

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

Chanukah falls at the darkest time of the year. Back in the days when there was no electricity, the Chanukiah, the 9-branch menorah that we light, brought light into a darkened world. Because of the horrendous terrorist attack that took place on October 7th, the holiday takes on new meaning this year. The battle for religious freedom fought by the Maccabees was won despite the overwhelming odds against them. Israel is a tiny country surrounded by Muslim countries on all sides. Its location, as literally the gateway to the East, has led to endless wars for control throughout the ages.

Gaza has been under the control of the Palestinian Authority and then Hamas since 2005 when Israel gave the territory back asking for nothing in return. Today's battle is existential for Israel and world Jewry. As I write this article, the truce between Israel and Hamas looks like it is being extended 2 days which means the release of more Israeli hostages.

How can we bring more light into a world that is filled with the darkness of misinformation, of age-old antisemitism, and of Islamophobia? How do we counter the fear that permeates our Jewish world? What do we say to parents of college students whose sons and daughters are facing antisemitism on their campuses and they are fearful and feel unsafe? What does it mean to be afraid to publicly identify as a Jew in America today?

How can we be modern-day Maccabees? The Maccabees were a small band of people who stood up for themselves and fought to be able to practice Judaism publicly. They fought and they won.

How can we win the battle today with those who are antisemitic or hide behind the notion that they are ‘only anti-Zionist?’ We need to educate ourselves and have answers and facts. We need to be proud to be Jewish and not hide it. We need to be prepared to engage in difficult discussions with people who do not share our views. We need to have patience and know when to engage and when we should not engage. Never engage with counter-demonstrations for example. Be smart and be safe.

In this period of darkness, there are glimmers of light and rays of hope. Some of the hostages are free, and for the moment, the ceasefire is holding. Leaders in the highest levels of government are calling out antisemitism. Congress has called on Ivy League administrators to testify before them over the antisemitism on their campuses.

Signs of hope for me was having a pastor come to our Shabbat morning Service in November because he felt a need to pray with the Jewish community and the person who left flowers for us and a note of support.

Come celebrate Shabbat and Chanukah with us. I look forward to seeing you the weekend of December 8th. Together we are stronger. Let’s all commit to being modern-day Maccabees, standing tall and proud, fighting for justice in this world.

Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

## The President’s Message

Susan G Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family,

Where to start?

As I write this, we’ve welcomed home the third group of Israeli hostages brutally taken and held by the terrorist group Hamas. We’re grateful they’re free, but still ache for the many other Israelis, Americans, Palestinians, and others who still are held in bondage -- as well as the families who await their return.

On the local front, I was privileged to represent the Hickory Jewish community at the 55th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Corinth Reform Church on Thanksgiving morning. I chanted the updated version of *Oseh Shalom*. Updated means we ask not only for peace in Israel but for all who dwell on earth. I hope you’ll join me in making that part of our “usual” recitation of *Oseh Shalom*. The words (transliterated) are:

*Oseh shalom bimromav,*

*Hu Yaaseh shalom aleinu,*

*V'al kol Yisrael,*

*V'al kol yoshvei teivel.*

*V'imru: Amen*

I’m happy to report that our community was very supportive of us. There were many expressions of encouragement. The Unifour Brass Ensemble even went out of its way to find music for *Acheinu Kol Beit*

*Yisrael* -- a prayer of solidarity with Israel. I think we owe Rabbi Dennis a round of thanks for making sure we've been a part of the interfaith community. We're so fortunate when many communities are seeing hatred for the Jewish community. Let's keep up our wonderful friendships with our interfaith partners.

And *Chanukah/Hanukkah* -- choose your spelling -- approaches!! We're especially pleased that Rabbi Liss and Grace will be with us for *Shabbat Chanukah*. (OK, I chose.) In addition to *Erev Shabbat* services on Friday evening, December 8, and *Shabbat* morning services on December 9, we have a couple of extra activities planned.

First, after kiddush lunch, Sunday School Principal Sheri Stock will carry on the tradition of BINGO! There'll be great gifts and lots of fun. We'll also be starting maybe a new tradition during the BINGO party - a silent auction to raise needed funds for Sunday School. And Saturday evening, we'll join several other North and South Carolina congregations for a family-friendly "Hanukkah Bluegrass Happening." The evening will begin at 6:00 with *Havdalah*, a parve or dairy covered dish dinner, and -- course -- lighting the *Chanukah!* Then, at 7:00, we'll join, via Zoom, Temple Soleil in Fort Mill, SC, where Joe Buchanan will be appearing live. Go to Joe Buchanan's website: <https://joebuchananmusic.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZJHOyazHRE>; To get a sampling of his music, go to "Pics and Vids" and then click on Videos

We have much for which to be grateful, and I continue to be grateful for our wonderful TBS family. Let's work together to ensure the light doesn't go out as we keep praying for peace in Jerusalem.

*L'Shalom,*  
Susan

## TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President



Hello everyone,

I want to start by thanking everyone who participated in the virtual Chanukah fair! I know that it was a change from our usual in-person event but hopefully, we will be able to return to that next year. If you have products to pick up, you can either pick them up at the synagogue on Sunday, Dec 3rd following Hebrew school (around noon) or contact me to make separate pick-up arrangements.

Our next sisterhood-sponsored potluck will be this Friday, December 1st at 6:30 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](mailto:alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

-Alexis

## TBS Sunday School Program

Sheri Stock, Sunday School Principal



Hello Sunday School families and all the rest of the TBS Family,

I hope you had an amazing Thanksgiving and got to spend some time with family and friends. Be sure to look at the kids' Hebrew and art projects as well as their pictures and biographies in the sanctuary. Sunday School parents- December Sunday School classes will meet on December 3; December 10; December 17; and December 24th. Call or text me if you won't be there on any of those days.

Do you want to help support Sunday School? There are a few ways you can help us!

1. Come with your Chanukkiyah to the Friday night service on December 8th. We can all encourage the kids as they light their Chanukkiot! We can light up the night!!
2. Challah donations are back! I will be making a special Hanukkah Challah! If you can donate to Sunday School for a challah, that would be awesome.
3. And come to our Chanukah BINGO party and silent auction after kiddish lunch on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Come ready to bid!

All proceeds from Challah donations and silent auction will go directly to help Sunday School.

Hag Sameach,

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 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 meeting will be Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 pm. 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  
 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



TBS December  
 donation to local Charity  
 Jewish Federation of  
 Charlotte

**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:

Ron and Sue Cohn  
 Susan Goldstein in memory of Richard  
 Goldstein

Sunday School donations in memory of  
 Thomas Patrick Devaney:  
 Susan Goldstein; Lin Gentry; Susan Rieder;  
 Karen Ferguson

Donations in honor of the Larry and  
 Dr. Barbara Laufer’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary:  
 Lin Gentry; Susan Goldstein; Jodi and Rhett  
 Lavin-Thompkins



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 has returned! This means that many of our local homeless population are again 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](mailto: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  
Suite170  
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](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)

## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle December Events



### Birthdays

- Nick Weatherly 12/3
- Roberta Atkins 12/3
- Kathy Jones 12/5
- Pete Sobotkin 12/6
- Herman Garrick 12/12
- Brady Stock 12/13
- Pam Axler 12/12
- Barry Sobotkin 12/16
- Ginny Sobotkin 12/18
- Ben Setser 12/21
- Eva Reed 12/28
- Andrew Weatherly 12/29
- Donnie Powell 12/30
- Sarah Peltzer 12/31

### Anniversaries

- Larry and Dr. Barbara Laufer 12/28
- Linda Greenfield 12/31

### Yahrzeits

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Joseph Brisbane 12/5 | Judith Katzin Coen 12/17 |
| Ruth Morewitz 12/7   | Brenda Callahan 12/24    |
| Fannye Katzin 12/7   | Justine Lavin 12/27      |
| Herman Davis 12/9    | Ayden Dagenhart 12/29    |
| Helene Tiber 12/16   | Arnold Simons 12/30      |

## Local and Regional Events



### [Library and Resource Center](#)

[Catalog of the Center Library](#)

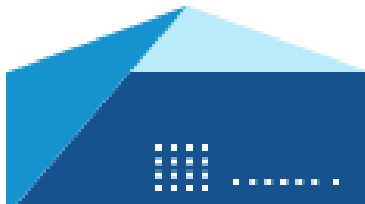
[Center Lectures and Testimonies](#)

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/>



## 2023-2024 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

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

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
Dec 3	Sunday School 10:00am	Nov 26
8	Friday night service 7:00pm	
9	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch, then Hannukah BINGO w/ Silent Auction; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
10	Sunday School 10:00am	
17	Sunday School 10:00am	Dec 30
24	Sunday School 10:00am	
Jan 7	Sunday School 10:00am	
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	
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
12	Sunday School 10:00am	
17	Friday night service 7:00pm	
18	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
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](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com). All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.