

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

Shabbat HaGadol

Temple Beth Shalom's next rabbi weekend will fall on the Saturday before Passover, known in our tradition as Shabbat HaGadol. According to our sages, this Sabbath fell on the 10th of Nissan in the year of the exodus, the very day when the children of Israel chose their Passover lambs (*Orach Chayyim* 431:1). Translated, the Great Sabbath, it came to be associated by our rabbis with the “great day” of God that will eventually usher in the messianic age. In fact, the Haftarah reading for that day, Malachi 3:4-24, is the very reason we chant “Eliahu HaNavi” at every Havdallah service. It states, “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers....” (vv. 23-24). As we prepare on Shabbat HaGadol for the coming of Passover this year, my thoughts turn once again to what might be the *greatest* Passover miracle of all: through faith in the Almighty God, a battered down and oppressed group of slaves was ultimately liberated and transformed into a chosen people, a blessed nation, and a “**light to all nations.**”

Our story began, of course, with the calling of the family of Abraham and Sarah. We read in Genesis 12: “Now the

LORD said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your country and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to a land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you, I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’” (vv. 1-3). For insight as to why the Almighty chose *Abraham* and his family, one might take note of Genesis 18 where in God’s own words it is recorded, “For I have chosen [Abraham], in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what God has spoken concerning him” (v. 19).

After a long sojourn in Egypt, estimated from various sources to have been between 250 and 430 years, originally necessitated, of course, by a famine in the land of Canaan, the descendants of Abraham and Sarah had become enslaved by the ruling class of Egypt. Known at that point in history as the children of Israel, that is of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham and Sarah, the labor of the Israelites was exploited by the Egyptians for the building of their famed cities and temples. The hard bondage of the Israelites became so intense and unbearable that the Creator decided once again to intervene in the affairs of mankind. The deliverance from slavery in Egypt appears to have fulfilled a twofold purpose, keeping promises made to the matriarchs and patriarchs while at the same time establishing a platform for the next step in the family outreach plan. As Moses is commissioned to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, God declares in the *Shemot*, Exodus, “I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.... I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then I will take you for my people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians” (Ch. 6:vv. 5-7). Through a series of events that can only be described as miraculous, this oppressed group of slaves did manage to attain their freedom from what truly would have been the greatest superpower on earth at that time, the nation of Egypt. After their escape, as the people of Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, about to receive instructions from the One who had provided their freedom, God affectionately instructs Moses to tell the people of Israel, “If you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all of the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” This amazing proclamation was immediately followed by the giving of the Ten Commandments.

The “**light to the nations**” passage I mentioned earlier is found in Isaiah 49. It picks up on this same theme. The verses containing the passage are among a group of similarly themed messages in Isaiah known as the “servant songs.” And, while scholars agree that they refer to the calling and commissioning of the prophet Isaiah himself, it cannot be denied that the “servant songs”

have a deeper and transcendent meaning applicable to the people of Israel as a whole. This can be seen in chapter 49, verse 3, where the Almighty states quite explicitly, “*You are my servant, Israel*, in whom I will show my glory.” This statement is paralleled by another servant passage in the book of Isaiah in which the entire nation of Israel, at that time, is clearly being addressed, “*You are my witnesses*, declares the Lord and *my servant whom I have chosen* in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am. Before me there was no God formed and there will be none after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and there is no savior besides me” (Ch. 43:vv. 10-11).

In our modern age, a call to be a light to the nations might seem controversial or intimidating to some, but I assert that to a very large extent the commission is already achieving success, and in a way that many people might not even realize. Keep in mind that the primary purpose for the original call of Abraham was the teaching of God’s laws first to Abraham’s family, but by extension to all mankind. Is it merely coincidence that *those laws have become incorporated* in the religious precepts of what is already a majority of the world’s religious population? Jews, of course, have followed the laws in the Hebrew Bible for generations, but they are only a tiny proportion of the world’s current population, 0.2% according to a 2012 Pew Research analysis of 2010 population data. But, Christianity, whose roots are also in Judaism, deemed it appropriate to accept the Hebrew Bible into its own canon of scripture, thus bringing the laws and traditions of Abraham and his descendants to the world’s 2.2 billion Christians. That is approximately 31.5% of world population as of 2010. Add to that the Muslim faith, whose roots are in Christianity and Judaism, which has also ratified and brought forward many of the laws and traditions of the ancient Hebrews in its own holy writings, and one finds the laws of the Creator, originally enunciated in the Hebrew Bible, reaching another 1.6 billion people, or 23.2% of world population. (For a brief analysis of how the Ten Commandments have been incorporated in the Koran, see http://submission.org/The_ten_commandments_in_the_Quran.html). These three major Western religions alone, all tracing their traditions back to the patriarch Abraham, accounted for a total of almost 55% of the world’s population in 2010, a majority already. Based on my research, I would also posit a connection between the ancient Hebrew tradition and the teachings of Hinduism (15.0%) and Buddhism (7.1%) bringing the world influence of the “Abrahamic faith” up to 77% of 2010 world population, but that connection will definitely have to wait for a future article.

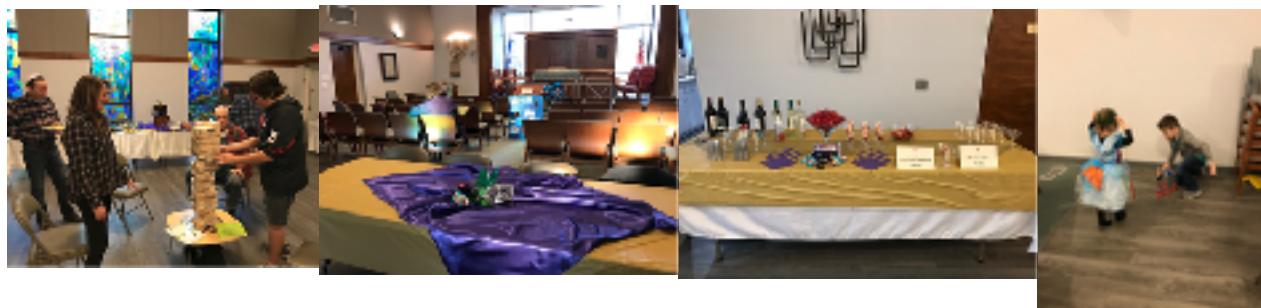
You see my point, that the One who willed this creation into existence, the One who chose Abraham and Sarah and their descendants, and the One who miraculously brought the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and entrusted them with lofty precepts and a worldwide mission is now known and revered worldwide as a result of that mission, *just as the Hebrew Prophets foretold*. But, there is still much to be done. We as Jews have experienced the bondage of slavery in Egypt, so we must never fail to take up the cause of those who are still oppressed in our

modern world. We experienced starvation then, so our compassion must remain with those who still do not have enough food. We were strangers in a strange land; let us continue to reach out to all who are disenfranchised in any way. As we celebrate the *Divine gifts and miracles* provided to our ancestors at *this holy time of Passover*, will you commit to join me in carrying the mission forward to be in the words of our holy writings, “*a light to the nations*”? *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will!

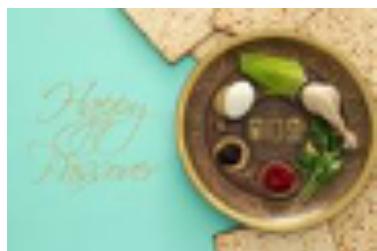
The President's Message

Barbara Laufer, President

Kudos to Kathy and Jaimi Jones for all their hard work invested in a fun Purim party. There were about 45 people who came, many in costumes. The decorations and games were very impressive as was the food, and a good time was had by all.



Thanks to the Board for funding the CPR and AED class on March 31st. Lin Gentry; Tiffany Hull; Pete and Ginnie Sobotkin; Larry and Barb Laufer; Dennis and Kathy Jones; Esther Greene; Madeleine Guy; and Mary Lee Tosky all received this valuable training as part of our temple emergency response plan.



Sisterhood has already planned the Passover Seder on April 20th, so please save the date. They are to be congratulated for not having raised the price in the past ten years. In fact, they have lowered the registration fee for children under 6 and those 65+. Feedback continues to be very positive regarding the menu of this kosher-style meal of chicken soup with matzah balls, brisket, charoses, tzimmes, fruit salad, gefilte fish, kugel, and fixings to make your own salads. New this year will be chopped liver. The deadline for registration is April 12th and the registration form is on the last page of this bulletin. Checks are to be made out to **Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood** and mailed to Marion DuBow. There will be the traditional

Manischewitz wine and Kedeem grape juice for each table BUT you may bring your own if you want.

If something is happening in your life, or the life of one of our members, that would benefit from support from our temple community please contact Kathy Jones (Chairperson of the Community Relations and Social Action Committee). Our community is here to offer prayer, nourishment, transportation, companionship, and to fulfill other needs in time of illness, mourning, or any other moments where a helping hand and open heart can make a difference.

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.

April 12-13	Marion and Ron DuBow	hosts needed
April 20 - Seder	Sisterhood	hosts needed
May 10-11	Lin Gentry/Tiffany Hull	hosts needed
May 31/June 1	Kathy Jones	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

Thank you to the sisterhood members who made dough and baked hamentaschen for our two college students, our mature members, and for the “Martinis and Megillah” Purim party! Everyone who tasted them raved about them! And thank you to Kathy and Jaimi Jones for all the decorations, special foods, and, of course, the delicious martinis at the party!! Many other women also brought great food and other drinks, which is so appreciated! Our temple definitely knows how to throw a party and how to pitch in and do it as a family! Thank you to Rabbi Dennis for his quick service so we could get to the main event—the Megillah! - and get back to the party! What a fun night.



Our next meeting will be when we set up the temple for the Community Seder—**Sunday, April 14th at 11am**, at the temple. Please come help us set up—we need to put out tables, chairs, dishes, silverware, and haggadot, and we'll double check on who's bringing what. Don't forget that the deadline to reserve your spot at a reduced price for the seder is Friday, April 12th. There is a reservation form at the end of this newsletter. You won't want to miss out on the delicious food and great time, singing, and telling the story of Passover.

Sisterhood is planning a **Game Night** for the whole congregation at temple on **Saturday, May 4th at 6:30pm**. We'll send out an RSVP closer to the date so we know how many people to plan for. There will be just snacks and drinks, so eat dinner beforehand. We'll have Havdalah and then choose a game to play or have a few games set out for people to play. Stay tuned!



TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator

Sunday School students learned about Purim this month and the triumph of good over evil. They then attended the Purim Party and helped read the Megillah to the congregation on March 22nd. It was great to have so many children present! Everyone had a great time!



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, April 17th 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



Donations

A donation of \$100.00 was made
to Habitat for Humanity

Thank you to **Deanne Griffin** and the **Faruque family** for Seder donations

The Hickory Soup Kitchen is looking for volunteers to help out at the First

Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 14th

the link to sign up to help with serving a tasty lunch to clients of the Hickory Soup Kitchen is

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0945AAA82DA64-sabbath>



Looking for another 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
Suite170
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 April Events

Birthdays

Aidan Weatherly 4/2
Ron Cohn 4/6
Amy Hedrick 4/7
Ryan Laufer 4/10
Dennis Jones 4/12
Pam Jones 4/14
Jim Correll 4/18
Braedon Richards 4/21
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
Ruth Leifer 4/19
Fania Suess 4/25
Rose Miller 4/26

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.tastefullbeans.com

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



Local and Regional Events



Appalachian Chorale Yom HaShoah Concert

Tuesday, April 30, at 8:00 p.m.

Rosen Concert Hall, Broyhill Music Center at ASU

Appalachian Chorale will sing a concert on April 30 to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and to honor the victims and survivors of the October 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. The centerpiece of the concert will be Donald McCullough's *Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps*. The piece will feature Dr. Ellie Wee on cello and Aaron Ames on piano. Vocal soloists include mezzo-sopranos Nicole Sonbert and Meg Stohlmann, and there will also be spoken text read by members of the High Country community. The concert will be presented by Appalachian State's Hayes School of Music, partnered by The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, and is free and open to the public.

Temple Beth Shalom has an active membership in the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, where Rabbi Dennis serves as president. You can find out more about this organization and its 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.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date		Comments	Bulletin Deadline
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:

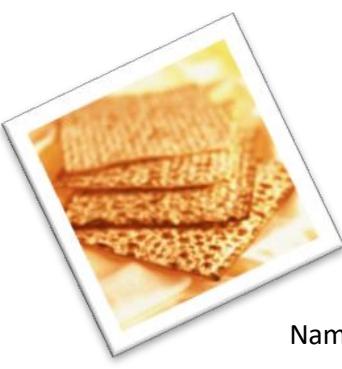
5 and under free _____

6 -12: \$15.00 _____

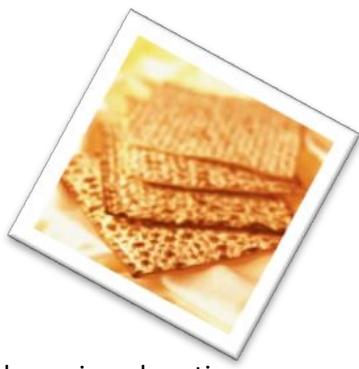
13 -64: \$25.00 _____

65+: \$20.00 _____

Guests to TBS: \$30.00 _____



Names: _____



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