



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

ADAR - NISAN 5781

March 2021

PASSOVER (PESACH)

According to custom, all firstborn fast on the day before Passover to commemorate having been spared during the Plague of the Firstborn during the time of the Exodus. The fast begins at sunrise rather than the previous night. It is a minor fast day and not widely observed.

On the day before Pesach, a mostly symbolic search of our homes for hametz is conducted. Some people hide a few pieces of bread so that children who participate in the search will have something to find.



There are special prayers regarding the search, nullification and destruction of hametz. Many Jewish households arrange the sale of hametz to non-Jews so it is not in their homes during Pesach.

Traditions vary, but most observant Jews have a complete set of dishes, silverware and cooking utensils which are re-

served for Pesach only. There have been Jewish homes in which an entire kitchen and pantry have been set aside so they may be utilized exclusively for Passover. Surely, they are much more affluent and observant than this writer.

The actual Pesach Seder described in various editions of the Haggadah (of which over 3,000 have been published), details the Seder plate and what it should contain, which prayers much be recited and, most importantly, the story of the Exodus.

The Passover story draws each of us into its telling and reminds us, "Whoever expands upon the story of the Exodus deserves praise."

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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

March

5 - 6:11pm
12 - 6:16pm
19 - 6:21pm
26 - 6:27pm

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FROM THE DESK OF MARILYN NEWBERG, PRESIDENT

Hello everyone.

Today, when I went outside to put out the trash, I could have sworn that we were in the Ides of March! This was the first time that I was happy that I had some extra pounds on me. The wind was whirling and tossing everything around.

Considering what is happening across the rest of the country, I should be very thankful that I live in Arizona and think of it as a beautiful breeze.

The days seem to be getting longer, and that means a nice walk after dinner, or chatting with neighbors.

All these things are wonderful; however, I am so concerned about Beth Emeth and her future. I swore that when I first became president, I would never be the one to close our doors. I still believe in what I said. Don't tell me that I am the only one who thinks or cares. NO. NO. I won't listen.

There is Hope for us, as we have contracted with a new Rabbi, to start this coming July.

I also know for a fact that this rabbi will be bringing many old and new members to us. There are so many things that he has to offer. I will not tell you who he is, because, when he has his first service, you should want to be there.

Our wonderful office manager Tricia Thomas, has left us for a while. She has a "bucket List" and is determined to finish at least one thing on her list. She has left to hike the Appalachian Trail and reach the summit in Maine for her birthday in September. We will miss her, but she will also miss us. So, let's wish her well in her travels, and wait for her return.

We are in good hands, and will be welcoming a new office manager. I am certain that she will work extremely hard to make us happy. Plus, she loves our sanctuary.

Sometimes, roads have to have bumps in them, in order to enjoy the smooth path in front of us.

I believe that we have come to a cross road to a new and exciting future. Please join with me, and pay your outstanding dues, come to services (when we open), support us during the High Holidays and be a part of our family. I hope you need us, as much as we need you.

Shalom,

Marilyn Newberg: President

Sylvia Choy

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- Restroom/Bathing Assistance
- Beauty/Barber Service



FROM THE DESK OF RABBI TRACEE ROSEN

As we transition this time from Purim to Pesach, we encounter 2 Jewish models of redemption: Purim, where God seems absent or at least operating behind the scenes, and Pesach, where God brings redemption directly (“I and not an angel.”). How do we believe redemption occurs?

Both models are valid, but it seems to me that Judaism has always favored the proactive model - the model of Purim. God puts each of us in the right place at the right time and then it’s up to us to make good choices that save the day.

Think about this past year. A horrible virus has been ravaging the planet. God did not bring a miracle and cause it to disappear. Instead, the Holy One gave wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to human beings. Scientists studied for years, first discovering DNA, the code for what happens in every living cell. Years later, scientists from around the world collaborated on mapping the human genome, which has enabled decades of advancement in precisely how our genetic code works. By the time the virus hit, they had developed a theoretical way to create vaccines by manufacturing messenger RNA which could be used to train our bodies to resist the virus without exposing us to the illness itself.

Scientists, corporations, philanthropists, and even politicians managed to create a process in a matter of days and weeks to accelerate the development and testing of treatments and vaccines faster than ever before in human history. Mistakes were made, for certain, and over 2 million lives have been lost to-date worldwide. But through the miracle of the right people being in the right place at the right time, we are now witnessing the biggest miracle of our lifetimes.

The pandemic of 1918 resulted in the death of approximately 3.3% of the world’s population. Translated into today’s terms, that would have resulted in over 200 million lives lost. The actual rate of 2 million, horrific as it is, is 100 times smaller. That’s a miracle.

In one year’s time, we have been transformed from a country that manufactures almost no vaccines ourselves, to a situation where nearly half of the most vulnerable (ages 65+) are already vaccinated in just over 3 months time. That’s a miracle.

We have remained mostly physically apart for a full year, yet we have found new ways to connect and be present for each other. After years of living thousands of miles apart, Rosemary and her sister, Lynette, share Shabbat together nearly every week - via the shul in Durban on Fridays and on our zoom on Saturday mornings. Others of us have celebrated milestones alone, while surrounded by the images and voices of all those we love from near and far. That’s a miracle, too.

Passover

Through all that we can be grateful for, we hold on to a deep yearning to reconnect in person. Our COVID safety committee will be meeting this week to agree on reopening guidelines. Any in-person activities will require the participants to have completed the full course of vaccination- 2 shots for the Pfizer & Moderna doses & 1 shot for Johnson & Johnson. Please send a copy of your completed vaccine card to the office, so we can verify your status.

I would like to begin in-person services around the end of March, in time for Pesach, if we have enough people who have received their full doses by March 15. Please contact Claudia in the office if you are willing to participate in on-site services, and possibly a limited size community Seder. You may leave a voicemail or send an email to bethemethaz@gmail.com.

Selling Chametz

Also related to Pesach, if you wish to sell your chametz this year, please use the link below to fill out a form. Rabbi Mordechai Schwartz of the Jewish Theological Seminary will be using this site to sell for anyone west of New York.
<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/webform/sale-hametz>

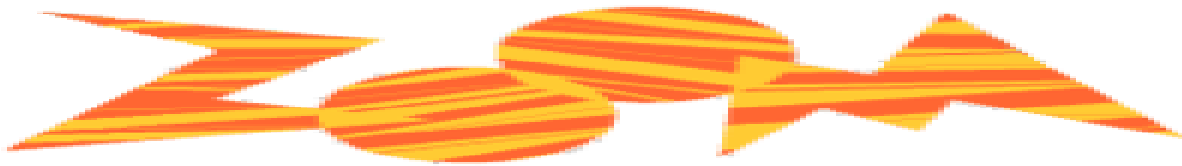
Whether we are privileged to be together for Pesach or not this year, I wish you all blessings for a speedy redemption from this year’s very real experience of Mitzrayim - the narrow space of isolation and aloneness.

Rabbi Tracee

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

A card of thanks from all of us..... to everyone who made sure we each received the Mishloach Manot bags. The Hamantaschen were delicious and reflected the care and love that went into baking each of them. There are more people to thank for their effort than I can name here (because I would surely forget somebody), but I want to express the thanks of a grateful congregation. Thanks again!

Ed.



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**

ANOTHER JEWISH ORGANIZATION

Our tradition dictates that it is a religious duty (mitzvah) to lend money to the poor. Exodus XXII forbids us from charging interest on loans to the poor. It is in that spirit that well organized Jewish communities have established Free Loan Societies.

The Jewish Free Loan in our area was officially incorporated in 1950 by a small group of volunteers who met each week to pool their tzedakah money. They would then provide interest free loans to community members with those funds.

JFL provides interest-free loans to enhance the quality of life of Jewish Arizonans. Since its inception, JFL has enabled thousands of individuals and families to continue their education, travel to Israel, start a business, tend to medical or dental needs, experience Jewish summer camp, adopt a child, provide a loved one with a Jewish burial, avoid eviction and navigate other life experiences without the worry or burden of compounding interest.

Jewish Free Loan has a wide array of interest-free loan programs to help meet as many needs as possible. For more information or to make a charitable tax deductible donation, please contact them at (602) 230-7983 or info@jewishfreeloan.org. Their website is: www.jewishfreeloan.org

(Source: Jewish Free Loan)

Ed.



**The following Yahrzeits will be observed during March
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
3/1/2021	Adar 17, 5781	Anna Newman	Mother	Harry Newman
3/2/2021	Adar 18, 5781	Sylvia Wyatt	Mother	Kathryn Magedman
3/3/2021	Adar 19, 5781	Ruth Heidecker	Mother	Andrew Heidecker
3/4/2021	Adar 20, 5781	Anne Debber	Mother	Stanley Debber
3/6/2021	Adar 22, 5781	Gloria Davis	Sister	Dr. Abraham Cohen
3/7/2021	Adar 23, 5781	Ruth Epstein	Mother-in-law	Joy Epstein
3/7/2021	Adar 23, 5781	Allison Hesch	Spouse	Morrie Hesch
3/7/2021	Adar 23, 5781	Joseph Tarnor	Father	Charles Tarnor
3/10/2021	Adar 26, 5781	Nathan Auerbach	Brother	Gloria Greenberg
3/11/2021	Adar 27, 5781	Gabriella Farkas	Mother	Gyorgyi Rosenthal
3/11/2021	Adar 27, 5781	Lillian Friedman	Mother	Sharon Rothzeit
3/11/2021	Adar 27, 5781	Ruth Oretskin	Mother-in-law	Irv Glorit
3/11/2021	Adar 27, 5781	Milton Rothschild	Father	Jamie Rothschild
3/14/2021	Nissan 1, 5781	Fannie Cooper	Mother	Eugene Cooper
3/14/2021	Nissan 1, 5781	Edith Hesch	Mother	Morrie Hesch
3/15/2021	Nissan 2, 5781	Sid Schochet	Husband	Cyrene Schochet
3/16/2021	Nissan 3, 5781	Leo Abrami	Husband	Rosemary Abrami
3/16/2021	Nissan 3, 5781	Morris Sheidlower	Father	Adele Sacher
3/17/2021	Nissan 4, 5781	Pearl Gubin	Mother-In-Law	Shirley Gubin
3/18/2021	Nissan 5, 5781	Edna Koshar	Mother	Louis Koshar
3/20/2021	Nissan 7, 5781	Marilyn Rich	Wife	Gerald Rich
3/22/2021	Nissan 9, 5781	Matilda Friedman	Mother	Mark Friedman
3/22/2021	Nissan 9, 5781	Mildred Relkin	Sister-in-law	Gloria Greenberg
3/23/2021	Nissan 10, 5781	Blanche Wolf	Mother-in-law	Marion Wolf
3/25/2021	Nissan 12, 5781	Luba Goldman	Mother	Gloria Greenberg
3/25/2021	Nissan 12, 5781	Claire Naidorf	Mother	Madelaine Friedman
3/26/2021	Nissan 13, 5781	William Leibovitz	Father	Leah Tarnor
3/29/2021	Nissan 16, 5781	Martin Morrison	Husband	Natalie Morrison

Happy Birthday to YOU...

<i>Diane Freilich</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>David Caplan</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Madelaine Friedman</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Teri Maureen Goldman</i>	<i>3/6/2021</i>
<i>Morrie Hesch</i>	<i>3/6/2021</i>
<i>Cyrene Schochet</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>James P May</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Stanley Debber</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Dr. Abraham Cohen</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>Mary Ann Becker</i>	<i>3/20/2021</i>
<i>Gilbert Weller</i>	<i>3/20/2021</i>
<i>Irwin Bernstein</i>	<i>3/27/2021</i>
<i>Mary Flint</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>

Happy Anniversary

<i>Myron & Shoshana Perlmutter</i>	<i>4 March</i>
<i>Moses & Irene Weitzman</i>	<i>6 March</i>
<i>Sy & Sarah Klein</i>	<i>13 March</i>



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.

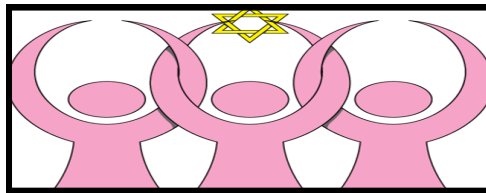
Tom Behrendt
Men's Club President

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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



**Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Celebrating 40 Years of Ministry
Serving Those In Need for Forty Years**



Dear Friends of Lord of Life,

This coming November, Lord of Life will be celebrating its fortieth, **RUBY**, anniversary. The anniversary committee has planned monthly events for the year leading up to November 2021.

The event for March is a **Community Food Drive** to help feed our brothers and sisters in the local area who have been struggling during this pandemic. This will be held on **Wednesday, March 10th from 9 am to 1 pm** in the church parking lot.

Anyone who wishes to help us make this the biggest food collection in our forty year history is asked to enter the parking lot on RH Johnson and drive up to the curb at the entrance tunnel to the courtyard before exiting on Meeker. There will be committee members wearing **red** who will take your donation from you, and you never have to leave your car! Our members will be wearing masks for everyone's safety.

All donations of food will go the Valley View Community Food Bank. Please share this information with anyone you choose. We are calling this drive:

**FORTY YEARS
FOUR HOURS
FABULOUS**

With your help, we can make it so!



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
13724 W Meeker Blvd • Sun City West • Arizona 85375-3730 • 623-584-2000
www.lolaz.org

CELEBRATING *Generosity*

We would like to thank all those wonderful people who gave donations
to Beth Emeth, we can't thank you enough!
May you be blessed for having a heart of gold.

Thank You,
Marilyn Newberg



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)

For a small donation we will gladly mail a card to a friend or loved one for you - call the office for details 623-584-7210



Adult Education - 5781

All classes will be held on Zoom.

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

COMING SOON: JEWISH FOLKTALES

Thursdays, 11am - 12:15pm, April 1 - May 6 via ZOOM only

Most people know about Jewish sacred texts: the Torah / Jewish Bible, the Mishnah and the Talmud, etc. But we don't often get a chance to explore the storytelling that has kept Jewish culture and values alive throughout the centuries. At its core we have always been a storytelling people. This class will offer a selection of tales that are not necessarily found in the sacred texts themselves, but in literature that complements them. We will have 6 sessions each with a different theme. A source booklet will be provided via email to those who register, or a printout will be available in the office.

Class Sessions:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 1 | Midrash - Stories of Biblical Characters |
| April 8 | Midrash - Stories of the early rabbis |
| April 15 | European Folktales of the Middle Ages |
| April 22 | Folktales from Near Eastern and Sephardic Tradition |
| April 29 | Chassidic Folktales |
| May 6 | Classic tales from the last century (Shalom Aleichem, I. B. Singer, etc) |

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. No background or Hebrew required. Invite your non-Jewish friends to participate. All stories will be in English. Come for a good time and a rousing discussion. Please RSVP to the office. Free to BEC members. Donation requested from non-members.

Rabbi Tracee Rosen
602-688-4312

March 2021

Adar - Nisan 5781

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 17 Adar	2 18 Adar	3 19 Adar	4 20 Adar	5 21 Adar Services 6:30 pm	6 22 Adar Services 10 :00 am
7 23 Adar	8 24 Adar	9 25 Adar	10 26 Adar	11 27 Adar Minyan 9:00 am	12 28 Adar Services 6:30 pm	13 29 Adar Services 10 :00 am
14 1 Nisan	15 2 Nisan	16 3 Nisan	17 4 Nisan Observer Deadline	18 5 Nisan Minyan 9:00 am	19 6 Nisan Board Meet- ing 10:30 am Services 6:30pm	20 7 Nisan Services 10 :00 am
21 8 Nisan	22 9 Nisan	23 10 Nisan	24 11 Nisan	25 12 Nisan Fast of the First Born Minyan 9:00 am	26 13 Nisan Services 6:30pm	27 14 Nisan Erev Pesach - 1st Seder Services 10 :00 am
28 15 Nisan 1st Day Pesach - 2nd Seder	29 16 Nisan 2nd Day Pesach - 1st Day Omer	30 17 Nisan 3rd Day Pesach	31 18 Nisan 4th Day Pesach			

Join Rabbi Tracee at one of her classes (see page 10 for more details)

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.
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Phone: 623-584-7210**

**Website:
BethEmethAZ.org
Email:
BethEmethAZ@gmail.com**

**Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Beth Emeth Congregation Board

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