

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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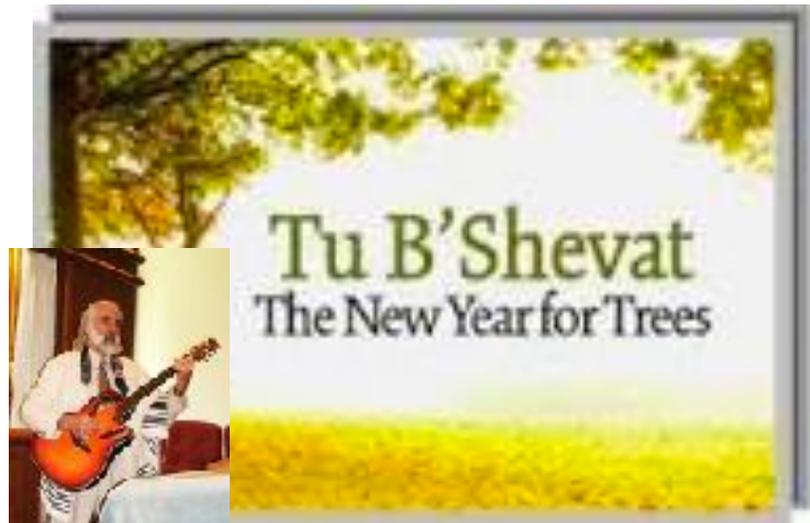
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Temple Board of Directors

Temple Member
Business Directory

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 New Year!!—Again!

Typically, as we emerge from winter and begin to see the first signs of spring, the notable occasion on the Hebrew calendar is Tu B'Shevat. This year the holiday seems to have come right in the middle of winter. On Monday, January 21, while most Americans were celebrating the very important civil rights holiday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Jewish holiday came and went, somewhat unnoticed, except by very observant Jews. Often called the "New Year for Trees," Tu B'Shevat is actually a transliteration of the Hebrew for the 15th of Shevat. You will recall that in Hebrew, letters represent numbers. The Hebrew letter *tet* stands for the number nine and the letter *vav* (which in this case makes the "u" sound)

represents the number six. Six plus nine, of course, equaling fifteen. Shevat is the eleventh month of the Hebrew calendar. The New Year for Trees is *not* a biblically commanded festival. Its first mention is found in the *Mishnah*, a collection of the sayings of Judaism's most prominent sages from just after the beginning of the Common Era. In *Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 2a*, the rabbis are discussing when the new year should fall. They did, in fact, establish four new years. The first of Nissan was referred to as the new year for kings and festivals. The first of Elul was established for the tithe (giving of one tenth) of cattle. The first of Tishri was called the new year for years of release, Jubilee years, and for the tithe of vegetables. The famous House of Hillel placed the new year for trees on the 15th of Shevat.

The need for a "New Year for Trees" was based on several passages from the Torah dealing with the treatment of trees, the most specific being Leviticus 19:23-25: "When you come into the land and you plant any tree for food, you shall treat its fruit as forbidden; for three years it will be forbidden and not eaten. In the fourth year, all of its fruit shall be sanctified to praise the LORD. In the fifth year, you may eat its fruit." The rabbis of the *Mishnah* probably placed the new year for trees on the 15th of Shevat because at that time of year the trees in the land of Israel, particularly those which bear fruit, begin to emerge from their winter dormancy and put forth their first buds. Since the destruction of the second Temple by the Romans in about 70 C.E., the ancient practices of tithing and the dedication of fruit, vegetables, and cattle for use by the priesthood in Jerusalem are no longer strictly adhered to in Judaism. Still, the importance of Tu B'Shevat has remained on many levels.

In modern times, the "New Year for Trees" has become a time to emphasize Jewish responsibility toward the environment. For an ancient document, the Torah contains a remarkable number of passages that deal with the appropriate treatment of plants, animals, and the land. The passage cited earlier from Leviticus 19 about the treatment of a newly planted fruit tree is one such example. The practice of not harvesting the fruit of a young tree for the first three years would allow the tree time to strengthen and establish its root system before being subjected to harvest. You will recall that even from the beginning of man and woman's time on earth, they were instructed to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and master it, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:27-28). The book of Genesis goes on to tell us that man and woman were placed in the Garden of Eden "to cultivate it and keep it" (2:15). The psalmist confirms, "The earth is the LORD's and all it contains, the world, and all who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1). In fact, the Almighty has made us partners in tending this incredible planet and bringing its possibilities to fruition.

The Torah instructed the children of Israel that even during times of war, when extreme measures were necessary for the preservation of the nation, special care was to be taken not to destroy trees (Deuteronomy 20:19). According to Numbers 35:4, when cities were constructed in the Promised Land, "green belts" were to be maintained around the perimeters of the cities. Special rules were

established for the harvesting of crops and the treatment of fields. For example, land was to be planted and harvested for six years, but on the seventh year the land was required to lie fallow, obviously in order to rejuvenate itself (Leviticus 25:3-4). This is actually referred to as giving the land a “sabbath rest”! There are even laws in the Torah which regulate such mundane things as the disposal of waste (Deuteronomy 23:12).

The ethical treatment of animals is also a prominent concern in the Torah. Leviticus 19:19 prohibits the crossbreeding of species. Several laws pertain to the preservation of species. One such example is Deuteronomy 22:6: “If along the road, you chance upon a birds nest, in any tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs and the mother sitting over the fledglings or the eggs, do not take the mother together with her young. Let the mother go, and take only the young, in order that you may fare well and have a long life.” It is on this same theme that we find the famous passage, “You shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk” (Exodus 23:19 and Deuteronomy 14:21). The *Kashrut* laws of separating milk and meat were derived from this passage, which is all about ethical treatment of a parent of a species and its young. Even in such a simple statement as, “You shall not muzzle the ox while it is threshing” (Deuteronomy 25:4), one can sense the ancient intent of not wanting to cause an animal undue stress or suffering. I have always been astounded that in *the* central communication of Jewish law, the giving of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, the Almighty keeps the welfare of animals in mind. When the instructions for the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath are given, in verse 10 the Torah states, “the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male servant or your female servant, or **your cattle**.... For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” So it is clear that even our livestock, just as we ourselves, were to be given a time of rest and restoration one day in seven.

Another, more metaphorical, lesson that we can take away from the “New Year for Trees,” is a deeper appreciation for the very source of the amazing laws and precepts that have preserved us as a people, the Holy Torah. It is likened in our tradition to a “tree of life.” The laws of the Torah truly have, as promised (Joshua 1:8), kept those who observe them, happy, healthy, successful, and prosperous. Referring to the Torah as a “tree of life” connects back to the original “tree of life” in the Garden of Eden, from which, according to the creation story, if man and woman had eaten, they would have lived forever (Genesis 3:22). One of the most beautiful and soulful chants from the Sabbath morning liturgy is the one we do after reading the Torah, as we return it to the ark, “*Eitz chayim hi...*” Based on a paraphrase of the passage from the Hebrew Bible found in Proverbs 3:17-18, we are instructed: “Behold, a good doctrine has been given you, My Torah; do not forsake it. It is a tree of life to those who hold it fast, and all who cling to it find happiness. Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace.” We have truly inherited an awe-inspiring and lofty tradition, teaching us to love God,

our Creator, and to have compassion not only for our fellow humans, but for the earth and all of its creatures, plant and animal.

In these weeks following our holiday of Tu B'Shevat, as we anticipate the rebirth of nature in spring, please join me in thanking Adonai for the awesome creation that has been entrusted into our care, as well as for the remarkable laws, the Holy Torah, which instruct us as to how that care should be implemented. *Ken yehi ratzon!*—May this be God's will!

The President's Message

Barbara Laufer, President

We are fortunate to have Marion DuBow and Liz Correll as board members this year. Marion is a retired teacher of the blind and visually impaired, who has lived in Lenoir for twelve years. For the past six years she has been on the TBS board, and can be counted on to provide a traditional Jewish voice to our deliberations, which is always welcomed. Since retirement, Marion has been actively engaged as a grandmother of five grandchildren. Liz Zerden Correll has worked for BB&T Bank for many years, but not as long as she has been a member of our temple. The Zerden family was one of the founding members of our temple and Liz has been a member since birth. She was a devoted Sunday School teacher and has been a board member off and on in varying capacities for a long time. She is also indispensable as the Haf Torah reader for Yom Kippur. Liz is also on the Howard Zerden (her uncle) Foundation Board along with her brother Robert.

Board members Mary Lee Tosky, Tiffany Hull and Jaimi Jones represent schools in Catawba and Alexander counties. For our monthly community donations this Winter, each school will receive a \$100 donation from TBS to help provide for their students' basic needs.

Sisterhood is front and center for the upcoming Purim events, as they are preparing to bake hamentaschen for college students and older temple members. If you have a college student who would be interested in receiving some, please let Lin Gentry know (see sisterhood column). There will also be a party and Megillah reading at the temple at 7:30, March 22nd.

Also, Sisterhood has been busy planning for the Passover Seder on April 20th, so please save the date. The deadline for registration is **April 12, 2019**, and the registration form is on the last page of this bulletin. Checks are to be made out to **Sisterhood, Temple Beth Shalom** 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.

Please let the Board know how we can better serve you, and consider volunteering to host at temple services.

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.

January 11-12	Jaime and Kathy Jones	hosts needed
February 8-9	Linda and Henry Greenfield	hosts needed
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 sisterhood is planning a busy next few months! Our next Torah study will be Saturday, February 2nd, at 10am at the temple. The portion is Exodus 21:1–24:18, *Mishpatim*. Read it and come ready to discuss how it relates to us 21st century women. It's partly about how to treat other individuals and nations. And who knew that Moses wasn't the only one to ascend the mountain and actually see G-d???"

Remember, Torah study's are open to women, men, and high school students (...and sometimes there's cake....).

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be Wednesday, February 13th, at 6:30pm, at Groucho's Deli, located at 1025 2nd St NE in Hickory.

On Sunday, March 10th, at 11am, we'll be baking hamentaschen at the temple to send to our college students and our 'mature' members of temple. Bring already made dough and fillings and we'll get baking! If you have a student who would want a package of home baked hamentaschen, send me their mailing address by March 9th. Who wouldn't want some sweet poppyseed hamentaschen?



Save the date! The temple's annual community Seder will be on Sat April 20 at 6pm at the temple. The registration form will be in the newsletter, and the deadline is April 12th. Go ahead and put that date on your calendar—We have a great time with delicious food!

On Saturday May 4, sisterhood will host a Game Night at temple at 6:30pm. We'll celebrate Havdalah and then play a board game. We'll decide later which game—any suggestions? Apples to Apples Jewish version? Taboo's Jewish version?



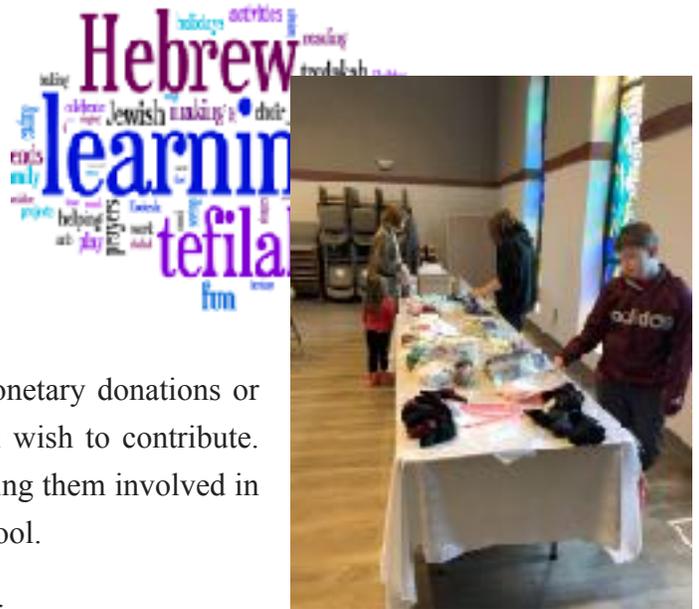
Sisterhood is looking forward to seeing you all at any of these exciting events! If you have any ideas about future activities, please share them with us!

TBS Sunday School Program

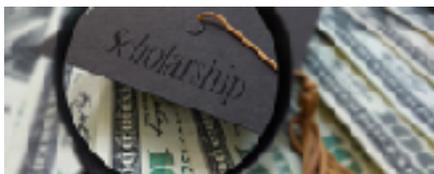
Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator

Sunday School was cancelled on January 13th due to icy road conditions, but the students were back in class on January 27th. They packed 30 bags of hygiene supplies for the homeless as their annual tzedakah project. Thank you to those members who donated supplies! The bags were given to TBS member, Heidi Jones, to present to her employer, Partners Behavioral Health Management, to distribute to their homeless clients. We will continue to take monetary donations or hygiene supplies for this activity if any members still wish to contribute. Teaching our young people about tikkun olam and getting them involved in community service is a vital component of Sunday School.

The next Sunday School meeting will be February 10th.



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 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



Elaine Zerden is recovering from hip surgery at home, 904 2nd St, NE, Kingston Residence #205, Hickory NC 28601

Donations

A donation of \$100.00 was made to Hiddenite Elementary School for the month of January.



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 February Events

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Yahrzeits

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

Local and Regional Events

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



Prominent Military Historian
and German-Jewish Refugee Gerhard
Weinberg to Speak at ASU
(Rescheduled Event from September)

On Wednesday, February 27, the Appalachian State University and broader communities are invited to a public lecture by **Dr. Gerhard L. Weinberg**, the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Emeritus Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His lecture is entitled “Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies and the ‘Jewish Question’” and will start at **7:00 pm in Belk Library and Information Commons, Rm 114**. The event is free of charge and no tickets are required (The lecture was originally scheduled for September 2018, but had to be canceled due to the incoming hurricane).



Temple Beth Shalom has renewed our membership 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/>.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Jewish Year 5779

Purim

March 20-21

Passover

April 19 - April 27

Shavuot

June 8-10

Tish'a B'Av

August 11

Calendar of Jewish Holidays | Religious and Spiritual Life
<https://www.umass.edu/orsl/resources/jewish/holidays/calendar>

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Date	Comments	Bulletin Deadline
February	8-10 Services Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10am/Sunday School 10am	January 26
	24 Sunday School 10am	
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

