

May 2016/5776

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# Temple Beth Shalom

## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

You shall be holy...

Torah portion Kedoshim is the 30<sup>th</sup> weekly portion in the Jewish Torah reading cycle. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> reading in the book of Leviticus. Found in the *Chumash* in Leviticus 19:1-20:27, at 64 verses it is one of the shorter portions in the Torah reading cycle. In regular years, Kedoshim is often combined with the previous Torah portion, Acharei Mot. In years when a 13<sup>th</sup> month, Adar II, is added, Kedoshim is read alone. It is also from Torah portion Kedoshim that excerpts are read, according to the Reform Prayer Book, *Gates of Repentance*, for the afternoon service of Yom Kippur. Many will recall that *Kodoshim* is the title of the fifth order in the *Mishnah* and *Babylonian Talmud*.

The Torah portion begins, "And Adonai spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, *you shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am a holy.*'" Now, I have said in jest many times

that the Almighty did not choose the descendants of Abraham and Sarah because they made good bagels, although they do. The Torah is very clear that these descendants were called for a very specific purpose, to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation—"You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6). The Creator apparently saw in Abraham and Sarah the qualities of loyalty to God, to God's laws, and to God's plan for humankind, and the Creator must have known that these be qualities would carry on in Abraham and Sarah's descendants. I like to call this the "Family Plan" for spreading the Torah message to all humankind, because as the descendants of Abraham and Sarah role model these lofty statutes and ethics, the Prophets tell us that eventually all humankind, indeed every nation, will adopt the Creator's laws and plan. This will lead to a time when war, sickness, and famine will be completely done away with according to the Hebrew Prophets.

Kedoshim is the masculine plural form of Kadosh, holy. But, what exactly does holiness mean as the term is used in the Hebrew Bible.

When one thinks of holiness one usually envisions a monk, cloistered in a medieval monastery, reading holy writings, meditating on heavenly things, and abstaining from most of the joys of everyday life, such as eating, drinking, etc. This view derives from a Greco-Roman concept of holiness, often referred to as a dualistic worldview, in which the heavenly realm, the spiritual, is deemed to be good, but in which earthly things, the physical, is considered to be inherently corrupt or tainted. That is *not* the Hebraic view. At the time of creation, Adonai saw *six times* that those things which were created were good. Upon the completion of God's ultimate creation, man and woman, the Hebrew Bible tells us, "And God saw everything that God had made, and behold, it was *very good*" (Gen. 1:32). So it is, in Jewish tradition, that holiness is not entailed in the *abstinence* from enjoying those elements of creation that God has graciously given to us, but rather in their judicious and moderate use. As summed up in *Talmud, Yevamot 20a*, we are instructed, "Sanctify yourself also regarding that which is permissible to you."

Holiness in Judaism is not so much a state of mind, and definitely not a system of belief. Rather, it is the demonstration of very specific behaviors toward God and

toward our fellow human beings. Those behaviors cannot be done in seclusion. That is why many sages have pointed out that the opening words of the Torah portion, "speak to *all* the congregation of the children of Israel..." have the implication that holiness is not something done while cloistered away, but is something that is engaged in *with* and *for* the community. The specifics of the behaviors that define holiness are not left to subjective choice.



Fortunately, they are very clearly spelled out in the Torah and in the later writings of the Jewish sages. Chief among the enumeration of those laws would, of course, be the Ten Commandments, given in the Torah in both Exodus chapter 20 and Deuteronomy chapter 5. In the *Midrash Rabbah*, Rabbi Levi shows us that all of the Ten Commandments are, in

fact, restated in Torah portion Kedoshim, usually with some elucidation:

- 1) "I am the Lord your God," is stated here also as "I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:3).
- 2) "You shall have no other gods before me," appears as "Nor make to yourselves molten gods" (19:4).
- 3) "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain," is written here as, "And you shall not swear falsely by my name" (19:12).
- 4) "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," is restated as, "And keep my Sabbaths" (19:3).
- 5) "Honor your father and mother," is rendered here as "Every man shall fear his mother and his father" (19:3).
- 6) "You shall not murder," is conveyed in the passage, "You shall not stand by the blood of your neighbor" (19:3).
- 7) "You shall not commit adultery," appears here as, "Both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death" (19:10).
- 8) "You shall not steal," is written here as, "You shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie to one another." (19:11).
- 9) "You shall not bear false witness," is entailed in "You shall

not go about as a talebearer” (19:16).

10) “You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor’s,” is more than reflected in, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (19:18).

(Translated in “Parshat Kedoshim in Depth,” [www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org))

It has always impressed me that in this “holiness code,” as it is often called, relatively few of the verses are devoted to our relationship with the Creator and to holy things such as Sabbaths and offerings. The vast majority of verses are devoted to our relations with fellow human beings. The level of compassion given to that topic in this portion is palpable. Think for a minute about such seemingly simple, but powerful, actions as not reaping to the corners of your field so that there will be gleanings left behind for those who are in need (v. 10), not allowing the wages of someone hired to remain with you even overnight (v. 14), not allowing injustice in judgment even to the extent of being partial to the poor nor deferring to the great (v. 15), not going about as a talebearer, or in other words slanderer, among your people (v. 16). And then, of course, there is the ultimate commandment: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (v. 18). This principle

has become a cornerstone of most of the world’s major religions. And, lest one think that one’s neighbor *only* refers to fellow countrymen or women, the Torah is crystal clear: “The *stranger* who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you; you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (19:34).

The level of devotion to one’s neighbor and compassion for those in need found in this Torah portion connects strongly with the constant theme of the Hebrew Prophets, *social justice*. Micah sums it up best in the statement, “What does Adonai require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (6:8). The fact that “love your neighbor as yourself” has become a core belief of so many world religions is proof to me that the Almighty’s “Family Plan” *is* working. When the adherents of those religions *truly apply* those lofty principles, putting them into action through their behaviors, behaviors laid out so specifically in this Torah portion, humankind will surely enter the time spoken of in the Prophets when nations will “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:4). My prayer is that we could live to see this fulfilled in our day.

*Ken yehi ratzon*—may this be God’s will.



## President’s Message

*Barbara Laufer, TBS President*

Rabbi Dennis led 94 people at the Seder sponsored by Sisterhood and we are certainly fortunate to have such a dedicated person as our rabbi. Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate. Special appreciation and gratitude to Gavi and Richard Crater who trimmed bushes, weeded and power washed to make us beautiful on the outside; sisterhood president Lin Gentry and members who worked so hard to make us beautiful on the inside; kugel makers Tiffany Hull, Susan Rieder and Mary Lee Tosky; tzimmes and honey cake maker Marion DuBow; Gefilte fish and fruit tray provided by Laura Faruque; and brisket, soup and matzah balls made by Laufers; Julie and Scott Owens for their contribution of coffee from their Taste Full

Beans Coffeehouse and Gallery; Kathy Jones for the activity packs for the children; Alice Guy for giving members a discount on the purchase of kosher wine; and April and Glenn Eckard for getting the meal ready and organizing our servers from Alexander High School. Thank you for your support of temple sisterhood goal to provide funds for a long-overdue kitchen renovation. Your feedback to make next year's Seder even better would be appreciated. Thanks to member feedback last year we added a salad bar which was well received. Please read sisterhood news about their next event which is a yard sale on **May 15** beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The annual meeting is **May 22, 2016**, at 10:00 a.m. You will shortly be receiving additional information which includes the ballot for board members and a proposed bylaws change. Please plan on attending this important meeting, Shalom

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you can't attend the TBS Annual meeting, please return the attached proxy ballot indicating your votes, to Barbara by email or snail mail.

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

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 database.

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)

## TEMPLE BETH SHALOM BOARD

Our next TBS board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1st, 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 Sunday school children have had a great year, and we are so proud of what they have accomplished. Our graduates will be taking a year-end exam and demonstrating all they have learned over the last year here at Temple Beth Shalom.

We have a fun interactive brain game planned for the final session on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. They will have to complete many tasks to graduate and obtain a certification of completion from Temple Beth Shalom Sunday School program. It will be a lot of fun and the kids are ready to share their knowledge and Jewish heritage.

We have also planned our end of year BBQ that same day and will have a luncheon with favorite dishes to celebrate all the kid accomplishments.

All the families of TBS Sunday School program would like to thank Dennis, Kathy and Heidi for all their hard work throughout the year providing instructional activities and focused learning for all the ages at TBS. Dennis is working diligently with the older children, and we all look forward to Gabby and Alec Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Please remember to reference the last page of this bulletin for Sunday school for our final dates, lesson plans, and services.

## **TBS Sisterhood**

*Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President*

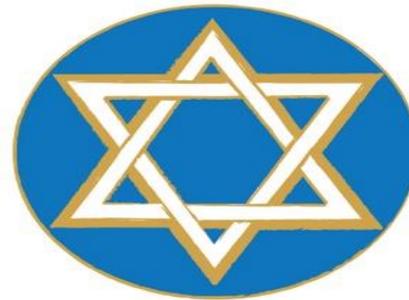
Sisterhood would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped put on a terrific community Seder! Thank you to those who helped set up, put out tables and chairs and everything else, to those who cooked and bought delicious food, to those who helped clean up, to April and Glenn and the students from Alexander Central HS for their great help in the kitchen and serving, and to Dennis and Kathy for providing spiritual and educational leadership. Sisterhood appreciates you all!

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be Tues, May 10 at 7:00 pm at Ham's on 321. Please let me know if you're coming so I can tell the restaurant. The first person to email me the word hambone will win a special prize.

Our big yard sale will be Sunday, May 15 at 8:00 am on the patio at the temple. If you want to bring items to sell, you can bring them before services on May 13 or 14. Another way you can support sisterhood is to come to the yard sale and buy something.

If you're interested in serving as president of the sisterhood next year, please let me know. If you have ideas for things that sisterhood could do, whether it's spiritual,

service, or social, let us know.



## **Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund**

The Sederholm Scholarship was established by a long-standing Temple member, Burt Sederholm, to honor his wife Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement from work in Hickory. Mr. Sederholm's efforts provided the initial funding from generous family members and friends, and it has been 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 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, Julie Owens or Sandy Guttler.

Naturally, the committee encourages everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.

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

### **Birthdays**

Grayson Cohn 5/2  
Eric Richards 5/4  
Eileen Cangemi 5/6  
David Engelmann 5/7  
Linda Guttler 5/8  
Michael Sullivan 5/15  
Ross Guttler 5/18  
Ariel Cohn 5/19  
Terri Sullivan 5/20  
Nancy Morewitz 5/21  
Damian Blankenship 5/21  
Amanda Garrick 5/24  
Kevin Huitt 5/26  
Al Garrick 5/27  
Mark Sobotkin 5/30

### **Anniversaries**

Aaron/Mary Lee Tosky 5/4  
Bud/Connie Tosky 5/26  
Ron/Sue Cohn 5/6

### **Yahrzeits**

Ruth Laufer 5/15  
Richard Fox 5/15  
Sam Griffin 5/17

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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

### **Marc Fedder M.C., F.A.C.P. Frye Care Internal Medicine of Hickory**

915 Tate Blvd Suite 186  
Hickory, N.C., 28602  
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 Jordon 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.tastefulbean.com](http://www.tastefulbean.com)

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

<b>DATES</b>		<b>SERVICES SCHEDULE</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINES</b>
May	13	7:30pm Friday night Services	April 30
	14	10 am Saturday morning Services	
	15	10:30am Sunday School	
	22	10 am Annual Meeting and Sunday School Babysitting with special art projects	
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)	
August	13	Alec Davidson Bar Mitzvah	

**Proxy Ballot 2016-2017 for  
Annual Meeting  
May 22, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.**

**The slate of Trustees:** This is the current Temple Board's recommendation for next year's Board of Trustees, per bylaws. Barbara Laufer will be continuing as Past-President for a two-year term. Tiffany Hull will continue as Secretary for the second year of her two-year term. Unless otherwise noted term of office for At-large Board members is one year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I vote **YES** to the entire slate of officers and Board members as nominated.

**Or To vote individually:**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Marsue Davidson-President (2 year term)	_____	_____
Mark Faruque- Treasurer (2 year term)	_____	_____
Gavi Crater-Vice-President (2 year term)	_____	_____
Liz Correll-Howard Zerden Foundation Liaison	_____	_____
Marion DuBow-member at-large	_____	_____
Debra Engelmänn-Community Social Work Advisor	_____	_____
Karen Ferguson-Bulletin editor	_____	_____
Lin Gentry-Sisterhood President	_____	_____
Sandy Guttler-HZF Board President	_____	_____
Pam Jones-Membership Committee Chair	_____	_____
Susan Rieder-member at-large	_____	_____
Aaron Tosky-Ritual Committee Chair	_____	_____

I \_\_\_\_\_ also hereby give my proxy to vote on any other issues requiring a vote to: \_\_\_\_\_ (Board Member).

**ByLaws change approved by the board (bold/underlined) please mark your ballot below**

**ARTICLE VII: Meetings**

**Section 1:** The annual meetings of this congregation shall be held each May, on such day as the President may designate. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given by the Secretary of the congregation in writing to all voting members of the congregation, by E-mail or mail directed to their addresses as they appear on the books of the congregation. Such notice will be sent not less than fourteen (14) days before such meeting. **The purpose of the annual meeting is to have officers and standing committees present their annual reports and the membership elect new members of the Board of Trustees. Members who are present are welcome to ask questions at the conclusion of committee reports.**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_