

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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Temple Beth Shalom
P.O. Box 9142

Hickory, North Carolina 28603
www.hickoryjewishcenter.com



From the Bimah: Our Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Dr. Janet B Liss

Grace and I have spent an amazing week and a half in Israel, finishing our Rabbinic mission this evening (February 1st) with Havdalah in Hostage Square in Tel Aviv. It has been a very emotional time to be here with 14 hostages coming home since we arrived. The joy and jubilation at their release weighs heavily on everyone whose loved ones are still waiting to be released and even more troubling for those not in the first 33 on the list to be released. The theme of our trip is Hope and Resilience. We had incredible meetings with people whose presence gives hope to everyone they encounter. Everywhere we went people could not stop thanking us for visiting Israel at this time. There are many American students taking a gap year or studying here and we also saw some Christian groups. It is so important for Jews to come to Israel to witness first hand what is happening here. It is so important to show support by coming here. I'm investigating putting together a week-long mission to Israel in May. If you are interested please reach out to me. I will be speaking about my experiences in Israel when I come to Hickory in two weeks and I look forward to seeing you. May you continue to pray for the return of the hostages.

The President's Message

Susan J Goldstein, President

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

Welcome to the month of Sh'vat, when we celebrate yet another new year! Tu B'shvat, often called the birthday of the trees, has come to be regarded as a time to reflect on the seasons, on our reliance on and need for trees to live, and in general for the planet's health. Did you know that, in some communities, it is the tradition during Tu B'shvat to eat 15 kinds of fruit — in addition to the seven species?! In most, however, we eat Israeli fruits (e.g., figs, dates, and carob) and snack on nuts, dried fruits, and other grains. Of course, we love the opportunity to taste a new fruit and say a Shechyanu!

Rabbi Liss and Grace have just returned from Israel and will share some of their stories and experiences from that trip with us when we meet for services on **Friday evening, February 14, at 7:00** and **Saturday morning, February 15, at 10:00**. We'll meet again at 6:00 for potluck dinner, adult Jewish learning, and Havdalah. Many of us have found these Saturday night gatherings to be especially meaningful. If you're over 18, please join us!

A highlight of our February "Rabbi Weekend " will be the Bat Mitzvah of Taliah Levy, daughter of Hannah and Jack Levy and older sister of Kendrah Levy. We look forward to sharing in this Levy family simcha on Shabbat morning.

Thank you to all who continue to bring cans or boxes of food to help fight food insecurity. Your donations are going to The Hickory Soup Kitchen. As you may recall, your Board of Trustees voted to make this 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 expiration date is at least six months out since your donation may be on the shelf that long. 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.

Your Board of Trustees will meet on Sunday afternoon, February 16, at 12:15. A priority will be our ongoing efforts to secure our building and ensure our members' and visitors' security. Many thanks to our Security Team, co-chaired by Drs. James Norwood and Rhett Tompkins. As a reminder, if you have a key to the temple please turn it in to a member of the Security Team or the Board. Thanks!!

And thanks to Dr. Aaron Tosky who is collecting bids to inspect our roof. It's the original one, so it's time to check out what kind of shape it's in.

Israel's challenges continue. We are grateful that some hostages have been released, and we continue to pray that the remaining 79 hostages, held for more than 15 months, will be released soon. We continue to pay attention to and support Hillel as it gives Jewish college students 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.

- 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 is the political arm of the Conservative/Masorti movement based in Jerusalem. We can also receive frequent updates on the situation in Israel from their site. 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 Hillels need our support now more than ever. Go to <https://www.hillel.org> to find out how you can help.

And it's always time to be informed!! The Wall Street Journal (www.WSJ.com) and the New York Times (www.nytimes.com) are good sources. Pay particular attention to NYT columnist Bret Stephens. 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.

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

Shalom,

Susan

TBS Sisterhood

Alexis Sweazy, Sisterhood President



Hello everyone!

I hope everyone is having a good start to the new year despite the unusually cold temps. We are now less than 3 months out from Passover, so the Sisterhood is getting a head start on planning. We will hold a Seder planning session/business meeting on Feb 16th at 2:00 PM at the temple.

We held our first Sunday Movie matinee on January 26th. We wanted to see something light-hearted, so we chose "*You're so not invited to my Bat Mitzvah.*" with Adam Sandler. We shared many laughs, cookies, popcorn, and a flavored expresso bar. We hope to have more of these events in the future exploring other Jewish films.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for Sisterhood activities, please reach out to me at alexisalmazamoody@gmail.com.

TBS Hebrew School Program

Geoffrey Janer, Hebrew School Principal



Shalom everyone,

Our Hebrew school students have been enjoying some class time as well as some time off due to weather.

In the upcoming weeks we will be learning about Tu Bishvat (the birthday of the trees).

A big Mazal Tov to Taliah Levy on her Bat Mitzvah this month. We are all super proud and excited to celebrate this with her. Taliah's hard work and dedication over the last few months have really been inspiring.

A big thank you goes out to Hannah, Susan, Rabbi Liss, and Aaron for all their hard work in preparing Taliah for her Bat Mitzvah.

Shalom,

Geoff Janer

Hebrew School Principal

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, February 16 at 12:15 pm at the temple. 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

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](#)

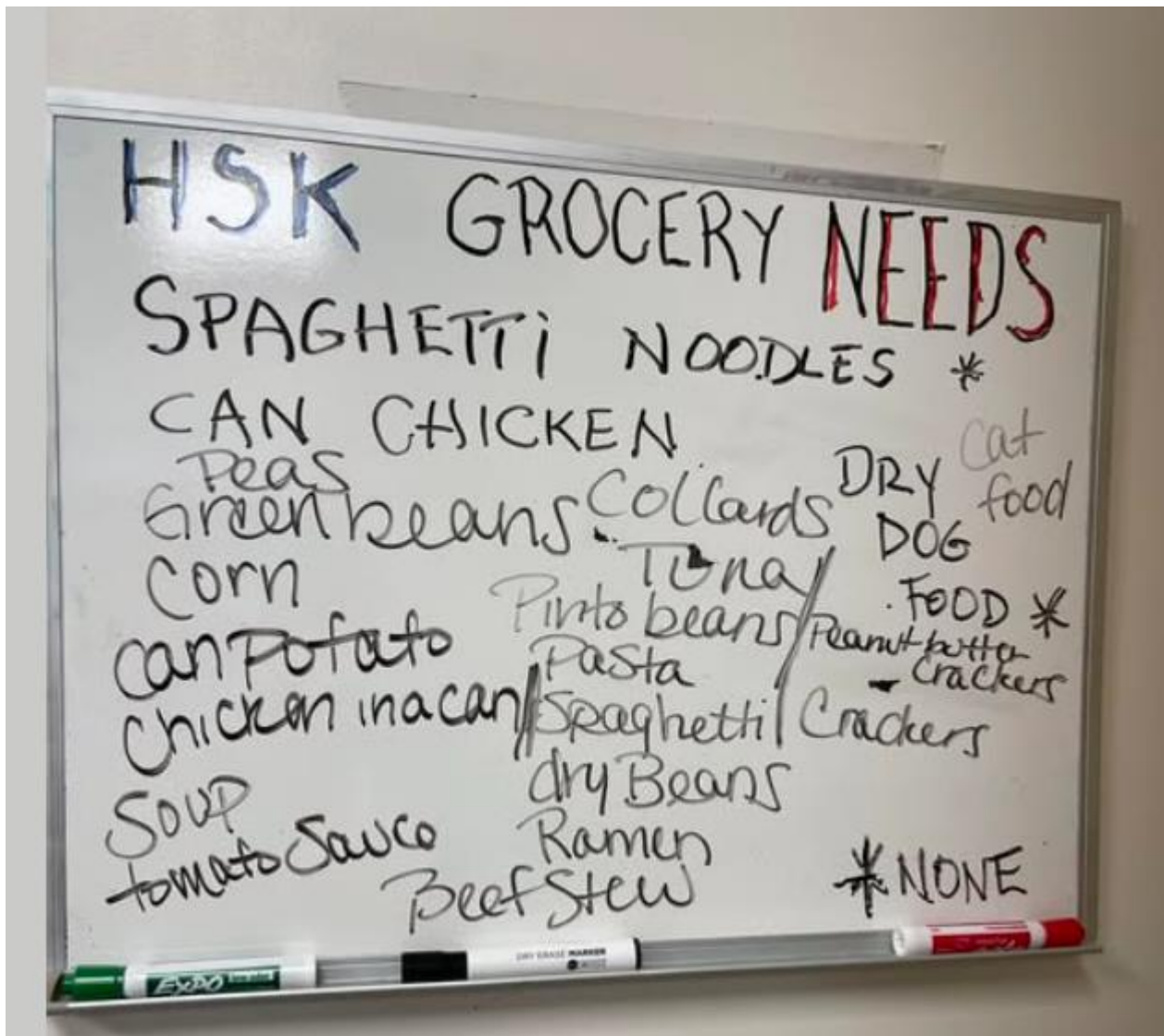
1. View the [spreadsheet](#) to see what dates are free
2. Submit your choice using the [Google Form](#).
3. MaryLee will type in any form *submissions*, but **any board member can enter host names** on the spreadsheet for themselves or other members *by request*. Several of you have successfully done 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.

Some items they currently need at the Soup Kitchen are:



**Are you or anyone you know looking for a
Jewish Summer camp experience?**

Check this out!

**Scholarships available. Contact Geoffrey Janer
for more info.**



The poster for Tranquillity Camp Summer 2025 features a blue background. At the top left is a logo of a tent with the text "Tranquillity Camp" and the tagline "Part of growing up. The best part." Below this, the text "Summer 2025" is displayed. Three program options are listed: "Full Summer (7 Weeks) \$7850" (Sunday, June 29th - Tuesday, August 19th), "Session 1 (4 Weeks) \$4850" (Sunday, June 29 - Tuesday, July 29), and "Session 2 (3 Weeks) \$3650" (Wednesday, July 30 - Tuesday, August 19). At the bottom, there are three small photos showing children playing sports, sitting in a circle, and swimming. The website "tranquillitycamp.com" is at the bottom.

Program	Duration	Cost	Dates
Full Summer	7 Weeks	\$7850	Sunday, June 29th - Tuesday, August 19th
Session 1	4 Weeks	\$4850	Sunday, June 29 - Tuesday, July 29
Session 2	3 Weeks	\$3650	Wednesday, July 30 - Tuesday, August 19

tranquillitycamp.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

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

Temple Beth Shalom Life Cycle February Events



Birthdays

Barbara Laufer 2/1

Linda Greenfield 2/1

Taliah Levy 2/6

Seaver Baumfeld 2/8

Perri Huitt 2/8

Jodi Lavin-Tompkins 2/10

Greg Rosenfeld 2/11

Larry Laufer 2/11

Grayson Weatherly 2/20

Julie Owens 2/21

Nicholas Faruque 2/23

Maddy Gross 2/24

Sam Gross 2/28

Anniversaries

Yahrzeits

Lt Glen Zerden 2/3

Philip Datnoff 2/17

Helmi Loeb Berndt 2/18

Judith Freedman 2/20

David Guy 2/21

Sol Taub 2/22

Kurt Berndt 2/24

Elliot Owen Bonfield 2/27

Local and Regional Events



Compassionate Communication with Dr. Chris Patti

Thursday, February 20 from 7-9 p.m.

Turchin Center for the Visual Arts Room 1102 and via Zoom

Dr. Chris Patti, an associate professor in App State's Department of Communication and an affiliate faculty member for the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies (CJHPS), will introduce a process called compassionate communication as a tool for working with survivors of genocide and trauma. Find more information or to register for the Zoom link go to:

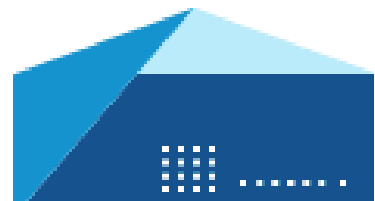
<https://holocaust.appstate.edu/events/compassionate-communication-dr-chris-patti>

CJHPS Newsletter

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

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>

**SHALOM
HARMON
INSTITUTE**



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

2025 Schedule for Rabbi Services and Sunday School

For event updates, email: info@hickoryjewishcenter.com

Dates	Events	Newsletter deadline
February		January 23
2	Sunday School 10 am	
9	Sunday School 10 am	
14	Friday night service 7:00 pm	
15	Shacharit Service at 10 am Taliah Levy's Bat Mitzvah -all are welcome - followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00 pm	
16	Sunday School 10am	



15 Shevat

Thursday, February 13, 2025

 Work permitted

Visit Tubshevat.org

The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar is the day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees.

March

February 23

- 2 Sunday School 10 am
- 9 Sunday School 10 am
- 21 Friday night service 7:00 pm
- 22 Shacharit Service at 10 am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00 pm
- 23 Sunday School 10 am
- 30 Sunday School 10 am

April

March 23

- 6 Sunday School 10 am
- 11 Friday night service 7:00 pm
- 12 Shacharit Service at 10 am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00 pm
- 27 Sunday School 10 am
- 18 Sunday School 10 am
- 25 Sunday School 10 am - End of Year party

May

April 23

- 4 Sunday School 10 am
- 16 Friday night service 7:00pm
- 17 Shacharit Service at 10 am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00 pm
- 18 Sunday School 10 am
- 25 Sunday School 10 am - End of Year party

June

- 13 Friday night service 7:00 pm
- 14 Shacharit Service at 10 am followed by Kiddush lunch; Seudah Shlishit (bring a parve or dairy dish to share), Adult Learning, and Havdalah 6:00 pm

May 23

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.