



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

SHEVAT - ADAR 1 5782

February 2022

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



PURIM KATAN

The calendar on page 11 shows Purim Katan but few, if any, of us are familiar with such a holiday.

My research tells that there are occasions on which a community as a whole will engage in fasting. Such occasions have become known as Purim Katan (Minor or Small Purim) because each is reminiscent of the Fast of Esther which precedes the Purim holiday. Some of these communal fasts include:

The Purim of Algiers, first observed on the fourth day of Cheshvan in 1540 C.E. when the community was saved from destruction during the Spanish-Algerian Wars of 1516-1517.

The Purim of Baghdad, established on the eleventh of Av in the year 1773 C.E., on the occasion of community having been freed from Persian oppression.

The Purim of Fossano (Italy), established on the eighteenth of Nissan in the year 1796 C.E., on the occasion of the city having been saved from destruction by a bomb explosion.

The Purim of Rhodes, established in 1840 C.E., on the fourteenth of Adar, on the community having been spared annihilation.

The Purim of Casablanca (called Purim Hitler), established in 1943 C.E. on the second of Kislev, on the occasion of Jews having been saved from Nazi occupation.

(Source: The Second Jewish Book of Why by Alfred J Kolatch)

Inside this issue

President's Message	2
Rabbi Lipschultz	3
	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

February

4	5:45
11	5:51
18	5:58
25	6:04

**Volume 2022
Number 2**



FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT

Due to the new outbreak of Covid, I feel that we need to re institute Mandatory Masks for all Beth Emeth Services and events.

Kudos to Ketzi and all of her helpers for making Shabbat dinner such a wonderful and meaningful event. I will not name them as I might miss one and would not want to offend anyone.

Beth Emeth will soon be able to accept credit card payments for donations, Judacica Shop and dues. We will be able to accept them over the phone as well.

Please check out our website for all upcoming programs and events. Lou and Ketzi have mad great improvements to it as well as the Facebook page.

Please consider making tax free donations to YOUR Synagogue as there are some needed repairs that will be costly.

Thank You

Tree of Life leaf sale!!

For ONLY \$99

You may purchase a leaf to put on the tree to honor or celebrate an event



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.



The Holiness of Counting Our Months

Rabbi Jeffrey Lipschultz



Happy February to all at Beth Emeth Congregation. This is a unique February because even though we have the secular holiday of Valentine's day we don't have any Jewish holidays this month, much like the month of Cheshvan but that is due to a unique part of our Jewish experience and that is the leap year. The Jewish "leap year", which occurs seven times in a 19-year cycle, has 13 months instead of the regular year's 12. This is so that the lunar-based Jewish year should remain aligned with the solar seasons (12 lunar months make up a total of 354 days — slightly more than 11 days short of the 365.25 day solar cycle). The added month is called "Adar I" and is inserted before the month of Adar (termed "Adar II" in leap years).

Jewish time reckoning is lunisolar, which means that the calendar keeps in sync with the natural cycles of both the sun and the moon. Featuring a body of complex regulations, exceptions, and mathematical rules, it is also designed to satisfy a number of requirements conveyed in the Jewish Holy Scripture. The Hebrew calendar is a comparatively imprecise system in terms of reflecting the duration of a solar year, which is the time it takes Earth to complete a full orbit around the Sun. In comparison with the timing of the astronomical seasons, it is off by 1 day every 216 years. The history of the Jewish calendar may be divided into three periods—the Biblical, the Talmudic, and the post-Talmudic. The first rested purely on the observation of the sun and the moon, the second on observation and calculation of holidays which is used for observation of seasonal special days, the third entirely on reckoning in regards to the Jewish calendar of holidays. The Hebrew calendar is connected to the secular calendar because our holidays are seasonally connected so Sukkot is in the fall, Passover in the spring and Shevuot in the summer. To make those holidays fit we need adjustments, thus the leap month of Adar Bet.

Months in the Jewish calendar are based on the phases of the moon. Each month begins with the appearance of a crescent moon after the new moon phase and lasts for a full lunation, a moon cycle encompassing all phases of the moon. The idea is that since the sum of 12 lunar months is about 11 days shorter than a solar year, a leap month is added every 2 to 3 years, or 7 times in a 19-year cycle. Leap months are meant to keep the calendar in step with the astronomical seasons and make sure that the religious observances occur at the correct time of year, as mentioned in the *Torah*.

What this means is that we will have an extended holiday season this year with Purim being in March and Passover in late April and more importantly Chanukah this year will again be towards the end of December. So with all this information what does this mean spiritually as we look at our calendar? The Hebrew word for month is "*Chodesh*" which is derived from the word '*Chadash*' which means "new". Our daily calendar is based on the ever renewing and changing moon. Every day the light of the moon increases incrementally – sharing more light each night. The moon changes every night and so can we.

The Sfat Emet shares that this verse can therefore be translated as "*Ha'chodesh ha'zeh lachem*" – "New things? *Chadash*? Change? It's up to you". Each of us have within ourselves the capacity to find innovation, newness, and renewal every day. Each month the new month signifies a new beginning and a chance to improve what we want to and correct mistakes made and offer forgiveness to others. The Jewish people turn to the moon for inspiration to keep changing, growing, and bringing more light into the world.

Let's affirm the choice "*HaChodesh Hazeh Lachem*" – it's up to us to decide to enlighten the world a little bit more every day.

Let us greet the new leap year with joy and patience as we prepare for Purim next month and Passover in April.

I also want to wish my wife Naomi a happy birthday on February 4th, she is the light of my life.

Beth Emeth's Tu B'Shevat Seder

Held on Sunday January 16th

Twenty three people came to gather to celebrate the

"Birthday of the Trees"

We all enjoyed learning, reflecting, praising and of course eating. We sampled fruits, nuts and grains including the 7 species that are mentioned in the Torah. We took turns reading from our special Tu B'Shevat Hagadah patterned after the Passover Seder. It was a participatory event, enjoyed by all.



To share our blessings, cans of food were brought to the event, to be donated to the food bank. Beth Emeth will be collecting food the rest of the month in a food drive to help those in need.



Feeding the Community

In Loving Memory

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during February 2022, Shevat - Adar 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
2/5/2022	Adar-I 4, 5782	Goldie Witt	Mother	Natalie Morrison
2/6/2022	Adar-I 5, 5782	Ruth Colbert	Mother	Jordan Colbert
2/7/2022	Adar-I 6, 5782	Betty Caplan	Mother	David Caplan
2/7/2022	Adar-I 6, 5782	David Stuchlak	Husband	Susan Hersch
2/7/2022	Adar-I 6, 5782	Minnie Weber Baer	Mother	Alice Bernstein
2/8/2022	Adar-I 7, 5782	Abraham Cutler	Father	Madelaine Friedman
2/9/2022	Adar-I 8, 5782	Dr. Morris Kriss	Father	Barbara Newman
2/13/2022	Adar-I 12, 5782	Sylvia Kline	Aunt	Owen Segall
2/14/2022	Adar-I 13, 5782	Bernard Casper	Uncle	Sheldon Koven
2/17/2022	Adar-I 16, 5782	Jack Goldman	Brother	Gloria Greenberg
2/17/2022	Adar-I 16, 5782	Ethel Segall	Grandmother	Owen Segall
2/24/2022	Adar-I 23, 5782	Joseph Tarnor	Father	Charles Tarnor
2/27/2022	Adar-I 26, 5782	Nathan Auerbach	Brother	Gloria Greenberg
2/28/2022	Adar-I 27, 5782	Gabriella Farkas	Mother	Gyorgyi Rosenthal
2/28/2022	Adar-I 27, 5782	Lillian Friedman	Mother	Sharon Rothzeit
2/28/2022	Adar-I 27, 5782	Milton Rothschild	Father	Jamie Rothschild

REMEMBERING

Marion Wolf

1940—2021

Marion Wolf, once a very active member of Beth Emeth Congregation, passed away on December 27, 2021 at the age of 81. She is survived by her son Hugh and daughter Beth. She will also be remembered by grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

Her son Hugh mentioned that she was a woman of few words but had taught him to make good choices. He also mentioned that Beth Emeth was “her place” and filled an important place in her life.

Marion had been active in synagogue life and had filled many important roles, including working in the kitchen, staffing the office and service as a Board member for many years.

Marion was a regular attendee at Friday Kabbalat Shabbat services and regularly poured wine or grape juice after the service. She usually arrived in a vehicle which appeared way too large for her short stature, and nearly always sat near the door. She will be missed.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to:

Robert Summer	02/04/2022
Marty Greenberg	02/07/2022
Esther Toney	02/07/2022
Phyllis Frank	02/10/2022
Arnold Becker	02/22/2022
Eugene Cooper	02/23/2022
Iris Johnson	02/27/2022



Happy Anniversary to:
Iris Silverman 2/5/2022

REMEMBERING

Helene Schreiber

Helene Schreiber, wife, of Ivan, of blessed memory. Long time member of Beth Emeth Congregation and participated in High Holy Day services for as long as she was physically able. She had been active for at least 20 years. Helene had many friends in our congregation. She was survived by her daughter, Melanie Reiter, and five grandchildren. She will be missed.



**Beth Emeth Congregation
13702 West Meeker Blvd
Sun City West, AZ 85375**

International Holocaust Memorial Day

Is January 27th

**On Sunday February 6th at 2:00pm
Beth Emeth Congregation will hold a
Special Power Point Presentation
“ Visiting Holocaust Sites “**

By

Mark and Waynette Brown

**The Browns traveled extensively throughout
Eastern Europe in spring of 2018**

**They have generously offered to share their
photos with us in an educational and personal
program. Mark and Waynette frequently teach
and lecture in AZ and we are grateful to them for
what promises to be a wonderful learning experience.**

***Note the change of Date from Jan.30th**

Program is Free and Open to the Public



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.**



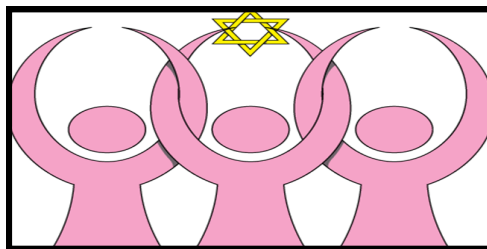
CALLING ALL MEN

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

Shabbat Dinner was a great success!!!

Our Shabbat Dinner on January 7th was well attended, with over 50 people present! Wow...To make this happen it took an enormous amount of work from a lot of individuals! Shopping, cooking, setting up cleaning up...so much to do. It was heart warming to see so many people roll up their selves to set the tables and get the room ready in a very short amount of time! I will not name names lest I error and leave someone out! I will say that even my neighbor helped to prewash dishes and we had members help set up who were not staying for the event just to be helpful! AMAZING. Equally people helped to bus their own tables afterward to allow us to get to the service. This was COMMUNITY at it's best. Everyone coming together to make a special evening possible. Each of you has my heart felt appreciation. I would be remiss if I didn't mention personally a small group of people without whom this event could not have been possible: Irene Lehrer, Phyllis Berger, Tom and of course Sally Hall. Lastly a big thank you to Naomi Lipschultz for staying until I could lock up so I was not alone...she washed pots and pans did all the silverware and the boys helped to reset the tables for Saturday morning....It allowed me to get home so much earlier than expected and I was extremely grateful!

I hope this kind of community support and help will continue as we plan additional events during the year ahead. It is only possible with the support of each of you.! Together we can do wonderful events. Todah Rabah!

Ketzi



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

Leap Year—It only happens every four years. Or does it?

Let us look at the Jewish calendar on which Leap Year falls seven times in a nineteen year span.

Why did I even think about it? Because it affected my life. Most recently the 72nd anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah. This year it'll be observed on the 9th of Adar II, which corresponds with March 12 on the Gregorian (civil) calendar.

On the civil calendar, a new day begins at midnight and extends for twenty-four hours. In the Jewish calendar, the day begins and ends at sunset. Therefore, a person born at nine P.M. on Thursday night, January 1st is considered to have been born on Friday, January 2nd.

The following months in the Jewish calendar always have twenty-nine days: Iyyar, Tammuz, Elul, Tevet, Adar.

The following months always have thirty days: Nissan, Sivan, Av, Tishri, Shevat.

Cheshvan and Kislev are “swing” months. They may have twenty-nine or thirty days, depending on whatever adjustments are needed.

In a leap year a second Adar is added to the calendar, making a total of thirteen months in the year. In a common (nonleap) year, Adar has twenty-nine days; in a leap year, Adar I has thirty days and Adar II has twenty-nine days.

(Source: The Jewish Book of Why by Alfred Kolatch)



February 2022

Shevat — Adar I 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <u>Rosh Chodesh</u> <u>Adar I</u>	2 <u>Rosh Chodesh</u> <u>Adar I</u>	3	4 Light: 5:45	5 Terumah
6 “Visiting the Holo- caust Sites” at 2:00pm	7	8	9	10	11 Light: 5:51	12 Tetzaveh
13	14	15 <u>Purim Katan</u>	16 Observer Deadline	17	18 Light: 5:58	19 Ki Tisa
20	21 President’s Day	22	23	24	25 Light 6:04	26 <u>Shabbat</u> <u>Shekalim</u>
27	28					

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
Esther Toney

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.

Big Sale!!
Yahrzeit Candles!!
\$1.00 for one
\$5.00 for six



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)