

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲשֶׁר אֱלֹהֵינוּ



### God's Name in Jewish Sacred Literature and Tradition

It is hard to believe that we have entered not only a new year, 2020, but also a new decade. And what an exciting time to be alive! Having just dealt with a serious medical issue and going through surgery, I am astounded by the progress made by modern medicine in just the last few decades. This progress has been paralleled in many other disciplines as well, helping us to live longer and more productive lives while at the same time staying connected with friends and family worldwide. We, in America, are particularly fortunate to be heirs of one of the most stable and prosperous governments in human history. Our constitutional republic has provided an unprecedented level of peace, prosperity, and individual rights to its citizens. And, we have worked diligently to expand those rights to all classes of humankind, not only in our own country, but to citizens of foreign lands as well. I pray with pride every Sabbath and holiday, "Bless our country as a safeguard of peace, its advocate among the nations" (*Mishkan T'filah*, p. 179).

2019 and the decade it closed was also quite good for congregation Temple Beth Shalom. We are blessed to be in solid financial standing, and our membership has continued to grow slowly but steadily. I cannot say enough good things about our dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors and the many volunteers who make our Temple such a warm and inviting spiritual home. That warmth is reflected, I believe, in the positive responses of the many visitors whose company we have enjoyed this past year. I know that I for one relish the opportunity to interact with members of all faiths, as we seek to deepen our understanding of one another.

As our congregation has grown and I have taken on more and more Hebrew students, the question frequently arises as to the translation and meaning of the name of God in the Bible and prayer book. Since the next time we get together at Temple Beth Shalom for Torah reading, Shabbat January 18, we will read in portion, *Shemot*, about Adonai's revelation to Moses of the Divine name for the first time, I thought I would take this opportunity to share my understanding of God's name in Jewish sacred literature and tradition once more.

I have always believed that a glimpse into the great mystery that is God can be provided by a study of the Divine name. The name of humankind's Creator, the Sustainer of All Things, has been clearly revealed to us in the Hebrew Bible. And yet, the average reader of scripture remains relatively unaware that the Almighty has a name at all, let alone what it is. That is because this name is *not* translated as a name in most well-known scriptural translations. You can only imagine my shock and amazement, when, as a young college student in the 1970's, I began an in-depth study of the Hebrew Bible and discovered that the name of God is used almost 6000 times in the Torah, Prophets, and Writings (*Tanakh*). And, yet, I had *never* seen it. That is because most modern translations, in following the King James Version, have translated the four letter name of God, *yod-heh-vav-heh*, as LORD in all capital letters. I completely understand and respect the translation editors' intent to honor ancient laws and traditions guarding against taking "the name of *yod-heh-vav-heh* in vain," as the third commandment implores (Exodus 20:7). Yet, a side effect of that editorial decision is that millions have been denied a more intimate knowledge of the Creator's name. "LORD" is a *title* and not a name. And, while I am a husband, a father, and a teacher, none of those titles conveys a personal knowledge of who I am like my name, Dennis Steven Jones, does.

The name of the Creator is revealed for the first time in Hebrew Scripture to Moses in his encounter with the burning bush on a mountain called Horeb (Ex. 3:1-15). You will recall that while he was pasturing a flock he came upon a bush that appeared to be burning, though not consumed. From the midst of the bush, a voice called out to Moses with the identification, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (v. 6). Moses was, of course, commissioned to approach the Pharaoh of Egypt to request the release of the Israelite populous who had been serving as slaves there. Moses protested, "I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now, they

may say to me, ‘What is God’s name?’ What shall I say to them?’” (v. 13) At that point, the Almighty made the stunning revelation, “*eh’yeh asher eh’hey*.... Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘*eh’yeh* has sent me to you’” (v. 14—keep in mind there are no capitals in Hebrew). Now, the Hebrew phrase, “*eh’yeh asher eh’ye*,” is difficult to translate, and has been rendered in most translations as, “I AM THAT I AM,” although that is probably not the most accurate translation (Gerald L Schroeder, *God According to God*, p. 85). I will definitely explore that possibility more fully in a future article. For our present purposes, it is most interesting to note that in the very next verse in the Torah, God tells Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘*yod-heh-vav-heh*, the God of your fathers..., has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (v. 15). One might ask why the revealed name changed within the space of two verses from “*eh’yeh asher eh’yeh*” or simply “*eh’yeh*” to “*yod-heh-vav-heh*”? That question may be answered by an understanding of how the name, *yod-heh-vav-heh* is pronounced.

As a result of efforts by our sages to safeguard the extreme sanctity of the name of God, it appears that the exact pronunciation of that name may have become lost to us. The vast majority of scholarship on this subject favors the pronunciation, “Yahweh.” I do not find that view compelling in that the Hebrew word, Yahweh, conveys no apparent meaning. That would be extremely unlikely, as the *vast* majority of names used in the Hebrew Bible *do* convey some type of meaning in their translation. Take for example my Hebrew name, Dani’el, “God is my judge.” There is a minority scholarship opinion which favors the pronunciation, “Yehovah,” for the Divine Name, a pronunciation which *does* convey meaning. At least one scholar (James D. Tabor, *Restoring Abrahamic Faith*, p. 20) has posited in this pronunciation of the name the contraction of three Hebrew verbs that have been preserved in the ancient Hebrew hymn “*Adon Olam*.” In the seventh line of that hymn we chant regarding the Most High, “*v’hu hayah, v’hu hoveh, v’hu yihyeh b’tifarah*—roughly, the One who was, the One who is, and the One who will be” (*Gates of Prayer*, p. 729). *Hayah* translates as “was,” *hoveh*—“is,” and *yihyeh*—“will be.” If one were to place these verbs in this order, **YIYEH, HOVEH, HAYAH**, and then to contract the emboldened letters, one would have **YEHOVAH**, a contraction meaning quite literally “the One who will be, is, and was.” What strikes me most is not only how this correlation imparts such rich meaning to the pronunciation of the Divine name, but also how it seems to reconcile an apparent discrepancy between verses 14 and 15 in chapter 3 of Exodus. Both verses would contain only slightly alternate renderings of Hebrew verbs for “to be.”

Now, the Divine name is not some kind of talisman or incantation that one has to “get right” in order to earn merit. But, an understanding of the name does seem to figure quite prominently in the message of the Hebrew Prophets, particularly in their predictions of a future time of peace and prosperity for all humankind. One of the more well-known references is in Joel (ch. 3, v. 5-Hebrew), where the prophet states, “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name *yod-*

*heh-vav-heh* shall be delivered.” Another is the one we chant in every synagogue service as a part of our *Aleinu* prayer. It is a quote from Zechariah 14:9, “*b’yom hahu yihyeh yod-heh-vav-heh echad u’shemo echad*—in that day, Adonai/Yehovah will be one and God’s name one.” These are just two of the many references to the Divine name and its importance, particularly in a time period referred to by the Prophets as “the latter days.” But, that is a topic for a future message. For now, my sincere prayer for each of you is the utmost of health, happiness, prosperity, peace, and spiritual growth in the New Year, 2020! *Ken yehi ratzon*—may this be God’s will!

## The President’s Message

Barbara Laufer, President

Hanukkah marked a special time for Temple Beth Shalom, thanks to the efforts of many members and the organizational skills of Lin Gentry and Kathy Jones. Sisterhood sponsored a lively Fair in conjunction with Shalom Park congregations’ Judaica shop. There were many varied and unique items, and 10% of the proceeds came to sisterhood. This event was followed by a spectacular Hanukkah party that was well attended by all ages. There were decorations, games and prizes and fun for everyone, plus food that was incredible thanks to the efforts of Sunday school and the on-site preparation of latkes made by Marsue Davidson and Sheri and St. John Stock. Again thanks to everyone who jumped in to host in December, as Glenn Eckard’s mother died suddenly and he and April were attending her funeral.

**Save the date of April 9, 2020 for our annual Seder.** This has always been a successful event for Temple Beth Shalom and we appreciate the support. A registration flyer will be sent to members shortly, and guests are always welcome.

As horrible as the recent shootings at synagogues and churches has been, Temple Beth Shalom is fortunate to have an active security committee, chaired by Larry Laufer, with procedures in place to protect all of us.

Please consider volunteering to host on a Shabbat weekend, or run for election to the board. Your time and talent will be most appreciated.

## Hosts for the Rest of the Year

Listed below are board members who have volunteered to host at temple services, but we also need additional member volunteers. Hosts' responsibilities are identified below and if you are willing to volunteer, please email Mary Lee Tosky at [marylee.tosky@gmail.com](mailto:marylee.tosky@gmail.com) and put TBS Hosting in the subject line. Or use this link to sign up <https://bit.ly/2t9uEPH>. Thank you.

January 17-18	Barbara & Larry Laufer	Ginny& Pete Sobotkin
February 14-15	TBD	hosts needed
March 9 (Purim Party)	Kathy Jones	hosts needed
March 20-21	Aaron & Mary Lee Tosky	Maria & Andy Rieder
April 9 (Seder)	Sisterhood	
April 17-18	TBD	hosts needed
May 15-16	Lin Gentry	Tiffany Hull
May 29 (Erev Shavuot)	TBD	hosts needed
June 19-20	TBD	hosts needed
July 17-18	TBD	hosts needed

## Shabbat & Holiday Hosts' Responsibilities

(revised July 2018)

**Please consider pairing with board member(s) to host a weekend at Temple Beth Shalom. It is hoped that by members contributing to the life of our synagogue in this way, we will all feel a part of our Jewish community and an active participant in assuring its well-being. This list will hopefully take away the guess work and please remember that all members present will be helping you in any way possible. Your volunteerism is greatly appreciated.**

### **Prior to the Rabbi/Holiday Weekend:**

The host(s) should communicate with each other regarding who will do which responsibilities. The host board member should make sure that someone has a key for opening the Temple to make preparations.

### **Friday Evening Oneg:**

1. Three tables are set up with table cloths. One side table should be for coffee, challah, and wine/ juice for a congregational Kiddush. Two tables should be set up with plates, napkins, silverware, and desserts.
2. Hosts should supply desserts. Challah, coffee, cream, sugar, wine, juice, sodas, and ice should already be stocked in the kitchen, but hosts should check for them ahead of time and let the Board know if supplies are not there.
3. Female hosts should set up the Shabbat candles, and perform the lighting of candles when the Rabbi directs. Hosts should also make sure that the yahrtzeit and ner tamid lights are lit prior to services.

4. Near the middle of the Friday evening service, hosts should brew coffee, pour Kiddush cups, and make sure the challah and desserts are set out (desserts and challah can be put out and kiddush cups filled before the service).



5. After the service, the hosts should assist with distributing wine/juice to the congregation.

6. At the end of the evening, hosts should complete host inventory; store all left-overs; clean the kitchen; sweep floor; and take out the trash. Recyclables should be separated into the recycling bin.

7. The host board member should ensure that the Temple is locked up for the evening and a security check done when you get there and when you leave.

### **Shabbat Morning:**

Sabbath morning activities are minimal. Paid kitchen personnel will prepare the food and set-up and clean-up. At the end of the luncheon, they will also gather tablecloths for laundering and take garbage/recycle to the street.

Host couples only need to help with setting up tables and chairs and putting on tablecloths and distributing wine/juice for Kiddush.

## **TBS Sisterhood**

Lin Gentry, Sisterhood President

Sisterhood would again like to thank everyone who came out to help set up, bring food, shop, and tear down at the annual Hanukkah Fair on Dec 8! It was a great success because of everyone pitching in, so thank you very much!

We decided on a lot of dates at our January meeting on the 8th at the NY Hibachi Buffet. We also planned a temple Movie Night for Saturday, January 11th.

Here's a rundown of what's coming up. Hope to see you all at some or all events!

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> (this coming Sat)-7:00pm at temple-Movie Night.** Bring a movie, or your streaming information and we'll vote. All adults are invited.

**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> -6:30pm at Hickory Station-next monthly meeting.** Bring titles of books you'd like to share with the others.

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> -10:00am at temple-bake hamentaschen** for our college students and the 'mature' members of our congregation. Bring dough already made and chilled, fillings, and any



worked so hard to make the day a success and everyone who pitched in with bringing food and cleaning up!

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, it was back to working hard on Hebrew again! The next Sunday School Class will be January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Sunday School Principal, Kathy Jones, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto:krsjones2002@yahoo.com) or (828) 632-9261.

## Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund was established by a long-standing Temple member, Burt Sederholm, to honor his wife Harriet, who died shortly after her retirement after 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th, at 7pm. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Please join us and become a part of our TBS family.

TBS Board members are:

**Officers:**

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

**Members at Large:**

- Liz Correll
- Marion DuBow
- Lin Gentry
- Amy Hedrick
- Linda Greenfield
- Mary Lee Tosky
- Karen Ferguson
- Kathy Jones

Please consider these funds for your next donation:

- Building and Grounds
- Security
- Sunday School
- Community Relations

### Donations

A donation of \$100.00 was made to the Institute for Southern Jewish Life for the month of January

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

### Looking for a way to give tzedakah?

Sunday School is collecting winter hats, gloves, scarves, personal/hotel size hygiene supplies, backpacks, and manual can

openers for the local homeless population.

Please help by bringing these items to temple and placing them in the tote box in the foyer.



### TBS Message Board

*Condolences to Glenn and April Eckard on the passing of Glenn's mother.*

*Get well wishes to Pete Sobotkin from your TBS family.*

If you wish to post a message to acknowledge a special event or achievement, condolence, or send a get well message, give or send your message and a \$5 donation to Marion DuBow at 326 Blanketflower Lane West Windsor, NJ. 08550. A greeting card will be sent acknowledging your donation and your message will appear here in the next issue of the TBS Bulletin.

## 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. Ronald DuBow**  
Internist, Geriatric Specialist  
(elderly care) Pediatrician  
2651 Morganton Blvd SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645  
828-757-8950

**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



## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle January Events

### Birthdays

David Jones 1/1  
Marsue Davidson 1/1  
Werner Locke Cohn 1/4  
Stephen Davidson 1/5  
Leila McMichael 1/5  
Liz Correll 1/7  
Alice Guy 1/12  
Sarah Shugar 1/16

Jaimi Jones 1/20  
Deane Griffin 1/21  
Rachel Igdal 1/25  
Madeleine Guy 1/25

### Anniversaries

Mark and Laura Faruque 1/6  
Peter and Ginny Sobotkin 1/31

### Yahrzeits

Mazal Dayan 1/1  
Moses Gitlin 1/10  
Clara Setser 1/14  
Gwen Datnoff 1/17  
Harold Setser 1/20

Charles Laufer 1/23  
Joe Guttler 1/27  
Ida Lippe 1/29

## Member Business Directory

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)

## Local and Regional Events



**Prof. Dr. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum**, the director of the renowned Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University Berlin, Germany, will give a lecture entitled "Gender, Sex and Violence: Race Defilement in Nazi Germany." It will take place in **Belk Library** and Information Commons, **Room 114**, on **Thursday, March 26**, from **5:00** until 7:00 pm. Prof. Schüler-Springorum's talk is also the keynote of the Southeast German Studies Workshop that will be held--co-organized by the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies--on the ASU campus on March 26-27. Free and open to the public.

The noted **traveling exhibit "Shoah: How Was it Humanly Possible?"** from **Yad Vashem**, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem will be on display on the first and fourth floors of **Belk Library** and Information Commons from **March 17 until April 17, 2020**. The exhibition examines major historical aspects of the Holocaust, beginning with Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Europe and ending with the liberation of Nazi concentration and extermination camps across the continent and the remarkable return to life of the survivors.

The exhibit comes to ASU as a result of a cooperation between Yad Vashem, the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, and Belk Library and Information Commons. In light of the renewed rise of anti-Semitism and racial hatred, white supremacy, and deadly terrorist attacks from Halle, Germany, to Pittsburgh, U.S., to Christchurch, New Zealand, the exhibit could not be more timely. The accompanying program includes a visit and presentation by the 1930-born **Holocaust and Auschwitz survivor Dr. Zev Harel**. For more information, contact the Center at 828.262.2311 or [holocaust@appstate.edu](mailto:holocaust@appstate.edu).



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/>.

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2019-2020

Date	Event	Bulletin Deadline	
<b>January</b>	5 17-19	<b>Sunday School 10:00am</b> <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School 10:00am</b>	January 4
<b>February</b>	2 14-16	<b>Sunday School 10:00am</b> <b>Services</b> /(Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School 10:00am</b>	February 1
<b>March</b>	9 20-22	<b>Purim Megilah Reading 7:30 PM</b> (Monday) <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School 10:00am</b>	March 7
<b>April</b>	5 9 17-19	<b>Sunday School 10:00am</b> <b>Passover Community Seder 6:00 PM</b> (Thursday) <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School 10:00am</b>	April 4
<b>May</b>	3 15-17 29 31	<b>Sunday School 10:00am</b> <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)/ <b>Sunday School 10:00am</b> <b>Erev Shavuot/Friday Night Service 7:30pm</b> <b>TBS Annual Membership Meeting 10:00am</b>	May 2
<b>June</b>	7 19-20	<b>Sunday School Final Session 10:00am</b> <b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)	June 6
<b>July</b>	17-18	<b>Services</b> (Fri. 7:30pm/Sat. 10:00am)	N/A

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.