

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

News | Activities | Events

## Inside this Issue

From the Bimah: Our  
Rabbi's Message

The President's Message

TBS Sunday School  
Announcements and  
Schedule

Sisterhood Corner and  
Brotherhood

Life Cycle Events

Temple Beth Shalom  
Event Calendar

Harriet Sederholm  
Scholarship Fund

Special Events and  
Announcements

Temple Board of Directors

Temple Member  
Business Directory

*Temple Beth Shalom*  
P.O. Box 9142  
Hickory, North Carolina 28603  
[www.hickoryjewishcenter.com](http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com)



## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

## Thank You, Temple Beth Shalom!!!

Dear Members and Friends of Temple Beth Shalom,

Serving as your part-time rabbi for the past nine years *has been the honor of my life*. Thank you so much for the opportunity. Words cannot express how I have benefited from the experience on *so many levels*.

Now, I have reached a stage in my life where it has become difficult for me to meet all the needs of our very diverse and growing congregation. In addition, I long to spend more time with family, working my 25-acre organic farm, and traveling.

So, it is with mixed feelings that I have informed our Board of Trustees that I have made the definite decision to step down from the position as your part-time rabbi at the expiration of my current contract, on July 31, 2023. I know that news of my resignation (or more accurately, *retirement*) has been circulating, but I wanted all of you to hear the news directly from me, and not through the grapevine. That is why I have submitted this open letter to our Bulletin Editor, Karen Ferguson, for publication. It is my sincere hope that by providing the Board and Ritual Committee with seven months of notice they will have adequate time to find a suitable rabbinic

replacement. I know that *will not* be an easy task, so it is critical that we all support these leaders with our thoughts, prayers, and positive energy.

I so look forward to being able to pray and worship with you once again *without* the responsibilities of service leadership. I plan to *return* to being an active member of our congregation. I will *always* consider Temple Beth Shalom my synagogue home. You know how proud I am, as well, that my children and grandchildren who live locally have made an effort to be active in the Temple. Now I will be able to sit with them during services!!!!

Again, thank you for the privilege of serving you. I will be a better person for the rest of my life for the experience!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Dennis

## **The President's Message**

Susan G Goldstein, President

I hope this finds all of you and those dear to you enjoying a great start to 2023! While our most prominent new year is Rosh Hashanah, we Jews are fortunate to have multiple opportunities to enjoy new beginnings -- Nisan, Tu Bishvat, and the secular new year -- and we can enjoy each and every one in its own unique way.

In this new year, TBS is engaging in a very exciting project with the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP). Barb and Larry Laufer and I attended (via Zoom) the first meeting of JCLP's Carolina Region Small Congregations Cohort which consists of small (generally under 100 members) congregations in North and South Carolina. The primary purposes of the cohort are to engage in exchanging best practices with other, similar congregations, and to look for potential ways to pool our resources for programming.

Our first areas of focus will be a children's initiative and a three-part series on Antisemitism that will include a look at Anti-Zionism. Subcommittees have been appointed for both initiatives, and I'm pleased to be serving on the one dealing with Antisemitism, along with Mark Epstein from Gastonia and Steve Silver from Aiken, South Carolina. We held our first meeting last week, and it was quite productive. Stay tuned to hear about the series! And, thanks to Kathy Jones, we've provided information for the children's initiative subcommittee regarding the ages of the 17 students in our religious school. We'll be hearing from that subcommittee soon, I'm sure.

The cohort and the subcommittees are being led by Noah Levine of JCLP with input from Leonard Rogoff, President of Jewish Heritage North Carolina; Edward Finkel, JFNA Network of Independent Communities; and Marilyn Chandler, Executive Director of the Greensboro Jewish Federation.

I look forward to seeing you at services on Friday evening, January 13, at 7:00, either in person or via Zoom.

Shalom,

Susan



## **TBS Sisterhood**

Sheri Stock, Sisterhood President

Happy 2023 TBS!!! I hope 2023 is shaping up to be an excellent year so far! Sisterhood has definitely been busy! Sisterhood and Sunday School have collaborated on some very successful projects.

We received a donation of approximately \$650 worth of formula and diapers to give to Kwanzaa from a person in Charlotte. Thank you, Leila, for driving to Charlotte to pick it all up and deliver it to Kwanzaa. Those items will go to good use for their residents.

Sunday School and Sisterhood combined forces to prepare and serve food at the temple after Brenda Callahan's funeral. May her memory always be for a blessing.

Sisterhood also took food twice to a member who had an unexpected death in their family.

Additionally, Sisterhood took several loaves of challah and some chicken soup to a member who had major surgery.

Our Sisterhood Shabbat potluck was a huge success!!! We all had a blast!!!! We ate a lot and schmoozed and enjoyed a relaxing dinner together!

Our February Shabbat dinner will be Friday, February 10th at 6 pm. Bring a vegetarian, parve, or dairy dish and your favorite board game. If you are parents in need of childcare during this event, contact me so we can plan to have childcare available downstairs.

February 12th we will meet at the synagogue (and on zoom) to discuss plans for this year's Seder dinner.

I can't wait to see y'all!

Sheri

## **A thank you letter to TBS Sisterhood from Andrew Igdal**

My trip to Israel through Birthright was an unforgettable experience that truly changed my life. From the moment I landed in Tel Aviv, I was immersed in the rich culture and history of the Jewish people. I had the opportunity to visit historical sites and learn about the significance of these places in the

development of the state of Israel. One of the most meaningful experiences of my trip was the opportunity to connect with other young Jews from around the world. I made lasting friendships and felt a sense of belonging and community that I had never experienced before. I also had the chance to learn from Israeli locals and gain a greater understanding of the challenges and triumphs of living in the country. Also, one of the most impactful experiences of my trip to Israel was visiting Masada and camping beneath it. The significance of this site as the last holdout of an independent Jewish state from 73[AD] until 1949 really hit home for me and made the history and struggles of the Jewish people feel very real and tangible. Seeing Masada and learning about its history motivated me to be a better representative of our people and to work hard to ensure [our] safety and well-being. The sense of community and belonging I felt with the other young Jews on the trip also added to this motivation, as I felt a strong sense of connection to them and to our shared heritage. Finally, I was constantly hit with a deep sense of somber gratitude. I am likely the first of my blood to be to the homeland [for] centuries. That constant sense kept me tied to the present while being appreciative of the past and looking forward to the future. Overall, my trip to Israel was an incredibly meaningful and enriching experience that has left a lasting impact on me and has motivated me to be more active in my Jewish community and in the fight against antisemitism. I hope that in the future I will be able to return to Israel to meet with old friends and make new ones. I hope that future young Jews, especially those from Hickory, will have the support and encouragement that I received to visit their home. I am incredibly grateful to Temple Beth Shalom [Sisterhood] for supporting me on this journey and am excited to continue exploring my Jewish identity and heritage.



### **TBS Sunday School Program**

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

Sunday School students spent December learning Hebrew and celebrating Chanukkah. The students made crafts and topped off the holiday with our annual Chanukkah Bingo and luncheon party. Everyone went home with some great prizes! Thank you to Laura Levinson, Heidi Reed, and Sheri Stock for helping to supply prizes!

To top off the month, we had our first Bar Mitzvah since COVID, on December 31<sup>st</sup>! Pierce Reed did some amazing Torah chanting and made everyone so proud of him! Mazel Tov Pierce! Stay tuned for more Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in the near future!

If anyone would like to know more about the TBS Sunday School, contact Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto: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 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 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 Security

**If you are a TBS Security Team member or think you might like to be**, please review the following message and let either Larry or James know which meeting you will be attending.

The Security Team will be holding two identical meetings in January to discuss the following topics:

### **Roles and responsibilities of the Security Team.**

The Security Team will be comprised of three groups. One to respond to an active shooter, one to act as a negotiator/de-escalator, and the third team to manage the congregation.

### **Training activities planned for the 2023**

Suggested training activities will include CPR; AED; range time with a Hickory Police Dept. expert instructor (thank you Ericka!); target practice at the Springs Road Gun Club; Responding to an Active Shooter at Troysgate in Lenoir; video simulation training (tentative) of an intrusion into the temple conducted by HPD; congregant training on how to respond to any unanticipated event during services or Temple event; de-escalation/negotiating techniques; how to manage a large number of visitors, e.g., student class visits, weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, unknown guests, to name just a few of the activities.

We expect the meeting to be about an hour. However, we are prepared to stay longer if questions and discussions continue. One of the outcomes of this meeting is for you to decide if you want to be a member of the Security Team and in what capacity.

The two dates selected are both Sundays following TBS Sunday School.

**Sunday, Jan. 15th at 1pm at TBS**

**Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at TBS**

Please let us know which meeting you will be attending.

Thank you for your interest in protecting the members of TBS. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

Larry and James



## Temple Board

Our next meeting is on January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm at the temple and on Zoom. 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  
 Mary Lee Tosky, Acting Vice President  
 Susan Rieder, Treasurer  
 Lin Gentry, Secretary

### Members at Large:

Liz Correll  
 Karen Ferguson  
 Sheri Stock  
 Susan Tiger Huitt  
 Derek Cooperberg  
 Jodi Lavin-Tompkins

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

### Security Fund

From Susan Huitt in honor of Micah and Amanda Baumfeld.

### General donations

Susan Goldstein and Linda Fedder  
 in honor of Phillip J Nelson  
 Lucie, Ben and Namrita Nelson

TBS monthly donation to a local charity went to the Women’s Resource Center for the month of January.

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





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. Here's the link to sign up: [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

TBS Community Relations and Social Action Committee (CRSAC) is actively collecting winter clothing, coats, sleeping bags, and tents for our local homeless population. If you have any of these items to donate, or if you would like to donate funds to purchase these supplies, please contact CRSAC Chairperson, Kathy Jones, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto:krsjones2002@yahoo.com) ..

### TBS MESSAGE BOARD

This space is reserved for members to send kind notes and acknowledgements to one another. If you wish to have your message printed here, please send it to Karen Ferguson, [karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.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/druzydreamscryystals>

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 January Events



### Birthdays

David Jones 1/1  
Marsue Davidson 1/1  
Werner Locke Cohn 1/4  
Stephen Davidson 1/5  
Liz Correll 1/7  
Alice Guy 1/12  
Karson Rowan 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  
Pete Sobotkin 1/31  
Ashley and Grayson Cohn 1/26

### Yahrzeits

Mazal Dayan 1/1  
Samuel Dopkeen 1/4  
Moses Gitlin 1/10  
Dora Dopkeen 1/13  
Clara Setser 1/14  
Molly Sederholm 1/16  
Gwen Datnoff 1/17  
Harold Setser 1/20  
Charles Laufer 1/23  
Joe Guttler 1/27  
Ida Lippe 1/29

Local and Regional Events



Many ASU 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 828.262.2311 or [holocaust@appstate.edu](mailto:holocaust@appstate.edu).



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 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/>.**

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School Jan-July 2023

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

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
January	13 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	December 18
	15 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	28/29 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
February	11 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	January 22
	12 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
March	24 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	February 19
	6 <b>Erev Purim Service/Megillah Reading</b> 7:00 PM (Monday)	
	11/12 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00AM	
	24 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
April	26 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	March 19
	6 <b>Passover Community Seder</b> 6:00 PM (Thursday)	
	15/16 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00AM/ <b>Sunday Schoo</b> 10:00 AM	
	28 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
May	30 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	April 23
	6/7 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	19 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	21 <b>TBS Annual Membership Meeting</b> 10:00 AM (Sunday)	
	25 <b>Erev Shavuot Service</b> 7:00 PM (Thursday)	
June	28 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	May 21
	3/4 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School Final Session/Party</b>	
	23 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
July	8 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	N/A
	21 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	26 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	

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.