



BETH EMETH OBSERVER

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

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION
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 www.bethemethaz.org
Rabbi Tracee Rosen

TEVET - SHEVAT 5781

January 2021



THE UHRINEVES TORAH OF CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

Through the glass showcase, the ancient scroll whispers to our past, anchors our present and heralds our future. It links Prague's lost generation to our lives, forging a chain that will never be broken. This is the story of that Torah and its

people, pieced together from documents compiled by Jaroslav Polak-Rokycana (Prague, Czechoslovakia), Hugo Gold (Brno and Prague, Czechoslovakia), George Beykovsky (Prague, United States) and Michael Heppner of the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London, U.K. Other sources include archivist Herm. Sedlacke, the *geni.com* project and *kehilalinks.jewishgen.org*. Our Uhrineves Torah is one of seven from the small community of Uhrineves, a part of Prague.

Our Torah encompasses more than a story of the Czech Jews who lost their lives in the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust. As Michael Heppner so eloquently explained in his article, "The Legacy of the Czech Memorial Scrolls," the Czech population only accounted for 77,297 out of the Six Million (who perished) but it is their representation through these scrolls that "have put out the idea that focusing attention on one community that was lost in the Holocaust can help us to understand and to teach about what happened to the Jews more effectively than trying to take in the full scale and reality of the enormous panorama of the Holocaust."

To better understand its story, we must look at the history of the synagogue where these words of the five books of the Old Testament once came to life in religious services; and we must strive to remember and honor the families who cherished the word of God and obeyed the laws of Jewish communal life.

The Where and the When

Uhrineves, known today as Prague 22, is a small municipal district in the southeastern part of Prague in the Czech Republic. It was once the site of the largest Jewish communities in that city, dating back to 1670 with a cemetery on the northern edge whose 17th century tombstones are still standing today.

As per the Familants Laws (1727), enacted to reduce the size of the Jewish population, only sixteen families were allowed to reside in Uhrineves between mid-1700 and mid-1800. These were documented in the estate's "Familiant Register." Census records indicate that number to be 47 Jews (2.9% of the town's population) by 1880.



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SABBATH CANDLE LIGHTING

JANUARY

1 - 5:14pm
8 - 5:20pm
15 - 5:26pm
22 - 5:33pm
29 - 5:39pm

**Volume 2021
Number 1**



FROM THE DESK OF MARILYN NEWBERG, PRESIDENT

It's difficult to even think back about the events of 2020. So, we have to look forward to the future. It may take some months before the vaccines have been given to everyone in the U.S

Looking to the future of Beth Emeth. I personally wish that we can open the synagogue soon. I think when that happens, we will have a huge celebration.

Allow me to take time to thank everyone who worked and supported our beautiful synagogue. Even when things got tough, you were still willing to help, and for that I am blessed and so grateful. To my executive and director's board, it was a year of zooming. To all that prepared any of the zoom meetings, I thank you.

To Tricia Thomas, who will be leaving us mid-February, we will ALL miss you very much. You handled everything that was asked of you, with a smile. Your skills are remarkable, and have helped so many of us. After your incredible dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail, and maybe a cross country trek, come back and join our family once again.

To our rabbi, you have taught us so much with your sermons, and classes. Your knowledge of the Torah is remarkable.

To everyone who opened their hearts and wallets to help BE both financially and spiritually, there are no words except to thank you. As our membership numbers are slowing down, it is so important that you remain a member and pay your dues for 2021.

To our angels that were sent to us from above, I am so happy that Hacienda de Sarah has joined us. They are all truly special.

Finally, I pray that we sell the back lot, as there are many repairs needed in and outside the building.

Thank you all for accepting my faults, my jokes, and my spirit. I wish you all a healthy, happy and a year that gives us all inspirations to work to keep our beloved building open and viable.

Shalom,

Marilyn Newberg, President.





FROM THE DESK OF RABBI TRACEE ROSEN

Dear Friends ~

As we begin the new secular year, we are grateful for the hope that we may begin to restore some normalcy to our lives. Within the next month, a number of us will begin to gain access to the new vaccines. I encourage us all to access the shots as soon as it's our turn.

In the meantime, please stay extra vigilant. The pandemic is worse in our state now than at any earlier time. Even after receiving the vaccine, we should wait 10-14 days before venturing out in order to give our bodies time to build up antibodies.

Please let the office know when you have received the vaccine, and we'll start keeping track. Once we reach a critical mass, we'll begin the process of re-opening. In the meantime, all services and classes will remain online.

The miracle of the vaccine developments as well as the record time in which they are being brought to market truly makes us grateful. Two of my colleagues have written special blessings to be said upon receiving the vaccine. It's also very appropriate to recite the Shehecheyanu blessing, which literally thanks God for keeping us alive in order to reach this day.

Rabbi Karen Reiss Medwed: With gratitude and thanksgiving to The Healer of broken hearts and restorer of broken bones, appreciation and thanks for inspiring the medical teams and scientists granting them the wisdom, knowledge and expertise to prepare this vaccine for all of us. May it be your will that with my vaccination I will be granted the ability to heal and keep safe humankind and be granted the privilege to fulfill the mitzvah of one who saves a life. Blessed are you Healer of all who are sick.

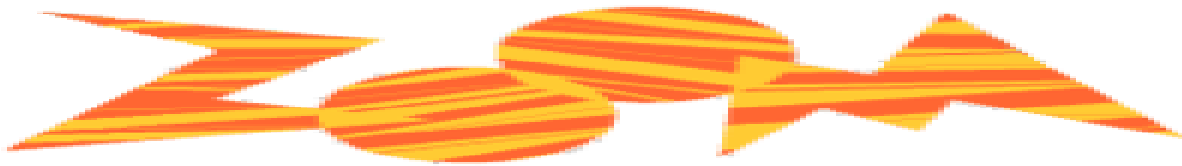
Rabbi Naomi Levy:

I have been praying for this day and now it is here!
With great excitement, a touch of trepidation
And with deep gratitude
I give thanks
To all the scientists who toiled day and night
So that I might receive this tiny vaccination
That will protect me and all souls around this world.
With the pandemic still raging
I am blessed to do my part to defeat it.
Let this be the beginning of a new day,
A new time of hope, of joy, of freedom
And most of all, of health.
I thank You, God, for blessing me with life
For sustaining my life
And for enabling me to reach this awe-filled moment.
Amen

Stay healthy & safe. I look forward to seeing you in real life in the near future.

L'shalom

Rabbi Tracee Rosen



Zoom links for Beth Emeth programs

All Services will have a single recurring link, and all classes will have a single link. If you are uncertain which link to use, please refer to the Beth Emeth website www.bethemethaz.org. Shabbat service times will remain the same: 6:30 pm on Friday nights, 10 am on Saturday mornings.

All Prayer Services: Meeting ID: 837 9563 5986
Passcode: bec5781

All Classes: Meeting ID: 818 6640 3856
Passcode: Learn@BEC
For current classes see page 12

By standard Telephone:

Phone Number: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 837 9563 5986
Passcode: 6812238

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you . . .

Nelson and I are so grateful to all the congregation members who brought meals to us (one person even including treats for Roxxy our dog), those who shopped for us, those who sent get well cards and those who offered us help during my recent bout of coronavirus. We could not have gotten through this hard time without you. Beth Emeth has truly been a family to us and the sunshine in our lives during a quite difficult few weeks. Thank all of you so much.

~ Kat Magedman



While we had to close the doors of our Center for Senior Enrichment at The Palazzo during Covid-19, we've been able to open some windows to bring the CSE directly to you in the comfort and safety of your own home! All on Zoom – not familiar with Zoom? We can help – just let us know!

Upcoming January 2021 Classes

Click on the link below each class to get more info and/or to register.

MONDAYS

Dance and Movement – with Michelle Dionisio – Monday, January 4, 11, 18 & 25 -11am-noon
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwoc-yprzMuG9M8Na5dQoGLHm_qPe6CnPCi

Schmooze Parlor - Host, Janet Rees -Monday, January 4, 18, 25 -1-2pm Bring info and a smile to share!
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckcuqurzkrHdw3mcFEjZltYDer77AF_1tf

'Dispatches in Quarantine' featuring Carl Reiner- Monday, January 11- 1:30-2:30pm You won't want to miss Carl Reiner's last interview before his passing in June, 2020. Presented in cooperation with Silver Screen Studios, followed by a Q & A with Silver Screen founder, Tiffany Woolf.
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvd-mqqDMiEtB5Q7LSkop8NIJufJgObhl>

TUESDAYS

The Curriculum Theatre Company – Tuesday, January 5 - 11 am-noon Shakespeare's 7 Stages of Man: Physiology and Performance A fascinating look at the Bard's words and meanings.
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAodOmhpj0uEtAuMNFCTJE4oWwVL2AAjdDR>

Marshall Shore, Hip Historian – Tuesday, January 12- 11 am-noon Blast From The Past: Exploring 1952 Marshall Shore brings Arizona history to life in a fun and creative way.
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoduCvrDgoG92CjGryNCRvcHJFpdVpTPk>

Musical Instrument Museum presents Ethnomusicology– Tuesday, January 12- 1:30 pm-2:30pm Ethnomusicology is the study of music and world cultures, and it's everywhere. Join Katie Palmer as she challenges some preconceived notions about music and the ways music transcends and transforms. Focusing on sounds from Africa.
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkdOuurzmvHtccz5cwrAasaFjuvCb7Up9Z>

Yiddish Club: Mamaloshen – Tuesday, January 19– 11:15 am-12:15pm Share the warmth and humor of Yiddish with Rabbi Laibel Blotner
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsf--pqj8tG9yWZFKgvhw-zpUve7l3RKdy>

Jane Przelica Presentation Series –Tuesday, January 26 – 11 am-noon The Shadow Catcher: American Photographer Edward S. Curtis Born in 1868, Edward Sheriff Curtis became one of America's premier photographers and ethnologists as exemplified by his photos of native Americans. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAoceytqTIjHtEP9kC-N2qvv693rvzKbqKF>

WEDNESDAYS

Fitness Fun with Zoe: Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20, 27-10-10:45 am New in 2021!!
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkcemoqTMqHd2OnaiJIQHNIDTJ9P0MTAIU>

Chair Yoga with Zoe: Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20, 27 – 11-11:45 am
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsd-uppjwuHNw-jgMN-flXirLDyiR2jS0e>

Happy Healthy Hour with Debbie Polisky: Wednesday, January 6 – 1:30pm-2:30 pm Mindful Self-Compassion: What do you tell yourself daily?. Acquire Tips and Tricks to turn your inner critic into your best friend.
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsd-6gqTkvh9eX7IritZITJeEiu5FQFJc4>

THURSDAYS

Nicole Pesce Musical Variety Show – Thursday, January 7 – 11 am-noon Strolling Thru The Great American Songbook - Part 2 Nicole is known throughout the Valley as a talented and entertaining songstress.
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkdOqprD0vGtSw5QYwnrhZam_DP4tHR42x

Continued on Page 7



**The following Yahrzeits will be observed during January
Kaddish may be said on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.
El Malei Rachamim, the memorial prayer, may be said on the Thursday
preceding the Yahrzeit at 9:00 a.m. Minyan.**

Date	Observed	Deceased	Relationship	Observant
1/1/2021	Tevet 17, 5781	Rose Rothenberg	Grandmother	Owen Segall
1/2/2021	Tevet 18, 5781	Henry Rosenstein	Father in law	Joy Epstein
1/2/2021	Tevet 18, 5781	Anna Silverman	Mother	A. David Silverman
1/3/2021	Tevet 19, 5781	Hyman Kornheiser	Father	Beverly Merchant
1/4/2021	Tevet 20, 5781	Julius Merchant	Father-in-law	Beverly Merchant
1/5/2021	Tevet 21, 5781	Maurice Morrison	Father-in-law	Natalie Morrison
1/5/2021	Tevet 21, 5781	Samuel Ziegler	Father	Linda Ziegler
1/9/2021	Tevet 25, 5781	Selma Kleinman	Mother	Elliot Kleinman
1/10/2021	Tevet 26, 5781	Samuel Cohen	Father	Dr. Abraham Cohen
1/10/2021	Tevet 26, 5781	Stanley Gubin	Husband	Shirley Gubin
1/10/2021	Tevet 26, 5781	Siegmund Paul	Father	Ronald Paul
1/10/2021	Tevet 26, 5781	Charles Rich	Father	Gerald Rich
1/10/2021	Tevet 26, 5781	Hannah Rubenstein	Mother	Sarah Klein
1/12/2021	Tevet 28, 5781	Wyllis Dorman-Liigh	Sister	Paula Forster
1/15/2021	Shevat 2, 5781	Irving Hesch	Father	Morrie Hesch
1/15/2021	Shevat 2, 5781	Sarah Leibovitz	Mother	Leah Tarnor
1/16/2021	Shevat 3, 5781	Ida Feinstein	Sister	Arnold Becker
1/18/2021	Shevat 5, 5781	Gabriel Batavia	Father	Susan Hinton
1/18/2021	Shevat 5, 5781	Morris Grossman	Father-in-law	Gail Grossman
1/18/2021	Shevat 5, 5781	Aryh Silverman	Brother	A. David Silverman
1/19/2021	Shevat 6, 5781	Jacob Lee	Father	Joanie Jacobs
1/19/2021	Shevat 6, 5781	Leslie Merchant	Sister-in-law	Beverly Merchant
1/20/2021	Shevat 7, 5781	Ludolf Heidecker	Father	Andrew Heidecker
1/20/2021	Shevat 7, 5781	Rebecca Rich	Mother	Gerald Rich
1/23/2021	Shevat 10, 5781	Samuel Greenberg	Brother-in-law	Gloria Greenberg
1/24/2021	Shevat 11, 5781	Harriet Dubin	Sister	Elliot Kleinman
1/27/2021	Shevat 14, 5781	Sam Lauer	Father	Gail Grossman
1/28/2021	Shevat 15, 5781	Yale Caplan	Brother	David Caplan
1/30/2021	Shevat 17, 5781	Joseph Fineberg	Father	Sonia Marshall
1/30/2021	Shevat 17, 5781	Irving Segall	Uncle	Owen Segall
1/31/2021	Shevat 18, 5781	Marty Feldman	Brother-in-law	A. David Silverman
1/31/2021	Shevat 18, 5781	Clara Perlmutter	Mother	Myron Perlmutter

Happy Birthday to YOU...

Carol Madvig	1/9/2021
Susan Hersch	1/11/2021
Ellen Sue Saperstein	1/11/2021
Dr. Melvyn Friedman	1/13/2021
Joy Epstein	1/16/2021
Jan Heidecker	1/18/2021
Bernard Harris	1/26/2021
Thomas Conroy	1/31/2021

Happy Anniversary

Irwin & Alice Bernstein	1/10/2021	61st anniversary
Elliot & Brenda Kleinman	1/25/2021	18th anniversary

Jewish Family & Children Services - January Classes continued from page 5

THURSDAYS

The Highlights of Paris – Thursday, January 7– 1:30-2:30 pm Join our first virtual tour with Karen Rudel, owner and founder of Sight Seekers Delight to experience the magnificent visual experience of places along the Seine which have collectively have made Paris the most iconic city in the world.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcuGtrzwsGdI91APMdgFaBlySAbW0ZB9F>

Phoenix Art Museum –Thursday, January 14- 11 am-noon The Grand Canyon and Mary Colter Born in 1869, Mary Colter was one of very few female American architects in her day. She was the designer of many landmark buildings and spaces, notably in Grand Canyon National Park.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluf-uvpzMsEtH3xz8KU8YMzvHAGr2-GN3d>

Phoenix Conservatory of Music –Thursday, January 21 - 11am-12:30pm

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpduCpqojEtLhWtNWbnevEiMcgFvEhljA>

Book Club with Az. Jewish Historical Society - Thursday, January 21 - 2-3:30 pm This month's book is The Last Train to London: A Novel by Meg Waite Clayton. A pre-World War II-era story, centering on the Kindertransports that carried thousands of children out of Nazi-occupied Europe—and one brave woman who helped them escape to safety. For more info and/or to register, please email: seniorcenter@jfcasaz.org

Flamenco performance with Yumi La Rosa- Thursday, January 28 – 11am-12 pm This program is pre-recorded due to quality of sound and performance. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqfu2hpjopHtPf51fbcTMbDgHVobomQCpz>

FRIDAYS

Welcome Shabbat – Friday, January 8, 15, 22, 29 – 11:00-11:45 am Special guests each week

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtFuCtrjIpHtxG-Yj_NWEwhlTqzP4tMbe

Chair Adult Ballet Class with Ballet Theatre of Phoenix – Friday, January 8, 15, 22, 29 – 12:00-12:45 pm New for 2021 For men as well as women – stretching and movement to improve flexibility and balance.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsduqvrz0uHNRCYxUdDhVLSbPTq7tJh46X>

All above virtual classes are free to attend. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Questions?

Please contact Jennifer Brauner at: seniorcenter@jfcasaz.org or 602-343-0192.



CALLING ALL MEN

It looks like this is a case that the bug got us. Unfortunately, as you may know our activities have been shut down. As it may be our board has likewise suspended its activities.

So far we will still continue with our usual activities such "HOT DOG DAY" and "MOTHER'S DAY" when it is safe to do so at their normal times. We will, of course, make plans for other events which need to be identified.

Our next Board meeting will be at the shul at a date and time to be announced. We will further seek to fill positions and identify upcoming events. Looking forward to seeing you there and working with you.

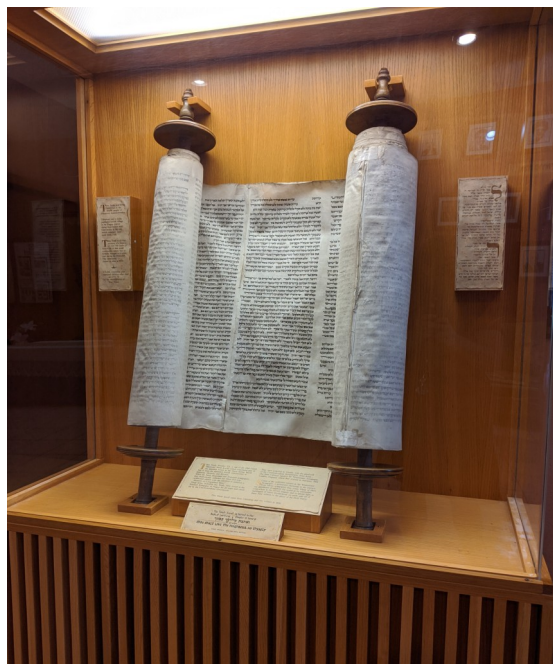
Tom Behrendt
Men's Club President

THE UHRINEVES TORAH OF CONGREGATION BETH EMETH - continued from Page 1

By that time, a synagogue had already been established as the Jewish community took up public collections for that purpose. The Uhrineves Jewish Society bought the property from the Uhrineves Lords for the purpose of building a synagogue. The contract was signed on October 1, 1847. Prior to that date worship services were held in a private house. In addition to purchasing the property, the Jewish Society was obligated to pay rent each year in the amount of 30ZL silver as well as property taxes and an additional fee in case of cancellation.

Unlike today, families purchased their seats, thus providing the synagogue with income needed for construction. According to records in one resident's memoirs (Ant. Semansky, 1848) there was a meeting place for prayers that consisted of 48 seats for men and 27 seats, upstairs, for women. In addition, there was a Cantor's quarter that consisted of two rooms and a kitchen and an upstairs meeting room with a hall and attic.

The synagogue maintained a special book documenting the seats purchased along with the obligation that those who held said seats would contribute a certain amount of money each year for maintenance.



There was also a school within the synagogue with public rights for teaching the German language. It is important to note that Uhrineves had a German community of approximately 45 people, 42 of them paying taxes, income and expenses for the synagogue.

For reasons unknown, the synagogue's school was closed in 1887 but re-opened (date unknown) and remained open until 1896 when political unrest and fighting forced it to close. A Rabbi appointed by the local community was teaching Jewish religion at local Czech schools through 1893.

The Jewish community of Uhrineves was nurtured and supported by a handful of a few oldest families and philanthropist Josep Beykovsky (1896-1901). The foundation was established in memory of its first founder, Josep Rezek who served from 1912-1919.

Religious services took place at the synagogue until the Nazi occupation in 1939. From 1949, the synagogue was used as a laundry and in 1999 it was converted to a double-glazing showroom.

Miraculously, our Uhrineves Torah scroll, estimated to be over 200 years old, survived and serves as a symbol of strength, perseverance, and hope. It is also a somber reminder of a precious generation lost forever.

~ Ann Goldfarb with the Memorial Scrolls Trust

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

JNF is a nonprofit organization and United Nations NGO (non-governmental organization) that gives all generations of Jews a unique voice in building a prosperous future for the Land of Israel and its people. JNF began in 1901 as a dream and vision to re-establish a homeland in Israel for Jewish people everywhere. Jews the world over collected coins in iconic blue JNF Blue Boxes, purchasing land and planting trees until ultimately their dream of a Jewish homeland was a reality.

Today, their work is varied in scope but singular in benefit. In recent years, JNF has delivered an innovative plan for Israel's future. JNF's *Blueprint Negev* initiative has transformed Israel's Negev Desert, making the Southern Israel an attractive place to live and work. Similarly, *Go North* initiative has begun to provide new economic development opportunities to grow tourism, increase employment, offer educational and housing options and make Israel's north a desirable place to both visit and live.

JNF remains unique among Jewish charities as its long-term vision has grown to include building new communities in the desert, expanding the scope of river rehabilitation and water research, exploring energy production, increasing population in northern Israel, making all parks and playgrounds accessible to people with special needs, bringing thousands of people to Israel every year on missions and trips, and growing future leadership in our youth community through the Alexander Muss High School in Israel and Zionist education and advocacy programs.

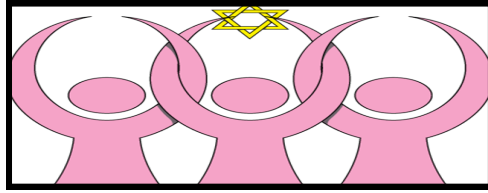
JNF strives to bring an enhanced quality of life to all of Israel's residents and translate these advancements to the world beyond. JNF is "greening" the desert with millions of trees, building thousands of parks across Israel, creating new communities and cities for generations of Israelis to call home, bolstering Israel's water supply, helping develop innovative arid agriculture techniques and educating both young and old about the founding and importance of Israel and Zionism. JNF is the single largest provider of Zionist programs in the U.S. Its work is divided into seven program areas: Forestry & Green Innovations; Water Solutions; Community Building; Zionist Education & Advocacy; Research & Development; Heritage Sites; and Disabilities & Special Needs.

Since its inception JNF has planted more than 250 million trees, built over 250 reservoirs and dams, developed over 250,000 acres of land, created more than 2,000 parks, provided infrastructure for over 1,000 communities and connected thousands of children and young adults to Israel and their heritage.

(Source: Jewish National Fund)

Ed.

SISTERHOOD



Beth Emeth Sisterhood is represented on the Congregation Board and is supportive of its actions.

If you wish to communicate with Sisterhood please send an e-mail to Beth Emeth with a notation for Sisterhood.

Sisterhood hopes and prays everyone is well .

Alice Mason

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JEWISH HUMOR

Papa: "I hope you liked that new boy you went out with last night. He comes from a fine Jewish family and has a good future. Frankly, he'd make a good husband."

Daughter: "To tell the truth, Papa, I had to slap his face last night."

Papa: "What! You mean he got fresh?"

Daughter: "No, I thought he was dead!"

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0553487>

CELEBRATING *Generosity*

We would like to thank the following people who have made generous contributions to keep us up and running

Sylvia Choy

Alice Mason

Rosie Colbert

Rosemary Abramí

Charlie & Mari Erichsen

Max & Sherry Lazar

Jean Rosen

Celebrate Friends

We here in the office can send out cards to your friends and loved ones, letting them know they are in your thoughts and supporting Beth Emeth Congregation

Cards to make a difference . . .

- In Memoriam
- Simcha
- Refuah Shelemah (Speedy and Complete Recovery)



Adult Education - 5781

All classes will be held on Zoom.

**** **BRAND NEW** **** Together & Apart: The future of Jewish peoplehood.

Are you puzzled by the changing relationship between American Jews and Israelis? Curious about why non-Jewish Americans have historically displayed such strong support for Israel? Worried that our kids and grandkids don't feel the strong connection that we have always taken for granted? Thanks to the generosity of the Shalom Hartman Institute, we will tackle these issues & more through an exciting online series of study & discussion with some of Judaism's leading thinkers today.

Through video lectures, interviews, and textual sources, this 14-unit course addresses the complex features of Jewish peoplehood and the contemporary challenges to the Jewish people in an era in which we have moved from having no home to having two different, vibrant, homes in Israel and in North America.

Each session will be 90 minutes, including time for group text study & discussion. Materials not covered in each class are available for participants to access online. Rabbi Rosen will offer this class on Wednesdays both in the morning, and **as an evening class**, if there is sufficient interest. Registration is online. Please call or email the office for details.

Dates: Wednesdays, October 28 - February 3 with breaks for Thanksgiving & New Years

Time: Mornings: 10:30 am - 12 pm AND AGAIN Evenings: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Cost: Free to BEC members. Suggested donation for non-members, \$200 for the series or \$15 per session.

Minimum registration is 7, and maximum is 12 to allow for everyone to participate actively.

Talmudic Stories

As an introduction to the study of Talmud, we will study 10 narrative stories, examining the way that these stories inform Jewish values and practices. We will also delve into the structure and methods of Talmudic instruction. All texts will be provided in English. No Hebrew or Aramaic knowledge needed (although it always helps!).

Dates: Thursdays, October 29 - January 14 with breaks for Thanksgiving & New Years

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: Free to BEC members, suggested donation of \$10 per session for non-members

Weekly Torah Study

Our weekly Torah study group continues. Using ***The Commentators' Bible***, edited by Michael Carasik, we have been working our way verse by verse through stories of Genesis. We are currently studying chapter 2, the story of the Garden of Eden. New students are always welcome.

Dates: Thursdays, starting October 29, with periodic breaks for holidays. Continues through the year

Time: PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME. 10:00 - 11:00 am

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
2/20/21
LORD OF LIFE
SHRED-A-THON



*Thank You
Beth Emeth Congregation and
Beth Emeth Sisterhood
For your generous
Chanukah gifts and
support for my new
adventures*

~ Tricia

GOT STUFF?
GOT TOO MUCH STUFF?
CALL LOUIS
602 290 6388
**HE WILL COME TO YOUR
HOME, HELP YOU PACK
AND TAKE IT AWAY**



**Do you have a suggestion or something
you would like to see here in the
Observer?**

**Email: BethEmethAZ@gmail.com with
your suggestions and comments.**

**We want to stay connected and need
your help in doing so, what are your
suggestions?**

Get the Observer by mail?
The cost to mail
has increased.
Consider a
donation to help offset the
expense.

Our wonderful friend, Sylvia Choy, of CC's Adult Care has retired. Her continued support along with her sisters Rosie Colbert and Mari Erichsen, towards Beth Emeth Congregation has been a miracle to us.

I want to wish her all the best, and a special thank you from the bottom of my heart. Marilyn

Congratulations and Thank you

DATING BACK TO TALMUDIC TIMES

Hamisha Asar B'Shevat or *Tu B'Shevat* is mentioned in the Mishna as the New Year For Trees. The fifteenth day of Shevat generally falls between mid-January and mid-February and is celebrated in Israel by planting trees. Many American and European Jews observe the holiday by contributing to the Jewish National Fund, which uses the funds to develop forests in Israel. The holiday originated thousands of years before the State of Israel was declared.

Religious Jews throughout the world strive to eat foods on Tu B'Shevat that are distinctive to the land of Israel, specifically the seven types of fruits and gains mentioned in Deuteronomy.

Though it is not mentioned in Deuteronomy, *bokser* - carob or St. John's Bread - was the most popular fruit to use, since it could survive the long trip to Jewish communities in Europe, North Africa, etc. This writer remembers eating bokser as a child during Tu B'Shevat.

In more recent times, because of the growth of Zionism and then the founding of the State of Israel, the association of *Tu B'shevat* with the Land of Israel has gained even more significance. In Israel the day is celebrated with tree planting ceremonies held by school children. In the Diaspora, children and adults give money to the Jewish National Fund to plant trees in Israel.

Tu B'Shevat is also held by tradition as having the same meaning for trees as *Rosh Hashanah* does for humans - that is, as a new year and a day of judgment. According to this tradition G-d decides how bountiful the fruits of the trees will be in the coming year.

(Sources: To Be A Jew by Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin; Jewish Literacy by Rabbi Joseph Talushkin; The Jewish Holidays by Michael Strassfeld)

Ed.

January 2021

Tevet - Shevat 5781

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 17 Tevet	2 18 Tevet
					Services 6:30 pm	Services 10 :00 am
3 19 Tevet	3 20 Tevet	3 21 Tevet	6 22 Tevet	7 23 Tevet	8 24 Tevet	9 25 Tevet
				Minyan 9:00 am	Services 6:30pm	Services 10 :00 am
10 26 Tevet	11 27 Tevet	12 28 Tevet	13 29 Tevet	14 1 Shevat	15 2 Shevat	16 3 Shevat
				Minyan 9:00 am	Board Meeting 10:30 am Services 6:30pm	Services 10 :00 am
17 4 Shevat	18 5 Shevat	19 6 Shevat	20 7 Shevat	21 8 Shevat	22 9 Shevat	23 10 Shevat
			OBSERVER DEADLINE	Minyan 9:00 am	Services 6:30pm	Services 10 :00 am
24 11 Shevat	25 12 Shevat	26 13 Shevat	27 14 Shevat	28 15 Shevat	29 16 Shevat	30 17 Shevat
31 18 Shevat				Tu B'Shevat Minyan 9:00 am	Services 6:30pm	Services 10 :00 am

Join Rabbi Tracee at one of her classes (see page 12 for more details)

Together & Apart: The future of Jewish Peoplehood Wed. 10:30-12:00 & 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Talmudic Stories - Thursdays 11:00 - 12:00
Weekly Torah Study - Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00

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

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