

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

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

In January, we are introduced to Moses as we begin the reading of the Book of Exodus. The story of

the Exodus is the continuation of the historical journey of the Jewish people. As we begin a new year, in a sense while we as Jews continue our journey into an unknown future, events occurring around us will become historical markers for us and the world. 2024 began with the Israeli Supreme Court striking down a law that deeply divided Israel and led to 100's of thousands of people demonstrating to preserve Israel's democracy. This action taken by the Supreme Court wipes out the potential for corruption and maintains the rule of law in Israel.

2024 is an election year in the United States and while we watched Israel from afar deal with their internal conflicts, the world will be closely watching what will happen here as we move towards the election in November.

It is with great sadness that Israel is still fighting her war for survival. While the world calls for ceasefires, I do not hear anyone calling on Gaza to stop sending rockets into Israel. No one is calling on Hezbollah to stop sending bombs from Lebanon into Israel.

At midnight on January 1st, many rockets were launched from Gaza into central Israel. While there is no apparent end in sight, the word is that Israel and Hamas are negotiating another ceasefire in exchange for the release of more hostages. We can only hope and pray that this will happen quickly.

Grace and I are flying to Israel on January 22nd. We will be joining a mission led by my rabbinic organization, the Central Conference of

American Rabbis, to volunteer; join forces with my Israeli colleagues; meet with families directly affected by the situation; and learn what is happening on the ground. One of the criteria for going on this trip is that you must be able to run. I have been to Israel too many times to count and that has never before been a condition for going on any of my trips there. The reality is if the sirens go off, they need to know that all of us can move quickly in the number of seconds we have to get to a bomb shelter or a safe room. This is today's reality and how sad is that? We have been asked to bring money to Israel to help our colleagues with the ongoing need to provide people with what they need. If anyone is interested in contributing to this please speak with me.

On a brighter note, I am so looking forward to Werner Cohn's Bar Mitzvah which is happening on January 13th. He is an outstanding student and a pleasure to work with. Please join us for his Bar Mitzvah so that you too can experience what a lovely young man he is! Mazal tov to his parents Seth and Ashley and his grandparents who I know will be kvelling the entire weekend.

I hope you will join us over Shabbat for spiritual nourishment, learning, community, and good food! I wish all of us a healthy, safe, and fulfilling New Year!

Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

The President's Message

Susan G Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

I hope this finds all of you and those dear to you enjoying a great start to 2024! While our most prominent new year is Rosh Hashanah, we Jews are fortunate to have multiple opportunities to enjoy new beginnings -- Nisan, Tu Bishvat, and the secular new year. And we can enjoy each one in its own unique way. This year begins with the greatest challenge to the Jewish people that most of us have ever known.

Last year, 2023, began with massive protests over judicial reform in Israel leading some to warn that Israel was coming close to civil war. Those protests continued until shortly after the new Jewish year. Then, on October 7, while Israelis were celebrating Shemini Atzeret, Hamas launched an attack that would kill more Jews in any single day since the Holocaust. Thus, Israel was plunging into the most devastating war in its 75-year history.

Rabbi Dr. Daniel (Danny) Gordis writes a weekly column, *Israel from the Inside*. If you haven't read it, I suggest you give it a try. In his January 1, 2024, column he wrote that, on December 26, 2022, the column was called "If you know Jewish history, Israel's being 74 years old should make you very, very nervous." He noted that the first two times that Israel was sovereign and united lasted 73 and 74 years, respectively. The attack from Hamas came just a few months after Israel celebrated its 75th birthday.

While some of the hostages have been freed, too many remain captive almost 90 days later. I'm going to repeat some information which I shared with you a couple of months ago. We can do a few things to help our Israeli brothers and sisters. Here are some sites where we can make donations:

- Operation Swords of Iron at UJA Federation of New York - www.ujafedny.org
- Emergency Campaign of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte - www.jewishcharlotte.org
- American Joint Distribution Committee - www.jdc.org
- ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America - arza.org
- MERCAZ Olami, the political arm of the Conservative/Masorti movement based in Jerusalem - <https://mercazolami.org>
- The Jewish National Fund - www.jnf.org

You can also receive frequent updates on the situation in Israel from those sites. The ADL and AIPAC also provide frequent updates and offer webinars and invitations to let our elected representatives know that we stand with Israel and that we urge them to do so as well.

And don't forget our Jewish college students, many of whom are having a rough go of it on their campuses. Our campus Hillel needs our support now as well. Go to <https://www.hillel.org> to find out how you can help.

In these troubled times, it behooves us to stay informed. The Wall Street Journal (www.WSJ.com) and the New York Times (www.nytimes.com) are good sources. In addition, check out some sources that come directly from Israel. Israel from the Inside with Daniel Gordis (danielgordis.substack.com) is one of my favorites (I've been a fan for years!). The Times of Israel (<https://www.timesofisrael.com>) is another. And I'm sure Rabbi Liss will be glad to recommend her favorites.

On the Home Front:

On Saturday, December 16, Dayspring Church, Hickory, held a prayer rally for Israel led by Pastor Glenn Pinkney, for those who wanted "to honor the Biblical mandate to stand with and stand for Jerusalem/Israel." Some of you will recall that Pastor Glenn visited us during our Shabbat morning service in December and spoke about the rally. While I was unable to stay for the entire rally due to family obligations, I was honored to represent our Jewish community by singing "Hatikvah" early in the program. I was amazed when everyone stood after I read the translation and before I started singing. While so many communities are suffering from Antisemitic acts, we are blessed to enjoy a positive relationship with our non-Jewish friends and neighbors. Once again, thank you to Rabbi Dennis Jones for forging ties with the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council (CVIC). We value the friendships that have come from that undertaking and look forward to continuing them.

Your Board of Trustees has approved a letter underlining our support for Israel. That letter will be sent to all our members very soon.

We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Liss back January 12 and 13. Don't forget that she'll offer a special blessing for those whose birthdays are in the month of January. We'll also celebrate the bar mitzvah of Werner Cohn. He's pretty amazing!

I look forward to seeing you soon -- in person or via Zoom.

L'Shalom,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President

Hello all,



I wanted to remind folks that the Caring Committee freezer is up and running downstairs but we are in need of help filling it. Donations of dairy or pareve freezer meals can be brought to the synagogue during sisterhood potlucks or you can coordinate drop-offs with Gabe or Jodi.

Our next sisterhood-sponsored potluck is on January 5th at 6 PM. Everyone is welcome but we do ask that if you are able, you bring a dairy or pareve dish to share.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for Sisterhood events, please reach out to me at alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

-Alexis

TBS Sunday School Program

Sheri Stock, Sunday School Principal

Hi TBS members and friends.

We have some exciting news! Alexis and Gabe have been working very hard to get our lending library up and running. Each family will be able to check out books and Gabe has prizes for kids who read Jewish books! In January we will have Sunday School on the 7th, 14th, and the 21st. We will continue learning our letters and Geoff will lead discussion of the weekly parsha, and about the importance of trees in preparation for Tu Bishvat. AND Werner Cohn's Bar Mitzvah will be on January 13th! I can't wait! He is doing so well in his studies!

Shalom,

Sheri



Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund (HSSF) was established by a long-time Temple member and past President, Burt Sederholm (may his memory be a blessing), to honor his late wife Harriet, who died shortly after she retired from 25 years with the Catawba County Department of Social Services. The scholarship committee is a sub-committee of the Temple Beth Shalom Board. The committee manages funds invested to award one-time scholarships with the earnings from the invested funds.

These awards honor the memory of Harriet Sederholm and her efforts to improve the lives of many impoverished adults and children in Catawba County.

The HSSF scholarship is available to students. Candidates will submit an essay to any one of the committee members. The essay will explain who the candidate is, what they are doing currently, their plans for the future, how the scholarship funds will be used, and, if applicable, what the connection may be to Jewish life.

The committee will make decisions based on the following preferences but not absolutes:

- ✦ Is the applicant a temple member or related to a temple member?
- ✦ Is the applicant Jewish?
- ✦ Will the funds be used for educational needs?
- ✦ Will the funds make a difference regarding the applicant's ability to benefit from the activity?
- ✦ Is the activity something deemed to be of value by the committee?

Interested students should submit their essays 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 meeting will be Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to attend a scheduled monthly meeting. Board members are:

Officers:

Susan Goldstein, President
 Lin Gentry, Vice President
 Mary Lee Tosky, Secretary
 Susan Rieder, Treasurer

Members at Large:

Liz Correll
 Karen Ferguson
 Sheri Stock
 Susan Tiger Huitt
 Jodi Lavin-Tompkins



Join in the Mitzvah!

Werner Cohn is collecting diapers, baby wipes, infant and children's clothing, and anything for kids to play with such as toys and art supplies, for his Bar Mitzvah project.

If you are able, please bring items to Services the weekend of his Bar Mitzvah (January 13th). It would be a wonderful contribution to his project.

TBS January
 donation to local Charity

Women's Resource Center

**Do you have a favorite charity you
 would like us to donate to?
 Let us know.**

**The TBS board thanks
 you for your donations**

General donations:

Susan Goldstein

High Holiday donation:

Richard Rose



Please consider pairing with a board member(s) to host a Shabbat or Holiday at Temple Beth Shalom. When members contribute to the life of our synagogue in this way, we all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being. A sign up sheet is posted in the synagogue foyer, or you can sign up online. Here's the link: [TBS Hosting Sign-ups - Google Sheets](#)

1. View the [spreadsheet](#) to see what dates are free
2. Submit your choice using the [Google Form](#).
3. MaryLee will type in any form *submissions*, but **any board member can enter host names** on the spreadsheet for themselves or other members *by request*. Several of you have successfully done so!

TBS Community Mitzvah Projects



The cold weather persists! This means that many of our local homeless population are in need of warm clothing and shelter more than ever. Please consider being a part of tikkun olam by donating gently used items (or buy some new ones!) in all sizes from the list below. We will get them to those in need! There is a box in the Temple foyer to put them in at any service that you may be attending this winter. We helped many people stay warm last year and I hope we can do that again this year!

Hoodies
Coats
Sweatpants
Sweatshirts

Hats
Scarves
Warm Socks
Hand Warmers

Gloves/Mittens
Back Packs
Sleeping Bags
Tents

If you have any questions about this project or suggestions on where else we can have a positive impact, please contact Kathy Jones, Community Relations and Social Action Committee Chairperson, at krsjones2002@yahoo.com.

TBS Member Business Directory

Let us know if you would like to list your business here in the Bulletin. It is a free benefit of TBS membership

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

Jack and Hannah Levy
Druzy Dreams Crystals
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/druzydreamscrystals>

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

The Natural Olive
216 Union Square
Hickory
828-256-1950
www.NaturalOliveHickory.com

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle January Events



Birthdays

David Jones 1/1
Werner Locke Cohn 1/4
Stephen Davidson 1/5
Liz Correll 1/7
Alice Guy 1/12
Karson Rowan 1/16
Jaimi Jones 1/20
Deane Griffin 1/21
Rachel Igdal 1/25
Madeleine Guy 1/25

Anniversaries

Mark and Laura Faruque 1/6
Pete Sobotkin 1/31
Ashley and Grayson Cohn 1/26

Yahrzeits

Mazal Dayan 1/1	Gwen Datnoff 1/17
Samuel Dopkeen 1/4	Harold Setser 1/20
Moses Gitlin 1/10	Charles Laufer 1/23
Dora Dopkeen 1/13	Marc Fedder 1/23
Clara Setser 1/14	Joe Guttler 1/27
Molly Sederholm 1/16	Ida Lippe 1/29



BAR MITZVAH
mazel tov

JOIN US FOR THE
BAR MITZVAH OF

*Werner
Cohn*

SATURDAY JAN 13 10:00AM

4360 N CENTER ST
HICKORY, NC 28601
UNITED STATES
RSVP TO SETH & ASHLEY
COHN
336-262-3050
OR
336-262-9913

Local and Regional Events



Library and Resource Center

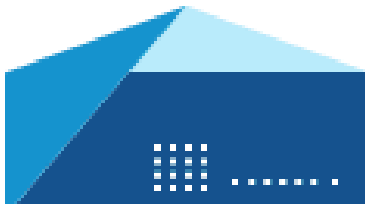
[Catalog of the Center Library](#)

[Center Lectures and Testimonies](#)

The CJHPS' new Library and Resource Center is in Edwin Duncan Hall, 102 Suite. It is open to the ASU and broader publics during the office hours of the CJHPS. The collections include key scholarly journals, thousands of books, DVDs, and rare archival materials pertaining to Jewish, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. The library also has two workstations for easy access to the USC Shoah Foundation's 55,000 survivor testimonies. It functions like a Central European Präsenzbibliothek, i.e., materials can be used on site and manually checked out inside the library.

CJHPS Newsletter

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay updated on the latest news and events.



**SHALOM
HARMON
INSTITUTE**

Follow this link for information about upcoming online events at
SHI: <https://www.hartman.org.il/programs/>



Tu Bishvat 2024

begins Wednesday, January 24 at sunset

ends Thursday, January 25 at nightfall

A well-known tradition for Tu BiSh'vat is to plant a tree in Israel to help renew the marshy land to a habitable place that also provides sustenance. A more recent tradition is to prepare and share a Seder plate of fruits commonly found in Israel.

2024 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
Jan 7	Sunday School 10:00am	Dec 30
12	Friday night service 7:00pm	
13	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
14	Sunday School 10:00am	
21	Sunday School 10:00am	

Feb 4	Sunday School 10:00am	Jan 23
11	Sunday School 10:00am	
16	Friday night service 7:00pm	
17	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
18	Sunday School 10:00am	
Mar 3	Sunday School 10:00am	Feb 23
10	Sunday School 10:00am	
17	Sunday School 10:00am	
22	Friday night service 7:00pm	
23	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
24	Sunday School 10:00am	
April 7	Sunday School 10:00am	Mar 23
21	Sunday School 10:00am	
26	Friday night service 7:00pm	
27	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
28	Sunday School 10:00am	
May 5	Sunday School 10:00am	April 23
10	Friday night service 7:00pm	
11	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
12	Sunday School 10:00am	
19	Annual Membership Meeting, and Sunday School 10:00am	
June 2	Sunday School 10:00am	May 23
9	Sunday School 10:00am	
14	Friday night service 7:00pm	
15	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
16	Sunday School 10:00am	
23	Sunday School 10:00am	
July 12	Friday night service 7:00pm	June 23
13	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	

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.