

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 9142

Hickory, North Carolina 28603
www.hickoryjewishcenter.com



From the Bimah

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

On the evening of May 21st, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot, which is the culmination of the 7-week period beginning with the first day of Pesach when traditional Jews begin the counting of the Omer. The holiday has significance as an agricultural event and is designated in the Torah as one of the three pilgrimage festivals, when all Jewish males 13 and older were required to bring their choicest harvest and livestock to the Temple in Jerusalem. The holiday took on a second meaning, which is much more relevant to our lives, post destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, when the tradition of ritual sacrifice ended. On Shavuot, we celebrate receiving Torah at Sinai. It is customary to read the Ten Commandments on Shavuot, and everyone stands during the reading as a re-enactment of being at Sinai when Moses received the Torah from God. We participate in an annual re-enactment of an event that happened thousands of years ago, and despite every attempt to annihilate us, we are still here because of our love of God, Torah, and Israel. To me, this holiday is a powerful reminder that connects us in the chain of tradition, that we choose to follow every day of our lives. Each one of us chooses to be Jewish. We choose what this means, how it guides our lives, and I believe we have enriched the world because of our beliefs. The haftarah reading for Shavuot is the Book of Ruth. In the Book of Ruth, Ruth, a Moabite woman, attached herself to her mother-in-law Naomi following the death of Ruth's husband, instead of coming back and remaining a part of her people. She tells Naomi what has become the most famous part of the book of Ruth when Naomi tells her to go back to her people, "wherever you go, I will go, wherever you die, I will die, your people will become my people and your God, my God." Because of the power of this Book of the Bible, many

women who convert to Judaism take the Hebrew name Rut, to honor Ruth the Moabite who became a convert to Judaism and, importantly, the grandmother of King David, whose offspring, according to Judaism, will be from whence the Messiah will come. During our Adult Education on May 16th, we will read the Book of Ruth together and examine its themes.

On Saturday, April 25th, I had the honor of officiating at the wedding of a young man whose Bar Mitzvah I did 20 years ago. Jake and Natalie stood under a chuppah whose cover consisted of both her father's and grandfather's tallitot. Natalie had a family Bible that had been carried to the chuppah by generations in her family covering the last 100 years. Standing with them, surrounded by family and Jewish ritual objects and the Bible, I thought about how privileged I was to link two Jewish families together, continuing and strengthening that link that ultimately goes back to those 600,000 souls who stood together at Sinai with Moses. There are 600,000 letters in a Torah scroll corresponding to the 600,000 souls at Sinai, according to our tradition. Today, we are 14.8 million souls.

While we will not be together on Shavuot, we can be together on May 15, 16, and 17. I hope that we will have the opportunity to be together and to celebrate our Judaism as we continue to strengthen our community and our link in a chain going back to Moses.

The President's Message

Susan J Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Friends and Family,

We enjoyed a great Passover seder hosted by our Sisterhood and led by Rabbi Liss and then celebrated Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach together. *Yasher Koach* to all who contributed to making the seder experience a very special one. At the risk of omitting names (and apologies to those I'm sure to omit), special thanks to Alexa Sweazy and Gabe Almaza-Moody for doing the majority of the planning and kashering; to Karen Ferguson for "manning" the kitchen and making the veggie broth, matzah balls (with a little help from Larry Laufer), and veggies; to Pam Jones for making the charoset; to everyone who made a kugel or dessert or who helped with the set up and/or clean up; and, of course, to Rabbi Liss who ran the seder beautifully and inclusively.

Our **next services** will be Friday evening, May 15, at 7:00 and Saturday morning, May 16, at 10:00. We'll meet again on Saturday evening at 6:00 for potluck dinner, adult learning, and Havdalah service. On Sunday morning, May 17, we invite all kids and their parents to join Rabbi Liss at 10:00 for some learning and socializing. Then, at 11:00, Rabbi Liss will meet with any adults who are interested in studying for a bar or bat mitzvah. And at noon we'll hold our Annual Meeting. All members in good standing will be invited to join us for lunch and reports from all our teams and committees.

Your Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, April 15, to discuss several important issues, including an opportunity to partner with Temple Beth El in Charlotte, Temple Emanuel in Gastonia, and other small congregations in the area. Stay tuned for more information!

Our Security Team arranged for Board members to participate in a day of training for “worst case” scenarios. We spent a morning at Troysgate observing potential encounters, then spent an afternoon in our building considering what attacks of different sorts might look like on our premises.

Thank you to all who continue to bring donations of cans or boxes of food to help fight food insecurity in our local communities. This is 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.

I look forward to seeing you, in person or via Zoom, on May 15 and 16. And please mark your calendars for a newly added “Rabbi Week-End” on July 10 and 11.

B’Shalom,

Susan



TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President

Hello everyone!

Our annual community Passover Seder was on Thursday, April 2nd. Thanks to all who contributed their talents to make it a very special event this year. Our next Sisterhood meeting is TBD at the synagogue.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood activities at alexisalmazamood@gmail.com, or if you would like to join our email list.



The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund

The Harriet Sederholm Scholarship Fund (HSSF) was established by a long-time Temple member and past President, Burt Sederholm z"l (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, Jane Mandle, or Karen Ferguson. Naturally, the committee encourages everyone to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund at any time.

Temple Board

Our next meeting is TBD. Board meetings are open to all temple members. Contact Susan Goldstein if you wish to attend 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
James Norwood
Alexis Sweazy
Patrick Rowan
Pam Jones
Jane Mandle



Your board thanks you for your donations

General donations

Susan Goldstein and Susan Rieder in honor of Gabe Almaza-Moody's Bat Mitzvah

Susan Goldstein and Susan Rieder in honor of Alexis Sweazy's Bat Mitzvah



Other Donations

Jennifer and Patrick Rowan to Security

We need volunteers to deliver food donations to the Hickory Soup Kitchen.

Please contact Susan Goldstein or Alexis Sweazy if you can help.



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.



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

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

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

Instagram: 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

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

www.NaturalOliveHickory.com

A listing in this business directory is a benefit of TBS membership. If you are a TBS member and wish to be listed please send your business name, address, phone number and email address to:

karen.sederholm@gmail.com

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle April/May Events

April Birthdays

Aidan Weatherly 4/2
Ronald Cohn 4/6
Ryan Laufer 4/10
Dennis Jones 4/12
Pam Jones 4/14
Stephanie Zerden 4/17
Jim Correll 4/18
Ben Peltzer 4/22

May

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
Solomon Zerden 5/26
Patrick Rowan 5/27
Mark Sobotkin 5/30

Anniversaries

Jon and Laura Levinson 4/15
David and Pam Jones 4/25
Aaron and Mary Lee Tosky 5/4
Ron and Sue Cohn 5/6
Alexis Sweazy & Gabe Almaza-Moody 5/26

Yahrzeits

Michael Neulicht 4/1
David Cohen 4/3
Sue Brisbane 4/5
Pincus Lavitt 4/7
Irving Roth 4/8
Larry Freiman 4/12
Thelma Jarvis 4/12
Glenn Datnoff 4/13
Nathan Peltzer 4/14
Anna B Datnoff 4/15
Ruth Leifer 4/19
Ethel Kaminsky 4/19
Gertrude Bauman 4/21
Fania Suess 4/25
Abraham Harrison 4/26
Rose Miller 4/26

Abraham Watts 5/1
Hannah Reiter 5/5
Louis Oxenberg 5/4
Fannie Oxenberg 5/8
Margaret Jean Bauer 5/8
Selma Baker 5/10
Sophie Katz 5/11
Ruth Laufer 5/15
Richard Fox 5/15
Harry Lavitt 5/16
Sam Griffin 5/17
Al Neulicht 5/20
Judith Paige 5/22
Kenneth Huitt 5/22
Amelia Freiman 5/28

Local and Regional Events



Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Summer Symposium

Thursday July 9 through Sunday July 12, 2026

The annual Martin and Doris Rosen Symposium for educators presents topical research, curriculum and classroom strategies, and peer support for successfully introducing and engaging learners in holocaust education and peace studies. Students and community members are welcome to attend.

holocaust@appstate.edu



May Events in Hickory

Sails Original Music Series: Friday evenings in May, 7 p.m. at Union Square.

Foothills Folk Art Festival: May 11, featuring various artists.

Community Drum Circle: May 8, 7:30–8:30 p.m. at The Sails on the Square.

Spring Park Stewardship Day: May 16, 9–11:30 a.m. at St. Stephens Park.

Ongoing Spring Activities

Hickory Crawdads Baseball: Games at L.P. Frans Stadium.

Jazz on Tap Legacy Concert Series: Select Sundays at Union Square.

Highland Recreation Center Activities: Various, including beginner yoga and pickleball

