

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

On Sunday, May 5th we will commemorate Yom Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. This year feels like this day is more poignant than ever as we witness the virulent antisemitism in America today. I spent 5 years of my life in a Ph.D. program at Columbia University studying Hebrew Literature. As part of my work-study, while researching articles written in Hebrew in the 1920s-30s about American Jewry, I came across a poem written about Ivy League schools and their quota systems. The line that has always stuck in my brain was “and Columbia is for the Jews.” Columbia University has always had many Jewish students. There are 5000 now. I watched the police enter the campus last night and learned that they dismantled the tent city and removed everyone who had barricaded themselves in Hamilton Hall. As of today, we do not know how many were students versus outside agitators. News report after news report shows that demonstrators, when asked what they are demonstrating for, cannot answer basic questions about the conflict. While this is not true across the board, I am waiting to hear a voice of reason that says, “demand a ceasefire and RELEASE ALL OF THE HOSTAGES.” Israelis are demonstrating daily demanding that the hostages be released in exchange for anything. Unchecked antisemitism can have disastrous consequences and no Jew can

afford to keep quiet today. This war was started by Hamas. Israel found documents that show that Hamas planned to overrun the entire country on October 7th. That is why on October 7th they shot over 3000 missiles into Israel.

I wish things were different in the world, but they are not. I've never believed in the concept of collective punishment and when I see the destruction in Gaza, it is overwhelming. When I keep learning more about what Hamas did on October 7th and what they did to the hostages who have been released, it is overwhelming. For my friends and family in Israel, I am so saddened by the burden they carry daily in their struggles just to make ends meet and live with the constant stress from being in their current situation. I also cannot imagine the terror of real hunger and being in fear for one's life as the innocent people who live in the Gaza Strip.

I have a friend in Israel whose father, Josef Bau was on Schindler's List and survived as a forger of documents. He was later in the Mossad (something her family learned at his funeral) and worked as a graphic artist and an artist. My friend Clila and her sister Hadassa run the Josef Bau Museum in Tel Aviv dedicated to their father's memory. I had the honor of translating their mother's autobiography into English. She too was on Schindler's list and she and Josef got married in a concentration camp bunk which was featured for about one minute in the movie Schindler's List. Clila told me that what happened in Israel was exactly what their father envisioned. He wrote that Hitler would come back and he painted this as well.

Hanukkah, Purim and Passover all remind us of our resilience against our enemies. Yom Hashoah reminds us how dark evil can be and what happens when the world is silent in the face of evil. I will not cower because I am Jewish. I will not stop supporting people and organizations who defend Israel's right to exist. I can understand empathy for Gazans but I want the hostages to come home. I do not want Israel to be subject to continued missile launches or repeated terrorist attacks. I want Israel to live in peace with her neighbors and I want this conflict to end.

This is a time when Jewish communities need to come together to rally and support one another. It is not a time to dwell on differences and conflicts that separate us from one another. United we stand and we have strength in numbers. We can show this strength by standing together as one, even in Hickory, N.C.!

I will be back on Friday, May 10th. That evening in honor of Mother's Day, we will be honoring all of the women in our congregation with a special blessing in front of the open ark. Please mark your calendars and join us for our celebration. It was suggested that in honor of the women, perhaps some of our gallant men would be willing to help set up the Oneg Shabbat and clean up after it! I am looking forward to seeing you.

Shalom,
Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

The President's Message

Susan G Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

Yasher Koach to all who helped make our first community Pesach seder in five years a success! At the risk of making embarrassing omissions (for which I apologize), thanks to the following:

- Alexis Sweazy (Sisterhood President) and Gabe Amaza-Moody did an amazing job of taking the lead in organizing, shopping, cleaning, and setting up
- Maritza Janer who helped Alexis and Gabe every step of the way
- Karen Fergeson who made the most delicious vegetable stock -- which hosted Larry Laufer's light and always tasty matzah balls
- All Sisterhood members who made kugels and desserts; and -- last, but never least --
- Aaron Tosky, Seder Leader Extraordinaire!

Also, many thanks to Mary Lee Tosky and Susan Rieder who hosted the Oneg, Kiddush Lunch, and Seudah Shlisheet over the Passover weekend. That's always a challenge, and they executed it beautifully!

Once again, special thanks to Rabbi Liss for teaching us adults on Shabbat afternoons/evenings. We need continuing education every bit as much as our children, and these monthly adult Jewish learning sessions that include seudah Shlisheet (the third meal) and Havdalah filled a void that we may not have known was there. We appreciate these monthly gifts of learning and invite you to join us on Saturday, May 11, at 6:00 pm. We'll study the second chapter of Pirkei Avot (Chapters/Ethics of the Fathers).

Please mark your calendars for our annual meeting on Sunday, May 19, at noon -- in person only!

And the war between Israel and Hamas rages on -- more than 200 days after the initial brutal attack on October 7, 2023. We cannot forget that there still are 133 innocent hostages held by Hamas, and Jews around the world continue to grieve for the atrocities inflicted on October 7. And we continue to fight back against the frightening degree of Antisemitism that has ensued -- especially those that are taking place on college campuses across the US. Until all hostages are free and the savage war we did not invite is over, I will continue to repeat these sites we can visit to help our Israeli brothers and sisters.

- Operation Swords of Iron at UJA Federation of New York - www.ujafedny.org
- Emergency Campaign of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte - www.jewishcharlotte.org
- American Joint Distribution Committee - www.jdc.org
- ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America - 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

You can 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 stand with Israel 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 you can help. noon

In these troubled times, it behooves us to stay informed. The Wall Street Journal (www.WSJ.com) and the New York Times (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) is one of my favorites. 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 want to start by thanking everyone who had a part in planning, setting up, cleaning, cooking, leading, or participating in the Seder! I am so grateful that we got to see a Seder in our synagogue for the first time since 2019, and

it never could have happened without the individual contributions from all of you.

Our next monthly potluck is on May 3rd at 6 PM. This is sisterhood sponsored but everyone is welcome to come. Please bring a dairy or pareve dish if you are able.

We also have a meeting on Sunday, May 5th at 1 PM for sisterhood members where we will debrief from the Seder and talk about where we are headed as an organization from here. Food will be provided, please check your emails for details or reach out to me if you didn't receive an email.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions about sisterhood activities, please reach out to me at alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

TBS Sunday School Program

Sheri Stock, Sunday School Principal

Sunday School just had a terrific Passover Extravaganza! The kids learned about Passover in an interactive experience where they moved between the steps of the Seder and completed a different activity for each step. They ate maror, sampled different matzah dishes, made cards for Hickory Police Department, made Afikomen bags, learned Elvis Parsley jokes and even planted parsley for next year's Seder!



We look forward to seeing our students and their parents on May 5th, May 12th, and May 19th!

Sheri



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 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 will be our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19, at noon. 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
- Sheri Stock
- Jodi Lavin-Tompkins
- James Norwood



The TBS board thanks you for your donations

General Donations

Sunday School
Temple maintenance
Security



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



The Community Relations and Social Action Committee is still 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, they can be brought to any TBS service and placed in the basket in the foyer, or if you have any questions, please contact Kathy Jones, Committee Chairperson, at 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

The Natural Olive
216 Union Square
Hickory
828-256-1950
www.NaturalOliveHickory.com

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle May Events



Birthdays

- Grayson Cohn 5/2
- Ashley C Cohn 5/2
- Eileen Cangemi 5/6
- David Engelmann 5/7
- Linda Guttler 5/8
- Clyde Ferguson 5/9
- Lori Coen Fata 5/13
- Ross Guttler 5/18
- Ariel Cohn 5/19
- Amanda Garrick 5/24
- Kevin Huitt 5/26
- Solomon Zerden 5/26
- Patrick Rowan 5/27
- Mark Sobotkin 5/30

Anniversaries

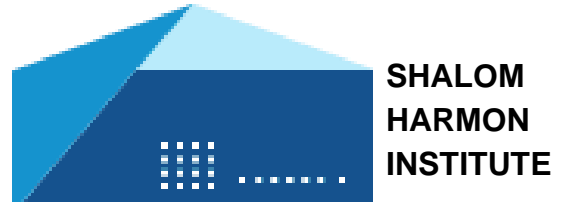
- Aaron and Mary Lee Tosky 5/4
- Ron and Sue Cohn 5/6
- Bud and Connie Tosky 5/24

Yahrzeits

- Ruth Laufer 5/15
- Richard Fox 5/15
- Sam Griffin 5/17

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Local and Regional Events



Upcoming Events

May 2, 2024

Center Award Ceremony

May 2024

Student Field Trip

June 11 - June 24, 2024

Summer Symposium

June 14, 2024

Center Open House

May 15 – virtual event- 7:00 to 8:00 PM-
Conflict in Context
Unpacking Israel & Palestine

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

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

| DATE | EVENT | BULLETIN DEADLINE |
|---------|--|-------------------|
| May 5 | Sunday School 10:00am | |
| 10 | Friday night service 7:00pm | April 23 |
| 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 | Sunday School, 10:00am; Annual Membership Meeting, 12 o'clock noon | |
| June 2 | Sunday School 10:00am | |
| 9 | Sunday School 10:00am | May 23 |
| 14 | Friday night service 7:00pm | |
| 15 | Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm | |
| 16 | Sunday School 10:00am | |
| 23 | Sunday School 10:00am | No |
| July 12 | Friday night service 7:00pm | Newsletter |
| 13 | Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share); Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm | in July |

MORE UPCOMING JEWISH HOLIDAYS



Wednesday, May 22, 2024 - Another excuse to eat Matzah?

It marks the day when someone unable to participate in the Passover offering at the proper time would observe the mitzvah exactly one month later.



Sunday, May 26, 2024- Celebrated with outings, bonfires, and parades.

In the weeks between Passover and Shavuot, the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer, a plague raged amongst the disciples of the great sage Rabbi Akiva. On Lag Ba'Omer, the dying ceased. **[Read more about Lag BaOmer](#)**

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.

