

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be celebrating Purim and hopefully, you will be able to join us in the celebration. Purim is a classic Jewish holiday with a timeless message that certainly speaks to us today. It is the story of an enemy, Haman, who out of anger because Mordechai the Jew refused to bow down to him manipulated King Ahasuerus to order a mass killing of all the Jews in the Persian empire. Queen Esther who hid her Jewish identity from the king was summoned by her Uncle Mordechai to appeal to the king's good graces and get the kill order rescinded. She risked her life by coming to the king without being summoned and by doing so saved the entire Jewish community.

While there is no historical proof that this story ever took place, the message of the story cannot be more appropriate for the times we are living in today. Jewish life worldwide is changing. Israel is fighting a battle without any end in sight. The world is calling for a ceasefire. The same world is not demanding that the hostages should be released. Jews in different parts of this country and worldwide are scared. As American Jews, we have never felt insecure about living openly as Jews.

On Purim, we are commanded to rejoice, to have fun and to drink. One is commanded to drink to the point that you cannot distinguish the blessing of Mordechai from the curse of Haman. While we will not promote drinking oneself into oblivion, we are planning a great evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for adults to have fun rejoicing together. We will have havdallah, a light meal, read the Megillah, the Book of Esther, play games and have a great time.

Because Esther chose to hide her identity (Esther literally means hidden), it is customary to wear costumes for Purim. We invite everyone to dress up in costume and join us for a meaningful and fun experience. We will have an adult Purim costume contest on Saturday and one on Sunday for the children as well. On Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Purim with the children in our congregation with a Purim spiel, an abbreviated Megillah reading followed by a carnival and games. We welcome all participation to help make this a special experience for all of our members.

Our tradition teaches us that when the month of Adar comes, it increases joy. There is a long stretch between Hanukkah and Passover and Purim comes at the right moment to bring us joy and hope. These are two important things we can all use in this world today.

With joy and hope, I look forward to seeing you on the weekend of March 22nd. I can't wait to see what costume you will wear. It's okay just to dress as a member of Temple Beth Shalom if you are not the costume type!

Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

## **The President's Message**

Susan G Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

And the war between Israel and Hamas rages on -- but let's start with happenings on the Homefront this month!

Be happy; it's Adar! Well, we might have a long discussion with Rabbi Liss concerning just how happy we should be in Adar, but, for now, let's go with being happy. Purim comes around in Adar II this year, and Rabbi and Grace will be here with us as we celebrate Esther and Mordechai's amazingly clever win over Haman. This year we're going to try something new: TWO Purim celebrations!

On Saturday night, March 23 (Erev Purim) at 6:30 we'll enjoy an adult Purim party starting with a covered dish dairy/parve Persian banquet. Next, we'll daven Havdalah, then read Megillah Esther, then enjoy fun and games. Don't forget your costumes. Dress as whomever you choose -- SpongeBob SquarePants, a queen, a flapper, a sage -- let your imagination take over. This is the holiday when everything gets returned on its head. Have fun; it's Adar!

On Sunday morning, March 24, at 10:00 the kids get their turn. We'll have a "lighter" reading of Megillah Esther, and the children will take part in a costume parade. Encourage them to play out their fantasies with their costumes. It's Adar!

Volunteers Needed! Do you have two hours -- from 10:00 am until noon -- on Sunday, April 21? We need help "staffing" stations to help give our Sunday School students a Pesach "tour." If you're able to participate, please let Sunday School Principal, Sheri Stock, know at [sherilisa@gmail.com](mailto:sherilisa@gmail.com).

And if Purim is approaching, then Pesach is just around the corner. We haven't had a community seder in five years. Imagine what Covid has taken from us. We (Sisterhood and

Board) are looking at the possibility of gathering together for a Pesach seder on Tuesday evening, April 23 (second night, as has been our tradition). Rather than serving meat, we are looking at serving salmon. The rationale is that more of our younger/newer members are either vegetarian or eat only kosher meat. We don't have the volunteer crew that we had five years ago, nor do we have the financial wherewithal. We'd very much appreciate your letting us know if this option is one that you'd support. After all, isn't being together the most important consideration at Pesach? Please let us know your thoughts by responding to [susanejgoldstein@gmail.com](mailto:susanejgoldstein@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience. There's a lot of prep work involved as every Jewish woman knows!

Many thanks to Rabbi Liss who shared photos and videos of her and Grace's visit to Israel. We cannot forget that there still are 134 innocent hostages being held by Hamas and that Jews around the world continue to grieve for the atrocities that were inflicted on October 7. And we continue to fight back against the frightening degree of Antisemitism that ensued. While some of the hostages have been freed, more than 100 remain in captivity five months later. Until all hostages are free and the savage war we did not invite is over, I'll continue to repeat this information for sites we can visit to help our Israeli brothers and sisters.

- COperation Swords of Iron at UJA Federation of New York - [www.ujafedny.org](http://www.ujafedny.org)
- 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 and AIPAC also provide frequent updates and offer webinars and invitations to let our elected representatives know that we stand with Israel and that we urge them to do so as well. And don't forget our Jewish college students, many of whom are having a rough go of it on their campuses. Our campus Hillels need our support now as well. Go to <https://www.hillel.org> to find out you can help.

In these troubled times, it behooves us to stay 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. 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. (I've been a fan for years!). The Times of Israel (<https://www.timesofisrael.com>) is another -- 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.

L'Shalom,

Susan

## TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President



Hello all,

I wanted to remind folks that the Caring Committee freezer is up and running downstairs, but we are in need of help filling it. Donations of dairy or pareve freezer meals can be brought to the synagogue during sisterhood potlucks or you can coordinate drop-offs with Gabe or Jodi.

Our March potluck will be on Friday, March 1st at 6 PM. As always, you need not be a sisterhood member to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone after needing to cancel last month!

We will also have a sisterhood business meeting on March 10th at 1 PM at the synagogue. All members of the Sisterhood are invited to attend.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions for Sisterhood events, please reach out to me at [alexismazamoody@gmail.com](mailto:alexismazamoody@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

-Alexis

## TBS Sunday School Program

Sheri Stock, Sunday School Principal

The Sunday School kids are learning so much! They are all growing in their Hebrew skills and they are also learning a lot about Jewish holidays. This month we will be celebrating Purim! Costumes are highly encouraged! We will be baking hamantaschen on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. If you would like to donate your favorite hamantaschen dough or fillings, come and join us!



Instead of Sunday School meeting at the temple on March 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be going to Valdese to see the Old Colony Community Theatre presentation of the story of Anne Frank at 7:30 PM on March 16<sup>th</sup>. TBS members who wish to join in this very special outing may purchase tickets for \$15 each, while they last. Contact me if you would like to purchase one of our group tickets, 828-999-0942, [sherilisa@gmail.com](mailto:sherilisa@gmail.com).

We are hoping to celebrate Passover with the kids in a new way. But, to do that, we would need about 10 people to volunteer for about 3 hours on Sunday, April 21st or Sunday, April 28th. If you're able to help, let me know.



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 Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 via 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  
Lin Gentry, Vice President  
Mary Lee Tosky, Secretary  
Susan Rieder, Treasurer

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

### Members at Large:

Liz Correll  
Karen Ferguson  
Sheri Stock  
Jodi Lavin-Tompkins  
James Norwood

**General Donations:**  
  
Susan Goldstein in memory of Larry Oxenberg  
  
In honor of Werner Cohn's bar mitzvah:  
Susan Goldstein  
Susan Rieder



**Sunday School**  
  
Grace Blank  
Dr. Barbara and Larry Laufer  
Susan Huitt in honor of Werner Cohn's bar mitzvah  
  
Karen Ferguson for Shabbat Challah



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!

## TBS Community Mitzvah Projects



This past month the Community Relations and Social Action Committee was able to help a woman fleeing from a domestic abuse situation. A local agency arranged housing and TBS was able to help her furnish it with kitchen, bathroom, and bedding supplies. She is currently doing well and is safe!

We are now in need of comforters of all sizes, dish sets, glass sets, coffee mugs, pots and pans sets, cooking utensils, and coffee makers! If you have any of these items to donate, or have any questions, please contact Kathy Jones, Community Relations and Social Action Committee Chairperson, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto:krsjones2002@yahoo.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/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 March Events



### Birthdays

- Susie Jones 3/2
- Sarah Jones 3/3
- Jesse Jones 3/5
- Bud Tosky 3/22
- Matthew Bonfield 3/24
- Mark Faruque 3/26
- Sue Cohn 3/28
- Corey Stock 3/31

### Anniversaries

### Yahrzeits

- Helen Witek Maciejewski 3/3
- Morris Sederholm 3/5
- Dennis Cangemi 3/9
- Burton Sederholm 3/14
- William Miller 3/16
- Mildred Asch 3/16
- Else Simons 3/20
- Albert Ifergan 3/28 (Guy)
- Helen Schonberg 3/27



Local and Regional Events



SHALOM HARMON INSTITUTE

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Higher Education Post-October 7: Legal, Philosophical, and Pedagogic Perspectives

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

# Upcoming Events

- April 24, 2024**  
Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Event
- May 2, 2024**  
Center Award Ceremony
- May 2024**  
Student Field Trip
- June 11 - June 24, 2024**  
Summer Symposium
- June 14, 2024**  
Center Open House

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/>.

**CJHPS Newsletter**

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay updated on the latest news and events.

## 2023-2024 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

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

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
Mar 3	Sunday School 10:00am	Feb 23
10	Sunday School 10:00am	
16	Sunday School to see Anne Frank at Old Colony community theatre, Valdese, 7:30 PM	
22	Friday night service 7:00pm	
23	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Havdalah and <b>Adult Purim Party (costumes encouraged)</b> , 6:00pm	Mar 23
24	Sunday School 10:00am	
April 7	Sunday School 10:00am	
21	Sunday School 10:00am	
26	Friday night service 7:00pm	
27	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
28	Sunday School 10:00am	
May 5	Sunday School 10:00am	
10	Friday night service 7:00pm	
11	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
12	Sunday School 10:00am	
19	Annual Membership Meeting, and Sunday School 10:00am	
June 2	Sunday School 10:00am	May 23
9	Sunday School 10:00am	
14	Friday night service 7:00pm Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch;	
15	Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
16	Sunday School 10:00am	
23	Sunday School 10:00am	
July 12	Friday night service 7:00pm Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch;	June 23
13	Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	



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.

