



# Beth Emeth Observer

## BETH EMETH CONGREGATION

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Office hours Mon-Fri - 9 AM - 12 PM

**Rabbi Jeffrey B. Lipschultz**

**ADAR 1 - ADAR 2 5782**

**March 2022**

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

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### SABBATH CANDLE LIGHTING

#### March

4	6:10
11	6:15
18	6:20
25	6:26

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Number 3





## FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT

Dear Members. Beth Emeth is at a crucial point in its existence and now more than ever we need your support. Not only financial, but your involvement in Congregational events. Services on Friday night, Saturday Morning, Thursday Minyan, Rabbi's classes on the Religious side. On the program side, we need help to make them meaningful, by attending more often. We need your input into what would be meaningful for you and letting Ketzi or me know. We want Beth Emeth to be meaningful for you. Starting in the Fall, we will have Bingo twice a month on

Sunday afternoons in partnership with Unity Light of Grace Church. We are going to need help from you to make this a success.

Sisterhood is starting up again! They had a meeting on February the 27th as a meet and greet. Looking forward to new activities. Be on the lookout for new events!

Purim is coming and the Megillah reading will be Erev Purim on March 16th at 6:30pm and March 17th at 9:30am. Hamentashen and coffee/tea will be served. Ketzi and her crew made over 1800 Hamentashen, and as official taster, I can attest that they are wonderful. So please attend and have a nosh.



## 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.



## Purim: Finding hidden meaning of the ludicrous

March has arrived for us at Beth Emeth so that means its time to make our Hamentashen orders and get our minds ready for Purim.. finding humor in the absurdity in the last two years should give us fodder for understanding this holiday to find meaning in what is hidden. That is the essence of Purim, finding the hidden meaning of the absurdity in our life, we look at silly things and find greater meaning of what is the absurdity in our world and thus we find meaning in our connection to God.



Purim is unique because it asks us to reveal our true nature and also find the hidden nature of God while looking through the mask of exile. The question that many of our early sages often asked about this special day is what makes Purim so unique and why do we make such a big deal about something that happened in Persia almost 2500 years ago.

The absurdity of Purim can be seen in the heroes which by almost any standard would not be heroes yet every year we celebrate them. We have the main character Mordechai who tries to marry off his Jewish niece to the rich and powerful non-Jewish King of Persia, who is known not for her brains but for her beauty. Both seem like vacuous people but as the story unfolds we see the hidden meaning of both characters the piety of Mordechai and the brilliance and cunning of Esther. We see that the hidden of something absurd is actually holy.

Mordechai and Esther. Their names betray their relationship with their host culture. Mordechai's name contains the name of the Persian god Marduk. In Mesopotamian religion Marduk was the chief god of the city of Babylon and the national god of Babylonia. And Esther, even according to the Talmud (Megilla 13a), was so called after Ishtar, the goddess of war and love in Mesopotamian religion. As goddess of Venus, Ishtar was also the protector of wayward women. Either way Esther becomes the central focus of the story.

Esther's exceptional ability to avoid being identified as a Jew is held up in the Talmud (Megilla 13a) as one of her characteristic features. R. Eleazar comments that "every man took her for a member of his own people." Purim then, is the quintessential tale of assimilated Jewry and thus it is often called the day we celebrate the holiness of masks. The idea of Purim is that we find something very holy in a story that appears to be very unholy. The beauty pageant that Esther is involved in is extremely non-Jewish at its core, yet from this story we find the essential Jewish element of inner meaning in what is hidden in our world. As Jews in a Diaspora they had to find God in elements that seemed mundane and even out of the ordinary that is why I look to the Super Bowl as a very Jewish holy event even if at its core it's extremely non-Jewish.

A core concept of Purim is the mask that we often put on ourselves to hide who we truly are from others and also from God. On Purim we are told to let God see who we truly are inside by donning actual masks that hide our face. We become much like the heroine, Esther, who revealed herself to the king of Persia to bring her people back to their roots and back to God. This pretty vacuous girl on the surface deep down was some brilliant strong woman who could guide her people out of the despair of exile.

God is never mentioned in the book of Esther but it's the people's commitment to God that saves them and eventually allows their victory over the evil Haman. We find our faith through the mask that Esther was forced to wear so we wear the masks on this day in honor of her wisdom and sacrifice that brought her people back to God. Through the act of hiding ourselves behind physical masks we end up revealing our true nature and find a deeper connection to God.

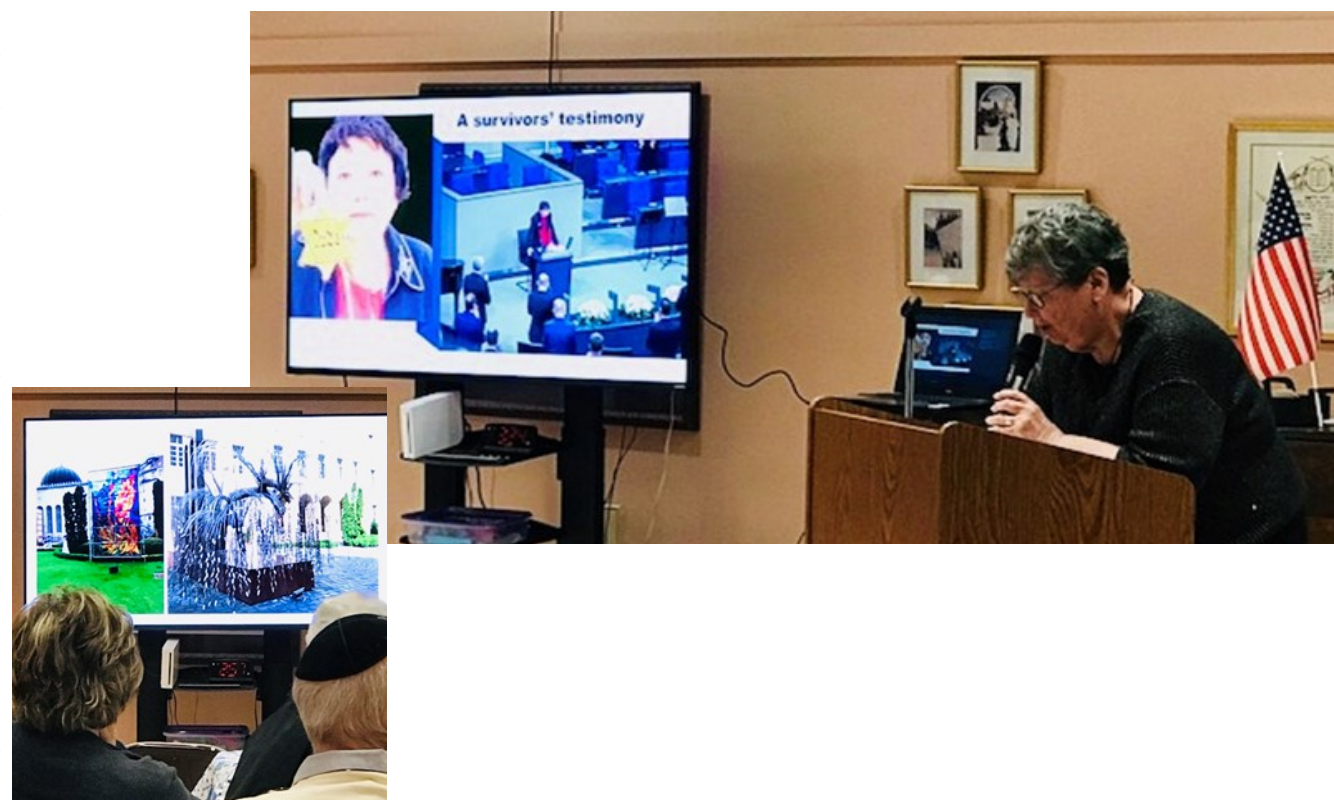
This year as we slowly return to normal we will ponder all we as a community have gone through these past two years. Let us return together for our Magillah reading and celebrating this unique holiday. Please contact me or the office if you would like to read a part of the Magillah.

Happy Purim

Rabbi Jeffery Lipschultz



On Sunday February 6th, 2022 Mark Brown and his wife Waynette presented an informative Power Point on "Visiting Holocaust Sites". The program was well attended and most appreciated! Their personal experiences and photos expanded our understanding and gave us all pause to reflect. Congratulations to Mark! He has just accepted the position as the adjunct professor at Glendale Community College, teaching a class on the Holocaust. A big thank you to both Mark and Waynette!



# *In Loving Memory*

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during March 2022, Adar I - Adar II 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
3/17/2022	Adar-II 14, 5782	Anna Libman	GrandMother	Marilyn Newberg/Rhoda Lessner
3/20/2022	Adar-II 17, 5782	Anna Newman	Mother	Harry Newman
3/22/2022	Adar-II 19, 5782	Ruth Heidecker	Mother	Andrew Heidecker
3/22/2022	Adar-II 19, 5782	Solomon Moskowitz	Grandfather	Sheldon Koven
3/23/2022	Adar-II 20, 5782	Anne Debber	Mother	Stanley Debber
3/26/2022	Adar-II 23, 5782	Ruth Epstein	Mother-in-law	Joy Epstein
3/26/2022	Adar-II 23, 5782	Allison Hesch	Spouse	Morrie Hesch

## JUST OUTSIDE THE BOX



Only three days into his diet;  
Frank found himself stranded on a dessert island

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# Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to:

Diane Freilich	03/02/2022
David Caplan	03/05/2022
Madelaine Friedman	03/05/2022
Teri Maureen Goldman	03/06/2022
Morrie Hesch	03/06/2022
Stanley Debber	03/15/2022
Dr. Abraham Cohen	03/19/2022
Mary Ann Becker	03/20/2022
Gilbert Weller	03/20/2022
Mary Flint	03/31/2022
Sheldon Koven	03/31/2022



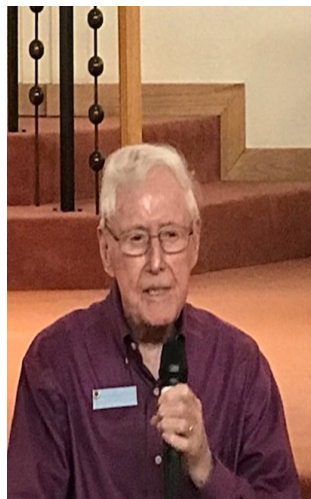
Happy Anniversary to:

Myron & Shoshana Perlmutter	3/04/2022
Moses & Irene Weitzman	3/06/2022
Sy & Sarah Klein	3/13/2022
Susan Hersch	3/18/2022

## Palo Verde Patchers Honor Combat Veterans!!!

Palo Verde Patchers make 2 – 3 quilts each month to be presented to combat veterans. These are the February 16th recipients:

1. **Herb Leibovitz** who is a 3x purple heart recipient and a combat pilot in the Korean and Vietnam War.
2. **David Boyer** who is a WWII veteran. He was a Sniper with numerous award medals. He was unable to attend so his daughter received the quilt in his place.



Thank you for your service!!



### 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.



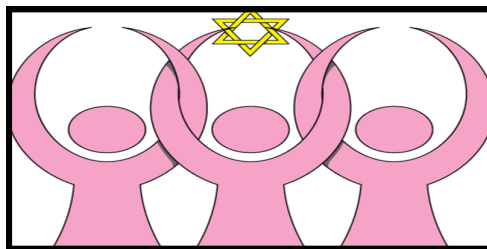
## CALLING ALL MEN

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



# Tree of Life leaf sale!!

For ONLY \$99

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



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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I was young once, as were all of us. We went, not because we wanted to, but because we were Jewish, to Hebrew School, Sunday School, and Junior Congregation.

I didn't want to be there and I am sure many of my fellow students felt the same. After all, the Catholic kids were released from our Public School early on Monday for an hour or so of religious education. We Jewish kids went from public school to the synagogue for Hebrew School every weekday to learn the Hebrew language. On Saturday we were expected to attend Junior Congregation and Sunday was bible study.

How I envied the Christians. They only attended church for a one hour service on Sunday. I didn't know then that their Sunday School was after mass, and often required memorizing stories from their bibles. And parts of the Catholic Mass were in Latin.

I somehow got my father to agree to let me quit Hebrew School after my Bar Mitzvah. It was many years later that I realized that something was missing from my life—religion.

My reconnection to Judaism occurred while I served in the Air force, but I recalled enough of the Sabbath and High Holiday services that I was comfortable in a synagogue. I even became Scoutmaster of the same Troop I had been in as a Boy Scout and soon was Commissioner responsible for all the Jewish Troops in the District.

But that's just the beginning. I became the consummate volunteer, serving on innumerable committees, including the Temple's Board.

Now the plots thicken, because I was the only Board Member who attended Erev Shabbat services every Friday. As a result, the rabbi invited me to sit on the bimah every week. The result of that was our cantor hearing me chant right along with him. It was not long afterward that I was called upon to chant the service if the cantor wasn't available, or to substitute for the rabbi when he was absent. This scenario was repeated through many changes of clergy.

Skip ahead a few years and I began to attend a smaller temple whose Erev Shabbat service was at a time which was more convenient for me. They were too small to have their own rabbi or cantor, but like Beth Emeth, had a strong sense of community. Their congregation appreciated having me to lead the Friday evening service, but loved the home baked challah that my late wife, Allison, brought with us.



# March 2022

## Adar I —Adar II 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Rosh Chodesh Adar II 1st Day	4 Rosh Chodesh Adar II 2nd Day  Light: 6:10	5
6	7	8	9	10	11   Light: 6:15	12
13	14	15	16 Erev Purim Fast of Esther  Observer Deadline	17 Purim	18 Shushan Purim  Light: 6:20	19
20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24	25   Light: 6:26	26
27	28	29	30	31		





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

### **DIRECTORS**

Ramona Luckman  
Susan Hersch  
Mindy Lipson  
Rhoda Lessner  
Esther Toney

### **Men's Club**

#### **President**

### **Sisterhood**

#### **President**

Alice Mason



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.**

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**or,**

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