



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**

**Cheshvan - Kislev 5784
November 2023**

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

We stand together with Israel!



Inside this issue

President's Message	2
From the Rabbi's Study	3
From the Editor's Desk	4
New Events	5
Memory of David Caplan	6
Birthdays/Anniversaries	7
Donations	8
Yahrzeits	9
Men's Club /Sisterhood	10
Calendar	11

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

November

11/ 3	5:16
11/10	5:11
11/17	5:06
11/24	5:03

**Volume 2023
Number 09**



FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT



November- Our High Holiday Services were amazing Special thanks to Rev Lev, Cantor Judith Levy, Natalie Morrison for arranging the Ark openings and Aliyot, Arnie Becker for his masterful job of ushering and maintaining decorum and such meaningful and beautiful Services. Thank You letters have been sent to all of the donors of the Yiskor appeal. Letters to those who have not yet made a pledge or contribution is going out this week. Please show your support of Beth Emeth . We did not charge for tickets and we need your support. Beth El charged \$360. For non-members and Beth Shalom, \$200.

On October 15, Beth Emeth hosted a Israel Solidarity Day. It was an amazing display of support for our Brothers and Sisters in Israel. There is an article in the Independent that shows the tremendous support from the Community. Reverend Denise Landes, and Pastor Pam Reynolds were among those in support. Rabbi Sholom Lew of Chabad, Rabbi Gil Gershon Tivon, Phd., and Dr. Shirli Regev spoke about life in Israel and our need to support. Representative Pingerelli gave a heartfelt endorsement of Israel , a copy of which is included in this space.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak to the Beth Emeth synagogue congregation yesterday to offer support. I hope my words conveyed my sincere and shared grief we all have for the Jewish community. I believe most Americans understand this tragedy and the existential threat these events pose to the world and to our humanity as children of God.

My husband Peter and I were particularly moved by a statement one of the speakers made in that grief never goes away, and as people we need to learn to move through our grief.

Peter and I often find comfort from the in Joshua 1:9 — Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you or your congregants need assistance.

Sincerely, Representative Beverly Pingerelli

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



Parashat Noach opens with the words “Noah was an *ish tzaddik* (righteous man), perfect in his generations; Noah walked with G-d” and then continues “Now the earth had become corrupt before G-d; and the earth had become filled with *Hamas*.” Further along G-d says to Noah, “...the earth is filled with *Hamas* through them, behold I am about to destroy them from the earth.” In Hebrew the word *Hamas* connotes lawlessness, robbery and violence.

How does a *tzaddik*, a “righteous” person (or someone who wishes to emulate their example), walk with G-d in a time of violence? G-d commands Noah (whose name means comfort) to build an ark, *Teivah*, with an opening for light, *Tzohar*, to enable the preservation of life in order to rebuild a society based on Divine order and right relationship. There is a wonderful teaching of the Baal Shem Tov who “explained these words in the following way: let the word (*teivah*) said in Torah or in prayer radiate light (*matzhir*)! For in every letter there are worlds, souls and divinity, that rise up and interconnect and cleave to one another and to the Divine.”

Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski of Denver referring to this teaching, encourages us to create arks of our own, sanctuaries of faith, love and positivity. Of course, the evil actions perpetrated by Hamas are deeply shocking and a cause for much grief. We must not minimize this or attempt a “spiritual bypass.” But, what we can do is increase the light in the midst of the darkness. Jews in Israel and around the world are doing just this, each in their own way: yeshiva boys tying tzitzit on the corners of olive drab garments for soldiers, Hasidim bringing stacks of pizza to army bases, individuals and restaurants cooking up big pots of soup, blood drives where crowds are turned away because they’ve reached the daily limit, volunteers housing displaced families, donations flown in from abroad and millions of dollars raised for the war effort.

As for the destruction of Hamas, there is a physical approach and there is a spiritual one. Mosab Hassan Yousef (known as the Green Prince) is the oldest son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a founding member of Hamas. Now a U.S. citizen, after being granted political asylum, he has turned away from terror and violence, and embraces the ways of peace. The organization *Roots/Shorashim/Judur* grew out of the friendship between Gush Etzion Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and former Palestinian militant Ali Abu Awwad and is creating pathways of peace, cooperation, interfaith dialogue and community building.

This is the month of *Mar-Cheshvan*, *Mar* meaning bitter, because it is the only month in our calendar without a holiday. Now it is bitter for a different reason. Just as at the Waters of Marah where Moses was commanded to throw in a particular tree to sweeten the bitter waters, so too may we pitch in with words and actions based on the Tree of Life which has supported us for 3,335 years so that we can help sweeten this bitterness and once again experience the revelation of the light illuminating the darkness manifested during Hanukkah in the coming month of Kislev.

About my name and title: Lev, means heart. Hazzan is Hebrew for cantor and originally meant overseer of a synagogue. Reb is a Yiddish honorific equivalent to mister.

From the Editor's Desk



November 2023 is a void and lackluster month on the calendar and is devoid of any Jewish Holidays (except for Rosh Chodesh, which occurs every month).

So, let's dedicate this space to the secular month of November, and the observance of Thanksgiving, an important day in the United States which has been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month since 1941.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the earliest date that Thanksgiving can occur is November 22; the latest, November 28. The same publication goes on to say: "Interestingly, President Franklin Roosevelt had decided to move Thanksgiving from the fourth Thursday in November to the third Thursday in November back in 1938. However, this was not a very popular move."

Before the formal establishment of Thanksgiving, harvest festivals had been celebrated for centuries by Native Americans, and the colonial services dated back to the late 16th century. The autumnal feasts celebrated the harvest of crops after a season of bountiful growth. (Sound familiar?)

The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, who shared an autumn harvest feast with the Wampanoag Native Americans in 1621. This was the "first" Thanksgiving celebrated in the colonies but not the first in these lands. In 1565, Spanish explorers and the local Timucua people of St. Augustine, Florida, celebrated a mass of thanksgiving. In 1619, British settlers proclaimed a day of thanksgiving when they reached a site known as Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia's James River.

The first national celebration of Thanksgiving was observed for a slightly different reason than celebration of the harvest – it was in honor of the creation of the new United States Constitution. In 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation designating November 26 of that year as a "day of public thanksgiving" to recognize the role of providence in creating the new United States and the New Federal Constitution.

Washington was in his first term as president, and a young nation had just emerged successfully from the Revolution. He called on the people of the United States to acknowledge G-d for affording them "an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." This was the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under a new Constitution.

(Source: The Old Farmer's 2023 Almanac)



Beth Emeth Sisterhood Crafting With Sharon

November 5th and November 19th 1:00 pm



Nov 5th Sharon will be teaching us how to make gift boxes!

You will need to bring a 12" Straight edge or ruler, a scissor, and clear scotch tape. We have cards but if you have some you like bring them!

**Cost of the box making class is \$10 members
And \$12 for non - members**

November 19th we will be making earrings.

All materials provided for this class, but you must let us know if you require clip on parts rather than pierced ears post/wires

**Cost for earring making class is \$15 members
\$18 for non - members**

Take one or both classes it's up to you!

Make checks Payable to BE Sisterhood!

Or you may pay by credit card

For questions call the office

M-F 9-noon

623-584-7210

Space is Limited so RSVP Now to reserve your spot!

Refreshments will be served

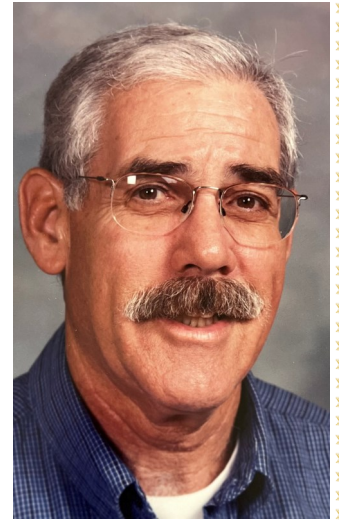
Chanukah is early this year

What fun to make a gift!



David Fischel Caplan

March 5, 1934—October 8, 2023 - 23rd of Tishrei 5784
(Simchat Torah)



Born March 5, 1934 at Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA to Harry and Betty Caplan. He grew up west of there in Weirton, West Virginia. David's paternal grandfather was the Rosh Yeshiva of Lida Yeshiva in Lithuania (now Belarus).

David's father and great Uncle Morton ran a small grocery store in Weirton before Morton moved his family west to California. David's sons William and Zhan, along with their cousin Rena, Morton's granddaughter, attended the memorial service at Beth Emeth Congregation.

David's parents started a grocery wholesaling business in Steubenville, Ohio where David began working while in his teens, making deliveries to local grocers. While in high school, he also worked at Weirton Steel. Over vacations, he often visited his mother's family in Portsmouth, Virginia and spent time at Virginia Beach. (He was always close to his very Southern aunts and uncle in Portsmouth.)

After graduating from the University of Michigan from undergraduate and law school, David worked in private practice in Detroit, later deciding to leave private practice and become a public servant at NASA. The majority of his 30-year career was spent at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia as chief counsel. His work there supported the nation's space program.

Upon retirement in 1994, David built his house in Sun City West and joined Beth Emeth, where he enjoyed many rich friendships.

In addition to his synagogue community, his early retirement found him on the Palm Ridge tennis courts every day, learning about photography, and traveling around Arizona. A few years into his retirement, he fulfilled a lifelong dream and became a "cowboy." He adored his quarter horse, Marty and his burro, Pepito, which he visited at a nearby ranch every day.

In 2001 he met the woman who would become the love of his life, Shirley, who was also present at the memorial in his memory. Theirs was a loving and happy relationship of 20 years. David adored Shirley's daughter, Kara Lee, as well as her grandchildren.

In his later years, David became very interested in cooking. He regularly regaled his sons, and anyone else who would listen, of the dishes he had created.

We will miss David's smile and warm presence.



Jack Ezraty	11/06/2023
Marlene Friedlander	11/09/2023
Marty Hamer	11/13/2023
Irene Lehrer	11/16/2023
Tom Behrendt	11/17/2023
Shelly Moschel	11/27/2023
Paula Foster	11/28/2023



Marvin & Rita Wachs	11/12/2023
Harry & Barbara Newman	11/16/2023
Jim & Phyllis Frank	11/24/2023

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 Lee Stevens

Sheldon Koven

In Memory of Martha Loebman

Arthur & Barbara Bennett

In Memory of Julia & Ben Hamerschlag

Marty Hamer

In Memory of Abraham Koven

Sheldon Koven

In Memory of Edith Kornheiser

Beverly Merchant

In Memory of Leslie Heidecker

Andrew & Jan Heidecker

In Memory of Fradell Dorf

Max & Sherry Lazar

In Memory of Berdie Friedman

Ketzi & Jim Toney

In Memory of Stanford Goldberg

Cecelia & Mark Weissbuch

Yizkor Donation

Bradley & Sherry Davidson

Joy & Peter Epstein

Melvyn Friedman

Marty Hamer

Susan Hersch

Sherry Lapham

Herb Leibovitz

Sonia Marshall

Beverly Merchant

Natalie Morrison

Marilyn Newberg

Myron & Shoshana Perlmutter

Gyorgyi Rosenthal

Donald Stevens

Leah & Charlie Tarnor

Rita & Marvin Wachs

Rosemary Abrami

Rochelle Bailey

Susan Barnett

Arthur & Barbara Bennett

Alice Bernstein

David Caplan

Andrea & Bruce Cohen

Brenda & Elliot Kleinman

Donald Stevens

Rita and Harvey Zarensky

Enid and Gary Cohen

Marlene Friedlander

Sally Hall

Leslie & Saretta Kessler

Susan & Joel Last

Jerry & Sylvia Levitt

Ramona Luckman

Mary & David Laufbaum

S.H. Schwartz

Barbara Kirschner

Yizkor Donation

Phyliss Spinka

Arnold Becker

Sheldon Levenson

Morrie Hesch

Judy and Leon Rischall

General Donations

Rosie Colbert

Marisela Erichsen

Cards

Ketzi Toney

Leah Tarnor

Sally Hall

Natalie Morrison

Diane Frilich

Mel Friedman

Joy Epstein

Saul and Sharon Rothzeit



Donations Received

9/21 through 10/19



In Loving Memory

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during Cheshvan—Kislev -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.

Date Observed		Deceased	Observant	Relationship
11/1/2023	Cheshvan 17	Jack Kleinman	Elliot Kleinman	Father
11/2/2023	Cheshvan 18	Samuel Himmelfarb	Gerald Himmelfarb	Father
11/3/2023	Cheshvan 19	Joe Frank	Jim Frank	Father
11/4/2023	Cheshvan 20	Charles Miller	Iris Silverman	father
11/14/2023	Kislev 1	Norma Leibovitz	Herb Leibovitz	Wife
11/15/2023	Kislev 2	Bea Kaufman	Joseph Sontag	Aunt
11/17/2023	Kislev 4	Dr. Sam Pinkes	Iris Silverman	Brother-in-law
11/18/2023	Kislev 5	Elizabeth Fineberg	Sonia Marshall	Mother
11/18/2023	Kislev 5	Marcy Hamerschlag	Marty Hamer	Brother
11/18/2023	Kislev 5	James Miller	Iris Silverman	Brother
11/21/2023	Kislev 8	David Lederman	Stephen Lederman	Father
11/22/2023	Kislev 9	Beatrice Kaplan	Brenda Kleinman	Mother
11/24/2023	Kislev 11	Minnie Hesch	Morrie Hesch	Step Mother
11/27/2023	Kislev 14	Morton Samuels	Lew Samuels	Father
11/28/2023	Kislev 15	Michael Davis	Gail Punyon-Kuhns	Husband
11/29/2023	Kislev 16	Irwin Bernstein	Alice Bernstein	Husband
11/29/2023	Kislev 16	Bessie Frank	Jim Frank	Mother
11/29/2023	Kislev 16	Nancy Ann Vickery	Susan Hersch	Sister

FROM THE DESK OF MARILYN NEWBERG

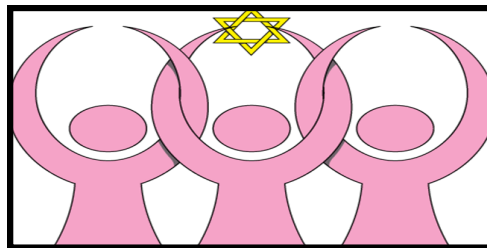
Help me Help others!

Two times a year, I collect clothing and other items for **Nourish Phoenix**. It is a thrift store located in an area whose residents need many items. Whether clothing, dishes, paper goods, etc., go online to see what they do.

So, if you can, please start collecting items that you haven't used since the Wright Brothers flew their first flight. We can make Beth Emeth the drop-off point. Nourish Phoenix will send a truck directly to Beth Emeth. I will meet the truck. Please help me help them.



SISTERHOOD



Mah Johgg Cards!!

It's that time of year again to order your Mah Johgg Cards for next year. Order forms are available on the desk in the lobby. The deadline to get you orders in is January 10th.



November 2023

Cheshvan - Kislev 5784

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Light 5:16	4
			17 Cheshvan	18 Cheshvan	19 Cheshvan	20 Cheshvan
5	6	7	8	9	10 Light 5:10	11 Veteran's Day
21 Cheshvan	22 Cheshvan	23 Cheshvan	24 Cheshvan	25 Cheshvan	26 Cheshvan	27 Cheshvan
12	13	14	15 Observer Deadline	16	17 Light 5:06	18
28 Cheshvan	29 Cheshvan	1 Kislev	2 Kislev	3 Kislev	4 Kislev	5 Kislev
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24 Light 5:03	25
6 Kislev	7 Kislev	8 Kislev	9 Kislev	10 Kislev	11 Kislev	12 Kislev
26	27	28	29	30		
13 Kislev	14 Kislev	15 Kislev	16 Kislev	17 Kislev		

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)