March 17th, at 6:30pm via Zoom**. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to join the meeting.

TBS Board members are:



Officers:

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

Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Karen Ferguson
- Lin Gentry
- Amy Hedrick
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Linda Greenfield
- Kathy Jones
- Susan Huitt
- Jodi Lavin-Tompkins

Donations



TBS Gives through Donations

Donations were sent to:

January- the local Salvation Army

February - Sipes Orchard Home

March - Women's Resource Center

Please consider these funds for your next donation:

Building and Grounds

Security

Sunday School

Community Relations

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



When we get back to temple again, please consider pairing with a board member(s) to host a weekend at Temple Beth Shalom. When members contribute to the life of our synagogue in this way, we all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being.

TBS Message Board

Happy Spring! to our entire TBS Mishpochah

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 Community Mitzvah Projects

Needs in our community are continuing to increase as the pandemic affects employment, homelessness, and hunger. We encourage TBS members who can help out without risking their own safety, to continue to donate where essential food and supplies are needed, like the Hickory Soup Kitchen; the Second Harvest Food Bank; the Lenoir Soup Kitchen; the Salvation Army of Taylorsville, Hickory, or Lenoir; and the Kwanzaa Family Inn in Lenoir.

Our own TBS Community Relations and Social Action Committee (CRSAC) is actively collecting hygiene and cleaning supplies, gently used mattresses, bedding, towels, and washcloths, small kitchen appliances, sets of dishes and silverware, as well as cooking utensils, pots, pans, and even furniture. These items will be distributed to area families in need of them, particularly those who are being rehoused after a period of homelessness. If you have any of these items to donate, or if you know of a person or organization needing any kind of help, please contact CRSAC Chairperson, Kathy Jones, at krsjones2002@yahoo.com.

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. 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

Ghiora Mehler
The Southern Chickpea
Falafel Truck
thesouthernchickpea.com
828-999-0496



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle March Events

Birthdays

- Sue Jones 3/2
- Sarah Jones 3/3
- Jesse Jones 3/5
- Bud Tosky 3/22
- Matthew Bonfield 3/24
- Mark Faruque 3/26
- Sue Cohn 3/2

Anniversaries

- Larry and Barbara Freiman 3/18

Yahrzeit

- Helen Witek Maciejewski 3/3
- Dennis Cangemi 3/9
- William Miller 3/16
- Mildred Asch 3/16
- Else Simons 3/20
- Helen Schonberg 3/27
- Albert Ifergan 3/28

Local and Regional Events

Member Business Directory

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



**Center for Research on Antisemitism
 Director Prof. Dr. S. Schüler-Springorum
 (TU Berlin, Germany) to Give Keynote
 Lecture at German Studies Conference,
 Hosted by ASU March 18th**

Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin) will deliver the **online keynote lecture** of the 2021 Southeast German Studies Workshop hosted by ASU's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies on **Thursday, March 18**, from **11:00 am** until 1:00 pm EST. In her lecture, Prof. Schüler-Springorum will discuss "**Gender, Sex and Violence: Race Defilement in Nazi Germany.**"

The event is open to the public. Registration is required. For more information, please contact ASU's Center at 828.262.2311 or holocaust@appstate.edu.

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/>.



**SHALOM
 HARMON
 INSTITUTE**

Follow this link for information about upcoming online events at SHI: <https://www.hartman.org.il/programs/>

The 19th International ASU Summer Symposium on Children in the Holocaust To Be Held Virtually for the first time in its nineteen year history, from July 18-23, 2021.

Participating teacher-participants will learn and analyze how the Nazi regime sought to indoctrinate Gentile children and turn them into supporters of their regime. They will also examine how persecuted Jewish children tried to cope with persecution and, eventually, outright genocidal onslaughts. The presentations and assigned materials will shed new light on children's complex challenges and struggles under Nazi rule and occupation, in the ghettos and even camps, as well as many's resilience and despair.

For more information on this symposium and access to the online registration forms, see [here](#). For responses to any questions, please contact the Center at holocaust@appstate.edu or 828.262.2311.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2020-21

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

Date	Event	Bulletin Deadline
March	5 7 20 21 28	February 27
	Virtual Friday Night Service 7PM Virtual Sunday School 10AM Virtual Saturday Morning Service 10AM Virtual Sunday School 10AM Virtual Passover Community Seder(Sunday) 6PM	
April	9 11 24 25	March 26 (Fri.)
	Friday Night Service 7PM Sunday School 10AM Saturday Morning Service 10AM Sunday School 10AM	
May	7 9 16 22 23	April 24
	Friday Night Service 7PM Sunday School 10AM Erev Shavuot Service (Sunday) 7PM Saturday Morning Service 10AM TBS Annual Membership Meeting (Sunday) 10AM	
June	4 6 19	May 28 (Fri.)
	Friday Night Service 7PM Sunday School Final Session 10AM Saturday Morning Service 10AM	

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.