

# 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 Dr. Janet B Liss

Grace and I just returned from a 16-day trip to Sicily. It was very special to visit there over Christmas and New Year's. There were remarkable decorations around the cities and towns. Sicily, like Israel, is located in a place that made it an access point to all people who were conquering the area. Because of this, the rulers of Sicily kept changing. Remaining are ancient Greek and Roman ruins, churches that were originally mosques, and Arab, as well as Greek and Roman, influence in the architecture of existing structures. We visited many towns where the local guides showed us maps of ancient places. The towns were divided into quarters and there were many with prominent Jewish quarters. Jews lived for centuries in Sicily prior to the Inquisition. Spain ruled Sicily for 500 years and unfortunately for the Jewish community, that included the period of the Spanish Inquisition. Jews were forced to convert, were killed and many left. So we know where the Jewish community lived in these towns and the streets still have Jewish names and sometimes there is some remnant of the community like artwork of a Menorah or a shofar.

One highlight of the trip for me was the Mikveh in Siracuse. This Mikveh was built in the 600's and is still intact. You go deep underground by a stone staircase that is several flights down. The stairs open into an area with three mikvehs in the center of the room with seating around the side made of stone. On two sides there were private Mikvehs for another two people. The Jewish population of Siracuse was 3500 prior to the Inquisition, and clearly this Mikveh was well maintained and used. It still collects water and was recently used in the adoption process of two young children. The

Mikveh has always been used by Orthodox men on Fridays before Shabbat, by women before their wedding, by people converting to Judaism, and by married women following their monthly menstrual cycle. We saw a lot of ruins in Sicily. It was amazing to see this mikveh which can still be used today a good 1400 years after it was built.

Before leaving home, I bought a small traveling Chanukiah for our trip. We arrived in Palermo hours before the first candles were lit on December 25. We lit the candles our first night in the hotel but then we were transferred to a ship. I thought I would light the candles every night on the ship, but I soon learned that they had a no candle rule which was strictly adhered to unless they were celebrating someone's birthday in the dining room! It took days to work out the logistics to be able to light the Chanukiah on the ship. Finally the last night of Chanukah arrived and with it, came the permission for a lighting. The lighting was done on a deck with a crew member standing by with a fire extinguisher "just in case." My traveling Chanukiah used birthday candles. Imagine us standing around the lighting of this tiny Chanukiah guarded by a fire extinguisher. We had a lovely lighting, a good laugh, we sang songs and we were joined by both Jewish and non-Jewish passengers and crew members who wanted to be there for the lighting. It felt really good to bring Jewish observance to a place which is pretty much devoid of a Jewish presence today. Some Jews are living in Sicily and a small group has gotten permission from the Bishop to have a synagogue in a Catholic Church which is literally called the Church of Saturday because it originally was a synagogue in Palermo. The small community is renovating this site but from what we were told, it is a project that has taken years and their primary mover and shaker recently died.

For me lighting the Chanukiah this year symbolized hope in a way I haven't felt before. We need hope. As the fires rage out of control in California, as the days pass and the hostages are still not home, with all of the uncertainty we face as Americans today, we need to keep the light of hope burning in our hearts and souls. May we continue to be a source of hope for each other, as we come together as a community to worship and celebrate our Judaism in these challenging times.

May 2025 be a better year with positive outcomes for all.

## The President's Message

Susan J Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

I hope this finds all of you and those dear to you enjoying a great start to 2025! 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 celebrate each and every one in its own unique way.

**Rabbi Liss and Grace** will be with us for services on **Friday evening, January 17, at 7:00** and **Saturday morning, January 18, at 10:00**. We'll meet again at 6:00 for potluck dinner, adult Jewish learning, and Havdalah. Many of us have found these Saturday night gatherings to be especially meaningful. If you're over 18, please join us!

Thank you to all who continue to bring donations of cans or boxes of food to help fight food insecurity at the **Hickory Soup Kitchen**. As you may recall, your Board of Trustees voted to make this a **year-round project** so please continue to bring a can or box of food every time 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.

Sending a big "thank you" to **Aaron Tosky** who arranged for our building to be pressure washed. It looks great!

Your Board of Trustees has accepted a **recommendation from the Security Team** to purchase a new key system. At present, we cannot account for all the keys to our building. If you have one laying about, please turn it in to a member of the Security Team or the Board. Thanks!!

As we usher in a new secular year, Israel's challenges continue. We continue to pray that our remaining **100 hostages, held more than 450 days**, will be released soon. We continue to pay attention to and support Hillel as it gives Jewish college students a place to feel safe in their Judaism. 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 and our college students.

- Emergency Campaign of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte - [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org)
- American Joint Distribution Committee - [www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org)
- ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America - [arza.org](http://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](http://www.jnf.org)

You can also receive frequent updates on the situation in Israel from those sites. ADL ([www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)), AIPAC ([www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org)), and the Secure Community Network ([www.securecommunitynetwork.org](http://www.securecommunitynetwork.org)) also provide frequent updates and offers webinars and invitations to let our elected representatives know that we stand with Israel and that we urge them to do so as well.

Jews on college campuses are having a rough go of it. Our campus Hillels need our support now more than ever. Go to <https://www.hillel.org> to find out how you can help.

And it's always time to be informed!! The Wall Street Journal ([www.WSJ.com](http://www.WSJ.com)) and the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) are good sources. Pay particular attention to NYT columnist Bret Stephens. In addition, check out some sources that come directly from Israel. Israel from the Inside with Daniel Gordis ([danielgordis.substack.com](http://danielgordis.substack.com)) is one of my favorites. The Times of Israel (<https://www.timesofisrael.com>), and Haaretz.com are others -- and I'm sure Rabbi Liss will be glad to recommend her favorites.

I look forward to seeing you soon -- in person or via Zoom.

*Shalom, Susan*

## TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President



Hello everyone!

December was definitely more of a restful month for the Sisterhood but I'm looking forward to things picking back up in the new year.

Our next Sisterhood business meeting is on January 19th at 2:15 PM. We will also be gathering for a movie matinee at the synagogue on January 25th, time TBD at the business meeting. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood, or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com](mailto:alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com)

## TBS Hebrew School Program

Geoffrey Janer, Hebrew School Principal



Shalom Everyone,

Hebrew school is in full swing and we are so excited to update you all on our progress.

In the early part of December we hosted a Chanukah party. I want to thank Gabe, Alexis, and Maritza for helping with the setup of the event. I want to thank Karen, Gabe, and Mary Lee for their delicious latkes and everyone else who bought or donated items for raffle prizes. We had an amazing game of Bingo where everyone took home some amazing prizes.

I also want to take time as the year winds down to give special thanks to our Hebrew School team: Maritza, Seth, and Aaron who work so hard educating our kids in the spirit of L'dor v'dor. Their hard work each Sunday is what makes our community so special. I also want to make an additional shout out to Gabe and Alexis for their work in the library. They are critical in helping find educational resources for our students.

December was a busy month for our Hebrew School kids as we get ready for an exciting 2025 year filled with not 1, not 2, but 3 B'nai mitzvahs. They have all been working extremely hard to prepare. Our Aleph-Bet class continues to sharpen their Hebrew skills as they learn each letter of the aleph-bet. We have an exciting year ahead for our students and know this year will be truly special.

Shalom

Geoff Janer

Hebrew School Principal

## 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 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 on Sunday, February 16 at 12:15 pm at the temple. 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  
 Jodi Lavin-Tompkins  
 James Norwood  
 Alexis Sweazy  
 Geoffrey Janer

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

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.

Donations will go monthly to The Hickory Soup Kitchen.

Some items they currently need at the Soup Kitchen are:

Beef and Chicken base    Quart and Gallon zip bags    13 Gallon kitchen drawstring bags    Dry milk  
Coffee creamer    Instant rice    Spaghetti    Jumbo Elbow macaroni    Ketchup    Dessert size paper plates

**Are you or anyone you know looking for a Jewish Summer camp experience?**

**Check this out! →**

**Scholarships available.  
Contact Geoffrey Janer for more info.**



The poster for Tranquillity Camp Summer 2025 features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top left is a logo of a tent and a person. The main title 'Tranquillity Camp' is in a large, bold, blue font, with the tagline 'Part of growing up. The best part.' below it. The text 'Summer 2025' is in a large, bold, blue font. Below this, three session options are listed: 'Full Summer (7 Weeks) \$7850' (Sunday, June 29th - Tuesday, August 19th), 'Session 1 (4 Weeks) \$4850' (Sunday, June 29 - Tuesday, July 29), and 'Session 2 (3 Weeks) \$3650' (Wednesday, July 30 - Tuesday, August 19). At the bottom, there are three small photos showing children playing sports, a group of children sitting on the grass, and a child in a pool. The website 'tranquillitycamp.com' is at the bottom in a blue font.

### 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](mailto:piedmontherbals@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.piedmontherbals.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/piedmontherbals/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/piedmont\\_herbals/](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](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)

The Natural Olive  
216 Union Square  
Hickory  
828-256-1950

[www.NaturalOliveHickory.com](http://www.NaturalOliveHickory.com)

## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle January Events



### Birthdays

David Jones 1/1

Werner Locke Cohn 1/4

Liz Correll 1/7

Alice Guy 1/12

Karson Rowan 1/16

Jaimi Jones 1/20

Rachel Igdal 1/25

Madeleine Guy 1/25

### Anniversaries

Mark and Laura Faruque 1/6

Pete and Ginny Sobotkin 1/31

Ashley and Grayson Cohn 1/25

### 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

Marc Fedder 1/23

Joe Guttler 1/27

Ida Lippe 1/29



# Local and Regional Events



## International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, also called the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. This is the day Auschwitz was liberated.

### 2024 Holocaust Remembrance Memorial Service

#### WATCH ON YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWBqZ5bVEdY&t=10s>

WINTER 2023/2024 NEWSLETTER



**HAPPENINGS AT THE CENTER**

**THE CENTER HAS MOVED!**

Well it's done. We are officially moved, after a few months with our furniture in the hall and boxes stacked to the ceiling. But frankly, this too is changing. The walls are painted, the floor has new carpet, and we have beautiful offices and a conference room. The furniture has been brought in and we have unpacked many of our treasures. The location could hardly be better almost every. App State student takes at least one class in Anne Bell Hall, so we have the ability to really make our presence known. Join us for an open house over the summer when more of our supporters are in town. But you don't have to wait for the open house, drop by and say hi in Anne Bell Hall, Suite 2100.

- 2-3. Retracing Legacies - Trip to Krakow & Berlin
4. Scholarships / Director Search / Faculty Advisory Board
5. Rennie Brantz / Donations

YOUR GENEROSITY IS EMPOWERING  
DONATE HERE TODAY!



**2023 - 2024 EVENTS**

- 1/22/24 Art Installation: The Holy Land by Ann Kiplan
- 1/25-1/30 Holocaust Remembrance Week
- 1/25/2024 Panel "Marc Chagall and Shetl Life"
- 1/27/2024 Holocaust Remembrance Memorial Service
- 1/29/24 - 2/2/24 Historical Exhibit: "The Tuchyn Story: Roots of Resistance Exhibit"
- 1/30/24 Anne Parsons on "The Tuchyn Story"
- 2/21/24 Panel on Israel and Palestine: The Context
- 4/24/24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Event
- 5/2/24 Center Award Ceremony
- May 2024 Student Field Trip
- 7/11-17/24 Summer Symposium
- 7/14/24 Center Open House

### CJHPS Newsletter

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to

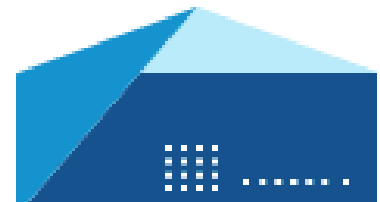
stay updated on the latest news and events.

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

SHALOM HARMON INSTITUTE



Follow this link for information and registration for upcoming online events at SHI: <https://www.hartman.org.il/programs/>

# 2025 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

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

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Newsletter deadline</b>
January	<p>5                      Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>10                     Friday night service 7:00pm</p> <p>11                     Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm</p> <p>12                     Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>26                     Sunday School 10 am</p>	December 23
February	<p>2                        Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>9                        Sunday School 10 am</p> <p>14                      Friday night service 7:00pm</p> <p>15                      Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm</p> <p>16                      Sunday School 10 am</p>	January 23

## *January Holidays*



### **Fast of Tevet 10**

Begins sunrise, Friday, January 10, 2025

Ends nightfall, Friday, January 10, 2025

On the 10th day of the Jewish month of Tevet, in the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem. Asarah B'Tevet is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance.

March			February 23
	2	Sunday School 10 am	
	9	Sunday School 10 am	
	21	Friday night service 7:00pm	
	22	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
	23	Sunday School 10 am	
	30	Sunday School 10 am	
April			March 23
	6	Sunday School 10 am	
	11	Friday night service 7:00pm	
	12	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
	27	Sunday School 10 am	
	18	Sunday School 10 am	
	25	Sunday School 10 am - End of Year party	
May			April 23
	4	Sunday School 10 am	
	16	Friday night service 7:00pm	
	17	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
	18	Sunday School 10 am	
	25	Sunday School 10 am - End of Year party	
June			
	13	Friday night service 7:00pm	May 23
	14	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	

Want to contribute to The TBS Bulletin? Send your request to [karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.com).  
All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.