

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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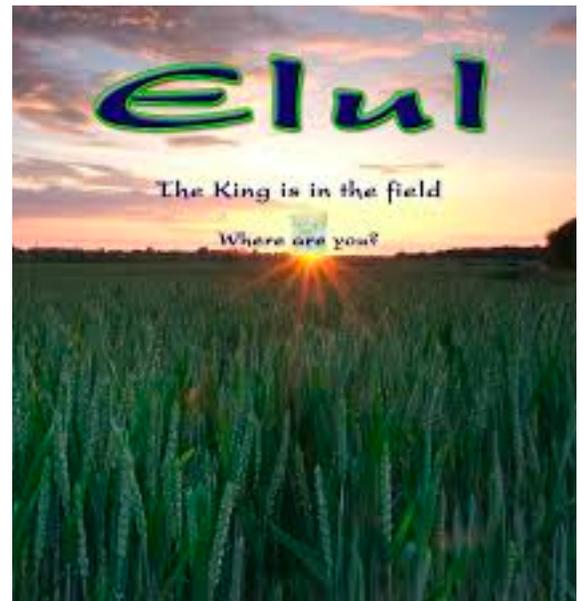
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From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

Countdown to the High Holidays!!



What an oppressive summer of heat we have had! The heat index, which factors in heat and humidity, has been at or near 100 degrees for almost three weeks now!! As I wrote in my June/July bulletin article though, according to our sages, this oppressive

heat should break on Friday, August 12th, the 15th of Av. Shortly thereafter, at sundown on Saturday, August 27th, we come to Rosh Chodesh Elul, the New Moon of the month of Elul, a very important time in Jewish history and tradition! Elul, which is the sixth month of the Festival Calendar and the twelfth month of the Civil Calendar—leading up to Rosh Hashanah, has (since Talmudic times) become a season of particular introspection, repentance, and restitution.

According to the Sages of Israel, it was on Rosh Chodesh Elul, that Moses ascended Mount Sinai following the people's sin of the

“golden calf” to make intercession before Adonai. You will recall that Moses stayed on the mountain for forty days. That would have covered the thirty days of the month of Elul and extended ten days into the month of Tishri, bringing Moses’ sojourn on the mountain to an end on the very day of Yom Kippur. It was on that visit to Mount Sinai that **Moses received the second set of stone tablets containing the Law of God**, since the first set had been destroyed at the incident of the golden calf (Exodus 33-34). It was also on this visit to Sinai that Moses had the opportunity to glimpse just a tiny portion of God’s glory. This amazing self-revelation by the Creator has become known as the “Thirteen Attributes” of God and is chanted in Hebrew at many of our most moving prayer and worship services, particularly during the High Holidays: “Adonai, Adonai (God’s Name repeated twice), compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin” (Ex. 34:6-7).

Many Jewish sources have pointed out that the name of Elul, spelled aleph-lamed-vav-lamed in Hebrew, could serve as an acronym for the verse, "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li—I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine” (Song of Songs 6:3). The Sages have long interpreted this verse as an allegory for the relationship between God, the beloved, and the people of Israel. Just as Moses drew close to the Almighty on Mount Sinai at this season of the year following the Israelites’ miraculous redemption from Egypt, so should we draw close to our “beloved” Creator in the period preceding our holiest of days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (See Tracey R. Rich, “The Month of Elul and Selichot,” <http://www.jewfaq.org/elul.htm>).

The Chassidic master, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, used to liken the month of Elul to a time when “a great king is in the field” as opposed to a time when the king is confined to the palace. When in the field, the king is among the people, and easily accessible to anyone desiring a royal audience (“Elul Observances in a Nutshell,” <http://www.chabad.org/holidays/>).

Perhaps my favorite passage in the entire Torah is the verse following the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, “V’ahavta et Adonai Elohecha b’chal levavcha uv’chal naphshecha uv’chal me’odecha.” It translates, “And you shall love the LORD (Adonai’s Name) your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” My congregation at Temple Beth Shalom probably gets tired of hearing me ask the rhetorical question, “Now, loving someone or something with all your heart, soul, and might..., what exactly would that look like?” Would you have a hard time getting that one out of your thoughts? Would that one’s name be the first thing that entered your mind upon arousing from sleep in the morning? Would your thoughts be on that one as you drifted off to sleep each night? Would you be overwhelmed with joy when in that one’s presence, and perhaps saddened to the point of sickness upon being separated from that one? I know that despite my best intentions and re-commitments each year, I fall far short of honoring and remaining conscious of the Source of All Life to the level directed by the Torah. And, I am sure that many of my co-religionists must feel the same. The month of Elul is a wonderful opportunity to re-examine our

relationship with the Creator, and to map out strategies for greater devotion—more diligent study of Torah, more prayer and thanksgiving, perhaps greater support for our house of study and worship.

Elul is also an opportune time to examine our relationships with our fellow men and women. You will recall that in one of the most powerful of our High Holiday prayers, we pray, quoting from the *Mishna*, “For transgressions against God, the Day of Atonement atones; but for transgressions of one human being against another, the Day of Atonement does not atone until they have made peace with one another” (*Gates of Repentance*, URJ High Holiday Prayer Book; *Mishna Yoma* 8:9). In Jewish tradition, we have an entire month, Elul, to consider our behavior toward others and make amends and possibly even restitution where needed. This month is also an ideal time to consider becoming more *proactive* in our relationships with others—increasing our acts of social justice, *tzedakah* (charitable giving), and *gemilut chasadim* (acts of compassion), for the sake of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

Over the last two millennia, the Sages of Judaism have developed the richest of traditions to serve as guideposts for the implementation of our faith principles. Beginning on the second day of the month of Elul and continuing until two days before Rosh Hashanah, it is the Ashkenazi custom to *blow the shofar daily* (after morning prayers), as a call to reflection, introspection, and repentance. The shofar is not sounded on Shabbat, nor is it blown the day before Rosh Hashanah, in order to separate rabbinic custom from Biblical command. Also, during the month of Elul, Psalm 27 is added to the morning and the evening prayer services. In that Psalm, David exclaims, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the refuge of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ... One thing I have asked from the LORD, that shall I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life.” These words are a clear reminder that the Protector of Israel is continuously in our midst, and we are continuously in God’s Presence. Finally, at sunset on the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah, S’lichot prayers, special petitions for the mercy and forgiveness of the Almighty are added before the shachrit/morning prayer service (Rabbi Shraga Simmons, “ABC’s of Elul,” <http://www.aish.com/>).

As we prepare for the coming of the Hebrew year 5783, I encourage all members and friends of Temple Beth Shalom to study our precious Jewish heritage and implement more and more of its lofty principles. I like to honor the teaching of my mentor, Rabbi Theodore Gordon, who used to say, “As a liberal rabbi, I am certainly not going to tell people what they need to do to be Jewish. BUT, DO SOMETHING!” There are, according to the sages, 613 commandments/mitzvot in the Torah. Explore it! Find which ones resonate and are meaningful to you and in your life. And I remind you regarding all the commandments, as we pray in the Shabbat morning service, “...sh’adam okhel peiroteinu b’olam hazeh v’hakeren kayemet lo l’olam haba—the one (who keeps them) eats their fruit in this world, *and reward accrues to that one in the world to come.*” As we say in Hebrew, “Ken yehi ratzon—May this be God’s will!!”

President's Message

Susan Goldstein, President

In case you're not already aware, your Board of Trustees voted to accept the recommendations of the Health and Safety Committee which included the following, effective *Erev Shabbat* service on July 22:

- Masks are optional
- Proof of vaccination is no longer required
- Reservations are no longer required
- Onegs will resume after Friday night services
- Kiddush lunches will resume after Shabbat morning services
- We will maintain our "pod" seating arrangements.

We are actively seeking someone outside of temple membership to prepare the monthly Shabbat oneg. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let me know!

In addition, your Board voted to accept the following recommendations from the Security Committee, co-chaired by Larry Laufer and James Norwood:

- Upgrade the current video security system to include additional cameras and recording, storage, and play back options
- Security team training with Troysgate Experience and two days of HPD training; quarterly practice at Springs Road Gun Club; and CPR training
- Add security blinds for 10 windows on the lower level and replace windows in the front door, and kitchen windows with bulletproof protective glass.

The Board voted not to add a security assessment to our membership dues at this time. The cost of these measures will be borne by the congregation's budget. Thanks to Robin Hill who has graciously volunteered to work on grant applications to secure funds for these security improvements.

I hope everyone can find a livestream for the reading of *Eicha* (Lamentations) on *Erev Tish'a B'av* on Saturday night, August 6. The *nusach* for *Eicha* is unique to that reading, and it is hauntingly beautiful. I look forward to seeing many of you at our services on *Shabbat Nachamu* (Saturday morning, August 13, at 10:00 in-person or via Zoom).

Shalom,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood

Sheri Stock, Sisterhood President



Happy Summer Everyone!!!

Sisterhood has had a terrific summer so far! We enjoyed a very rainy day at a winery! We played trivia, and even though we had a Zoom failure, we still had fun in person and via FaceTime!

Our next event is Sunday, August 7th, at 7:00 pm. We will meet at the synagogue (and on Zoom) to discuss the upcoming High Holidays and start our book discussion.

The first book we will be reading is This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared, by Rabbi Alan Lew. It's available on Amazon and Kindle. I can't recommend this book highly enough!!! Appetizers and beverages will be provided!

For Rosh Hashanah, I (and anyone who wants to join me!!!) will be baking and delivering round challah on Thursday September 22nd and Friday September 23rd. We can make sweet, less sweet, vegan, whole wheat, and gluten free challah. Let me know what kind you would like!!!

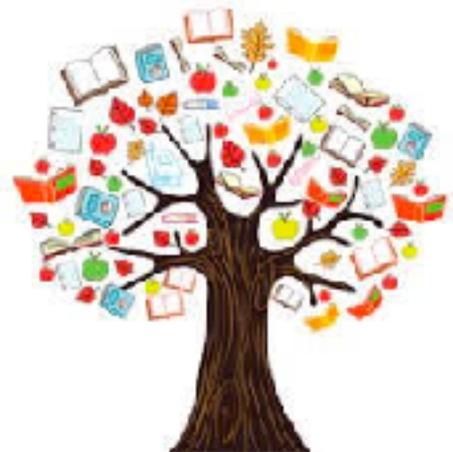
I am excited to see many of you at these events! Stay safe and hydrated. Wear your sunscreen. Be COVID aware and have fun this summer!

Sheri

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

TBS Sunday School is on summer break. Classes will resume August 28, 10 AM. If anyone is interested in their child enrolling for the new year, please contact Kathy Jones, SS Principal, at krsjones2002@yahoo.com.



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 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. The

scholarship committee is a sub-committee of the Temple Beth Shalom Board. The committee manages funds invested for the purpose of rewarding 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 so 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, 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.

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 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 meeting is August 17 at the temple in person or on Zoom at 6:30pm. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to join a scheduled monthly meeting.

Board members are:

Officers:

- Susan Goldstein, President
- Barbara Laufer, Past President
- , 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



Our August donation went to support the Marine Corps Golf Tournament

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

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.



TBS Community Mitzvah Projects

The TBS Community Relations and Social Action Committee has continued to be active. This month, the Committee provided \$125 worth of cleaning and hygiene supplies to an Afghan refugee family being resettled in Hickory. *TBS has joined the area faith community in sponsoring this family until they can become self-supporting.*



**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

Jack and Hannah Levy
Druzy Dreams Crystals
[http://www.etsy.com/shop/druzydreamscrystals,](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



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle August Events

Birthdays

Laura Faruque 8/1
Garrett Richards 8/1
Rachel Peltzer 8/1
Meredith Gross 8/3
Emerson Weatherly 8/5
Stephanie Cangemi 8/10
Sage Bonfield 8/12
Michael Jones 8/12
Aaron Tosky 8/22
Adam Bonfield 8/23
Pierce Reed 8/24
Marion DuBow 8/27

Anniversaries

Ron and Marion DuBow 8/6

Yahrzeits

Ron Taub 8/1
Ralph Kaufman 8/5
Morton Rose 8/10
Selma Freudmann Kastan 8/13
Roberta Rose 8/17
Harold Goldstein 23 Av
Arlen E Coen 8/21
Peter Cangemi 8/22
Harriet Sederholm 8/25
Sheldon Oxenberg 8/25

TBS MESSAGE BOARD

This space is reserved for any of our readers who might want to share a message of congratulations, healing, support or condolences.

Local and Regional Events



Many events are open to the public (in-person and virtually). For more information, go to: <https://holocaust.appstate.edu/events>, or contact the Center at 001.828.262.2311 or holocaust@appstate.edu.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2022-2023

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
August	13 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	July 17
	26 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	28 Sunday School Kickoff Meeting 10:00 AM	
September	10/11 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	August 21
	25 Erev Rosh Hashana 7:00 PM (Sunday)	
	26 Rosh Hashana 10:00 AM (Monday)	
October	4 Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre 7:00 PM (Tuesday)	September 18
	5 Yom Kippur 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM Neilah/Breakfast (Wednesday)	
	9 Sunday School/Build & Decorate Sukkah/Short Service/Party 10:00 AM	
	16 Simchat Torah Service 7:00 PM (Sunday)	
	21 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	23 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
November	5 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	October 23
	6 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	18 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	20 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	24 Thanksgiving Community Service (10:00 AM at Corinth UCC)	
December	2 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	November 20
	4 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	18 Sunday School Hanukah Party/Bingo 10:00 AM	
	31 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
January	13 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	December 18
	15 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	28/29 Saturday Morning Service 10:00AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	
February	11 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	January 22
	12 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
	24 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	26 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
March	6 Erev Purim Service/Megillah Reading 7:00 PM (Monday)	February 19
	11/12 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00AM	
	24 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	26 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
April	6 Passover Community Seder 6:00 PM (Thursday)	March 19
	15/16 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM/Sunday School 10:00	
	28 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	30 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
May	6/7 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM/ Sunday School 10:00 AM	April 23
	19 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
	21 TBS Annual Membership Meeting 10:00 AM (Sunday)	
	25 Erev Shavuot Service 7:00 PM (Thursday)	
	28 Sunday School 10:00 AM	
June	3/4 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM/ Sunday School Final Session/Party	May 21
	23 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
July	8 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	N/A
	21 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	

Want to contribute to the TBS Bulletin? Send entries to Karen Ferguson at

