



Beth Emeth Observer

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION

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Office hours Mon-Fri - 9 AM - 12 PM

Adar - Nissan 5783
March 2023

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

Let's Celebrate Purim!



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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

March

03	6:08
10	6:14
17	6:19
24	6:25
31	6:30

Volume 2023
Number 03



FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT



I know that I speak for the entire Beth Emeth Congregation, that the passing of Rabbi Robert Sternberg was a tragic loss to the Community. He gave tirelessly of himself to help Beth Emeth fill the void in the interim of hiring a new Rabbi. He led Services on Shabbos, as well as High Holiday Services. He was a mentor to members of the Congregation including with the conversion to Judaism , taught Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes. He was an expert on the Holocaust and his Program was the basis for Yom Hasho'ah Program in conjunction with Beth Shalom. He will be missed. May His Memory be for a Blessing

The sale of the back lot for a Eye Surgical Center is moving along and hopefully the closing will be in a few weeks.

The new lighting in the parking lot and the Sanctuary is complete and 303 Lighting did a great job . It is dramatically better , like Beth Emeth, warm and welcoming.

We hope to have Rabbi Rosen lead Services for Passover, Shavu'ot and some Shabbos until we can find the right person to lead us.

I am sad to say that Rabbi Eisenkraft and Adriana have decided not to accept the position as our new spiritual leader and a new search has begun. Kudos to Joe Sontag, Morrie Hesch, Arthur Ben-net , Mel Friedman and Rosemary Abrami for leading services at Thursday Minyan, Friday night and on Shabbos. They have made the Services beautiful and The Board and I thank them .

Purim begins March 6th at 6:30pm — Service & Megillah reading

Enjoy Hamantaschen and beverages afterwards

March 7th at 9:00 am — Service & Megillah reading

All Hamantaschen orders must be picked up by March 10th at noon.

For earlier pick up call Ketzi at 425-890-6792

From the Editor's Desk

March – The month was named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

This year it is also when we celebrate Purim (on the 14th of Adar) – and the emphasis is on the word celebrate – with the emphasis on every syllable of the word – the victory of Mordechai and Esther over wicked Haman. The story, related in the Book of Esther, is read aloud during the holiday. The name Purim means “lots,” because Haman used a lot (pur) to decide when to kill the Jews. The lot fell on the month of Adar. Therefore the rabbis decided: “with the start of the Month of Adar we greatly increase joy.” The rejoicing on Purim for this victory is not limited by any sense of sacredness: For example, there are none of the prohibitions associated with the pilgrimage festivals.

The story of Esther is in the bible, but it is not part of the Five Books of Moses, and is only of rabbinic origin. Its observance centers around the reading of the megillah – scroll - of Esther and every time the name of the villain, Haman, is read, we make noise to drown out the name. Other rituals include a festive meal on the afternoon of Purim, sending gifts for food to friends (mishloach manot), and giving money to the poor (mattanot le-eyyonim). The day is also celebrated with costumes, masquerades, plays, parodies and a heavy consumption of liquor. All these activities are meant to make Purim a day when everything is topsy-turvy, and a Mardi Gras spirit runs wild even in the most straight-laced sectors of the Jewish community.

The story in the Book of Esther is a melodrama of court intrigue. In the first part of the book, the stage is set by the banishment of the proud queen Vashti and the choice of Esther in a beauty contest to be the new queen. The courtier, Haman, becomes grand vizier, but Mordechai, Esther's protector, refuses to bow down to him. Haman decides to take out his fury on all the Jews and convinces the rather silly king, Ahasuerus, to consent to a decree calling for the massacre of the Jews throughout the kingdom. Mordechai and Esther go to work to counteract this scheme. Esther entrances the king, wines and dines him, and then reveals she is Jewish and pleads for her people. Haman is hanged and the Jews are allowed to turn the tables on their enemies. Mordechai and Esther live happily ever after – after instituting Purim as an annual holiday.

This charming tale has led to much debate among scholars who question its historicity and certain facts are contradicted by other historical evidence. It is known that Persian kings of that period married women only from the seven leading families of Persia, therefore the king's marriage to Esther would have been impossible. Because of these, and other questions, some scholars believe that Purim harks back to an ancient pagan festival that was transformed by the Jews and point out the striking correspondence between the names Mordechai and Esther and Marduk and Ishtar, two of the important pagan gods of the ancient Near East.

Even without these questions, an examination of the story provokes doubts about its literal truth. Perhaps the first hint of the story's farcical nature is in the first chapter when the king and his advisors decide they must get rid of Queen Vashti in order to keep all the wives in Persia obedient to their husbands. What could be more farcical than a group of men issuing a decree that they must be obeyed by their wives?

(Source: The Jewish Holidays by Michael Strassfeld)

In Memory ofRobert Sternberg

Note from the editor: My apologies in advance for trying to consolidate information from several sources into a single article. It was an editorial decision because of space limitations. MH

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI ROBERT STERNBERG

Rabbi Bob Sternberg's sudden death at 73 years of age left a void in the lives of all who had known him. He had been a published author, a teacher, an ordained rabbi, a chef and a tireless worker who was the founding director of the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center when it opened in 1995. He had reached out to the interfaith community, organizations representing various races, cultures, ethnicities and the LGBTQ+ community, creating links that have continued until today.

He said, "Holocaust studies and culinary studies are both about bringing older things, very beautiful things to life. We study the Holocaust not to dwell on death and murders, but through understanding what once was, we can try to preserve it – and make sure our traditions are not totally destroyed."

Iris Johnson had been one of Bob's students, and he taught her how to chant Haftorah. They recorded Bob's chant so that she could practice at home. A tribute to Bob's skill as a teacher was reflected in how well Iris chanted Parashah Yitro and subsequent Parashat during Shabbat services at Beth Emeth. She also learned about his family, especially his grandmother who spoke only Yiddish with him and whom he recalled with great reverence.

But there was more to Bob than just being a teacher. He believed that women should be accepted in all aspects of Jewish life, including participation in religious services and staunchly advocated for their inclusion.

Our congregation will remember Rabbi Bob for his participation in, and leadership of, Shabbat services, which he did as a volunteer while we searched for a new permanent rabbi for our small congregation. He read Torah and delivered a D'var Torah to explain that week's Parashah. All of which required time and commitment, and he did it week after week.

Much about Bob Sternberg may be summed up in the following eulogy, delivered by Abe Yale, a distant relative, who knew a different side of him than we had seen: "Bob was married and later divorced from my first cousin many years ago and had a wonderful relationship with his ex-mother-in-law, who was my aunt. He helped officiate at my daughter's wedding and named one of our granddaughters. Bob was a caring and thoughtful person who was devoted to his Jewish community. He had a passion for cooking and was a lifelong educator, ordained rabbi and chef.

"Bob had recently moved to Sun City and was enjoying a new chapter in his life. He was happy and had found a new community where he could share his deep understanding of his Jewish faith. He had a way of making people feel seen and heard. Bob's kindness touched the lives of everyone who knew him. His legacy will continue to inspire us to be kinder and more compassionate.

"Although Bob's time with us was cut short, we take solace in the fact that his was a life well lived. We will miss him dearly, but we know that he will live on in our hearts."



Diane Freilich	03/02/2023
David Caplan	03/05/2023
Madelaine Friedman	03/05/2023
Morrie Hesch	03/06/2023
James P May	03/10/2023
Stanley Debber	03/15/2023
Mary Flint	03/31/2023
Sheldon Koven	03/31/2023



Myron & Shoshana Perlmutter	03/04/2023
Susan and Stephen Hersch	03/18/2023

Tu B'Shevat 2023



Setting Up

At our Tu B'Shevat Seder we celebrated by praising Ha'Shem, tasting fruits & nuts, reflecting and learning!



Welcoming Participants





2/21/23

**Thank you to Author
Ann Goldfarb**

**For the lively book reviews!
Ann and her husband Jim
Write under the pen name**

J.C.Eaton

**2/12/2023 Thank you Marla Solarz
for the great
Dance Exercise Class!**



It was so much fun and what a workout!



Exciting music event is coming!!



An acoustic folk music group comprised of vocalist/instrumental players. The instruments are guitars, banjo, bass, harmonica and rhythm. The "Dawgs" play primarily folk music from the 50's and 60's inspired by The Kingston Trio, Peter Paul and Mary, Bob Dylan and others—with an occasional Irish tune or original thrown into the mix. They believe that music should be fun—and encourage their audiences to sing along. Contact David Durham at (970) 216-8279 for more information.

Mark your calendar March 26th at 2:00pm

Cost \$15 per person

Tickets go on sale March 1st.

You don't want to miss out on this fun event!



March 21st 1:00 pm

**Crafting with Diane Shapiro Cost \$20 for materials come add some glam-
or as you decorate and create your own kippah, headbands, and or hair
clips. Dessert following. RSVP required**



**Off to the Races!
March 12th at 1:00pm**



Please join Beth Emeth Sisterhood, for a fund day of horseracing on Sunday, March 12th, at 1pm. The cost of this event is \$5.00 to cover refreshments. To assure your reservation, please call the office to place your name on the list (623-584-7210). This event is limited to 40 people. In addition, please bring \$4.00 in nickels with you to play with. This event in the past couple of years has been a lot of fun for everyone. You do not have to know how to play. I will teach you. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome! If you need additional information, please call Natalie at 619-861-9161.



PESACH IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

THE FIRST SEDER IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH

We have all felt the effect of inflation, some more than others. It is because of inflation, especially in the case of Kosher food, that Beth Emeth Congregation will not conduct a community Seder this year, mainly because the price would be beyond the means of many of us.

This is an appeal to get those who will conduct Seders—and those who are looking for one—to get together.

If you will be hosting a Seder at your home, can you accommodate one or more additional people? Please call Denise in the synagogue office to let her know whether you can.

If you are looking for a Seder to attend, please do the same. Phone Denise to tell her you are looking.

We cannot assure that everyone will have a Seder to attend, but we'll do everything we can to connect the haves and the have nots. This will be on a first come—first served basis. Because Passover is early in April, please call before March 17th to inform us of your situation. This will give us time to make the necessary connections.

If you feel that adding additional people will create a financial hardship, please let us know. We have a few angels within the congregation who may be willing to help, but they will remain anonymous for obvious reasons. Please call Tom Behrendt at 917-208-6173 to donate or if you need help with additional costs.

Temple Beth Shalom will also be hosting a Seder; however, they do not use Kosher meats. They are willing to accommodate any of our congregation. You may contact them directly for cost and reservation information. (623-977-3240).

Join us in our Beth Emeth Library
Friday March 17th from 10:00—11:30am

For a Low Vision Workshop

Facilitated by Dr Dennis Siemsen from the Mayo Low Vision Clinic

Program is Free and open to ALL

Our sincere thanks for the following donations

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Henry Espstein/Gloria Greenberg Cards

Joy Espstein

In memory of Melvin Luckman

Ramona Luckman

In memory of Wyllis Dorman Ligh

Paula Forster

In memory Ida Feinstein

Anrold Becker

In Memory of Jeanette Fisher Roth

Michele Moschel

In Memory of Joseph Fineberg

Sonia Marshall

In Memory of Regina Rosen

Bernard Rosen

In Memory of H Norman Wyatt

Kathryn Magedman

In Memory of David Stuchlak

Susan Hersch

In Memory of Abraham Cutler

Mark Friedman

In Memory of Soloman Moskowitz

Sheldon Koven

In Memory of Bernard Casper

Sheldon Koven

In Memory of Sylvia Wyatt

Kathryn Magedman

General Fund

Charles Tarnor

Natalie Morrison

Paula Forster

Iris Johnson

Arnorld Becker

Ketzi Toney

Sonia Marshall

Morrie Hesch

Ruth/Robert Kuzma

Seymour/Joan Perlis

General Donations

Rosie Colbert

Sylvia Choy

Marisela Erichsen

Joerg Reinhold Zawilak

Ulrike Erika Zawilak

General Fund

In memory of Mary Ann Becker

Arnold Becker

In honor of Mel Friedman

Barbara Goldstein

Kiddush Fund

Gyorgyi Rosenthal

Joan Rothfeld

Ketzi Toney

Morrie Hesch



These donations were received

01/21/23– 02/22/2023



Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque Sale

Current Price: Each Memorial - \$350

Sale Prices – One Memorial - \$300

Second Memorial - \$200

Sale ends - May 31, 2023

(both plaques must be purchased at the same time)

Notes: - After May 31st all Plaques will again be - \$350

- Memorial plaques may honor those who are deceased or be reserved for a future need.
- For any additional information, or to arrange a purchase, please contact:
Irene Lehrer at 623-505-3103
Arnold Becker at 623-544-7739.

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**

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Alzheimer's Care

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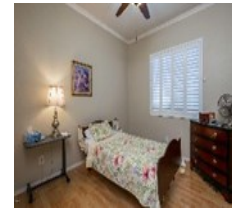
Home Cooked Kosher Meals

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.

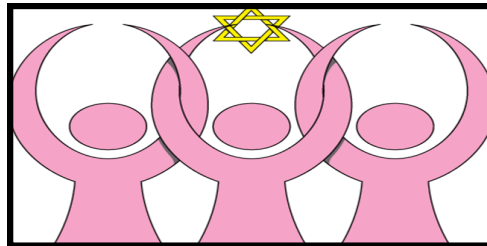


CALLING ALL MEN

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 March, Adar—Nissan 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>
3/1/2023	Adar 8	Dr. Morris Kriss	Barbara Newman	Father
3/5/2023	Adar 12	Sylvia Kline	Owen Segall	Aunt
3/6/2023	Adar 13	Bernard Casper	Sheldon Koven	Uncle
3/7/2023	Adar 14	Anna Libman	Marilyn Newberg/Rhoda Lessner	GrandMother
3/9/2023	Adar 16	Ethel Segall	Owen Segall	Grandmother
3/10/2023	Adar 17	Anna Newman	Harry Newman	Mother
3/11/2023	Adar 18	Abraham David Silverman	Iris Silverman	Husband
3/11/2023	Adar 18	Sylvia Wyatt	Kathryn Magedman	Mother
3/12/2023	Adar 19	Ruth Heidecker	Andrew Heidecker	Mother
3/12/2023	Adar 19	Solomon Moskowitz	Sheldon Koven	Grandfather
3/13/2023	Adar 20	Anne Debber	Stanley Debber	Mother
3/16/2023	Adar 23	Ruth Epstein	Joy Epstein	Mother-in-law
3/16/2023	Adar 23	Allison Hesch	Morrie Hesch	Spouse
3/16/2023	Adar 23	Joseph Tarnor	Leah Tarnor	Father
3/18/2023	Adar 25	William Shapiro	Diane Shapiro	Father
3/20/2023	Adar 27	GabriElla Farkas	Gyorgyi Rosenthal	Mother
3/20/2023	Adar 27	Lillian Friedman	Sharon Rothzeit	Mother
3/20/2023	Adar 27	Milton Rothschild	Jamie Rothschild	Father
3/21/2023	Adar 28	Eleanor Shapiro	Diane Shapiro	mother
3/23/2023	Nissan 1	Edith Hesch	Morrie Hesch	Mother
3/24/2023	Nissan 2	Judith Koven	Sheldon Koven	Wife
3/25/2023	Nissan 3	Leo Abrami	Rosemary Abrami	Husband
3/27/2023	Nissan 5	Edna Koshar	Louis Koshar	Mother
3/28/2023	Nissan 6	Beverly Casper	Sheldon Koven	Cousin
3/29/2023	Nissan 7	Marcia Friedman	Esther Toney	Sister
3/31/2023	Nissan 9	Matilda Friedman	Mark Friedman	Mother
3/31/2023	Nissan 9	Mendel Isaacson	Arthur & Barbara Bennett	Brother

March 2023

Adar - Nissan 5783

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 08 Adar	2 09 Adar	3 Light: 6:08 10 Adar	4 11 Adar
5 12 Adar	6 Erev Purim (Fast of Esther) 13 Adar	7 Purim (Megillah Reading) 14 Adar	8 Shushan Purim 15 Adar	9 16 Adar	10 Light: 6:14 17 Adar	11 18 Adar
12 19 Adar	13 20 Adar	14 21 Adar	15 Observer Dead- line 22 Adar	16 23 Adar	17 Light: 6:19 24 Adar	18 25 Adar
19 26 Adar	20 First Day of Spring 27 Adar	21 28 Adar	22 29 Adar	23 1 Nissan	24 Light 6:24 2 Nissan	25 3 Nissan
26 4 Nissan	27 5 Nissan	28 6 Nissan	29 7 Nissan	30 8 Nissan	31 Light: 6:29 9 Nissan	

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)