

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

Second Chances—Life Lessons from Torah Portion Noach

What an amazing time we have shared together for our High Holiday services at Temple Beth Shalom! As I travel around, speaking to other spiritual leaders, and visiting other houses of worship, I am always thankful to return to **our** Temple family. We have truly been blessed with something special here at TBS, and for that I am deeply grateful! When we next gather for the reading of the Torah on Shabbat, October 13th, we will be reading from Torah portion Noach, Genesis 6:9-11:32. This Torah portion covers a broad range of very interesting topics,

beginning with an introduction to Noah and his family. About two chapters are devoted to explaining God's decision to destroy the world, including most of mankind and most of the animal kingdom (6:9-8:22). That is followed by an account of life starting over again, the Almighty promising not to destroy all life by flood again, and the establishing of a set of laws which our rabbis have called the Noahide Commandments or laws of Noah (9:1-17). Most of chapter 10 is taken up with the repopulation of the earth, including specifics on the families and their descendants. Then in chapter 11 we get the fascinating story of the Tower of Babel, and the decision by God to scatter mankind over the earth, and to give the various family groups each a different language (vv. 1-9). Chapter 11 concludes with the records of the descendants of Noah's son, Shem, culminating in the first introduction in the Hebrew Bible of our patriarch and matriarch, Abraham and Sarah (vv. 10-32).

What a strange coincidence that as I read these verses about the destruction of the earth by flood, and as I study the passages about God's promise not to destroy the earth again by flood, including the placing of the rainbow in the clouds as a remembrance or sign, the news is full of terrible images from Eastern North Carolina of the devastating floods that they have just experienced from Hurricane Florence. Meteorologists have said that North and South Carolina have received rainfall amounts which are only expected at five hundred year intervals. My heart breaks as I see the displaced families, the destruction of property, and the loss of life. I know that I am moved to take action through charitable giving, and I hope that many others will be as well. As we will see, one of the strong themes of Torah portion Noach is that rebirth, renewal, and rebuilding are possible. I know that we will pull together as Americans, in the face of this disaster, in order to make that happen.

Regarding the present Torah portion, it is my sincere belief, that like hundreds of generations of Jews before us, we too in the modern age can find light and inspiration from these ancient passages of Scripture. That may, however, require deep study, questioning, and discussion. One question that might arise from the accounts in Genesis 1-11 is how did the creation get so off track if when observed by God in Genesis 1:31 it was said to be "very good," and by Genesis 6 we read the chilling passage, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of humans was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that humans had been created on the earth, and God was grieved to the heart" (vv. 5-6)? Surely this demonstrates that being created in the image of God, as man and woman are, brings with it an extremely high level of free will or choice. That freedom of choice obviously has amazing potential in both directions—evil or good. Clearly evil was prevailing in the days of Noah leading up to the flood. But in our own day, I would like to believe that we have learned the lesson of history, and that we are channeling our choices toward good. I think I see evidence of that around me. For example, when we had the horrific, racially motivated murders at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina in June 2015, rather than sparking more racial hatred and friction, I believe the crime moved many, many individuals to reach across racial lines and show a willingness to enter into dialogue and even expressions of brotherly love. When a disaster befalls our country like the recent floods in the

Carolinas, are not the hearts of many stirred to help and to give what is needed to bring healing and restoration to the affected areas?

Another question that naturally arises from the flood story as it begins in Genesis 6 is, “Why would the Almighty choose to destroy not only the evil men and women, but also a very large portion of the plant and animal life on the planet?” This question is difficult to answer. Could it possibly be to show that those creatures which were created in God’s image, namely man and woman, bear a deep responsibility for everything that happens on this planet and for all species both plant and animal? Surely we have seen in the 20th and 21st centuries how our decisions, our use of resources, and our lack of proper waste disposal have had a profound impact on the entire earth ecosystem. Once again, I believe that we are learning from the past and from our mistakes. We are taking definite steps to rein in many of the wasteful and polluting practices of the last 200 years. Of course, more needs to be done!

Also on a global scale, it is from Torah portion Noah that the rabbis of the Talmudic period derived seven laws applicable to all mankind. A discussion of these Noahide Laws or Commandments, as they are called, can be found in the Talmud, in tractate *Sanhedrin a-b*. Those seven laws are the prohibitions of idolatry, blasphemy, murder, sexual immorality, stealing, eating the flesh of a living animal, and the positive commandment to establish courts of justice. One of the amazing things about these seven laws is the universalist view of God’s relationship with humans that they convey. Going back to the earliest days of the Jewish faith, our sages **never saw the need to convert all humankind to Judaism**, thus the absence of proselytizing from our religion. The laws of Noah were seen as elevating all people to the will of the Creator, and making them **equal partners** in the perfection of the creation that was entrusted to man and woman from the very beginning (Gen 2:15). *All* men and women share the Divine image, and it is incumbent upon them all to make choices which are “godlike.” In so doing, the earth, including the plant and animal kingdoms, can be moved in a positive direction, fulfilling the ultimate plan, expressed by the Hebrew Prophets, of what God intended this garden planet to be.

The Haftarah portion associated by our sages with Torah portion Noah, Isaiah 54:1-55:5, reinforces this view of individual and corporate responsibility for our actions, and also reinforces the idea that while negative things may happen as a consequence of poor decision-making, there is always the opportunity for turning from our ways (repentance) and the insurance of a brighter future. The prophecies found in this passage from Isaiah come on the heels of severe destruction which was delivered to the people of Israel through the hands of the Assyrians in the seventh century B.C.E., and then from the Babylonians in the sixth century B.C.E. We learn elsewhere in the Prophets that those destructions were the consequence of the northern ten tribes, Israel, and the southern kingdom of Judah not being faithful to the laws and precepts of God. But, the message of the Haftarah portion is one of hope. It is connected by the Prophet Isaiah with the situation in the time of Noah. We read, “For this is like the days of Noah to me; when I swore that the waters of Noah should not flood the

earth again, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you nor will I rebuke you.... My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and my covenant of peace will not be shaken, says the LORD” (54:9-10). Amazing promises are they not? The entire Haftorah reading is full of hope. Look, for example at verse 8, “In an outburst of anger I hid my face from you for *a moment*; but with *everlasting lovingkindness* I will have compassion on you.”

Heartening that though we may make mistakes, and though we may fall short of the ideals set forth for us in God’s law, bringing consequences that are sometimes severe, there is always the opportunity of turning from our wrong choices and changing the course of events for ourselves and for our world. I notice that this Isaiah Haftorah reading closes with a mysterious statement, referring obviously to a future time, “Behold, you will call a nation you do not know, and *a nation which knows you not will run to you*, because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel.” I have some definite views on who that nation that will turn to the Jewish people is, but I will save that for another message. For now, as we ponder the passages of Torah portion Noah and its Haftorah from Isaiah, may we receive insights that inspire and elevate us to partner with the Creator in bringing **not harm**, but **good** to all of the amazing creation with which we have been entrusted! *Ken yehi ratzon!!*—May this be God’s will!!

The President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, President

Thank you to the Sunday School kids and parents who did a wonderful job building a Sukkah at the Temple with Rabbi Dennis. As a Reform community, we celebrate Sh’mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah on the same day. Simchat Torah provides an opportunity to confirm and affirm our Jewish identity. It also celebrates the ending (Deuteronomy) and beginning (Genesis) of Torah readings. I found it interesting that Shema Yisrael, the definitive statement of Jewish identity, is also found in Deuteronomy. Elie Wiesel, the Gaon of Vilna, said that *ve-samachta be-chagekha* (you shall rejoice in your festival, Deuteronomy 15:14) is the most difficult commandment in the Torah because in times of terrible adversity, being loyal to our heritage may put us at risk.

In keeping with new beginnings, join me in welcoming the newest members of the board Susan Jarvis Goldstein, Vice- President, and Jaimi Jones, Member at large. Susan has been a member for two years, is an attorney with a background in finance, and serves as a guardian ad litem. In addition, she is chair of the Ritual Committee and provides cantorial services for TBS. As chair of the Ritual Committee, including Ron DuBow, Aaron Tosky, Jane Mandle, Dennis Jones and Barb Laufer, Susan oversaw the development of a revised B’nai Mitzvah policy which was approved at the last Board

meeting. Jaimi Jones has a master’s degree in social work and has been a Temple member for twenty-six years. She has recently left the school system to accept a position with Youth Villages in Boone. Jaimi volunteered to chair the membership committee and to develop procedures to be more inclusive of new Temple members.

Welcome back to returning member, Susan Huitt, and welcome to new member, Dorthy Levinson.

Thanks to all for electing wonderfully hardworking people to the board of trustees. They have approved a list of charities to support monthly for the entire year. September was Police Athletic League with programing for at risk youth. And October is the Hickory Soup Kitchen, providing meals for those in need. The wonderful ideas just keep flowing. Please let us know what you would like us to do.

Hosts for the Year

Listed below are board members who have volunteered to host at Temple services for the rest of the year, but we also need additional member volunteers. Host’s responsibilities are identified below and if you are willing to volunteer, please let Mary Lee Tosky know. Thank you.

October 12-13	Susan Goldstein	hosts needed
November 9-10	Mary Lee Tosky/Susan Rieder	hosts needed
December 7-8	<hr/>	hosts needed
January 11-12	Jaime and Kathy Jones	hosts needed
February 8-9	Linda and Henry Greenfield	hosts needed
March 8-9	<hr/>	hosts needed
April 12-13	Lin Gentry/Tiffany Hull	hosts needed
April 20 - Seder	Sisterhood	
May 10-11	<hr/>	hosts needed
May 31/June 1	<hr/>	hosts needed

We need to fill in these blanks!

Please contact Mary Lee Tosky at maryLee.tosky@gmail.com if you can host on one of these dates.



“... 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

Our next sisterhood meeting has been changed to Wednesday, October 10th. Still at the Thai Lotus on Hwy 127 behind McDonald's, still at 6:30pm.

The **Hard Lox Festival** this year will be on Sunday, October 14th, 11am-4pm, in downtown Asheville, on Pack Square. This is an annual Jewish heritage festival with crafts, food, music, and much more. Check out their website, www.hardloxjewishfestival.org.

The sisterhood is going to sponsor an additional Friday evening service aboard the boat of Lake Hickory Adventures on Lake Hickory on Friday, Oct 26th. An email has been sent out about it. There is space for just 35 people, so if you want to come, email or call Lin to let her know.

“**Women's Torah Study**”— we're calling it this, but everyone is invited (women, men, students over 13). We'll look at that week's parsha from a modern Jewish woman's perspective. Everyone can look at different commentaries beforehand and we can discuss them at the meeting. We set a few dates to get us started, all at the temple; you're welcome to bring your own snacks or drinks if you'd like them:



***Saturday, October 27 at 2:00pm -**

Torah portion Vayera: Genesis 18:1-22:24. The Haftarah portion is II Kings 4:1-4:23 or 4:37, depending on whether it's for Ashkenazim or Sephardim.

***Saturday, November 10th at 6:00pm** (to include Havdalah and a sweet potato bar, more info on that in the next few newsletters)

Torah portion Toldot: Genesis 25:19-28:9. The Haftarah portion is Malachi 1:1-2:7. (On the Hebcal.com website, they spelled it Haftarah, so I did too)

***Saturday, December 22nd at 2:00pm**

This year's **Hanukkah Fair** will be on Sunday, November 11th, 11am-2pm, at the Temple. The gift shop from Charlotte's Temple Beth El will bring their wares for us. This year the first night of Hanukkah is December 2nd!



Movie Night is back by popular demand. The first one will be Saturday, January 19th, 7:00pm, at the Temple. Eat dinner beforehand and we'll have popcorn, candy, and drinks. Don't know what movie we'll see yet, but let us know if you have suggestions.

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator

After the High Holidays, Sunday School came back to Temple on Sunday, September 23, to kick off the week of Sukkot. Thank you to all of the adults and older students, for putting up the sukkah in world record time! The younger children all made beautiful sukkah decorations and everyone had a great time singing songs, eating snacks, and reciting the Sukkot blessings. The next Sunday School class will be October 14th, 10:00 AM. For any inquiries about Sunday School, please contact Kathy Jones by telephone: 828-632-9261 or email: 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 is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24th 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

We are very thankful to be able to give back to our community.
This month we donated \$100 to The Hickory Soup Kitchen.



We are happy to welcome new member, Dorthy Levinson, and returning member Susan Huitt.
We look forward to seeing them at services and special events at the Temple.



Looking for a way to give tzedakah?

Jaimi Jones, daughter of Dennis and Kathy Jones, is trying to collect hygiene/cleaning supplies for families of Hiddenite Elementary School students. It is the poorest school in the Alexander County district and has a high rate of families living in poverty. They are seeking help to be able to send their children to school

with clean bodies and clean clothing. If anyone is willing to help Jaimi with this mitzvah by donating some of these supplies, please bring them to the next service at the Temple. **A box is 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

A Big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Break Fast from Marion DuBow

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
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
Epic Health Services
805 W 25th Street
Newton, NC 28269
828-464-0244
www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservice.com



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle October Events

Birthdays

Craig Axler 10/3
Samuel Peltzer 10/6
Joy Kastan 10/7
Daniel Tosky 10/7
Steven Gold 10/11
Susan Rieder 10/21
Peter Cantore 10/22
Rich Engelmann 10/31

Anniversaries

Madeleine Guy 10/29

Yahrzeits

Sid Freedman 10/30
Stanley Atkins 10/27

Local and Regional Events

**Member Business
Directory**

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

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



**Auschwitz Survivor Dr. S. Cernyak-Spatz
in Conversation**

Susan Cernyak-Spatz, née Eckstein, was almost 21, when the Nazis deported her to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. She survived the extermination camp and death march to the interior of the Reich at the end of the war. After a screening of audio-visual testimonies she has given over the years, Dr. Cernyak-Spatz, now 96 years of age, will answer questions from the audience. The event, organized by the Peace and Genocide Education Club and supported by the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies, will start on **Tuesday, October 2, at 7:00 pm** in **Plemmons Student Union, Room 201B Table Rock**, on the ASU campus.

The lecture is free of charge and no tickets are required. For more information, email holocaust@appstate.edu or call **828.262.2311**.



Fifteen years of Jewish celebration in Asheville Sunday, October 14, from 11am to 4pm.

The Fifteenth annual HardLox Jewish Food and Heritage Festival will be in Pack Square in historic downtown Asheville.

Enjoy delicious Jewish food, meet Asheville's Jewish community, and listen to fabulous entertainment.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date		Comments	Bulletin Deadline
October	2	Simchat Torah Service 7:30pm (Tues.)	September 29
	12-14	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am	
	28	Sunday School 10am	
November	9-11	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am /Havdalah Social 6pm) Sunday School 10am	October 27
	25	Sunday School 10am	
December	7-8	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am Hanukah Party/Luncheon (in lieu of Sunday School)	November 24
	23	Sunday School 10am	
January	11-13	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am	December 29
	27	Sunday School 10am	
February	8-10	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am	January 26
	24	Sunday School 10am	
March	8-10	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am	February 23
	22	Purim Megilah Reading/Friday night 7:30pm (in lieu of Sunday School)	
April	12-14	Services/ Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am	March 30
	20	Passover Community Seder (Sat.) 6pm	
	28	Sunday School 10am	
May	10-11	Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am No SundaySchool (Mother's Day!!)	April 27
	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.