

Beth Emeth Observer

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION

13702 W. Meeker Blvd.,
Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-584-7210

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www.bethemethaz.org

Office hours Mon-Fri - 9 AM - 12 PM

Hazzan Lev Ettelson

Spiritual Leader & Director of Education

**Shevat—Adar 1 5784
February 2024**

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

מְשֻׁנְכֵּן אֶדָר מְרַבֵּן בְּשִׂמְחָה
When Adar begins joy increases!



עץ-חיים היא, למחזיקים בה ותמכיה מאשר

She is a tree of life to those who grasp her
And whoever holds on to her is happy.

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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

January

02/02	5:42
02/09	5:49
02/16	5:55
02/23	6:01

**Volume 2024
Number 2**



FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT



Happy New Year !! We are excited for Beth Emeth for 2024. We are going to offer B'nai Mitzvah classes for Children and Adults. An adult Bar Mitzvah Celebration will be held as You complete your Preparations. New and exciting Programs , both from Sisterhood as well as the Ritual Committee are forthcoming.

I was honored to be re-elected as Your President for the next two years and I thank You all so much for the vote of confidence ,The Board has five new people that are ready to work hard for You, They will need your help. PLEASE be an active Member and attend Services, programs and activities. We are here for You and need you to be here for us.

We will be sending a grant request to FEMA for the express purpose of making our building safe and secure. The Arizona Rangers provide armed Security for all Service and Programs . Estimated cost for the year is \$40,000 . We had a security assessment done and that cost is about \$30,000 to add cameras and other safeguards to the building and grounds. Anti-Semitism is at a all time high and we need to be vigilant and prepared. On February 11 , we are hosting a community wide seminar on House of Worship security, led by an expert.





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

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. *Choose life*—if you and your offspring would live." Deut. 30:19

As I begin writing, it is now day 108 of Israel's war with Hamas. Kfir Bibas, who just turned one year old, is being held captive with his family in Gaza along with over 100 hostages. We continue to pray for the release of the captives and the dissolution of terrorism as we contribute to the many organizations benefiting the People of Israel. Today I listened to a wonderful podcast by Rabbi Olivier BenHaim of Bet Alef Synagogue of Seattle who speaks with great clarity regarding our post October 7th reality in Israel and in the Diaspora. I urge you to listen to it (I have posted a link on our Facebook page).

For the last few weeks we have been reading in the book of Exodus about the redemption of Israel being held captive in Egypt. Even though this event occurred over 3,335 years ago, it is as relevant now as it was then. We see the rise of a humble and reluctant leader who leads his people from the deepest darkness to the greatest light. The journey from suffering in a culture devoid of meaning and substance to the enlightenment of receiving Torah at Sinai is not only an historic event, it is the matrix of our lives as Jews.

For many years I was troubled by the visitation of the plagues upon Egypt. I wondered "If G-d is all powerful, why is it necessary to be so heavy-handed? Why couldn't G-d simply transform the hearts and minds of the Egyptians?" I later discovered in yeshiva that I was not alone in my discomfort. Our sages also wrestled with this and the result is that we pour out a little of our wine in a symbolic act of lessening our joy. The plagues were a result of Pharaoh hardening his heart (and his people hardening theirs) to the suffering of the Jewish people who once upon a time saved Egypt from famine! The Torah principle of *midah keneged midah*, which literally means measure for measure, is the law of cause and effect which we affirm daily in the second paragraph of the Shema. Each of the plagues was the resulting effect of the various ways the Egyptians caused our ancestors to suffer.

Free will is an essential element of what it is to be human. We are here on this Earth to learn, grow, give and develop our soul's capacities. Pharaoh could not be forced into freeing the slaves, he had to do it willingly. The Torah teaches that G-d places before us the choice of Life and Death; Blessing and Curse. We are urged to choose Life and Blessing.

Today we are witnessing a multitude of cataclysmic events that are shaking the foundations of the world. Not only is our tiny nation of Israel in danger, the existence of all beings is threatened in the midst of worldwide drought, famine, environmental destruction and over one hundred armed conflicts. The question is, how will we respond? How will we stand upright and face these challenges with wisdom and compassion? Yes, there is darkness, but there is a greater light which illuminates our souls and is revealed every time we do a mitzvah or engage in an act of kindness.

Moses, our teacher (peace be upon him), the greatest prophet who ever lived, was great (paradoxically) *because of his humble nature*. He was able to be transparent enough for the light of "I am that I am" to shine through. Each one of us glows with that same divine light and has a spark of Moses. Together we can do our part, in partnership with the Creator of the Universe, The Great Liberator, in transforming this world so that we may merit to see a new light shining forth from Zion and Jerusalem.

Reb Lev is available for private meetings on Wednesdays 10:00 –12:00 and Thursdays 1:00-3:00. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

From the Editor's Desk

IT'S LEAP YEAR ... AGAIN



Let's compare the Secular calendar, which shows February as having an extra day, with the Jewish calendar which shows an extra month!

What is a leap year? My research defines a leap year (on the Gregorian calendar) as "any year that can be **exactly** divided by **4** (such as 2016, 2020, 2024, etc.) except if it can be exactly divided by **100**, then it isn't." In other words, a year is a leap year if it meets these criteria: 1) it is evenly divisible by **4**. 2) If it is divisible by **100**, it must **also** be divisible by **400**.

Confused? So was I. Then I continued my research into the Jewish calendar, which is even more confusing.

In an article I found online, written by Konstantin Bikos, I learned that Jewish time reckoning is lunisolar, which means that the calendar keeps in sync with the natural cycles of both the Sun and the Moon. Featuring a body of complex regulations, exceptions and mathematical rules, it is also designed to satisfy a number of requirements conveyed in the Jewish Holy Scripture.

The Hebrew calendar is a comparatively imprecise system in terms of reflecting the duration of a solar year, which is the time it takes Earth to complete a full orbit around the Sun. In comparison with the timing of the astronomical seasons, it is off by 1 day every 216 years.

Regular common years have 12 months with a total of 354 days. Leap years have 13 months and are 384 days long. Months with uneven numbers usually have 30 days while months with even numbers have 29 days. In addition to these regular lengths, both common and leap year can be a day shorter or a day longer.

These alterations are designed to prevent Rosh Hashana and other holidays from falling on certain days of the week. The Jewish calendar is based on a history of time reckoning efforts dating back to ancient times. Some find significance in the fact that in Hebrew leap years, we duplicate the month of Adar, which is also known as "the lucky month." So we get a double dose of luck every leap year.



REMEMBERING ELLIOT KLEINMAN



A longtime member of Beth Emeth Congregation, Elliot Kleinman moved to Surprise, Arizona twenty-one years ago with his wife Brenda.

Born in Bensonhurst Brooklyn, one of the boroughs of New York City, his formal education began at Public School 205, and eventually NYU. Elliot's passion became the Legal Profession, and he went on to teach pre-law at Nassau Community College and accounting law at Stony Brook Community College, in the hamlet of Centereach, Long Island, New York. As a lawyer in private practice, his specialty was General Law rather than criminal or corporate law. He is credited with helping a student become the first Native American to get into Harvard Law School.

Brenda reported that she was "smitten" on their second date, and that his mother had introduced him as "a scholar and a gentleman." She also told me that he was very much involved with his students, many of whom continued to communicate with him long after they had graduated.

Elliot and Brenda have six grandchildren, three from each of their children. What became clear was theirs was a strong family bond and they loved and respected him.

Asked about his hobbies or favorite pastimes, the response from Brenda was that his profession was also his hobby. When asked about his involvement in Beth Emeth Congregation, we were told that, although he had not served as an officer or Board member, he became chairman of the Bylaws Committee and was very outgoing and both willing and happy to give his input.



February Events

Sunday February 4th, 1:00 PM

Balance, Stability & Flexibility Class

Lead by Marla Solarz , Cost \$5

Marla is a fun and dynamic instructor. She regularly teaches Dance exercise on line. Last year she had us all movin' and groovin' to some great music...even those who "danced" from their chair.. This year she will address strengthening and balance. Appropriate for all levels. Bring a small hand weight if you have one, and a water bottle, which will also serve as a light weight.

You can pay at the door but please **RSVP 623-584-7210**



Sunday, February 11th, 1:00-5:00 pm

Congregational Safety Training, by AZCSN: Prepare/Prevent/Respond.

Free of charge and open to everyone. You must **RSVP** Please call the office if you would like to attend **623-584-7210**.

Sunday, February 18th 2 events

1:00pm Important Congregational Meeting to vote on 2nd Vice President Board Position.

Candidates are Iris Johnson and Ketzi Toney. Ballots will be counted at the meeting on February 18th.

After the meeting plan to stay, play and have fun!

2:00 pm Game Day: Horse Racing Board Game

Cost is \$5. Bring two rolls of nickels for betting.

Note: (\$5 cost is for refreshments)

RSVP 623-584-7210

Reminder: Purim hamantaschen bags are Now on sale!

Place your orders ASAP!



Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

13702 W Meeker BLVD

Sun City West, AZ 85375



Peter Esptein	2/04/24
Esther Toney	2/07/24
Gail Punyon-Kuhns	2/08/24
Phyllis Frank	2/10/24
Rita Zarensky	2/14/24
Andrea Cohen	2/20/24
Arnold Becker	2/22/24
Brad Friedlander	2/23/24
Iris Johnson	2/27/24



Iris Johnson	2/02/2024
Rosie and Jordan Colbert	2/27/2024



Ketzi Toney—Candidate for 2nd Vice President

I believe that good programing and marketing are imperative for sustaining and building our membership, which is vital now more than ever. Marketing and membership are the job of the 2nd VP. I am humbly asking for your vote. I am eager to work on events to welcome new members and further cultivate our community.

In addition to Sisterhood responsibilities and Sisterhood events I planned, organized, marketed, and led the set up & clean up for the following congregational events and completed the following tasks to keep our shul vibrant.

2023-2021 Negotiated and found sponsors for speaker
Bernice Lerner (two other speakers in the works)
Coordinated the Tu B'Shevat Seders
Prepared the Chanukah latke feasts; 27/80 were non members 2023
Organized putting up and taking down of the Sukkah (yearly)
Catered the tribute to Alice Mason and many Shabbat kiddushes
Arranged for speakers for Yom HaShoah
Dr. Ruth Callahan, and Mark Brown (2024 in the works)
Coordinated the program "Preparing for Passing Panel"
Prepared the "Holocaust Torah Memorial Program"
Organized the cleaning of the Holocaust Torah
Organized and catered the congregational Shabbat dinner
Coordinated the Veteran's Day program
Booked the Nicole Pesce & Dan Reed concert (found sponsor)

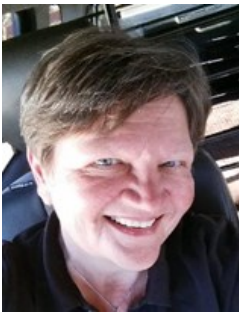
Marketing I have and continue to:

Write and send articles and photos to the newspaper for publication
Prepare all fliers for posting on the web
Coordinate with the web manager for managing site
Send monthly fliers to Shalom clubs, deliver fliers to churches
Prepare monthly fliers for the Observer, prepare emails & phone tree
I have created curb side signage for events

Other Arranged for food and chairs for Shiva
Coordinated Passover Seder invitations, arranged for transportation
Delivered collected food to the food bank (continue monthly)
Made calls to check on individuals, delivered meals, visited the sick

Post Covid Organized the High Holiday services, tracked Covid vaccination cards
Insured we had signed liability wavers for every attendee
Helped cover the office when we lost our secretary
Found a temporary secretary replacement
Completed custodial and grounds maintenance with Sally Hall

I am excited to work with our new board members: Brad and Marlene Friedlander, Andrea Cohen, Suzy Shlian, and Harvey Zarensky. It was a pleasure to have worked on recruiting them! They will each bring their talents and much needed new energy and ideas to our congregation. Respectfully, I ask for your vote.



Iris Johnson—Candidate for 2nd Vice President

I am the incumbent 2nd VP of the Board of Trustees of Beth Emeth congregation. I am a retired MD, PhD. After 16 years in practice as a nephrologist I was a medical patient safety executive for 3 major pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers which has given me extensive organizational and upper management experience. I also have wide-ranging experience as member of academic and corporate boards and committees. My hobbies are singing, piano and golf.

Beth Emeth is my spiritual home. We are a small congregation with a big heart. It is very important to me and I want to continue to help it to flourish. Since joining Beth Emeth I have attempted to serve in as many ways as I could. I love to sing and spend many hours preparing to chant the haftorah portion which is labor of love. It has always been a great honor to chant the haftorah, but especially while we were continuing our services without a rabbi. I led a small choir before the pandemic struck and I would love to resurrect it.

I was excited to work with Rabbi Robert Sternberg z”l and cantor Judy Levy to organize religious services of the High Holidays in 2021 when our pandemic restrictions could finally be lifted and we could fill the house with members and guests.

It has been an honor for me to serve for over 3 years on the board, the last 2 as 2nd VP and I am acutely aware of all our challenges. Our vision is to expand our membership and enhance our visibility in our rapidly expanding neighborhoods of the West Valley. I want to help create opportunities to reach out to friends and neighbors to come and join us at Beth Emeth. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve as 2nd VP.



February 18th 1:00pm Congregational Meeting

Members need to come and vote on 2nd Vice President Board Position. Candidates are Iris Johnson and Ketzi Toney. Ballots will be counted at the meeting on February 18th. (Bio information on the candidates is on this page and the facing page)

All members please vote. If you can't vote in person, absentee ballots are available.





**Purim begins
the evening of March 23rd, 2024
Time to Order your Hamantaschen
Deadline for ordering is
March 15th.
Please Order As Soon As Possible**

You may order individual gift bags for \$6.50 each, complete with a tag of good wishes indicating it's from you. Each bag contains 8 hamantaschen.

Discount for ordering 10 or more bags to \$6.00 each bag.

You may send a bag to every congregant for only \$136

Bakers Dozens available for \$15 per mixed dozen only.

Order forms may be printed from our web site bethemethaz.org
or picked up in our office in the foyer

All orders must be accompanied by payment

Checks should be made out to

Sisterhood Beth Emeth Congregation

Or

Pay by credit card in person in the office as we must have your form of recipients. You may pay by phone if you are choosing to send a bag to all

congregants, or only ordering extra dozens.

All other orders have to be made in the office.

Note: Due to decreased filling donations, mixed variety orders only

All orders must be picked up from the synagogue

Orders will be ready for pick up starting March 20th

Unless prior arrangements have been made by

calling Ketzi 425-890-6792

Questions call our office M-F 9-noon 623-584-7210

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

13702 West Meeker Blvd

Sun City West AZ, 85375





PURIM BAG ORDER FORM—DEADLINE MARCH 15TH

Please Print Clearly. Use additional paper and staple it to your form if necessary. Be sure to add your name on second sheet!

Print your name as you would like it on the tag

List Your phone #
in case we have questions

Cost \$6.50 per bag, \$6.00 per bag when ordering 10 or more bags
Send a bag to every congregant for \$136 . Baker's Dozens available
For \$15 per dozen, mixed varieties only due to shortage of fillings.
Please Print the names of the recipients for each of your bags ordered

1. _____

7. _____

2. _____

8. _____

3. _____

9. _____

4. _____

10. _____

5. _____

11. _____

6. _____

12. _____

_____ Yes I want to send a bag to All the Congregants \$136. \$ _____
I have ordered _____ bags at \$ _____ per bag \$ _____
I would like to order _____ baker's dozens at \$15 per dozen. \$ _____
My Total Order is \$ _____

Paid by check # _____ Paid by credit card on date _____

Make Checks Payable to Sisterhood Beth Emeth Congregation

Credit card payments must be made in the office, **as we must have your form of recipients.** The only exception would be if you are choosing to send a bag to all congregants. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 till noon. 623-584-7210.

Beth Emeth Congregation
13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Our sincere thanks for the following donations

Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory of Ida Feinstein
Arnold Becker

In Memory of Ludolph Heidecker
Andrew & Jan Heidecker

In Memory of Irving Hesch
Morrie Hesch

In Memory of Jacob Lee
Joanie Jacobs

In Memory of Rose Rosenberg
Reva Litt

In Memory of Jeanette Fisher Roth
Shelly Moschel

In Memory of Max Gimpel
Allen Gimpel

In Memory of Siegmond Paul
Ronald Paul

In Memory of Ada Sherman
Rochelle Bailey

In Memory of Ludolph Heidecker
Andrew and Jan Heidecker

In Memory of Clara Perlmutter
Myron Perlmutter

In Memory of Leslie Merchant
Beverly Merchant

In Memory of Mania Boxer
Stanley Debber

In Memory of Melba Harlin
Karen Overton

In Memory of Rose Rosenberg
Reva Litt

In Memory of MaryAnn Becker
Marilyn Newberg

In Memory of Mary Pinkus Halperin
Marilyn Newberg

In Memory of Yolen Schiff
Susan Faludi

General Donations

In memory of Herb Leibovitz

Sally Hall

Morrie Hesch

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sally Hall

In memory of Rhoda Lessner

Ruth Callahan

Sheila Cohan

Joy & Peter Epstein

Morrie Hesch

Kat Magedman

Sally Hall

Diane Freilich

Mel Friedman

In memory of David Phillips

Kat Magedman

Joy & Peter Epstein

Kiddush Fund

Susan Hersch

Mel Friedman

Honor of President of

Tikvah W.V.,

Suzy Shlian

General Donations

Steven & Janice Rothschild

Lew & Cheri Samuels

Gerald Brin

Ron Paul

Susan Hersch

Rosemary Abrami

Karen Overton

Marisela Erichsen

Torah Fund

Cards

Ketzi and Jim Toney

Arthur and Barb Bennett

Susan Hersch

Susan Friedman

Donations Received

12/27 through 1/24/24





In Loving Memory

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during Shevat - Adar -5784

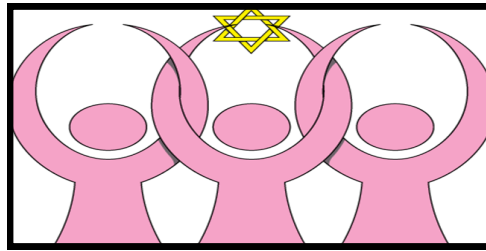
Kaddish may be said on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

El Malei Rachamim, the memorial prayer, may be said on the Thursday preceding the Yahrzeit
at 9:00 a.m. Minyan.

Date Observed	Deceased	Observer	Relationship
2/1/2024	Shevat 22 Solomon Kaplan	Brenda Kleinman	Father
2/2/2024	Shevat 23 Esther Forster	Paula Forster	Mother in law
2/3/2024	Shevat 24 Alex Rothzeid	Saul Rothzeid	Father
2/6/2024	Shevat 27 Regina Rosen	Bernard Rosen	Mother
2/7/2024	Shevat 28 Judith Shane	Jamie Rothschild	Aunt
2/12/2024	Adar-I 3 Edward Rosenberg	Rita Beth Wachs	Father
2/13/2024	Adar-I 4 Mary Reichman	Arthur Bennett	Grandmother
2/13/2024	Adar-I 4 Goldie Witt	Natalie Morrison	Mother
2/14/2024	Adar-I 5 Ruth Colbert	Jordan Colbert	Mother
2/14/2024	Adar-I 5 H. Norman Wyatt	Kathryn Magedman	Father
2/15/2024	Adar-I 6 David Stuchlak	Susan Hersch	Husband
2/15/2024	Adar-I 6 Minnie Weber Baer	Alice Bernstein	Mother
2/16/2024	Adar-I 7 Abraham Cutler	Madelaine Friedman	Father
2/17/2024	Adar-I 8 Dr. Morris Kriss	Barbara Newman	Father
2/22/2024	Adar-I 13 Bernard Casper	Sheldon Koven	Uncle
2/25/2024	Adar-I 16 Julia Salmirs	Brad Friedlander	Grandmother
2/27/2024	Adar-I 18 Abraham David Silverman	Iris Silverman	Husband
2/27/2024	Adar-I 18 Sylvia Wyatt	Kathryn Magedman	Mother
2/28/2024	Adar-I 19 Owen Litt	Reva Litt	Husband
2/28/2024	Adar-I 19 Seymour Rosenberg	Reva Litt	Father

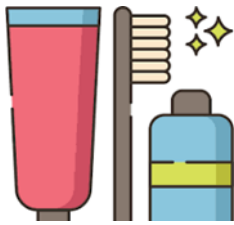


SISTERHOOD



Thank you for supporting the January Service Project

Together we collected two large boxes of
Toiletries for Eve's Place



February Service Project We will be collecting

Winter hats, scarves, socks, gloves, and jackets
For the homeless shelter



Sunday, February 11th, 1:00-5:00 pm

Congregational Safety Training, by AZCSN: Prepare/Prevent/Respond.

Free of charge and open to everyone. You must **RSVP** Please call the office if you would like to attend **623-584-7210**.

**Join Us March 3rd
1:00pm**

**For Ikebana Japanese Flower
Arranging/Demonstration
&**

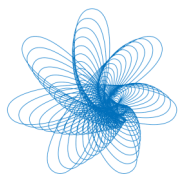
Desserts

**Cost \$10 members
\$15 non members**

**Thank you to Diane Shapiro
For arranging this program**

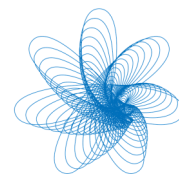
RSVP by Wed. Feb. 28th





February 2024

Shevat - Adar 1 5784



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 22 Shevat	2 Light 5:42 23 Shevat	3 24 Shevat
4 25 Shevat	5 26 Shevat	6 27 Shevat	7 28 Shevat	8 29 Shevat	9 Light 5:49 30 Shevat	10 1 Adar 1
11 2 Adar 1	12 3 Adar 1	13 4 Adar 1	14 5 Adar 1	15 6 Adar 1	16 Light 5:55 7 Adar 1	17 8 Adar 1
18 9 Adar 1	19 President's Day 10 Adar 1	20 11 Adar 1	21 Observer Deadline 12 Adar 1	22 Purim Katan 13 Adar 1	23 Light 6:01 14 Adar 1	24 15 Adar 1
25 16 Adar 1	26 17 Adar 1	27 18 Adar 1	28 19 Adar 1	29 20 Adar 1		

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.



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!

Beth Emeth Congregation **Board**

Tom Behrendt	President
Marilyn Newberg	1st Vice President
Pending	2nd Vice President
Natalie Morrison	3rd Vice President
Jordan Colbert	4th Vice President
Brad Friedlander	Treasurer
Susan Hersch	Financial Secretary
Andrea Cohen	Recording Secretary
Marlene Friedlander	Corresponding Secretary

Men's Club
President

DIRECTORS

Arnold Becker
Arthur Bennett
Leah Tarnor
Suzanne Shlian
Harvey Zarensky

Sisterhood
President

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)