

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 Shekalim—The Power of Giving!



When congregation Temple Beth Shalom next assembles for the public reading of the Torah on Sabbath, February 10, 2018, we will begin a special series of Torah readings often known as the “Four Parshiyot.” 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, February 10, is Shabbat Shekalim. The additional Torah passage for Shabbat Shekalim, done in most synagogues as the *maftir* reading, is Exodus 30:11-16. According to the Mishnah, *Masechet Shekalim I*, “On the first of Adar a public announcement is made concerning the payment of the shekel.” So, customarily, Shabbat Shekalim coincides closely with *Rosh Chodesh Adar*—the first of Adar, the

12th month of the Hebrew calendar, or with Second Adar in the years when the 13th month is added (as it is this year). This public announcement then gave the people one month to prepare, as the sages tell us the actual collection occurred historically on the first of Nissan, the 1st Hebrew month.

This special reading details instructions for a census that was taken during Israel's wandering in the wilderness where the commandment is given to pay a half shekel "tax" toward the maintenance of the tabernacle in the wilderness. The Torah states, "When you take a census of the children of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for their lives to the LORD.... This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary." (Exodus 30:12-13) While the reading for Shekalim is brief, only six verses, the sages of Israel have derived many important teachings from these verses. Some sages have assumed from the reading of the portion that individuals 20 years of age and older paid the half shekel assessment. Then the money was counted, not necessarily the individuals. This would reinforce the idea that souls are of very high importance in the sight of Adonai and are never mere numbers on a ledger sheet. (See Tracey R. Rich, "Special Shabbatot," www.jewfaq.org)

According to the Torah, "The rich shall not pay more, and the poor shall not pay less than the half shekel..." The half shekel assessment was to be paid equally by the well-off and the needy! Not only does this command remind us that all humans are equal in the eyes of the Creator regardless of financial status, but it also stresses the importance of putting aside personal position in favor of uniting for a common good. Imagine how important this corporate responsibility must have been at the time when a loosely affiliated group of slaves escaped from the greatest superpower on earth and began to establish a new and unified nation. Individual needs and wants would have needed to remain secondary to the good of the community. (See Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsh, ArtScroll Stone Edition of the Chumash.)

The Torah goes on to say, "And you shall take the atonement money from the children of Israel, and shall give it to the service of the tent of meeting." The Talmud is very explicit that in the current absence of either the Tabernacle or the Temple in Jerusalem, we are not technically obligated to the half shekel contribution. Yet, the principle remains that support of holy places, such as houses of learning and houses of prayer and worship, is a critical part of a person's responsibility to the community. In modern terms, the spirit of this *mitzvah* could be maintained by contributions to our local synagogues. (Most rabbis are quick to point that out...very big wink!)

The reading for Shabbat Shekalim is also connected with the holiday of Purim on another level. Resh Lakish said, "It was revealed and known before the one who spoke and the world came into being that Haman would spend a large sum of money in order to destroy Israel, as it is so written

in the third chapter of *Megillat Esther*. Therefore, God preceded Haman's silver by Israel's silver. And, this accords with what the Talmud says in *Masechet Megillah*, 'On the first of Adar, an announcement is made concerning the shekalim.'" You see, the sages were skilled at making connections based on the Hebrew words. They saw in the phrase "and you shall take the silver/money of atonement," *keseif hakippurim* in Hebrew (Ex. 30:16), another Hebrew phrase, *keseif ha ki purim*—"the silver which is on account of Purim." Thus, it is believed that the atonement money which was paid by the congregation in the wilderness served as the ransom for the deliverance of the children of Israel from the evil plot of Haman centuries later. (See Orthodox Union, "Parshat Shekalim, www.ou.org)

Another interesting ancient reference to the half shekel census/assessment is found in the Jerusalem Talmud, *Shekalim* 1:4. It states, "Rabbi Meir said, 'the Holy One, may God be blessed, took a type of fiery coin from under the Throne of Glory and showed it to Moshe. God said to him, "This shall they give.'" One might ask what connection the fiery coin might have with the mitzvah of the half shekel. The connection, again, is based on the Hebrew words. The Hebrew word for silver or money is *keseif*. In other verses in the Torah, for example Genesis 31:30, the same Hebrew root is used for the translation "strong longing"—*kasaf*. When one acts upon the principles of Torah with a deep passion for the Creator and a deep longing to serve the Jewish community and all humankind, one truly fulfills the commandment of the *mechazit hashekel*—the half shekel contribution. This is the meaning of the "fiery coin" that Moses was told we must give to Adonai. (See Rabbi Zvi Belovski, "Shekalim: The Power of the Fiery Shekel," www.aish.com)

The special Haftorah reading on Shabbat Shekalim is from Second Kings 11:17-12:17. It recounts a time during the history of Israel and Judah when repentance was being made for having engaged in the worship of the Canaanite god, Baal. The Temple in Jerusalem had fallen into disrepair until Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah, once again implemented the practice of using the census money for repairs on the Holy Temple. Interestingly, the priests took a box and put it beside the altar with a hole in the lid for worshipers to make contributions. The priests and the leaders were amazed at the amount of money that was placed in the box. People clearly went above and beyond the half shekel requirement.

Many of the specifics of commandments in the Torah are not possible in our place and time, because we are outside of the Land of Israel or because the Holy Temple no longer stands. But the lofty ethical principles behind the *mitzvot* endure forever. As the psalmist affirms, "The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever." (Psalms 19:8-9) The Hebrew Prophets tell us that one day, "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of

the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14) Support for houses of prayer, worship, and study is an ongoing need. And, those who do so, particularly with a cheerful heart, can rest assured that they are paving the way for a brighter future by fulfilling an ancient command. Will you give your “fiery shekel” today? *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will.

The President’s Message

Marsue Davidson, President

The Temple Beth Shalom board is working on making sure we are prepared to protect our congregation and guests if a disaster were to happen. We believe that preparedness is a Mitzvah and our responsibility to our community. Therefore, we will be implementing a preparedness program, which includes identifying and assessing risk, and resources, writing an emergency plan, developing a system to manage incidents, and training temple members to be able to execute the plan.

The plan will be implemented if needed in the event of an emergency, natural disaster or otherwise. It is important to make sure that you have a plan for your family as well, that you are aware of your individualized emergency plan, and you know what to expect from the temple board and Rabbi. Here are a few general points to keep in mind:

If traditional lines of communicating are inoperable, the temple will use multiple methods of communication. Methods of communication may vary and may include:

✧ Cell phone

✧ Text message

✧ Social media

✧ Newsletter

✧ Local Radio Station(s)

✧ Temple members may also review state emergency recommendations at:

<https://www.usa.gov/prepare-for-disasters>

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

When there is a disaster in the community, temple board members will communicate with temple members about temple closures, changes in services calendar, or request for assistance with our community or fellow members.

Use these additional resources to help get your home, family, and business ready to deal with disasters and emergencies:

- Get the Federal Emergency Management Agency's [FEMA mobile app](#) now to receive weather warnings for up to five locations plus disaster, aid, and shelter information.
- Sign up to [receive SMS text and email alerts](#) from the National Weather Service and see their suggested weather apps to stay informed.
- Smartphones enabled with the [Wireless Emergency Alert \(WEA\)](#) public safety system will receive emergency alerts for severe weather, disasters, and national emergencies automatically.
- Find government resources to get help if you or a family member is caught in a [disaster or crisis while traveling or living outside the U.S.](#)

Our detailed emergency preparedness plan will be presented at the annual meeting and we will continue to provide you with information regarding emergency preparedness, instructional programs, safety meetings, and written information in the temple newsletter.

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator



There has been a change to the Sunday School schedule for February due to the change in the TBS service schedule. We will not have Sunday School on February 4th as originally scheduled, but we will have Sunday School the following Sunday on February 11th. We will still also meet on February 18th to get us back on our original schedule.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

At our January meeting we decided a lot! Our next Movie Night will be Saturday, January 27th at 7:30pm at the temple. We'll watch something like Keeping the Faith or Crossing Delancey. Popcorn and candy will be provided. Bring a cushion or comfy chair if you don't want to sit in our regular chairs.

Our Sisterhood Shabbat will be Friday, February 16th at 7:30pm. This is an additional service that will be led by women. Let me know if you want to join in.

On Sunday, February 18th, we'll meet at the temple at 1pm to bake hamantaschen for the college students and mature members of the congregation. Please bring some dough and any fillings that you like. (There is a recipe for the dough in the Sisterhood cook book.) If you have a college student who would like some cookies sent to them, let me know their mailing address by Friday, February 16th. Also, below you will see a mitzvah opportunity to add to your Purim celebration.

Our annual community Seder will be here before you know it—Saturday, March 31st at 6pm. Look for the registration form at the end of this newsletter or at the temple and send in your reservation. We'll set up for the Seder on Sunday, March 25th at 11am at the temple.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 12th at 6:30pm at Bob Evans restaurant. Please join us!

The first person to email me the word 'shekel' gets a prize at our next meeting.

The Mitzvah of Mishloach Manot: We Must Not Forget the Poor!

Mishloach manot literally means, "sending of portions". It is commonly known as the sending of a Purim basket in which gifts of food or drink are sent to family, friends, and others on Purim day. The mitzvah of giving mishloach manot derives from the the 9th chapter of the Book of Esther, which states (v. 19): "Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the 14th day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and of sending portions to one another." It is meant to ensure that everyone has enough food for the Purim feast, and to increase love and friendship among Jews and their neighbors. It requires that we also make sure that we include the poor in our giving of food so that they too can feast.

This year Purim falls on Thursday, March 1. We will have Temple services the following evening, March 2nd, Shushan Purim, with the reading of the Megillah, the sounding of graggers, and the eating of lots of goodies. The regular Torah service and luncheon will follow the next morning on March 3rd. The Sisterhood and Sunday School requests that the congregation please join them in making a food donation

to the Hickory Soup Kitchen in honor of Purim. A collection box will be in the Temple foyer during both services for anyone able to donate.

The items requested are long shelf life, single serve, ready to eat/drink items that the Sunday School students can pack into lunch bags. They may be any of the following:

- Boxes of raisins
- Pop top cans of tuna
- Pop top Vienna sausages
- Packages of crackers
- Fruit cups
- Apple sauce cups
- Pudding cup
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Bags of mixed nuts/peanuts
- Sip ups
- Bottled waters



Passover Seder
Saturday, March 31st
6:00 pm

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, February 7th 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:

Marsue Davidson, President

Barbara Laufer, Vice-President

Susan Rieder, Treasurer

Tiffany Hull, Secretary

Members at Large:

Liz Correll

Marion DuBow

Debra Engelmann

Lin Gentry

Sandy Guttler

Pam Jones

Linda Greenfield

Mary Lee Tosky

Karen Ferguson



“... you shall keep My sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations...” Exodus 31:13

One of the very special things about our Shabbat evenings together is the Oneg that follows the Service. We are looking for volunteers for April, May, and June to participate in the host duties that make Shabbat so special.

Please contact any Board member if you would like to volunteer to help the Temple. It's easy and there's usually an experienced board member to help out. Thanks!!



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 already 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

Get well wishes to Rabbi Dennis and Kathy Jones - from Pamela Jones
Glad you are on the mend Rabbi Dennis - from Karen and Clyde Ferguson
Get well wishes to Rabbi Dennis - from Marion and Ron DuBow
Get well wishes to Kathy Jones - from Karen and Clyde Ferguson
Get well wishes to Kathy Jones - from Barb and Larry Laufer
Get well wishes to Kathy Jones - from Marion and Ron DuBow
Get well wishes to Rabbi Dennis - from Lin Gentry
Get well wishes to Kathy Jones - from Lin Gentry
Get well wishes to Rabbi Dennis - from Barb and Larry Laufer
Happy Birthday to Elaine Zerden - from Lin Gentry
Happy Birthday to Elaine Zerden - from Barb and Larry Laufer
Happy Birthdays to Barb and Larry Laufer - from Karen and Clyde Ferguson

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

**Dr. Laura Faruque of
A Womans View**
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

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 February Events

Birthdays

Barbara Laufer 2/1	Julie Owens 2/21
Linda Greenfield 2/1	Nicholas Faruque 2/23
Elaine Zerden 2/3	Ian Westervelt 2/23
Perri Huit 2/8	Gavriela Crater 2/24
Henry Greenfield 2/8	Maddy Gross 2/24
Larry Freiman 2/9	Sydney Westervelt 2/24
Greg Rosenfeld 2/11	Sam Gross 2/28
Larry Laufer 2/11	Shelly Richards 2/28
Grayson Weatherly 2/20	Tristan Haddock 2/7

Anniversaries

None this month

Yahrzeits

Sol Taub 2/22
Helmi Berndt 2/18
David Guy 2/21

Local and Regional Events

Member Business Directory

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

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

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

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



The Catawba Valley Interfaith Council Invites You To A Four Part Study of the ABRAHAMIC FAITHS

February 11th - Rabbi Dennis Jones, Presenter
Temple Beth Shalom, Hickory

February 18th - Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson, Presenter
Corinth Reformed UCC, Hickory

February 25th - Imam Tamir A. Mutakabbir, Presenter
Northminister Presbyterian, Hickory

March 4th - Dr. Mindy Makant, Presenter
Belk Centrum LRU, Hickory

Each Session Will Begin at 2:30pm

You are invited to attend any or all of the sessions and bring a friend. There will be a question and answer period as part of each of the sessions. The book that will be a basis for this study is Abraham...A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths by Bruce Feiler.



is hosting a public lecture by Prof. Thomas Kuhne titled, "The Murderers Are Among Us." The lecture is about the images of, and inquiries into, Holocaust perpetrators since the Third Reich.

Monday, February 12, at 7:00pm, ASU Campus in the Belk Library, Room 114.

This special lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information contact: Temple of the High Country, Schaefer Jewish Community Center
 828-266-9777 templeofthehighcountry@gmail.com www.templeofthehighcountry.org

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Event/Time	Bulletin Deadline
February	9-11 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	January 20
	16 Women's Service 7:30 PM	
	18 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
March	2-4 Services Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM Purim (Megillah Reading/Festivities as part of Friday night service) Regular Sunday School on March 4	February 17
	18 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	31 Passover Community Seder (Saturday) 6:00 PM	
April	6-8 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	March 24
	22 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
May	4-6 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM	April 21
	19 Erev Shavuot Service 7:30 PM (Saturday)	
	20 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
June	1-3 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School End of Year Party 10:00 AM	May 19

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 March 31, 2018 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 March 21, 2018** or a late fee of \$10/person 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:



Barbara Laufer
5231 Peninsula Drive
Granite Falls, NC 28630



Please put number of attendees in space below:



5 and under free _____

13 -64: \$25.00 _____

65+: \$20.00 _____

6 -12: \$15.00 _____

Guests to TBS: \$30.00 _____



Names: _____

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

