

April 2016/5776

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Temple Beth Shalom

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Happy New Year!!

When congregation Temple Beth Shalom next assembles for the public reading of the Torah on Sabbath, April 9, 2016, we will be continuing in a special series of Torah readings often known as the "Four Parshiyot." As mentioned in my last *D'var Torah*, these four readings occur in the spring, two are before Purim and two before Passover. The readings are Shabbat Shekalim, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat Parah, and Shabbat Hachodesh. Saturday, April 9, is Shabbat Hachodesh. The additional Torah passage for Shabbat Hachodesh, done in most synagogues as the *maftir* reading, is Exodus 12:1-20. Shabbat Hachodesh is the Sabbath that corresponds with or immediately precedes Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the first day of the Hebrew month of Nissan. This year, 2016, Shabbat Hachodesh falls on the first of Nissan.

The twenty verses in the Shabbat Hachodesh *maftir* reading detail the taking of a Paschal lamb into the home in preparation to observe the Passover, followed by instructions for the seven days for the eating of, *matzah*, unleavened bread. The passage opens, "Now the Adonai said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 'This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be *the first month of the year to you.*'" (Ex. 12:1-2) This is quite an amazing statement to a modern Jew who has grown up with the understanding that Rosh Hashanah, the first of Tishri, is the Jewish New Year. The Talmud records an interesting debate between Rabbi Eliezer who believed the world was created in Tishri and Rabbi Joshua who believe the world was created in Nissan. "It has been taught: Rabbi Eliezer says: in Tishri the world was created; in Tishri the patriarchs were born; in Tishri the patriarchs died.... Rabbi Joshua says: Whence do we know that the world was created in Nissan? Because it says, 'And the earth brought forth grass, herb yielding seed after its kind, and tree bearing fruit.' Which is the month in which the earth is full of grass and trees [begin to] produce

fruit? You must say that this is Nissan.” (*Rosh Hashanah* 10b-11a) The ruling, based on the Mishnah, *Rosh Hashana* 1:1, is that, “There are four New Years; the first of Nissan is the New Year for kings and for festivals; the first of Elul is the New Year for tithing animals; the first of Tishri is the New Year for years, ...for agriculture, and for vegetables; the first of Shevat is the New Year for trees according to the School of Shammai, and the School of Hillel say on the fifteenth.”

It should not seem unusual to a modern reader that a year might contain many beginnings. The beginning of our calendar year is January 1, but a fiscal year typically begins on July 1. The school year traditionally begins in early September. It has also been pointed out that the progression of times and seasons is cyclical. You will recall that a circle famously has no beginning or end. So, truly, any point on the circle might be designated as the beginning. (See, e.g., “Our Other Head,” by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, <http://www.chabad.org/>) What is interesting is that this very first commandment given to the Israelite people as a nation involves time at all. According to Rashi, these verses are “the true beginning of the Torah.” (“Shabbat Hachodesh,” Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, <https://www.ou.org>) You see,

prior to Exodus 12, the Almighty had already given humankind ten laws, according to the sages. The first, of course, was the command to “be fruitful and multiply,” found in Genesis 1:28. That is followed by the seven Noahide laws, derived by the rabbis from Genesis 9. These eight taken together would apply to all humankind. Later in Genesis we read that God gave our father Abraham the commandment of circumcision specifically for himself and his descendants. (Gen. 17:10-14) The tenth ordinance in the Torah is the prohibition given to Jacob and his descendants of eating the sciatic nerve of any animal. (Gen. 32:33)



What makes the laws of Exodus chapter 12 different is that they are given to the *entire* nation of Israel and that they relate to *time*. Moses and Aaron, upon the receipt of these instructions, are

commanded, “Speak to *all the congregation of Israel.*” (v. 3) It is significant that these first national commands involved the keeping of time. Slaves do not need to mark time. They go to bed, get up, eat, and work as they are commanded by their master. Free peoples, on the other hand, are in control of their own destiny and thus have the need to order and budget their time. Even more importantly, the new nation of Israel was being called to a very specific purpose, according to the Torah, to be witnesses to the Creator God and to role model the Creator’s laws to the other nations of the earth. The Torah records the Almighty’s passionate words to Moses while on the holy mountain, Sinai, “Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:5-6) A crucial part of being witnesses for Adonai was the observance of “holy time,” most notably the weekly Sabbath, the seventh day, as instructed in the Ten Commandments. (Ex. 20:8-11) The Sabbath calls humankind’s attention to God’s creative work, but also to God’s redemptive work as the One who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt to be a holy nation. (See Deut. 5:15) In addition to the weekly

Sabbath are the annual festivals, which the Almighty refers to in Torah as, “Adonai’s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these.” God is referring, of course, to Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. These holy times are detailed quite clearly and concisely in Leviticus chapter 23.

But, the whole concept of marking time in general and holy time in specific begins for the Israelite nation in the 12th chapter of Exodus. One can understand why Rashi viewed this as the true beginning of the Torah. It is instructive that the rabbis of the Mishnah viewed the first of Nissan as the “New Year for kings and for festivals,” for surely a large part of the responsibility of being a “kingdom of priests” is the observance and communication to others of the importance of Adonai’s holy times. It is a sad fact that for many centuries the vision of the Jewish people to be a kingdom was purely a matter of the heart. Living in exile they did not have an earthly kingdom of their own. But their longing for one never faded, as is summed up poignantly by this poem of the German-Jewish poet, Ludwig August Frankel, from a century and a half ago. It is entitled, “Juda’s Farben (Judah’s Colors)”:

The Jew turns his gaze to the east
 And the worries of his soul;
 He thinks of his kingdom’s fate
 And the morning of freedom.

Like a ruler who has been banished,
 Who, in the pains of exile
 Still feels himself in his heart
 To be the king of his lost country. (In “Judaism: The Meaning of Shabbat Hachodesh,” Daniel Pinner, <https://www.ou.org>)

I have remarked many times, what a miracle it is that we have lived to see the reestablishment of a Jewish homeland in our ancient, sacred land. Something that was only a dream for our people for almost 2000 years is now a reality. But, with this great miracle/gift comes great responsibility. May we as a people never waver from the high ethical standards of the holy Torah that was entrusted into our care. So, as we begin the biblical cycle of another Hebrew year, will you join me in recommitting to those lofty statutes and to this high calling. *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will!



President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, TBS President

The Purim party at the temple was a huge success thanks to the dedicated work of temple parents and Rabbi Dennis. We are blessed to have such hard working people to make these events so special for our children and our young at heart congregation.

After services on Saturday **April 9** there will be a temple security presentation by Larry Laufer (Chairperson) and committee. This committee has been hard at work to develop multiple security additions to the building and will discuss protocols to keep us all safe.

Please save **April 23rd** for the Passover Seder hosted by the temple sisterhood. Along with the delicious food you have enjoyed every year we will be adding salad fixings to make your own salads. The deadline for Seder registration is **April 11, 2016** and the registration form is on the last page, checks are to be made

out to **Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood** and mailed to Barbara Laufer (9241 Peninsula Drive, Granite Falls, NC 28630). There will be the traditional Manishevitz wine and Kedem grape juice for each table BUT you may bring your own if you want.

Temple member Alice Guy is the owner of the Hickory Wine Shoppe on Union Square and will provide a 10% discount on kosher wines. The contact person is Vicky Bryant (828-324-4441), orders must be placed on Wednesdays by 2:00 PM up until April 20th, and they take credit card orders. The kosher wine suggestions (priced without the discount) are:

- Bartenura Pinot Grigio (\$19.99)
- Bartenura Moscato (\$19.99)
- Baron Herzog Merlot (\$16.99)
- Barkan Classic Cabernet (\$13.99)

Please complete the form on the last page of the bulletin and join us for a wonderful meal and good company.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deanne Griffin sends her deep appreciation for the many cards and calls she received following her loss. In honor of her long time companion Fred she has

made a donation to Sisterhood.

Our deepest condolences to member Eileen Cangemi and family on the death of her son Dennis. Our hearts are full of sadness and which your family our thoughts and prayers.

Annual Temple Beth Shalom meeting scheduled for May 22nd at 10am. We invite the entire congregation to this annual meeting to share the boards activity over the last year and the focus and new board members for 2016.

Anyone interested in a Torah Study group should notify President Barb Laufer (blaufer@ahrs.net)

It is time to update our Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle Events. Please forward to Barbara Laufer, President, and Marsue Davidson, bulletin editor, your family events to update our data base.

We do not want to miss anyone's Birthday, Anniversary or most importantly Yahrzeit.

We would also like to update our email list, so if you have any changes in your emails, please forward to MarsueDav@aol.com and blaufer@ahrs.net

SOMETHING TO DO...

The Butterfly Project (based on the global project) will help raise awareness and memorialize the 14900 children who passed through Terezin. Theresienstadt concentration camp, also referred to as Theresienstadt ghetto, was a concentration camp established by the SS during World War II in the garrison city of Terezín (German: Theresienstadt), located in German-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Tens of thousands of people died there, some killed outright and others dying from malnutrition and disease. More than 150,000 other persons (including tens of thousands of children) were held there for months or years, before being sent by rail transports to their deaths at Treblinka and Auschwitz extermination camps in occupied Poland, as well as to smaller camps elsewhere.

The Tractor Shed Theatre will present ***I Never Saw Another Butterfly*** one-act play by Celeste Raspanti for Catawba Valley Community College's Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 28th. The students would like to get as many butterflies as possible to represent the lives of the children that were lost at Terezin. This show is also running as part of our spring production opening June 1st.

We would like you to help us by creating butterflies to display.

1. Make as many butterflies as you like.
2. Include your name, age, and organization (if applicable) on back
3. Paper is best, but other media is welcome, too.
4. Dimensions to be used: Width(width of wings) 1412 cm Length(from top wing to bottom) 1011 cm
5. Fill out submission form and hand deliver to St. Stephens H.S. or mail to St. Stephens H.S., 3205 34th St. Dr. NE, Hickory, NC, 28601

Deadline of butterfly submissions by Thursday, May 5th 2016.

The internationally recognized date for Holocaust Remembrance Day corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar. It marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called Yom Hashoah. When the actual date of Yom Hashoah falls on a Friday, the state of Israel observes Yom Hashoah on the preceding Thursday. When it falls on a Sunday, Yom Hashoah is observed on the following Monday. 2016 Thursday, May 5.



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM BOARD

Our next TBS board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, at 7 pm. As a reminder, all TBS Board meetings are open to all Temple members. Please feel free to join us and share any thoughts. Every board member is open to suggestions and thoughts so we may continue to improve your spiritual experiences.

Temple Board Members

- Barbara Laufer, President
 Marsue Davidson, Vice President
 Tiffany Hull, Secretary
 Mark Faruque, Treasurer
 Members at Large:
- Debra Engelmann
 - Whitney Cohn-Dominique
 - Aaron Tosky
 - Liz Correll
 - Robyn Diamond
 - Lin Gentry
 - Sandy Guttler
 - Pam Jones
 - Susan Rieder
 - Marion DuBow



Temple Beth Shalom Sunday School Program

Marsue Davidson, Sunday school Chair

The Sunday School children had a great time at the Purim service and enjoyed the feast of pizza and salads. We would like to say thank you to all temple members that attended the event and participated with the reading of the Megillah.

We continue to meet twice monthly and to study the Torah, chants, prayers and traditions. This month the children will be visiting Pinecrest Assisted Living in Hickory. They will be hanging there bird cages and meeting some of the residence. We will share our stories and traditions with the residents and teaching our children to give back to our community.

Please remember to reference the last page of this bulletin for Sunday school dates, lesson plans, and services.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

In March the sisterhood had a great time baking hamentaschen for our college students and mature members of the temple. We'd like to thank all those who helped bake and deliver them (Tiffany, Barbm Mariah, Roberta, Elaine, Mary Lee, Lin – hope I didn't forget anyone), and a big thank you to Barb Laufer who hosed us at her home while we made a mess! We hope everyone enjoyed the hamentaschen and had a great Purim!

Now we're getting ready for Passover. We'll set up for the community Seder on Sunday April 17 at 1pm. Then the Seder will be on Saturday, April 23 at 6pm. The registration form is the last page of this newsletter, so get in your reservations before the **April 11 deadline**. Make your check out to Sisterhood and mail it to Barb Laufer.

On May 15, we'll have a yard sale at the temple to help raise funds for renovating our kitchen. If you'd like to sell your treasures, you can bring them anytime and put them downstairs. Please come help us out on that morning, we'll need all the help we can get and everyone will benefit from a new fridge!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 14 at 6:30pm. We'll meet at Bob Evans

chose to Hwy 70 and I-40. Please let me know if you'll be there so I can let the restaurant know. We'll need to finalize plans for the Seder.



Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund

The Sederholm Scholarship was established by a long-standing Temple member, Burt Sederholm, to honor his wife Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement from work in Hickory. Mr. Sederholm's efforts provided the initial funding from generous family members and friends and it has been added to it 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, Julie Owens or Sandy Guttler.

Naturally, the committee encourages everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle Events

Birthdays

Aidan Weatherly 4/2
Wayne Cole 4/4
Ron Cohn 4/6
Ryan Laufer 4/10
Dennis Jones 4/12
Whitney Cohn 4/14
Pam Jones 4/14
Jim Correll 4/18
Braeden Richards 4/21
Ben Peltzer 4/22
Stuart Shubin 4/23

Anniversaries

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

Yahrzeits

David Cohen 4/3
Sue Brisbane 4/5
Fania Suess 4/25
Rose Miller 4/26
Ruth Leifer 4/19/05

TBS Member Business Directory

Dr. Ron DuBow
Internist, Geriatric
Specialist (elderly care),
Pediatrician
2651 Morganton Blvd SW
Lenoir, NC 28645
828-757-8950

Marsue Davidson, RN DCS
EPIC HEALTH SERVICES
805 W. 25th Street
Newton, NC 28681
828-464-0244
www.unifournursing.net

**Robyn Diamond, Certified
Health, and Wellness Coach**
Specializing in Digestive
Health and Stress
Management
843-991-6338
Robyn@HealthHappyYou.com
www.HealthHappyYou.com

Dr. Laura Faruque
A Women's View PA
915 Tate Blvd SE
Suite170
Hickory, NC 28602
828-345-0800

**Dr. Mark Faruque of
Bethlehem Family Practice**
174 Bolick Lane Suite 202
Taylorsville NC 28681
828-495-8226

Marc Fedder M.C., F.A.C.P.
**Frye Care Internal Medicine
of Hickory**
915 Tate Blvd Suite 186
Hickory, N.C., 28602
828-303-2131

Professor Gitlin
Hebrew Lessons
109 6th Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828-328-9443

Alice Guy of
The Hickory Wine Shoppe
238 Union Square NW
Hickory, NC 28601
828-334-4441
Info@HickoryWine.com

Michelle Oxenberg Jordan
**Managing Director of
Design**
3166 Main Ave. S.E.
Hickory, North Carolina 28602
828.322.3480 Ext. 271
michelle@robertabbey.com
www.robertabbey.com

Scott and Julie Owens of
Taste Full Bean
29 2nd Street NW
Hickory, NC 28601
828-325-0108
www.tastefullbean.com

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2015-2016

<u>DATES</u>		<u>SERVICES SCHEDULE</u>	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINES</u>
April	8	7:30pm Friday night Services	March 27
	9	10am Saturday morning Services	
	10	10:30am Sunday School/Field Trip to RCF	
	23	6:00pm Passover Community Seder <i>(Young People participate in Seder service instead of Sunday School)</i>	
May	13	7:30pm Friday night Services	April 30
	14	10am Saturday morning Services	
	15	10:30am Sunday School	
	22	10am Annual Meeting and Sunday School Babysitting with special art projects	
June	3	Friday night Services	May 21
	4	Saturday morning Services	
	5	Sunday School End of Year Party	
	11	7:00 Erev Shavuot Service (Saturday night)	
August	13	Alec Davidson Bar Mitzvah	

SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

invites you to attend the April 23, 2016 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 11, 2016** or a late fee of \$5 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 their families:

- Children 5 and under free!
- Ages 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 to 64 will be \$25.00
- 65 and over will be \$20.00
- Guests (non-members of TBS) \$30.00



Please send a form with **check made out to Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood** to:

**BARBARA LAUFER
5231 PENINSULA DRIVE
GRANITE FALLS, NC 28630**



Please put the number of attendees in space below

- Children 5 and under free
- Ages 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 to 64 will be \$25.00
- 65 and over will be \$20.00
- Guests (non-members of TBS) \$30.00



Name(s): _____



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