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Temple Beth Shalom
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Temple Beth Shalom

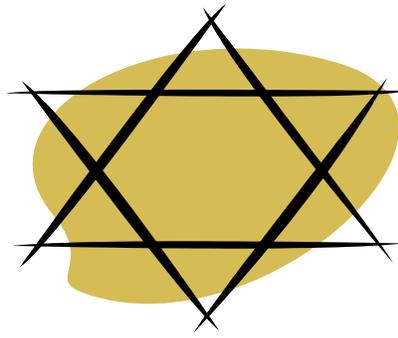
From the Bima: Our Rabbi's Message

New Inspiration from Ancient Prayers?

As a rabbi living in the land of Israel in the first century of the Common Era, it is only natural that Jesus would teach his followers (students) about prayer. The Lord's Prayer, sometimes called the Our Father prayer, is as powerful as it is simple and elegant. And, through and through, it is thoroughly Jewish in its themes. Jesus taught this prayer, according to the New Testament Book of Luke, in response to a request from one of his disciples who asked Jesus to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his followers. Appearing twice in the New Testament, the version of the prayer recorded in Luke is shorter and simpler than the well-developed version found in the Book of Matthew. The writer of Matthew, who, according to Christian tradition, would have been more familiar with Jewish sources, incorporates the Lord's Prayer in a group of teachings of Jesus often referred to as the Sermon on

the Mount. Matthew 6:9-13 contains the text of the prayer: "Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen." In their amazing book, *A Prayer to Our Father: Hebrew Origins of the Lord's Prayer* (Hilkiah Press, 2009), Nehemiah Gordon and Keith Johnson point out the pronounced connections this prayer of Jesus and his followers shares with the Jewish faith of first century Israel. Nehemiah Gordon is a Karaite Jew currently living in Jerusalem. Keith Johnson is a Christian pastor currently living in Charlotte, North Carolina. One of the first contributions that Gordon and Johnson make in connecting the Lord's Prayer to Jewish texts of the same time period is to correct the false notion that referring to God as "Father" is not a traditional Jewish custom. The Prophet Isaiah uses terminology very similar to the Lord's Prayer in verses 15 and 16 of chapter 63. Isaiah states, "Look down

from heaven.... For you are *our Father*, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are *our Father*, our Redeemer from of old is your name.” Note that in this prayer, Isaiah not only refers to God as “Father,” but also refers to heaven as God’s habitation, as does the Lord’s Prayer. Jeremiah uses similar terminology when in chapter 3 verse 19 the Prophet quotes God as saying to wayward Israel, “You shall call Me, ‘*My Father*,’ and not turn away from me.” Gordon and Johnson go on to elucidate other references to God as “Father” in the Hebrew Prophets as well as in the *Mishna* and in midrashic sources (see, e.g. Malachi 2:20, *Mishna*, Sota 9:15, and *Midrash Psalms* 25:13). It might also be added at this point that the most prominent prayer of the Jewish High Holiday season, extending from Rosh Hashanah through the Ten Days of Repentance until Yom Kippur, has since medieval times been the Avinu Malkenu prayer, which translates, “*Our Father*, our King.” Also interesting in this regard is a prayer recorded in the Talmud (Ta’anith 25b) of the devout Rabbi Akiva, who during a time of drought around 135 C.E. exclaimed, “*Our Father*, our King, we have no King but Thee; *our Father*, our King, for Thy sake have mercy upon us.” According to the story, rain immediately began to fall.



In addition to the excellent points made by Gordon and Johnson in their book, I am not the only Jewish writer who has seen a strong connection between Jesus’ Our Father prayer and the beloved Jewish Kaddish (see, e.g., Anita Diamant, “Development and History of Kaddish,” <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/>). Both prayers would have been composed at about the same time, since scholars put the origins of the Kaddish prayer in the first century B.C.E., less than 100 years before Jesus’ public ministry. The prayer that Jesus taught to his followers shares many common themes with the Kaddish: “Hallowed thy name” could be a reflection of the line from the Kaddish which translates, “Let God’s great name be hallowed.” The phrase, “Thy kingdom come” echoes the Kaddish’s “May God’s kingdom soon prevail in our own day.” And, “Thy will be done” shares a similar meaning with “...the world whose creation God willed” from the Kaddish. The core sentiments of both prayers are the exultation of God’s name and a longing for the rapid establishment of God’s

sovereignty over the earth. Anita Diamant also points out that both faith communities have used their respective prayers, the Lord’s Prayer and the Kaddish, in similar fashions, including them in most prayer and worship services and in almost all funerals. The two prayers truly unite their respective communities with familiar themes and rhythms. Is it possible that they, given their similar origins and themes, might one day unite the two communities more closely together?

The Kaddish is composed mostly in Aramaic, the language commonly spoken by Jews in Israel from about the fifth century B.C.E. until the fifth century C.E. The prayer incorporates praises of the Almighty modeled after verses in the Hebrew Bible such as Ezekiel 38:23 and Daniel 2:20. The central theme of the Kaddish prayer is reflected in the congregational response: “Yehei shmei raba mevorakh l’olam ulalmei almaya, May God’s great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.” This is an apparent Aramaic translation of the Hebrew “Baruch shem kavod malchuto l’olam va’ed, Blessed be God’s name, whose glorious kingdom is forever,” a line familiar to every Jew since it is coupled so closely with the Shema. Such a translation would, again, connect to the Kaddish very closely with the

words of the Lord's Prayer, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever."

A Meditation in the *Gates of Prayer* siddur states, "The origins of the Kaddish are mysterious; angels are said to have brought it down from heaven.... It possesses a wonderful power. Truly, if there is any bond strong enough to chain heaven to earth, it is this prayer" (p. 622). With Hanukkah, the Feast of the Dedication *and* a time of personal rededication to the high ideals of our Jewish faith behind us, and as the civil New Year begins, I would encourage one and all to return to the themes of these powerful ancient prayers for strength. And, whether one is Jewish or Christian, what a good time to recommit ourselves to the concept that one day, as spoken of by the Hebrew Prophets, God's sovereignty *will* extend to the entire earth. It is our Jewish belief that God's sovereignty will be hastened by our own actions in implementing the lofty commands of the Torah in our everyday lives—honoring father and mother, performing acts of love and kindness, visiting the sick, etc. As we strive toward that goal, may the translation of the Kaddish prayer, a translation we don't read often enough, be a source of inspiration to us:

יְהַדְלֵל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא בְּעַלְמָא דְיִיבְרָא כְּרַעוּתָהּ,
וְיַמְלִיךְ מְלְכוּתָהּ בְּתַיִיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְקַלְיַבִּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעַנְיָא וּבְזַמַּן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

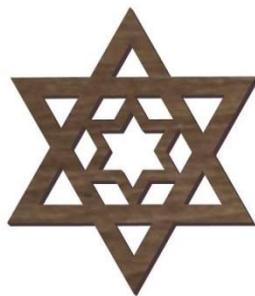
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.

יְתַבְרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא, וְיִתְהַדְדֵר
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקוּדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעַלְמָא מִן
כָּל־בְּרַכְתָּא וְיִשְׂרָתָא, הַשְּׁבַחְתָּא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאִמְרוּן בְּעַלְמָא,
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Let the glory of God be extolled; let God's great name be hallowed in the world whose creation God willed. May God's kingdom soon prevail, in our own day, our own lives, and the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen.

Let God's great name be blessed for ever and ever.

Let the name of the holy one be glorified, exalted and honored, though God is beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter, and let us say: Amen.



President's Corner

Barbara Laufer, TBS President

Hanukkah marked a special time for Temple Beth Shalom. Sisterhood, thanks to the efforts of Lin Gentry, sponsored a lively Fair in conjunction with Shalom Park congregations' Judaica shop with varied and unique items and 10% of the proceeds will come to sisterhood. This event was followed by a spectacular Hanukkah party that was well attended by all ages. There were decorations, games and prizes and fun for everyone, plus food that was incredible thanks to the efforts of Sunday school parents and the on-site preparation of latkes made by Jan Robbins.

Many pictures were taken by our very own **Elaine Zerden** who will be honored for her many years of service with a luncheon following the services of **February 7**. More information will be provided shortly.

The Ritual committee made a recommendation to the Temple Board of Trustees to replace the current Gates of Prayer with the updated Mishkan T'Filah. The title of this new siddur, developed by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, comes from "Exodus 25:8 where God commands us to build a portable sanctuary that can accompany us on our

wanderings, 'And let them build Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.'" Pages include the Hebrew, the transliteration, and the English which eliminates continuous page turning and hopefully encourages the learning and use of Hebrew. The Board approved this recommendation. In addition it was felt this would provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to make donations of \$36 per siddur (or double Chai) to recognize special events and/or people. Donations will be honored with bookplates for each siddur; completed information and checks should be sent to Barbara Laufer, 5231 Peninsula Drive, Granite Falls, NC 28630.

TBS Sunday school Program

Marsue Davidson, Sunday school Chair

The Sunday school children and parents want to thank everyone that participated in the annual Hanukah Party. It was an exciting event with wonderful food, friendship and fellowship. The children and temple guests lite up the night with beautiful Hanukah Menorah and enjoyed a night of games and celebration. Thank you everyone for helping and making this event another special memorable time at Temple Beth Shalom.

The second half of our Sunday school session begins

on January 11th. Please join us and continue with your education of our Jewish traditions and religion and preparedness for our children's Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

The Friday night services will be starting at 7:00pm and all children and families are welcome and encouraged to attend. Student Rabbi Dennis is encouraging all of us to incorporate the children in the evening services in order for the children to begin to understand and implement the teachings they have learned over this Sunday school session. We thank Dennis for his continued dedication and evolving integration of the children into congregational services.

Special Announcement...

Mark and Laura Faruque are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Harry Jacob Hencher, on January 1st! Mark and Laura and Harry's parents, Rachel and Dan, would be honored to have you share in this joyous event at the Brit Milah. The service is scheduled at their home next Friday, January 9th, at 1:00 in the afternoon. A luncheon will follow, so please contact them if you can attend so they can plan accordingly.
2080 6th St NW
Hickory, NC 28601
Home phone (828) 324-4950

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle Events

Birthdays

Stephen Davidson 1/5
Liz Correll 1/7
Alice Guy 1/12
Sarah Shugar 1/16
Jaimi Jones 1/20
Deane Yelton 1/21
Rachel Igdal 1/25
Madeleine Guy 1/25
Barbara Laufer 2/1
Elaine Zerden 2/3
Perri Huit 2/8
Larry Freiman 2/9
Greg Rosenfeld 2/11
Larry Laufer 2/11
Grayson Weatherly 2/20
Julie Owens 2/21
Nicholas Faraque 2/23
Ian Westervelt 2/23
Maddy Gross 2/24
Sydney Westervelt 2/24
Sam Gross 2/28
Shelly Richards 2/28

Anniversaries

Sobotkin 1/31
Powell 2/24

Yahrzeits

Moses Gitlin 1/10
Gwen Datnoff 1/17
Ida Lippe 1/19
Charles Laufer 1/23
Joe Guttler 1/27
Helmi Berndt 8/18
David Guy 2/21
Sol Taub 2/22

A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

FOR ELAINE ZERDEN

Temple Beth Shalom is honoring our beloved Elaine on February 7th at 10:00am with a special service and luncheon reception following.

Temple Beth Shalom Event Calendar 2015

January 2015 hosted by Ron and Marion DuBow

9th at 7:00pm Friday night services
10th 10:00am Morning Services
11th at 10:30am Sunday School study about Jewish Prayer
25th Sunday School studying about Tu-Be Shevat/New Year for Trees

February 2015 hosted by Barbara and Larry Laufer

6th at 7:00pm Friday night evening service
7th at 10:00am Special Morning Service and Luncheon Honoring Elaine Zerden
8th at 10:30am Sunday School studying about Tu-Be Shevat/New Year for Trees
22nd at 10:30am Sunday School studying about Purim History and Meaning

March 2015 hosted by MaryLee and Aaron Tosky

6th at 7:00pm Friday night service
7th at 10:00am Morning Services
8th and 22nd at 10:30am Sunday School studying about Passover

April 2015 hosted by Sisterhood and the Davidson

4th Seder at 5P.M.
12th and 26th at 10:30am Sunday school studying about Counting the Omer
24th at 7:00pm Evening Services
25th at 10:00am Morning Services

Please join us in this special celebration of her life and share your photos with the congregants and guests of Temple Beth Shalom.

Looking for Something to Do...

Butterfly Project on Sunday January 25, 2015 is a program that is age appropriate for 5th-12th graders from 10am-12pm.

The Butterfly Project in Charlotte provides a wonderful opportunity that we believe will enhance your Jewish Education. The Butterfly Project, located at the Levine Jewish Community Center, uses the story of the Holocaust as a vehicle to teach what can happen when prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination are allowed to flourish. The 2 ½ hour workshop includes a Holocaust survivor's story, an artistic, educational, hands-on project that remembers some of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust, and a visit to the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden. Engage in group discussion that is inspiring participants to build bridges of communication, understanding and respect for all people.

CONDOLENCES to Sandy and Linda Guttler on the death of her father Henry Rosenfeld



TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood is an auxiliary organization of multigenerational women dedicated to family, synagogue, and community. From the very beginning, the women of Temple Beth Shalom recognized the need for an organization where women of all ages, lifestyles and interests could gather. The dues are presently \$36 per year (Sept-June).

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00pm at Davinci's. Please come join us, we would like to set a date for a family game night at temple.

Also, save the date for the temple community Seder on Saturday, April 4 2015.

Harriett Sederholm Scholarship Fund Announcement

The Sederholm Scholarship was established by a long-standing Temple member, Bert Sederholm to honor his wife, Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement from work in Hickory. Mr. Sederholm provided the initial funding that 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 or Jewish to apply. The scholarship fund is fully invested and the dividends are used to provide scholarship awards.

Interested students should submit an essay explaining their interests and desire for scholarship support by June 15, 2015. The essay can be sent to any of the committee members:

- Lin Gentry at
- Julie Owens
- Sanford Guttler

Naturally, the committee encourages anyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time and a check can be sent to Temple Beth Shalom and earmarked for the Sederholm Fund.

Temple Board

Barbara Laufer, President
Tiffany Hull, Vice President
Sam Shames, Secretary
Mark Faruque, Treasurer

Members at Large:

- Aaron Tosky
- Liz Correll
- Marsue Davidson
- Robyn Diamond
- Debra Engelmann
- Lin Gentry
- Sandy Guttler
- Pam Jones

- Susan Rieder
- Marion DuBow

Our next board meeting is scheduled for January 7th at 7pm. The planning committee for Elaine Zerden "A Lifetime of Achievement" will be meeting at 6:00pm. All board meetings are open to all temple members. Please join us and find out the new and exciting direction for TBS.

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
Womens 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

**Marsue Davidson, RN DCS
Unifour Nursing**

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

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.tastefullbeans.com

Additional Temple Beth Shalom Service dates for 2015

- May 15-16th sponsored by the Laufer family
- May 25th Shavuot
- June 19-20th sponsored by Susan Rieder

SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

invites you to attend the April 4, 2015 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 25, 2015 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:

- All children under age 5 free!
- Aged 6-12 will be \$15.00
- Aged 13 and up \$25.00
- 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 a number of attendees in proper space.

5 and under free _____

6 and up \$15.00 _____

13 and up \$25.00 _____

Guests to TBS \$30.00 _____

Name: _____

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