



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

IYAR - SIVAN 5781

May 2021

SHAVOUT

Shavout commemorates the Revelation, when G-d's will was revealed to Israel. It marked the declaration of the Ten Commandments, which became the moral bedrock for much of Western Civilization.

While the exact *manner* of this communication between G-d and man is not known and was always subject to various opinions by the great thinkers and Sages of Israel, it was an event of awesome proportions and a *unique* spiritual experience that indelibly stamped the Israelites with their unique character, their faith, and their destiny.

In the prayer book, this festival is referred to as *zman matan Torateinu*, (the season of the *giving* of our Torah) for this is the dominant theme of the festival. The everlasting significance of this theme is emphasized by the question of when this festival is not called the season of *receiving* of our Torah instead. The answer is that while the *giving* may have taken place at one time and the occasion can be commemorated, the *receiving* of the Torah by Jews must continue to take place every day and everywhere.

While the Jews who were present at Sinai affirmed their Covenant with G-d, declaring, "We will do and we will listen," the Torah emphasizes that "Neither with you only, but with him that standeth here with us, *and also with him that is not with us this day.*" The Talmud interprets the latter part of the verse as a clear reference also to *future generations of Jews*, and to the *future proselytes who would later accept the faith.*

The festival of Shavout emphasizes the spiritually significant lesson that the release from bondage and the winning of political freedom not constitute complete freedom unless it culminates in the spiritual restraints, disciplines, and duties inherent in the Revelation to Israel and Israel's acceptance of the Torah.

The name Shavout, by which name the Torah refers to the festival, means simply "weeks" and is derived from the fact that it is observed after *seven full weeks of counting* from the second day of the Passover.

Its significance as an agricultural festival in the land of Israel is also reflected by two other names by which this festival is known: *Hag Hakatzir*, "the Festival of the Harvest," for it marks the harvesting of the wheat, the last grain of the season, and *Yom HaBikkurim*, the "Day of the First Fruits." for it also marks the beginning of the fruit harvest and was the occasion for the bringing of the first ripe fruits to the Temple as an offering of thanksgiving.

(Source: To Be A Jew by Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin)

Ed.

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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

May

7 - 6:58pm

14 - 7:03pm

21 - 7:08pm

28 - 7:13pm

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Number 5



FROM THE DESK OF MARILYN NEWBERG, PRESIDENT

MEMBERS: Do you have a tzedakah box at home? Your extra pennies, dimes, quarters and \$\$ can benefit the synagogue. If you don't have a box we have some in the office. When Rhoda and I were young, our mother taught us that every time we get 5 cents, a penny goes into the tzedakah box. Let's bring back those days! Thanks, Marilyn

Good day to all our members.

I want to update you with information concerning Rabbi Jeffrey Lipschultz, and where we are in the hiring process.

The executive board, along with a couple of members have had scheduled meetings with Rabbi Jeff. These meetings went very well and he is anxious to be our Rabbi.

The last meeting with both Rabbi and his wife, Naomi, was on April 27th at our synagogue. Some issues were brought up and we came up with solutions that may involve the choir. Nothing, and I want you to know that nothing is set in stone, however, he and his attorney are going over the contract. As soon as possible we will have a congregation meeting to vote on his contract. Please understand that only members in good standing that have paid their dues will be counted.

I think that we are on the road to creating a good environment for both the members and Rabbi Lipschultz.

Please keep in mind that there will be some work ahead to complete this, so I am asking you to be understanding and that no one starts a job anywhere without some help.

Shalom,

Marilyn

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- Alzheimer's Care
- Light Housekeeping/Laundry
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- Doctors Visits
- Restroom/Bathing Assistance
- Beauty/Barber Service



FROM THE DESK OF RABBI TRACEE ROSEN

The holiday of Shavuot is regarded by the rabbis of the Talmud as the thematic conclusion of Pesach. It is connected by the custom of a nightly counting of the Omer. Originally the 50 days it took from the beginning of the barley harvest on the second day of Passover until the start of the wheat harvest 7 weeks later, the Omer evolved into a countdown from the time of liberation from Egypt to the revelation of the 10 commandments at Mt. Sinai. To emphasize the connection between the two dates, the Talmud repeatedly refers to Shavuot as “Atzeret.” *While this Hebrew word can be translated as gathering or convocation, it comes from the root word meaning “stop” or “conclusion”. Some may recognize the word, atzeret, from the holiday right after Sukkot, called Shemini Atzeret, or the Eighth Day of Conclusion.*

While it might make sense to celebrate the conclusion of a seven-day festival on the eighth day, how in the world can we refer to the conclusion of the other annual 7-day celebration nearly 2 months later? The answer, I think, lies in the recognition of the process and not the destination. While Pesach is a giant celebration of the moment of freedom, the loosening of the shackles of hundreds of years of slavery, liberation itself is not enough.

People who receive freedom without a corresponding social contract, inevitably descend into chaos and anarchy. The Children of Israel needed the seven weeks from Pesach to Shavuot, from freedom to the giving of the law, to experience this first hand. It wasn't pretty; they complained, they didn't have water, they didn't have food, they didn't like the food they got, they wanted to go back to the known quantity of slavery rather than face the unknown adventure that lay ahead. Without the covenant of responsibility that they acquired at Sinai, it would have become each person for themselves, any social construct would have crumbled, and the miracle of redemption would have been lost to history.

This is a lesson we need to keep learning over and over again. As we move out of our own confinement more than a year after we experienced a global version of physical loss of freedom, it is natural to want to overreact, to make up for the time we have lost. Remember, it was the Roaring 20's that followed the 1918 pandemic. Unfortunately, that unbridled exuberance and lack of self-restraint within society led us to the Great Depression. Let's resolve to do better this time. Let's not put our own freedoms ahead of the needs of others. The 10 commandments represent a social contract - both between ourselves and God, and between ourselves and the other members of our society. As we approach the anniversary of that covenant, let's bear in mind that freedom is only real if we can all experience the benefits.

Shavuot services will take place at Beth Emeth on Monday, May 17 and Tuesday, May 18 at 10 am in the sanctuary. They will be livestreamed on Zoom at this [link](#) for Sanctuary services. Yizkor service on May 18 will begin approximately at 11:15 am.

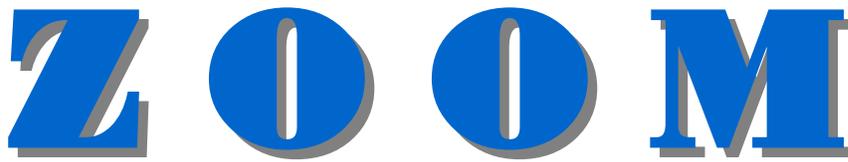
On Sunday night, the eve of Shavuot, there are a number of options for on-line study sessions late into the night, if you wish. Here are two I recommend:

- The Greater Phoenix Board of Rabbis program from 7 pm till midnight local time. Please register in advance [HERE](#)

The Rabbinical Assembly is doing a full 24 hours of on-line teaching to accommodate Jewish communities from around the world. The program will take place from 9 am on Sunday, May 16 till 9 am on the 17th, local time. The link to the broadcasts on YouTube is [HERE](#), and the schedule of presenters and times is [HERE](#).

Wishing you a sweet experience in whatever way you celebrate (and don't forget the cheesecake and ice cream)!

Rabbi Tracee



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

The National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry (NCSEJ) was organized in 1971 and had been founded then as the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Their current name was adopted upon the end of the Soviet Union.

The organization was formed by a broad base of Jewish organizations and agencies. As the NCSEJ, it remains the organized American Jewish community's voice on behalf of Jews in the former Soviet Union and has expanded to include Eastern Europe.

Their most important function is to advocate on behalf of the over 1.5 million Jews in the region to ensure their religious rights are protected and that they can live safely and securely.

NCSEJ's five program areas are: 1. combating international anti-Semitism and extremism; 2. information gathering, analysis, and advocacy missions to Eastern Europe and Eurasia; 3. advocacy and education on Jewish issues with the diplomatic community posted in the United States; 4. advocacy on behalf of Jewish issues before Congress and the Administration; 5. promoting ties between Israel and the countries in the region at international forums like the United Nations.

NCSEJ continues to pay special attention to reports of Coronavirus, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and incidents in the region through our network of relationships with government and community leaders in the US and throughout Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

(Source: National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry)

Ed.

In loving Memory

**The following Yahrzeits will be observed during May.
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
05/02/2021	Iyar 20, 5781	Florence Rothschild	Mother	Jamie Rothschild
05/03/2021	Iyar 21, 5781	Marc Lowenthal	Brother	Joy Epstein
05/04/2021	Iyar 22, 5781	Mildred Becker	Mother	Arnold Becker
05/05/2021	Iyar 23, 5781	Libby Pinkes	Sister	Iris Silverman
05/09/2021	Iyar 27, 5781	Max Leibovitz	Father	Herb Leibovitz
05/10/2021	Iyar 28, 5781	Nate Segall	Father	Owen Segall
05/14/2021	Sivan 3, 5781	Frances Rothzeit	Mother	Saul Rothzeit
05/15/2021	Sivan 4, 5781	Jacob Yampolsky	Father	Marion Wolf
05/19/2021	Sivan 8, 5781	Robert Newberg	Husband	Marilyn Newberg
05/20/2021	Sivan 9, 5781	Jacob Wolf	Father-in-law	Marion Wolf
05/21/2021	Sivan 10, 5781	Sam Boxer	Grandfather	Stanley Debber
05/23/2021	Sivan 12, 5781	Lillie Lessner	Mother-in-law	Rhoda Lessner
05/26/2021	Sivan 15, 5781	Shirley Gelman	Sister	Cyrene Schochet
05/29/2021	Sivan 18, 5781	Stephen Franek	Father	Susan Hersch
05/31/2021	Sivan 20, 5781	Phillip Dorman	Father	Paula Forster

Happy Birthday to YOU...

<i>Helene Schreiber - Saralee Sloven</i>	<i>May 1</i>
<i>Estelle Schwedock</i>	<i>May 4</i>
<i>Heather Figelman</i>	<i>May 6</i>
<i>Irma Epstein</i>	<i>May 7</i>
<i>Joe Brenner - Louise Cohen - Sandra Goldman</i>	<i>May 8</i>
<i>Marlene Dobrin - Keren Goldberg - Arlene Markind</i>	<i>May 10</i>
<i>Raye Rose - Betty Wasserman</i>	<i>May 10</i>
<i>Elaine Schubert</i>	<i>May 11</i>
<i>Denise Marie Rapp</i>	<i>May 14</i>
<i>Mark Friedman - Sharron Jacquemart</i>	<i>May 15</i>
<i>Joanie Jacobs - Judith Malvin - Rosalie Meltzer - Charlotte Rubinoff</i>	<i>May 16</i>
<i>Michael Berg - Julia Jordan</i>	<i>May 18</i>
<i>Leah Tarnor</i>	<i>May 24</i>
<i>Shoshana Perlmutter - Roberta Troy</i>	<i>May 25</i>
<i>Helen Valins</i>	<i>May 27</i>
<i>Marion Koshar - Donald Schlossberg</i>	<i>May 28</i>
<i>Joseph Dobrusin</i>	<i>May 29</i>
<i>Sidney Meltzer - Joan Rothfeld - Joanne Schwab</i>	<i>May 30</i>

Happy Anniversary

<i>Rabbi Tracee Rosen & Keren Goldberg</i>	<i>May 26</i>
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ALL BETH EMETH MEMBERS:

Please keep the BEC office updated on any prayer notifications that should be mentioned during the weekly services. You may know of or hear about someone that the office is not aware of. Also, please contact the office of any personal status changes, change of address or, phone numbers as we would like to keep our office records updated. Thank You! 623-584-7210 bethemethaz@gmail.com



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.

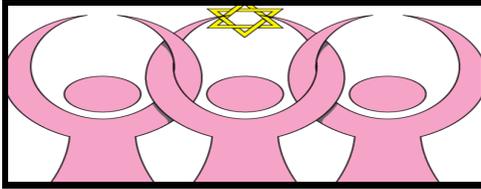
Our next Board meeting will be at the shul at a date and time to be announced. We will further seek to fill positions and identify upcoming events. Looking forward to seeing you there and working with you.

Tom Behrendt
Men's Club President



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



MORE FROM THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JEWISH HUMOR:

- A Jewish man says to another Jewish man “That’s a nice watch you got there!” The other man replied “Oh thanks. My father sold it to me before he died.”
- If Microsoft were Jewish:
 1. Your PC would shut down automatically at sundown on Friday evenings.
 2. Your START button would be replaced with a “Let’s go! I’m not getting any younger!”
 3. ABORT would be replaced with “Stop it already - You’re killing me!”
 4. RETRY would be replaced with “You vant I should try it again?”
 5. IGNORE would be replaced with “I didn’t hear that!”
 6. When running SCAN, you will be prompted with a message “You vant I should fix this?”
 7. When your PC is working too hard, you would occasionally hear a loud “OY !!!”
 8. After your computer dies, you would be required to dispose of it within 24 hours.
- What’s the object of Jewish football? To get the quarter back.
- What is a genius? An average student with a Jewish mother.

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim) was declared in the aftermath of the 1967 “Six-Day War”, during which Israel captured the Old City of Jerusalem, which contains the Temple’s still-standing Western Wall. When Israel’s “War of Independence” concluded in 1948, the Jewish State controlled the new city of Jerusalem, while Jordan held the Old City. In the subsequent armistice agreement, Jordan agreed to permit Jews to visit and pray at the Western Wall. This clause, however, was never honored, and for the nineteen years before the “Six-Day War”, the Jordanians forbade Jews from entering the Old City.

This was a particularly pained deprivation, since for Jews Jerusalem has been the holiest city since the reign of King David, about 1000 B.C.E. Its liberation in 1967 was not only the high point of the “Six-Day War”, but one of the highlights of Israel’s existence. Even today, although many Israeli’s would willingly trade land to the Arab World in return for peace, few would consider returning the holy sites of Jerusalem to non-Jewish rule. For the first time in almost two thousand years the holiest spot in Jewish life was under Jewish control.

When Israel gained control of the entire city in 1967, frustrated and infuriated Muslim leaders claimed that Jerusalem was Islam’s third holiest city, after Mecca and Medina. Between 1948 and 1967, when Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule, only one Arab leader, King Hassan of Morocco, bothered to visit the city.

(Source: Jewish Literacy by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin)

Ed.



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,
BEC President



Celebrate Your Loved Ones

The office can send out cards to your friends and loved ones, letting them know they are in your thoughts & prayers with a donation to Beth Emeth Congregation.

Cards can make a difference . . .

(Contact the office and we'll gladly mail one for you!)

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



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



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

For close to a year we have been unable to gather at Beth Emeth for Shabbat or Holiday services. I am sure many are asking why dues are being collected if our building can't be used.

There are many reasons, but the simplest is that our expenses must still be paid.

Our bills at home have continued for electricity, water, garbage pick up, insurance, telephone, computer service, landscaping and more. Add rent or mortgage payments for some of us.

Our congregation faces the same expenses, plus clergy, office manager, alarm system - the list goes on. Simple maintenance or repair, such as changing light bulbs can be done by Beth Emeth volunteers. The ones requiring specialized equipment, tools or skills, such as plumber, electrician, copy machine technician or other specialist are costs we cannot avoid.

It is difficult to imagine Beth Emeth Congregation without religious ritual. Our Friday evening Erev Shabbat service and the Saturday Shabbat service have been conducted and available on Zoom. Adult Education has also continued via Zoom and a few events, such as shaking the Lulav during Sukkot and Chanukah Menorah lighting have taken place at Beth Emeth - modified to keep us safe during the current COVID-19 pandemic - but they did take place.

I'm sure you get the picture. Religious life at Beth Emeth goes on, and it's up to us to make sure the bills get paid.

(Note-this was written before we opened for Shabbat services.)

Ed.

LITTLE QUOTES TO GET YOUR MIND GOING!

- ◆ Ideas NOT coupled with action never become bigger than the brain cells they occupied.
- ◆ Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.
- ◆ Don't be pushed by your problems. Be led by your dreams.
- ◆ Not having a goal is more to be feared than not reaching one.
- ◆ A person is not wise simply because one talks a lot.
- ◆ Aim at the stars, but keep your feet on the ground

(From the desk of Marilyn Newberg)

May 2021

Iyar - Sivan 5781

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> <i>19 Iyar</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10 :00 am</i>
<i>2</i> <i>20 Iyar</i>	<i>3</i> <i>21 Iyar</i>	<i>4</i> <i>22 Iyar</i>	<i>5</i> <i>23 Iyar</i>	<i>6</i> <i>24 Iyar</i> <i>Yom</i> <i>Hashoah</i>	<i>7</i> <i>25 Iyar</i> <i>Services</i> <i>6:30 pm</i> <i>Zoom Only</i>	<i>8</i> <i>26 Iyar</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10 :00 am</i>
<i>9</i> <i>27 Iyar</i> 	<i>10</i> <i>28 Iyar</i> <i>Yom</i> <i>Yerushalayim</i>	<i>11</i> <i>29 Iyar</i>	<i>12</i> <i>1 Sivan</i>	<i>13</i> <i>2 Sivan</i>	<i>14</i> <i>3 Sivan</i> <i>Services</i> <i>6:30pm</i> <i>Zoom Only</i>	<i>15</i> <i>4 Sivan</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10 :00 am</i>
<i>16</i> <i>5 Sivan</i> <i>Erev</i> <i>Shavuot &</i> <i>Last day</i> <i>counting</i> <i>Omer</i>	<i>17</i> <i>6 Sivan</i> <i>1st day</i> <i>Shavuot</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10:00am</i>	<i>18</i> <i>7 Sivan</i> <i>2nd day</i> <i>Shavuot -</i> <i>Yizkor</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10:00am</i>	<i>19</i> <i>8 Sivan</i> <i>Observer</i> <i>Deadline</i>	<i>20</i> <i>9 Sivan</i>	<i>21</i> <i>10 Sivan</i> <i>Services</i> <i>6:30pm</i> <i>Zoom Only</i>	<i>22</i> <i>11 Sivan</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10 :00 am</i>
<i>23</i> <i>12 Sivan</i> <hr/> <i>30</i> <i>19 Sivan</i> <i>Office Closed</i> ▶	<i>24</i> <i>13 Sivan</i> <hr/> <i>31</i> <i>20 Sivan</i> 	<i>25</i> <i>14 Sivan</i>	<i>26</i> <i>15 Sivan</i>	<i>27</i> <i>16 Sivan</i>	<i>28</i> <i>17 Sivan</i> <i>Services</i> <i>6:30pm</i>	<i>29</i> <i>18 Sivan</i> <i>Services</i> <i>10 :00 am</i> <i>Zoom Only</i>

Sivan (meaning “Season; time”) is the ninth month of the civil year and the third month of the ecclesiastical year on the Hebrew calendar. It is a spring month of 30 days and is mentioned only once in the Jewish Scriptures in the book of Esther (Esther 8:9).

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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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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or

Stop in anytime Mon - Fri 9 am to 12 pm