

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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

Rabbi Dennis Jones

Summer is Here!!

I can remember when Temple Beth Shalom participated in Hebrew Union College's student rabbi program, and we would take the summer off from services. Since we have a rabbi of our own now, we no longer do that. We do still give our bulletin editor a bit of a break—no July newsletter. In lieu of that, I wanted to share some thoughts on the hot summer season in this month's article. Anyone who watches the thermometer knows, that the intense heat and humidity of summer has begun. Summer afternoons in the South get so hot, one is often driven to hide in the air conditioning or just take a nap! Interestingly, these same days of oppressive heat have long been considered a *low point* on the Hebrew calendar by the sages of Israel. Beginning with the 17th of Tammuz and extending until the 9th of Av, is a three-week period that has traditionally been a time of mourning and sadness for the Jewish people, at least as far back as Talmudic times (100-300 C.E.). The primary purpose of our mourning during this time is given by the sages as the destructions of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians, and then of the Romans. The sages also saw the darkness of these days as deriving from incidents which occurred at the time of the Exodus. For example, the beginning of the three weeks, the 17th of Tammuz, in the fourth month of the Hebrew calendar, commemorates the day in 70 C.E. when the Romans breached the walls of the holy city of

Jerusalem. Rashi tells us that it also corresponds with the timing of the “golden calf” incident following the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai (Rabbi G. Rubin, “Matan Torah According to Rashi,” <http://ohr.edu/991>).

According to the Rabbis of the Mishnah, the time of sadness culminated on the day of Tisha B’Av, the 9th of Av, in the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar. They stated, “Five misfortunes befell our fathers ... on the ninth of Av. ...On the ninth of Av it was decreed that our fathers should not enter the [Promised] Land; the Temple was destroyed the first and second times; Bethar was captured; and the city [Jerusalem] was ploughed up” (*Mishnah, Ta’anit* 4:6). Recall that Moses had sent twelve spies into the land of Canaan ahead of the arrival of the children of Israel, and when those spies returned they reported to the people that it would be impossible for the Israelites to overcome the inhabitants of the land. According to the Torah, the people believed the spies negative report, and sadly, Adonai decreed that that doubting generation would not be permitted to enter the land of Israel (Numbers 13:25-14:45). This “sin of the spies” seems to have put a black mark on the day which has persisted throughout history. Particularly disheartening to the sages was the fact that the focal point of Israelite worship, the holy Temple in Jerusalem, was destroyed first by the Babylonians (586 B.C.E.), then after its rebuilding by the Romans (70 C.E.) on this *very same day in the month of Av*. And, fresh on their minds were the slaughter of over 500,000 Jews at Bethar and the plowing of the destroyed city of Jerusalem by the Romans at the time of the Bar Kochbah revolt (135 C.E.).

In addition to the tragedies falling on the 9th of Av, as enumerated in the Mishnah, a host of dreadful events have befallen our people on or very near that day throughout history:

- The First Crusade began, August 15, 1096, in which 10,000 Jews were killed in the first month alone.
- The Jews were expelled from England, July 18, 1290.
- The Jews were expelled from France, July 22, 1306.
- The Jews were expelled from Spain, July 31, 1492.
- Germany entered World War I, August 1, 1914.
- Himmler approved the Nazis’ “Final Solution,” August 2, 1941.
- The deportation of the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka began, July 23, 1942.

(See Tracey R. Rich, “Judaism 101,” <http://www.jewfaq.org/holidayd.htm>)

Customs for mourning this dark time period in Jewish history have varied from community to community and from time to time, but there has been general agreement that, beginning on the 17th of Tammuz, weddings are not to be performed. As the first day of the month of Av approaches, mourning traditionally intensifies. During the nine days from the first to the ninth, many observant Jews abstain from cutting their hair or shaving, abstain from the drinking of wine or eating of meat except on Shabbat, and abstain from pleasurable activities and recreation. According to the *Shulchan Aruch*, the fast of Tisha B'Av was to be every bit as strict as the fast of Yom Kippur. Extending from sundown to sundown, the individual is prohibited from eating or drinking, washing or bathing, applying creams or ointments, wearing leather, or enjoying marital relations. The sadness of the day is intensified by the reading in the synagogue of the woeful book of Lamentations from the Hebrew Bible. The only difference from the High Holiday fast of Yom Kippur is that if the 9th of Av falls on a Shabbat, it is not observed until the next day (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, pp. 593-597).

Did you know that according to at least one sage of the Talmudic period, there was to be a major holiday following the intense summer time of mourning? “Said Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel: There were no greater festivals for Israel than the 15th of Av and Yom Kippur” (*Talmud, Ta’anit* 26b). In fact, the Talmud goes on to record at least six major positive events that occurred on Tu B’Av, the 15th of Av. The Mishnah tells us that the “daughters of Jerusalem” would borrow fine linens and go out to dance in the vineyards. Young men who were not yet married would look upon the maidens to find a suitable wife (Also *Ta’anit* 26b, Yanki Tauber, “Why Do We Celebrate the 15th of Av?” <http://www.chabad.org/>). As nights became longer, the intense heat of summer began to fade, and the early cool breezes anticipating fall began to blow, the Rabbis encouraged the Jewish people to turn from their time of mourning to a time of joy. And, this has been a recurring theme of Jewish history, that times of oppression and tragedy have been followed by times of redemption, victory, and joy, by the hand of the Almighty.

If you are moved to recognize these ancient observances this year in keeping with the traditions of our people, the 17th of Tammuz falls on Saturday, July 16. That day is followed three weeks later by the fast of Tisha B’Av on Saturday, August 6 (postponed until Sunday, according to tradition). Our time of rejoicing returns with the festival of the full moon of Tu B’Av on Friday, August 12.

Such has been the history of our people from ancient times until now that periods of tragedy and sadness are followed by periods of deliverance, joy, and rebirth. The story is told of a 19th century British politician who was walking outside of a synagogue on the 9th of Av. From inside the synagogue walls, he heard the reading of the book of Lamentations and the weeping of the people. Upon inquiry, he was informed by a bystander that the Jews were mourning the loss of their ancient Temple and the many tragedies that have befallen their people during this time of year. So impressed was he, that he exclaimed, “Surely a people who mourn with such intensity the loss of their homeland, even after 2000 years, will someday regain that

homeland” (Telushkin, p. 595). Amazingly, we have regained that homeland, modern Israel, and are prospering there. And this return was predicted by the Hebrew Prophets over 2500 years ago. In one such prophecy, Zechariah even refers to the fast of the 9th of Av: “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the fast of the fourth month (Tammuz 17) and the fast of the fifth month (Av 9) ...will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah; so love truth and peace. ...many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem.... In those days, ten men from the nations of every language will grasp the corner of the garment (*tzitzit?*) of a Jew saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’” (Zech. 8:19-23). As one who has had the privilege of converting to Judaism, I find the words of this prophecy chilling. Could it be possible that we are witnessing the fulfillment of these ancient words in our own day? *Ken yehi ratzon*—may this be God’s will!

President’s Message

Susan Goldstein, President

I remember my first Tikun Leyl Shavuot like it was yesterday. In fact, it was over 30 years ago. Although I didn’t know what it was, when my friend and teacher, Rabbi Michael Siegel, asked, I unhesitatingly agreed to help arrange the first community-wide one in Chicago’s Lakeview area. Four synagogues (one Conservative, two Reform, and one Modern Orthodox) and the JCC participated.

Each synagogue held its own “opening” event, then, at 11:00 pm about 100 of us gathered at the JCC. The first session was a panel discussion -- actually an “Ask the Rabbi” event with a rabbi from each organization, moderated by a neighborhood scholar. After a snack (I was on KP duty with the Modern Orthodox rebbitzen), we moved to the next set of sessions. We studied through the night with 8 sessions (three class choices per session), separated by dairy snacks (featuring ice cream and cheesecake) and lots of coffee. There were sleep rooms, one for women and one for men, for those who needed rest between sessions. At 6:00 am we walked one block over to Lake Michigan for sunrise shacharit services -- one egalitarian and one for men only. Some then went back to the JCC for one more breakfast snack, OJ, and coffee before either going to services or going home to bed.

That year, I chose to go home to bed. I had explained to my husband (Harold) what the plan was for the night and told him I’d be home before he got up that morning. Well, he waited up all night. He wanted to know where I’d been all night because NOBODY stayed up all night to study on a Jewish holiday that he’d never heard of anyway! I calmly explained that I had about 100 witnesses, and invited him to check in with any number of them. I believe it was a rabbi who finally reassured him. In any event, he was prepared the following year -- and he finally recognized Shavuot as a real Jewish holiday!

In fact, Shavuot is a really beautiful Jewish holiday celebrating the giving of the Aseret HaDibrot (“Ten Sayings”/the first ten of the 613 commandments). So, Saturday night I’ll be live streaming some learning sessions, Sunday morning I’ll live stream a service where I can hear the Ten Commandments chanted, and Monday morning I’ll recite Yizkor one last time in 5782. I encourage you to find a service via live stream or Facebook that feeds your soul.

Chag Sameach,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood

Sheri Stock, Sisterhood President

Yay for Summer! Sisterhood has several things on the horizon for this summer.

Sunday, June 26th, from 4:30 to 6:00pm, we will be at Shadow Line Vineyard (2550 Shadow Line Lane, Granite Falls NC...about 15 minutes from Temple). We will be inside and we will have a few different wines to sample and some hors d'oeuvres.

Sunday, July 17th, at 7:00pm we will have our first combination (In person and Zoom) trivia night! The winners get tickets to see the Crawdads!!!

Sunday, August 7th, at 7:00 pm we will meet at the synagogue (and by Zoom) to discuss the upcoming High Holidays and decide on a book to read for Rosh Hashanah (and discuss it at our next meeting). Appetizers and beverages will be provided!

I am excited to see many of you at these events! Stay safe and hydrated. Wear your sunscreen. Be COVID aware and have fun this summer!

Sheri

TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

Sunday School regular classes concluded on May 22nd with Sheri Stock teaching the students to make challah! Our last get together will be June 12th at 10am for our end of the year party! We plan to have an outdoor game day. It should be fun for all!

Classes will resume in the fall. Parents and students will receive the new year’s schedule as we get closer to the date.



If you would like to know more about TBS Sunday School, please contact Kathy Jones at 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 for 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 essay 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 is TBA 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
- Barbara Laufer, Past President
- Tiffany Hull, Vice President
- Susan Rieder, Treasurer
- Lin Gentry, Secretary

Members at Large:

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



Our May donation went to the Hickory Corral Society in honor of Thelma Jarvis

Please consider these funds for your next donation:
Building and Grounds
Security
Sunday School
Community Relations and Social Action

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.



TBS Community Mitzvah Projects

If members of the congregation have any household items that they would like to donate to our ongoing mission to help lower income families or know of any unmet needs in our area, please contact:

Kathy Jones, Chair of the Community Relations and Social Action Committee at krsjones2002@yahoo.com.



**SHALOM
HARMON
INSTITUTE**

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 serves as president. You can find out more about this organization and its activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/CVICNC/>.

Interfaith Council

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
 Suite 170
 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,](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



Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle June/July Events

June Birthdays

Bradley Haddock 6/3
 Susan Jarvis Goldstein 6/10
 Connie Tosky 6/14
 Heidi Jones 6/14
 Esther Greene 6/16
 Ron DuBow 6/20
 Sandy Guttler 6/22
 Ashley Brooke Cohn 6/30
 Rhett Tompkins 6/30

June/July Anniversaries

Solomon and Stephanie Zerden 6/6
 Dennis and Kathy Jones 6/9
 Rich and Debbie Engelmann 6/10
 Lin and Frank Gentry 6/1
 Elaine Zerden 7/18
 Karen and Clyde Ferguson 7/9

June Yahrzeits

Harry Leifer 6/1
 Roy Bowen 6/5
 Mazzie Hull 6/11
 Harris Sederholm 6/15
 Dorothy Cohen 6/21
 Stephen Schonberg 6/24

July Birthdays

Emily Tosky 7/3
 Lin Gentry 7/7
 Karen Ferguson 7/9
 Daniel Jones 7/16
 Tiffany Hull 7/17
 David Peltzer 7/18
 Eric Igdal 7/19
 Seth Cohn 7/19
 Mitch Weatherly 7/19
 Alison Weatherly 7/20
 Arleen Gold 7/20
 Alexis Cangemi 7/23
 Debra Engelmann 7/24
 Benjamin Levinson 7/29

July Yahrzeits

Elaine S Rockstein 7/5
 Sylvia Kaufman 7/6
 Carole Bowers 7/16 (Stinson)
 Leo John Maciejewski 7/19
 Bernice Fedder 7/20
 Marvin Yelton 7/20

TBS MESSAGE BOARD

Best wishes for a speedy recovery:
 to Barbara Laufer from Karen and Clyde Ferguson
 To Rabbi Dennis and Kathy Jones from Lin Gentry



**Next International ASU
 Summer Symposium on Film
 and Photography During and
 After the Holocaust To Be Held
 as a Hybrid Program in July
 2022: Registration is open**

For more information about the symposium, registration, and available scholarships, please click [here](#) or contact the Center at 828.262.2311 or holocaust@appstate.edu.

Local and Regional Events



Pete Sobotkin, Temple Beth Shalom member, is team captain for the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life All Night walk. Its purpose is to raise money for a cure for cancer and to support cancer patients. Due to COVID, this major fundraiser has been cut back the last few years. If you would like to donate to this very important charity, it will be greatly appreciated. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Cash or checks made out to the "American Cancer Society" can be mailed to: Pete Sobotkin, 1004 N Center St, Hickory, NC 28601.

Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2022

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
June	5 Shavuot Morning Service 10:00 AM (Sunday) CANCELLED	May 23
	11 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	
	12 Sunday School Final Session/Party 10:00 AM	
	17 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	
July	9 Saturday Morning Service 10:00 AM	N/A
	22 Friday Night Service 7:00 PM	

Up Next on the Jewish Calendar

Shavuot

June 4-6, 2022

6-7 Sivan 5782

Gather inspiration to repair the world with commentaries from influential Jewish leaders, rabbis and academics.

The Three Weeks

Saturday, July 16, 2022 through Sunday, August 7, 2022

- Fast of the 17th of Tammuz - July 17, 2022
Fast of Tish'a B'Av - August 6 - 7, 2022

The “Three Weeks” and Tisha B’Av are designated as a time of mourning over the destruction of the Holy Temple and the *galut* (exile).

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.

