

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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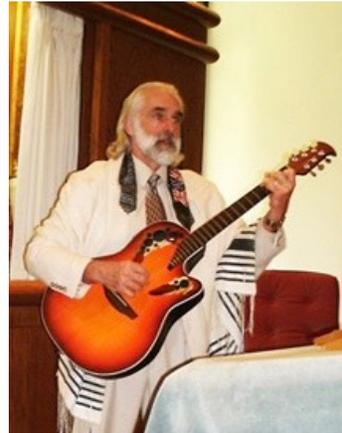
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Temple Beth Shalom  
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Hickory, North Carolina 28603  
[www.hickoryjewishcenter.com](http://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com)



## From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dennis Jones

## Thanksgiving—The Most Jewish American Holiday!!

Later this month, we will greet one another with a warm, “Happy Thanksgiving!” You will recall that it was *just last month* we Jews were greeting each other with “Chag Sukkot Sameach!-Happy Feast of Tabernacles!” Is this just coincidence, or could there be an *historical connection* between these two festive times, each intended to celebrate the bounty of the harvest and to give thanks to the Source of that bounty? Many writers over the years have posited just such a connection. It is common knowledge that the Puritans, also known as Separatists, who came to the New World, were a persecuted religious minority. They were known as Puritans because they wanted to “purify” the Church of England. Those who became known as Separatists eventually determined that the church could not be reformed, so they “separated” to form their own holy community. In escaping from persecution in England, the group fled first to Holland where they *lived for a time among Sephardic Jews*. When life in Holland proved to be untenable as well, the group decided to brave a trip to America. It is known from many sources that these Separatists were firmly grounded in the Hebrew Bible. Some writers have asserted that in many ways the Puritan Separatists were closer to Jews than to other Protestants in that

regard (e.g., Hugh Fogelman, “Puritans Were More Jewish Than Protestant”). The Puritan Separatists considered themselves to be God’s chosen people. They viewed King James I of England as oppressive as the Egyptian Pharaoh. Their crossing of the Atlantic Ocean was likened to the ancient Israelite crossing of the Red Sea and wandering in the wilderness of Sinai. Their arrival in the New World was seen as the Israelites’ arrival in the Promised Land.

While eyewitness accounts of the first “Thanksgiving” gathering in August 1621 do not specifically make a connection with the biblical Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), we do have record that it was a three day affair attended by both settlers and Native Americans which included feasting, shooting, and celebration of a plentiful harvest. The word “*thanksgiving*” itself is not actually used in the earliest accounts (Edward Winslow, *Mourt’s Relation*; William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*). It is clear from the eyewitness accounts that the festival was sparked by gratitude for a bountiful harvest that first planting season following a brutal first winter in the New World. American children learn in elementary school that this religious group was called Pilgrims. This is the name they gave themselves in commemoration of their wanderings in search of religious freedom. Their dedication to the Hebrew Bible is evident in almost everything they did when they arrived in America. They held the Hebrew language in high esteem. In fact, when Harvard University was founded in 1636, it taught biblical Hebrew alongside the traditional Greek and Latin. The governor of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, wrote in his famous history, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, that even at his advanced age he would still like to learn Hebrew. The quote is quite moving: “Though I am grown aged, yet I have had a longing desire to see with my own eyes something of that most ancient language and holy tongue, in which the Law and the oracles of God were written and in which God and angels spoke to the holy patriarchs of old time...” (edited by Samuel Eliot Morison, 1989). As the colony developed and laws were established, a large portion of the legal code was taken from the Hebrew Bible. For example, the New Haven Code of 1655 contained seventy-nine statutes. Interestingly, over 50% contained references to the Hebrew Bible or “Old Testament” (Rabbi Ken Spiro, [WorldPerfect: The Jewish Impact on Civilization](#), 2002, p. 248), while only **3%** of the laws referred to the New Testament (Fogelman). Also interesting is the fact that Hebrew names were quite common among the early New England settlers. Daniel, Noah, Elijah, Samuel, Sarah, Rachel, Leah, and Rebecca are just a few of the many biblical names evident in writings from the time. Again, almost **no** New Testament names appear in the New Haven Code (Fogelman).

Given their deep knowledge of and respect for the Hebrew Scriptures it is not *unlikely* that the early settlers of New England had the biblical fall festival celebrating the ingathering of the harvest (Leviticus 23:39) in mind when they established a time of commemoration of their own gratitude for the good things God had done for them. Whether or not a direct *historical* connection between Thanksgiving and the Hebrew festival of Sukkoth can be established, there is no question that the Jewish tradition of amply rendering thanks to God, the Creator, was also reflected in the beliefs and actions of the Puritan Separatists. The

traditions of both groups are rooted in the Hebrew Bible. It is a well-established fact that in the Pilgrims' possession were many Bibles. One such Bible, known to have been in the possession of William Bradford himself, was published in 1618 and contained the *Annotations* of the Puritan scholar, Henry Ainsworth (1571-1622). In an *Annotation* to Psalm 107, the psalm William Bradford and the Pilgrims recited to thank God for their safe journey across the Atlantic, Ainsworth quotes from an English version of Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* (inset, Moshe Sokolow, "Thanksgiving: A Jewish Holiday After All," <http://www.jewishideasdaily.com>). Also significant is the fact that of the **twenty-eight** references to the word, "thanksgiving," in the King James Version of the Bible, **all but six** are in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament (Mario Seiglie, *Is Thanksgiving Rooted in a Biblical Festival*, <http://www.ucg.org/>).

Jewish commitment to the principle of giving thanks to God is evident in the fact that the first prayer prayed every morning by an observant Jew is the *Modeh Ani*: "I thank you, living and enduring king, for you have graciously returned my soul within me. Great is your faithfulness" (translation, <http://www.chabad.org/>). Jews who pray thrice daily and recite the traditional blessings required by *Halacha* do, in fact, end up giving thanks to God for the various miracles of daily life over *one hundred* times a day (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, *Jewish Literacy*, p. 670). God is thanked for allowing the person to wake up, for the miracle of biological functions, for food, for drink, for natural phenomena, to name but a few. In fact, what other religious group prays a prayer of thanksgiving *after* the meal is eaten, the *Birkat Ha-Mazon*. That prayer is based on the passage in Deuteronomy 8:10, "*When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which God has given you.*"

As you sit with your family over a bountiful meal this Thanksgiving, keep in mind that what you are doing in celebrating the prosperity and freedom we enjoy in America, and giving thanks to God has deep roots in Judaism, spiritually, and historically. As you give your thanks, remember to invoke the ancient Hebrew blessing over bread, the *Ha-Motzi*. You might also say the traditional *Shehecheyanu* prayer, which is reserved for such special occasions. Indeed, in this country Jews have more to celebrate than perhaps at any time in our history. The level of religious freedom and economic independence we enjoy in the United States surpasses that of any previous era. And, we have witnessed the return of the Jews to the Holy Land and the establishment of the state of Israel. Such a restoration was only a dream for almost two millennia. But, in celebrating our freedom, we must remember that with great blessing comes great responsibility. I am thinking primarily of the responsibility to bring freedom to others who are still in bondage. Whether that be bondage to a literal oppressor, to disease, to hunger, to poverty, or to any other malady, **it is our sacred obligation as Jews to strive for the freedom of all of God's children**. May the time not be far off which was spoken of by the Hebrew prophets when all mankind will be able to give thanks for freedom: freedom from disease, freedom from hunger, freedom from poverty, freedom from war. If you are bold enough to believe, the prophet Micah foretells such a time with power yet simplicity "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against

nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But they shall sit every person under their own vine and under their own fig tree; and none shall make them afraid..." (Micah, chapter 4, verses 3 and 4), What a day of **thanksgiving** that will be!!

## President's Message

Susan Goldstein, President

Now that 5783 is up and running, it's time to sign up for more Jewish ed courses! Here are the ones to which I've committed:

Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTSA) - There are several great sessions, some in the afternoons and some in evenings. I find evenings a challenge, so I've enrolled in the series called "Dangerous Ideas: Censorship Through A Jewish Lens" that meets on Monday afternoons from 1:00 until 2:30. The series kicked off this week with one of my favorite professors, Dr. Ben Sommer, a Biblical scholar, whose topic was "Written in Stone? Writing and Rewriting the Bible." I first studied with Ben in the 1990's and early 2000's when he served as director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies at Northwestern University. Back then, I admit to finding his teaching challenging to follow. Now I really enjoy learning with him. Either he became a better teacher, or I became a better student -- or maybe both!

Next week's session will be with another JTS favorite, Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Diamond whose topic is a titillating one, "(No So) Hidden Anti-Gospels: Suppressed Talmudic and Medieval Polemics Against Jesus. " Sources are provided, but no advance preparation is required -- and, if you miss a session, you can catch the recording later. There's no charge for the classes, but donations are welcome. Visit [www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu) to learn more.

The Shalom Hartman Institute (SHI) - The session "Why Israel? Revisiting the Meaning of Zionism" is taught by another favorite, Rabbi Lauren Berkun. I first studied with Lauren many years ago when she was a young visiting JTSA scholar in Chicago. She's now Vice President, Rabbinic Initiatives, at SHI. Lauren now lives in Florida with her husband (also a rabbi) and children. She loves teaching adults. In fact, most of her classes are limited to rabbis, so this is a very special opportunity. These classes meet on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 until 3:30, starting October 27, and the sessions are entitled "The Zionist Idea," "Relational Judaism", "Zionism and Power," and "Zionism and Overcoming History." Visit [www.hartman.org.il/events](http://www.hartman.org.il/events) for more information about this and many other SHI learning opportunities. Again, there's no charge for classes, but donations are welcome.

Global Day of Jewish Learning - This annual learning opportunity is a project of Limmud North America. This year's study theme is "Rebuilding," exploring the way Jewish tradition helps us reconstruct our lives, our families, and our communities after loss. Participants are from the US, Canada, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. The date is Sunday, November 12. While many congregations are making this a day of studying together, many of us have registered for independent study. I don't know any of the presenters, but Limmud never disappoints. Topics are "Rebuilding After the Loss of A Loved One," "Rebuilding Family Relationships," "Rebuilding the Past, Envisioning the Future" (a special unit geared toward teens and young adults), "Repairing and Rebuilding Relationships" (a special unit for children and families), "Picking Up, Dusting Off, and Bouncing Back," and "Creativity as a Vehicle for Personal Growth, Transformation, and Rebuilding." There is a \$25 fee for the day's classes. To learn more visit <https://limmud.org>. So many opportunities, so little time!

Susan



## TBS Sisterhood

Sheri Stock, Sisterhood President

Shalom everyone!

Hanukkah is just around the corner and Sisterhood is preparing for our annual Hanukkah Fair in conjunction with Temple Beth El. There will be in person shopping Sunday, November 20th from 10am to 1pm. There will also be an online option

that will be open about 10 days before the event. There will also be some homemade Hanukkah crafts available for sale. If you need your Hanukkah goodies delivered, let me know.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, November 12th at 7pm for a board-game night at the temple. Please come. It will be lots of fun and we can talk about future activities.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Sheri





## TBS Sunday School Program

Kathy Jones, Sunday School Principal

TBS Sunday School said goodbye to the fall holidays this past weekend by taking down the sukkah. But we tempered our sadness with great fun eating Sheri Stock's rainbow challah and learning about Noah! This month, we will start preparing for Hanukah. Holiday cards, wrapping paper, and gift card boxes will be available in the TBS foyer during November and December. (We will add Hanukah candles if we can find some reasonably priced ones!) A \$1 donation is requested for each. The money will go to help the Sunday School with their annual community project (TBD). We will have our traditional Hanukah party and lively bingo game on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM. There are lots of prizes to be won and the entire congregation is invited to come celebrate with us! (There will not be a virtual bingo game this year as we can all meet in person now!) As always, if you would like to know more about the TBS Sunday School Program, please contact Kathy Jones, Principal, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto: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 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 is November 16, at 6:30pm at the temple and on 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
- Barbara Laufer, Past President
- Mary Lee Tosky, Acting Vice President
- Susan Rieder, Treasurer
- Lin Gentry, Secretary

**Members at Large:**

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



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

- High Holiday donation  
Simon Yakospan and Valentina Perlin
- General /donation  
Bryan and Kathryn Jones

## TBS is committed to making monthly donations to local charities

Do you have a favorite charity you would like us to donate to? Let us know.



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

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.

## What's Thanksgiving without.....The Perfect Roast Turkey

foodnetwork.com, Ina Garten



### Ingredients:

1/4 lb.(1 stick) unsalted butter  
 1 lemon, zested and juiced  
 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme leaves  
 1 fresh turkey (10 to 12 lbs.)  
 kosher salt  
 freshly ground black pepper  
 1 large bunch fresh thyme  
 1 whole lemon, halved  
 1 Spanish onion, quartered  
 1 garlic head, halved crosswise

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Melt the butter in a small saucepan. Add the lemon zest and juice and 1 teaspoon of thyme leaves to the butter mixture. Set aside.

Take the giblets out of the turkey and wash the turkey inside and out. Remove any excess fat and leftover pinfeathers and pat the outside dry. Place the turkey in a large roasting pan. Liberally salt and pepper the inside of the turkey cavity. Stuff the cavity with the bunch of thyme, halved lemon, quartered onion, and the garlic. Brush the outside of the turkey with the butter mixture and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Tie the legs together with string and tuck the wing tips under the body of the turkey.

Roast the turkey about 2 1/2 hours, or until the juices run clear when you cut between the leg and the thigh. Remove the turkey to a cutting board and cover with aluminum foil; let rest for 20 minutes.

Slice the turkey and serve.

Nutrition: Fat: 37g, Calories: 762, Saturated Fat: 14g, Sodium: 1578mg, Fiber: 2g, Cholesterol: 349mg  
 Carbohydrate: 7g, Sugar: 1g, Serving Size: 1 of 8 servings, Protein: 97g

## **TBS Community Mitzvah Projects**

The cold weather is back and the homeless in our community are in need of warm clothes and supplies. Please consider donating new or gently used: Gloves, hoodies, coats, knit hats, thick socks, knit scarves, sweatshirts, sweat pants, hand warmers, sleeping bags, and back packs (all sizes). Please bring these items to services at TBS during the months of November and December. There will be a donation box in the foyer for you to place them in. CRSAC members will deliver all donated items to local homeless shelters.

If you are unable to attend services, want to drop off these items or need someone to pick them up, or you would like to donate funds to use toward this TBS mitzvah project, please contact the CRSAC Chairperson, Kathy Jones, at [krsjones2002@yahoo.com](mailto:krsjones2002@yahoo.com).

### **TBS MESSAGE BOARD**

This space is reserved for members to send kind notes and acknowledgements to one another. If you wish to have your message printed here, please send it to Karen Ferguson, [karen.sederholm@gmail.com](mailto:karen.sederholm@gmail.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  
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>

**Dr. David Peltzer**  
Newton Family Physicians  
767 West First Street  
Newton, NC 28658  
828 465-3928  
[www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com](http://www.newtonfamilyphysicians.com)

## Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle November Events



### Birthdays

Rachel Faruque 11/4  
Rachel Engelmann 11/7  
Jon Levinson 11/8  
Susan Huitt 11/9  
Alec Davidson 11/10  
Mary Lee Tosky 11/13  
Jenna Gold 11/15  
Laura Levinson 11/15  
Sarah Levinson 11/16  
Raeann Cangemi 11/19  
Jennifer Rowan 11/20  
Aline Cooperberg 11/27  
Sue Cole 11/28

### Anniversaries

Liz and Jim Correll 11/22

### Yahrzeits

Elaine Zerden 11/4  
Samuel Lippe 11/7  
Doris Davidson 11/8  
Clara Gitlin 11/9  
Werner Cohn 11/9  
Bert Yelin 11/9  
Murray Asch 11/10  
Don Sederholm 11/24

Local and Regional Events



Many ASU events are open to the public (in-person and virtually). For more information, go to: <https://holocaust.appstate.edu/events>, or contact the Center at 828.262.2311 or [holocaust@appstate.edu](mailto:holocaust@appstate.edu).



**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/>.**



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

# CHANUKAH FAIR

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
**10:00am - 1:00pm**

A One-Stop Chanukah Shop featuring a great selection of Chanukah items including dreidels, candles, menorahs, gelt, children's books, tableware, party goods, sock and much more. We also have a tremendous gift selection including Chanukah collectibles.

*A portion of proceeds benefit the Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood.*

Brought to you by:



**SHOP CHANUKAH AT TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**

## Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School 2022-2023

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

DATE	EVENT	BULLETIN DEADLINE
November	5 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	October 23
	6 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	18 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	20 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	24 <b>Thanksgiving Community Service (10:00 AM at Corinth UCC)</b>	
December	2 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	November 20
	4 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	18 <b>Sunday School Hanukah Party/Bingo</b> 10:00 AM	
	31 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	
January	13 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	December 18
	15 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	28/29 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
February	11 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	January 22
	12 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
	24 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	26 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
March	6 <b>Erev Purim Service/Megillah Reading</b> 7:00 PM (Monday)	February 19
	11/12 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00AM	
	24 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	26 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
April	6 <b>Passover Community Seder</b> 6:00 PM (Thursday)	March 19
	15/16 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00	
	28 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	30 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
May	6/7 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	April 23
	19 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
	21 <b>TBS Annual Membership Meeting</b> 10:00 AM (Sunday)	
	25 <b>Erev Shavuot Service</b> 7:00 PM (Thursday)	
	28 <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 AM	
June	3/4 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM/ <b>Sunday School Final Session/Party</b>	May 21
	23 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	
July	8 <b>Saturday Morning Service</b> 10:00 AM	N/A
	21 <b>Friday Night Service</b> 7:00 PM	

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.