

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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[www.hickoryjewishcenter.com](http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com)



## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

### Counting the Days / Counting the Votes

We are in the period of the days between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot which is marked by counting the Omer. This tradition is based on the biblical commandment to bring an omer (a measurement) of barley as a wave offering to the Israelites from the day after the first day of Passover until 49 days have passed and we celebrate Shavuot (Sundown- Erev Shavuot June 5<sup>th</sup>), honoring the giving of the Torah. Each grain of barley was a physical way to mark the days between the holidays before there was a formal calendar. A blessing is recited each evening including what number day it is of the Omer. This period is a time of reflection and spiritual growth preparing us to commemorate receiving the Torah at Sinai.

As we patiently count the days, the voting in the World Zionist Congress elections is over and now we await the results. We know that more than 211,000 Jews have cast their votes going to 22 different slates. This was the highest voter turnout in history. I want to personally thank everyone of you who voted. On the last day, I reached out to a lot of people and I brought in close to another 50 votes. The number of votes will determine which slates will comprise the 152 American delegates and how many people from each of the 22 slates will have representatives. These 152 delegates make up about 1/3 of the total worldwide delegations who control an annual budget of 1 billion dollars. Most of this money is spent in Israel and some goes abroad to further the World Zionist Congress's broader agenda.

This year, on two separate occasions, fraud was identified that was committed by at least one ultra-religious party. 2000 votes were thrown out the first time and I have yet to see what happened in the second case. It does not speak well of those who feel the need to cheat because they feel so threatened by slates whose values do not match their own. It is quite disappointing. One of the rabbis of the ultra-religious from Bnei Brak demanded that one of the ultra-religious parties drop out of the elections all together because of their own outlook on the State of Israel. I was surprised that the American party did not obey.

So, we wait. We wait to see what the count will be. And the message is the same. Every Jew counts. Every Jew is needed. Even you. We need you to come to our annual meeting. We need you to step up and be counted.

I will be back on May 16<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you either at Services, Adult Ed, Sunday School or the annual meeting. Can we count on you?

Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

## The President's Message

Susan J Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

**Yasher Koach** to all who helped make our community Pesach seder a success! At the risk of making embarrassing omissions (for which I apologize), thanks to the following:

- **Alexis Sweazy** (Sisterhood President) and **Gabe Almaza-Moody** did an amazing job of taking the lead in organizing, shopping, cleaning, and setting up;
- **Karen Ferguson** who made the most delicious vegetable stock -- which hosted **Larry Laufer's** light and always tasty matzah balls;
- **Pam Jones** who made delicious nut-free Ashkenazic charoset;
- All **Sisterhood members** who boiled eggs, made kugels and desserts, and helped (along with the Not Men's Club) with setting up and breaking down.
- The **TBS Seder Players** who helped bring the Passover story (sort of) to life; and
- **Rabbi Liss** who masterfully led us through an exciting, fun-filled, and meaningful seder.

We'll gather again for services on **Friday evening, May 16, at 7:00** and **Saturday morning, May 17, at 10:00**, followed by kiddush lunch. We'll also enjoy adult Jewish learning/seudah shlisheet/Havdallah at 6:00 on Saturday evening. If you're 18 or over, don't miss it!! Our last Sunday School session of the year will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 am. At that time, Rabbi Liss would like to meet with the parents of our Hebrew School students to discuss plans for the coming year.

Then, at noon, May 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold the TBS Annual Meeting, open to all Voting Members (members in good standing) who received an invitation to the meeting pursuant to our by-laws. If you did not receive an

invitation and believe you should have received one, please let me know at your earliest convenience at [susanejgoldstein@gmail.com](mailto:susanejgoldstein@gmail.com) or 214.263.8464.

Thank you to all who continue to bring donations of cans or boxes of food to help fight food insecurity in Catawba County. Your donations will be distributed by the **Hickory Soup Kitchen**. As you may recall, your Board of Trustees voted to make this a **year-round project** so please continue to bring a can or box of food every time you come to TBS -- and please make sure that the expiry date is at least six months out since your donation may be on the shelf that long. Remember that only 5% of donations for food insecurity come from the private sector! Let's continue to take "leaps of action" by donating our cans/boxes to the Hickory Soup Kitchen. And don't forget about **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger** (<https://mazon.org>).

And Israel's challenges continue. We are grateful that some hostages have been released, and we continue to pray that our remaining **59 hostages, held more than 575 days**, will be released soon. We pray for the families who await their loved ones' return and for those who have received the bodies of their deceased.

We continue to pay attention to and support Hillel as it gives Jewish college students a place to feel safe in their Judaism. 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 and our college students.

- Emergency Campaign of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte - [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org)
- American Joint Distribution Committee - [www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org)
- ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America - [arza.org](http://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](http://www.jnf.org)

You can also receive frequent updates on the situation in Israel from those sites. ADL ([www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)), AIPAC ([www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org)), and the Secure Community Network ([www.securecommunitynetwork.org](http://www.securecommunitynetwork.org)) also provide frequent updates and offers webinars and invitations to let our elected representatives know that we stand with Israel and that we urge them to do so as well.

Jews on college campuses are having a rough go of it. Our campus Hillel's need our support now more than ever. Go to <https://www.hillel.org> to find out you can help.

And it's always time to be informed!! The Wall Street Journal ([www.WSJ.com](http://www.WSJ.com)) and the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) are good sources. Pay particular attention to NYT columnist Bret Stephens. In addition, check out some sources that come directly from Israel. Israel from the Inside with Daniel Gordis ([danielgordis.substack.com](http://danielgordis.substack.com)) is one of my favorites. The Times of Israel (<https://www.timesofisrael.com>), and Haaretz.com are others -- 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, and wish you **Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach**. Shalom,

Susan



## TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President

Hello everyone!

With the whirlwind of Passover behind us, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to making this year's community seder a success. We had 40 people in attendance this year, welcoming some new people for the first time and reuniting with some old friends. It's a reminder of the amazing community we have here, which is something

I will always be grateful for.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be June 8th at 2:30 pm. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood, please reach out to me at [alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com](mailto:alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com).

## TBS Hebrew School Program

Geoffrey Janer, Hebrew School Principal

Shalom Everyone,

The last day of Hebrew school before Summer break will be May 18<sup>th</sup>.

As Always, we'll end the school year with a party.

We will be sad to say goodbye to Sunday school principal, Geoffrey Janer and his family.

The children have learned so much from them about what being Jewish is all about. But we are also happy for them as they embark on a new chapter of their Jewish life.



## The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund



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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 is the Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12pm at the temple. 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



**Your board thanks you for your donations**

### Members at Large:

Liz Correll  
Karen Ferguson  
Jodi Lavin-Tompkins  
James Norwood  
Alexis Sweazy  
Geoffrey Janer

## Simchas

**TBS Members,**

**Please let us know what your family is celebrating so we can share your good news with our community - graduations, job promotions, awards, engagements, births? We want to know!**

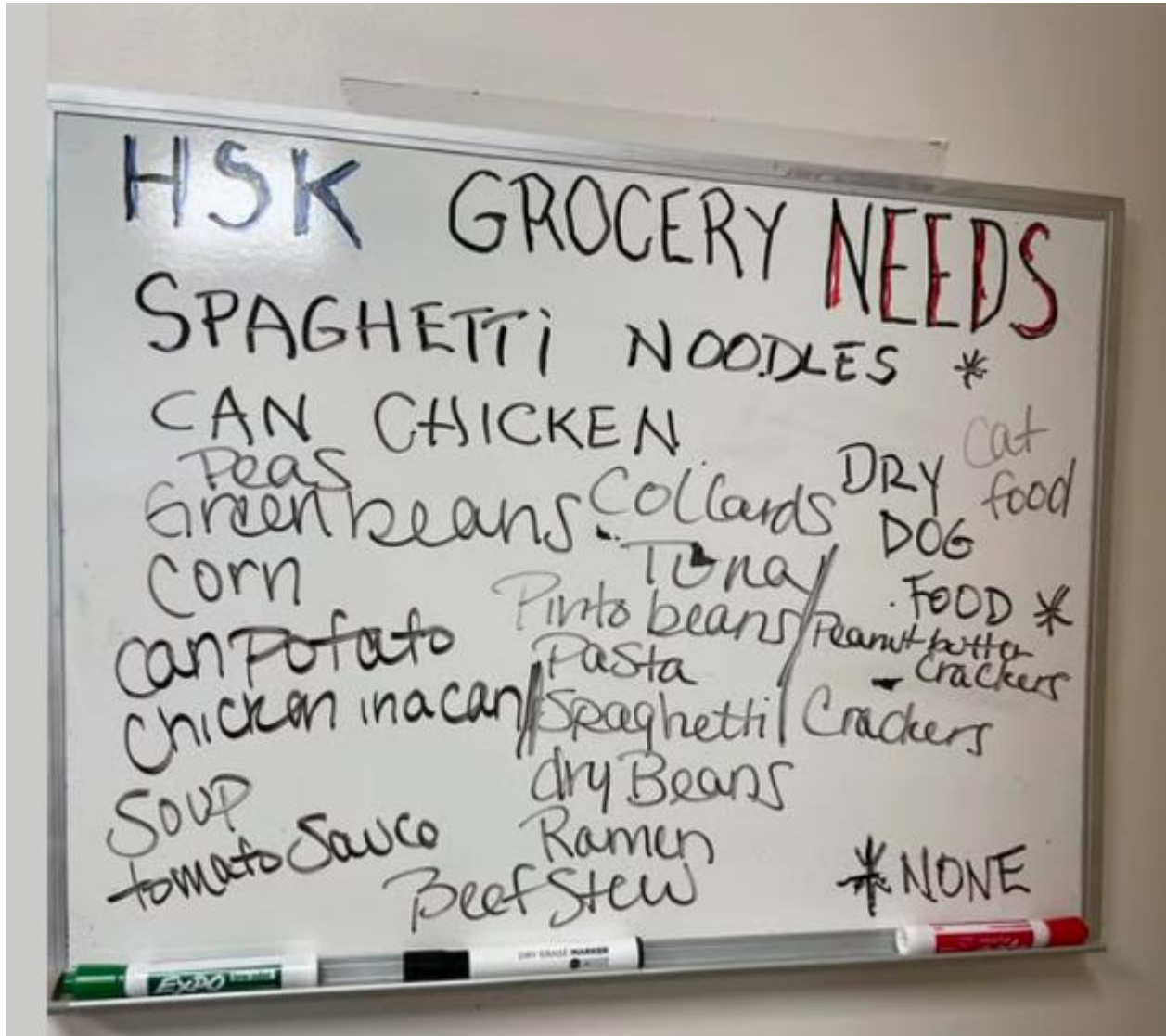
Please consider pairing with a board member(s) to host a Shabbat or Holiday at Temple Beth Shalom. When members contribute to the life of our synagogue in this way, we all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being. A sign-up sheet is posted in the synagogue 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!

**There is still a great need for donations in food-insecure areas around us.**

Please bring non-perishable food items to the temple whenever you come for services or other events. You will be helping fulfill the mitzvah of feeding the hungry and setting a good example for our youngsters



The Hickory Soup Kitchen is looking for volunteers to work in our free grocery! Volunteers work between 8am and 12pm, Monday through Friday. To get on the schedule call us at 828-327-4828. Come join us and make a real impact in the lives of those we serve!

**Are you or anyone you know looking for a  
Jewish Summer camp experience?**

**Check this out!**

**Scholarships available. Contact Geoffrey Janer  
for more info.**

## Raising a Mensch?

### Start Here!

At Tranquillity Camp, becoming a good person and a trusted friend happens naturally. Guided by Jewish-led values that welcome all, **we embrace intentional simplicity—helping campers build character and inner strength** through endless but fun and flexible activities.

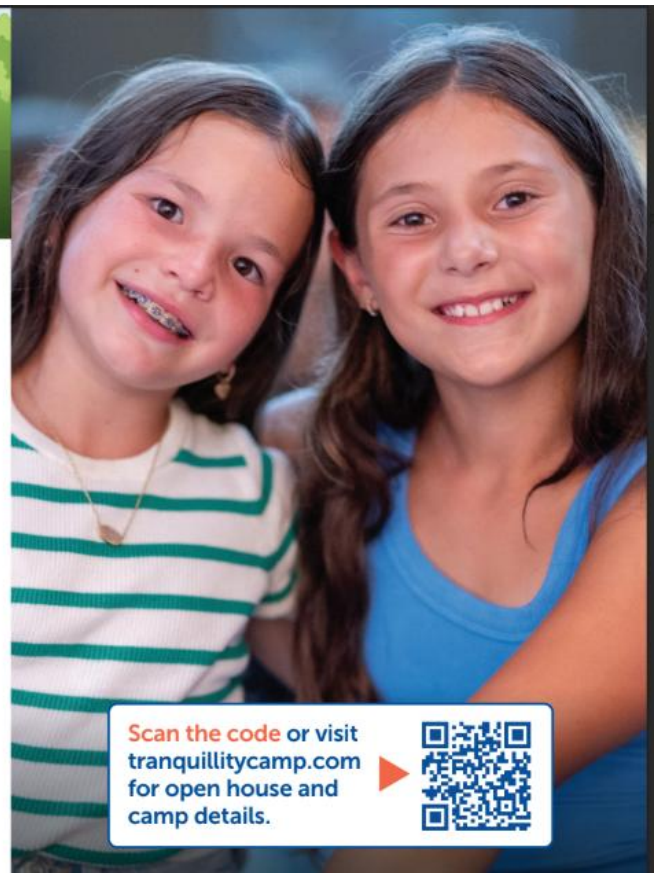
Discover a world of adventure on our unspoiled 1,200-acre property in the Catskill foothills; a place where every camper is known, valued, and accepted and where forever friends are made.

Tranquillity is surprisingly affordable, so spots fill up quickly!  
**Don't wait—join us on February 23 for our next open house.**



**Tranquillity Camp**  
*Part of growing up. The best part.*

Summer Sleepaway Camp | Ages 7–15



Scan the code or visit  
[tranquillitycamp.com](https://tranquillitycamp.com)  
for open house and  
camp details.





## 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*

Gabe Almaza-Moody  
Piedmont Herbals

Email: [piedmontherbals@gmail.com](mailto:piedmontherbals@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.piedmontherbals.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/piedmontherbals/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/piedmont\\_herbals/](https://www.instagram.com/piedmont_herbals/)

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](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)

The Natural Olive  
216 Union Square  
Hickory  
828-256-1950  
[www.NaturalOliveHickory.com](http://www.NaturalOliveHickory.com)

## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle May Events



aker

### Birthdays

Grayson Cohn 5/2  
Ashley C Cohn 5/2  
Eileen Cangemi 5/6  
David Engelmann 5/7  
Linda Guttler 5/8  
Clyde Ferguson 5/9  
Lori Coen Fata 5/13  
Ross Guttler 5/18  
Ariel Cohn 5/19  
Amanda Garrick 5/24  
Solomon Zerden 5/26  
Patrick Rowan 5/27  
Mark Sobotkin 5/30

### Anniversaries

Aaron and Mary Lee Tosky 5/4  
Ron and Sue Cohn 5/6  
Bud and Connie Tosky 5/24  
Alexis Sweazy & Gabe Almaza-Moody 5/26

### Yahrzeits

Hannah Reiter 5/5	Harry Lavitt 5/16
Louis Oxenberg 5/4	Sam Griffin 5/17
Fannie Oxenberg 5/8	Al Neulicht 5/20
Selma Baker 5/10	Judith Paige 5/22
Sophie Katz 5/11	Kenneth Huitt 5/22
Ruth Laufer 5/15	Amelia Freiman 5/28
Richard Fox 5/15	

## Local and Regional Events



CATAWBA.CES.NCSU.EDU

### 2025 Local Food Cooking Classes

Local Food Cooking Classes 2025 Registration Opens March 1st, 2025 at 9 a.m. REGISTRATION Price \$15 each class \$5 off if you sign up for all 7 classes We will alternate between the Extension office at 1175 S. Brady Ave. in...

Three classes will be at the Hickory Soup Kitchen. 110 2nd. St. Pl. SE, Hickory.  
All classes begin at 6:00 pm

You will receive an email confirmation of your class selections for your records and information on how to pay for the classes.

Please call 828-465-8240 or email [alvigard@ncsu.edu](mailto:alvigard@ncsu.edu) if you have any questions.

**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>**

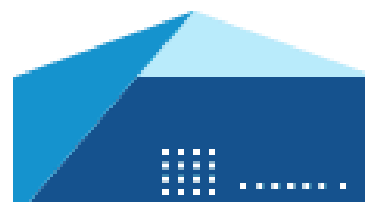


**The 23rd Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Symposium**, supported by the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Martin and Doris Rosen Symposium Endowment, and the local Jewish community, will be held **July 10-16, 2025**, at the Appalachian State University campus in Boone.

This year's theme is "Rescue during the Holocaust: The Power of Courage." We will explore exciting and emotional stories of rescue during the Holocaust to better understand the dire situation of European Jews leading up to, during, and after the Holocaust. These lessons will be carried into the present day to address issues of antisemitism, which have risen by almost 400% since 2022.

Want to receive e-mail updates on our public events and programs? [Subscribe to our newsletter.](#)

**SHALOM  
HARMON  
INSTITUTE**



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

## 2025 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: [info@hickoryjewishcenter.com](mailto:info@hickoryjewishcenter.com)

Dates		Events	Newsletter deadline
May	4	Sunday School 10 am	April 23
	16	Friday night service 7:00pm	
	17	Shacharit Service at 10 am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00 pm	
	18	Annual Membership Meeting 12 pm Sunday School 10 am - End of Year party	
June	20	Friday night service 7:00 pm	May 23
	21	Shacharit Service at 10 am followed by Kiddush lunch; Backyard party in Elkin Music, food, and Havdalah. Arrive any time after 2:00pm	

### LAG BAOMER 🔥

THURSDAY, MAY 15, SUNSET TO FRIDAY, MAY 16, NIGHTFALL

18 IYYAR 5785



Want to contribute to The TBS Bulletin? Send your request to [karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com).

All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.