

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

An Open Letter to Temple Beth Shalom

Dear congregation, in previous bulletins, I have made every effort to bring you articles that were full of Biblical, historical, and Talmudic insights, in an effort to further your spiritual growth. In fact, some have accused me of being too long-winded or wordy!! With this



issue of the bulletin, as I revel in the amazing High Holiday services we have just celebrated together to usher in the Hebrew year 5778, I am overwhelmed with many emotions. So, I wanted to take a moment to share some thoughts with you personally, from my heart. And, to the joy of some, perhaps this article will be shorter than others I have written, though I am not promising that!!!

Can you believe that it has been three years, since I became your "student" rabbi? What a remarkable three years it has been for me personally! To be able to study Bible and Talmud, to prepare for and lead services,

particularly to learn and chant Torah and Haftorah, and to teach Sunday School are activities that bring me the utmost of personal joy and sense of fulfillment. The privilege of doing these things as your “official” spiritual leader and to be able to receive compensation for doing them fills me with gratitude that is difficult to put into words. When I accepted the position as your rabbi, I made the commitment to Adonai that for every service and Sunday School I was responsible for, I would give my utmost in preparation and service delivery. In the coming years, I want to renew that commitment and pledge to do even more to make Temple Beth Shalom a place where every soul can make a connection to the Almighty, to our Temple family, to the greater community, and to our rich Jewish heritage.

The decision I made, over twenty-seven years ago now, to formally convert to the Jewish faith and to become a member of Temple Beth Shalom is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. I have said many times, and I say again, that this congregation is blessed with the most amazing assembly of souls. Your superior intellect, talents, personalities, commitment to others, and love and respect for our Jewish traditions have always impressed me, and still does. I am honored just to be a member of this unique group, and to be your rabbi gives me a sense of purpose and personal fulfillment for which I am deeply, deeply grateful. In my prayers, I thank God *daily* for this privilege. And, I also want to thank you as well.

As I look back at previous years, I remember how nervous I was as I prepared to lead High Holiday services for the first time in the Fall of 2014. I told my wife, Kathy, “I just need to make it through the High Holidays then it will be all downhill from there.” She quipped, “You mean the quality of your services?” “No,” I replied, “just the level of my nervousness.” Now, in retrospect, as I consider those holiday services and all the monthly services that followed, from my perspective, things have gone very well. The positive feedback that I have gotten from all of you has *surpassed* my expectations. This year’s Fall holiday services were actually the fourth High Holidays that I have officiated. Rather than being nervous this year, I was filled with a sense of anticipation and excitement. In the afterglow of those services, I am thrilled with just how much the beautiful renovations to our sanctuary enhanced our prayer and worship experience. I hope you found that to be the case as well?!

I have, over the past years, received much beneficial constructive feedback as well. I extend my thanks to those of you who have shared your thoughts with me honestly in that regard. Some have said to me that they find it difficult to share constructive feedback because they like me personally and do not want to hurt my feelings. But, I want you to know that I view that feedback as an opportunity for personal and professional growth. I am ever aware that I am a “student” rabbi, and this is truly a learning process. I welcome your input and I take it very seriously, and I use it as a guide for future service preparation and delivery. So, if you have ideas

on ways to improve services, educational opportunities, or other activities at Temple Beth Shalom, please share those with me. I will make every effort to accept your feedback graciously and to use it for the betterment of our Jewish community.

Many have asked me about my rabbinical studies, so let me share just a brief word about those. I am thankful that we live in the Internet age. In a previous time, I might not have been able to avail myself of enrolling in a rabbinic studies program and to be your rabbi. Fortunately, most of my learning and academic requirements are being fulfilled over the Internet. When I originally considered the course requirements of my school, Rabbinic Seminary International, I set a personal goal of accomplishing ordination in four years. I am pleased to report to you, that after three years in the program, I am just under three fourths of the way through my coursework. I must be honest with you that teaching full time at Alexander Central High School, trying to fit in time for exercise and healthy eating, spending quality time with family, and preparation for my role at Temple Beth Shalom has given me less time to devote to rabbinic studies than I might have liked. But, with Adonai's help, I am making slow but sure progress, and I appreciate your patience and the patience of my teachers at the rabbinical seminary.

I want to say just a few words about the Sunday School program at Temple Beth Shalom. During my ten years as president, I always longed to be more involved with our Temple youth, but never seemed able to make the time. Over the past three years, working with the Sunday School students and their parents has been one of my greatest joys. It has meant so much to me to get to know the kids and their parents on a much more personal level. My affection for the students and interest in their individual spiritual growth has grown week by week. I believe that the young people sense that, because they have reciprocated my affections, and we have bonded in a very real way. When I became "student" rabbi, I was committed to "beefing up" our educational opportunities for young people. I believe that has happened, but in the coming years I want to do even more not only to educate the students, but to involve them in all aspects of Temple life, particularly service participation.

I cannot say enough good things about Temple Beth Shalom's Officers and Board members. These dear souls constantly give of their time, talents, and resources, and *never* ask for anything in return. They truly have my deepest admiration and appreciation. It was, perhaps, awkward at first to have the rabbi present at every Board meeting. That was something that was new to all of us. The experience has proven to be an unparalleled opportunity for growth and improvement for me. I love to have my "finger on the pulse" of the congregation and its needs. I truly hope the dedicated members of our Board have enjoyed the experience as I have.

In closing, I want to once again express my sincerest thanks to the entire congregation for the past three years. I am humbled and honored that you have chosen to renew my contract for

another year, and I look forward to making the next year even better than the last. With your help, I know we will. My earnest prayer for each of you is that the New Year will bring you the utmost of health, happiness, and prosperity. L'shanah tovah tikatevu!—"May you be written down for a good year!"

Your rabbi, Dennis

The President's Message

Marsue Davidson, TBS President

High Holiday services at Temple Beth Shalom were, as prescribed, a very special time of prayer and renewal for the many members who participated in the observance. We are so blessed and thankful to have celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 5778 with a new sound system and acoustic panels in our sanctuary. Thank you to all whose generosity made it possible to make these enhancements to our place of worship.

In light of recent social tragedies, our prayers of forgiveness and renewal have been, more than usual, emotional and heartfelt. Our High Holiday service seats were full and we shared this time together. Thank you to all the temple members who attended our High Holiday worship and we hope that all of you will join us for a full year of spiritual prayer and educational leadership, by our one and only Student Rabbi, Dennis Jones.

On the Sunday after Yom Kippur, the children and families of the Sunday School program built a beautiful Sukkah, and decorated it with the Jewish tribe flags. And then, on the first night of Sukkot we celebrated together under the moon light. We had an amazing turnout, over 30 members and guests. After a short service, we sang songs and ate sweets while everyone had an opportunity to raise the lulav and etrog, fulfilling G-d's commandment concerning the celebration of the festival of Sukkot. Thank you to Dennis and Kathy, for your careful planning, and making this celebration extra special for us.

We have included the TBS services and Sunday School schedule for your review on the last page of this newsletter and on the temple website. Please direct friends and family to our website for the list of temple events.



TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Program Coordinator

The TBS Sunday School met on Sunday, October 1st and helped build and decorate the Sukkah at the Temple. Thank you to the Cohn family and their grandchildren for helping to make it a great day! Congregants and guests loved having the first day of Sukkot service and "benching lulav" in it this past Wednesday, October 4th.

Rabbi Dennis invites all Sunday School families, and anyone else interested, to join him in car pooling over to the annual "HardLox Jewish Food and Heritage Festival" in downtown Asheville on Sunday, Oct. 15, 11:00am to 4:00pm. There will be Israeli dancing, klezmer music, crafts, and educational activities. Please email Rabbi Dennis if you are interested in participating. This activity will be in lieu of the Sunday School that was scheduled for October 22nd. Our next regular Sunday School meeting will be Sunday, November 5th at 10:00am.

TBS Sisterhood

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

We are very grateful to Barb and Larry Laufer for all their coordination of the renovations at the temple this summer. Barb was the general contractor, which helped the Temple greatly. Sisterhood helped clean the temple in September after the renovations in order to get ready for the High Holidays.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 18th at 6:30pm at the restaurant ‘Wood’, located on Highway 127, close to Clark Tire and Goodwill (it used to be called Bistro 127). I’ll send a reminder email later so I can get a headcount.

The pictures below were taken during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. The first person to email me the names of all who are on the Bimah will win a prize at our next meeting.



Temple members and friends have an opportunity to help area schoolchildren by donating personal care items to Hiddenite Elementary School. Please bring items to temple whenever we have services from now until May and Jaimi Jones will deliver them to the school. There is a list of needed items next to a bin in the temple lobby.

Now is the time to join Sisterhood if you would like to this year. The dues are \$36 and you don't have to be a member of the temple or be Jewish to join. Send or bring a check made out to TBS Sisterhood to our meeting and give it to Marion DuBow. We're looking forward to lots of fun and meaningful meetings. If anyone is interested in speaking to our group, or if you know someone who we'd enjoy hearing from, please let any Sisterhood member know.

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, October 25th 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 to participate in the host duties that make Shabbat so special.

Please contact any Board member to find out how you can perform this mitzvah of creating Sweet Oneg Shabbat experiences at TBS.



The Board welcomes new member, Susan Jarvis Goldstein, to our TBS family. Welcome Susan. We hope to see you at many of our services and events at Temple Beth Shalom.



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 Soon!

From the Temple Board to Linda Greenfield, Joy Kastan, Ben Setser, Esther Greene, and Roberta Atkins. We wish you all comfort and healing.

On Moving to a New Home

From the Temple Board to Elaine Zerden. Wishing you much joy in your new home.

*This is a new feature in the TBS Bulletin that we hope you will enjoy. 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 the Temple, PO Box 9142, Hickory, NC 28603. A greeting card will be sent acknowledging your donation and your message will appear in the next issue of the TBS Bulletin.

Local and Regional Events

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

Hard Lox Festival in Asheville on October 15th

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND TEMPLE BETH EL



PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

★ THE FUTURE OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS ★

Featuring

GRANT RUMLEY
CO-AUTHOR OF THE LAST PALESTINIAN:
THE RISE AND REIGN OF MAHMOUD ABBAS

with

RABBI ASHER KNIGHT
REFLECTIONS FROM AIEF RABBINIC
MISSION TO ISRAEL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017
7:00 P.M. • PROGRAM

TEMPLE BETH EL

5101 PROVIDENCE ROAD • CHARLOTTE, NC 28226

FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION PLEASE VISIT

WWW.AIPAC.ORG/BETHEL
SPACE IS LIMITED • RESERVATION REQUIRED

For more information, please contact Todd Young at
(678) 254-2627 or tyoung@aipac.org.



Grant Rumley is the co-author of The Last Palestinian: The Rise and Reign of Mahmoud Abbas, which tells the inside story of one of the most important fixtures of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mr. Rumley is a research fellow at the nonpartisan Foundation for Defense of Democracies, where he focuses on Palestinian politics. He has previously served as a visiting fellow at Mitvim, The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, where he authored, "Back to Basics: The Evolution of the Palestinian UN Campaign" which traced the narrative of Palestinian political thought over 40 years. While in Jerusalem, Mr. Rumley founded and edited The Jerusalem Review of Near East Affairs. He has served as a consultant in Washington D.C. on issues related to counter-terrorism, the Middle East, and war-gaming strategies. Mr. Rumley's articles have appeared in numerous foreign policy publications such as Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, and The Jerusalem Post.



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



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle October Events

Birthdays

Jon Dominique 10/1
Craig Axler 10/3
Samuel Peltzer 10/6
Daniel Tosky 10/7
Steven Gold 10/11
Susan Rieder 10/21
Peter Cantore 10/22
Rich Engelmann 10/31

Anniversaries

Madeleine Guy 10/29

Yahrzeit

Stanley Atkins 10/27
Richard Goldstein 10/25
Sid Freeman 10/30

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2017-2018

Date	Event/Time	Bulletin Deadline
October	1 Sunday School/Build & Decorate Sukkah 10:00 AM	October 1
	4 Erev Sukkot Service (Wednesday) 7:30 PM	
	13-14 Services/(Celebrate Simchat Torah) Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM	
	15 Sunday School trip to Asheville Hard Lox Festival (email Rabbi Dennis if you wish to join our TBS group)	
November	5 Sunday School 10:00 AM	November 4
	17-19 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM	
December	3 Sunday School 10:00 AM	December 2
	15-16 Services Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM Hanukah Party Dec. 16 (Saturday) 6:00 PM	
	21 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
January	5-7 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00 AM	December 23
	21 Sunday School	
February	2-4 Services/Friday 7:30 PM/Saturday 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	January 20
	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.