



# Beth Emeth Observer

## BETH EMETH CONGREGATION

13702 W. Meeker Blvd.,  
Sun City West, AZ 85375  
623-584-7210

bethemethaz@gmail.com  
www.bethemethaz.org

Office hours Mon-Fri - 9 AM - 12 PM

**Rabbi Jeffrey B. Lipschultz**

**TEVET - SHEVAT 5782**

**January 2022**

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



Let's bring in the new year with love,  
and joy and peace in our hearts!

A new year for a new adventure in  
life!!

**I'm so excited.**



### Inside this issue

President's Message	2
Rabbi Lipschultz	3
Rev Denise Landes	4
Yahrzeits	5
Birthdays/Anniversaries	6
Save the Date	7
Men's Club/Sisterhood	8
Notices	9
From the Editor's Desk	10
Calendar	11

### SABBATH CANDLE LIGHTING

#### January

7	5:18
14	5:24
21	5:31
28	5:37

**Volume 2022  
Number 1**



## FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT

Hello, I am Thom Behrendt and proud to be the new President of Beth Emeth Congregation. It will be very difficult to follow the great leadership of Marilyn Newberg, who we owe a great Yasher Koach for navigating us through the chaotic period of Covid. I will try to keep up the momentum created by her. I need your help in doing that. We need volunteers in so many areas. A list of "ask" is attached and I would hope that you will find time to help keep Beth Emeth a viable Synagogue for the West Valley. I would appreciate any help.

Would you like to volunteer? That would be so wonderful. Lots of things happen in the shul during the week. Those that are at work are definitely multitasking in the office and in the kitchen and other places. Please choose once a week, every other week, or once a month.

Hospitality, Membership  
Kitchen, Oneg Shabbat  
Set up  
Office Volunteer  
Do mailings  
Helping with Yahrzeit  
Ritual Committee  
Adult Education Committee  
Lead part of service  
Do a Haftorah  
Special Events, Programming  
Fund raising  
Sisterhood  
Building Maintenance & Grounds  
Board Member

Greeter for Services/ Events  
Food prep  
Clean up  
Make calls from home  
Gift Shop coverage  
Holocaust Remembrance  
Library  
Choir  
Read Torah  
Do English Reading  
Advertising  
Social Action  
Men's Club  
Sorting/Organizing  
Other

## Looking for people to join the choir!!

After a very long gap in activities caused by the pandemic we are restarting our choir activities. Music is in our hearts. We remember fondly our Choir Kabbalat Shabbat services. We are keeping it melodious and mostly familiar. Old favorites are on the program, liturgical and secular.

We are looking for people to join the choir! Please come and share your beautiful voice with the choir. It's a wonderful way to be a part of the sacred Kabbalat Shabbat service and to use your talent to create a beautiful service.

Please let Morrie Hesch, Natalie Morrison or Iris Johnson know if you would like to join.



## Finding Renewal and Rebirth in Trees

### Rabbi Jeffrey Lipschultz



There is this great song that is sung in January in Israel about the blossoming of the almond tree and the hope for renewal and rebirth which seems strange in January. In the month of January we Jews celebrate an unusual holiday of the new year of trees called Tu B'Shvat or the 15th of the month of Shvat. On Tu B'Shvat it is customary to eat fruits from the "seven species" for which the Land of Israel is praised: "...a land of wheat and barley, vines, figs and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and dates". There is a tradition in Kaballah that includes a special service or seder to be performed to celebrate the new year of trees. In this tradition it is said that the mystical aspects of fruits and their place in creation are revealed.

The story is told that all beings are given their own unique day. On this day of the 16th of this month we give thoughts to the renewal and rebirth of trees and recall creation itself when God gave us all fruits to eat in the Garden of Eden. We will have a special Tu B'Shvat event at our shul that Sunday. I hope all can attend to celebrate this unique Jewish celebration on our birth of trees.

The first story of our introduction to trees is the story of the tree of good and evil. The oral tradition of our people tells us that the proverbial Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden was a fig tree. It loosened its grip on the forbidden fruit, allowed it to be released from its branch by our freewill, we ate the fig, then opened our eyes so wide that we felt naked before the One Who Knows All and is All because our body awareness now became as vivid as our God Awareness, and the contrast became so overwhelming that it drove us to flee from God's presence and hide.

The story of the first fruit we became introduced to is one of conflict because of our inability to distinguish between knowledge of the hidden and the forbidden. In the beginning, we were told we could eat the fruit of all the trees, and now, having eaten of the one tree we were supposed to avoid, we couldn't eat from any of them and thus we were exiled from paradise. So this is what the ancient rabbis meant when they taught, "He who sets his eyes on that which is not his – what he desires is not given to him, and what he possesses is taken away from him". On the holiday of trees we try to correct the error and rebuild our relationship with God through our better understanding of nature.

On Tu B'Shvat, we set aside the forbidden and embrace the possible by seeing the fruit of the tree as the possibility of renewal and rebirth within the darkest time of the year. It is said that the significance of Tu B'Shvat is that until this time of year, trees live from the rains of the preceding year. After Rosh Chodesh Shvat (the new month of Shvat) trees derive their sustenance from the water of the New Year. Because of this, nourishment from the new rainy season takes effect four months after the period of judgment of Rosh Hashanah. Thus we celebrate God's forgiveness of us on Yom Kippur and embrace a new year of renewal with the fruits of our trees.

Tu B'Shvat is to commemorate renewal and rebirth because fruit represents not only knowledge but forgiveness. Just as God had forgiven man for his misgivings, we take to heart the fruit that trees give us to help sustain life and we celebrate rebirth and renewal in hopes that mankind can find that inner act of creation and build a better world in harmony with the nature that surrounds us.

As we come to terms with humanities relationship with the environment and sadly our lack of care we see through of neglect we recognize how important human stewardship of our land is so important to our survival. Recognizing the holiday of trees helps us recognize our responsibility to be good stewards of the land and our need to protect her.

On the holiday of Tu B'Shvat, we see hope for humanity as we rebuild our lives from the evil in the world and regain our understanding of what is good and what is evil so to embrace the good that the world produces and we see the evil out there and try and stop it. As we remember the fig tree from mankind's first sin may we use the fruits of the holiday to reveal the true love and humanity that we as individuals are possible of showing and shower it to all who will embrace God's love through acts of creation.

Have a good January all are welcome to e mail me at [dvjewish@rof.net](mailto:dvjewish@rof.net)

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



Happy New Year to everyone! The year 2022 is going to be an exciting new adventure for all of us. Let me introduce myself. I am Reverend Denise Landes, the Senior minister of Unity Light of Grace. We are a non-denominational church. Our church has been around for almost 20 years, and we are so blessed to be renting space at your beautiful temple.

We used to be located down at the Sun City West Foundation. At the end of 2020, we had to move out of a relatively big space that we had used for 10 years. Due to cov-19, our attendance at church dropped from 100 to 20 people and consequently our revenue dropped as well. Therefore, we had to let go of our space and move into a much smaller space at the Foundation. With that move, we also had to move our church time to 11:30 which is not a good time to have church.

So we had been looking for another space to have our services. One of our board members suggested I check out the Synagogue on Meeker Blvd and I did. Tom and Marilyn met with us and agreed to rent out the sanctuary space to us on Sundays. This has truly been a miracle to us, and we are so appreciative and feel so blessed that we are able to use your sanctuary and hope to become a loving part of your spiritual family. We had our first Sunday service at the temple on December 12<sup>th</sup> and it was amazing!

Everyone at Unity Light of Grace is looking forward to working together with Beth Emeth Congregation so that each one of us can rebuild our congregations. We are certainly wanting to work together with you on fund raiser events, outreach programs for the community, or social activities. Even though we both have totally different ways of facilitating our services, both groups, in my mind, are very dedicated to connecting to God and using our love, and faith in God to create amazing things. This really makes us a powerful group of people. Just think, we just might be the leaders, the "cutting edge people", that help all religions come together to support each other through this crazy time in the world. It is easy to see that we all believe in God and have faith in His living, loving presence. We can absolutely do so many more amazing things when we stand together in God's love and grace than when are standing apart. Now more than ever, the world needs to unite in love and what better way to start than two different belief systems coming together to support each other and opening our hearts to create something beautiful in the love and light of God.

Love and Blessings

Reverend Denise





# *In Loving Memory*

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during January 2022, Tevet - Shevat 5782

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
1/1/2022	Tevet 28, 5782	Wyllis Dorman-Liigh	Sister	Paula Forster
1/4/2022	Shevat 2, 5782	Irving Hesch	Father	Morrie Hesch
1/4/2022	Shevat 2, 5782	Sarah Leibovitz	Mother	Leah Tarnor
1/5/2022	Shevat 3, 5782	Ida Feinstein	Sister	Arnold Becker
1/7/2022	Shevat 5, 5782	Gabriel Batavia	Father	Susan Hinton
1/7/2022	Shevat 5, 5782	Morris Grossman	Father-in-law	Gail Grossman
1/7/2022	Shevat 5, 5782	Aryh Silverman	Brother	Iris Silverman
1/8/2022	Shevat 6, 5782	Jacob Lee	Father	Joanie Jacobs
1/8/2022	Shevat 6, 5782	Leslie Merchant	Sister-in-law	Beverly Merchant
1/9/2022	Shevat 7, 5782	Ludolf Heidecker	Father	Andrew Heidecker
1/9/2022	Shevat 7, 5782	Rebecca Rich	Mother	Gerald Rich
1/12/2022	Shevat 10, 5782	Samuel Greenberg	Brother-in-law	Gloria Greenberg
1/13/2022	Shevat 11, 5782	Harriet Dubin	Sister	Elliot Kleinman
1/16/2022	Shevat 14, 5782	Sam Lauer	Father	Gail Grossman
1/17/2022	Shevat 15, 5782	Yale Caplan	Brother	David Caplan
1/19/2022	Shevat 17, 5782	Joseph Fineberg	Father	Sonia Marshall
1/19/2022	Shevat 17, 5782	Irving Segall	Uncle	Owen Segall
1/20/2022	Shevat 18, 5782	Marty Feldman	Brother-in-law	Iris Silverman
1/20/2022	Shevat 18, 5782	Clara Perlmutter	Mother	Myron Perlmutter
1/22/2022	Shevat 20, 5782	Mary Pinkus Halperin	Mother	Marilyn Newberg/Rhoda Lessner
1/23/2022	Shevat 21, 5782	Mania Boxer	Grandmother	Stanley Debber
1/23/2022	Shevat 21, 5782	Jeanette Fisher-Roth	Mother	Shelly Moschel
1/24/2022	Shevat 22, 5782	Solomon Kaplan	Father	Brenda Kleinman
1/24/2022	Shevat 22, 5782	Melvin Luckman	Father	Ramona Luckman
1/26/2022	Shevat 24, 5782	Alex Rothzeid	Father	Saul Rothzeid
1/29/2022	Shevat 27, 5782	Regina Rosen	Mother	Bernard Rosen

# Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to:  
Philip Gillenson 01/08/2022  
Carol Madvig 01/09/2022  
Susan Hersch 01/11/2022  
Sunnie Saperstein 01/11/2022  
D. Melvyn Friedman 01/13/2022  
Joy Epstein 01/16/2022  
Jan Heidecker 01/18/2022  
Thomas Conroy 01/31/2022



Happy Anniversary to:  
Elliot & Brenda Kleinman 01/25/2022

## **New Class Staring in January!!**

Rabbi Lipschultz's Torah class—War and Peace in Judaism

This class will be introspective of the concept of war and conflict in Jewish history through the Rabbinic lens. The class will look at classical texts as well as some modern Yiddish literature and Hebrew literature to understand the Jewish struggle between war and peace in our faith.

Classes will be held on January 11th ,18th, and 25th at 10AM after Minyon in the library.

This class is free of charge



**Mark Your Calendars...**  
**January Programs Not to Be Missed!**

**Friday Jan 7th Shabbat Dinner**  
**5:00 pm \$20 per person**  
**Please phone in your reservation today!**

**Sunday January 16th 2:00 pm**  
**Tu B'Shevat Program**  
**\$ 10 per person**  
**\*\* enjoy sampling fruits nuts, grains and the**  
**7 species of Israel as we....**  
**Celebrate Trees**  
**In this 16th century**  
**mystical gathering of appreciation**  
**Bring a can of fruit for food bank**



**Sunday January 30th at 2:00pm**  
**Power Point Presentation**  
**" Visiting Holocaust Sites"**  
**By Mark Brown**



**KIDDUSH FUND**

**Help us continue to be able to provide kiddush after services. Whether you want to sponsor a full kiddush, or just contribute to the Kiddush Fund, together we can resume this tradition.**

**Why not make a donation in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or special family event?**

**Sharing your gratitude for the blessings in your life builds community.**

**Be sure to mark any checks for "Kiddush Fund". If you are interested in helping prepare food please call the office and let us know.**



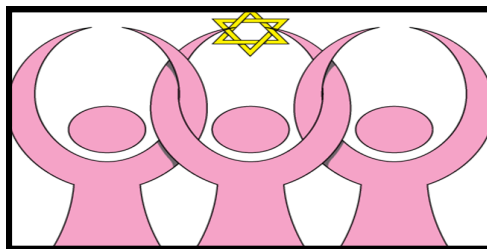
## CALLING ALL MEN

Men's Club on November 21st held our annual Hot Dog day and our volunteers made it a success! Thanks to all who rolled up their sleeves to help.

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.

The office of Men's Club president is currently vacant. Please let Tom know if you are interested.

## 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





B: BELIEVE  
E: EMPATHY  
T: TRUST  
H: HEALTH  
E: ENGAGE  
M: MILESTONE  
E: ENLIGHTEN  
T: TOLERANCE  
H: HOPE

By, Marilyn Newberg

**Sylvia Choy**

**Part Time - Private Duty Home Care**

**"Your Family's Love Through Us"**

- Medication Management
- Hospice & Respite Care
- Alzheimer's Care
- Light Housekeeping/Laundry
- Home Cooked Meals
- Doctors Visits
- Restroom/Bathing Assistance
- Beauty/Barber Service

**602-686-0839**

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

When I think of the secular New Year, I think of RESOLUTIONS - PROMISED BY MANY - fulfilled by few. But where did it all begin?

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, an article appeared in a Boston newspaper from 1831 featuring the first recorded use of the phrase "New Year Resolution."

The article states:

"And yet, I believe there are multitudes of people, accustomed to receive injunctions of new year resolutions, who will sin all the month of December, with a serious determination of beginning the new year with new resolutions and new behaviour, and with the full belief that they shall thus expiate and wipe away all their former faults."

Whether that was the true beginning of the phrase, I must admit that I have not, and will not make promises, to myself or to others, that I cannot or will not fulfill. My motto is a line from a poem by Robert W. Service: "A promise made is a debt unpaid."

A new year means new beginnings. What better way to begin the year than the dedication of a new Board, leading our congregation. Or, a new tenant helping us with much-needed income. You'll read about them elsewhere in this publication.

Oh, yes. There is an unfamiliar Board position: Bikur Cholim. I can't find the expression in any of my reference books, but my memory is of the person (or committee) responsible for communicating with the ill. This function has been carried out by Rhoda Lessner.

Please remember - this is our congregation. It's up to us to keep it viable.

Morrie Hesch



# January 2022

## Tevet —Shevat 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Shabbat Mevar-chim Chodesh Shevat <a href="#">Parashat Vaera</a> 6:12pm Havdalah
<b>2</b> <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Shevat</a>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:18pm Candle lighting <b>Shabbat Dinner at 5:00pm</b>	<b>8</b> <a href="#">Parashat Bo</a> 6:17pm Havdalah
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:24pm Candle lighting	<b>15</b> <a href="#">Shabbat Shirah</a> <a href="#">Parashat Beshalach</a> 6:23pm Havdalah
<b>16</b> Tu B'Shevat Program at 2:00pm	<b>17</b> <a href="#">Tu BiShvat</a>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:31pm Candle lighting	<b>22</b> <a href="#">Parashat Yitro</a> 6:29pm Havdalah
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:37pm Candle lighting	<b>29</b> Shabbat Mevar-chim Chodesh Adar I <a href="#">Parashat Mishpatim</a> 6:36pm Havdalah
<b>30</b> "Visiting Holocaust Sites" by Mark Brown" 2:00pm	<b>31</b>					

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** **Executive Board**

Tom Behrendt	President
Marilyn Newberg	Vice President
Iris Johnson	Vice President
Natalie Morrison	Vice President
Jordan Colbert	Vice President
Paula Forster	Treasurer
Irene Lehrer	Financial Secretary
Kat Magedman	Recording Secretary

### **Men's Club** **President**

### **DIRECTORS**

Ramona Luckman  
Susan Hersch  
Mindy Lipson  
Rhoda Lessner

### **Sisterhood** **President** Alice Mason

**Thank You** 

To all those dedicated and loving people who stepped up and committed their time to be board members, directors, and club presidents. You are so appreciated!

## ***PICK UP A GIFT AT THE JUDAICA SHOP***



Do you have a tzedakah box?  
Get one at the Judaica shop, fill it up and donate your savings to the Synagogue as a gesture of kindness and faith.

Sensational jewelry,  
candleholders, mezuzahs,  
Seder plates and other  
beautiful holiday and  
special occasion gifts.

We also now have several fine art pieces for sale.

Personal showings call Barbara Newman: 623-388-4958

or,

Stop in anytime Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm

*(Payment accepted by check or cash only)*