

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

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

On Monday, April 22, we will usher in the celebration of Passover at sundown. Each one of us is commanded in the Haggadah to retell the story as if we were personally in Egypt. Memory and recounting our past yearly are what has kept Judaism alive for thousands of years. When we observe the Passover rituals and partake in eating bits of the Passover symbols, we simulate what it was like living as slaves in Egypt and experiencing the joy of liberation. While recounting and naming the plagues, we diminish our cups of joy by removing one drop from our wine cups, our symbol of joy, for each plague. Why do we do this?

We read in the Haggadah, according to the midrash, the rabbinic interpretation of the Torah: At the very hour that the Egyptians were drowning, the angels want to sing before God. God said to them: "My children are drowning in the sea, yet you would sing in My presence!" We know that Pharaoh's army who pursued the Israelites in the Sea of Reeds, drown when the waters closed around them. When Moses and the Israelites made it safely to dry land, they sang a song which is written in the Torah thanking God for protecting and saving them.

According to the midrash, the angels tried to do the same. Their hearts too were filled with thanksgiving and they too yearned to express this joy in song to praise God.

God reminds the angels that the Egyptians were also God's children. God asked the angels to feel empathy for their enemies which flies in the face of comprehension. If the angels had difficulty doing this, imagine how much harder it is for us as human beings. Later in the midrash, Rabbi Elazar conjectures that while God does not rejoice in the deaths of the wicked, that God did cause us to rejoice. God recognizes that we in fact are not divine and when we are hurt, there is a natural impulse to want retribution. This teaches us to hold ourselves to a higher standard. We Jews are here to be a light unto the nations.

Being human, created in the Divine Image is to struggle and to recognize the humanity in all of God's creatures. As difficult as this is, we must strive to do so and to be better human beings by trying. If God feels the pain seeing the death of our enemies, we too must push ourselves to feel the pain of others, even when in fact they may be our enemies.

On Passover we celebrate being victorious over people who wished to destroy us. We celebrate our communal freedom won over and over again, against all odds throughout our marred history. This year we will also pray for those still held in captivity, because as I write this, in my heart I know that the hostage deal making will be pushed further and further down the road. In my heart I know that many people will lose their lives on both sides as this war rages on. Some will be our enemies. Some will be innocent bystanders caught by circumstances beyond their control. As God's children, we will struggle and wrestle as we should.

In a synagogue in Sefat in Israel, there is a framed piece of matzah hanging on the wall. This matzah reminds us that we are eternally in Egypt and as Jews we will suffer and struggle in every generation. This year Passover reminds us that until all of the hostages come home, we are not truly free this year and the salt water that we dip our greenery and our hard-boiled eggs into represent the tears shed by all of us for the lives lost on October 7th, and all of the senseless deaths that have followed that horrific day in Jewish history. We look forward to having a real celebration when all of the hostages come home to Israel.

Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

The President's Message

Susan G Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

And the war between Israel and Hamas rages on -- almost seven months later -- but let's start with happenings on the homefront this month!

Nissan is fast approaching and with it -- **PESACH!** We're so excited that, after five years, we'll once again have a **community seder at TBS on Tuesday evening, April 23, at 6:00**. Alexis has confirmed that we have our minimum as of today, and we're hoping to get that number up to our maximum in the coming week. We're looking forward to a wonderful evening when we can hear our youngest Sunday School students ask/chant the Four Questions. What could be better than that?! And be ready to join in when called upon by our Service

Leader, Dr. Aaron Tosky. Don't forget that TBS is a participatory community! And before the Seder, don't forget that we need **volunteers on Sunday morning, April 21**, to help give our Sunday School students a Pesach tour. If you're able to participate, please let Sunday School Principal, Sheri Stock, know at sherilisa@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Rabbi Liss for teaching us adults on Shabbat afternoons/evenings. Sometimes we forget that it's not just our kids who need continuing Jewish education. We need it, too, and these monthly **adult Jewish learning** sessions that include *seudah shlishit* (the third meal) and Havdalah have filled a void that we may not have known was there. But now, so many of us have come to appreciate this gift of learning. If you haven't attended one of these sessions yet, please mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 27, at 6:00 pm**. You'll be glad you did!

We cannot forget that there still are 134 innocent hostages being held by Hamas, and that Jews around the world continue to grieve for the atrocities that were inflicted on October 7. And we continue to fight back against the frightening degree of Antisemitism that has ensued. Until all hostages are free and the savage war we did not invite is over, I'll continue to repeat information as to sites we can visit to help our Israeli brothers and sisters.

- Operation Swords of Iron at UJA Federation of New York - www.ujafedny.org
- Emergency Campaign of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte - www.jewishcharlotte.org
- American Joint Distribution Committee - www.jdc.org
- ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America - arza.org
- MERCAZ Olami, the political arm of the Conservative/Masorti movement based in Jerusalem - <https://mercazolami.org>
- The Jewish National Fund - www.jnf.org

You can also receive frequent updates on the situation in Israel from those sites. ADL and AIPAC also provide frequent updates and offer webinars and invitations to let our elected representatives know that we stand with Israel and that we urge them to do so as well.

And don't forget our Jewish college students, many of whom are having a rough go of it on their campuses. Our campus Hillels need our support now as well. Go to <https://www.hillel.org> to find out you can help.

In these troubled times, it behooves us to stay informed. The Wall Street Journal (www.WSJ.com) and the New York Times (www.nytimes.com) are good sources. In addition, check out some sources that come directly from Israel. Israel from the Inside with Daniel Gordis (danielgordis.substack.com) is one of my favorites. The Times of Israel (<https://www.timesofisrael.com>) is another -- and I'm sure Rabbi Liss will be glad to recommend her favorites.

I look forward to seeing you soon -- in person or via Zoom.

L'Shalom,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President



Hello everyone!

With Purim now over, it is time to turn our attention towards Pesach, and I'm happy to say that we will be having a community seder at the synagogue for the first time in 5 years! Our seder will be on April 23rd at 6:00, and the service will be led by our Ritual Committee chair Aaron Tosky. If you have not RSVP'd yet, please contact Maritza Janer ASAP to do so.

There will be a sisterhood business meeting on April 14th at 1 pm to finalize the planning details. I cannot say thank you enough to all those who have been volunteering their time to make this happen.

We also continue to have our monthly potlucks on the first Friday of every month at 6 pm. Our next one will be April 5th.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at alexismazamoody@gmail.com

Hope to see you all at the Seder!

A TBS Library update from:
Gabe Almaza-Moody

Hello, TBS family! The shul library is still open to the congregation, and all members are eligible for library cards. As of right now we have cataloged an additional 66 books, bringing our total to 391 items. We have also added a collection of 16 children's DVDs available for checkout.

We had an especially exciting discovery a few weeks ago when we found an antique Tanakh on one of the bookshelves. The inside front page shows a print date of 1893 in Vienna. This Tanakh is not available for checkout due to its fragile condition, but we are happy to show it to anyone interested. Just stop by during library hours (Sundays 9-10 and 11:30-1) or contact Gabe or Alexis to make an appointment. If you have any information on this Tanakh such as who it originally belonged to or how it came to our library, we would love to hear it!

TBS Sunday School Program
Sheri Stock, Sunday School Principal

Why is this Passover different from all other Passovers? Because it is going to be TBS Sunday School's first ever Parking Lot Passover Extravaganza!!!



Our Purim carnival was a huge success! We read the Megillah and learned about Queen Esther, Mordechai, and the wicked Haman (Boo!). We also learned the importance of inclusion as one of our Sunday School friends struggles with loud noises. I was incredibly proud to see all the kids support their friend by booing Haman, but not too loudly!

Some of our older students saw *The Diary of Anne Frank* and had a talkback with the cast members. The play was very well done and educational. We shared experiences over fresh baked challah. I am very grateful to The Old Colony Players for presenting Anne Frank's story in such a powerful and educational way.

Looking forward to April 21st which will be a very special day because we will have our Parking Lot Passover! We still need several volunteers to help for about 2.5 hours that Sunday. Please call or text me at 828-999-0942 if you can help that day.

Sunday school sessions this month will be on April 7th, 21st, and 28th. There will not be Sunday School on April 14th as our entire family will be in Wisconsin visiting our son, his soon to be wife, and our granddaughter.

Thanks for supporting our Sunday School
Sheri



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund (HSSF) was established by a long-time Temple member and past President, Burt Sederholm (may his memory be a blessing), to honor his late wife Harriet, who died shortly after she retired from 25 years with the Catawba County Department of Social Services. The scholarship committee is a sub-committee of the Temple Beth Shalom Board. The committee manages funds invested to award one-time scholarships with the earnings from the invested funds. These awards honor the memory of Harriet Sederholm and her efforts to improve the lives of many impoverished adults and children in Catawba County.

The HSSF scholarship is available to students. Candidates will submit an essay to any one of the committee members. The essay will explain who the candidate is, what they are doing currently, their plans for the future, how the scholarship funds will be used, and, if applicable, what the connection may be to Jewish life.

The committee will make decisions based on the following preferences but not absolutes:

◆
Is the applicant a temple member or related to a temple member?

- ✦ Is the applicant Jewish?
- ✦ Will the funds be used for educational needs?
- ✦ Will the funds make a difference regarding the applicant’s ability to benefit from the activity?
- ✦ Is the activity something deemed to be of value by the committee?

Interested students should submit their essays 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 meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30 via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to join a scheduled monthly meeting. Board members are:

Officers:

- Susan Goldstein, President
- Lin Gentry, Vice President
- Mary Lee Tosky, Secretary
- Susan Rieder, Treasurer

Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Karen Ferguson
- Sheri Stock
- Jodi Lavin-Tompkins
- James Norwood



The TBS board thanks you for your donations

General Donations:

Sunday School

Tim Stinson's wife Cynthia "Cindy" Anne Stinson passed away March 11, after a courageous battle with Alzheimers. Temple Beth Shalom extends our sympathy to Tim and his family. May her memory be a blessing.



Please consider pairing with a board member(s) to host a Shabbat or Holiday at Temple Beth Shalom. When members contribute to the life of our synagogue in this way, we all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being. A sign up sheet is posted in the synagogue foyer, or you can sign up online. Here's the link: [TBS Hosting Sign-ups - Google Sheets](#)

1. View the [spreadsheet](#) to see what dates are free
2. Submit your choice using the [Google Form](#).
3. MaryLee will type in any form *submissions*, but **any board member can enter host names** on the spreadsheet for themselves or other members *by request*. Several of you have successfully done so!

TBS Community Mitzvah Projects



The Community Relations and Social Action Committee is still in need of comforters of all sizes, dish sets, glass sets, coffee mugs, pots and pans sets, cooking utensils, and coffee makers! If you have any of these items to donate, they can be brought to any TBS service and placed in the basket in the foyer, or if you have any questions, please contact Kathy Jones, Committee Chairperson, at krsjones2002@yahoo.com

TBS Member Business Directory

Let us know if you would like to list your business here in the Bulletin. It is a free benefit of TBS membership

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

Jack and Hannah Levy
Druzy Dreams Crystals
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/druzydreamscrystals>

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

The Natural Olive
216 Union Square
Hickory
828-256-1950
www.NaturalOliveHickory.com

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle April Events



Birthdays

- Aidan Weatherly 4/2
- Derek Cooperberg 4/3
- Ronald Cohn 4/6
- Amy Hedrick 4/7
- Ryan Laufer 4/10
- Dennis Jones 4/12
- Pam Jones 4/14
- Stephanie Zerden 4/17
- Jim Correll 4/18
- Ben Peltzer 4/22

Anniversaries

- Jon and Laura Levinson 4/15
- David and Pam Jones 4/25

Yahrzeits

- David Cohen 4/3
- Sue Brisbane 4/5
- Larry Freiman 4/12
- Ruth Leifer 4/19
- Fania Suess 4/25
- Rose Miller 4/26

Local and Regional Events



SHALOM HARMON INSTITUTE

Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 6-8 pm
"Healing the Wounds of Violence in Burundi"
with Janvier Manirakiza and Barry Thomas

April 24, 2024
 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Event

May 2, 2024
 Center Award Ceremony

May 2024
 Student Field Trip

June 11 - June 24, 2024
 Summer Symposium

April 3, 7, and 8
Looking Ahead: The future of Israel and the Jewish People

Follow this link for information and registration for upcoming online events at SHI: <https://www.hartman.org.il/programs/>

Temple Beth Shalom has an active membership in the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, where Rabbi Dennis served as president for 5 years and now serves as secretary. You can find out more about this organization and its activities at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>

Interfaith Council

June 14, 2024
CJHPS Newsletter

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay updated on the latest news and events.

2023-2024 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
April 7	Sunday School 10:00am	Mar 23
21	Sunday School 10:00am Passover program	
23	Passover Seder 6:00pm (reservations required)	
26	Friday night service 7:00pm	
27	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
28	Sunday School 10:00am	April 23
May 5	Sunday School 10:00am	
10	Friday night service 7:00pm	
11	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
12	Sunday School 10:00am	
19	Annual Membership Meeting, and Sunday School 10:00am	May 23
June 2	Sunday School 10:00am	
9	Sunday School 10:00am	
14	Friday night service 7:00pm	
15	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
16	Sunday School 10:00am	
23	Sunday School 10:00am	
July 12	Friday night service 7:00pm	
13	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	

Thank you Rabbi Liss for sharing these pictures from our Purim celebrations



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.

