

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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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

The Month of Elul—An Auspicious Time in Jewish History and Tradition

Temple Beth Shalom's August Shabbat service was originally scheduled for August 25th. I had to change it back to the 18th when I learned that my father's 85th birthday party was being held on the 25th in *Orlando, Florida!!* It was only later that I was pleasantly surprised to discover that I had inadvertently rescheduled our service for Rosh Chodesh Elul, the New Moon of the month of Elul, a very important time in Jewish history and tradition! Elul, which is the sixth month of the Festival Calendar and the twelfth month of the Civil Calendar—

leading up to Rosh Hashanah, the “head of the year,” has, since Talmudic times, become a season of particular introspection, repentance, and restitution.

Historical Connection

According to the Sages of Israel, it was on Rosh Chodesh Elul, the first day of the month of Elul, that Moses ascended Mount Sinai following the people’s sin of the “golden calf” to make intercession before Adonai. You will recall that Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days. That would have covered the thirty days of the month of Elul and extended ten days into the month of Tishri, bringing Moses’ sojourn on the mountain to an end on the very day of Yom Kippur. It was on that particular visit to Mount Sinai that **Moses received the second set of stone tablets containing the Law of God**, since the first set had been destroyed at the incident of the golden calf (Exodus 33-34).

It was also on this visit to Sinai that Moses had the opportunity to glimpse just a tiny portion of God’s glory. This amazing self-revelation by the Creator has become known as the “Thirteen Attributes” of God, and is chanted in Hebrew at many of our most moving prayer and worship services, particularly during the High Holidays: “Adonai, Adonai (God’s Name repeated twice), compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin” (Ex. 34:6-7).

Hidden Meaning

Many Jewish sources have pointed out that the name of Elul, spelled aleph-lamed-vav-lamed, could serve as an acronym for the verse, "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li—I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Songs 6:3). The Sages have long interpreted this verse as an allegory for the relationship between God the beloved, and the people of Israel. Just as Moses drew close to the Almighty on Mount Sinai at this season of the year following the Israelites’ miraculous redemption from Egypt, so should we draw close to our beloved Creator in the period preceding our holiest of days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (See Tracey R. Rich, “The Month of Elul and Selichot,” <http://www.jewfaq.org/elul.htm>).

The Chassidic master, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, used to liken the month of Elul to a time when “a great king is in the field,” as opposed to a time when the king is confined to the palace. When in the field the king is among the people, and easily accessible to anyone desiring a royal audience (“Elul Observances in a Nutshell,” <http://www.chabad.org/holidays/>).

Drawing Near to God

Perhaps my favorite passage in the entire Torah is the verse following the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, “V’ahavta et Adonai Elohecha b’chal levavcha uv’chal naphshecha uv’chal

me'odecha." It translates, "And you shall love the LORD (Adonai's Name) your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." My congregation at Temple Beth Shalom probably gets tired of hearing me ask the rhetorical question, "Now, loving someone or something with all your heart, soul, and might..., what exactly would that look like?" Would you have a hard time getting that one out of your thoughts? Would that one's name be the first thing that entered your mind upon arousing from sleep in the morning? Would your thoughts be on that one as you drifted off to sleep each night? Would you be overwhelmed with joy when in that one's presence, and perhaps saddened to the point of sickness upon being separated from that one? I know that despite my best intentions and re-commitments each year, I fall far short of honoring and remaining conscious of the Source of All Life to the level directed by the Torah. And, I am sure that many of my co-religionists must feel the same. The month of Elul is a wonderful opportunity to re-examine our relationship with the Creator, and to map out strategies for greater devotion, more diligent study of Torah, more prayer and giving thanks, and perhaps greater support for our house of study and worship.

Relations with Others

Elul is also an opportune time to examine our relationships with our fellow men and women. You will recall that in one of the most powerful of our High Holiday prayers, we pray actually quoting from the *Mishna*, "For transgressions against God, the Day of Atonement atones; but for transgressions of one human being against another, the Day of Atonement does not atone until they have made peace with one another" (*Gates of Repentance*, URJ High Holiday Prayer Book; *Mishna Yoma* 8:9). In Jewish tradition, we have an entire month, Elul, to consider our behavior toward others and make amends, and possibly even restitution where needed. This month is also an ideal time to consider becoming more *proactive* in our relationships with others, perhaps by increasing our acts of social justice, tzedakah (charitable giving), and gemilut chasadim (acts of compassion), for the sake of tikkun olam (repairing the world).

Rich Traditions

Over the last two millennia, the Sages of Judaism have developed the richest of traditions to serve as guideposts for the implementation of our faith principles. Beginning on the second day of the month of Elul and continuing until two days before Rosh Hashanah, it is the Ashkenazi custom to *blow the shofar daily* after morning prayers, as a call to reflection, introspection, and repentance. The shofar is not sounded, of course, on Shabbat; nor is it blown the day before Rosh Hashana, in order to separate rabbinic custom from Biblical command. Also, during the month of Elul, Psalm 27 is added to the morning and the evening prayer services. In that Psalm, David exclaims, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the refuge of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ... One thing I have asked from the LORD, that shall I

seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life.” These words are a clear reminder that the Protector of Israel is continuously in our midst, and we are continuously in God’s presence. Finally, at sunset on the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah, S’lichot prayers, special petitions for the mercy and forgiveness of the Almighty are added before the shachrit/morning prayer service (Rabbi Shraga Simmons, “ABC’s of Elul,” <http://www.aish.com/>).

It’s Up To You

As I encourage all members and friends of Temple Beth Shalom to study our precious Jewish heritage and implement more and more of its lofty principles, I like to honor the teaching of my beloved mentor, Rabbi Theodore Gordon, who used to say, “As a liberal rabbi, I am certainly not going to tell people what they need to do to be Jewish. BUT, DO SOMETHING!” There are, according to the sages, 613 commandments/mitzvot in the Torah. Explore it! Find which ones resonate and are meaningful to you and in your life. And, I remind you regarding all the commandments, as we pray in the Shabbat morning service, “...sh’adam okhel peiroteinu b’olam hazeh v’hakeren kayemet lo l’olam haba—the one [who keeps them] eats their fruit in this world, *and reward accrues to that one in the world to come.*” As we say in Hebrew, “Ken yehi ratzon—May this be God’s will!!

The President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, President

Rosh Hashanah offers each of us a chance to redefine our intentions, our priorities, and our sense of spiritual connectedness, or the teshuvah, to which we are called. Yom Kippur, our most special day of the year, provides us with the spiritual unity that comes with forgiveness, or the uplifting sense where “atonement” becomes “at-one-ment.” We value the volunteers that are the heart of our temple community as we prepare for another year of fellowship. We need volunteers to host services for the remainder of the Jewish calendar year, so please let Mary Lee Tosky know if you will be able to serve along with a board member. The duties of “hosting” are posted below and on the bulletin board and have become vastly simplified with the hiring of April and Glen Eckard to prepare food and clean up after services. Karen Ferguson will host Rosh Hashana services on September 9th and 10th. Marion and Ron DuBow will host the Break Fast on September 19th, and we would appreciate it if you would bring desserts.

We will have Hickory police provide security for the High Holy Days, and the Police Benevolent Fund is the charity the temple will support this month with a donation. In keeping with our

dedication to tikkum olam, the schedule for donations is: Soup Kitchen (October); Institute of Southern Jewish Life (November); Navy Seal Program (December); Adopt a School (January through March); Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (April); American Cancer Society (May); and Guardian Ad Litem (June). These donations are just one of the many exciting things planned for the upcoming year.

At this special time I wish you Shanah Nechamah, a year of comfort; Shanah Hazakah, a year of strength; Shanah Skelahavah, a year of commitment and love; and Shanah Tovah, a year of goodness and peace.

Hosts for the Year

Listed below are board members who have volunteered to host at temple services, 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.

September 9-10 -Rosh Hashana	Karen Ferguson	hosts needed
September 19- Break the Fast	Marion DuBow	hosts needed
October 12-13	Susan Goldstein	hosts needed
November 9-10	Mary Lee Tosky/Susan Rieder	hosts needed
December 7-8	_____	hosts needed
January 11-12	Jaime and Kathy Jones	hosts needed
February 8-9	Linda and Henry Greenfield	hosts needed
March 8-9	_____	hosts needed
April 12-13	Lin Gentry/Tiffany Hull	hosts needed
April 20 - Seder	Sisterhood	hosts needed
May 10-11	_____	hosts needed
May 31/June 1	_____	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 performs 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 kiddish 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

We were very productive at our last meeting and we wanted to give all of you the dates and events we talked about. Everyone is invited to everything, so join us as you are able.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be Thursday, Oct 11th, 6:30pm at Thai Lotus on Highway 127 behind McDonald's.

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.



Join us for our “**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

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

*Saturday December 22 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 Dec 2nd!



Movie Night is back by popular demand. The first one will be Saturday, Jan 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.

Hope to see you at High Holiday services! And many other events coming up!



TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator

Sunday School had its annual kickoff meeting on Sunday, August 26th. We have only 3 students enrolling this year and all will be in the B'nai Mitzvah class with Rabbi Dennis. Any parents and grandparents who would like their school aged children to be involved may still enroll them by contacting Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal, at 828-632-9261, or 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, September 26th 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 Police Benevolent Fund.



To the Hickory Police officers who provide security for us during our worship of the High Holidays.



Looking for a 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 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

Prayers for continued healing for Kathy Jones from Madeleine Guy

*Healing thoughts and lots of love to Roberta Atkins from Sisterhood
We miss you and your poetry!*

Prayers for continued healing to Amy Hedricks from Barbara Laufer

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 September Events

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Michael & Katie Schonberg 9/4

Yahrzeits

Marvin Zerden 9/3

Local and Regional Events



Thursday, **September 13th**, internationally-noted Holocaust scholar and diplomatic historian, **Dr. Gerhard L. Weinberg**, the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor Emeritus of History at UNC-Chapel Hill, will give an evening lecture entitled “**Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies and the 'Jewish Question'**” It will begin at 7:00pm on ASU campus (room to be determined).

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.

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

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Comments	Bulletin Deadline
September	9 Erev Rosh Hashana 7:30pm (Sun.) (No Sunday School—students should attend Erev Rosh Hashanah service!)	August 25
	10 Rosh Hashana 10am (Mon.)	
	18 Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:30pm (Tues.)	
	19 Yom Kippur 10am/ Neilah/Break the Fast 5pm (Wed.)	
	23 Build & Decorate Sukkah/Blessings/Party 10am (Sun.) (Congregation invited/In lieu of Sunday School)	
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 Sunday School (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.