

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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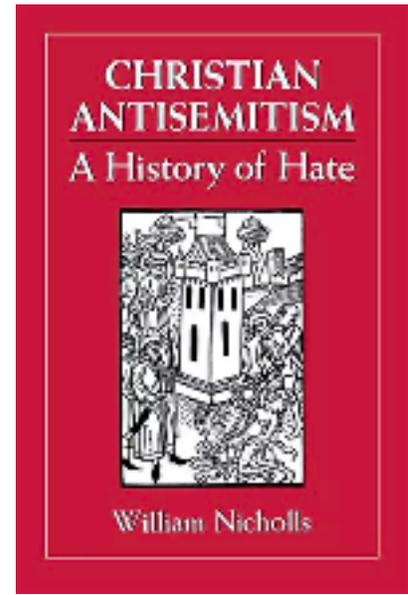
Temple Member
Business Directory

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

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi

*Christian
Antisemitism—
A History of Hate*
By
William Nicholls



Dear ones,

Being mindful of the shootings in the last six months at two synagogues and of the recent statistical rise in acts of antisemitic violence, I would like to strongly recommend a book to all my friends, Jewish, Christian, or other. This is a book that I would personally put in the “life changing” category—*Christian Antisemitism—A History of Hate* by William Nicholls. I first read it shortly after it came out in 1993 and it influenced me greatly. I read it again in late 2018 as a part of my rabbinical studies. And, as is typical of second readings, I learned things from the text that I was too young or too immature to have caught on the first reading. Since I am now active in local interfaith efforts, currently serving as the president of the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, I have become intensely interested in the complexities of dialogue between Christian and Jewish individuals. The dialogue is made complex by a particular dynamic. Progressive Judaism is universalistic in its outlook, believing that all human beings are

created in the divine image. Progressive Judaism teaches that all humans have a relationship with God as a birthright, as it were. As such, human beings are born pure, and though we stumble, as all humans do, God forgives our missteps, because that's what God does! Evangelical Christianity, on the other hand, teaches that a relationship with God is only attainable through faith in Jesus Christ. This seemingly unilateral and exclusive path to a relationship with God appears to me to keep evangelical Christians from dialogue on equal footing with members of other faiths. I turned to Professor Nicholls' book in an effort to find ways to bridge that gap.

Now let me say at the outset that I know that Professor Nicholls' view may be hard for some of my Christian friends to accept. But, a quick look at his resume shows us that he has lived a life of study of the origins of Christianity and of service to the Christian community. Born in England, William Nicholls was educated at Cambridge University. He has written multiple books on religion and theology. An ordained Anglican minister, Nicholls became a professor of religious studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in 1961. He founded that university's Department of Religious Studies and was its head until 1983. From 1984 to 1985 Nicholls served as the Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Professor Nicholls has been involved in Holocaust education since 1975.

It is the Holocaust that sparked Professor Nicholls' interest in the relationship between Christian origins and modern antisemitism. At the outset of his book he stipulates that the ferocity and insanity of the gruesome murders conducted by the Nazis cannot be explained strictly on historical grounds. However, Professor Nicholls maintains throughout this book that two thousand years of certain anti-Jewish Christian teachings had prepared a soil on which the Holocaust could occur. Professor Nicholls expresses in his book that its timeliness in history is not an accident. Nicholls believes that he is in a position to reap the benefits of the best scholarship of New Testament origins and the search for the historical Jesus. He relies heavily on the scholarship of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on both of those topics. Professor Nicholls presents the scholarly research on the historical Jesus and New Testament origins in a very readable fashion for the lay person. And, while he critiques each scholars' findings on these historical matters, he leaves it up to his readers to draw their own conclusion as he expounds his analysis of the research with brutal honesty.

Professor Nicholls begins his analysis, of course, with the historical Jesus. Based on the latest scholarship available to him, Nicholls concludes that Jesus was a gifted teacher and perhaps prophet who believed in a dynamic relationship with the Creator based on humility and a repentant heart. He contends that Jesus was fully Torah observant and always encouraged his followers to be fully Torah observant. Professor Nicholls speculates that based on the success of Jesus' teaching, he may have at one point entertained the idea that he could be the prophesied Messiah, but Nicholls believes Jesus abandoned that idea once it became clear to him that the Romans were likely to execute him and cut short his work. For Nicholls, the question remains, though, whether Jesus' followers ever abandoned the hope that Jesus was the coming Messiah. In any event, Professor Nicholls is absolutely confident

that the historical Jesus was not the founder of the religion that became known as Christianity (*Christian Antisemitism*, pp. 420-423).

That founder, in Nicholls' contention would have been the individual known as the apostle Paul. Here again, Professor Nicholls gives deference to the many scholars who have investigated the life, teachings, and writings of Paul. In *Christian Antisemitism*, Nicholls presents and critiques that research in a very simple and understandable way, once again, allowing his readers to draw their own conclusions. But, of course, Nicholls does not hold back from giving his own opinion. Professor Nicholls' gravest concern is that Paul never knew the historical Jesus, nor did he seem to have any interest in Jesus' life or teachings. All of Paul's understanding was, by his own admission, acquired through a *heavenly vision*. Not only that, but a careful reading of the New Testament books of Galatians and Acts, belies the fact that Paul came into sharp conflict with those leaders of the early Christian movement that did know Jesus and his teachings, because they had been with him. The question that Professor Nicholls poses for modern Christian scholars and theologians is why did Orthodox Christianity decide to base its theology on the unverifiable visions of a man who did not know Jesus or his original teachings (*Christian Antisemitism*, p. 420).

Professor Nicholls finds the source of Christian anti-Judaism which later transformed into antisemitism in the writings of the New Testament itself. He begins by reminding the reader that the four Gospels were, by scholarly consensus, all written in the last two to three decades of the first century or later. That would put their reduction to written form *after* the destruction of Jerusalem and *a minimum of two generations removed from the historical Jesus* and his teachings. Professor Nicholls maintains that the animosity that one finds in the Gospels between Jesus and the Pharisees or between Jesus and the Jewish people in general is not historically accurate, but is reflective of an animosity that had begun to form between formative rabbinical Judaism after the Temple's destruction and the nascent Christian community which was becoming increasingly more Gentile as a result of the missionary work of Paul. Nicholls states that the gospel writers may have innocently assumed that those rivalries stemmed back to the time of Jesus. Clearly they did not. It is the accounts of the trials of Jesus, in Nicholls' opinion, that have done the worst damage in terms of Jewish-Christian relations. Based on those accounts, Jews have been persecuted as "Christ killers" for nearly two millennia. Professor Nicholls shows in a convincing fashion that the accounts of the trials, which are full of discrepancies among the four Gospels, could not possibly have been historically accurate. (*Christian Antisemitism*, pp 105-110). But again, Professor Nicholls leaves it for his readers to weigh the evidence and decide.

Throughout the rest of his book, Professor Nicholls traces the history of Christian anti-Judaism through the Church Fathers, as they are called, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Enlightenment era, and into modern times. He points out that modern antisemitism is secularized and liberalized, but he lays out a convincing case for its roots in Christian history and dogma. Professor Nicholls does give credit to those modern Christian accomplishments which are attempting to undo the damage that

antisemitism has done over the centuries, particularly Vatican II and the work of the World Council of Churches. But, Nicholls believes there is more to be done. He leaves his Christian readers with two choices neither of which I will go into here because they are beyond the scope of this summary in as much as I am writing from the Jewish perspective (*Christian Antisemitism*, pp. 427-431).

It is the prayer of my heart, just as we pray every Shabbat in the *Amidah*, “Strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among all of the inhabitants of the world” (*Mishkan T’filah*, p. 259). We repeat it again in the *Aleinu*, “O may all, created in Your image, become one in spirit and one in friendship, forever united in Your service” (*Mishkan*, p. 289). If reading William Nicholl’s book can help Christians and Jews get to a fuller understanding of one another’s views, leading to more understanding, tolerance, and even cooperation, then it can only help us achieve the time of peace and prosperity that is foreshadowed in the Hebrew Prophets. I would encourage anyone interested in bringing more peace and harmony into the world to purchase and read this book, and let me know what you think.

The President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, President

Save the date of May 19, 2019 for the Annual Meeting at 10am

Your voice is needed to vote for new board members. If you can’t attend, please give or send your proxy to Rabbi Dennis. The plan is to have our accountant provide information on our financial health, along with other committee chairpersons’ reports. A number of committees have been very active this past year, including the Security Committee. (You will see them at services wearing a Star of David pin so you will know who to take directions from in an emergency situation). In view of the shooting at Chabad Synagogue in Poway California, it is especially important this year for you to join us at the Annual Meeting to find out about all of the security measures we have initiated here at TBS.



The Seder was a great success with 92 people attending. Once again April and Glenn Eckard, along with three exceptional students from Alexander Central, provided food preparation and waitressing. Lin Gentry, as Sister Hood President, provided incredible support, and charoses, for this event. Aaron Tosky, as a member of the ritual committee, filled in for Rabbi Dennis to lead services, with cantorial support from Susan Goldstein.

Mary Lee Tosky made name tags and kugels along with Tiffany Hull and Susan Rieder. Marion

DuBow made the tzimmes and brownies; Millie Kaufman made the honey cakes; Brenda Callahan made the fruit salad; and Linda and Henry Greenfield made the special chopped liver.

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. Hosts' responsibilities are identified below and if you are willing to volunteer, please let Mary Lee Tosky know. Thank you.

May 10-11
May 31/June 1

Lin Gentry/Tiffany Hull
Kathy Jones

hosts needed
hosts needed



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

Exodus 31:13

Shabbat & Holiday Hosts' Responsibilities

(revised July 2018)

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. This list will hopefully take away the guess work and please remember that all members present will be helping you in any way possible. Your volunteerism is greatly appreciated.

Prior to the Rabbi/Holiday Weekend:

The host(s) should communicate with each other regarding who will do which responsibilities. The host board member should make sure that someone has a key for opening the Temple to make preparations.

Friday Evening Oneg:

1. Three tables are set up with table cloths. One side table should be for coffee, challah, and wine/ juice for a congregational Kiddush. Two tables should be set up with plates, napkins, silverware, and desserts.
2. Hosts should supply desserts. Challah, coffee, cream, sugar, wine, juice, sodas, and ice should already be stocked in the kitchen, but hosts should check for them ahead of time and let the Board know if supplies are not there.
3. Female hosts should set up the Shabbat candles, and perform the lighting of candles when the Rabbi directs. Hosts should also make sure that the yahrtzeit and ner tamid lights are lit prior to services.
4. Near the middle of the Friday evening service, hosts should brew coffee, pour Kiddush cups, and make sure the challah and desserts are set out (desserts and challah can be put out and kiddush cups filled before the service).
5. After the service, the hosts should assist with distributing wine/juice to the congregation.
6. At the end of the evening, hosts should complete host inventory; store all left-overs; clean the kitchen; sweep floor; and take out the trash. Recyclables should be separated into the recycling bin.
7. The host board member should ensure that the Temple is locked up for the evening and a security check done when you get there and when you leave.

Shabbat Morning:

Sabbath morning activities are minimal. Paid kitchen personnel will prepare the food and set-up and clean-up. At the end of the luncheon, they will also gather tablecloths for laundering and take garbage/ recycle to the street.

Host couples only need to help with setting up tables and chairs and putting on tablecloths and distributing wine/juice for Kiddush.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

Wow! What a great Seder we had a couple weeks ago! It doesn't happen by itself—there are so many people volunteering their time to pull it off! A huge thank you first and foremost to Barb Laufer for coordinating it all, as well as cooking such delicious brisket, soup, and gefilte fish. Of course Larry made such light matzah balls to go in the soup. They were great. Tiffany Hull did all the shopping for the incidentals, as well as making kugels with Susan Reider. Marion DuBow made tzimmes and chocolate cakes, and made special trips to Charlotte for the horseradish and creamer. Millie Kaufman made honey cakes, and worked with Brenda Callahan to prepare all the fresh fruit. Henry and Linda Greenfield made the special chopped liver as well. I made the charoses again this year. Aaron Tosky led the service this year, and Mary Lee made kugel and printed out the name tags.

It takes a lot of help to set up the temple for almost 100 people to sit comfortably for this great celebration. Joining me in setting up were Aaron and Mary Lee Tosky, Barb and Larry Laufer, Leila McMichael, Tiffany Hull, Brenda Callahan, Marion DuBow, and Sheri Stock. Deanne Griffin, and Laura and Mark Faruque made donations to help offset the costs. And of course, we have to thank April and Glenn Eckard, and their terrific wait staff for their hard work behind the scenes cooking, serving, and making sure everything went smoothly. I also have to thank everyone who helped clean up afterwards! Putting things away, washing dishes, sweeping, and taking out all that trash takes a lot of work—thank you to everyone for all their help with it all!



Sisterhood will host a Game Night on Saturday, May 4th, at 6:30pm. This is open to everyone. Bring your favorite games, and we'll either play a few or choose one to play together. Please let me know if you're coming so we can plan how many tables to set up.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 16th, 6:30pm, at Bob Evans. Let me know if you'll be there so I can tell the restaurant how many are coming.

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator



The Sunday School students learned about Passover this past month and practiced singing the Four Questions. Hopefully, they sang well at the Seder! The next Sunday School class will not meet until June 2nd due to Mother's Day and the TBS annual meeting. Rabbi Dennis and Kathy will be in touch with parents to plan an end of the school year celebration.

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, May15th 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:

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

Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Marion DuBow
- Lin Gentry
- Jaimi Jones
- Linda Greenfield
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson



Donations

A donation of \$100.00 was made
to the American Cancer Society
for the month of May.



Looking for another 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 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

Elaine Zerden is home and ready for phone calls and visitors (one at a time).

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. 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
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

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 May Events

Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grayson Cohn 5/2 | Ariel Cohn 5/19 |
| Eileen Cangemi 5/6 | Terri Berndt 5/20 |
| David Engelmann 5/7 | Damian Blankenship 5/21 |
| Linda Guttler 5/8 | Amanda Garrick 5/24 |
| Gabriella Cantore 5/10 | Kevin Huitt 5/26 |
| Michael Sullivan 5/15 | Al Garrick 5/27 |
| Ross Guttler 5/18 | 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

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

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

Local and Regional Events



In memory of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) invites you to a memorial service.
Friday, May 17, 2019, 1:00pm
The Law Enforcement Memorial in
Catawba Memorial Park
3060 Highway 70 SE, Hickory
 A wreath laying ceremony, playing of bagpipes and taps and an honor guard firing a 21-gun salute will be included in the program. Keynote speaker will be the Honorable Don Brown, Sheriff of Catawba County.



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/>.



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, Friday and Saturday, May 31st & June 1st, 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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Comments</u> | <u>Bulletin Deadline</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| May 10-11 | Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am No Sunday School (Mother's Day!!) | April 27 |
| May 19 | TBS Annual Membership Meeting 10am | |
| May/June 31-2 | Services/ Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am Sunday School End of Year Party 10am | May 18 |
| June 8 | Erev Shavuot Service 7:30pm (Sat.) | |

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.