



# 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

**Hazzan Lev Ettelson, Spiritual Leader/  
Director of Education**

**Kislev - Tevet 5784  
December 2023**

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



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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING	
December	
12/01	5:02
12/08	5:02
12/15	5:04
12/22	5:07
12/ 29	5:11

**Volume 2023  
Number 10**



## FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT



I am going to ask you for your support in the upcoming election of the Board. I have served one term and would like to serve a second term to complete the projects and programs that I have started.

1. With the help of my daughter, was able to hire Judith Levy as the High Holiday Cantor.
2. Found Rabbi Lipschultz
3. Got Attorney to reach an amenable settlement to terminate contract with Rabbi Lipschutz.
4. Got Real Estate agent to list the back lot—no results and terminated
5. Got Real Estate agent to sell the back lot and got the deal done.
6. Closed on back lot and got down payment of \$200,000 with balance to be paid over 5 years.
7. Found the AZ Rangers to provide armed security for all our Services
8. Found 303 Lighting to install LED lights in parking lot and Sanctuary for under \$10,000
9. Led search for new Rabbi with intense search on different websites, resulting in the hiring of Rev Lev.
10. Contacted Politicians to speak at our Pro Israel program
11. Have started working with Security experts to get Federal and State grants to upgrade the security of our Building
12. Rejoined the United Synagogue and gained support for our growth.

I would like the opportunity to see these projects to fruition. To help the growth and security of BEC.

## Words from the heart: Reflections on Torah and Tradition by Hazzan Lev Ettelson



The word *Hanukkah* means dedication and on the 25th day of the month of Kislev we commemorate the historical event of the (re) dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem twenty-two centuries ago. After the Temple was desecrated by the Greeks, the Maccabees rose up against their oppressors to reestablish Jewish sovereignty in Zion and Jerusalem.

The word *Hanukkah* shares the same root as the word for education: *Hinnuch*. It is only through study of the Torah that we can effectively dedicate ourselves to sacred service and pass on Torah values to the next generation. This is the light that has been transmitted through the ages from our ancestors to us. The light of Torah and good deeds has the power to dispel darkness.

My father, Richard Lewis Ettelson - Eliezer ben David - peace be upon him, at the age of fifteen, delivered a speech to his confirmation class of 1943 that is as relevant today as it was then:

“In this period of darkness and oppression there is a definite need for the reawakening of our religious spirit to give us courage and faith to meet the problems and heart-breaks not only in this period but in the future.

“In times of great stress people turn to religion for comfort and hope. Is this the only time that we should give evidence of our belief in God? The answer is emphatically no. Religion should play an important part in our daily lives. Perhaps one of the reasons why we are in this terrible life and death struggle is that we have not made religion a part of us; and we are now paying the price.

“In Germany, Hitler and his regime have reverted to the Dark Ages with their merciless and inhumane butchering of (millions). This is not a new story to the Jewish people. The pages of our history are stained with blood and tears, for in every age we have been persecuted. What has made us carry on against such overwhelming odds? It has been our people's firm faith in God that has kept alive our indomitable spirit. It has been the unshakable connection of our religion that has held us together throughout these centuries of hardship.

“Surely this is the time to rededicate ourselves to our faith in God... The uncertain days ahead will require even greater courage to go forward to the unfinished task of building a world in which “Nation shall not lift sword against nation nor learn war anymore.””

This Hanukkah, may the flames of the menorah rekindle the hope in our hearts, and together, with God's help, we will see a new light shine forth from Zion which will dispel the world's darkness now and forever.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to everyone for the shivah visitations, cards and expressions of condolence and offers of support during this time of mourning the death of my father. Thank you to everyone who has given donations to BEC in memory of my father.

## From the Editor's Desk

December contains a conflict between all the Christmas hype and our Jewish tradition and contains one of the best known of our holidays, Chanukah. One of the most common traditions during Chanukah is the consumption of *latkes* (potato pancakes), common among Ashkenazic Jews whose roots are the Eastern European countries, and *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts) eaten by the Sephardic Jews. In both traditions we are celebrating the miracle of oil in which a one-day supply lasted for eight days. Both foods are prepared by frying them in oil.

Traditions vary from family to family and in some there is a separate menorah for each family member. It once was customary to place the menorah in the window so that all passersby can see the lights, but it is also common to place it wherever the family gathers.

We light our menorah after sundown and the order in which we light the flames on our menorah is rabbinically ordained. We add one each night, lighting the newest addition first, until the last is lit on the eighth night. The most common lighting for a menorah is candles, but some families still honor the age-old custom of burning oil.

There's more to the month of December. Asara B'Tevet – the fast of the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of Tevet, marks the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians, which led to the destruction of the first temple. It's a minor fast (from sun-up to sun-down) that is still observed by some traditional congregations and includes some additions to the liturgy as well as a special Torah reading.

Chanukah is also known for a spinning top we call a *dreidel* (*sevivon* in modern Hebrew). The dreidel is a top with a different Hebrew letter inscribed on each of its four sides – *nun*, *gimel*, *heh*, *shin*, forming an acronym for the phrase *Neis gadol hayah sham*--“A great miracle happened there.” (In Israel the letter *shin* is replaced by a *peh* for the word *poh* – “A great miracle happened here.”)

Each player is given a stake for playing the game, which can be anything from pennies to walnuts. To begin the game, each player puts one coin in the “pot”, and the players take turns spinning the dreidel and following its instructions. The letter *nun* means neither win nor lose, *gimel* means you take the whole pot, *heh* means you take half the pot and *shin* requires you to put one coin into the pot.

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



**Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley**  
13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375

**Join Us**  
**December 10th 5:15 pm**  
**For our**  
**Chanukah Latke Feast**



**Cost \$18 per person for members and \$20 for non members**

Tuna & Green Salads, Latkes, applesauce, and sour cream

Beverages, doughnuts and pastries

Make checks payable to Beth Emeth Sisterhood

Or pay by credit card at the office or by phone

623-584-7210 M-F 9:00 to Noon

Reservations by December 4th Please

**Please Bring Your Chanukah Menorah**

**And candles for lighting**

**Candles, Songs, Latkes, Fun, and so much More!**

**Raffle with Proceeds to go to Israel**

**Tickets \$5 each or 2 Tickets for \$10**

**As we Feast, Let us Feed the Soldiers**  
**The Needy and the Displaced Families**

**Let us put our faith in HaShem**  
**And Pray once Again for Miracles**

**Am Yisrael Chai!**



# Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley Special Event!



**Sunday, January 28, 2024, 2:00 pm**

Author Dr. Bernice Lerner of Cambridge, MA will be reflecting and sharing stories from her book:

**“All the Horrors of War: A Jewish Girl, a British Doctor, and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen.”**



Rachel Genuth was a 15-year-old girl from Sighet, Hungary, when British forces liberated her from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on April 15, 1945. Seventy-five years later, her daughter, Dr. Bernice Lerner from Boston, MA has published Rachel’s story, as well as that of Rachel’s liberator, Brigadier Hugh Llewellyn Glyn Hughes, in one volume. Although Rachel and Hughes never met, their stories naturally align in Lerner’s meticulously researched and compelling book.

Lerner spent 15 years researching “All the Horrors of War,” a project that involved mapping out the various battles that Hughes and the 8th Corps fought on their way to liberating Bergen-Belsen. Intertwined with the story of Bergen-Belsen’s British liberators is Rachel’s time at Auschwitz, the Christianstadt labor camp and a forced five-week march across the Sudetenland, during which she nearly died.

In choosing to focus her book on the last year of the war, Lerner presents the history of the Holocaust in thorough detail.

## **International Holocaust Remembrance Day Reflections: The Meaning of Liberation**

The United Nations General Assembly chose January 27, the date on which Auschwitz was liberated, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. What happened on this historic day? And what happened three months later, when the British Second Army confronted unprecedented horrors in Bergen-Belsen, the largest concentration camp at the war’s end? Among astonishing stories Dr. Lerner will share are those of her survivor-mother, Rachel Genuth.

Dr. Bernice Lerner is the author of **All the Horrors of War: A Jewish Girl, a British Doctor, and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen**, and other writings on the Holocaust and on virtue ethics. As director of Boston University’s Center for Character and Social Responsibility, Bernice lectured widely and taught courses on character education and on the Holocaust. As dean of adult learning at Hebrew College, she created a host of adult learning programs, including the acclaimed Me’ah, a two-year journey through Jewish history. Bernice earned a bachelor’s from Stony Brook University, a master’s from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and a doctorate from Boston University.

**We look forward to having you join us!**  
**Open to the public free of charge – donations appreciated!**

**bethemethaz@gmail.com**  
**bethemethaz.org**

**623-584-7210**

**13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West**



**Max Lazar**

**12/6/2023**

## **December Sisterhood Service Projects**

**1. Be sure to purchase your raffle ticket to support Israel.**

**Tickets will go on sale at the December 10th Chanukah Feast! See flier and make your reservations now.**

**2. Sisterhood will be collecting cooking oil for the food bank. While we continue to fill our brown box in the foyer, in the Spirit of Chanukah, we want to focus on collecting bottles of cooking oil a most needed item, that usually is not brought in.**

## **Hazzan Lev Ettelson**

**Available for meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**Call the office for appointment 623-584-7210**

## Our sincere thanks for the following donations

### Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory of Rose Lowenthal

*Joy Epstein*

In Memory of Marcy Hamerschlag

*Marty Hamer*

In Memory of Nancy Ann Vickery

*Susan Hersch*

In Memory of Minnie Hesch

*Morrie Hesch*

In Memory of Jack Kleinman

*Elliot & Brenda Kleinman*

In Memory of Elizabeth Fineberg

*Sonia Marshall*

In Memory of Nicholas Rosenthal

*Gyorgyi Rosenthal*

In Memory of Johannes Behrendt

*Tom Behrendt*

In Memory of Esther and Harry Isaacson

*Arthur and Barbara Bennett*

### Yizkor Donation

Susan Hersch

Myron & Shoshana Perlmutter

Irene Weitzman

Enid & Gary Cohen

Marsha Freedenberg

### Torah Fund

In Memory of Richard Ettelson

Kathryn Mageman

Joan Rothfeld

Gyorgyi Rosenthal

Saul and Sharon Rothzeit

Andrea and Bruce Cohen

Natalie Morrison and

Phillip Gillenson

Irene Lehrer

Denise Landes

Marvin & Rita Wachs

Joy Epstein

Tom Behrendt

### Kiddish Fund

In memory of Lucille Ezraty

*Jack Ezraty*

### General Donations

Rosie Colbert

Marisela Erichsen

Karen Overton

Ronald Paul

### Cards

Diane Freilich

Melvyn Friedman

Sheldon Koven

Natalie Morrison

Saul & Sharon Rothzeit

Ketzi Toney

Irene Lehrer

Joy Epstein

Leah and Charlie Tarnor

Sonia Marshall



Donations Received  
10/20 through 11/20





## *In Loving Memory*

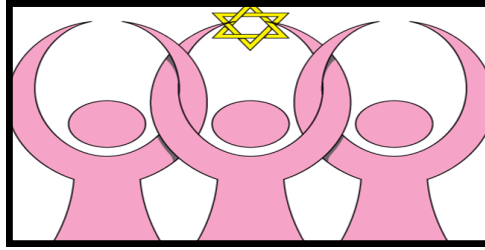
The following Yahrzeits will be observed during Kislev—Tevet -5784

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>
12/2/2023	Kislev 19, 5784	Lucille Ezraty	Jack Ezraty	Mother
12/4/2023	Kislev 21, 5784	Rose Zarensky	Harvey Zarensky	Mother
12/6/2023	Kislev 23, 5784	William Pinkus	Marilyn Newberg/Rhoda Lessner	Father
12/7/2023	Kislev 24, 5784	Morris Kram	William Kram	Father
12/8/2023	Kislev 25, 5784	Lawrence Webber	Marion Koshar	Father
12/9/2023	Kislev 26, 5784	Samuel Comisar	Susan Barnett	Grandfather
12/10/2023	Kislev 27, 5784	Esther Isaacson	Barbara Bennett	Mother
12/10/2023	Kislev 27, 5784	Sylvia Morrison	Natalie Morrison	Mother-in-law
12/10/2023	Kislev 27, 5784	Ada Sherman	Rochelle Bailey	Mother
12/14/2023	Tevet 2, 5784	Harry Isaacson	Barbara Bennett	Father
12/16/2023	Tevet 4, 5784	Sophia Franek	Susan Hersch	Mother
12/16/2023	Tevet 4, 5784	Nicholas Rosenthal	Gyorgyi Rosenthal	Husband
12/17/2023	Tevet 5, 5784	Bernard Sontag	Joseph Sontag	Father
12/20/2023	Tevet 8, 5784	Marvin Davidson	Bradley Davidson	Father
12/21/2023	Tevet 9, 5784	Phyllis Sontag	Joseph Sontag	Sister
12/23/2023	Tevet 11, 5784	Johannes Behrendt	Tom Behrendt	Father
12/24/2023	Tevet 12, 5784	Louis Kanter	Phyllis Frank	Father
12/26/2023	Tevet 14, 5784	Chaya Ben Yosef	Shoshana Perlmutter	Mother
12/26/2023	Tevet 14, 5784	Karen Shindler	Bradley Davidson	Sister
12/27/2023	Tevet 15, 5784	Esther Rachel Karofsky	Marilyn Newberg/Rhoda Lessner	Aunt
12/27/2023	Tevet 15, 5784	Selma Schfandler	Rita Zarensky	Mother
12/29/2023	Tevet 17, 5784	Rose Rothenberg	Owen Segall	Grandmother
12/30/2023	Tevet 18, 5784	Henry Rosenstein	Peter Epstein	Father
12/30/2023	Tevet 18, 5784	Anna Silverman	Iris Silverman	Mother
12/31/2023	Tevet 19, 5784	Hyman Kornheiser	Beverly Merchant	Father

# SISTERHOOD



**Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley**  
13702 West Meeker Blvd. SCW, AZ 85375

## Important Reminders

1. **Our Sisterhood Membership Drive** is in full swing. Forms are available in the Foyer of the Synagogue and on our web site [bethemethaz.org](http://bethemethaz.org) Cost for a Congregation member is \$15, \$36 for a non congregation member to join Sisterhood.
2. **Mah Jongg Cards are now on sale!** Please order your cards though our Sisterhood as it is a major fund raiser for us. Forms are available in our foyer and can be printed from our web site: [bethemethaz.org](http://bethemethaz.org) Costs are \$14 for regular card and \$15 for a large print card ( same as last year.) Please be sure to list your complete address as cards are sent directly to you!  
  
\*\*\* **Make checks Payable to Beth Emeth Sisterhood** with Notation at the bottom for dues or Mah Jongg Cards. You may also Pay by credit card in our office M-F 9-Noon or by phone 623-584-7210, during the same office hours.
3. **Chanukah Latke feast will be December 10th at 5:15 pm**  
cost \$18 per person members \$20 for non members  
**\*There will be a Raffle with Proceeds to go to Israel! See flier!**
4. **Save the Date January 28th, 2024 at 2:00pm!** Plan to hear our Speaker! Author Dr. Bernice Lerner of Cambridge, MA. **Program is free to the public**, thanks to an anonymous donor. **Please refer to separate flier for more information.** Bernice Lerner's book is titled All the Horrors of War: A Jewish Girl, a British Doctor, and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen. The program is in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day which is January 27th.

# December 2023

## Kislev - Tevet 5784

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Light 5:02pm 18 Kislev	2 19 Kislev
3 20 Kislev	4 21 Kislev	5 22 Kislev	6 23 Kislev	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 24 Kislev 1st Chanukah	8 Light 5:02pm 25 Kislev 2nd Chanukah	9 26 Kislev 3rd Chanukah
10 27 Kislev 4th Chanukah	11 28 Kislev 5th Chanukah	12 29 Kislev 6th Chanukah	13 1 Tevet 7th Chanukah	14 2 Tevet 8th Chanukah	15 Light 5:04pm 3 Tevet	16 4 Tevet
17 5 Tevet	18 6 Tevet	19 7 Tevet	20 8 Tevet	21 First Day of Winter 9 Tevet	22 Light 5:07pm Asara B'Tevet 10 Tevet	11 Tevet
24 12 Tevet	25 13 Tevet	26 14 Tevet	27 15 Tevet	28 16 Tevet	29 Light 5:11pm 17 Tevet	30 18 Tevet
31 New Year's Eve 19 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 Board

Tom Behrendt	President
Marilyn Newberg	1st Vice President
Iris Johnson	2nd Vice President
Natalie Morrison	3rd Vice President
Jordan Colbert	4th Vice President
Paula Forster	Treasurer
Irene Lehrer	Financial Secretary
Susan Hersch	Recording Secretary

**Men's Club**  
**President**

### DIRECTORS

Arnold Becker  
Arthur Bennett  
Rhoda Lessner  
Leah Tarnor  
Esther Toney

**Sisterhood**  
**President**

**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



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)