

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

News | Activities | Events

## Inside this Issue

From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

The President's Message

TBS Sunday School  
Announcements and  
Schedule

Sisterhood Corner and  
Brotherhood

Life Cycle Events

Temple Beth Shalom  
Event Calendar

Harriet Sederholm  
Scholarship Foundation

Special Events and  
Announcements

Temple Board of Directors

Temple Member  
Business Directory

Temple Beth Shalom  
P.O. Box 9142  
Hickory, North Carolina 28603  
[www.hickoryjewishcenter.com](http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com)



## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

### The Great Sabbath!!



Greetings, members and friends of Temple Beth Shalom! I wanted to let you know that our Shabbat morning service that fell on the Saturday before Passover was known in our tradition as **Shabbat Hagadol**. According to our sages, this Sabbath fell on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nissan in the year of the exodus, the very day when the children of Israel chose their Passover lambs (*Orach Chayyim* 431:1). Translated, the Great Sabbath came to be associated by our rabbis with the “great day” of God that will eventually usher in the messianic age. In fact, the Haftarah reading for that day, Malachi 3:4-24, is the very reason we chant “Eliyahu Hanavi” at every Havdalah service. It states, “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the

LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers....” (vv. 23-24). As we prepare on Shabbat HaGadol for the coming of Passover this year, my thoughts turn once again to what might be the *greatest* Passover miracle of all. Through faith in the Almighty God, a battered down and oppressed group of slaves was ultimately liberated and transformed into a chosen people, a blessed nation, and a **“light to all nations.”**

The Jewish saga began, of course, with the calling of the family of Abraham and Sarah. We read in Genesis 12: “Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your country and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to a land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you, I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’” (vv. 1-3). For insight as to why the Almighty chose *Abraham and his family*, one might take note of Genesis 18 where in God’s own words it is recorded, “For I have chosen [Abraham], in order *that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice*; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what God has spoken concerning him” (v. 19).

After a long sojourn in Egypt, estimated from various sources to have been between 250 and 430 years, originally necessitated, of course, by a famine in the land of Canaan, the descendants of Abraham and Sarah had become enslaved by the ruling class of Egypt. Known at that point in history as the children of Israel (of Jacob the grandson of Abraham and Sarah), the labor of the Israelites was exploited by the Egyptians for the building of their famed cities and temples. The hard bondage of the Israelites became so intense and unbearable that the Creator decided once again to intervene in the affairs of mankind. The deliverance from slavery in Egypt appears to have fulfilled a twofold purpose, keeping promises made to the matriarchs and patriarchs while at the same time establishing a platform for the next step in the **family outreach plan** of Adonai. As Moses is commissioned to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, God declares in the book of Shemot, (Exodus), “I have heard the groaning of the children of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage; and *I have remembered my covenant....* I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then I will take you *for my people*, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians” (Ch. 6: vv. 5-7). Through a series of events that can only be described as miraculous, this oppressed group of slaves did manage to attain their freedom from what truly would have been the greatest superpower on earth at that time, the nation of Egypt. After their escape, as the people of Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, about to receive instructions from the One who had provided their freedom, God affectionately instructs Moses to tell the people of Israel, “If you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be *my own possession* among all of the peoples, for

all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me *a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*" (Exodus 19:5-6). This amazing proclamation was immediately followed by the giving of the Ten Commandments.

The "**light to the nations**" passage I mentioned earlier is found in Isaiah 49. It picks up on this same theme. The verses containing the passage are among a group of similarly themed messages in Isaiah known as the "servant songs." And, while scholars agree that they refer to the calling and commissioning of the prophet Isaiah himself, it cannot be denied that the "servant songs" have a deeper and transcendent meaning applicable to the people of Israel as a whole. This can be seen in chapter 49, verse 3, where the Almighty states quite explicitly, "*You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will show my glory.*" This statement is paralleled by another servant passage in the book of Isaiah in which the entire nation of Israel, at that time, is clearly being addressed, "*You are my witnesses, declares the Lord and my servant whom I have chosen in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am. Before me there was no God formed and there will be none after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and there is no savior besides me*" (Ch. 43: vv. 10-11).

In our 21<sup>st</sup> century "politically correct" age, a call to be a light to the nations might seem controversial or intimidating to some, but I assert that to a very large extent the commission is already achieving success, and in a way that many people might not even realize. Keep in mind that the primary purpose for the original call of Abraham was the teaching of God's laws first to Abraham's family, but by extension to all humankind. Is it merely coincidence that *those laws have become incorporated* in the religious precepts of what is already a majority of the world's religious population? Jews, of course, have followed the laws in the Hebrew Bible for generations, but they are only a tiny proportion of the world's current population, 0.2% according to a Pew Research analysis of 2020 population data, about 15 million people. But, Christianity, whose roots are also in Judaism, deemed it appropriate to accept the Hebrew Bible into its own canon of scripture, thus bringing the laws and traditions of Abraham and his descendants to the world's 2.4 billion Christians. That is approximately 31% of world population as of 2020. Add to that the Muslim faith, whose roots are in Christianity and Judaism, which has also ratified and brought forward many of the laws and traditions of the ancient Hebrews in its own holy writings, and one finds the laws of the Creator, originally enunciated in the Hebrew Bible, reaching another 2 billion people, or 25% of the population of the world. These three major Western religions alone, all tracing their traditions back to the patriarch Abraham, accounted for a total of 56% of the world's population in 2020, a majority already. You might also add to this number those in the western world who consider themselves religious/spiritual but unaffiliated, 600 million people or 8% of the world's population. Based on my research, I would also posit a connection between the ancient Hebrew tradition and the teachings of Hinduism (15%) and Buddhism (5%) bringing the world influence of the "Abrahamic faith" up to 84% of the 2020 world population, but that connection will definitely have to wait for a future article.

You see my point is that the One who willed this creation into existence is also the One who chose Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. And the One who miraculously brought the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and entrusted them with lofty precepts and a worldwide mission. This is the One who is now known and revered worldwide as a result of that mission, *just as the Hebrew Prophets foretold*. But there is still much to be done! We as Jews have experienced the bondage of slavery in Egypt, so we must never fail to take up the cause of those who are still oppressed in our modern world. We experienced starvation then, so our compassion must remain with those who still do not have enough food. We were strangers in a strange land; let us continue to reach out to all who are disenfranchised in any way. As we celebrate the *Divine gifts and miracles* provided to our ancestors at *this holy time of Passover*, will you commit to join me in carrying the mission forward to be in the words of our holy writings, “*a light to the nations*”? *Ken yehi ratzon*—May this be God’s will!!

## President’s Message

Susan Goldstein, President

*Dear members and friends of Temple Beth Shalom,*

*Susan Goldstein has been attending to the needs of her mother, Thelma Jarvis, who passed peacefully on Tuesday morning, April 12th. Our hearts and prayers are with Susan and her family. If Susan were available to do so in her message this month, she would be wishing her TBS family a sweet and meaningful Pesach. We hope to see you at our virtual Passover seder at 6pm on Saturday, April 16th.*

*The TBS board of trustees*



## TBS Sisterhood

Sheri Stock, Sisterhood President



Shalom my TBS Family...

Hello TBS! I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Pesach surrounded by your family and friends. Please join us for the Second Night Virtual Seder. My family will be Zooming in from Onslow Beach NC and I hope to see everyone on Zoom!

Next year in Person!

If you need assistance purchasing or preparing your Seder dinner please contact me, Dennis, or Kathy and we will be glad to help.

Book Club coming soon! In person! If you have an idea for a book to read, tell me about it!

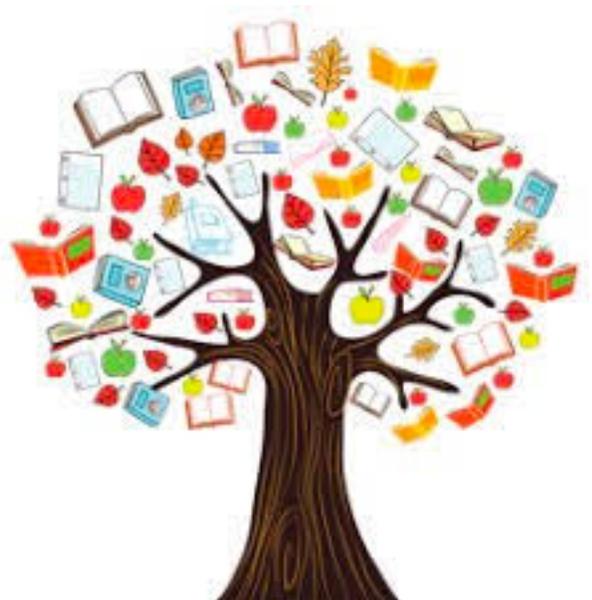
Love you all!

Sheri

## TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

On March 27th Sunday School held its first in-person classes since the beginning of the COVID pandemic! It was wonderful to see each other face to face! Students and parents were of course observing all the COVID precautions of vaccination and mask wearing, but at least we were together! We are continuing our zoom coverage of classes as well for those who cannot attend in person. Our first project was to make a matzoh cover in honor of all of the Ukrainian Jews who may not be able to observe Passover in safety or in their own homes this year. We plan to use the cover during our TBS Community Zoom Seder on April 16<sup>th</sup>!



Our next Sunday School class will be this coming Sunday, May 1st at 10:00 AM. If you would like to know more about TBS Sunday School, please contact: Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto:krsjones2002@yahoo.com).

## Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund was established by a long-time Temple member and past President, Burt Sederholm (may his memory be for a blessing), to honor his late wife Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement from 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 will be (TBD) via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to join the meeting.

Board members are:

### Officers:

- Susan Goldstein, President
- Barbara Laufer, Past President
- Tiffany Hull, Vice President
- Susan Rieder, Treasurer
- Lin Gentry, Secretary

### Members at Large:

- Liz Correll
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson
- Derek Cooperberg
- Sheri Stock
- Susan Tiger Huitt
- Jodi Lavin-Tompkins



## TBS Gives through Donations

**Our April donation went to the Family Care Center**

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



**Please consider these funds for your next donation:**

- Building and Grounds**
- Security**
- Sunday School**
- Community Relations and Social Action**

When we all get back to temple in person again, please consider pairing with a board member(s) to host a weekend 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.



## TBS Community Mitzvah Projects

Our temple has become a part of the Hickory interfaith community and Lutheran Services Carolina effort to resettle an Afghanistan refugee family of six in Hickory. The family had to flee the violence in their homeland after the withdrawal of American troops. The work began in earnest this past month. An apartment was secured, and furnishings and household supplies



**SHALOM  
HARMON  
INSTITUTE**

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



Temple Beth Shalom has an active membership in the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council, where Rabbi Dennis serves as president. You can find out more about this organization and its activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>.

Interfaith Council

## 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

**Scott and Julie Owens**  
Taste Full Beans Coffeehouse  
29 2nd St NW  
Hickory, NC 28601  
828-325-0108  
[www.tastefullbeans.com](http://www.tastefullbeans.com)

**Dr. David Peltzer**  
Newton Family Physicians  
767 West First Street  
Newton, NC 28658  
828 465-3928  
[www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)



## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle April Events

### Birthdays

Aidan Weatherly 4/2  
Derek Cooperberg 4/3  
Ronald Cohn 4/6  
Amy Hedrick 4/7  
Ryan Laufer 4/10  
Dennis Jones 4/12  
Pam Jones 4/14  
Stephanie Zerden 4/17  
Jim Correll 4/18  
Ben Peltzer 4/22

### Anniversaries

Jon and Laura Levinson 4/15  
David and Pam Jones 4/25

### Yahrzeits

David Cohen 4/3  
Sue Brisbane 4/5  
Larry Freiman 4/12  
Ruth Leifer 4/19  
Fania Suess 4/25  
Rose Miller 4/26

TBS MESSAGE BOARD

Our Deepest Sympathy to Barbara Laufer on the loss of her sister,  
Catherine Mathews.

from Pete and Ginny Sobotkin



**Next International ASU  
Summer Symposium on Film  
and Photography During and  
After the Holocaust To Be Held  
as a Hybrid Program in July  
2022: Registration is open**

For more information about the symposium, registration, and available scholarships, please click [here](#) or contact the Center at 828.262.2311 or [holocaust@appstate.edu](mailto:holocaust@appstate.edu).

Local and Regional Events



Pete Sobotkin, Temple Beth Shalom member, is team captain for the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life All Night walk. Its purpose is to raise money for a cure for cancer and to support cancer patients. Due to COVID, this major fundraiser has been cut back the last few years. If you would like to donate to this very important charity, it will be greatly appreciated. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cash or checks made out to the "American Cancer Society" can be mailed to: Pete Sobotkin, 1004 N Center St, Hickory, NC 28601.

# Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2022

For event updates, email: [info@hickoryjewishcenter.com](mailto:info@hickoryjewishcenter.com)

DATE		EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
April	9	<b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	April 2
	10	<b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	16	<b>Passover Community Seder</b> 6:00 PM (Saturday) <b>Via Zoom</b>	
	29	<b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
May	1	<b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	May 7
	14	<b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	
	15	<b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	15	<b>TBS Annual Membership Meeting</b> 10:00 AM (Sunday)	
	27	<b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
June	29	<b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	June 4
	5	<b>Shavuot Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM (Sunday)	
	11	<b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	
	12	<b>Sunday School Final Session/Party</b> 10:00 AM	
July	17	<b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	N/A
	9	<b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	
	22	<b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	

## UPCOMING JEWISH HOLIDAYS



Begins evening of **April 15**  
Ends nightfall of **April 23**

Want to contribute to the TBS Bulletin? Send entries to Karen Ferguson at [karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com). All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.



