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

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

Today I am heartbroken. The news broke that six hostages were found dead.

By that night, we learned that they all had been recently shot. Six young people who were taken from the Nova music festival and managed to survive in unthinkable conditions were shot probably the day before they were found. We grieve with the families of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, z"l; Carmel Gaf z"l; Eden Yerushalmi z"l; Almog Sardis z"l; Alexander Lobanov z"l; and Ori Danilo z"l. Hersh's picture is up on bus stops, on fences, and on walls all over Israel. His parents have spoken all over the world. They spoke at the DNC convention. They have been to the White House. His mom spoke at the November March on Washington. They along with the whole household of Israel are heartbroken.

When will Israel and the world learn? In the 90s and 2000s, as part of rabbinic missions, we would meet with PLO leadership in the West Bank. Their walls were covered with maps of Israel except the land mass was green and had Palestine written over it. I remember walking out after our meetings saying to colleagues "They are naïve, That isn't going to happen." Right in front of us we saw the truth. They wanted a Palestinian state that encompasses all of Israel. I bring this up because a number of weeks ago an order was issued that if Hamas was being attacked, they should kill their hostages. Why didn't Israel believe that would happen? It did.

For months we have stated that there are no words to express our sorrow, our grief, our disbelief. How can we hold the enormous pain of this loss and hold fear for those who remain in captivity?

I want to share with you the words posted by my colleague, Rabbi Haviva Ner-David in Israel the day after the murders:

It started to pour. It never rains like this, this early in the year. God is crying. I thought of this quote from Etsy Hillesum who was murdered in Auschwitz at age 29:

“Dear God, these are anxious times. Tonight, for the first time I lay in the dark with burning eyes as scene after scene of human suffering passed before me. I shall promise You one thing. God, just one small thing. I shall never try to help you God, to stop my strength ebbing away, though I cannot vouch for it in advance. But one thing is becoming increasingly clear to me:

That we must help you to help ourselves. And that is all we can manage these days, and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves. And perhaps on others as well. Alas, there doesn’t seem to be much You Yourself can do about our circumstances, about our lives. Neither do I hold You responsible. You cannot help us, but we must help You and defend Your dwelling place inside us to the last.”

May our prayers bring comfort and help renew our hope in these darkest of days. Today we join God in those tears, that rain that never falls this time of year. Our tears are comingled with tears of everyone grieving for Israel. May God open the eyes and hearts of the decision-makers in Israel and save the remaining hostages.

May God comfort all who mourn in Zion and Jerusalem

Rabbi Liss

The President’s Message

Susan J Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

I’m excited to share with you that our work with the **Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP)** is continuing. Last week I participated in a meeting of the Advisory Committee that included Noah Levine (JCLP) and representatives of synagogues in Aiken, Gastonia, and Georgetown. Our mission was two-fold: (a) to explore topics which the committee can explore, and (b) to explore topics on which our congregants can collaborate in the coming year.

Our planning topics for the committee include a session with Neil Rabinovitz, Regional Director of Secure Community Network for the Southeast, and Deborah Gottlieb, Grants Manager, Secure Community Network regarding securing **government security grants**. (Rhett Tompkins, our Security Committee Co-Chair, has

already begun working on our application for a Homeland Security Grant.) In addition, we'll be sharing **models of outreach and engagement** from other small congregations and exploring options for clergy support (although we have no need for the latter!).

Our topics for congregants include **Antisemitism** and **Adult Jewish Learning**. We held two Zoom sessions concerning Antisemitism last year; however, this most unwelcome issue does not appear to be going away. As you probably know, one of my passions is Adult Jewish Learning! While we're looking into several possibilities, we've learned that one of the best -- **The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning (the Melton Program)** -- is a strong possibility. The Melton Program could make a one-time presentation to introduce our congregants to it. If there is interest, online classes could be arranged: once a week 90-minute sessions for six weeks for 20 people per class at a cost of \$179 per person. We will be seeking grants to subsidize the cost per participant.

As a graduate of the two-year Melton Program a while back, I can't recommend it highly enough. It was an amazing experience, bringing together people with pretty much no Jewish background/education with those with high degrees of knowledge. And Rabbi Liss has added her strong endorsement. In fact, she notes that Elisa Blank, Director of Community Partnerships for the Melton Program, was an educator in her NY congregation for several years!

To All: We're all looking forward to our next week-end with Rabbi Liss on Friday night, September 20, at 7:00 and Saturday morning, September 21, at 10:00, followed by kiddush lunch. We gather again at 6:00 on Saturday evening for a highlight of the "Rabbi's Weekend," evening: Havdalah, adult Jewish learning, and potluck dinner.

And the war between Israel and Hamas rages on -- as I write this, 329 days after the brutal attack on October 7, 2023. The number of innocent hostages being held by Hamas has diminished. Although some have been released/rescued (most recently rescued, Quad Al-Qadi, an Arab-Israeli Muslim), many have died in captivity. Jews around the world continue to grieve for the atrocities that were inflicted by Hamas on October 7 and since by Hezbollah in the North. By now, we're all attentive to the frightening degree of Antisemitism that has ensued. As college students begin to return to campuses, let's pay attention and be prepared to support Hillel as it gives our kids a place to feel safe in their Judaism. Until all hostages are free and the savage war we did not invite is over, I'll continue to repeat information as to sites we can visit to help our Israeli brothers and sisters and our college students.

- 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 also receive frequent updates on the situation in Israel from those sites. ADL (www.adl.org), AIPAC (www.aipac.org), and the Secure Community Network (www.securecommunitynetwork.org) also provide frequent updates and offers webinars and invitations to let our elected representatives know that we stand with Israel and that we urge them to do so as well.

Jews on college campuses are having a rough go of it. Our campus Hillel's need our support now more than ever. 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) 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>), and Haaretz.com are others -- and I'm sure Rabbi Liss will be glad to recommend her favorites.

A note to TBS Members: You've probably received your invoice for FY25 dues and security. The Board voted not to increase dues this year; however, you'll see a different format. There will be a charge for dues and a separate charge for security whereas, last year, they were lumped together. We're trying to do a better job of accounting! If you have questions, or if you want to request a reduction, please contact me. Any abatement will be known only to our treasurer, Susan Rieder; our accountant; and me. Finances will never be a bar to membership at TBS.

Thanks to Hebrew School (fka Sunday School) Principal, Geoffrey Janer; his assistants, Alexis Sweazy and Gabe Almaza-Moody; and Rabbi Liss, the new school year had a great beginning! Students and their parents met last Sunday morning to go over the plans for the year. Aaron Tosky and I joined the team to work with our three *B'not Mitzvah* students. We're all psyched and ready to go!

I look forward to seeing you soon -- in person or via Zoom.

L'Shalom,

Susan



TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President

Hello everyone!
I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who participated in our two meal trains over the summer. It's been lovely to watch our community come together to take part in the mitzvah of caring for the ill and the bereaved.

Our next sisterhood business meeting is in-person at the temple on September 22nd at 1PM. As always, if

you have any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com

TBS Hebrew School Program Geoffrey Janer, Hebrew School Principal



The Temple Beth Shalom Hebrew School community is buzzing with excitement as we prepare to welcome students back for another enriching year of Jewish education. Our first day of classes is scheduled for September 8th, and we can't wait to embark on this journey of discovery together.

Our dedicated teachers are ready to inspire and guide our students as they delve into the beauty of Hebrew language, Jewish history, traditions, and values.

Whether your child is just beginning their Hebrew school journey or continuing their studies, we have a place for them in our warm and inclusive community. We believe that every student has the potential to flourish, and we are committed to providing a positive environment where they can thrive.

We are also always looking for passionate volunteers who are interested in contributing their time and talents to our Hebrew school program. If you would like to help make a difference in the lives of our students, please reach out to Geoffrey Janer at geoffreyjaner@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

Let's make this year at Temple Beth Shalom Hebrew School the best one yet!

Geoffrey Janer

The 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 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 on Sunday, September 22, at 2pm. 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
- Jodi Lavin-Tompkins
- James Norwood
- Alexis Sweazy
- Geoffrey Janer



The TBS board thanks you for your donations

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

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



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!

A Gluten Free Cupcake recipe for Rosh Hashana



Apple Pie Honey Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting

I made these delicious cupcakes last year for Rosh Hashana

Here's a link to the recipe:

<https://itsrainingflour.com/apple-pie-honey-cupcakes-with-cream-cheese-frosting/#recipe>

Local and Regional Events



CJHPS Newsletter

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



Follow this link for information and registration for 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 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/>

Interfaith Council

**Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle
September Events**



Birthdays

- Ken Bonfield 9/4
- Ronald Joseph Cohn 9/9
- David Gold 9/15
- Nadine Igdal 9/17
- Joseph Garrick 9/17
- Aurora Cohn 9/20
- Tyler Faruque 9/22
- Chris Weatherly 9/25
- Dorothy Levinson 9/20

Anniversaries

- Michael and Katie Schonberg 9/4

Yahrzeits

- Marvin Zerden 9/3
- David Callahan 9/8
- George Katzin 9/13
- Ceil Tosky 9/18
- Si Cohen 9/19
- Henry Greenfield 9/29
- Michael Rowan 9/30

2024-25 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

Dates	Events	Newsletter deadline
September		August 23
8	Sunday School 10 am	
15	Sunday School 10 am	
20	Friday night service 7:00pm	
21	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
22	Sunday School 10 am	
October		September 23
2	Erev Rosh Hashanah Services 7:00pm	
3	Rosh Hashanah Services, 10:00am followed by Kiddush lunch, then Tashlich Service	
11	Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre) 7:00 pm	
12	Yom Kippur Shacharit and Yizkor 10:00am; Yom Kippur <i>Ma'ariv</i> and Neilah 5:00 pm	
13	Sunday School Building Sukkah 10 am	
20	Sunday School 10 am	
27	Sunday School 10 am	
November		October 23
3		
15	Friday night service 7:00pm	
16	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
17	Sunday School 10 am	
24	Sunday School 10 am	
December		November 23
8	Sunday School 10am	
13	Friday night service 7:00pm	
14	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
15	Sunday School 10am	

Want to contribute to The TBS Bulletin? Send your request to karen.sederholm@gmail.com.
All entries are reviewed by the TBS Board before publication.

2024-25 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

Dates	Events	Newsletter deadline
January		December 23
5	Sunday School 10 am	
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 am	
26	Sunday School 10 am	
February		January 23
2	Sunday School 10 am	
9	Sunday School 10 am	
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 am	
March		February 23
2	Sunday School 10 am	
9	Sunday School 10 am	
21	Friday night service 7:00pm	
22	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
23	Sunday School 10 am	
30	Sunday School 10 am	
April		March 23
6	Sunday School 10 am	
11	Friday night service 7:00pm	
12	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
27	Sunday School 10 am	
May		April 23
4	Sunday School 10 am	
16	Friday night service 7:00pm	
17	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	
18	Sunday School 10 am	
25	Sunday School 10 am - End of Year party	
June		May 23
13	Friday night service 7:00pm	
14	Shacharit Service at 10am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00pm	