

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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From the Bimah

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

This is an edited excerpt from Rabbi Liss' message in the TBS Bulletin Volume 20 Issue 6 February 2024

We landed in Ben Gurion airport and immediately felt the mood of the country. There was an amazing art installation of the metal “bring them home” tags hanging where every incoming passenger would see them. Going down the hallway to passport control, the walkway was lined with pictures of the hostages. Those pictures and signs in Hebrew of bring them home were everywhere. They were at bus stops, in windows on walls. You couldn’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 were 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 with here in Israel compare this period to that of the 1948 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 a Sunday. We were a group of 40 Reform rabbis and a few spouses. We spent a few days before the trip catching up with old friends and family. I truly feel blessed to have been there at this historic time in Jewish history. Please pray for peace in Israel. May Israel soon know lasting peace now that all hostages have been returned home.

I look forward to seeing you at services March 6 and 7, and our young families Sunday morning March 8.

Rabbi Janet B Liss

The President's Message

Susan J Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

I hope this finds you safe and warm as we continue to brave the most unusual weather we've experienced recently. As you know by now, we will not hold services in February as we encourage everyone to stay home while perilous sheets of ice continue to torment us. We look forward to gathering again for services and other activities March 6-8. (The ice should be melted by then, shouldn't it?!)

Thank you to all who continue to bring cans or boxes of food to be donated to the **Hickory Soup Kitchen** to help fight food insecurity in our local communities. Please continue to do so whenever you come to TBS -- and please make sure that the expiry date is at least six months out since your donation may be on the shelf that long. Remember that only 5% of donations for food insecurity come from the private sector! Let's continue to take "leaps of action" by donating our cans/boxes to the Hickory Soup Kitchen.

Your Board of Trustees met on Sunday afternoon, January 16, to discuss several items of importance. Specifically,

- Mary Lee Tosky, Pam Jones, and I will begin a **review of the TBS By-Laws**. Recommended changes will be presented to the Board prior to presenting to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- We have **at least one Torah scroll in need of repair**. The cost is not insignificant, so we are looking at two potential Torah scribes who will make a site visit to assess our needs.
- We received a **request from the Hickory Circle of Welcome (HCW) to make a \$500 contribution in support of an Afghan family** who had to flee from their home following the flawed U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. According to HCW, the family has made strides towards integrating into the fabric of our community. This family of eight lost their SNAP

benefits in December 2025, resulting in their inability to secure basic food supplies. **We were part of an interfaith coalition** that helped settle them in 2022. The **other contributing faith communities** are:

- First Presbyterian Church
- Holy Trinity Church
- Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
- Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
- Northminster Presbyterian Church
- Peace United Church of Christ
- St. Andrews Lutheran Church
- St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Unitarian Universal Church

After careful thought and discussion, the **TBS Board made the decision to donate the \$500 that was requested**. Our decision was based, in large part, on our special relationship with the Catawba Valley Interfaith Council (CVIC) through which we partnered with HCW. We are grateful to CVIC and, in particular, to our own Rabbi Dennis Jones, for the fact that we have such a positive relationship with the greater community. We do not take that for granted in the current environment that is, in other places, not so friendly to Jews.

Should you have questions about this or any other Board actions, please let us know. We are always open to your thoughts.

We are grateful that, at last, **all the hostages are out of Gaza**. We can now retire our yellow ribbon pins, dog tags, and yellow Shabbat candles. Antisemitism, however, is not taking a rest. Please continue to stay abreast of what's happening on that front. Good sources include:

- ADL (www.adl.org)
- AIPAC (www.aipac.org)
- Secure Community Network (www.securecommunitynetwork.org)
- The Wall Street Journal (www.WSJ.com)
- The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)

I look forward to seeing you in March -- in person or via Zoom. Again, please stay safe; don't take chances. As much as I'd like to frolic in the snow, I know there's ice down there. Don't do it!!

Shalom,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood



Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President

Hello everyone!

I hope you are all staying warm after our back-to-back winter storms. Looking ahead to warmer days, our sisterhood Shabbat weekend will be next month, March 20th and 21st. I'll be sending out a sign-up sheet to those interested in leading part of those services, so please get in touch with me

and let me know as soon as you can. All women in the congregation are welcome to join us. You do not need to be able to lead readings or songs in Hebrew, there are several English passages to choose from as well.

Our annual community Passover Seder planning has also begun! Our Seder will be Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 PM. RSVP flyers should be going out sometime this month, so be on the lookout for that. The cost to attend has not changed from last year, however nobody will be turned away at the door for inability to pay. If you need to arrange financial accommodations, please reach out to me. All financial conversations will remain strictly confidential.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be February 15th at 1:30PM at the synagogue, weather permitting.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood at alexisalmazam Moody@gmail.com, or if you would like to join our email list.



The 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 or Karen Ferguson. Naturally, the committee encourages everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.

Temple Board

Our next meeting is TBD. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to attend 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
 James Norwood
 Alexis Sweazy
 Patrick Rowan
 Pam Jones
 Jane Mandle

Your board thanks you for your donations



General donations

From Patrick and Jennifer Rowan

The Hickory Soup Kitchen thanks all who participated in their annual spaghetti dinner. Your donations went directly to feeding the hungry.

We need volunteers to deliver food donations to the Hickory Soup Kitchen.

Please contact Susan Goldstein or Alexis Sweazy if you can help.

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!

There is still a great need for donations in food-insecure areas around us.

Please bring non-perishable food items to the temple whenever you come for services or other events. You will be helping fulfill the mitzvah of feeding the hungry and setting a good example for our youngsters.



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

Gabe Almaza-Moody
Piedmont Herbals

Email: piedmontherbals@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.piedmontherbals.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/piedmontherbals/>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/piedmont_herbals/

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

*A listing in this business directory is a benefit of TBS membership. If you are a TBS member and wish to be listed please send your business name, address, phone number and email address to:
karen.sederholm@gmail.com*



Birthdays

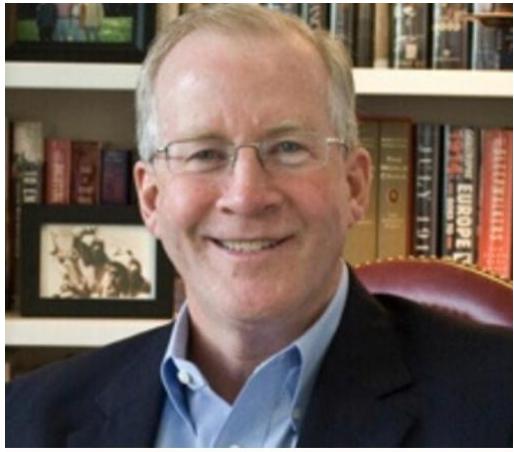
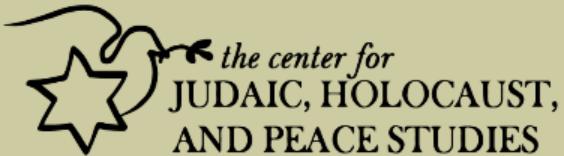
Barbara Laufer 2/1
Linda Greenfield 2/1
Taliah Levy 2/6
Seaver Baumfeld 2/8
Perri Huitt 2/8
Jodi Lavin-Tompkins 2/10
Greg Rosenfeld 2/11
Larry Laufer 2/11
Grayson Weatherly 2/20
Julie Owens 2/21
Nicholas Faruque 2/23
Maddy Gross 2/24
Sam Gross 2/28

Anniversaries

Yahrzeits

Lt Glen Zerden 2/3
Elaine Zerden 2/3
Rachel Gold 2/5
Andrew Rieder 2/12
Elayne Cohen 2/12
Philip Datnoff 2/17
Helmi Loeb Berndt 2/18
Glenn Carlisle Bogitish 2/19
Judith Freedman 2/20
David Guy 2/21
Sol Taub 2/22
Kurt Berndt 2/24
William Hennigan 2/26
Elliot Owen Bonfield 2/27
Avraham Gillette 2/27
Vivian Kramish 2/27
Trudy Lowenberg 2/27
Trudy Pokross 2/27
Arthur Robbins 2/27
Morton Katz 1/29

Local and Regional Events



“The Secret WWII Concentration Camp Diary of Odd Nansen”
Presented by Timothy Boyce
Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 7-8:30 p.m.
Turchin Center for the Visual Arts 1102 and
Online

For registration or more information:

<https://cjhps.appstate.edu/>

THE HICKORY FARMER’S MARKET

Winter Market ~ November 1st - March 28th
Saturdays 10am-1pm





6th Annual Valentines From the Heart of Hickory



All Day Cheerleading Carolina Cup

📍 Hickory Metro Convention Center and
Visitors Bureau



Candlelight: Coldplay & Imagine Dragons

📍 Drendel Auditorium



Candlelight: Tribute to Queen and The Beatles

📍 Drendel Auditorium

2025- 2026 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

Date	Event	Bulletin Deadline
February		January 23
6	Friday night service 7:00pm	
7	Shacharit service 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
8	Young family gathering w/ Rabbi Liss 10:00am	
March		February 23
6	Friday night service 7:00pm	
7	Shacharit service 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
8	Young family gathering w/ Rabbi Liss 10:00am	
20	Sisterhood Friday night service 7:00pm	
21	Sisterhood Shacharit service 10am followed by Kiddush	
April		March 23
2	2 nd night Passover Seder 6pm – reservations required	
3	Friday night service 7:00pm	
4	Shacharit service 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
5	Young family gathering w/ Rabbi Liss 10:00am	
15	Friday night service 7:00pm	April 23
16	Shacharit service 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
17	Annual Membership Meeting 12:00 Young family gathering w/ Rabbi Liss 10:00am	
June		May 23
19	Friday night service 7:00pm	
20	Shacharit service 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
21	Young family gathering w/ Rabbi Liss 10:00am	

Want to contribute to The TBS Bulletin? Send your request to
karen.sederholm@gmail.com.

All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.

