

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
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From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

We landed in Ben Gurion and immediately felt the mood of the country in the airport. There is an amazing art installation of the metal 'bring them home' tags hanging where every incoming passenger will see it. Going down the hallway to passport control, the walkway is lined with pictures of the hostages. These pictures and signs in Hebrew of bring them home are everywhere. They are at bus stops, in windows on walls you can't go far without seeing them. On the cab ride from the train station in Jerusalem we learned that 24 soldiers had been killed the night before in Gaza. We passed a road leading to the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem that was blocked off to traffic because people had been demonstrating there 24/7 for the last few days demanding that he take action to bring the soldiers home.

Shabbat evening, January 26, Grace and I participated in a Tu B'shvat (the holiday of the birthday of the trees) seder at the home of a close friend where we are staying. Usually, this holiday is marked by picnics, tree plantings, and nature activities. Not this year. We took a beautiful 3-mile walk earlier in the day in the Tyelet Park overlooking Jerusalem and East Jerusalem. My friend asked me to think about the connection between the holiday and what is going on in Israel for our seder discussion. When we passed a beautiful carob tree we talked about the famous Talmudic story of Honi and the carob tree. As Honi was planting the tree, a passerby asked him why he was planting the tree knowing he would never see it give fruit since it takes 70 years. His response was like his

ancestors before him who had planted these trees, he too was doing the same for future generations. Like Honi, the soldiers today are fighting to make sure that future generations of Israelis will continue to have a homeland while some of them will not have the luxury of living to see tomorrow. We celebrate the birthday of trees because for generations, others have planted them and we continue to plant them today. On our walk, we passed by olive trees that were hundreds of years old. If only they could talk and tell us what they have witnessed over the years.

Israel is fighting for survival. People we have spoken to, compare this period to that of the 48 war. In Jerusalem, restaurants and coffee shops are full. Life goes on but everyone is affected by this war. My rabbinic trip began in Tel Aviv on Sunday. We are a group of 40 Reform rabbis and a few spouses. I am happy to report that I have raised over \$5000 to distribute during this trip. I look forward to being able to share stories from this experience with you during my next visit. We spent a few days before the trip catching up with old friends and family. I truly feel blessed to be here at this historic moment in Jewish history. Please pray for peace in Israel.

May Israel soon know peace, and may the hostages be brought back home where they belong.

Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

The President's Message

Susan G Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

I spoke with Rabbi Liss and Grace who have spent the last week in Jerusalem and are now in Tel Aviv with a group of Reform rabbis. They're having some amazing experiences, and we'll get to hear about their first-hand observations -- along with photos and videos -- during our February rabbinic visit.

Jews around the world continue to grieve for the atrocities that were inflicted on October 7. And we continue to fight back against the frightening degree of antisemitism that ensued. While some of the hostages have been freed, more than 100 remain in captivity 113 days later. Until all hostages are free and the savage war we did not invite is over, I'll continue to repeat information as to sites we can visit to help our Israeli brothers and sisters.

- 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. 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 Hillels need 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:

We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Liss back February 16th and 17th. Don't forget that she'll offer a special blessing for those whose birthdays are in February.

Many thanks to Larry Laufer who facilitated a very helpful and informative team-building session for your Board of Trustees. We discovered some interesting facts that will help us focus and communicate better to more effectively serve the interests of TBS!

Sunday School students and their parents enjoyed a delightful Tu B'shvat seder. Thanks to the principal, Sheri Stock, for putting together this festive event that will, I'm sure, become a much anticipated annual happening.

Yasher Koach to Werner Cohn and congratulations to his entire family. His bar mitzvah ceremony was amazing. Werner, we look forward to seeing and hearing you on the bimah often!

I look forward to seeing you all 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 need 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 February potluck has been canceled due to illness in multiple families.

However, we will have a sisterhood business meeting on March 10th at

1PM at the synagogue. All members of sisterhood are invited to attend.

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

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

-Alexis

Library project update

Gabe Almaza-Moody, Librarian

As some of you may know, Alexis and I have been working on turning the downstairs bookshelves into a functional lending library. I'm excited to announce that the library is now open to the congregation! Our current hours are on the Sundays the Hebrew School meets from 9:30-10 and 11:30-1 or by appointment.

Our online catalog can be found at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/TBSHickory>. As of right now, we have 113 adult books and 214 children's books ready to be checked out. I'll include updates each month on our progress as we continue to catalog books. Our collection is quite large, so we still have a good bit of work ahead of us.

Library cards are available to all synagogue members. To get a library card, please email Alexis with your first and last name, phone number, and email address. She will email you back with your Patron ID, which you can use to place holds online. Library cards will be issued at your first in-person visit to the library. All Hebrew school students, parents, and teachers have library cards ready that can be picked up at our next Hebrew school meeting if not already claimed.

Several people have asked about donating books to the library. We accept book donations if you have any you would like to re-home. We will take any Jewish books as donations, but we are especially happy to accept books geared at older children and teenagers as we do not have as many of those as we do books for younger children and academic books for adults.

If you would like to set up an appointment to browse the library outside of normal hours or donate books, please contact either Alexis at 828-803-0373 or myself at 518-898-6823. Hope to see you soon!

TBS Sunday School Program

Sheri Stock, Sunday School Principal

Sunday school just had a very successful TuBSHvat Seder! The younger students are continuing to learn our Hebrew letters, some Hebrew words, and about the Holidays. Our older students are learning more advanced Hebrew and Jewish history. We will be having a Sunday School Passover Seder as well and that's coming up quicker than we know!

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 TBD. 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

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

Sunday School:
The Tiger Huitt family in honor of Werner
Cohn's Bar Mitzvah

TBS January
donation to local Charity

Jewish Federation of
Charlotte

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

With profound sadness we announce
the death of

Lawrence (Larry) Oxenberg, z"l

Husband of Helen Oxenberg
Father of Jessy Holiday and Michelle
Jordan
on
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Please consider honoring Larry and
his family with a donation to TBS



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



All of the TBS donations of warm clothes for the homeless were delivered to Partners Behavioral Health on January 25th. They will be giving them out when they do the annual homeless count this month. Thank you to all who donated items!

The Community Relations and Social Action Committee was also able to help Werner Cohn with his Bar Mitzvah project! He is collecting items for young children to help a Wilkesboro agency serve low-income families and we gave him all of the baby items that we have collected over the years! Mazel Tov to Werner on his Bar Mitzvah and on doing such an inspiring project!

If you have any 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
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

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

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle February Events



Birthdays

- Barbara Laufer 2/1
- Linda Greenfield 2/1
- Julia Cooperberg 2/3
- David Cooperberg 2/3
- Tristan Haddock 2/7
- Perri Huitt 2/8
- Jodi Lavin-Tompkins 2/10
- Greg Rosenfeld 2/11
- Larry Laufer 2/11
- Grayson Weatherly 2/20
- Julie Owens 2/21
- Nicholas Faruque 2/23
- Maddy Gross 2/24
- Sam Gross 2/28

Anniversaries

Yahrzeits

- Elaine Zerden 2/3
- Helmi Berndt 2/18
- David Guy 2/21
- Sol Taub 2/22
- Trudy Lowenberg 2/27

Local and Regional Events



the center for
**JUDAIC, HOLOCAUST,
AND PEACE STUDIES**

Upcoming Events

February 21, 2024
Panel on Israel and Palestine: The Context

April 24, 2024
Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Event

May 2, 2024
Center Award Ceremony

May 2024
Student Field Trip

June 11 - June 24, 2024
Summer Symposium

June 14, 2024
CJHPS Newsletter

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



**SHALOM
HARMON
INSTITUTE**

February 5th and 6th
The war in Israel: Reflecting Back and Looking Ahead

February 11th
The Challenges of Judaism and Zionism
February 28th

Genocide on Trial:
The Politics of 1948 and Today

Follow this link for information and registration for 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 served as president for 5 years and now serves as secretary. You can find out more about this organization and its activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>.

Interfaith Council

2023-2024 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
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
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. All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.

