

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message



Dennis Jones, Student Rabbi

### Let's Work Toward Tikkun Olam!!

Were our December 2018 services at Temple Beth Shalom not amazing?! Kathy, Heidi, and Jaimi always do such a wonderful job of making our Chanukah festivities special. On Sabbath morning it was an absolute joy to name and welcome our newest member, Ezra Hewitt Parkhurst, son of Matthew and Caitlin Parkhurst. Personally, the most touching thing to me at this Baby Naming was watching extended family from many different religious traditions worshipping side by side with the Jewish community as we prayed our ancient prayers. This

always stirs a passion in me for the fulfillment of one of Judaism's most core hopes—a time when all humankind will be united under Adonai's unchallenged rule. As I say often of the Western religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, there is so much more that unites us than divides us! My heart rejoices on Shabbat morning, when we pray: “Bless our country as a safeguard of peace, its advocate among the nations.... **Strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among all the inhabitants of our world.**” (*Mishkan T'Filah*, p. 259).

Chapter 2 of Genesis makes two very interesting assertions regarding the creation of humankind. 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 human to cultivate the ground.**” After the creation of human beings, the Torah states, “Then the LORD God took the humans 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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*, “**l’taken 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 world. 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 giving), 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 Isa. 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 anymore.**” As I think of the incredible strides mankind, 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*.

In the words of our *Aleinu* prayer, we pray: “**O may all, created in Your image become one in spirit and one in friendship**, forever united in Your service.” (*Mishkan T’Filah*, p. 589). As we enter the new civil year, 2019, 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 yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will!

## **The President's Message**

Barbara Laufer, President

Last month I began my message by sharing some accomplishments and contributions of board members Lin Gentry and Tiffany Hull. This month I'd like to share some things about Linda Greenfield and Karen Ferguson. Linda Greenfield and her husband Henry moved here from Florida and very quickly they became involved temple members. Linda stepped forward and volunteered to run for the board two years ago and once on the board she volunteered to serve as temple representative to the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council. As a former teacher she is an excellent editor of temple documents. She is a guardian ad litem and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Linda and Henry also found out that to host a temple Shabbat is painless but appreciated.

Karen Ferguson and husband Clyde also have hosted a temple Shabbat. Karen and her husband were childhood sweethearts and five years ago found each other again. Karen is a private learning consultant and a MAIT Certified Professional in Learning and Performance. In her spare time she is Bulletin editor and we have been blessed to have seen it grow with the inclusion of interesting stories and graphics. Karen's parents, Burt and Harriet, were long time members of our temple and when her mother died, her father established a scholarship fund for students. Karen was a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Shalom in keeping with her family's long term commitment.

In keeping with our commitment to give back to our larger community, for the next three months we will be making a contribution to Alexander, Burke and Catawba school systems. The board has also decided to purchase an AED for the benefit of our membership, Mishkan HaNefesh prayer books for the high holidays, and imprinted Jewish calendars for members. The Community Relations and Social Action committee has been activated with Kathy Jones as chairperson and committee members are myself, Rabbi Dennis, Jaimi Jones, Susan Goldstein, and Lin Gentry. This committee has the responsibility of studying community problems which may arise and make recommendations for appropriate action to the board.

Happy New Year to all and please let the board know how we can better serve you,

Barbara

## **Hosts for the Year**

Listed below are board members who have volunteered to host at temple services, but we also need additional member volunteers. Hosts' responsibilities are identified below and if you are willing to volunteer, please let Mary Lee Tosky know. Thank you.

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 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 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 had a small but passionate group at our December Torah study at the temple. It was a lively discussion about that week's parsha and we look forward to the next one. Remember, men, women, and high school students are invited....and there's usually something good to eat. Why not make this one of your New Year's resolutions for 2019—to incorporate some more Judaism into your life? We'll decide the date of our next Torah study at our next meeting, which will be Wednesday **January 16th** at 6:30pm at O'Charley's restaurant at 2360 Hwy 70 SE, close to CVCC.





## 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, January 23rd 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



We have purchased new prayer books for use during high holidays, two volume sets of Mishkan HaNefesh. Like our Shabbat prayer books, the hebrew, english, and transliteration are all on one page. Please let us know if you would want to purchase nameplates to remember special people or events for a donation of \$36 per set.



Elaine Zerden is recovering from hip surgery at home, 904 2nd St, NE, Kingston Residence #205, Hickory NC 28601

We are happy to welcome new members, Mathew Parkhurst and Joanne Nussbaum Marquadt to our TBS family.

**Donations**

A donation of \$100.00 was made to the Navy Seal Foundation for the month of December.



**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 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'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 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](http://www.marsue.davidson@epichealthservice.com)



## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle January Events

### Birthdays

David Jones 1/1  
Marsue Davidson 1/1  
Werner Locke Cohn 1/4  
Stephen Davidson 1/5  
Liz Correll 1/7  
Alice Guy 1/12  
Sarah Shugar 1/16  
Jaimi Jones 1/20  
Deane Griffin 1/21  
Rachel Igdal 1/25  
Madeleine Guy 1/25

### Anniversaries

Mark and Laura Faruque 1/6  
Pete and Ginny Sobotkin 1/31

### Yahrzeits

Mazal Dayan 1/1  
Moses Gitlin 1/10  
Clara Setser 1/14  
Gwen Datnoff 1/17  
Harold Setser 1/20  
Charles Laufer 1/23  
Joe Guttler 1/27  
Ida Lippe 1/29

## Local and Regional Events

### Member Business Directory

Karen Ferguson, MAIT  
 Certified Professional in Learning  
 and Performance  
 KB Learning Designs  
[kblearningdesigns.com](http://kblearningdesigns.com)  
[karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.tastefullbeans.com)

Dr David Peltzer  
 Newton Family Physicians  
 767 West First Street  
 Newton, NC 28658  
 828 465-3928  
[www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)



### Prominent Military Historian and *German-Jewish Refugee* Gerhard Weinberg to Speak at ASU (Rescheduled Event from September)

On **Wednesday, February 27**, the Appalachian State University and broader communities are invited to a public lecture by **Dr. Gerhard L. Weinberg**, the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Emeritus Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His lecture is entitled “Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies and the ‘Jewish Question’” and will start at **7:00 pm in Belk Library and Information Commons, Rm 114**. The event is free of charge and no tickets are required (The lecture was originally scheduled for September 2018, but had to be canceled due to the incoming hurricane).

### TBS Message Board

*Get well wishes to Elaine Zerden from your TBS family!*

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.

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Comments	Bulletin Deadline
January	11-13 <b>Services</b> Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/Sunday School 10am	December 29
	27 Sunday School 10am	
February	8-10 <b>Services</b> Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/Sunday School 10am	January 26
	24 Sunday School 10am	
March	8-10 <b>Services</b> Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/ Sunday School 10am	February 23
	22 Purim Megilah Reading/Friday night 7:30pm (in lieu of Sunday School)	
April	12-14 <b>Services/</b> Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/Sunday School 10am	March 30
	20 Passover Community Seder (Sat.) 6pm	
	28 Sunday School 10am	
May	10-11 <b>Services</b> Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am <b>No SundaySchool</b> (Mother's Day!!)	April 27
	19 TBS Annual Membership Meeting 10am	
May/June	31-2 <b>Services/</b> 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](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com). All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.