

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

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi

Will You Join Me in Counting the *Omer*?!



The Passover Community Seder at Temple Beth Shalom is truly one of the high points of my year. And, this year's Seder was no different. The TBS Sisterhood does an amazing job every year of coordinating and preparing the food and of arranging and decorating the tables. The food service, under the leadership of April and Glenn Eckard, just gets better every year. The camaraderie and unity among the guests of many faith traditions is palpable. And, the recounting of the miraculous story of our deliverance from Egypt never gets old. Most of you know, I am sure, that the celebration of Passover also begins the *Sefirat Ha'Omer*, the Counting of the *Omer*, leading up to our next major holiday, Shavuot.— The *omer* is a unit of measurement used in Temple times for the bringing of grain offerings. The Counting of the *Omer* is the traditional practice of marking the 49 days between

Passover and Shavuot.

I am always surprised at the lack of attention the holiday of Shavuot receives from the modern progressive synagogue. Biblically speaking, in the list of holidays presented completely for the first time in the Torah in Leviticus 23, Shavuot receives its fair share of attention. Seven verses are devoted to the method for counting the time leading up to Shavuot and to the explanation of how the holiday is to be observed. That compares with only two verses in Leviticus 23 devoted to Rosh Hashanah. (In fact, that holiday is not even called *Rosh Hashanah* in the Torah, but rather “*Shabbaton Zikaron Teruah*—a Sabbath memorial of the trumpet blast.” *Rosh Hashanah* became the holiday’s name in the post-biblical period). And yet today, synagogue seats are filled to overflowing on Rosh Hashanah, but on Shavuot, one finds meager attendance, when there is a service at all.

Perhaps it is that Shavuot does not have any prominent symbols that we can cling to—no *shofar*, no *sukkah*, no Hanukah gifts or *menorah*, no *matzah*. In fact, the holiday does not even have a *real* name. The term, *Shavuot*, in Hebrew, only refers to the weeks that we are instructed to count leading up to the observance of the holiday. (Lev. 23:15-16; Deut. 16:9-10) It seems ironic that on this oft ignored holiday the rabbis of the Talmud tell us that Israel’s *most precious gift* was bestowed. **According to our sages, it was at the time of Shavuot that the holy Torah was given on Mount Sinai.** (*Talmud Shabbat 86b-87b*, see also Ex. 19:1 ff.)

The Torah instructs us in Leviticus 23 that Shavuot is to be a full-fledged *yom tov*, on the order of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, first day of Sukkoth, and the first day of Pesach. The Torah states, “On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.” In honor of the giving of the Torah on this day, it has become the custom of many observant Jews to spend the entire night of Shavuot engaged in the study of Torah. Referred to in Hebrew as, “*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*—an act of completion/perfection on the night of Shavuot.” The all night study traditionally ends at daybreak when the participants turn their attention to the saying of *Shachrit*, morning prayers. (Rabbi Shraga Simmons, “ABC’s of Shavuot,” <http://www.aish.com>) The saying of morning prayers on Shavuot has become an event of amazing proportions in modern Jerusalem, where several hundreds of thousands of Torah students conclude their evening studies by walking to the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, to engage in morning prayers. This event has occurred since the Six Day War in 1967. While the Temple Mount was liberated in early June of that year, Jews were not allowed into the area where the temple once stood for security reasons. On the holiday of Shavuot in 1967, the Western Wall was first opened to visitors, and upwards of 200,000 Israelis spontaneously crowded into that area. (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, p. 593)

Another widespread and ancient custom on Shavuot is the eating of dairy foods *only*. While as many as four possible reasons are given in support of this custom, none is truly definitive. It may connect to the biblical book Song of Songs which is allegorically applied to the Torah, stating, “Your lips...drip honey; honey and milk are under your tongue....” (4:11) Alternately, a commandment in the Torah, Exodus 23:19, juxtaposes language connected with Shavuot, “the choice first-fruits of your soil,” with the famous, “you shall not boil a kid in the milk of its mother,” the basis for our prohibition of mixing meat and milk. There is, of course, also the Torah reference to the Holy Land as “a land flowing with milk and honey.” (Ex. 33:3) This reference has been cited as a possible reason. Perhaps the most interesting possibility of all is the idea that upon receiving the Torah the children of Israel, for the first time, grasped the importance of the laws of *kashrut*, so they ate only dairy until the laws of *sh’chita*, kosher slaughter, could be more fully expounded. (Simmons, “ABC’s of Shavuot”)

In the Mishnaic Period (100 B.C.E.-200 C.E.), there was much debate regarding the appropriate Torah reading for the holiday of Shavuot. Some of our sages preferred Deuteronomy 16 which recounts the instructions to the people of Israel to count for themselves seven weeks and then to celebrate the “*Chag Shavuot*—Feast of Weeks” to the LORD their God. That reading was usually paired with a Haftarah portion from the book of Habakkuk. Another group of sages favored the reading of the revelation of the Torah at Mount Sinai contained in Exodus chapters 19 and 20. This reading was followed by the mysterious “Chariot” Haftarah portion of Ezekiel 1. In places outside of the land of Israel, where the holiday of Shavuot is observed for a two day period, both customs are followed in deference. The book of Ruth is also traditionally read on Shavuot, presumably in honor of Ruth, an ancestor of King David who is connected with Shavuot in that, according to tradition, he was both born and died on that same holiday.

(Rabbi Hillel Hayyim Lavery-Yisraeli, “Shavuot: The Day of the Giving of the Torah?” (www.ConservativeYeshiva.org))

As I pointed out in last month’s article the miraculous redemption of the children of Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai were part of an overarching Divine plan for humankind. That plan was to spread the way of God through molding a particular family group into a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation,” (Ex. 19:6) who through observance of the Creator’s laws would eventually become “a light to the nations, so that [God’s] salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isa. 49:6) Our rabbis often referred to the covenant at Sinai between the Almighty and the nation of Israel as a contract or even a marriage. In the words of Rabbi Dovid Rosenfeld, “The Torah was the symbol of our bond, the gift God granted to the betrothed to consummate their relationship. The Talmud (*Berachot 57a*), discussing the verse ‘[the Torah] is the heritage (*morasha*) of the congregation of Jacob’ (Deut. 33:4), comments, ‘Do

not read “*morasha*” (heritage) but “*me’orasa*” (betrothed).’ We are wedded to God. And as a result, we are wedded to the Torah, God’s wisdom.” (“Shavuot: Crazy, Stupid Love,” <http://www.aish.com>)

There is no question that the more we study the laws and precepts of the holy Torah, the more we understand the mind of the Creator God in whose image we were made. It follows that the more we apply the Torah’s commandments, statutes, and acts of loving-kindness to our own daily walk, the closer we will be connected not only to God, but also to our fellow man and woman. The Almighty has a plan for the restoration of the cosmos, *tikkun olam*. The gift of the Torah, given at the time of Shavuot some 3500 years ago, is a *key element of that plan*. Will you join me in observing this coming Shavuot perhaps as no other before? We will begin the holy day with an Erev Shavuot service on Tuesday night, May 30 at 7:30 PM. Join me then for a time of celebration, prayer, and worship. Who knows, we may just stay up all night studying.

The President’s Message

Marsue Davidson, TBS President

Temple Beth Shalom will have its annual meeting on Sunday, May 21st at 10am. Coffee and pastries will be served after a full agenda of guest speakers. This year’s annual meeting will provide important information about our TBS board activities. The security committee will report on safety issues. We will receive updates on cemetery plot information. We will learn of Sunday School achievements, and a new adult learning program. If you want to participate in decisions made at the annual meeting, but are unable to attend, please send me (marsuedav@aol.com) your proxy vote via email. A reminder email and hardcopy proxy vote form will be sent to all paid TBS members.



After Friday night services April 6th, Rabbi Dennis gave a blessing to recently married Cindy and Tim Stinson, and then sang 'The Wedding Song' for them. It was a sweet way to end services and one more reason Temple Beth Shalom and Rabbi Dennis are very special to us. Join us for services May 5th and 6th, we'd love to see you.

TBS Sunday School Program

Marsue Davidson, Director Sunday School

During April's Sunday School sessions, the children learned about Seder and Passover. The highlight for most was, of course, participating in the Community Seder and finding the *Afikomen!*

Sunday school also learned about another Jewish tradition and made their own *kippot*. Each child decorated and personalized their *kippah* and learned that wearing it shows respect and reverence to G-d. This awareness of a higher power reminds us all to be good by always doing the right thing.

Sunday School parents – Sunday School will be held on the day of our TBS annual meeting, Sunday, May 21st. We will have dedicated teachers who will be helping the children with a community project - preparing snack bags for the Soup Kitchen in Hickory, while the grown-ups attend the meeting. Sunday School parents and Temple members are being asked to please bring canned meats, snacks, jello's, or other packaged food items to be used to build snack bags for the homeless and the needy. The children will be sending letters and decorating these snack bags and learning about giving to others in need. Each year we enjoy teaching the children about giving back to our community and sharing thoughts and prayers as well.



Please plan to attend the annual meeting. We need and want your participation because your input and involvement with the temple is very important. Families dedicated to Jewish learning promote the values of our religion, and develop future generations of Jewish families in our community.

This school year will soon be coming to an end, and we are so thankful to Rabbi Dennis, Kathy, Heidi and Jamie, for all their hard work and commitment to the Sunday School program. Without this loving family, the Sunday school program would not exist. Our children are learning about their religion, values, and spiritual connections because of them. We thank you, Jones family, for all you have brought to our temple and the love you continue to share. Sunday school parents, temple members and the Hickory community are all invited to share in this year's special events. Please mark your calendar for 2017 services and special celebrations.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped put on a very successful Community Seder! To those who cooked-Tiffany, Susan, Mary Lee, Marion (and doing the name tags), Larry, Barb, Henry, Laura; to Kathy for all the children's goodies; to those who set up the room the Sunday before; to the board for buying the wine and juice; to April, Glenn, and the fantastic high school servers; to all those who helped clean up; and everyone else (I'm very sorry if I've forgotten someone). But the **BIGGEST** thank you goes to Barb Laufer for organizing and directing us all (and cooking such delicious soup and brisket)! And thank you to the 94 people who attended, to Dennis for leading it so very well, and to Elaine Zerden for continuing the tradition of singing Had-gad-ya!! At our last meeting, we discussed what went well and how we can improve for next year. We came up with good points, and if you have any ideas also, please let me know.

Thank you also to those who have donated to the Women's Resource Center's Pantry. Tiffany and I took the items to the WRC. This is an ongoing project, so please continue to bring items when you come to temple for services, Sunday School, or anything else. This will be helpful for the women in our community who need a hand up.

Sisterhood is collecting these suggested items for the Women's Resource Center's pantry:

Paper towels	Dryer sheets
Toothbrush/toothpaste	Kleenex
Razors	Toilet paper
Laundry or dish detergent	Deodorant/soap, body wash
Other household cleaners	

Thank you--the Women's Resource Center doesn't get money from United Way, only from grants and donations.

Our next meeting will be Wed, May 17 at 6:30pm at Wild Wok on Hwy 127, by Stein Mart. I'll send out a reminder when it gets closer. We'll discuss future projects for the sisterhood, so please come with some ideas of things we can do. We'll also decide on a date for a Game Night for adults, and will pick a date to visit another temple in the area in the summer. The first person who emails me the words laundry detergent will win a prize at our next meeting.

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 fund dividends are used to provide scholarship awards. **Scholarship awards are available to students, and may be used for college, summer camp, or other educational enrichment programs.** Temple members are looked upon favorably, but one does not need to be a temple member nor Jewish to apply. Candidates must 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 to 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, Julie Owens, Sandy Guttler, or Karen Ferguson. 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 May 3rd 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

Vice-President TBA

Treasurer - Susan Reider

Secretary - Tiffany Hull

Past President - Barbara Laufer

Members at Large:

Liz Correll

Marion DuBow

Debra Engelmann

Lin Gentry

Sandy Guttler

Pam Jones

Aaron Tosky

Karen Ferguson

Ritual Committee

Aaron Tosky (aaront9348@aol.com) is the chairperson of the Ritual Committee, and the members are Dennis Jones (rabbi), Jane Mandle, Pam Jones, Barb Laufer, Ron DuBow and Marsue Davidson (ex officio). They plan to update wedding and building use policies and they plan to update the Temple Beth Shalom Index of Life Cycle Events (birthdays, anniversaries, and yahrzeit). Please provide any

Open Zerden Board Seat

About ten years ago, one of the temple founding-members, Mr. Howard Zerden, died and donated \$500,000 to Temple Beth Shalom. The donation led to the formation of the Howard Zerden Trust. The mandate of the trust is to help fund the cost of a rabbi or student rabbi.

The trust has experienced great success and has reimbursed our temple for rabbinical expenses for the past ten years.

One of our original board members, Esther Greene, has decided to retire from her board seat. For over ten years, Esther has provided excellent focus and dedication to the Zerden Trust.

The board meets once a year for about one hour. Eight of the nine seats are filled and we encourage members to volunteer for the recently vacated ninth board seat.

If you are interested or have questions, kindly contact the Board Chairman, Sandy Guttler, at 828-612-3023.

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
A Womans 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

Marsue Davidson, RN DCS
Unifour Nursing
805 W. 25th Street
Newton, NC 28681
828-464-0244
www.unifournursing.net

Robyn Diamond
Certified Health and Wellness Coach,
Specializing in Digestive
Health and Stress Management
843-991-6338
Robyn@HealthHappyYou.com
[www. HealthHappyYou.com](http://www.HealthHappyYou.com)

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle May Events

Birthdays

Grayson Cohn 5/2
Eric Richards 5/4
Rick Crater 5/4
Eileen Cangemi 5/6
David Engelmann 5/7
Linda Guttler 5/8
Clyde Ferguson 5/9
Gabriella Cantore 5/10
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 and Mary Lee Tosky 5/4
Ron and Sue Cohn 5/6
Bud and Connie Tosky 5/24

Yahrzeits

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

Member Business Directory

Alice Guy

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

Marc Fedder M.D., F.A.C.P.
Frye Care Internal Medicine of Hickory
915 Tate Blvd Suite 186
Hickory, N.C., 28602
828-303-2131

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

Community Fundraising

Pete Sobotkin is team captain for the Catawba County Sheriff's Office team for the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk, Saturday, April 29th, at Lenoir Rhyne University**, raising money for a cure for Type 1 Diabetes.

Pete is also team captain for the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police team for the American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life All Night walk, Friday and Saturday, June 2nd & 3rd**, at the Catawba County Fairgrounds, raising money for a cure for cancer and to support cancer patients.

If you would like to donate to either one or both these very important charities, it will be greatly appreciated. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cash or checks made out to "JDRF" and/or the "American Cancer Society" can be given to Pete at temple services or mailed to:

Pete Sobotkin
1004 N Center St, Hickory, NC 28601

Local and Regional Events

Free **yoga classes** for adults and teens at Patrick Beaver Memorial library (375 3rd St NE) on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Bring a yoga mat or towel to lay on. Call 828-304-0500 for more information.

Wintergreen hikes on Saturdays and Sundays at 11am. A leisurely walk along the one mile Hemlock Nature trail at South Mountains State park. Meet at the Jacob Fork

B'nai Brith will have an **annual retreat for adults** at Wild Acres near Little Switzerland August 14-17. This year will be the 70th annual retreat. The cost is \$380 per person - 2 per room, with a \$10 discount for those who register by June 15th. Needs-based scholarships are available. For more information, please call Karen Sheckman at 785-554-8078.

See additional information about this very special event at the end of this issue of the TBS Bulletin.

Dry Bones



SECURE YOUR SPACE BY MAKING A \$350 (per person) REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT SOON
 (if already sent, thank you!)
 Contact Jeff Fogert, 704-230-7160

TEMPLE KOL TIKVAH ISRAEL TRIP OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 1, 2017 IT'S NOT JUST A TRIP... ...IT'S A TRIP OF A LIFETIME



- Led by Rabbi Michael Shields
- Travel Israel North, South, East, and West
- Visit special sites
- Certified tour guide
- 4 or 5 star hotels
- Most meals included
- 3-day extension available

Total cost: \$3,500

More information at www.TKTIsraelTrip.org, or call (704)-487-4881



Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School-2017

Date	Events	Bulletin Deadline
May 5-7	Services Friday 7:30pm /Saturday 10am /Sunday School 10am	April 22
May 21	Sunday School 10am/Annual Meeting 10am	
May 30	Erev Shavuot Service (Tuesday) 7:30pm	
June 2-4	Services Friday 7:30pm /Saturday 10am	May 20
	Sunday School End of Year Party 10am	

Want to contribute to the TBS Bulletin? Send entries to Karen Ferguson at karen.sederholm@gmail.com no later than the posted deadline. All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.

information you might want included in the Life Cycle Events. You may contact either Aaron or a committee member if you have any questions regarding temple ritual and/or have suggestions.

2017 B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism Retreat

August 14-17, 2017

Wildacres Retreat Center, Little Switzerland, NC

Because Learning is a Lifelong Adventure

The Wildacres B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism, set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, will hold the 2017 annual retreat from August 14-17. Although the majority of participants come from the Southeastern states, participants come from all over the country. **Come and celebrate the 70th Annual Institute of Judaism!**

The Institute is a three day set of nine lectures by outstanding scholars. Additional activities include patio discussions with the faculty, hiking and tennis in the afternoon, religious services before dinner, or just relaxing and enjoying the beauty of the Blue Ridge. The evening entertainment will be Tennessee Schmaltz, a terrific klezmer band.

The Scholars-in-residence this year will be Jonathan Weiler (Professor of Global Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Ruth Messinger (President and Executive Director of the American Jewish World Service), and Curtis Ryan (Professor of Political Science at Appalachian State University).

On Tuesday and Wednesday there are four lectures per day. Subjects include Jews as Global Citizens; The State of the Contemporary Jewish Community; Leadership and Moral Courage; The Transition of Jewish Athletes from the Playing Fields to the Front Office; Jews in the Trump Era; Is There Still a Jewish Vote?; Recent Changes in Jordan-Israel Relations; Shifting Alliances in the Middle East; and Egypt in the 21st Century.

The retreat offers fully kosher meals, breathtaking mountain views, and twin bedded rooms with private bath. Lodging and all meals, along with all lectures and activities, are included in the registration fee of \$380. Attire is very casual.

Registration forms are available by contacting Sandy Apple at 4200 Stratton Village Ln, Wilmington, NC 28409 or by going to www.bnai-brith.wixsite.com. Checks should be made payable to B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism.

Proxy Ballot 2017-2018 for Annual Meeting May 21, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

Proxy Ballot 2017-2018 for Annual Meeting May 21, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

Slate of Trustees: Please find listed below the current Temple Board's recommendation for next year's Board of Trustees, per bylaws. The executive board terms are 2 years and 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.

<u>Or To vote individually:</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Marsue Davidson-President (2 year term)	_____	_____
Barbara Laufer-past President(2 year term)	_____	_____
Susan Rieder- Treasurer (2 year term)	_____	_____
Open position-Vice-President (2 year term)	_____	_____
Tiffany Hall-secretary (2 year term)	_____	_____
Liz Correll-Howard Zerden Foundation Liaison	_____	_____
Marion DuBow-member at-large	_____	_____
Debra Engelmann-Community Social Work Advisor	_____	_____
Karen Ferguson-Bulletin editor	_____	_____
Lin Gentry-Sisterhood President	_____	_____
Sandy Guttler-HZF Board President	_____	_____
Pam Jones-Membership Committee Chair	_____	_____
Linda Greenfield-member at-large	_____	_____
Open position-Ritual Committee Chair	_____	_____

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