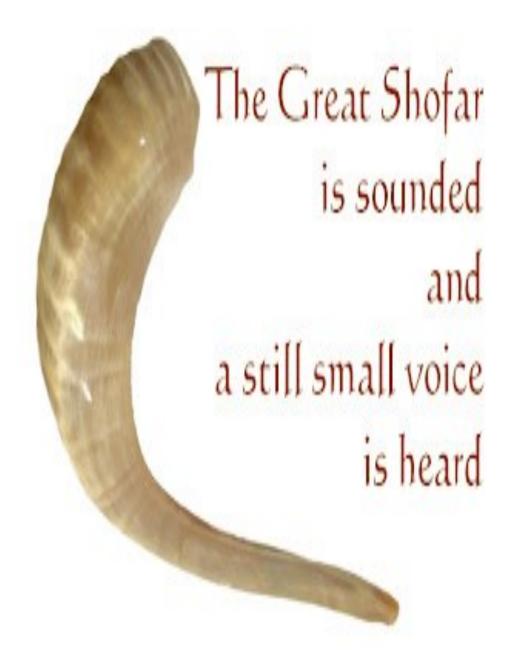


Beth Emeth Observer

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 Tishrei—Cheshvan 5783
October 2022

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



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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING October 07 5:46 14 5:37 21 5:29 28 5:21

Volume 2022 Number 8



FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT



I hope that the High Holiday services were both, meaningful and beautiful for you. It is my sincere hope that You were made to feel welcome as Members or guests of Beth Emeth. We look forward to welcoming you to

more Services throughout the year. Rabbi Sternberg, Cantor Judith Levy and the High Holiday Committee did a great job of making it beautiful and meaningful. Yasher Koach to all of them.

The Mishaberach list in the Bulletin will be updated every 30 days. If You want to have a name on the list to be read at all Services, please call the office and add the name to the list.

The following article from "My Jewish Learning" gives a very different look at *Teshuvah* and I thought I would share it with You.

Teshuvah is the foundational practice of the High Holy Day season. Literally translated as "return," teshuvah is a process of turning away from those ways in which we missed the mark so we may come back into right relationship with others, with the Divine and with ourselves.

Whether through carelessness, egotism or laziness, *teshuvah* challenges us to admit our transgressions, make amends, and resolve to do better in the coming year. Yet according to the great Hasidic master Rabbi Kalonymous Kalman Shapria, *teshuvah* is also a kind of creativity. More than a simple return to what has been, it is a process of remaking ourselves anew. Rather than turning away from our missteps, the creative potential of *teshuvah* lies in a turning toward those places in which we faltered or failed. In the words of psychologist David Richo, "Hidden in everything negative is something alive and beautiful that wants to belong to us."

Immense power and potential dwell in the dark, unresolved places in our soul. For it is only when we allow ourselves to come face to face with these less desirable parts of ourselves that we can understand and unlock the creative vitality contained within them. In this way, we emulate the creative process of the Divine.

The practice of making art can help connect us to these wild, untamed parts of ourselves.

Start with a desire, the call of what attracts you. It could be something small, the pigment of a color, the feel of a certain brush. From there, make marks on a page, seeing where the next mark will take you. Each moment each stroke, is guided by each subsequent desire. And each desire is call from intuition, that place beyond the rational, intellectual mind, a place older than time and beyond words, the source of creation. We could call it G-d. You can feel it when you create in this way, it is tangible.

This way of painting appears simple, almost childlike. Yet the skill required is in some ways much more demanding than accurately portraying the dimensions of a still life. It is that of opening to intuition, to G-d, of following the path into the bright sunshine, the dark damp woods, the rocky cliffs, the murky depths within.

It can be terrifying to think where this creative exploration might lead us, or what we'll find in our swirling depths. We weren't raised to be explorers of our soul, to hear the voice of the universe refracted through us. We've been conditioned to replicate an image of what we think — or have been told— the painting of our lives should look like.

But in opting for safety, we miss the wild, fertile place of all possibility, our innate creativity. And without this connection, teshuvah becomes impossible.

A beautiful Midrash about the creation of the world conveys an argument between a certain philosopher and Rabban Gamliel, the leading rabbinic authority of his time. Reflecting on the first verses of the Torah, the philosopher remarks, "Your G-d is indeed a great artist, but surely G-d found on hand suitable materials which were of help in creating! Intrigued, Rabban Gamliel asks, "What are those materials?" The philosopher replies, "chaos, void, darkness, water, wind, and the depths" (Genesis Rabbah 1:9).

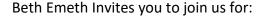
When *teshuvah* leads us back into the texts of our lives, we too find chaos, void and darkness in our depths. Rather than turning away from our human failings, *teshuvah* beckons us toward these complicated, as of yet unintegrated places within. The ways in which we miss the mark arise from those dark and unknow corners of ourselves, those places of chaos and void.

But it is also within these very places that our own artist's palette lies hidden. Like a half-finished painting that yearns to be fully realized, *teshuvah* is the work of re-engaging with all that yet remains unknown and unresolved so that a fuller, richer, more vibrant image may emerge.

In the High Holiday season of new beginnings, *teshuvah* beckons us to return to our depths so that we may encounter these places of primordial chaos within. May we have the courage of spirit, intrepidness of mind and openness of heart to see all that we find there as pigments on our palette, the raw materials for us to create ourselves anew.





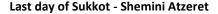


Sukkot and Simchat Torah

First day of Sukkot Monday Oct 10th Second day Tuesday Oct 11th Services begin at 9:30 AM both days



- **Sit and eat in the Sukkah
- **Share your blessings, bring non perishable food items for food bank



Monday Oct 17th at 9:30 AM Yizkor service at 11:00 AM

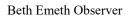
Simchat Torah Tuesday Oct 18th Services at 9:30 AM

**Dance with the Torah

** Memorial Presentation for our Holocaust Torah







Our sincere thanks for the following donations

General Fund

In memory of Gene Cooper Diane Freilich/Melvyn Friedman Charles & Leah Tarnor Diane Freilich/ Melvyn Friedman Nelson & Kathryn Magedman Sonia Marshall

In Appreciation of: Rosemary Abrami Tom Behrendt **Arthur Bennett** Sally Hall Iris Johnson Sonia Marshall **Natalie Morrison**

☆

Sonia Marshall

Natalie Morrison

Marilyn Newberg

Joe Sontag

Rabbi Bob Sternberg

Ketzi Toney

Jim Toney

Morrie Hesch and Joanie Jacobs

In Honor of High Holidays

Harold and Susan Shapiro

Susan Abramson

Maxine Popolow

Judith Johnson

Glen Cowan

Rosie Colbert

Karen Luksa

Jeffrey Geiger

Madelyn Miller

Paula Forster

Tom Behrendt

This page includes donations received

9/20/2022. Donations received after

Ilisted in the next issue of the Observe

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of their parents Diane Freilich/Melvyn Friedman In memory of my mother EveyIn Walter In memory of my husband **Beverly Merchant**

In memory of my husband Irene Lehrer In memory of my father Sheldon Koven In memory of my father Saul and Sharon Rothzeid In memory of my mother Irwin and Alice Bernstein In memory of my husband Ramona Luckman In memory of my husband Sonia Marshall

Yizkor Fund

In honor of family and friends Marilyn Newberg Philip Gillenson Natalie Morrison Joel and Loree Resnicke Marisela Erichsen

Kiddush Fund

In memory of Dora Comisar Susan Barnett In memory of Molley E Barnett Susan Barnett

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I promise...

Many donations on this page are listed by relationship to the donor instead of the names of the person being honored or memorialized. In future issues of the Observer, names of individuals, if available, will be listed.

Morrie Hesch, Editor



through will be

This page includes donations received from 9/1/2022 9/20/2022 listed in the next issue of the Observer.

We remember...Eugene Cooper

Eugene 'Gene' Lester Cooper, son of the late Irving and Fannie Cooper, devoted husband to the late Geraldine 'Geri' Cooper, brother to the late Evelyn Henner and cherished companion to many, died peacefully in Sun City, Arizona on August 16, 2022 at age 91 with his daughter Debbie by his side. Gene is survived by his beloved daughters Miriam, Debbie (Brian), Leah (Hassan), granddaughters Naomi and Joelle, and grandson Levi. Gene was predeceased by his wife Geri and his youngest daughter, Rachel.

Gene was born on February 23, 1931 and grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. After Soldan High School, he attended Washington University, winning many scholarships, and earning his Pharmacy degree at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. He served in the US Army during the Korean War as a pharmacist stationed in Germany. He met Geri, the love of his life, in 1960 and was married in December 1961. He soon became a father to four daughters whom he deeply cherished. Gene and Geri resided in St. Louis until 2002 when they moved to Arizona for their retirement years making many new friends.

Gene owned pharmacies throughout St. Louis County and helped many customers with his pharmaceutical knowledge and kind manner. He served as the president of the St. Louis B'nai Brith chapter. Gene passed on his love of travel, interest in learning, and incredible work ethic to his daughters. He enjoyed socializing, watching classic movies, playing golf, engaging in committees at the synagogue and condo association, and playing all manner of games including poker, pinochle, and Mexican train. He was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan.

Gene will be long remembered for his involvement in the Cactus Kosher Hot Dog Day, a project which he spear-headed as a fund raiser for Beth Emeth Congregation. This program, held twice each year, was staffed by members of the Beth Emeth Men's Club under Gene's leadership and was supported by our neighboring Christian Congregations, who looked forward to it each year.

We remember... Evelyn Walter

Evelyn Walter was cherished by all who knew her, she was a truly wonderful person. She loved her family with every part of her heart and cared for her friends deeply. Evelyn was a devoted sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother- she was the matriarch of her family. She was always thinking of others, whether it was newspaper clippings or magazines from doctor offices, making food for friends and family like her famous honey cake deliveries for Rosh Hashanah or a perfectly paired outfit from Kohl's. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband Norman and survived by her 3 children: Judi, Harvey and Mark and their spouses Michael, Laura and Jamie. She loved her grandchildren Maria and her husband Dimitry, Sara and Ryan, Melissa, Melanie and Mindy, Ellie and Lydia and she adored her great grandchildren Elliot, Calvin, Riley, Lila, Evan, Seth and Hailey. She will be missed.

Evelyn will be long remembered for —along with her friend Shirley Gubin— opening the ark during Shabbat services at Beth Emeth.

From the Editor's Desk



Too Many Holidays—Revisited

As you have seen in past issues of the Observer, I have complained that we Jews have too many holidays. This time I will try to concentrate on some of our traditions. Many are unfamiliar but what I would regard as "quaint".

Shabbat Shuvah is the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipper. It is marked by a lengthy discourse about repentance. In Eastern Europe, rabbis spoke only twice a year in the synagogue—on Shabbat Shuvah and Shabbat HaGadol, before Pesach. Perhaps they tried to make up for the rest of the year by giving exceptionally long sermons. The Shabbat Shuvah sermon was often given in the afternoon rather than the morning.

Yom Kippur is a fast day, so it is a mitzvah to eat the preceding day. An old custom is kapparot (atonements), a scape-goat ceremony that involved taking a rooster or hen and twirling it around your head while reciting a prayer asking that this chicken be killed in your stead. The chicken was slaughtered and given to the poor (who presumably could make use of your sins, if not the food). Another tradition was malkut - flogging. Based on the biblical punishment for a variety of misdeeds, this flagellation was performed near the door of the synagogue. The person would lie down wearing his coat, and another would hit him (not very hard) three times while reciting Psalm 78:38, which has thirteen words; 13 x 3 = 39, the correct number for flogging in the rabbinic tradition.

This is the one time of the year when the tallit is put on for the evening service and is worn for all the services on Yom Kippur. As for those who wear a *kittel*—white robe—it, too, is put on before Kol Nidre and worn during all the Yom Kippur services.

Breast beating is part of our Yom Kippur service and takes place during the service, when we ask for forgiveness of our sins, both during ashamnu and al heit portions of the liturgy.

The shofar, which is the central symbol of the High Holidays, marks the end to the day and to the whole period. It evokes the feeling of a successful passage from sin to repentance, from death to life. Some commentators say it is blown as a reminder of the great shofar blast of the Jubilee year, which was blown every fifty years on Yom Kippur announcing the freedom of slaves and the reversion of all land to its original owner.

Sukkot, usually translated as Tabernacles or the Festival of Booths, occurs for seven days, from Tishrei 15 to 21. It is quick transition from the High Holidays, with their somber mood, to a holiday of rejoicing and celebration. The most important ritual of Sukkot (hence the name) is living in a Sukkah, which is a temporary structure usually constructed of four walls and covered with a roof of tree branches. We eat in the sukkah and some people sleep in it as well. It is usually constructed between Yom Kippur and Sukkot and used for the first time on Sukkot eve. There is a special obligation to use the Sukkah for eating on the first night. If it is raining, we try to eat a token meal by reciting kiddush over wine and the blessing of *motzi* for bread.

There is a custom of inviting *ushpizin*—symbolic guests—each day to join us in the sukkah. These honorary guest are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David. One is invited each day. Recently some people have invited the matriarchs and other important women of the bible, including Sarah, Rebecaa, Rachel, Leah, Miriam, Abigail and Esther. Sephardim set aside an ornate chair for the honored guest and recite, "This is the chair of the *ushpizin*."

A connection between the *ushpizin* and Sukkot is that all of them were either wanderers or exiles: Abraham left this father's house to go to Israel; all three patriarchs wandered in the land of Canaan; Jacob fled to Laban; Joseph was exiled from his family; Moses fled Egypt for Midian and later wandered in the desert; and David fled from Saul. The theme of wandering and homelessness symbolized by the temporariness of the sukkah is reflected in the lives of the *ushpizin*.

The other important mitzvah is that of the *arba minim*—the four species—also called the lulav and etrog (palm branch and citron). They emphasize the agricultural nature of Sukkot. Just as the farmer harvests his crops, so we gather four kinds of growing things and use them to praise G-d for the bounty He has provided for us.

The next important holiday is Shemini Atzeret, the 8th day of assembly and is a day on which the Yizkor prayer is recited. It is also the day before Simchat Torah, the day of rejoicing of the Torah. There is much discussion over whether Shemini Atzeret is the end of Sukkot or a completely independent festival. According to one midrash, Shemini Atzeret should have taken place fifty days after Sukkot, but then it would have fallen in the midst of the rainy season, a difficult time for pilgrims to travel to Israel. Therefore G-d ordained that Shemini Atzeret immediately follow Sukkot.

Simchat Torah marks the completion and beginning again of the cycle of Torah readings. The completion is marked by <code>hakkafot</code>—circlings—that are similar to the hoshana ritual of Sukkot. In many places these <code>hakkafot</code> are accompanied by much singing and dancing. One custom on this day is the <code>hagbah</code>—the Torah lifter—crossing his hands so that the scroll when lifted is reversed—that is, the writing is facing the congregation. This is to symbolize turning the Torah back to its beginning—to Genesis.

(Source: The Jewish Holidays by Michael Strassfeld) Ed.

KASHRUT and PEACE OF MIND

Restaurants, resorts and other food serving establishments who cater to Jewish clientele employ a *mash-giach*, whose responsibility is to guarantee that the laws of *kashrut* are observed scrupulously in their kitchens. Many American food companies also hire *masgikhim* (plural) to certify their products as Kosher. There were more than sixteen thousand products under rabbinical supervision in the United States in 1991, and there may be even more today.

All products intended for consumption by Jewish clientele carry a *heksher*, a certification affirming that they are kosher. The most common symbol affirming *kashrut* is the letter U surrounded by a large O, the trademark of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the country's largest dispenser of *heksherim* (plural). Other rabbis and rabbinical organizations supervise the *kashrut* of various products.

To ensure that members of Beth Emeth Congregation are served only food that is kosher, certain rules have been established. First and foremost is that any food to be consumed in the synagogue must be prepared in the synagogue's kitchen. Packaged products must be opened in our kitchen and ALL foodstuff must be clearly labeled with a *heksher*.

This will give anybody who partakes of the food confidence that what they are consuming is, indeed, ko-sher, and that their observance of the dietary laws has not been compromised.

As I said, Peace of Mind!

Morrie Hesch, Editor



Preservation and Remembrance

Holocaust Torah Scroll #325, which proudly stands in a case in the foyer of Beth Emeth Congregation, is one of 1564 Czech Memorial Torahs on loan from and distributed by the Memorial Scrolls Trust of the Westminster Synagogue in London, England. This Torah comes from Uhrineves, a village in Pitkovice, which is a suburb of Prague.



This Torah stands as a sacred memorial to the Jewish souls of Uhrineves whose lives were cut short during the Holocaust. It was written in the 1800s. Correspondence indicates that Torah #325 was acquired for Beth Emeth through a generous donation from Arthur Leist, the congregational president in 1986. It was Mr. Leist who claimed the Torah at the Phoenix airport when it arrived in 1987. After our current building was completed, the Torah was formally dedicated in a ceremony on April 15th, 1988.

After learning about the preservation requirements from Lee Shedroff, a local volunteer of the Memorial Scrolls Trust, and researching the cleaning process from Jerry Weiser, an "official" Torah cleaner in Seattle, Washington, a work party was organized and took place after morning minyan. Tom Behrendt, Beth Emeth's president, and congregants Morrie Hesch and Jim Toney participated. Rabbi Robert Sternberg was present and assisted with locating the center section of Vayikra/Leviticus where the Torah is open for display. This section contains the verse "Thou shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Lev 19:18)

The process was a labor of love and very time consuming taking several hours to complete. It required disassembling the case and saying the ritual blessings, one for the washing of the hands, and one thanking HaShem for sustaining us and allowing us to reach this season. Morrie worked diligently brushing the dust from the parchment with a special brush. The Torah was rolled from end to end as each section was cleaned. Then it was rolled back to the center and placed back in the case.

The Simchat Torah service on October 18th will begin at 9:30 am and will include a memorial presentation featuring a tribute to all the individuals who were transported from Uhrineves to Terezin. The tribute lists each individual's name, birth date, final destination and age at death. May their souls be bound up with the righteous and may we never forget!

All are welcome!







A labor of Love!! Our thanks to Ketzi Toney for organizing the work team and for making the tribute for the memorial ceremony included in the Simchat Torah service on October 18th which begins at 9:30am









Happ Birthdayl

Ramona Luckman 10/08/2022
Andrew Heidecker 10/09/2022
Ann Goldfarb 10/12/2022
Marvin Wachs 10/14/2022
Myron Perlmutter 10/28/2022





No Anniversaries

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

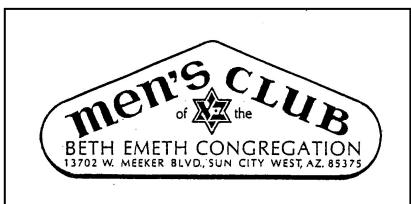
We are greatly helping families who are having difficulties feeding their families during this time of high inflation.





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.





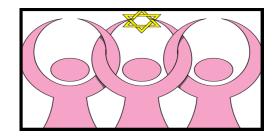
CALLING ALL MEN

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.



Tree of Life leaf sale!! For ONLY \$99

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



We here in the office can send out cards to your friends and loved ones, letting them know they are in your thoughts and supporting Beth Emeth Congregation.

Cards to make a difference . . .

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



For a small donation we will gladly mail a card to a friend or loved one for you - call the office for details 623-584-7210

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In Loving Memory

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during October, Tishrei - Cheshvan 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>	
10/2/2022 Tishrei 7		Estelle Webber	Marion Koshar	Mother	
10/6/2022	Tishrei 11	Sol Becker	Arnold Becker	Father	
10/7/2022	Tishrei 12	Lillian Middleman	Owen Segall	Aunt	
10/9/2022	Tishrei 14	Rose Rosen	Alice Mason	Mother	
10/10/2022	Tishrei 15	Judge Joseph Goldstein	Elinor Goldstein	Husband	
10/10/2022	Tishrei 15	Yetta Segall	Owen Segall	Mother	
10/10/2022	Tishrei 15	Martha Loebman	Arthur Bennett	Mother	
10/13/2022	Tishrei 18	Nelson Magedman	Kathryn Mageman	Husband	
10/14/2022	Tishrei 19	Julia Hamerschlag	Marty Hamer	Mother	
10/18/2022	Tishrei 23	Ben Hamerschlag	Marty Hamer	Father	
10/20/2022	Tishrei 25	Allan Segall	Owen Segall	Brother	
10/21/2022	Tishrei 26	Minnie Kriss	Barbara Newman	Mother	
10/22/2022	Tishrei 27	Freda Epstein	Rosemary Abrami	Mother	
10/22/2022	Tishrei 27	Abraham Koven	Sheldon Koven	Uncle	
10/22/2022	Tishrei 27	Jake Lessner	Rhoda Lessner	Father-In-Law	
10/22/2022	Tishrei 27	Harold Wachs	Marvin & Rita Beth Wachs	Father	
10/24/2022	Tishrei 29	Rose Lowenthal	Joy Epstein	Mother	
10/27/2022	Cheshvan 2	Myrna Colbert	Jordan Colbert	Wife	
10/27/2022	Cheshvan 2	Edith Kornheiser	Beverly Merchant	Mother	
10/28/2022	Cheshvan 3	Sidney Silverman	Iris Silverman	Brother	
10/29/2022	Cheshvan 4	Arthur Forster	Paula Forster	Husband	
10/30/2022	Cheshvan 5	Ruth Debber	Stanley Debber	Wife	
10/30/2022	Cheshvan 5	Saul Zimmerman	Mary Ann Becker	Father	
10/31/2022	Cheshvan 6	Benjamin Koshar	Louis Koshar	Father	



October 2022 Tishrei - Cheshvan 5783

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						6 Tishrei	1
7 Tishrei	8 Tishrei	4 9 Tishrei Erev Yom Kippur	5 10 Tishrei Yom Kippur Yizkor	6 11 Tishrei	7 12 Tishrei Light: 5:46pm	13 Tishrei	8
14 Tishrei Erev Sukkot Light: 5:44	15 Tishrei	11 16 Tishrei 2nd Day Sukkot	12 17 Tishrei	13 18 Tishrei	19 Tishrei Light 5:37pm	20 Tishrei	15
16 21 Tishrei	22 Tishrei Shemini Atzeret	23 Tishrei Simchat Torah	19 24 Tishrei Observer Deadline	20 25 Tishrei	21 26 Tishrei Light 5:29pm	27 Tishrei	22
28 Tishrei	3 24 29 Tishrei		26 1 Cheshvan	27 2 Cheshvan	28 3 Cheshvan Light 5:21pm	4 Cheshvan	29
30 5 Cheshvan	31 6 Cheshvan						

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.





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!

Beth Emeth Congregation Executive Board

President

Vice President

Vice President

Tom Behrendt
Marilyn Newberg
Iris Johnson
Natalie Morrison
Jordan Colbert
Paula Forster
Irene Lehrer
Susan Hersch

rison Vice President
ert Vice President
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Recording Secretary

DIRECTORSRhoda Lessner
Esther Toney

Men's Club President

Sisterhood President Alice Mason

PICK UP A GIFT AT THE JUDAICA SHOP



Do you have a <u>tzedakah box</u>? 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



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We also now have several fine art pieces for sale.

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