

Beth Emeth Observer

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION
13702 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-584-7210 bethemethaz@gmail.com www.bethemethaz.org

Rabbi Leo M. Abrami
Joseph Weintraub, President

"More Than Just The Conservative Congregation of the West Valley, We Are A Community".

ELUL 5776 - TISHREI 5777

OCTOBER 2016



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SABBATH CANDLE LIGHTING

10/7/16	5:45 pm
10/14/16	5:36 pm
10/21/16	5:28 pm
10/28/16	5:20 pm

Volume 2016,
Number 16

Rosh Hashanah Eve	Sunday	Oct.	2	7:30 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day	Monday	Oct.	3	9:00 a.m.
Tashlich	Monday	Oct.	3	4:30 p.m.
Community Evening Service	Monday	Oct.	3	7:30 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day	Tuesday	Oct.	4	9:00 a.m.
Friday Evening Services	Friday	Oct.	7	7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Shuvah	Saturday	Oct.	8	9:00 a.m.
Community Memorial Service				
Sunland Memorial Park	Sunday	Oct.	9	10:00 a.m.
Kol Nidre Service	Tuesday	Oct.	11	6:30 p.m.
Yom Kippur	Wednesday	Oct.	12	9:00 a.m.
Yizkor Service	Wednesday	Oct.	12	
				Begins between 1:15 and 1:45 p.m.
Minchah/Neilah	Wednesday	Oct.	12	4:30 p.m.

From the President's Desk



L'shana tova!

With the High Holy Days in October this year, I am reminded of the time I was around 10 or 11 years old. We used to attend services in New York City and the routine was to go to services, which usually ended around 1:00 PM, and then run home to watch the World Series. Since the Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers or New York Giants were in the Series every year there was always rooting interest. Times have changed considerably in the world of baseball. Let us pray that the Chicago Cubs will end their 108 year drought and finally win a World Series later in October.

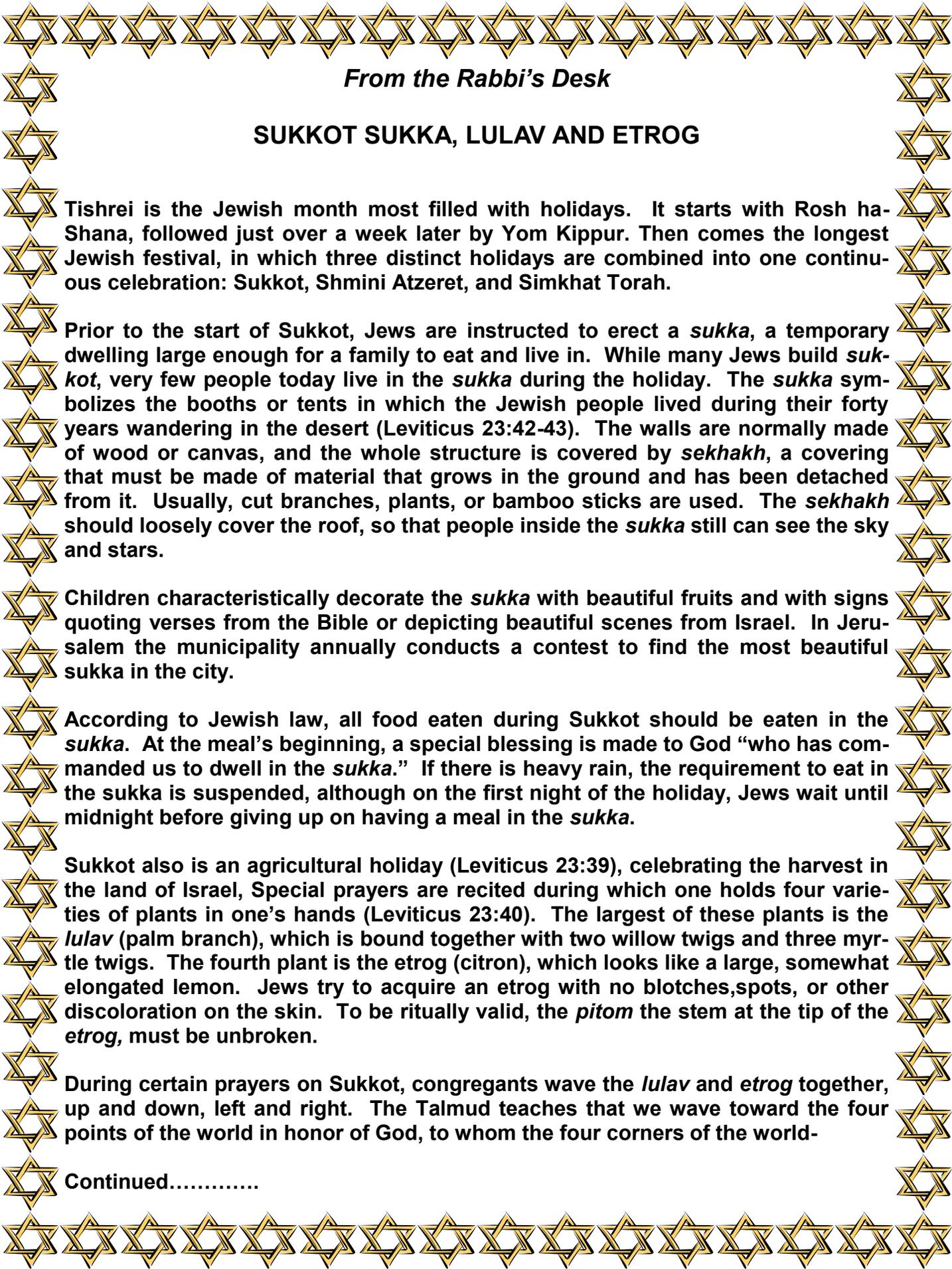
Just like the Cubs, Beth Emeth is making a comeback. These past months have seen wonderful growth with the return of old members and the addition of new members. Thanks must go to our spiritual leader, Rabbi Leo Abrami. Special thanks is also due Sandy Nonas and Rosemary Abrami, both of whom have been the point of contact for members and prospective members throughout the year. Thanks, of course, to all who have contributed their time to assist in the operation of the building and especially the kitchen, always ensuring that there were goodies to nosh on Friday evenings and Shabbos mornings. I have noticed, however, that wine disappears much faster than grape juice. I wonder why?

After our High Holy day observations, we can look forward to the fall Hot Dog Classic and later this winter, our Annual Jewish Film Festival. Details will be forthcoming.

And just a reminder: Our doors are always open for everyone who wants to attend the Rabbi's many classes, minyan services each Monday and Thursday at 8:00 AM, and our regular Shabbos services on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish each and every one of you good health and good times throughout 5777 and beyond.

Joseph M. Weintraub, President



From the Rabbi's Desk

SUKKOT SUKKA, LULAV AND ETROG

Tishrei is the Jewish month most filled with holidays. It starts with Rosh ha-Shana, followed just over a week later by Yom Kippur. Then comes the longest Jewish festival, in which three distinct holidays are combined into one continuous celebration: Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and Simkhat Torah.

Prior to the start of Sukkot, Jews are instructed to erect a *sukka*, a temporary dwelling large enough for a family to eat and live in. While many Jews build *sukkot*, very few people today live in the *sukka* during the holiday. The *sukka* symbolizes the booths or tents in which the Jewish people lived during their forty years wandering in the desert (Leviticus 23:42-43). The walls are normally made of wood or canvas, and the whole structure is covered by *sekhakh*, a covering that must be made of material that grows in the ground and has been detached from it. Usually, cut branches, plants, or bamboo sticks are used. The *sekhakh* should loosely cover the roof, so that people inside the *sukka* still can see the sky and stars.

Children characteristically decorate the *sukka* with beautiful fruits and with signs quoting verses from the Bible or depicting beautiful scenes from Israel. In Jerusalem the municipality annually conducts a contest to find the most beautiful *sukka* in the city.

According to Jewish law, all food eaten during Sukkot should be eaten in the *sukka*. At the meal's beginning, a special blessing is made to God "who has commanded us to dwell in the *sukka*." If there is heavy rain, the requirement to eat in the *sukka* is suspended, although on the first night of the holiday, Jews wait until midnight before giving up on having a meal in the *sukka*.

Sukkot also is an agricultural holiday (Leviticus 23:39), celebrating the harvest in the land of Israel, Special prayers are recited during which one holds four varieties of plants in one's hands (Leviticus 23:40). The largest of these plants is the *lulav* (palm branch), which is bound together with two willow twigs and three myrtle twigs. The fourth plant is the *etrog* (citron), which looks like a large, somewhat elongated lemon. Jews try to acquire an *etrog* with no blotches, spots, or other discoloration on the skin. To be ritually valid, the *pitom* the stem at the tip of the *etrog*, must be unbroken.

During certain prayers on Sukkot, congregants wave the *lulav* and *etrog* together, up and down, left and right. The Talmud teaches that we wave toward the four points of the world in honor of God, to whom the four corners of the world-

Continued.....



(Continued from previous page)



upward and downward, heaven and earth - belong (Sukkot 37b).



The eighth day of the holiday is known as Shmini Atzeret. Its major feature is the recitation of the prayer for rain; the holiday falls at the beginning of Israel's rainy season. Rabbi Irving Greenberg has called Shmini Atzeret the "Zionist holiday" because it kept alive a strong identification between world Jewry and the land of Israel. Reciting the prayer for rain when it was needed in Israel, and not in their native lands, "was the Jews' way of maintaining an unbroken tie, a statement that as Jews they were living on Jerusalem Standard Time, not Greenwich Meridian or Central Mountain Time."



Conclusion:



The sukka provides a corrective to the natural tendency of becoming excessively attached to turf. It instructs Jews not to become overly rooted, particularly not in the exile. For thousands of years Jews built homes in the Diaspora, and civilizations of extraordinary richness...were created. But, outside of Israel, all such Jewish homes and civilizations have proven thus far to be temporary ones, blown away when a turn of the wheel brought new forces to power. Often, self deception and the desire to claim permanent roots led Jews to deny what was happening until it was too late to escape (Irving Greenberg, *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays*, p. 101).



Rabbi Joseph Telushkin in "Jewish Literacy"



Message from Rabbi Abrami



I strongly urge everyone to attend Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's lecture "On Being a Good Person in a Morally Complicated World", which will be held at Temple Chai, 4645 E. Marilyn Road, Phoenix (at the intersection with Tatum) on: Sunday, October 30, 2016, 7:00 p.m.



A donation of \$18. is suggested but any amount will be accepted. Checks are to be made out to "Valley Beit Midrash".



"ASK THE RABBI"

On the second Friday of November and December, the sermon shall be devoted to a inter-active session "Ask the Rabbi" during which any participant will be able to ask any question he/she desires and members of the audience will be allowed to intervene in the ensuing discussion.

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION

PROGRAM OF JEWISH STUDIES

NOVEMBER 2016

. Great Pages of the Talmud

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30 from 9:30 - 10:30 am

. The Characteristics of Jewish Humor

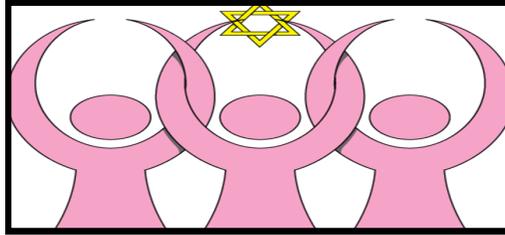
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30 from 10:30 - 11:30 am

**These classes will be taught by Rabbi Leo Michel Abrami, MAHL.
Copies of the Talmud passages will be provided.**

Fee: \$20 per class; members: \$12

You may register for these classes by calling Beth Emeth Congregation at 623-584-7210

SISTERHOOD



Ways & Means

The High Holidays are here at last. I look forward to seeing people whom I haven't seen for quite some time. I hope that many will rejoin Beth Emeth, and help her stand strong again.

If you were able to attend our tribute to our heroes of 9/11 and to our first responders that are with us today. Many of us know firsthand how amazing they are. It was a monumental undertaking, but the best was that WE CAME TOGETHER AS A TEAM!! We worked long and hard to get the job done. I applaud everyone who helped, whether it was cleaning the mountains of dirty dishes, or cooking 14 lbs of pasta, there were no complaints. WE WORKED AS A TEAM..

I also want to thank our Angels of the Day: Dr. Burns, Dr. Scheitleman, Dr. Undergraf, Dr. P. Carlson. Thanks to Gloria & Berel Greenberg who helped sponsor part of our kitchen expenses.

Special thanks to Rhoda Lessner, Geri Cooper, Irv Glorit, Jan Heidecker, Irma Epstein, Joe Weintraub, Rosemary Abrami, Alice Mason and Sharon Rothzeit. What a wonderful group of volunteers.

I wish to send all of you a special thank you for your attendance, help, and generosity. I am proud of all of you.

May you all have a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful, and Reflective New Year. If you fast on Yom Kippur, I hope it goes smoothly and your prayers are heard by Hashem.

Shalom,

Marilyn Newberg

Sisterhood Calendar

Usually all Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. All Sisterhood Membership Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month usually at 1:00 p.m. Please mark the dates of the Sisterhood Meetings. Any woman who has joined Beth Emeth Congregation since March 2016 is a member of Sisterhood until Dec. 2016.

Oct. 6	Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Nov. 3	Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Nov. 10	Thursday	11:30 a.m.	Game Day/Luncheon
Dec. 1	Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Dec. 25	Sunday	Time TBA	Hanukkah Party - All Invited



Men's Club co-presidents Norman Kurtz & Gene Cooper have set the date for the "Kick-Off Kosher Hot Dog Day", Nov. 6th. Because of popular demand there will be another day besides the annual spring affair to have HOT DOG DAY. The date chosen is the football team's off day, so it won't interfere with plans to view a game. Plans are also being made for the Men's Club to host other affairs this Fall. Dates will be announced when confirmed.

The Men's Club will work with the Sisterhood to serve as ushers for the High Holidays. Members will be contacted to perform these duties

We urge all male members of BEC who are not already Men's Club members to join with us to help BEC into the future.

Dear Rosemary Abrami,

Thank you so much Rosemary Abrami for stepping in and doing such an amazing job running the Beth Emeth office. Your kindness and dedication in keeping the synagogue alive and thriving during the summer months that I was gone was so appreciated.

Welcome back. Hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Wishing you a happy & healthy New Year, We are hoping to see you at Beth Emeth for the up and coming Shabbat Services.

**Rhoda Lessner
Ritual Chairperson**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER 2016

4 Selma Moskowitz
7 Nelson Magedman
9 Andrew Heidecker
12 Cheryl Bookman
12 Ann Goldfarb
28 Myron Perlmutter
31 Sy Klein



16 Ivan & Helene Schreiber



Beth Emeth Congregation Tribute Cards & Donations

Beth Emeth Congregation wishes to thank all those listed below for their generous donations to our Congregation. Their thoughtfulness & consideration is greatly appreciated.

Ya hrze it Dona tions

Stanley Debber
Heather Figelman
Sheldon & Judith Koven
Peggy Markowitz
Saul & Sharon Rothzeit
Efrem & Elaine Schwartz
Evelyn Walter

In Honor Donations

Berel & Gloria Greenberg

General Donations

CC's Adult Care Two, Inc. Rosie
Bonnie Green
Natalie Morrison
Wilma More
Irene Reiss
Joan Rothfeld
Linda Hochman - Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Thank you very much for your
"Special" birthday wishes. It feels
wonderful to be remembered by so
many good friends. Love you all.
Charlotte Mars

THE NEW BETH EMETH WEBSITE IS LIVE!

Wow! What super new members!!

Jan and Lou Sniderman recently joined Beth Emeth and Lou immediately started work on redeveloping our website. This is now colorful, attractive, informative, up-to-date and will be maintained on a regular basis with “news you can use”.

But the significant part is that Lou is doing this at completely NO CHARGE to the congregation - a project that would normally have cost hundreds of dollars is the Sniderman donation to Beth Emeth.

Please visit bethemethaz.org and see the result of his efforts. Let us know what you would like to see added and any ideas for improvement or expansion of what is there.

Any comments can be sent to the office, marked for my attention, as I am co-ordinating with Lou on this task. Write a note with paper and pen, use bethemethaz@gmail.com, or send a carrier pigeon with your message tied to its leg – anything that works.

Rosemary Abrami

The mitzvah is to “”dwell (sit) in the sukkah”. Can’t sit in the sukkah if there isn’t one!

Call the office to volunteer with the building of this annual reminder of our heritage.

October 2016
28 Elul 5776 - 29 Tishri 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 EREV ROSH HASHANAH Services 7:30 pm 29 Elul	3 ROSH HASHANAH I Services 9:00 am Tashlich 4:30 pm Community Evening Service 7:30 pm Office Closed 29 Elul	4 ROSH HASHANAH II Services 9:00 am Office Closed 2 Tishri	5 FAST OF GEDALIAH Board Mtg. 9:00 am 3 Tishri	6 Sisterhood Bd Mtg. 9:30 am Bereavement 1:00 pm 4 Tishri	7 Services 7:30 pm 5 Tishri	1 Services 9:00 am 28 Elul
9 Community Mem. Service Sunland Mem. Park 10:00 am 7 Tishri	10 EREV YOM KIPPUR Kol Nidre Service 6:30 pm 9 Tishri	11 EREV YOM KIPPUR Kol Nidre Service 6:30 pm 9 Tishri	12 YOM KIPPUR (YIZKOR) Yom Kippur 9:00 am Yizkor Service 1:15 - 1:45PM Minchah/Neilah 4:30 pm Office Closed 11 Tishri	13 Bereavement 1:00 pm 11 Tishri	14 Services 7:30 pm 12 Tishri	8 Shabbat Shuvah Services 9:00 am 6 Tishri
16 EREV SUKKOT Services 7:30 pm 14 Tishri	17 SUKKOT I Office Closed Services 9:00 am 15 Tishri	18 SUKKOT II Office Closed Services 9:00 am 16 Tishri	19 HOL HAMOED SUKKOT I 17 Tishri	20 HOL HAMOED SUKKOT II Bereavement 1:00 pm 18 Tishri	21 HOL HAMOED SUKKOT III Services 7:30 pm 19 Tishri	22 HOL HAMOED SUKKOT IV Services 9:00 am 20 Tishri
23 HOSHANAH RABBAH Services 8:00 am 21 Tishri	24 SHEMINI ATZERET (YIZKOR) Services 9:00 am Services 7:00 pm Office Closed 22 Tishri	25 SIMCHAT TORAH Services 9:00 am Office Closed 23 Tishri	26 24 Tishri	27 Bereavement 1:00 pm 25 Tishri	28 Services 7:30 pm 26 Tishri	29 Services 9:00 am 27 Tishri
30	31					



**Join us for the Pilgrimage festivals
after the High Holy Days**

Erev Sukkot	Sunday Oct 16	7:30 pm
Sukkot	Monday Oct 17	9:00 am
Sukkot 2nd day	Tuesday Oct 18	9:00 am
Hoshana Rabbah	Sunday Oct 23	8:00 am
Erev Shemini Atzeret	Sunday Oct 23	7:30 pm
Shemini Atzeret	Monday Oct 24	9:00 am
Erev Simhat Torah	Monday Oct 24	7:00 pm

Jewish Family and Children’s Service

Ellie Schwartzberg of Jewish Family and Children’s Service (JFCS) offers individual counseling, referral to appropriate resources and advocacy to Jewish people living in the Sun Cities and surrounding communities.

This is a free program underwritten by the Jewish Federation. Ellie has a Master’s degree in counseling from ASU and has been at JFCS for the past 32 years working with an older population. She is currently the Vice President of Geriatric Services at JFCS. Ellie offers this program at the Sun Cities Community Services Building on Tuesdays (9451 N. 99th Ave. Sun City) and at Beth Emeth Synagogue (13702 W. Meeker, Sun City West) on Thursdays. Counseling addresses such issues as coping with bereavement and loss, care-giving stress, long term planning and decision making, adjustment to chronic health problems, loss of independence, depression, couples’ issues, communication and problem solving with adult children, etc.

Ellie facilitates a Bereavement Support Group at Beth Emeth Congregation every Thursday from 1:00-2:00 PM. This group is open to anyone who has lost a spouse or significant other within the past two years.

Please call Ellie Schwartzberg at 602-452-4660 for more information or to make an appointment.

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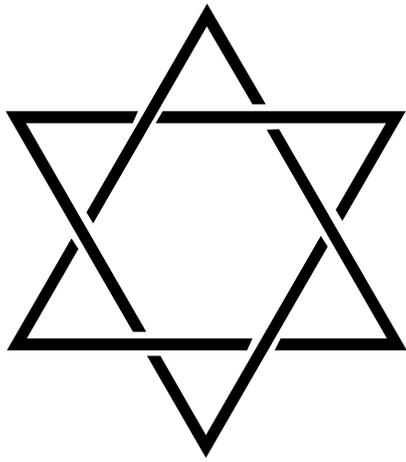
Recruiting

EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER

The membership committee requests that you forward any names, addresses and phone numbers of prospective members for Beth Emeth Congregation.

We appreciate your LEADS.
Let's grow together!
Thanks for your assistance.

**Contact the Office
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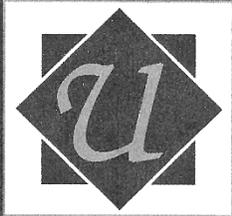
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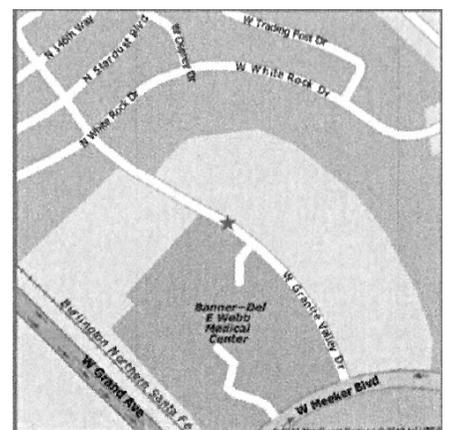
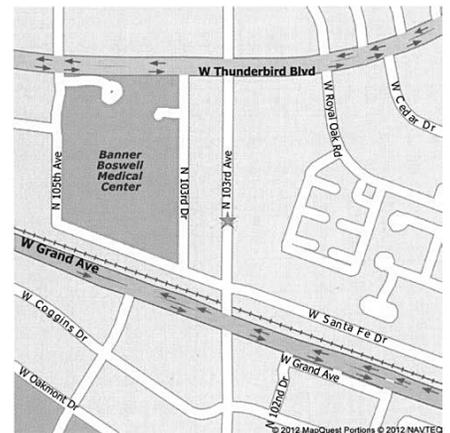
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Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

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MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE
10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

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