

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
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From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi



Rosh Hashanah—The Day of the World's Birth

Very soon we will gather together in the synagogue on the first day of the seventh Hebrew month, *Tishri*, to listen to the sound of the *shofar*, in keeping with ancient precepts. (Lev. 23:24; Num. 29:1) Several times during the course of our prayer and worship on that day, the High Holiday prayer book proclaims, "This is the day of the world's birth." (E.g., *Gates of Repentance*, pp. 143, 144) It has long been the tradition in the Reform Synagogue to read from Torah portion *Bereishit*, the

creation story (Gen. Rabbi, Morton Kaplan, congregation Temple Beth Shalom began the tradition of reading from *Bereishit* on the first day of the holiday). This custom shifts the emphasis of the holy day from a day of judgment to a day of new beginnings—new possibilities. Every time I chant the creation account I am overwhelmed by the power of the passage and by the power of the day.

Many skeptics and detractors over the years have seen in the creation story of *Bereishit* a pseudoscience that is, on its face, at odds with accepted discoveries from many scientific fields. But that is absolutely not the case! The sages of Israel, even as far back as two millennia ago saw in the creation story a powerful poem, in parable form, with multiple layers of meaning. They cautioned novices not to even explore the depths of the mysteries underlying this powerful account without guidance. (See, e.g., *Talmud Chagigah*, 11b) Rabbi Kaplan taught often of the competing principles of unity and diversity described so beautifully in the creation story. The juxtaposition of those forces of unity and diversity works together to magnify the power and purpose of the Creator. The diversity of the creation can be thought of as an impediment, or it can be a source of strength and benefit on both the ecological and societal levels. The universe's vast diversity ultimately does flow together as a unity, because the entire cosmos truly is interconnected as has been proven through scientific discoveries in the 20th and 21st centuries. (See, Dr. Gerald Schroeder, "Age of the Universe," www.aish.com)

Even as great a commentator as the 11th century biblical scholar, Rashi, said that the Torah "ought to have started" with Exodus 12:2, because that is the first commandment in the Torah actually given specifically to the children of Israel. Most other scholars disagree, for example the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, who pointed out, "With its opening statement, the Torah is establishing that it is not merely a rulebook, a listing of things to do or not do. It is God's blueprint for creation, our guide for realizing the purpose for which everything in heaven and earth was made. Every creature, object, and element; every force, phenomenon, and potential; every moment of time was created by God toward a purpose." ("Parshat Bereishit In-Depth," www.chabad.org)

Former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Jonathan Sacks, concludes, "Torah is not a book of history even though it includes history. It is not a book of science even though the first chapter of Genesis...is the necessary prelude to science, because it represents the first time people saw the universe as the product of a single creative will, and therefore as intelligible rather than capricious and mysterious." Rabbi Sacks goes on to say that everything the Torah contains, which would include not only the laws, statutes, and commandments, but also the narratives, particularly the creation narrative, has the driving purpose of ethical and spiritual instruction. (See, "Bereishit—A Living Book," www.aish.com)

Rosh Hashanah truly is, in many respects, the beginning of all beginnings. There is, I believe, in the core of every Jewish soul a deep connection with the creation and the Creator. The faith and

traditions of our people that have been passed down from generation to generation have imbued us with an innate sense of purpose and responsibility. Though some may be able to deny that purpose and responsibility for a time, and all fall short of the highest goals we set for ourselves in that regard, Rosh Hashanah is that recurring “day of remembrance,” that brings us back to not only who we truly are, but also to *who we can be*.

Getting back to Rabbi Kaplan’s teaching, the vast diversity of our creation can be seen as a problem. When human beings choose to use that diversity to promote fear and tribalism, only division and evil can result. That same diversity, though, can serve as a springboard to greater creativity and strength. Rabbi Kaplan points out that in times of economic difficulty the worst elements of humankind’s nature tend to manifest themselves; whereas, in times of prosperity we see less of that. Our challenge in going forward is to choose a higher road even when others may be choosing the lower.

As we pray and worship together and listen to the blast of the *shofar* on this Rosh Hashanah, it is my prayer that we each recommit to those lofty principles given to us by our Creator in the Holy Torah and preserved for us by our ancestors. The Hebrew Prophets have for millennia held out a vision for humankind that is breathtaking. They foresee a time when sickness, famine, and war shall be completely eliminated. It is my absolute belief that this vision *is* the will of the Creator for this miraculous creation. It is my further belief that through our good deeds, our works of Torah, we *can* bring this vision to fruition. As we begin the New Hebrew Year 5777, may each of our parts in this holy endeavor become clearer to us. Won’t you join us at Temple Beth Shalom as we pursue this Divine connection and purpose together? *L’shanah tovah tikatevu!!*—May you be written down for a good year!!

The President’s Message

Marsue Davidson, TBS President

Temple Beth Shalom is entering the Yamin Noraim, or **High Holy Days**, The holidays of Rosh Hashanah ("Jewish New Year") and Yom Kippur ("Day of Atonement"). This important time is to focus on repentance, whereby a Jew admits to sins, asks for forgiveness, and resolves not to repeat the sins. Recognizing the psychological difficulty of self-examination and personal change, the rabbis instituted a 40-day period of reflection, prayer and repentance. Yom Kippur is a day devoted entirely to fasting and repentance.

The High Holiday period begins on the first day of the Jewish month of Elul. During this month of soul searching, the shofar, or ram’s horn, is blown each morning (except on the Sabbath) to call upon

listeners to begin the difficult process of repentance. During the week before Rosh Hashanah, intensity increases as traditional Jews confess sins and request God's forgiveness and help. The culmination of the High Holiday period occurs during the Ten Days of Repentance. During this period human beings have the chance to tip the scales of divine judgment in their favor through repentance, prayer and charity.

Not only is Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New Year, which commemorates God's creation of the world, but also the Day of Judgment, when God remembers and judges all human deeds. The call of the shofar, is saying, "Awake, you sleepers, from your slumber...examine your deeds, return in repentance, and remember your Creator."

Please join the congregation of Temple Beth Shalom for this important holiday. The members and children of our community will join together, ask for forgiveness, and share the beginning of another year with Temple Beth Shalom. Attached to this newsletter is the 2016-2017 Temple Beth Shalom calendar of services, Sunday School sessions and special events.

APPRECIATION

We appreciate the generous donations from:

Walt Alley

Joy and Peter Kasten as a special "thank you" for Rabbi Dennis for all he so lovingly does for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TBS Sunday School Program

Marsue Davidson, Director Sunday School



This coming year our Sunday School sessions are filled with exciting new activities, field trips, and community outreach projects. We will continue to host our annual Hanukah Party, Purim celebration and have increased participation in the monthly services. We are looking forward to the High Holy Days and sharing this time with our families and friends. The children will participate in the Annual Temple Cleanup Day and learn the need to give back in preparation for

a week of self reflection and prayer between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Be sure to review the schedule of services, Sunday School sessions and special events. Please mark your calendars so you won't forget to attend services and Sunday School sessions. We are keeping track of attendance in Sunday School and services so we can plan these events to meet the needs of our congregation. Our young Jewish children are the future of this community and we encourage you and your families to participate.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

Sisterhood would like to wish everyone a very good and sweet new year. L'shanah tovah! Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30pm at the temple. I'll pick up pizzas so let me know if you're coming so I can get enough. We have lots to decide about upcoming activities, including dinners and musicals and fairs. There may even be a game and a prize at the meeting.

Asheville is holding their annual Hard Lox Festival on Sunday, Oct 16 from 11am-4pm in Pack Square in downtown Asheville. The website for more information is www.hardloxjewishfestival.org. There's traditional Jewish food, Israeli dancing, music, vendors, a kid zone, and much more. Every Jewish organization in Asheville will be represented, including a Sukkah, where you can celebrate Sukkot by saying the blessings with the lulav and etrog.

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, Julie Owens 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, October 5th 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 - TBA

Tiffany Hull, Secretary

Barbara Laufer, Past President

Members at Large:

Liz Correll

Marion DuBow

Debra Engelmann

Lin Gentry

Sandy Guttler

Pam Jones

Susan Rider

Aaron Tosky

Karen Ferguson

Don't forget the Annual Temple Beth Shalom Clean-up Day Sunday, September 25th! Lunch will be provided. Every bit of time and help is greatly appreciated.

**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 of
A Womans View
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

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

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to the Tosky family. Aaron and Bud Tosky lost their mother, Cecile Tosky, on September 20th. She left our world very peacefully and all the members of Temple Beth Shalom send our condolence to Aaron, Mary Ann, Bud, and Connie.

Our thoughts and prayer's are with all of you.

**Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle
October Events**

Birthdays

- Jon Dominique 10/1
- Craig Axler 10/3
- Samuel Peltzer 10/6
- Daniel Tosky 10/7
- Steven Gold 10/11
- Robyn Diamond 10/14
- Greg Shugar 10/15
- Susan Rieder 10/21
- Peter Cantore 10/22
- Rich Engelmann 10/31

Anniversaries

Yahrzeit

- Stanley Atkins 10/27
- Sid Freeman 10/30

Member Business Directory (cont'd)

Professor Gitlin Hebrew Lessons
109 6th 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

Michelle Oxenberg Jordon
Managing Director of Design
3166 Main Ave. S.E.
Hickory, North Carolina 28602
828.322.3480 Ext. 271
michelle@robertabbey.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

Local and Regional Events

“Junk” - Hickory Community Theater.
Oct 14-15, 20-23, and 27-30.

Looking for family entertainment this Fall? Here is a link to lots of local events.

[http://hickory.macaronikid.com/article/1319494/fall-events-festivals-in-hickory-and-western-](http://hickory.macaronikid.com/article/1319494/fall-events-festivals-in-hickory-and-western)

World-Renowned Holocaust Scholar C. R. Browning will give a talk at ASU- Belk Library, Room 114, on the ASU campus (218 College Street) Sunday, Sept. 25th, 2 to 4 pm

Annual Hard Lox Festival - Sunday, October 16, 11am-4pm in Pack Square in downtown Asheville. The website for more information is www.hardloxjewishfestival.org.

L'Shana Tovah!

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2016-2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Bulletin Deadline</u>	
October	2	Rosh Hashana 7:30 PM (Sunday)	September 17
	3	Rosh Hashana 10:00 AM (Monday)	
	11	Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:30 PM (Tuesday)	
	12	Yom Kippur 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM Neilah/Breakfast (Wed.)	
	16	Sunday School/Sukkah Building/Sukkot Blessings/Lulav-Etrog/Luncheon?	
	24	Simchat Torah 7:00 PM (Monday night-- <i>in lieu of Sunday School 10/23</i>)	
November	6	Sunday School	
	18-20	Services/Sunday School	November 5
December	9-11	Services/Sunday School	November 26
	25	Sunday School? (First day of Hanukah!!)	
January	6-8	Services/Sunday School	December 24
	22	Sunday School	
February	3-5	Services/Sunday School	January 21
	19	Sunday School	
March	10-12	Services/Sunday School/Purim (Megillah Reading/Party)	February 25
	26	Sunday School	
April	7-9	Services/Sunday School	March 25
	11	6:00 PM Passover Community Seder (Tuesday)	
	23	Sunday School	
May	5-7	Services/Sunday School	April 22
	21	Sunday School	
	30	Erev Shavuot Service 7:30 PM (Tuesday)	
June	2-4	Services/Sunday School End of Year Party	May 20