

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
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Hickory, North Carolina 28603
www.hickoryjewishcenter.com

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi



Tikkun Olam

On Rosh Hashanah, which begins this year on Wednesday evening, September 20, the tradition at Temple Beth Shalom has been to read the Creation Story contained in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 from the Torah. This is partly because we love the beautiful imagery and powerful metaphors contained in the account, but also because our Sages consider Rosh Hashanah to be the birthday of the world. It is said that on this day humankind was created and placed in the Garden of Eden. Chapter 2 of Genesis

makes two very interesting assertions regarding the creation of humans. In verse 5, the Torah tell us “Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for The LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth; and **there was no person to cultivate the ground.**” After the creation of human beings, the Torah states, “Then the LORD God took the man/woman and put them into the Garden of Eden **to cultivate it and keep it**” (v. 15). From these statements, the view began to develop within Judaism that men and women were created to be *partners with God in completing the creation* which God willed into existence. That understanding was ultimately expressed in the principle of *tikkun olam*, variously translated as “repairing the world” or “healing the world.” It is noteworthy that during the Persian, Greek, and Roman periods of religious history, when the emphasis of most major religions was transitioning from an earthly to a heavenly orientation, the rabbis and sages of Judaism kept emphasis firmly on the here and now—on our responsibility to the earth and to society.

The phrase “mipnei tikkun ha-olam” came into use in the Mishnaic Period, the first two centuries of the Common Era. Sometimes translated, “for the better ordering of society,” the idea is variously credited to Hillel or to his grandson, Rabban Gamaliel the Elder (Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, p. 121). The phrase appears several times in the Talmud, beginning in Gittin 32a. Its use in Tractate Gittin is applied to a number of social obligations, including rules for divorce, collections for widows, and redemption of captives. The sages were concerned that performing such mitzvot just because they were a Torah requirement might cause them to be misapplied or fall into disuse. Thus, the impetus of performing them *for the betterment of the community* was invoked.

The concept of tikkun olam was expanded greatly by Rabbi Isaac Luria, the renowned 16th century Kabbalist and teacher. The complexity of Rabbi Luria’s teaching is beyond the scope of our discussion, but, in brief, it involved light from the Creator being lost in the creation and intermixed with the material world. Performance of the mitzvot was seen as one means *to restore balance to the creation*. The expansion that Rabbi Luria made on the concept of tikkun olam was that he applied the principal as a motivation both for acts of social welfare and for acts of a more traditionally religious nature, such as prayer, meditation, and the saying of blessings (Noparstak, J., “Tikkun Olam,” <http://learningtogive.org/>).

Shlomo Bardin, the founder of the Brandeis Camp Institute in California, brought the concept of tikkun olam into our modern consciousness, when in the 1950’s he connected our obligation as partners in the creation with a line in the Aleinu prayer, which observant Jews pray thrice daily. Bardin asserted that the statement in the Aleinu, “I’tikkun **olam** b’malchut shaddai”—then *the world will be perfected* under the rule of the Almighty,” encapsulated the obligation of all Jews to work toward the perfection of the society. Over the course of the ‘50’s, ‘60’s, and ‘70’s this

understanding became ever more popular, becoming the motivation for unprecedented social action, tzedakah (charitable activities), and gemilut chasadim (acts of compassion) in the Jewish community (Rabbi Daniel Danson, <http://www.jewishvaluesonline.org/>).

The Prophet Isaiah, in line with most of the Prophets of the Hebrew Bible, gives us some breathtakingly positive glimpses of humankind's future. A particularly powerful and oft-quoted prediction is in Isaiah 2:4: "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; *nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*" As I think of the incredible strides society, in general, has made in the areas of science, technology, medicine, and human rights in just the past 100 years, I am optimistic enough to hope that the vision of the Hebrew Prophets *is*, in fact, possible. I tell my students frequently that the American constitutional experiment has, in particular, yielded amazingly beneficial results. Never before in history have so many individuals been afforded such equal rights under the law or such broad access to food, shelter, medical care, and wealth. I believe that our country's movement in such a positive direction is principally *because* it was founded and has continued to operate on the deeply embedded Judeo-Christian values of honesty, hard work, and acts of generosity and kindness. These are at the heart of the concept of tikkun olam.

An individual's behavior has repercussions in the community and in the world in proportions beyond our immediate perception—much like ripples in a pond. The tiniest of pebbles, when thrown into a pond, produces waves that proceed outward in concentric circles, ultimately encompassing the entire pond. So it is with good deeds. One person performs an act of kindness. Another is helped or touched, then passes along the kindness. Then another, and so on until a cycle of good can encompass an entire community, a country, and even the whole world. This cyclical expansion of positive effects will also flow from one generation to the next, then to the next, and so on. This is the process of tikkun olam.

As we enter the new Hebrew Year, 5778, will you join me in committing to increasing our acts of kindness, compassion, and social justice? May our motivation not *just be* that the Torah implores us to do so, but because of the beneficial effect it has on ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world—tikkun olam. I, for one, have faith enough to believe that when a critical mass of people commits to pursue the good, the day *will come* when the utopian vision of the Hebrew Prophets can be realized. *Ken y'hi ratzon*—May this be God's will!!

The President's Message

Marsue Davidson, TBS President

Temple Beth Shalom has had a very busy summer and we are almost ready to open our newly updated doors to our very special congregation. We hope that your summer was filled with lots of fun and exciting moments and that you and your families have created wonderful memories.

As promised at the annual meeting, we have been working very hard to update the Temple. We have put in new flooring, lighting and bathroom fixtures. A whisper wall was installed and has dramatically improved the acoustics in the sanctuary, and a new audiovisual sound system now reaches the hearing impaired and the Sunday School room downstairs. The addition of stained-glass windows beautifully accentuates the room's spiritual purpose. We MUST all personally thank Barbara and Larry Laufer for their time and personal commitment to this renovation project. Barbara was the project manager and spent many hours of her summer coordinating all the contractors and appointments to ensure all work would be completed by the High Holidays. Without the Laufer family, and the generosity of our members and the recent donation from the Cohen family, we would have never been able to accomplish this renovation and we greatly appreciate all they have done. We also need to give thanks to the sisterhood for all their involvement. We have been very blessed with many people stepping up in our community and coming together to improve our spiritual home.

Included on the last page of this bulletin and on the Temple website is the Services and Sunday School schedule. Our new doors will open for Rosh Hashanah on September 20th at 7:30pm. We are so excited to share our updated synagogue with everyone and start our New Year together in such a beautiful and spiritual place. It is the time to pray and ask the Almighty to grant us a year of peace, prosperity and blessings. With all that is happening in the world these days, we need to hear the sound of the shofar and many poetic prayers that express our prayerful wishes for the new year.

We apologize for the delay in the Service schedule but we are sure you will be pleased with the outcome. We are so proud to share with you this new beginning.

Announcements

The Catawba Valley Interfaith Council recently elected our Student Rabbi, Dennis Jones as their new president. CVIC is a not-for-profit corporation designed to honor the variety of religious, spiritual and secular traditions of the local community. Congratulations Dennis and thank you for your continued involvement with our larger religious and spiritual community.

TBS Sunday School Program

Marsue Davidson, Director Sunday School



Parents and students met at TBS on Sunday, August 27, to plan this year's Sunday School activities and curriculum. There will be two classes, the Bet Class (Intermediate Learners) and a Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class (Advanced Learners). We will not have an Aleph Class (Beginner Learners) this year due to a lack of student enrollment, but we will still have lots of fun learning activities and will be hosting the annual TBS Chanukah Party. If any parent missed the planning meeting and would like to enroll their child, please contact Kathy Jones by

telephone ([828-632-9261](tel:828-632-9261)) or by email krsjones2002@yahoo.com. The only requirements for participation are Temple membership and that the parent be willing to help with some of the Sunday School activities. Sunday School meets twice monthly from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The schedule can be found on the TBS website at: www.hickoryjewishcenter.com. The next meeting will be Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 AM.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

We had a great time at our June and July meetings! We invited the men to both and held them at the DuBow's and Laufer's houses,—such fun! Thank you to the DuBows and Laufers for hosting the wild women of TBS, and to everyone who brought food. We talked about the renovations going on at the temple and possible social activities that we can do this year. We decided that for our next meeting we will meet at the temple on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00pm (note new time) to move chairs and clean, then we'll go out for dinner. On Sunday, September 17th, we'll meet at the temple again at 10:00am to move the chairs back and clean again to get the temple ready for the High Holiday services. Everyone in the congregation is invited to both of these events--women and men, sisterhood members or not. We can use the help so please join us. We hope to see everyone at the Rosh Hashanah services on Wednesday, September 20th at 7:30pm and Thursday, September 21st at 10:00 am. It'll be exciting to see all the changes and improvements at the temple.





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, September 27th 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

Barbara Laufer, Vice-President

Susan Reider, Treasurer

Tiffany Hull, Secretary

Members at Large:

Liz Correll

Marion DuBow

Debra Engelmann

Lin Gentry

Sandy Guttler

Pam Jones

Linda Greenfield

Mary Lee Tosky

Karen Ferguson



The TBS Board extends a warm welcome to our newest temple members, Michael Fergang, Jennie Burrowes, Randy (Steven) Cockerell, Ralph Buntyn, Jon Cantley, and Richard Rose



In honor of Marvin Yelton by his wife Deane Griffin
 In honor of Emmanuel Gitlin by Ted and Mary Thuesen

The Temple Beth Shalom Board would like to extend a special “thank you” to Gregory Gevik for his generous donation of a 10 volume set of "The Babylonian Talmud," published by The Talmud Society of Boston in 1918, in memory of his good friend, Peter Hochberg. The collection, which is in very good condition for its age, is nearly impossible to find for purchase and is, thus, very valuable. This is such a wonderful addition to our Temple Beth Shalom library.

צדקה
 tzedakah



One of the very special things about our Shabbat evenings together is the Oneg that follows the Service. We are looking for volunteers to participate in the host duties that make Shabbat so special.

Please contact any Board member to find out how you can perform this mitzvah of creating Sweet Oneg Shabbat experiences at TBS.

Temple Beth Shalom made a donation of
 \$100.00 to the Marine Corps Charity

Looking for a way to give tzedakah over the High Holidays?

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 already 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' 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 Wipe

A note about Hurricane Harvey relief from the Jewish Federation

JFNA has opened an [emergency relief fund](#) to support communities and individuals in Houston, San Antonio, Galveston, Corpus Christi and other areas that have been hammered by Hurricane Harvey. Lee Wunsch, CEO of the Houston Federation, reports that the amount of rain and resulting flooding has surpassed that of the massive storm two years ago.

We know that several Jewish communal institutions that flooded two years ago have flooded again. We will continue to update you as the needs in the affected communities become clearer.

Local and Regional Events

Exhibition on “Jewish Life in Germany Today”

Plemmons Student Union -ASU- 263 Locust St, Boone, NC -Sept. 12-Oct 3, Mon-Fri 7am-11pm; Sat. 9am-11pm; Sun 12pm-11pm.

To mark the opening of the exhibit, Professor Konrad H. Jarausch (UNC at Chapel Hill) will give a keynote lecture on **Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00 pm**. His talk is entitled “Broken Lives: How Ordinary German Jews and Gentiles Experienced the Twentieth Century.” Like all events associated with the exhibit, it is open to the public and free of charge.

On **Monday, September 25, at 4:30 pm**, the program culminates with addresses by Klaus Becker, the Federal Republic of Germany's Honorary Consul to North Carolina, and ASU Provost Dr. Darrell Kruger. The Center is also planning a panel discussion with a former member of the Jewish community in Germany, who recently left the country after more than 20 years, and CJHPS director Professor Thomas Pegelow Kaplan. His lecture will start at 7:00 pm at the Blueridge Ball Room, 2nd floor of Plemmons Student Union.

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

For more information, contact the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies at holocaust@appstate.edu or call [828.262.2311](tel:828.262.2311).

Hard Lox Festival in Asheville on October 15th

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-piedmont>

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle September Events

Birthdays

Eliana Richards 9/3
Ken Bonfield 9/4
Karina Vishnya 9/5
Nadine Igdal 9/17
Joseph Garrick 9/17
Keegan Blankenship 9/19
Aurora Cohn 9/20
Tyler Faruque 9/22
Chris Weatherly 9/25
Freddie Sokol 9/29

Anniversaries

Michael and Katie Schonberg 9/4

Yahrzeit

Marvin Zerden 9/3

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.tastefulbeans.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

Obituary



Dr. Emmanuel M. Gitlin, 94, of Hickory, passed away Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at Catawba Regional Hospice. Born Nov. 9, 1922, in Poland, he was the son of the late Moses H. Gitlin and Clara S. Pikman Gitlin. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wives, Ethel Barlow and Helen Edmiston Gitlin; three siblings, Fania Seuss, Leon Gillin and Joseph Gitlin. Dr. Gitlin moved to Great Britain in 1934, where he completed his secondary education. He came to the United States when he was 16 and attended Columbia Bible College. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Texas Christian University and his Graduate Degrees from Duke University. He was Professor Emeritus of Lenoir Rhyne University where he was a professor of religion from 1968 to 1990. Before coming to Lenoir Rhyne, he taught at various universities not only in the United States but also internationally. Following retirement he did missionary work in Croatia and Poland, where his father founded the Radisti Seminary. Dr. Gitlin also served as a visiting pastor in the Hickory area and taught Sunday school and Hebrew in various churches. Dr. Gitlin had a passion for the Bible and continued his religious studies as he read and studied every day. He loved books (especially Tolstoy) and his love for languages was evident in his ability to speak a minimum of eight. Dr. Gitlin was a brilliant man who was totally devoted to the service of God. His life will remain an example for his family, students, friends and anyone who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Lidiya Dubchak of the home; daughter, Sharon Jane Gitlin of Raleigh; son, David Ernest Gitlin and wife, Sonja of Tallahassee, Fla.; stepsons, Elijah Dubchak and wife, Alla of Charlotte, Vladimir Dubchak and wife, Alena of Hickory; sister, Vera Gitlin Stoehr of Chicago, Ill.; grandchildren, Zachary, Rachel and Anthony; three great-grandchildren and five step-grandchildren.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2017-2018

Date		Event/Time	Bulletin Deadline
September	17	Sunday School 10:00 AM	September 6
	20	Rosh Hashana 7:30 PM (Wednesday)	
	21	Rosh Hashana 10:00 AM (Thursday)	
	29	Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:30 PM (Friday)	
	30	Yom Kippur 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM Neilah/Breakfast (Saturday)	
October 1		Sunday School/Build & Decorate Sukkah 10:00 AM	October 1
	4	Erev Sukkot Service (Wednesday) 7:30 PM	
	13-14	Services/(Celebrate Simchat Torah) Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM	
	22	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
November	5	Sunday School 10:00 AM	November 4
	17-19	Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM	
December	3	Sunday School 10:00 AM	December 2
	15-16	Services Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM Hanukah Party Dec. 16 (Saturday) 6:00 PM	
	21	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	January	5-7	
21	Sunday School		
February	2-4	Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	January 20
	18	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
March	2-4	Services Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM Purim (Megillah Reading/Festivities as part of Friday night service Regular Sunday School on March 4	February 17
	18	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	31	Passover Community Seder (Saturday) 6:00 PM	
April	6-8	Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	March 24
	22	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
May	4-6	Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM	April 21
	19	Erev Shavuot Service 7:30 PM (Saturday)	
	20	Sunday School 10:00 AM	
June	1-3	Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School End of Year Party 10:00 AM	May 19

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.