

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

Happy Purim—Another Triumph of Good over Evil!!



The holiday of Purim is upon us. Beginning at sundown Wednesday, March 20th, is a time of joyous celebration for Jewish families the world over. We will observe the four *mitzvot* (commandments) of Purim, which are enunciated in the

Hebrew Bible (Esther 9:20-22), and reinforced in the *Mishnah* (*Mas. Megilah* 2a), and will be the core of our Friday evening service at Temple Beth Shalom on March 22nd. The *mitzvot* are: the reading of the *megillah* of Esther, *matanot l'evyonim*—giving money to the poor, *mishloach manot*—gifts of food to friends, and feasting. Our hearts will be filled with gladness! But, we should also take time to remember that Purim represents a very serious subject as well, the age long struggle of those who would stand for the good against the forces of evil. It is a sad fact that the enemies of Israel and of the Jewish people have borne a hatred so intense it seems unexplainable in terms of normal human emotions. Unfortunately, that hatred is both ancient and modern.

We read in the Torah that as our people were coming out of Egypt, a tribe called Amalek laid in wait along the way and attacked Israel from the rear as they passed through. Amalek picked off the weakest members of the Israelite group, women, children, and stragglers (Deut. 25). The Torah states that Amalek “did not fear God.” A very stern pronouncement against Amalek occurs twice in the Torah, once in Deuteronomy, “It shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies in the land which the LORD your God gives you..., you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget” (vv. 17-19). This commandment appears to be a clarification of the more cryptic statement in Exodus 17, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.’ And Moses built an altar and named it, “The Lord is My Banner.” And he said, “The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation” (vv. 14-16).

Now, the connection between Amalek and Purim might not be immediately obvious to most readers. The evil Haman, whose hatred of the Jews defies rational explanation, leading him to seek the Jewish people’s annihilation, is referred to in the book of Esther as an Agagite (3:1). The connecting link to Amalek is found in the book of First Samuel (ch. 15). The newly crowned King Saul is leading the Israelites in a life and death struggle against the neighboring tribe of Amalek. God, through the prophet Samuel, had instructed Saul that God was about to punish Amalek for the crimes done to the people of Israel when they were on the way out of Egypt, and the judgment was to be harsh. Saul, in defiance of God’s command, spared the king of Amalek, Agag, the ancestor of the wicked Haman (I Samuel 15:1-9).

Parallels to those who hate the Jewish people so intensely and who seek our annihilation, while difficult to comprehend or accept, can be found in almost every generation, most recently and egregiously in the acts of Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin. Lori Palatnik, a writer, educator, and the founding director of the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project, tells the story of a neighbor she had while living in Toronto whose name was Mr. Cohen. He was a holocaust survivor. As a youth of only 17 Mr. Cohen had been taken by the Nazis to Auschwitz. Knowing he would be there for a long time, if he survived, Mr. Cohen memorized the Jewish calendar for the next several years. He was known by his peers in the camp as a walking calendar. They would ask him, “When is Shabbat?” “When is

Hanukah?” “When is Pesach?” and Mr. Cohen would be able to tell them. When it was Purim, Mr. Cohen and a group of men met secretly in their barracks. They had smuggled a few bits of potato and bread crust as well as a book of Esther into their deplorable living area. The men stood in a circle as quietly as possible so as not to arouse Nazi suspicion, and they passed the bits of bread and potato from man to man in fulfillment of the *mishloach manot* commandment. The last to receive the morsels of food was Mr. Cohen, for it was he who was about to read the *megillah* of Esther. As they read the story of Esther under the harsh oppression of the Nazis, you can only imagine the joy it brought to their hearts to hear of the victory of the Jewish people over their enemies on Purim over 2300 years ago. We ultimately gained victory over the Nazis as well, though many, many precious souls had to give their lives in the process. Still, the Jewish people survives, thrives, and prospers. Truly a modern miracle!! (<http://www.aish.com/>).

Jewish author, Tracey Rich, tells a similar Purim story about Joseph Stalin. Rich relates the story from Chabad, the Lubavitcher Hasidic Jewish group, that in the year 1953 Joseph Stalin was planning to exile all of the Jews in the Soviet Union to camps in Siberia. At a Purim gathering of the Lubavitcher Jews that year, their Rebbe was asked to give a blessing on the Jews of the Soviet Union. Instead of a blessing, he told a story about a Jewish man who was in attendance at the election of a Soviet official earlier that year. The crowd was shouting, “Hoorah! Hoorah!” as the candidate stood on stage. The Jewish man did not want to validate the candidate by shouting, “Hoorah,” but neither did he want to draw the suspicion of the crowd, so he indeed shouted “Hoorah,” while knowing in his own heart that he meant “*Hu ra*,” which in Hebrew means, “He is evil!” Moved by the Rebbe’s message, the Jews at the Purim celebration began to shout in unison, “*Hu ra! Hu ra! Hu ra!*,” referring to Joseph Stalin. Later that same night, March 1, 1953, Stalin experienced a stroke that led to his death a few days later. His plan to deport the Jews was never carried out (<http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday9.htm>).

Rabbi Benjamin Blech reminds us that the meaning of Purim can be found not only in the great miracles of the ages, but also in the small miracles of everyday life. A common term for such everyday miracles is “serendipity.” Defined as “a fortuitous happenstance” or “a pleasant surprise,” serendipity can be thought of as a beneficial occurrence that seems to defy statistical odds. For example, one evening you have just been thinking of a friend whom you have not seen for many years and with whom you long to reestablish contact, and the next day you happen to bump into that friend at the grocery store. Or, you set an arbitrary date to meet with your friends based on your busy schedules, and then you find out in retrospect that the day you chanced to pick is, in fact, the anniversary of some important event that is meaningful to you and those friends. Rabbi Blech points out that some of the greatest scientific achievements of all time were made under the most serendipitous of circumstances.

How does this relate to Purim? The miracle of Purim is recorded in the Hebrew Bible in the book of Esther. Esther is one of only two books in the Bible which do not mention God or the name of God at all (the other being Song of Songs). And yet one cannot read the amazing details of the hatred and plot against the Jews, the coming of a Jewish princess into a position of power disguised and against all

odds, and the ultimate triumph of the Jewish people over their enemies, without sensing the power and the hand of God in the events. So it is with serendipity. God may not be working in overt, readily observable ways or in mighty miracles. But, according to Rabbi Blech, “Serendipity is God whispering to us; it is God’s still small voice that beckons us to be aware of God’s presence” (<http://www.aish.com/>).

As we celebrate the holiday of Purim and mark the final month of the Hebrew calendar, Adar II this year, leading up to our beloved Pesach, it is my prayer for you that you too will find God working in your life, whether in the grand ways or small. *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will!

The President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, President

In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, donations will have been made to 10 local agencies, and the Community Relations and Social Action Committee (CRSAC) has received a seed fund for a crisis intervention program. Please let any board member know of agencies we should consider for future donations.

The temple recently purchased and installed an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) system. The Board subsequently decided to offer a CPR/AED class to interested members of the congregation. The first 10 people to notify me (blaufer@ahrs.net) will be **free** (paid for by TBS). All others signing up after the first 10 will be charged \$25.00. The American Heart Association charges \$17 for their certification card. After successfully completing the training, anyone wishing to receive a card from the American Heart Association may order one and pay the \$17 fee. A certified teacher will teach the class on March 31st from 2:00-4:00pm at the temple.

If you want to attend the Irish dance performance at Broyhill Civic Center on March 21st at 7:30pm, please send a check made out to Larry Laufer (5231 Peninsula Dr. Granite Falls, NC 28630) by **March 1, 2019**. If we have a group we get discount group tickets at \$22 vs. \$26 per ticket.

Please join us for Purim, a celebration of Jewish deliverance as told in the book of Esther to be celebrated at the temple with the reading of the megillah, costumes, games and good food, on Friday night, March 22nd, at 7:30pm. Historically, Jewish communities around the world have Purim celebrations to commemorate their deliverance from threats of anti-Semitism, and recent history indicates a continued need for vigilance.

Mishkan HaNefesh prayer sets were recently purchased for use during the high holidays and dedication bookplates (memorials, birthdays, graduations, etc.) may be purchased for \$36 from Mary

Lee Tosky. These prayer books are like our new shabbat prayer books with Hebrew, transliteration and English on the same page.

Sam Shames had been a long time member and contributor to our temple and he has invited the congregation to attend Daniel’s Bar Mitzvah at the temple in Gastonia, April 6, 2019.

With all this rain do you think we might want to consider rounding up animals in pairs?

SAVE THE DATE: Deadline is April 12th for Passover Seder on April 20th. Please send checks to Marion DuBow and complete the form on the last page of the bulletin, thank 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.

March 8-9	Sheri and St.John Stock	hosts needed
April 12-13	_____	hosts needed
April 20 - Seder	Sisterhood	hosts needed
May 10-11	_____	hosts needed
May 31/June 1	Lin Gentry/Tiffany Hull	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 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



The TBS Sisterhood is looking forward to some fun activities coming up. We'll be baking hamantaschen on Sunday, March 10th at 11am at the temple. If you have college students who would like a package sent to them, give me their address by March 9th. We'll also give the hamantaschen to our mature members of the congregation. Please join us, bring a double batch of already-made dough and some fillings, and anything else we might need and get ready to have some fun!

If you're interested in attending the play 'End Days' at the Hickory Community Theater, please notify Millie Kauffman. It'll be playing March 1-17 on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in their Fireman's Kitchen. It might be fun to go together to see it. It's about a boy studying for his Bar Mitzvah, with his crazy family and an Elvis impersonator next door.

If you're interested in attending an Irish dance performance with us at Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir on March 21st, at 7:30pm, contact Larry Laufer by March 1st.

The temple will hold a Purim service on Friday, March 22nd at 7:30pm and everyone is invited. The sisterhood is helping to organize it and we want to call it a fun name. We had such a great time last year and want to expand on what Kathy and her helpers provided. Please vote for your favorite name for this year's celebration (or come up with one of your own). A prize may be awarded for the name with the most votes:

- A) Megillah and Margaritas
- B) Mordecai and Merlot
- C) Vashti and Vodka
- D) what goes with 'Esther'?

Costumes are encouraged but optional.

Hope to see everyone at services on March 8th and 9th!



Temple Board

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th 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

The Community Relations and Social Action Committee Needs Your Help

The Community Relations and Social Action Committee (CRSAC) has existed in the Temple bylaws for many years, but it was never active until this past month when the TBS Board selected members and tasked them to begin fulfilling its role. This committee has the responsibility of developing and maintaining liaison with other organizations in the community. It is also to study community problems and make recommendations to the board as to how to help address such issues. As the only Jewish congregation in the Hickory area, we are the local representatives of our faith. It is crucial that we share our civic and humanitarian values. We need to exemplify our belief in tikkun olam by practicing it. The newly appointed members will begin their work by canvassing the service agencies and organizations in the area and finding whether we already have a Jewish representative serving them. We know that many of you do lots of community service or work in helping agencies. We would like to start tracking our community impact and recognizing our own congregants who are working for the betterment of society. We hope that it serves as a catalyst for greater Jewish involvement! This is where we need the congregation's help! If you are employed by or volunteer with a service entity, please email Kathy Jones at krsjones2002@yahoo.com and give her your name, the name of the organization, and the capacity that you serve in. Thank you in advance for helping! Stay tuned for updates on CRSAC activities!



Donations

David Annis in honor of his son Reilly's confirmation

A donation of \$100.00 was made to HOAM High School School for the month of February.



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 Message Board

Elaine Zerden is home and ready for phone calls visitors (one at a time).

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 March Events

Birthdays

Sue Jones 3/2
Sonia Pelzer 3/2
Sarah Jones 3/3
Jesse Jones 3/5
Bonnie Gold 3/22
Bud Tosky 3/22
Matthew Bonfield 3/24
Sarah Gold 3/25
Mark Faruque 3/26
Sue Cohn 3/28

Anniversaries

Larry and Barbara Friedman 3/18

Yahrzeits

Helen Witek Maciejewski 3/3
Karl Kastan 3/4
William Miller 3/16
Mildred Asch 3/16
Else Simons 3/20
Albert Ifergan 3/28 (Guy family)
Helen Schonberg 3/27

Member Business Directory

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

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

**CPR/AED class to be held
 at the temple
 March 31st
 2 to 4pm**

**Contact Barbara Laufer if you wish to
 participate**

Local and Regional Events



On **March 26**, **Dr. Thomas Matyók**, Director of the Air Force Negotiation Center and Associate Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, will give an evening lecture, starting at 7:00 pm (Place TBA). A renowned scholar who has taught at many universities in the U.S. and abroad, including the University of Konstanz, Matyók will reflect on the state of Peace Studies today.

The ASU and general publics are invited. Free of charge and no tickets are required.

End Days
Hickory Community Theater
March 1-17
Fireman's Kitchen
 more info at: [hickory theatre.org](http://hickorytheatre.org)



Temple Beth Shalom actively participates in the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, where Rabbi Dennis serves as Chairperson. You can find out more about this organization and it's activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>.



Pete Sobotkin is team captain for the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life All Night walk, Friday and Saturday, May 31st & June 1st at the Catawba County Fairgrounds, raising money for a cure for cancer and to support cancer patients. If you would like to donate to this very important charity, it will be greatly appreciated. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cash or checks made out to the "American Cancer Society" can be given to Pete at temple services or mailed to:

Pete Sobotkin, 1004 N Center St, Hickory, NC 28601

For TBS congregants who remember Sam Shames and his son Daniel...



Samuel Shames invites you to share the joy as

Daniel Y. Shames

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

April 6, 2019

10 am

Temple Emanuel

320 South St.

Gastonia, NC

RSVP to Sam at 828-850-5842

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Comments	Bulletin Deadline
March	8-10 Services 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 Services/ Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/Sunday School 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.



SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
invites you to attend the April 20, 2019
Seder at 6:00 P.M.

EVENT WILL BE HOME COOKING FROM SISTERHOOD WITH ALL YOUR FAVORITES.

All RSVPs and checks need to be in by **deadline of April 12, 2019** or a late fee of \$10 will be assessed.
We can't provide refunds and may not be able to accommodate walk-ins.

Prices are as follows for Temple Beth Shalom Members and immediate families:

- All children under age 5 free!
- Aged 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 and up \$25.00
- 65 and over will be \$20.00
- Guests (non-members of TBS) \$30.00

Please remit with check made out to Sisterhood Temple Beth Shalom to:



Marion DuBow
2752 Brittany Drive
Lenoir, N.C. 28645



Please put number of attendees in space below:

5 and under free _____

6 -12: \$15.00 _____

13 -64: \$25.00 _____

65+: \$20.00 _____

Guests to TBS: \$30.00 _____

Names: _____

Please indicate if you have any "table-mate" preferences as there will be assigned seating

