

Beth Emeth

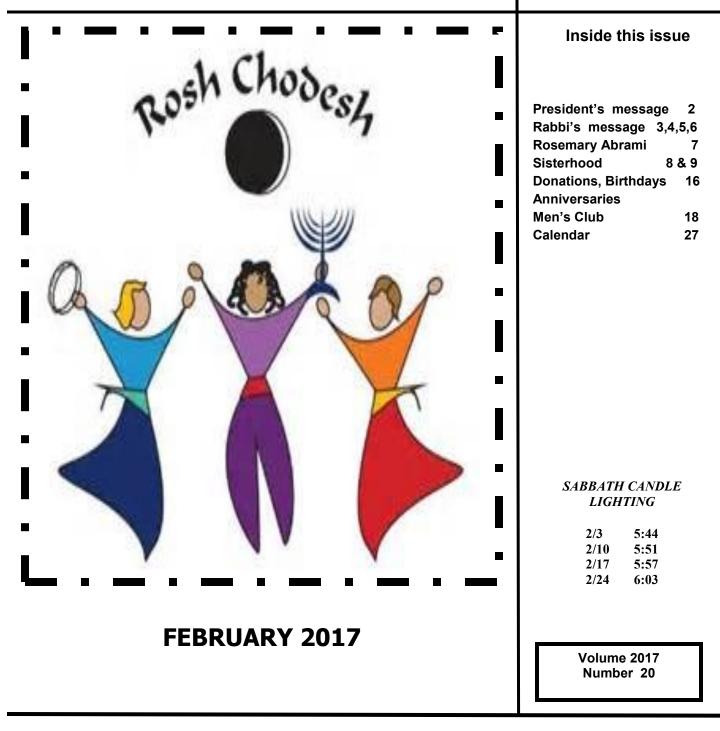
"More Than Just The Conservative Congregation of the West Valley, We Are A Community".

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

SHEVAT 5777 - ADAR 5777

RABBI LEO M. ABRAMI

FEBRUARY 2017



From Our New President 2017



Hello to you all. It's hard to believe that we are already into February. Our Congregation has so many possibilities as we move forward. We just have to take any and all opportunities to make those possibilities into reality. Our membership is on the rise and that is very good news.

I for one, will not focus on our failures, I will not be negative because it gets you nowhere. We had a very successful Film Festival and I wish to thank all of you who supported this event.

Irene Lehrer, Harry Newman, Irv Glorit along with their "crew" working so hard, and it paid off. Kudos to you all. I never had a doubt that you wouldn't do a great job.

We are in the process of finding a grant to help hire a contractor to repave the driveway. Our next step is to clean the interior of Beth Emeth. We hope that having our "fabulous finds" yard sale will not only clean out many useless items, it will also bring in some needed cash. You can help by bringing in items for us to sell. Please make this everyone's responsibility. We can certainly use some strong shoulders to help us with this undertaking. Call sandy and leave your name and phone number, so we can make our schedule.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please come forward. This is the year that we all come together.

Shalom

Marilyn Hope Newberg

From the Desk of Rabbi Leo M. Abrami

Friends,

I am delighted to let you know that our Saturday Torah Study (9:00-9:45 a.m.) is attracting more and more participants, members and non-members. We have had a "minyan" every Monday and Thursday since the beginning of the year. I extend my appreciation to the "minyanaires."

My surprise has been the attendance at my Tuesday classes (9:30-11:30 a.m.). I expected some twenty people to sign up and close to hundred people have attended.

The next series of classes will begin on **February 14th at 9:30 a.m.** and will comprise a course on "The Story of Joseph in the Torah and in the Quran" and another course on "The Dead Sea Scrolls."

It gives me pleasure to announce that my friend Dr. Carl Goldberg will give three lectures from February 1-15 on "What Non-Muslims Need to Know About Is-lam" (from 1:00-3:00 p.m.) at the Pora Adult Learning, 13815 W. Camino del Sol, Sun City West. If interested, you should call (623) 242-6864.

If you like to sing, you may wish to join our choir which will meet on **Wednesday, February 8th at 10:30 a.m. in the Library.** If you cannot make the first rehearsal, please call Sandy at the office to let her know you are interested (623) 584-7210.

If you have a question about how to relate to your children or grand-children, you may make an appointment with the Rabbi. Please call the office.

Looking forward to seeing you next Shabbat,

Leo M. Abrami

WOMEN AS LEADERS

Jonathan Sacks, Former Chief-Rabbi of Great Britain

The Torah tell us that Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and that he grew up as a prince of Egypt. We see him as a young man, for the first time realizing the implications of his true identity. He is, and knows he is, a member of an enslaved and suffering people: "Growing up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people" (Ex. 2:10).

He intervenes. He acts: the mark of a true leader. We see him intervene three times, twice in Egypt, once in Midian, to rescue victims of violence. We then witness the great scene at the burning bush where God summons him to lead his people to freedom. Moses hesitates four times until God becomes angry and Moses knows he has no other choice. This is a classic account of the childhood of a hero.

First is Yocheved, wife of Amram and mother of the three people who were to become the great leaders of the Israelites: Miriam, Aaron and Moses himself. It was Yocheved who, at the height of Egyptian persecution, had the courage to have a child, hide him for three months, and then devise a plan to give him a chance of being rescued. We know all too little of Yocheved. In her first appearance in the Torah she is unnamed. Yet, reading the narrative, we are left in no doubt about her bravery and resourcefulness. Not by accident did her children all become leaders.

The second was Miriam, Yocheved's daughter and Moses' elder sister. It was she who kept watch over the child as the ark floated down the river and who approached Pharaoh's daughter with the suggestion that he be nursed among his own people. The biblical text paints a portrait of the young Miriam as a figure of unusual fearlessness and presence of mind. Rabbinic tradition went further. In a remarkable midrash, we read of how the young Miriam confronted her father Amram and persuaded him to change his mind. Hearing of the decree that every male Israelite boy would be drowned in the river, Amram led the Israelites in divorcing their wives so that there would be no more children. He had logic on his side. Could it be right to bring children into the world if there were a fifty per cent chance that they would be killed at birth? Yet Miriam, so the tradition goes, remonstrated with him. "Your decree" she said, "is worse than Pharaoh's. His affects only the boys; your affects all. His deprives children of life in this world; yours will deprive them of life even in the world to come." Amram relented, and as a result, Moses was born. The implication is clear: Miriam had more faith than her father.

Third and fourth were the two midwives, Shifrah and Puah, who frustrated Pharaoh's first attempt at genocide. Told to kill the male Israelite children at birth, they "feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live" (Ex. 1:17). Summoned and accused of disobedience, they outwitted Pharaoh by constructing an ingenious cover story: the Hebrew women, they said, are vigorous and give birth before we arrive. They escaped punishment and saved lives.

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The significance of this story is that it is the first recorded instance of one of Judaism's greatest contributions to civilization: the idea that there are moral limits to power. There are instructions that should not be obeyed. There are crimes against humanity that cannot be excused by the claim that "I was only obeying orders." This concept, generally known as civil disobedience," is usually attributed to the nineteenth century American writer Henry David Thoreau, and entered international consciousness after the Holocaust and the Nuremberg trials. Its true origin, though, lay thousands of years earlier in the actions of two women, Shifra and Puah. Through their understated courage they earned a high place among the moral heroes of history, teaching us the primacy of conscience over conformity, the law of justice over the law of the land.

The fifth is Zipporah, Moses'wife. The daughter of a Midianite priest, she was nonetheless determined to accompany Moses on his mission to Egypt, despite the fact that she had no reason to risk her life on such a hazardous venture. In a deeply enigmatic passage, it was she who saved Moses' life by performing a circumcision on their son (Ex. 4:24-26). The impression we have of her is of a figure of monumental determination who, at a crucial moment, has a better sense than Moses himself of what God requires. I have saved until last the most intriguing of them all: **Pharaoh's daughter.** It was she who had the courage to rescue an Israelite child and bring it up as her own in the very palace where her father was plotting the destruction of the Israelite people. Could we imagine a daughter of Hitler or Eichmann or Stalin doing the same? There is something at once heroic and gracious about this lightly sketched figure, the woman who gave Moses his name.

Who was she? The Torah does not give her a name. However the First Book of Chronicles (4:18) mentions a daughter of Pharaoh, named Bitya, and it was she the sages identified as the woman who saved Moses. The name Bitya (sometimes rendered as Batya) means "the daughter of God". From this, the sages drew one of their most striking lessons:

The Holy One, blessed be He, said to her: "Moses was not your son, yet you called him your son. You are not My daughter, but I shall call you My daughter." They added that she was one of the few (tradition enumerates nine) who were so righteous that they entered paradise in their lifetime.

So, on the surface, the Torah (speaks) about the initiation into leadership of one remarkable man, but just beneath the surface is a counter-narrative of six extraordinary women without whom there would not have been a Moses. They belong to a long tradition of strong women throughout Jewish history, from Deborah, Hannah, Ruth and Esther in the Bible to more modern figures like Anne Frank, Hannah Senesh and Golda Meir.

How then, if women emerge so powerfully as leaders, were they excluded in Jewish law from certain leadership roles? If we look carefully we will see that women were historically excluded from two areas. One was the "crown of priesthood," which went to Aaron and his sons. The other was the "crown of kingship," which went to David and his sons. These were two roles built on the principle of dynastic succession. From the third crown - the "crown of Torah" - however, women were not excluded. There were prophetesses, not just prophets. The sages enumerated seven of them. There were great women Torah scholars from the Mishnaic period (Beruriah, Ima Shalom) to today.

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At stake is a more general distinction. Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron in his Responsa, Binyan Av, differentiates between formal or official authority (samchut) and actual leadership (hanhagah). There are figures who hold positions of authority - prime ministers, presidents, CEOs - who may not be leaders at all. They may have the power to force people to do what they say, but they have no followers. They excite no admiration. They inspire no emulation. And there may be leaders who hold no official position at all but who are turned to for advice and are held up as role models. They have no power but great influence. Israel's prophets belonged to this category. So, often, did the gedolei Yisrael, the great sages of each generation. Neither Rashi nor Maimonides held any official position (some scholars say that Maimonides was chief rabbi of Egypt but most hold that he was not, though his descendants were). Wherever leader-ship depends on personal qualities - what Max Weber called charismatic authority - and not on office or title, there is no distinction between women and men.

Yocheved, Miriam, Shifra, Puah, Zipporah and Bitya were leaders not because of any official title they held (in the case of Bitya she was aleader despite her official title as a princess of Egypt). They were leaders because they had courage and conscience. They refused to be intimidated by power or defeated by circumstance. They were the real heroes of the exodus. Their courage is still a source of inspiration today.

WHAT DO WE DO AND WHY DO WE DO IT? Rosemary Abrami

When someone dies, there are formal periods of mourning according to Jewish practice. Briefly, the first seven days after the funeral are called "shiva" which is the Hebrew word for seven; the first thirty days (including those of shiva) are called "shloshim" which is the word for thirty and the length of the rest of the mourning period depends on who it was that died.

During the shiva week, mourners are not supposed to leave their homes. (There are other rules but those are not under discussion in this article). Now the theory is that we all attend services every day of our lives, in order to pray with a minyan. But if we are not allowed to leave the house we're stuck, unless there is a minyan's worth of people living in the house. This is particularly significant because without a minyan we may not recite any form of the Kaddish, let alone the Mourner's Kaddish.

So if the mourners cannot go to the synagogue, then the "synagogue" has, in effect, to come to them. And that is why members of the community come to the home of the be-reaved family and conduct services.

A question, however, arises: how many people actually DO attend services every day (or even pray alone at home)? And if the mourners don't usually attend every day, why should they suddenly expect members of the community to come to their home so that they can do something they normally do not do?

I have an answer that could sound a bit too pat but which I think may hold water: The times when we need comfort are often the times when we seek out what we know to be reliable. A sad child will look for a hug from a parent; even though that child may be an adult, married, normally living far from the parent and even a parent himself, the hug from a person on whom he can rely gives immeasurable comfort. And the rituals of Jewish services are certainly reliable, even if the mourner is not familiar with those rituals because of non-daily attendance, as noted above. Among even the most casual of Jews, the words of the mourner's kaddish are probably known and the simple act of chanting the rhythm among reliable others possibly can give some comfort.

It does seem a bit hard to have to "round up" enough people for a shiva minyan, especially when the mourner may not regularly be seen at synagogue or when the family is not well known in the community. Is there an "obligation" to attend services in a shiva home? Perhaps not, but there certainly are people who perform this act as if it *were* an obligation and they are to be honored for their kindness and community responsibility.



13702 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375

Purim is a time of joy and the celebration of the defeat of the wicked Haman, and a time of general good feeling for one another. It is traditional to send presents of fruit, cookies and candies (Mishloach Manot) to at least one friend. It is customary, however, to give extensively.

Once again Sisterhood will provide the opportunity for you to observe the custom of sending Mishloach Manot to your friends and family in the Congregation. The cost of each basket you order will be \$4.00 if you list 10 or more names the cost will be \$3.50 per basket or name. There will be a card attached to each family's basket indicating the names of all those families sending the gift. In other words, your family may receive a single basket which could have been provided by several of your friends.

To facilitate delivery, baskets will be distributed at the Purim services on <u>Sunday, March 12, 2017</u> when the Megillah is read. <u>Please</u> <u>make arrangements to pick up your basket following this service</u>. *No* home deliveries can be made. For those who can not attend the service their basket will be left at the Synagogue to be picked up no later than Friday, March 31.

Please complete the order form on the opposite page and return it with your check made payable to: Beth Emeth Sisterhood.

All forms must be returned to the Synagogue office attention Marilyn Newberg by Monday February 27, 2017.

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SISTERHOOD
PRINT your name clearly as you would like it to appear on the gift card attached to the bag. Don't forget your telephone number.
NAME PHONE #
PURIM BAG \$4.00 or 10 or more names the cost will be \$3.50 per basket or name
\$10.00/BAKER's DOZEN of HAMANTASCHEN
Bags ordered <u>AFTER February 27 th</u> will be
<u>\$5.00 PER BAG Or \$12.00/Baker's Dozen</u> Baga must be picked up from the supersonue between
<u>Bags must be picked up from the synagogue between</u> <u>March 12 - 31, 2017</u>
Please PRINT the names of the RECIPIENTS
1 7
2 8
3 9
4 10
5 11
6 17
If additional space is needed—Please attach another sheet. \$ TOTAL
RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: <u>BETH EMETH SISTERHOOD</u> <u>ATTENTION: Marilyn Newberg</u>

JEWISH STUDIES

You are all invited to attend the following classes and bring along your friends and neighbors with you, whether they are a of the Jewish faith or not. These mini-courses will comprise of three sessions each, which will be held on <u>Tuesday</u> \overline{X} <u>mornings</u>.

FEBRUARY 14, 21, 28, 2017

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

The story of Joseph in the Quran and the Torah

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

There will be no fee, but we ask you to sign up for each class by calling the office 623-584-7210, so that we may know how many handouts to prepare.

The classes will be taugh by Rabbi Leo Abrami, MAHL. , (contributed to the Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered, Robert Eisenman and Michael Wise) Hear Ye, Hear Ye.... We need someone to take over the job of finding grants to redo the driveway. If you have an interest to do some research, give out a holler and call Sandy at our office 623-584-7210.

Thank You, Marilyn Newberg



TU BISH'VAT, THE JEWISH ARBOR DAY

Rosemary Abrami and I are pleased to invite you to a special Kiddush in honor of Tu Bishvat which be held on Saturday, February 11th at 11:25 am immediately after the Shabbat service.

We will partake of the seven fruits mentioned in the Torah which were considered the pride of Israeli agriculture some three thousand years ago as it is written in Deuteronomy:

"For the Lord your God is bringing you to a good land...A land of wheat, barley, grapes, figs and pomegranates, a land of oilyielding olives and dates (honey)." (Deut. 8:8)

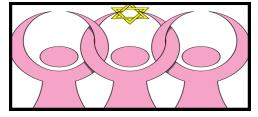
We are looking forward to seeing you then.



Leo M Abrami

SISTERHOOD







SISTERHOOD TENTATIVE CALENDAR 2017

Usually all Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

All Sisterhood Membership Meetings are usually held the second Thursday of the month <u>Please mark the dates</u> of the Sisterhood Meetings. Any woman who has joined Beth Emeth Congregation since March 2016 is a member of Sisterhood until Dec. 2017. Sisterhood Board Meetings are open to all.

Sisterhood Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Sisterhood Meeting " A Fun Day with
Scatagories" 1:00 p.m.
Help with Congregation "Rummage Sale"
Sisterhood Paid-Up Luncheon
Program:"Guess Who" 11:30 a.m.
Sisterhood Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Calling All Bookworms

Calling All Bookworms to join the Book Club on the Third Thursday <u>of each</u> <u>month at 10:00 a.m. in Hindin Hall</u>. Bring your booklist of suggestions.

Call Geri Cooper to reserve a chair (623) 214-7721. Books maybe read on electronic devices or on old fashion paper books.











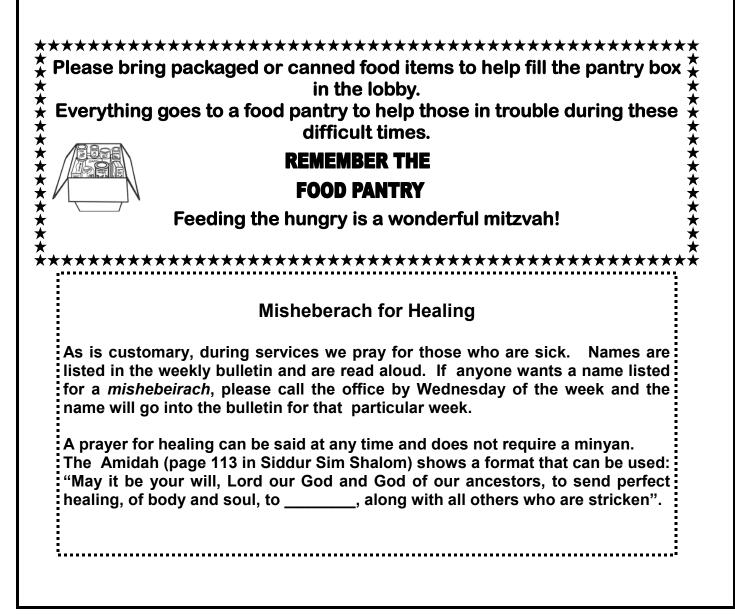




Do you remember when Segal's use to deliver fresh kosher food items for $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$ pick up at Beth Emeth...Do you miss those days? Are you tired of driving many miles to various stores only to be disappointed by the Kosher selection?

Well have I got news for you! Another kosher grocer has offered to deliver to Beth Emeth. If interested, please see Rivka Abraham for more info or contact her at 951.897.6571.

If you have kids, grandkids or friends in the surrounding areas that would like to be a part of this kosher group please spread the word!





Gather all your goodies for our Huge Super Sale. Please do not bring anything in until the week before. I changed the original date from the 5th of March to the 19th, due to observance of Purim on the 12th.

We would appreciate clean, usable clothing. Make sure that your treasures are in good condition. We cannot accept items that we have to wash, items that are missing parts etc.

Gentlemen, tools always sell, so look thru your stash and bring us some handyman specials. Cheryl Bookman will be the chairperson for the event. She will definitely need help checking and make this profitable.

Thanks, Marilyn Newberg

Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West

A Courtesy Funeral Watch for Residents of Sun City West

It is unfortunate that the "Bad Folks" will on occasion take advantage of published funeral service times to burglarize the residence at the time no one is home, further compounding the situation at the time of bereavement.

Many Sun City West residents are not aware of this courtesy your Posse provides: a Security Watch at the deceased residence during funeral services.

This Funeral Watch program provides a Posse Patrol car with a uniformed Posse member to maintain vigilance of the premises during the next of kin's absence while attend services.

This courtesy service may be obtained by calling Sun City West Posse at 623-584-5808



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 4 Adele Sacher
- 4 Robert Summer
- 7 Ketzie Toney
- 13 Geri Cooper
- 13 Sharon Smelkinson
- 19 Norma Weintraub
- 23 Gene Cooper

A. David & Iris Silverman

23 Howard & Sonia Marshall



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.

Yahrzeits

Herbert Bistritz

Rose Doyschen

Gail Grossman

Shirley Gubin

Solomon & Shula Kantor

Sheldon & Judith Koven

Norman Kurtz

Beverly Merchant

Robert & Marilyn Newberg

Saul & Sharon Rothzeid

Adele Sacher

Joyce Stern

Harvey & Rita Zarensky



Donations

Rosie Chiavarria

CC's Adult Care Two-Rosie Chiavarria

Max Gimpel's Birthday --James & Ketzie Toney

Lorraine Silverman Great Grandson

Dennis & Alyce Helfman for Rabbi & Mrs. Abrami

Moses & Irene Weitzman

Donation in Memory of Stanley Silver

Geri & Gene Cooper Paula & Art Forster Elinor Goldstein Gloria Greenberg Linda Hochman Si & Sarah Klein Marion & Lou Koshar Natalie Morrison & Phil Gillenson Efrem & Elaine Schwartz Ketsie & Jim Toney





Beth Emeth Sisterhood

February 9, 2017



Thursday, <u>1:00 P.M.</u>

Scatagories Day Led by Marilyn Newberg & Ketzi Toney

A Fun Day + *Dessert* **Are you up to it? Come and find out**

All Welcome

Sisterhood Tribute Cards available for sale at all meetings



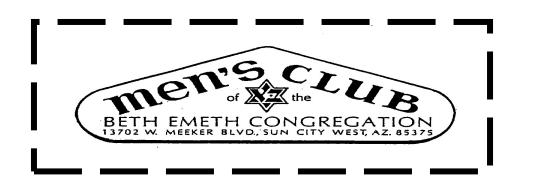
Dear Member,

Bet h Emet h Congregation is certainly off to a quick start for the New Year. We have a new Rabbi, new Officers and a new Board of Directors. Programs and fundraisers are already scheduled. Bet h Emet h Men's Club is also looking forward to the New Year. Except for the two Kosher Hot Dog Days, the club in 2016 was basically a non-entity. This cannot continue. We need your help in order to present cultural & fundraising programs to the congregation and the general public. We need your support financially and especially physically in order to move forward.

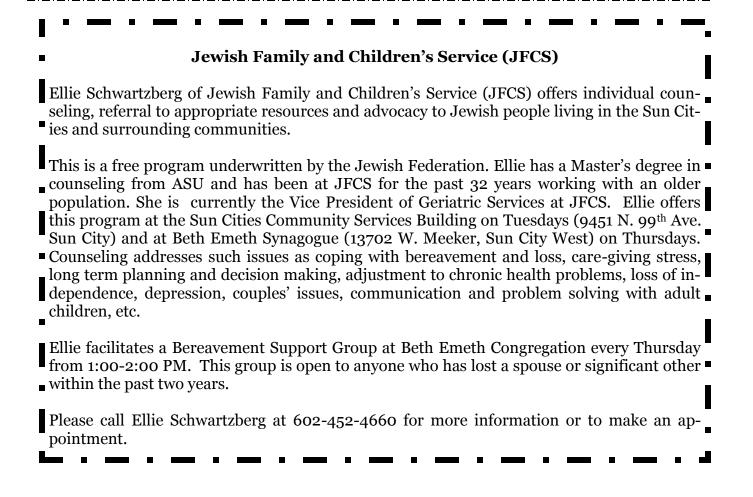
If you are a present member, please send in your \$25.00 yearly dues check ASAP. If you are not a Men's Club member at this time we urge you to join now. We need your support to continue as an active operating arm of Beth Emeth Congregation. Please fill out the enclosed membership application and submit it at your earliest convenience. New members of BE are given their first year in the Men's Club free of charge. Gene Cooper & Norman Kurtz, Co-Presidents

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name					_
Address	City		Zip		
Phone	Email				
Congregation Member:	_Full Time	Part	Time		
Men's Club Membership	Regular (cur	rrently \$25	annually)		
	_ Complement	ary (First y	ear Synagog	gue free Memb	ership)
Please indicate your inter	ests and any pr	ograms you	would like	to see Men's C	lub adopt:
Checks, where applicable, shou	ıld be made pay	yable to: Be	th Emeth M	len's Club	



The Men's Club will hold their first meeting of the year on Sunday, Feb. 12th at 9:30 a.m. All Beth Emeth male current or prospective members, are urged to attend this organizing meeting.



You can help Beth Emeth , at no cost to yourself

Find comfort in our garden. It is tranquil in design and in harmony with its natural surroundings. The Biblical Garden is a quiet haven in which to find solace and to rejoice in life.

We welcome your participation in enhancing our garden through your generous contributions to honor, remember, or celebrate a simcha.

An appropriate plaque acknowledging your gift will be placed on the DONOR WALL in the lobby of the synagogue.

Suggested dedicated items	
Trees	\$500
Shrubs	\$300
Bulbs, Perennials, and	
seasonal flower displays	\$250

Help Support Beth Emeth!

Did you know you can support Beth Emeth just by shopping at Fry's? It's easy when you enroll in Fry's Community Rewards! To get started, sign up with your V.I.P Card, and select Beth Emeth Congregation as the local organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for Beth Emeth every time you shop and use your V.I.P Card!

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sert\$70.00
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TREE OF LIFE Celebrate your Simcha

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Leaf	\$200
Apple	\$400
Small Rock	
Large Rock	

Honor your beloved departed with a Memorial Plaque in the Sanctuary

BRONZE PLAQUE \$350.00

ALIYAH HONOR Your Name engraved on an ALIYAH PLATE which is given out for honors at Torah Services \$50.00

To Order one of the above items Call Sandy Nonas 623-584-7210

CALENDAROF

REGULAR EVENTS

(EXCEPTIONS DO HAPPEN, SO PLEASE CHECK)

- Executive Meeting 1st Friday of each month At 9:30 am
- **Board Meeting** -3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am
- Sisterhood Board Meeting - 1st Thursday of each month at 9:30 am
- •

• Minyan

Mondays & Thursdays - 8:00 am



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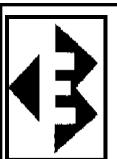
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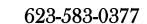
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Office.....(623) 933-0161

Fax.....(623) 974-2111



		January	Shevat 5777 28, 2017 - Februar	/ 26, 2017		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ROSH HODESH Services 9:00 a.m. Film Festival 6:30 p.m.
•	0	4	r	0	7	January 28
2 Film Festival 6:30 p.m.	3 Minyan 8:00 a.m. Film Festival 7:00 p.m.	4 Rabbi's Classes 9:30-10:30 a.m. & 10:30 -11:30 a.m.	5	6 Minyan 8:00 am	7 Services 7:30 pm Executive Board Mtg. 9:30 am	8 Services 9:00 am
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
9	10 Minyan 8:00 am	11	12	13 Minyan 8:00 am Bereavement 1:00 pm	14 Services 7:30 pm	15 TU B'SHEVAT Services 9:00 am
February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8	February 9	February 10	February 11
16 Men's Club Meeting 9:30 am Hadassah Game Day 10- 4:00 pm	17 Minyan 8:00 am	18 Rabbi's Class 9:30-10:30 am 10:30-11:00 am	19	20 Minyan 8:00 am Board Mtg. 9:30 am Book Club 10:00 am Bereavement 1:00 pm	21 Services 7:30 pm	22 Services 9:00 am
February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18
23	24 Minyan 8:00 am	25 Rabbi's Class 9:30-10:30 am 10:30-11:00 am	26	27 Minyan 8:00 am Bereavement 1:00 pm	28 Services 7:30 pm	29 Services 9:00 am
February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25
30 Rosh Hodesh I						
February 26						



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

Advertising Managers -Dave & Iris Silverman

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