

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

# **Beth Emeth Observer**

Rabbi Leo M. Abrami Joseph Weintraub, President

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

#### TISHREI 5777 = CHESHVAN 5777

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#### **NOVEMBER 2016**

	Inside this issue		
Stall Planter	President's message	ə 1	
A BOOK STANK AND	Rabbi's message	3,4,5,6	
	Sisterhood	7,8	
	Men's Club	9	
	Tribute Cards/ Donations,Birthdays Anniversaries	12	
A CONTRACTOR	Calendar	23	
Thanksgiving			
Thanksgiving is here, so our minds have turned To what time has taught us, to what we've learned: We often focus all our thought On shiny things we've shopped and bought. We take our pleasure in material things, Forgetting the pleasure that friendship brings. If a lot of our stuff just vanished today, We'd see the foundation of each happy day Is special relationships, constant and true, And that's when our thoughts go directly to you. We wish you a Thanksgiving you'll never forget,	SABBATH CAND LIGHTING 11/4/16 5:14 11/11/16 5:09 11/18/16 5:05 11/25/16 5:03	pm pm pm	
Full of love and joy—your best one yet!	Volume 2016, Number 17		

#### From the President's Desk



This is why we moved here! Gorgeous weather for the next 7 months. Then it's just nice, albeit hot. As with the expected fall weather, I feel invigorated after seeing the participation in last month's High Holy Day services. The congregation chanted so enthusiastically accompanying Cantor Montefiore. It was great to see that we had to open the curtain so that people could be accommodated during Yizkor. That was the first time in years.

We have the Kickoff Hot Dog Day coming up. This is the first time we are having a Hot Dog Day during the football season and it's scheduled during the Arizona Cardinal's bye week. Clever planning. At this writing we are considering a New Year's Eve party. We had a wonderful party a couple of years ago and we might just make it even better.

The nominating committee has been working to position a strong list of candidates for the office of President as well as those Board members whose terms are expiring. The president must be replaced by a current member of the Board. Other positions may be filled by either board members or the general membership. If you have any suggestions regarding persons qualified to serve on the board, please let Irv Glorit or Jordan Colbert know. The congregation will make the final decision.

This is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving - a wonderful secular holiday that should be filled with joys and, if possible, family gatherings. The big question is which two turkeys will be pardoned by the President of the United States.

Susan and I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving and good health throughout the year.

Joseph M. Weintraub

#### A personal note from your President:

Thanks to Rabbi Abrami, Rosemary Abrami and all who helped prepare the synagogue for the High Holy Day services. I especially thank Irv Glorit, Gloria Greenberg, Marilyn Newberg, Rhoda Lessner, all the ushers, the participants, and especially all who attended our services. Rabbi Abrami and Cantor Montefiore led us through wonderful services that we all enjoyed.

### From the Rabbi's Desk

Rabbi Abrami was invited to lecture at the International Conference of Holocaust Survivors which will be held from **November 4-7** at the Marriott Woodland Hills Hotel north of Los Angeles. He will present his translation from the French of **"The Mission of Abbe Glasberg"** in the French Resistance. It was published last spring by Amsterdam Publishers, the Netherlands. Here is a summary of the book as it appears on the Internet.

The Mission of Abbe Glasberg is the fascination story of a priest - of Jewish origins - who dedicated himself to the task of helping the refugees who were streaming into France during the years preceding World War II. Together with Father Chaillet. Alexandre Glasberg created the ecumenical Amitie Chretienne in May 1942 with the full support of Cardinal Gerlier, archbishop of Lyon.

In a joint effort, they managed to retrieve hundreds of Jewish children from French-run concentration camps and disperse them among religious houses and private homes. They refused to give them up even when the government of Vichy placed Chaillet under house arrest in a psychiatric hospital for three months.

They disregarded the orders of Alexandre Angeli, the regional prefect of Lyon who was a Nazi collaborator. Alexandre Angeli was condemned to a death penalty immediately after the war, later commuted to a sentence of four year-imprisonment. Father Glasberg later joined the French underground.

After the war, Abbe Glasberg assisted the Mossad in their attempt to transport many of the war survivors to the land of Israel. Cardinal Albert Decourtray wrote the introduction to the French edition which was published in April, 1990.

The book is available on Amazon and can be purchased as an eBook or in paperback.

The AZ Institute of Logotherapy which is directed by Rabbi Abrami, was accredited by the Viktor Frankl Institute, Vienna, Austria, and is authorized to grant a diploma in that discipline to those who have completed the required course of studies. The web-site of the Institute is **Azlogotherapy.com**.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best,

Leo Michel Abrami

This article in two parts is probably the finest study of the causes of anti-semitism which was published recently. It was written by former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, member of the House of Lords and the author of some twenty five books on various topics. He was awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize just a few months ago.

## The Mutating Virus: Understanding Antisemitism



## Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (part I)

Rabbi Sacks at "The Future of the Jewish Communities in Europe" Conference at The European Parliament, on September 27, 2016 in Brussels.

**Antisemitism** is not about Jews. It is about anti-Semites. The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews. It wasn't Jews alone who suffered under Hitler. It wasn't Jews alone who suffered under Stalin. It isn't Jews alone who suffer under ISIS or Al Qaeda or Islamic Jihad. We make a great mistake if we think antisemitism is a threat only to Jews. It is a threat, first and foremost, to Europe and to the freedoms it took centuries to achieve. It is about those who cannot accept responsibility for their own failures and have instead to blame someone else. Historically, if you were a Christian at the time of the Crusades, or a German after the First World War, and saw that the world hadn't turned out the way you believed it would, you blamed the Jews.

That is what is happening today. And I cannot begin to say how dangerous it is. Not just to Jews but to everyone who values freedom, compassion and humanity.

The appearance of antisemitism in a culture is the first symptom of a disease, the early warning sign of collective breakdown. If Europe allows this hatred to flourish, that will be the beginning of the end of Europe. And what I want to do in these brief remarks is simply to analyze a phenomenon full of vagueness and ambiguity, because we need precision and understanding to know what antisemitism is, why it happens, why antisemites are convinced that they are not antisemitic.

First let me **define antisemitism.** Not liking Jews is not antisemitism. We all have people we don't like. That's OK; that's human; it isn't dangerous. Second, criticizing Israel is not antisemitism. I was recently talking to some schoolchildren and they asked me: is criticizing Israel antisemitism? I said 'No,' and I explained the difference. I asked them: Do you believe you have a right to criticize the British government? They all put up their hands. Then I asked, 'Which of you believes that Britain has no right to exist?' No one put up their hands. Now, you know the difference, I said, and they all did.

Antisemitism means denying the right of Jews to exist collectively as Jews with the same rights as everyone else. It takes different forms in different ages. In the Middle Ages, Jews were hated because of their religion. In the 19th and early 20th century they were hated because of their race. Today they are hated because of their nation state, the state of Israel. It takes different forms but it remains the same thing: the view that Jews have no right to exist as free and equal human beings.

If there is one thing I and my contemporaries did not expect, it was that antisemitism would reappear in Europe within living memory of the Holocaust. The reason we did not expect it was that Europe had undertaken the greatest collective effort in all of history to ensure that the **virus of antisemitism** would never again infect the body politic. It was a magnificent effort of antiracist legislation, Holocaust education and interfaith dialogue. Yet antisemitism has returned despite everything.

In 2013, before some of the worst incidents, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that almost a third of Europe's Jews were considering emigrating because of anti-Semitism. In France the figure was 46 percent; in Hungary 48 percent.

Let me ask you this. Whether you are Jewish, Christian or Muslim: would you stay in a country where you need armed police to guard you while you prayed? Where your children need armed guards to protect them at school? Where, if you wear a sign of your faith in public, you risk being abused or attacked? Where, when your children go to university, they are insulted and intimidated because of what is happening in some other part of the world? Where, when they present their own view of the situation they are howled down and silenced?

This is happening to Jews throughout Europe. In every single country of Europe, without exception, Jews are fearful for their or their children's future.

If this continues, Jews will continue to leave Europe, until, barring the frail and the elderly, Europe will finally have become *Judenrein*.

How did this happen? It happened the way viruses always defeat the human immune system, namely, by mutating. The new antisemitism is different from the old antisemitism, in three ways. I've already mentioned one. Once Jews were hated because of their religion. Then they were hated because of their race. Now they are hated because of their nation state. The second difference is that the epicenter of the old antisemitism was Europe. Today it's the Middle East and it is communicated globally by the new electronic media.

The highest source of authority today is human rights. That is why Israel - the only fully functioning democracy in the Middle East with a free press and independent judiciary - is regularly accused of the five cardinal sins against human rights: racism, apartheid, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and attempted genocide.

The new antisemitism has mutated so that any practitioner of it can deny that he or she is an antisemite. After all, they'll say, I'm not a racist. I have no problem with Jews or Judaism. I only have a problem with the State of Israel. But in a world of 56 Muslim nations and 103 Christian ones, there is only one Jewish state, Israel, which constitutes 1/4 of 1% of the land mass of the Middle East. Israel is the only one of the 193 member nations of the United Nations that has its right to exist regularly challenged, with one state, Iran, and many other groups, committed to its destruction.

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** 

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 Poker \_\_\_\_
 Mah Jongg \_\_\_\_

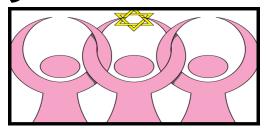
Bridge \_\_\_\_ Chess \_\_\_ Pinochle \_\_\_\_

Or: I Have my own group \_\_\_\_\_



## STERHOOD







Ways & Means November Edition:

Great news folks........ The Annual West Valley Film Festival will be held on January 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars. Irene Lehrer has taken over as committee chair. I am very happy to say that Harry & Barbara Newman have returned to Beth Emeth and have jumped right back into being on the Film Festival's committee. More information to follow.

A few years ago, I asked our members to please give me a few ideas on what YOU would like to see as a program and fundraiser. Once again I am tossing the ball out there.

We haven't had a Casino Night for several years. It was a great success and I would like to try it again. There is one thing, however, that you should know. Casino night is about fund-raising and not about getting cash if you win. As a religious organization, we cannot use money as prizes, but we can give gift cards, prizes etc.

If we decide to try it once more, I, no WE need volunteers to help with many aspects of the event. Come forward and give Sandy your names.

Another idea is having the Beth Emeth non-actor actors act in a play for Purim, dinner included. If you have any directing abilities, let me know. If you have set design abilities, let me know. If you like making people laugh, you are the person we are looking for.

I would like to personally thank Rhoda Lessner for her dedication. she has been doing the Book of Remembrance for several years and I appreciate the work she has done.

Thank you to Rosemary Abrami and Sandy Nonas, an Lori Gamble for their help. I want to welcome back many familiar faces, and hello to our new members.

Shalom, Marilyn Newberg.

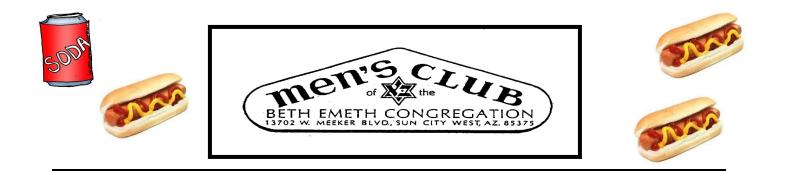
## Sisterhood Calendar

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.

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

Beth Emeth Observer

8



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 annual be annual spring affairs the football team.

The Men's Club has worked with the Sisterhood to serve as ushers for the High Holidays. Members have been 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.

#### "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.

#### **REPORT ON "THE REBBETZIN'S LITTLE PROJECT"**

Thanks to all who contributed soap, loofahs, lip-ice, shampoo, lotions, razors and everything else to my little project. As a consequence of your generosity I was able to donate boxes of useful products to two recipients: a homeless shelter and a place for abused women. Everything was gratefully accepted for use by people who, for whatever reasons, are not as fortunate as we are. All of us have been through bad patches in our lives to a lesser or greater degree and without a helping hand to lift us up none of us knows what would have become of us. Sometimes that helping hand is metaphorical but very often it is practical and each and every item you donated was very practical.

**Rosemary Abrami** 

### NEW YEARS EVE

I want a poll taken as to whether we should have New Years Eve at Beth Emeth or not. It is the last day of Hanukah, so we would celebrate both.

Of course the final decision lies with you. Dinner, entertainment, and song fest will be included.

Please give it some thought and call the office with your opinion. If its a "go" then we will have to start working on it immediately.

Thanks, Marilyn Newberg

### **VOLUTEERS NEEDED!!!**

Last year we were going to have a yard sale, however, do to the lack of volunteers it was cancelled. I would like to have one on MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2017. Not only will we sell items no longer needed at Beth Emeth, we will include items in your closets that you do not need.

ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN AND IN USABLE CONDITION. When you start cleaning out, please DO NOT give us opened bottles, or jars of anything. Nothing that is worn out, dirty, & rusty. If you can't or won't use it, neither will anyone else.

If the items are of electrical in nature, please make sure that they are in working condition. Please don't give us anything that WE have to clean.

Paintings, giftware, etc... are necessary. Books, shoes, cutlery etc.

LADIES, clothing without stains, holes or zippers most likely will not sell. I know many of you have such beautiful clothing. I would we so happy to receive them.

MEN, in addition to nicely worn clothing, we probably can sell tools.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT...... WE CANNOT STORE YOUR ITEMS, THEY MUST BE BROUGHT DOWN TO BETH EMETH A WEEK AHEAD OF TIME. I WILL MAKE A TIME AND DAY SO SOMEONE WILL BE THERE TO RECEIVE THEM.

If you have hangers for the garments, bring them.

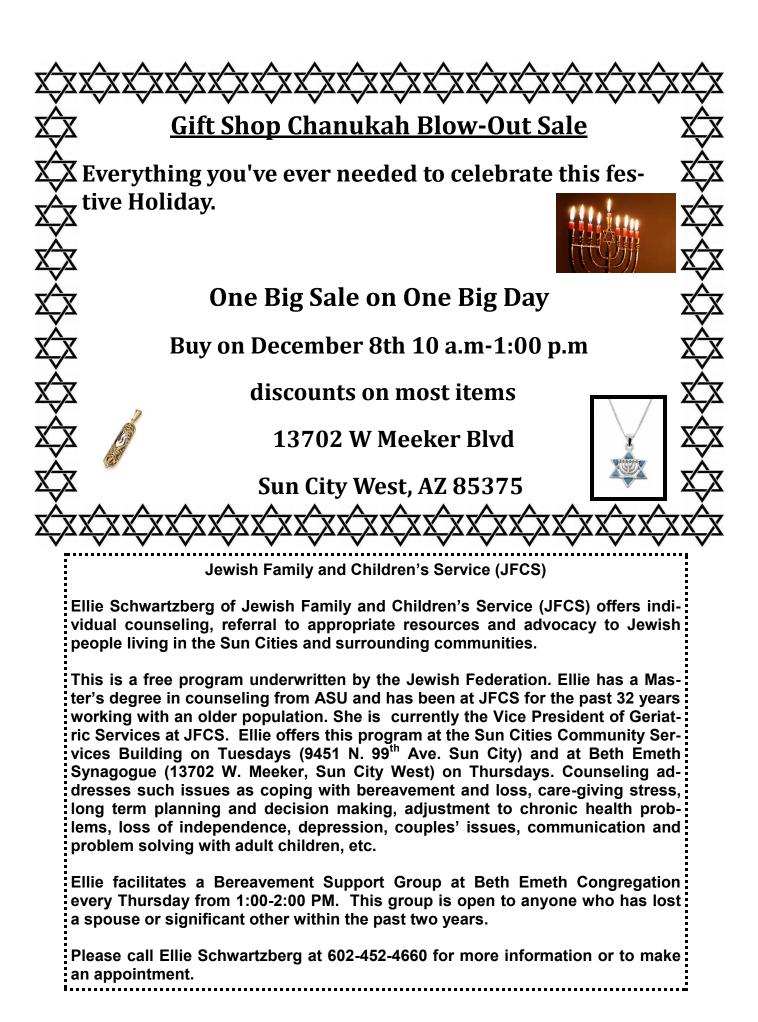
WITHOUT YOUR HELP, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS. PENCIL IT ON YOUR CALENDARS AND CALL ME SOON IF YOU WANT TO HELP. THANK YOU SOOOOOO MUCH! Many Hands Make Light Work

MARILYN NEWBERG, Ways & Means

623-214-7538







## Birthdays & Anniversaries NOVEMBER 2016

- 3 Alvin Zeigler
- 8 Ben Rose
- 8 Lorraine Silverman
- 10 Shula Kantor
- 15 Sue Geller
- 16 Irene Lehrer
- 20 Gail Grossman
- 23 Bobbie Kneitel
- 25 Ivan 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.

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#### **Continued**

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## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley is at a crossroad; we must find a path to assure we maintain a presence in the West Valley. We appreciate all that Rabbi Leo Abrami and Rosemary have done this year in providing spiritual and pastoral services towards this end. Now - It is up to us!

We're all busy. Each of us can make any number of excuses or reasons to not do something. My friends - we need you; we need you to step up and say YES, yes I will.

Opportunities exist in many areas, ritual, membership, fund raising, food service, Judaica Shop, maintenance to name a few. The nominating committee is charged by our Board of Directors to present a dynamic slate of officers able to lead Beth Emeth Congregation. Become active; become involved. We will contact you, or call the office and leave us a message, so we may discuss which position is the best match for you.

We want Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley to continue to provide religious services. We want Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley to continue offering educational opportunities. We want Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley to continue to be a vital part of the West Valley Jewish Community. We want to continue as a functioning Conservative Congregation. With your help we can do all of this. Please give us your time, we need your help.

Irv Glorit - 623-628-3463 Beth Emeth Office - 623-584-7210

## **Shabbat Across the Valley**

Will be held at our Congregation on Saturday, November 12th, 2016

The Shabbat Project will be observed by more than 2 million Jews in 924 cities and 75 countries around the world.

It will begin with a Torah Study 9:00-9:45 a.m. and will be followed by the morning service.

The Congregation will be invited to a Kiddush-lunch at 11:30 a.m. Rosemary and Rabbi Leo will sponsor the luncheon.

## THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Beth Emeth Congregation is cordially invited to participate in a Joint Service of Thanksgiving which will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:00 pm at the Lord of Life Congregation, right west of our Synagogue. Pastor Kim Sterner will preach the sermon. Rabbi Leo Abrami will participate in the readings from Scriptures. The service will be followed by a pie-reception.

### A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to Rabbi Abrami and Cantor Montefiore for conducting a great Holiday Service. Thanks to Rosemary Abrami for helping me to get everything started despite being unfamiliar with the project. Thanks to Alice Mason, Irv Glorit and Sandy Nonas for all there help in keeping the records straight. Last but not least to my Committee (who know who they are) for making sure everyone who could, would get an honor.

Happy Healthy New Year. Gloria Greenberg

A special thanks to Irv, David, Gene, Phil, Ken, Veronica, Alesia and Herb who helped put the Sukkot together. A job well done. Wishing everyone a good up and coming year. Hope to see you at services and special events at Beth Emeth.

Rhoda Lessner, Ritual Chairman



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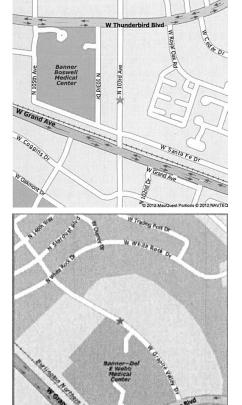
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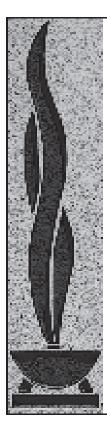


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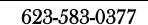
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		1 ROSH HODESH I	2 ROSH HODESH II Board Mtg. 9:00 am	3 Sisterhood Board Mtg. 9:30 am Bereavement 1:00 pm	<b>4</b> Services 7:30 pm	5 Services 9:00 am
		30 Tishri	1 Heshvan	2 Heshvan	3 Heshvan	4 Heshvan
<b>6</b> Kickoff Kosher Hot Dog 11:00 am	<b>7</b> Minyan 8:00 am	8	9 Rabbi's Classes 9:30-11:30 am		11 Services 7:30 pm	12 Services 9:00 am Shabbat Across The Vall Torah Study 9:00-9:45 followed by Kiddush Lun 11:30 am
5 Heshvan	6 Heshvan	7 Heshvan	8 Heshvan	9 Heshvan	10 Heshvan	11 Heshvan
13	<b>14</b> Minyan 8:00 am	15	<b>16</b> Rabbi's Classes 9:30-11:30 am	<b>17</b> Minyan 8:00 am Bereavement 1:00 pm	<b>18</b> Services 7:30 pm	19 Services 9:00 am
12 Heshvan	13 Heshvan	14 Heshvan	15 Heshvan	16 Heshvan	17 Heshvan	18 Heshvan
20	21 Minyan 8:00 am	22	<b>23</b> Rabbi's Classes 9:30-11:30 am		25 Thanksgiving - Office Closed Services 7:30 pm	26 Services 9:00 am
19 Heshvan	20 Heshvan	21 Heshvan	22 Heshvan	23 Heshvan	24 Heshvan	25 Heshvan
27	<b>28</b> Minyan 8:00 am	29	<b>30</b> Rabbi's Classes 9:30-11:30 am			
26 Heshvan	27 Heshvan	28 Heshvan	29 Heshvan			

## November 2016



Our logo is a Shield of David made up of a calligraphic interpretation of the Hebrew initials of the Congregation, BETH EMETH, which means House of Truth.

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley 13702 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375

Phone: 623-584-7210 Fax: 623-975-2976 Email: bethemethaz@gmail.com Web Site:www.Bethemethaz.org Office Hours: 9 am.- 1 pm. M-F

## THE OBSERVER

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