Beth Emeth Observer

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION OF THE WEST VALLEY





Hazzan Lev Ettelson Spiritual Leader & Director of Education

13702 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375 office@bethemethaz.org www.bethemethaz.org Office hours Mon-Fri - 9 AM - 12 PM (ph)623-584-7210

Adar- Nisan 5785

March 2025

PURIM—March 13-14

EVEN VERVEN V

Sunday, March 16



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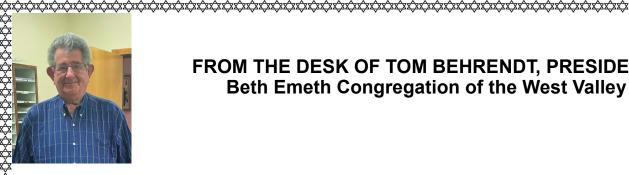
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Shabbat Candle Lighting March 2025

	3/07 3/14 3/21 3/28	6:13 pm 6:18 pm 6:24 pm 6:29 pm
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Volume 2025—Number 12





FROM THE DESK OF TOM BEHRENDT, PRESIDENT Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

Shalom!

Kudos to the Film Festival team for making it such a wonderful and successful event Looking forward to Film Festival 2026. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Our member, Rosemary Abrami, has volunteered to instruct us on how to open and close the Ark, where to stand for Aliyots, what to, when to come up, lifting and tying the Torah etc. PLEASE call the office to put your name on the list so we can range a time that fits your schedule, or contact our Ritual Vice President, Natalie Morrison—3rdvicepresident@bethemethaz.org.

Please consider making Beth Emeth tax free contributions. As you prepare your taxes for 2024, please discuss with your financial advisor how you can donate to Beth Emeth Congregation to MAXIMIZE your deductions as we are a 501(3)c institution Thank You!!

Your support ensures the future of Conservative Judaism in the West Valley. This is our home and we need your support.

You can also contact our Treasurer, Brad Friedlander for other ways to contribute. treasurer@bethemethaz.org

Remember to order your Hamantaschen. This is a major fundraiser for our Sisterhood and a wonderful way to enjoy Purim.

Don't forget about our 1st Annual Mah Jongg Tournament on March 16th. Tables are still available.

Sline Schendt

Reflections on Torah and Tradition Hazzan Lev Ettelson



The Talmud asks, "Where is there an allusion to Esther in the Torah?" The answer is: " אָנֹכִי הַסְתָּיר פְּנֵי בַּיָּוֹם הַהוּא And I will surely hide (haster estir) my face on that day (Deut. 31:18) - Chullin 139b." Haster shares the same root letters with Esther. Rashi's commentary says, "in the days of Esther there will be a concealment of the Divine countenance." Even though the events of Megillat Esther unfolded

during the time of prophecy, it occurred in exile where the Jewish people were living under the rule of a cruel despot in a state of alienation.

Rabbi Avraham Sutton, in his book *Purim Light,* writes about God's involvement with the world in ways which are both concealed - *Hester* - and revealed - *galuy גלוי* (sharing the root letters with the word Megillah *מגילה).* In other words, God plays hide and seek with the world throughout history. The Hebrew word for world, *Olam,* is related to the word - *ne'elam* - which means hidden or unknown. During the events of human history, Divine Providence (*השנחה פרטית*) is usually obscured.

In Megillat Esther none of God's names are explicitly written, however, Midrash Esther Rabbah says that "every instance of the name ha'Melech Achashverosh refers to the monarch of Persia, but, Ha'Melech (The King) has the additional meaning of the Holy One." What's more, the gematria of Ha'Melech (95) and Haman (95) are equivalent. In other words, Hashem is hidden in the very events and characters of the Megillah (and our lives).

We find ourselves in the midst of world events unfolding at a rapid pace which threatens the peace, prosperity, safety and well-being of us all. We live in a time of unprecedented interconnectivity and interdependence, yet so many of us feel a sense of alienation. We are witnessing a breakdown in historic alliances and the turning away from cooperative ventures to resolve global problems. In a recent essay, Rabbi Arthur Green warns of the potential dangers of Artificial Intelligence, characterizing it as the pursuit (and generation) of knowledge (data) which is disconnected from wisdom. This is symbolically represented in our tradition by the two trees in the center of the Garden of Eden: The Tree of Life (Torah) and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (dualistic thinking). "Is it Knowledge that we humans seek to acquire, or is it Life?" He goes on to cite a Kabbalistic tradition which says the exile from the garden was the consequence of separating the two "trees." "It has become" as Einstein said, "appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."

The mitzvot of Purim can help us to heal our differences and reclaim our humanity by affirming our underlying unity. We reach beyond our boundaries of self by giving generously to the poor and sharing our food with friends. When we listen to the 2,500 year old story of the struggle between the forces of light and those of darkness the Mishna instructs us not to read it out of order, which has the metaphorical meaning of seeing our own lives as part and parcel of the unfolding of the cosmic narrative. At the Purim feast we can reach a state of "not knowing the difference between *blessed (Mordechai) and cursed (Haman)*" transcending duality. "For the Jews there was light, joy, delight and honor." (Megillat Esther 8:16). May it be so for us and the whole world.

Reb Jer

Greetings!

Just a reminder that Hamantaschen bags for Purim are still available for purchase! This is an annual Fundraiser for Sisterhood programming as well as a "baked with love" treat from our kitchen to yours.

Sunday, March 16th is our 1st of hopefully many **Mah Jongg Tournaments**. This is a Fundraiser for the Congregation! Let's make this a huge success!

On Saturday, March 29, we will be honoring **Evelyn Dragiff** whose **97th** birthday is on March 28, with a sponsored Kiddush following services. Sisterhood and others have already contributed to the Kiddush but all are welcome to support this special event. Come and wish Evelyn a Happy Birthday for reaching this amazing milestone!!

Although this is the March edition of The Observer, my thoughts are a month ahead looking towards Passover.

As we start getting busy with our own Passover Seder planning, there are many that may be alone this year or are in a situation to not even have a Seder.

If you are having a Seder and have an extra seat at your table, or if you would like to be able to join in at a Seder, please contact the Office and let us know. Several members have already stepped up to offer seats at their table.

Remember that at Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley, we are a community, one family.

B' Shalom,

marlene gueslander

Marlene Friedlander, Editor Questions or comments on this issue? Send them to editor@bethemethaz.org

From your Kiddush Committee! This is your opportunity to make our Kitchen Committee/ Kiddush Fund a success! Donations to the Kiddush Fund are always welcomed!

Think of sponsoring a Kiddush for a birthday or anniversary or co-sponsoring with a friend! I can help you with ideas for your special Kiddush! **Minimum donation of \$220.**

If you are interested in helping in the kitchen or in sponsoring a Kiddush? Please contact me via the Synagogue office.

March 29— Kiddush sponsored in Honor of Evelyn Dragiff's 97th birthday!

All are welcome to contribute.

All my best!! Marasha Tikvah (Marilyn Newberg) marilyn.newberg@bethemethaz.org

Aliyot (Ritual Committee)

I am always so grateful to everyone who participates in our services with accepting the honor of an Aliyah. Our services are more meaningful with your participation.

Are you interested in learning about the Aliyot? When to go up to the Bimah or Ark? What to do? Where to stand? When to go back to your seat? We are planning on having a class in the near future! Let me know if you are interested or leave your name with the Office!!

Reb Lev is also available if you wish to re-chant your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Haftorah or learn to chant Torah or a Haftarah portion.

I look forward to greeting you at services!

Natalie Morrison

3rdvicepresident@bethemethaz.org



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Greetings from out JUDAICA SHOP! We have everything you need for gift giving and your Shabbat and Passover needs!!! We have Mezuzoth, Shabbat candles, Yahrzeit Candles, Seder plates, Haggadahs and Artwork! Looking for something special? Let me know! Stop by anytime Monday– Friday 9:00 am—noon! Payments accepted by cash, Credit card. check or Zelle! Susan Hersch, Judaica Shop Manager financialsecretary@bethemethaz.org From your Treasurer There are many ways you can contribute to our Synagogue! 1. Grocery shopping at Fry's. Linking your Fry's Rewards card will benefit the Synagogue and not impact your rewards! So far 14 families are participating! 2. Donating to our Biblical Garden—contact Marilyn Newberg and Arnold Becker 3. Sponsoring a Kiddush—contact Marilyn Newberg, 1st Vice President 4. Donating to the Torah Fund—contact our President or the Office Sponsoring our Arizona Rangers for Shabbat services or events—contact our President Buying a leaf on our Etz Chaim in our Lobby—contact our President 7. Remembering a loved one by purchasing a Yahrzeit plaque—contact Arnold Becker We accept contributions by cash, check, credit card, or Zelle. If you have questions, please email me at treasurer@bethemethaz.org.

Brad Friedlander, Treasurer





Our Biblical Garden

Back in 2006, the Biblical Garden looked like this...lush and beautiful!



Today it looks like this...overgrown and barren.



The passing of my sister, Rhoda, has taken great deal away from me. A few months ago, I walked thru our Biblical Gardens in search of a quiet place to sit and restore my thoughts. I was horrified at the shape the once beautiful gardens had turned into. I decided that it needed repair; replace, and replant everything that had died out. I can't do this alone for as you know it takes a village. I shared my concerns with my nephew Craig, who sent Beth Emeth Congregation a check for \$2500. I am so grateful for his generosity, BUT your support of this project would be greatly appreciated. So far we have over \$3,000. *Not nearly enough...* as to start reclaiming the beauty of the Gardens will cost about \$6000.

In doing this work, I would like to dedicate the "new" gardens in memory of Rhoda Lessner (z"l).

Please consider making a donation to the beautification of our property.

Marilyn Newberg, marilyn.newberg@bethemethaz.org



Suzanne Magier	3/1
Diane Freilich	3/2
Allen Goodall	3/3
Madelaine Friedman	3/9
Morrie Hesch	3/6
James May	3/10
Laverne Feingold	3/13
Sherry Lapham	3/26
David Nedelman	3/26
Carol Loewith	3/27
Evelyn Dragiff	3/29
Mary Flint	3/31
Sheldon Koven	3/31



Myron and Shoshana Perlmutter	3/4
Gail Davis and her husband Aaron	3/8
Susan Hersch and husband Stephen	3/18







Be Happy it's Adar Join Us for Purim



Hear the Megillah



Thursday March 13th 7:00 pm & Friday March 14th 9:00 am

Boo Haman

Have Fun



Nash Some Hamantaschen

Costumes Optional



It is sure to be a fun filled evening. There will be a raffle for beautiful hand made pieces of Jewelry and the ceremony called "lifting of the half shekel," both to raise funds for the needy (Mattanot L'Evyonim), and each family unit will receive Meshloach Manot, a bag of Hamantaschen to take home. Be sure to attend and pick up yours. Don't miss the fun!

 Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

 13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West

 bethemethaz@gmail.com
 office@bethemeth.org
 623-584-7210

 bethemethaz.org
 https://www.facebook.com/BethEmethCongregation/

M-F 9:00 am - Noon



A Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley Fundraiser

1st ANNUAL MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT 4 Rounds of Play



Sunday, March 16th 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Tournament Play - \$50 per person

9:00 am Registration 9:45 am Review of Rules 10:00 am Play begins 3:00 pm Awards and Prizes

Kosher Continental breakfast and Lunch will be served.

Name: Email:

Phone:

I am willing to be EAST

I'm willing to bring my Mah Jongg set

Payable by check (Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375), Cash, Credit card or Zelle. RSVP by March 7th!

Contact Natalie Morrison: 3rdvicepresident@bethemethaz.org or the office at: 623-584-7210 for more information.

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley www.bethemethaz.org

13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375 623 - 584 - 7210 https://www.facebook.com/BethEmethCongregation/



PURIM HAMANTASHEN BAG ORDER FORM

Please Print Clearly. Use additional paper and staple it on your form if necessary.

NAME OF PERSON PURCHASING: _____ Contact number_____

Be sure to add your name TO THE TOP OF PAGE if you use a second sheet!

Print Your name as you would like it on the tag and include your phone # in case of questions.

Cost \$8.00 per bag, \$7.50 per bag when ordering 10 or more bags **List your name on bag to every congregant for \$136.

Baker's Dozens available for \$15 per dozen, mixed varieties due to shortage of fillings. Special request call Ketzi to confirm 425-890-6792

Please Print the names of the recipients for each of your bags ordered:

1	7
2	88
3	9
4	10
5	11
Yes, I want to send my v	vishes 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:
recipients' names.	it card, or Zelle in person in the office <u>as we must have your form with</u> to: Sisterhood Beth Emeth Congregation Paid by check #:
	ard, or Zelle on date:
an an an an Star an an Star an an Alban an an an	ou are choosing to send a bag to all congregants or only ordering by the
	Order Deadline is Friday March 7th at noon es: March 12th and 16th 9-noon. (Also, after Megillah readings.)

Special arrangements contact Ketzi Toney 425-890-6792

Game Day January 19, 2025 A Big Success



Thank you Suzan Giloni for Chairing the program, seen here teaching Mexican Train.



Over 40 people turned out to enjoy multiple games: Mah Jongg, Pan, Bunco, Mexican train, and Horse Racing. Everyone had a great time! There were yummy snacks, a raffle that raised \$54 for Israel, two winners that each received \$27, plus many door prizes.





Thank you Natalie Morrison for leading Horse Racing, and not pictured, Thank you Irene Lehrer for leading Bunco!









Safety Training Program January 29, 2025

On January 29th, over 20 individuals gathered together to hear the presentation by David Humble, the Regional Director of the Secure Community Network.

SCN is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America.

Mr Humble provided information, dispelled misconceptions, and answered questions. He left us with at least two very important directives. Always know where the exits are, and "If you see something, say something". Individuals can make a big difference.





Setting up was a lot to do quickly. Thank you to all those that helped!

February 13th at 4:00 pm we gathered together to celebrate the "Birthday of the Trees." This biblical holiday instructs those that work the land on harvesting and providing for those in need.

We enjoyed tasting dates, figs, grapes, olives, almonds, pomegranates, wheat, barley, and other fruits and nuts. mixing our juice to match the seasons, and learning about the significance of each item.

We viewed a video from the JNF, learned about planting trees and thanked HaShem for our blessings.

In the spirit of helping those in need, we collected nonperishable food items for the food bank.



We had 43 people attend, a great turn out!



To view additional photos, see the Event Photo tab on the home page of our web site bethemethaz.org

More Tu B'Shevat Photos 2025















JNF Plant A Tree | Jewish National Fund-USA

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley 13702 West Meeker Blvd. SCW, AZ 85375				
SISTERHOOD				
SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP FORM July 2024-June 2025				
Congregational Member \$36 per year Non Members \$46 per year Includes membership in Women's League of Conservative Judaisr				
Please complete and submit with your payment Checks Payable to Sisterhood Beth Emeth Congregation				
Name DOB				
Address				
City Zip Code				
Cell Phone # Home Phone				
Email Anniversary Date				
Emergency Contact				
Relationship phone number				
Volunteer tasks I am able to help with check all that apply				
kitchen food prepplanning organizingset upclean upphone cal				
sending cardsdriving for car poolleading an activity please specify				
Types of Programs you enjoy attending:				



May their memories be blessed. As We remember them....



The following Yahrzeits will be observed during Shevat. Kaddish may be said at Friday evening services (6:00 pm), and Saturday morning services (9:30 am) El Malei Rachamim, the Memorial prayer, may also be said at the Thursday morning Minyan (9:00 am) preceding the Yahrzeit date.

	Hebrew			
Date	Date	Deceased	Observant	Relationship
3/2	Adar 2	Bella Golda Giloni	Dov Giloni	Mother
3/3	Adar 3	Edward Rosenberg	Rita Beth Wachs	Father
3/4	Adar 4	Mary Reichman	Arthur Bennett	Grandmother
3/4	Adar 4	Goldie Witt	Natalie Morrison	Mother
3/5	Adar 5	Ruth Colbert	Jordan Colbert	Mother
3/6	Adar 6	David Stuchlak	Susan Hersch	Husband
3/6	Adar 6	Minnie Weber Baer	Alice Bernstein	Mother
3/7	Adar 7	Abraham Cutler	Madelaine Friedman	Father
3/9	Adar 9	Abraham Harry Goldenberg	Lael Summer	Father
3/11	Adar 11	Jack Turk	Lael Summer	Uncle
3/12	Adar 12	Ruth Turk Goldenberg	Lael Summer	Mother
3/13	Adar 13	Bernard Casper	Sheldon Koven	Uncle
3/13	Adar 13	Gayle Friedlander	Brad Friedlander	Wife
3/13	Adar 13	Bessie Plotkin	Sonia Altman	Mother
3/13	Adar 13	Allen Schwartz	Sandra Shedroff	Brother
3/14	Adar 14	Anna Libman	Marilyn Newberg	Grandmother
3/15	Adar 15	Scott Sontag	Joseph Sontag	Son
3/15	Adar 15	Gerald Wolff	Janice Rothschild	Father
3/16	Adar 16	Julia Salmirs	Brad Friedlander	Grandmother
3/17	Adar 17	Anna Newman	Barbara Newman	Mother
3/18	Adar 18	Michael Shapiro	William Kram & Diane Shapiro	Brother
3/18	Adar 18	Abraham David Silverman	Iris Silverman	Husband
3/19	Adar 19	Ruth Heidecker	Andrew Heidecker	Mother
3/19	Adar 19	Owen Litt	Reva Litt	Husband
3/19	Adar 19	Solomon Moskowitz	Sheldon Koven	Grandfather
3/19	Adar 19	Seymour Rosenberg	Reva Litt	Father
3/22	Adar 22	Samuel Jamison	Phyllis Marcus	Father
3/23	Adar 23	Ruth Epstein	Peter Epstein	Mother
3/23	Adar 23	Allison Hesch	Morrie Hesch	Spouse
3/23	Adar 23	Joseph Tarnor	Charlie Tarnor	Father
3/27	Adar 27	Gabriella Farkas	Gyorgyi Rosenthal	Mother
3/27	Adar 27	Lillian Friedman	Sharon Rothzeid	Mother
3/27	Adar 27	Rose Meyrowitz	Lael Summer	Aunt
3/27	Adar 27	Saul Punyon	Gail Davis	Father
3/27	Adar 27	Milton Rothschild	Jamie Rothschild	Father
3/27	Adar 27	Robert Shlian	Suzanne Magier (Shlian)	Husband
3/30	Nissan 1	Edith Hesch	Morrie Hesch	Mother
3/31	Nissan 2	Judith Koven	Sheldon Koven	Wife

Beth Emeth Observer

Todah Rabah for your generous support!

Todah Rabah for your generous support!				
Fundraising	Yahrzeit Fund	Film Festival Sponsor		
Patrick and Janet Gannon	In Memory of Robert Sternberg by James and Ketzi Toney	Liberty Buick		
Gyorgi Rosenthal	In Memory of Yael Friedlander By Brad and Marlene Friedlander	Irene Lehrer		
Babette Spatz	In Memory of Alex Rothzeid By Saul and Sharon Rothzeid	Marilyn Newberg		
Barbara Kalman	In Memory of Dr, Henry Rosenstein By Joy and Peter Epstein	Hospice of the Valley		
Stewart Posternack	In Memory of Hannah Wolff By Stephen and Janice Rothschild	Crown Trophy of Surprise		
Marla Solarz	In Memory of Irving Hesch By Morrie Hesch	Arizona Smile Design Group		
Barbara Sease	In Memory of Joseph Fineburg By Sonia Marshall	Andrew and Hanna Gauer		
Alan and Karen Ann Hodes	In Memory of Ludolf Heidecker <i>By Andrew and Jan Heidecker</i>	Jeannie and Randy Rosen		
Jordan and Rosie Colbert	In Memory of Sigmund Paul By Ronald Paul	Margie Renstrom		
Mark and Madelaine Friedman		Neena Uppal, MD, PC		
Leah and Charlie Tarnor	Tribute Cards	Setterberg Jewelers		
Joel Levine	Natalie Morrison	Toyota of Surprise		
Shirley Beaser	Irene Lehrer	Tyler and Lorrie Brilinski		
Cheryl Bezner	James and Esther Toney	James and Esther Toney		
Kathy Scripp		Arnold Becker		
Deanna Volmer	In Honor of	Barbara Newman		
Sheila and Marvin Rand	Tom Behrendt by Sally Hall	Kiddush Fund		
Joyce Stern		James and Esther Toney		
Reva Litt		Andrea and Bruce Cohen		
Carol and Michael Madvig		Biblical Garden		
Andrea and Arnold Alpert		Arthur and Barbara Bennett		
Carol Levin		Natalie Morrison		
And Many Nonmembers!!		Irene Lehrer		
		Joy and Peter Epstein		

Reflecting donations posted 1/22-2/20

March 2025 Adar—Nisan



SUN 23 (25)	MON 24 (26)	TUE 25 (27) • 4pm Grief Support Group	WED 26 (28) • 2pm Beginning Hebrew	THU 27 (29) • 9am Morning minyan • 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev • 3pm Current Jewish Events	FRI 28 (30) Rosh Chodesh Adar • 6pm Friday Night Service • 6:07pm Candle lighting	SAT Mar 1(1) Parashat Terumah Rosh Chodesh Adar Shabbat Shekalim • 9:30am Shabbat Service • 7:11pm Havdalah (45 min)
2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (4) • 4pm Grief Support Group	5 (5) • 2pm Beginning Hebrew	6 (6) • 9am Morning minyan • 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	7 (7) • 6pm Friday Night Service • 6:13pm Candle lighting Sisterhood/ Hadassah Shabbat	8 (8) Parashat Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor • 9:30am Shabbat Service • 7:17pm Havdalah (45 min)
9 (9)	10 (10)	11 (11) • 10am Sisterhood Meeting • 4pm Grief Support Group	12 (12) • 2pm Beginning Hebrew	13 (13) Erev Purim Ta'anit Esther • 5:28am Fast begins • 9am Morning minyan	14 (14) Purim • 6pm Friday Night Service • 6:18pm Candle lighting	15 (15) Parashat Ki Tisa Shushan Purim 9:30am Shabbat Service 12pm Birthday Kiddush 7:23pm Havdalah (45 min)
16 (16) Purim Meshulash Mah Jongg Tournament	17 (17)	18 (18)9:30am Board meeting4pm Grief Support Group	19 (19) • 2pm Beginning Hebrew	20 (20) • 9am Morning minyan • 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	21 (21) • 6pm Friday Night Service • 6:24pm Candle lighting	22 (22) Parashat Vayakhel Shabbat Parah • 9:30am Shabbat Service • 7:28pm Havdalah (45 min)
23 (23)	24 (24)	25 (25) • 4pm Grief Support Group	26 (26) • 2pm Beginning Hebrew	27 (27) • 9am Morning minyan • 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev • 3pm Current Jewish Events	28 (28) • 6pm Friday Night Service • 6:29pm Candle lighting	29 (29) Mevarchim Chodesh Nisan Parashat Pekudei Shabbat HaChodesh • 9:30am Shabbat Service • 7:33pm Havdalah (45 min)
30 (1) Rosh Chodesh Nisan	31 (2)	Apr 1(3) • 4pm Grief Support Group	2 (4) • 2pm Beginning Hebrew	3 (5) • 9am Morning minyan • 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	4 (6) • 6pm Friday Night Service • 6:34pm Candle lighting	5 (7) Parashat Vayikra • 9:30am Shabbat Service • 7:38pm Havdalah (45 min)

Please note that there will be Torah study on March 13 at 11:00 am and Current Events at 3:00 pm (limitation of calendar space).



Our logo, created by our member, the late Max Gimpel (z"l), is the Shield of David made into a calligraphic Interpretation of the Hebrew letters, Beit Aleph, which signify the name of our Congregation, BETH EMETH, House of Truth.

Beth Emeth Congregation Board

President Tom Behrendt Marilyn Newberg 1st VP 2nd VP Ketzi Toney 3rd VP Natalie Morrison 4th VP Jordan Colbert **Brad Friedlander** Treasurer **Financial Secretary** Susan Hersch Recording Secretary (acting) Marlene Friedlander Corresponding Secretary Irene Lehrer

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