



# 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

Kislev - Tevet 5783  
December 2022

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

## *Happy Chanukah!*



### Inside this issue

President's Message	2
Editor's Desk	3
Meet Rabbinical Candidate	4
Bio on Rabbi Eisencraft	5
Donations/Birthdays	6
Sisterhood Event	7
Advertisements	8-9
Yahrzeits	10
Calendar	11

### SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

#### December

02	5:02
09	5:02
16	5:04
23	5:07
30	5:12

Volume 2022  
Number 10



## FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT



First of all The Board are grateful that the budget was approved for 2023. We will continue to work diligently to make Beth Emeth the crown jewel of the West Valley. Andrea gave me a wonderful card stating that Beth Emeth is the "Home of the Jewish Lost and Found" Welcome Home. That is the message we want to bring to everyone. We want to be meaningful, caring, supportive and relevant in the lives of everyone.

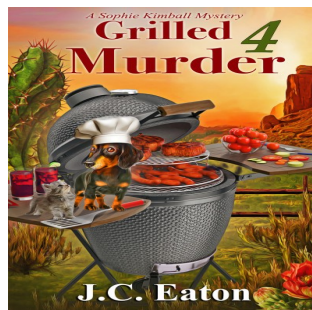
The Board and I were very pleased by the turnout for Rabbi and Barbara Karz-Wagman. You proved that you can be here and we would love to see more of you at Services. We are talking with Rabbi Kars-Wagman for Congregation approval. We are also trying to bring in Rabbi and Adriana Eisencraft for an audition so that You can decide which Rabbi you would like to lead Services and be your spiritual Leader. Rabbi Eisencraft is tentatively scheduled to arrive December 6th and lead Services on Thursday Morning, Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Services. More to follow on that as there are some issues to be resolved.

With the recent outbreak of COVID in the West Valley, I would like to suggest that we mask up again or sit apart so that we protect each other.

The Board of Trustees will be reaching out to You to help with various fund raising efforts to ensure that we can keep the dues affordable for everyone. PS, if there is any one for whom current dues are a hardship, please contact me and we can have a confidential meeting to work some things out.

Chanukah is coming and our gifts shop has marvelous Judaica items for sale at very reasonable prices.

## New Book Study coming in November!!



Love to read? Enjoy murder mysteries? Join us ...start reading Now... Book is called Grilled 4 Murder by our own Ann Goldfarb and her husband Jim Goldfarb. Ann sang in our Beth Emeth Choir pre Covid. She will be doing a book review for us on February 21st at 11:00 am in our Library. There will be door prizes and book signings. If you have her other books bring them along. Promises to be fun! Program is free and open to all!

## From the Editor's Desk

Chanukah (also spelled Hanukkah) is an eight-day celebration beginning with the twenty-fifth of Kislev - starting the evening of December eighteen on the secular calendar.

All of us are aware to some degree of the story of Chanukah, of the victory of the brave Maccabees against the Greeks and of the miracle of the cruse of oil that burned for eight days instead on one.

There is more to the story, and some of it bears repeating:

In the fourth century B.C., Alexander the Great with his Greek armies conquered the Near East including Israel. After his death, his empire split apart. The land of Israel, after a period of struggle, came under the control of the Seleucid dynasty, which ruled the region of Syria. In the year 167 B.C., the king Antiochus Epiphanes decided to force all the peoples under his rule to Hellenize. The practice of Jewish rituals such as the Sabbath and circumcision was outlawed. The worship of Greek gods and the sacrifice of pigs replaced the traditional worship in the temple. Some Jews eagerly flocked to the gymnasium, symbol of the Greek emphasis on the beauty and strength of the body while others resisted Hellenism and died as martyrs.

The Greeks came to the village of Modi'in and set up an altar, then commanded the Jews to bring a pig as a sacrifice to show obedience to Antiochus's decree. Mattathias, an old priest, was so enraged when he saw a Jew about to do so that he killed him.

He and his five sons then fought the Greek detachment, retreated to the mountains, and began a guerilla war against the Greeks and their Jewish allies. Before he died of old age, Mattathias passed on the leadership to his son Judah the Maccabee. Judah led his forces against a series of armies sent by Antiochus, and through superior strategy and bravery he defeated them all.

Finally, he and his followers liberated Jerusalem and reclaimed the temple from its defilement by the Greeks. It was the Maccabees who were able to find only one cruse of undefiled oil for the menorah in the temple - enough to burn only for one day - that a miracle occurred and the menorah burned for eight days.

Chanukah, therefore celebrates not one, but two miracles. First is the success of the Maccabees in defeating the troops of Antiochus and second is the miracle of oil.

We acknowledge the burning of a day's worth of oil for eight by the lighting of our Chanukah menorah each day for the duration of the holiday, and in the foods we prepare for the holiday - such as potato latkes or *sufganiot*—both of which are fried in oil.

(Source: The Jewish Holidays - A Guide & Commentary by Michael Strassfeld)

Dear Congregants,

With due diligence for the responsibility you place upon us, and with the desire to make a selection via a choice of more than one option, the Beth Emeth Board of directors is now bringing in the second Rabbinical candidate of the 4 we considered, **Rabbi David Eisencraft and his wife Adriana, for your consideration. Please Save the Dates and plan to attend the following services:**

**Thursday December 8th for morning minyan at 9:00am**

**Friday night services December 9th 7:00 pm with Oneg**

**Saturday morning December 10th 9:30am with Kiddush**



**For those interested.....There will be a Shabbat Dinner on Friday night December 9th prior to service at 5:00pm**

**Cost for the Shabbat Dinner is \$18 per person Payable in ADVANCE by check or credit card...please call the**

**office for more information and to reserve your spot. *It is imperative for food preparations.* 623-584-7210**

**AS BEFORE There will be a congregational meeting and this will be the deciding vote. Sunday December 11th at 1:00 pm. Your Vote is IMPORTANT! Please attend and make your voice heard. With Appreciation, your Board Members.**

## Rabbi David Eisencraft



Please Join us as we welcome our second Rabbinical Candidate, **Rabbi David Eisencraft** and his wife **Adriana**. Rabbi Eisencraft served his community for years leading both the weekly services and the High Holiday services as well as reading Torah, while working to support his family as an Engineer. With his children grown and on their own, he pursued his passion and began studying for his Rabbinical degree. Rabbi Eisencraft has a beautiful voice and he was very familiar with the tunes we use here at Beth Emeth as most are also used in his community.

David Léo Eisencraft was born in São Paulo, Brazil in 1960. He studied at the Abraham Geiger Kolleg, in Berlin, where he was ordained in 2022. He also received, at the same time, a MA in Jewish Theology at Potsdam University, in Potsdam. He co-founded the Neshama Minyan at Congregação Israelita Paulista (CIP) in São Paulo, which he has been leading since 2004. He regularly led High Holidays services at the Albert Einstein Jewish Hospital in São Paulo, and before that led services at the Centro Israelita de Pernambuco, in Recife, the Sociedade Israelita Brasileira Beth Jacob, in Campinas, and the Centro Cultural e Social Bnei Chalutzim, in Alphaville. David and his wife Adriana have two adult children, Gabriel Marcos and Guilherme.

# Our sincere thanks for the following donations

## Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Jack Kleinman

*Brenda and Elliot Kleinman*

In memory of Elizabeth Fineberg

*Sonia Marshall*

In memory of Edith Kornsheiser

*Beverly Merchant*

In memory of Berdie Freidman

*Ketzi and Jim Toney*

In Memory of Fradell Dorf

*Max & Sherry Lazar*

In Memory of Leslie Heidecker

*Andrew/Jan Heidecker*

In Memory of Saul Zimmerman

*Arnold/Mary Ann Becker*

In Memory of Nathan Rosenthal

*Gyorgyi Rosenthal*

In Memory of Minnie Hesch

*Morrie Hesch*

In Memory of Harry & Esther Isaacson

*Arthur & Barbara Bennett*

In Memory of Lucille Ezraty

*Jack Ezraty*

## General Fund

In honor of High Holidays

*Cynthia Glazer*

*Marc & Janis Redlich*

## Cards

*Morrie Hesch*

*Natalie Morrison*

*Ketzi Toney*

## General Donations

*Charles/Marisela Erichsen*

*Rosie Colbert*

*Sylvia Choy*

## Yizkor Fund

In honor of friends and family

*Bradley and Sharon Davidson*

*Louis Mandelman*

*David Caplan*

## Kiddush Fund

In honor of Leo Abrami's birthday

*Rosemary Abrami*

In honor of Rabbi Karz-Wagman

*Paula Foster*

*Susan Hersch*

*Iris Johnson*



This page includes donations

10/28/22—11/22/2022

Happy Birthday!

Max Lazar

12/6/2022



HAPPY  
HANUKKAH



# Join Us for Lots & Lots of Latkes Wednesday Dec 21st

5:00 pm

\$12 per person

\*\*Reservation required 623-584-7210

\*\*Please bring your Menorah & 5 candles!

We will light our candles together, sing songs, play dreidel, and feast on latkes, sour cream, apple sauce, and donuts!



# CC's Adult Care Inc.



**13425 W. Rimrock St., Surprise, AZ**  
**Phone: 480-340-5188**  
**www.ccsadultcarehome.com**  
**Mgr/Owner: Hanna Thabet/Safi Ibrahim**



## **"YOUR FAMILY'S LOVE THROUGH US"** **SOME OF OUR SERVICES AND AMENITIES**

**24 Hour Certified Caregivers**

**Alzheimer's Care**

**Phone, Cable TV, Internet**

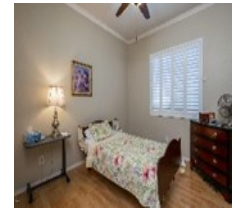
**Home Cooked Kosher Meals**

**Hospice and Respite Care**

**Doctors Visits**



**Restroom/Bathing Assistance - Medication Mgt.**  
**We celebrate Holidays, Birthdays and Anniversaries**  
**For Quality Care and Secure Comfort**  
***Visit Our Home***



## A Big Thank You to everyone who has donated to the Food Bank!



We are helping people who are having difficulties feeding their families during this time of high inflation. We continue to support St. Mary's Food Bank and are very grateful to all who donate. Please remember to keep filling the bin in the lobby.



## Kiddush Fund

What a great way to build that feeling of community for all of us. Whether you want to sponsor a full kiddush, or just contribute to the Kiddush Fund, together we can create a loving and supportive community. It is an easy way to honor someone's birthday, anniversary, or special family event. It is time to celebrate some of the goodness in the world that is right here before us.



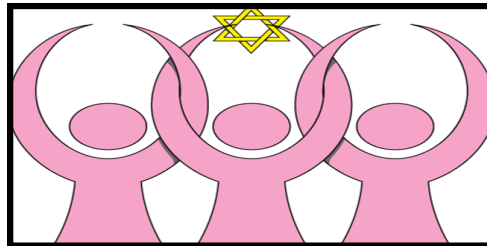


## CALLING ALL MEN

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



**Come join in the fun!!!**

Looking for interested women to serve on the Sisterhood board, come join us to plan fun events and support our synagogue...if interested call Ketzi 425-890-6792. Thanks.





## *In Loving Memory*

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during December, Kislev—Tevet 5783  
 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Observed</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Observant</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
12/2/2022	Kislev 8	David Lederman	Stephen Lederman	Father
12/3/2022	Kislev 9	Beatrice Kaplan	Brenda Kleinman	Mother
12/5/2022	Kislev 11	Minnie Hesch	Morrie Hesch	Step Mother
12/10/2022	Kislev 16	Bessie Frank	Jim Frank	Mother
12/10/2022	Kislev 16	Nancy Ann Vickery	Susan Hersch	Sister
12/13/2022	Kislev 19	Lucille Ezraty	Jack Ezraty	Mother
12/17/2022	Kislev 23	William Pinkus	Marilyn Newberg/ Rhoda Lessner	Father
12/18/2022	Kislev 24	Morris Kram	William Kram	father
12/19/2022	Kislev 25	Joseph Greenberg	Gloria Greenberg	Father-in-law
12/19/2022	Kislev 25	Lawrence Webber	Marion Koshar	Father
12/21/2022	Kislev 27	Esther Isaacson	Barbara Bennett	Mother
12/21/2022	Kislev 27	Sylvia Morrison	Natalie Morrison	Mother-in-law
12/21/2022	Kislev 27	Ada Sherman	Rochelle Bailey	Mother
12/26/2022	Tevet 2	Harry Isaacson	Barbara Bennett	Father
12/28/2022	Tevet 4	Sophia Franek	Susan Hersch	Mother
12/28/2022	Tevet 4	Nicholas Rosenthal	Gyorgyi Rosenthal	Husband
12/29/2022	Tevet 5	Bernard Sontag	Joseph Sontag	Father



# December 2022

## Kislev - Tevet 5783

				1	2	3
				7 Kislev	Light 5:02pm 8 Kislev	9 Kislev
4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9 Light 5:02pm	10
10 Kislev	11 Kislev	12 Kislev	13 Kislev	14 Kislev	15 Kislev	16 Kislev
11	12	13	14	15	16 Light 5:04pm	17
17 Kislev	18 Kislev	19 Kislev	20 Kislev	21 Kislev	22 Kislev	23 Kislev
18 Erev Chanukah First Light	19	20	21 First Day of Winter Observer Deadline	22	23 Light: 5:07pm	24
24 Kislev	25 Kislev	26 Kislev	27 Kislev	28 Kislev	29 Kislev	30 Kislev
25 7th Day of Chanukah Eighth Light	26	27	28	29	30 Light 5:12pm	31 New Year's Eve
1 Tevet	2 Tevet	3 Tevet	4 Tevet	5 Tevet	6 Tevet	7 Tevet

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
Susan Hersch	Recording Secretary

**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!

### **DIRECTORS**

Rhoda Lessner  
Esther Toney

### **Men's Club**

#### **President**

### **Sisterhood**

#### **President**

Alice Mason

## ***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



Also Shabbat Candles on sale - Box of 72 for \$8.00

We also now have several fine art pieces for sale.

Stop in anytime Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm

*(Payment accepted by check or cash or credit card)*