

Beth Emeth Observer

BETH EMETH CONGREGATION OF THE WEST VALLEY



Follow us:



Rabbi Lev Ettelson

Spiritual Leader & Director of Education

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 Office hours Mon-Fri - 9 AM - 12 PM 623-584-7210

Elul 5786 - Tishrei 5787

September 2026



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Shabbat Candle Lighting - September 2026



9/4 - 6:33 pm
 9/11 - 6:23 pm
 9/18 - 6:13 pm
 9/25 - 6:04 pm

From the Editor's desk - Marlene Friedlander

L'Shanah Tovah!

As we prepare for the High Holidays, we review the year that has passed, we stop to take an assessment of what we did well and what we need to do better, how to be better in the year ahead. Let's work together to make Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley better than ever! Share your thoughts and ideas on how we can be better.

During the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur we will recite our individual prayers, which brings the stunning reminder of all those we have lost (people and pets) in the past year and those that seem that even though years have passed, they only left us yesterday. If you've lost someone, *you know*. Grief doesn't just sit in your mind. It settles in your chest, your breath, your bones. And some days, the weight of missing them makes you wonder if they're truly gone and why we were left behind.

But what if they haven't left, only changed form? What if they show up daily in how we love, how we live, how we care? In our laughter, our strength, our quiet kindness. What if that's them, still moving through the world through us, *with us*. The ones we've lost live in how we carry them, how we remember them, talk about them. Their voice may be softer, but it still echoes in the love they gave us and all the good they left behind.

If your loved ones could sit beside you for just a few moments, perhaps these are some of the things they would want you to hear.

1. I am still with you, even though you can't see me.
2. My love for you did not end when my life did.
3. Please stop carrying guilt for things you couldn't have known.
4. You do not need to suffer to honor me.
5. I know how deeply you miss me. I miss you too.
6. The signs you've noticed... yes, many of them really are from me.
7. I am no longer in pain.
8. I see the tears you cry when no one else is around.
9. Please don't be afraid to laugh again. Your joy doesn't leave me behind.
10. I don't want you to put your life on hold because of me.
11. Talk to me. I still hear you.
12. I have never stopped cheering you on.
13. You are stronger than you realize.
14. There is nothing you could have done that would make me love you less.
15. When you feel you are without me, listen closely. I whisper loudest, when you miss me most.



FROM THE DESKS OF YOUR
CO-PRESIDENTS
ARNOLD BECKER
AND
NATALIE MORRISON



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The High Holidays are almost upon us, and we are looking forward to welcoming the New Year of 5787.

A warm welcome to all our new members and welcome back to our Snowbirds. We look forward to having your active participation in our many upcoming religious and social activities.

We also want to recognize all those who have supported our congregation in buying High Holiday tickets, donating to the Yizkor fund, and with many, many other generous donations.

As we celebrate the New Year, we are eagerly anticipating the Rabbi's installation ceremony in October and to Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley's 40th anniversary of worship, learning, and community activities.

In continuing upgrades to the building, the front of the synagogue was dug up to repair the sewer line leading from the building to the main sewer line under W. Meeker Blvd. The large tree in front of the building was removed and once the pipe was repaired, the Biblical Gardens is proceeding with getting a new look. A committee of members, together with our landscaper, have been working to beautify the front of the building.

Looking at the months ahead, in December our Sisterhood is organizing a Chanukah party to which the entire congregation will be invited. Plus next year, in addition to our Annual Film Festival and Mah Jongg Tournament, a Gala celebration of the congregation's 40th anniversary is also in the planning stages.

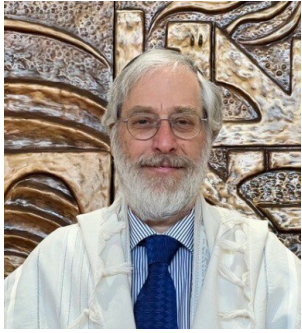
We look forward to having the support and participation of all our congregants in the excitement the activities the coming year has to offer!!!

L 'Shana Tovah!

Arnold "Arnie" Becker and Natalie Morrison

Reflections on Torah and Tradition

Rabbi Lev Ettelson



“Teshuvah, Tefillah, and Tzedakah have the power to transform the harshness of our destiny.”

— High Holiday Amidah (trans. Reb Lev Shalem Machzor)

As 5786 comes to a close, let's reflect on our shared experience as a congregation over the past year. One of the highlights we experienced over the summer was the naming of four children at two different Shabbat services. In the three years that I've been here, this was the first of what I hope to be many such occasions. The joy of sharing in this simcha with parents and (great) grandparents as we welcome a new generation into the Abrahamic Covenant, with the blessings of a life grounded in Torah and Mitzvot, strengthens our own connection with tradition. Coming after the passing of several cherished members of our community, we can find comfort knowing that life will find a way as we move forward together. There is also a renewed enthusiasm as we welcome several new members and friends to our community.

There are two subjects that I've been wrestling with lately: the increasing incidents of antisemitism and the rise of A.I. (artificial intelligence). These two phenomena contribute to a sense of unease among many of us. A.I., which has great potential as a useful tool (especially in the fields of healthcare and scientific research) has also been misused to distort reality. There's no denying it, we are living in a time of great uncertainty and insecurity. Our habit of overindulging in overexposure to news and social media, like billions of others worldwide who reach for their phone first thing in the morning, and the last thing at night, only exacerbates these feelings of fear and dread.

The negative effects of this habit are well-documented, from disrupted sleep to heightened anxiety. As neuropsychologist Dr. Kristin Slyne notes, our brains are hardwired to scan for danger: “Today, the predators aren't in the bushes—they're in the headlines and on social media. The amygdala goes into overdrive, triggering a release of cortisol... If cortisol stays high too long, it can negatively impact your mood, your sleep, even your immune system.” How many of us have found ourselves stuck in this biological “overdrive” over the past year? As antisemitism continues to rise and world events weigh heavily on our hearts, our natural impulse to watch for threats becomes almost overwhelming. The rise of AI further accelerates the flow of information, deepening the noise and uncertainty.

This Erev Rosh Hashanah marks the 25th anniversary of 9/11, when the unthinkable happened: an overwhelming act of violence, claimed the lives of thousands in a single day and shook our sense of safety and security. Even today, many are still recovering from the physical and psychological trauma, especially the courageous first responders who went beyond the limits of human endurance. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z”l, wrote in his book, ***Not in God's Name***: “It is our task to be a blessing to the world... To invoke God to justify violence against the innocent is not an act of sanctity but of sacrilege.” His words remind us that human choices, not external circumstances, define who we are.

(continued on next page)

So how do we break free from the paralysis of fear and constant crisis?

Science fiction writer, futurist and inventor Arthur C. Clarke famously cautioned: "Information is not knowledge, knowledge is not wisdom, and wisdom is not foresight.

Our Sages offer a framework for realigning our focus: Teshuvah (return and self-reflection), Tefillah (prayer and inward connection), and Tzedakah (righteous action and generosity).

Our traditions give us many opportunities to unplug from the noise of the world and return to what is true. Teshuvah invites us to reclaim control over our attention and habits. Tefillah helps us to recalibrate our inner compass, seeking wisdom from the highest source rather than just information. Tzedakah empowers us as emissaries of The Most High, bringing tangible light into a broken world through acts of justice and kindness.

As we enter this new year, may we find the strength to step back from the endless scroll of headlines to the eternal scroll of the Torah. May we replace passive fear with active purpose, recommitting ourselves, with our tradition as a guide, to bring genuine hope, wisdom, and blessing into the year ahead.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah, v'Gemar Chatimah Tovah: May you and your family be written and sealed in the Book of Life for goodness, health, prosperity and sweetness.

Rabbi Reb Lev

Rabbi Lev's office hours for meetings:

Wednesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and Thursdays 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Please call the office to schedule a meeting or if requesting a different time.

Reb Lev Interviewed By Jewish News On Becoming a Rabbi

Gary Cohen, Director - Outreach

Reb Lev becoming a Rabbi is not only a major achievement in his personal life, it is a big deal for Congregation Beth Emeth in Sun City West and an equally big deal for our community.

Recognizing the significance of this, reporter Josh Bootzin with The Jewish News sat down with Reb Lev in late August to interview him about becoming a Rabbi.

Josh asked Reb Lev about his life story and during the course of the interview it was brought out that both the reporter and Reb Lev have roots in the Chicago area.

Josh asked Reb Lev about what inspired him to take the path to becoming a Rabbi and Reb Lev explained the time he spent in Israel years ago was a big part of the reason he decided to pursue becoming a Rabbi.

An emotional part of the interview came when Reb Lev told the Jewish News reporter shortly before Reb Lev's father passed away, he asked his son to finish the work which must be done to become a Rabbi. Reb Lev said to the reporter he is proud of having achieved what his father had asked of him.



Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS 5787

SELICHOT NIGHT	SATURDAY	9/5	7:30 pm
EREV ROSH HASHANAH	FRIDAY	9/11	6:00 pm
ROSH HASHANAH 1 ST DAY	SATURDAY	9/12	9:00 am
ROSH HASHANAH 2 ND DAY	SUNDAY	9/13	9:00 am
SHABBAT SHUVA	SATURDAY	9/19	9:30 am
EREV YOM KIPPUR/KOL NIDRE	SUNDAY	9/20	6:00 pm
YOM KIPPUR	MONDAY	9/21	9:00 am
• YIZKOR	MONDAY	9/21	11:00 am
• MINCHA	MONDAY	9/21	4:45 pm
• NEILAH	MONDAY	9/21	5:45 pm
• HAVADALAH, END OF FAST	MONDAY	9/21	7:00 pm
EREV SUKKOT	FRIDAY	9/25	5:45 pm
SUKKOT 1 st day	SATURDAY	9/26	9:00 am
SUKKOT 2 nd day	SUNDAY	9/27	9:00 am
SHEMINI ATZERET	SATURDAY	10/3	9:00 am
YIZKOR	SATURDAY	10/3	11:00 am
EREV SIMCHAT TORAH	SATURDAY	10/3	6:30 pm
SIMCHAT TORAH	SUNDAY	10/4	9:00am

PLEASE NOTE: YIZKOR TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

***Again this year, Tony Minkoff will be our Baal Koreh.
Please note that Active Military and Students with ID are always welcome to our services.
Tickets for the High Holidays are available for pickup during office hours.***



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

May their names be remembered
From generation to generation

Dear Fellow Congregants,

During the High Holidays, we publish the *Book of Remembrance*, commemorating the lives of those we have loved and who have passed on. There will be a special page dedicated to the Six Million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to recent victims of terrorism. In addition to honoring our loved ones, the *Book of Remembrance* is also a fundraiser for our Congregation.

You must list the names as you want them to appear in the *Book of Remembrance*. Fill out the names in full (do not say "same as last year"). Please bring/mail the completed form with your check to the Beth Emeth office by September 10, 2026.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Carol Loewith

Carol Loewith 623-584-7210

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETE & CLEARLY PRINTED

My (Our) Name as it is to appear

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Also add my/our name(s) to the Special Memorial page for the six million Jews and victims of terrorism. (\$18.00) To add more names, use a separate piece of paper.

Full Page	\$ 136.00	_____
Half Page	\$ 72.00	_____
Quarter Page	\$ 36.00	_____

Special Page—6 Million Jews and Victims of Terrorism \$18.00 _____

Grand total \$ _____

My (Our) name: _____

Phone number: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to Beth Emeth Congregation
13702 W Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-584-7210

**Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley
Invites you to join us in the Hindin Social Hall
to**

BREAK-THE-FAST

September 21, 2026 - 7:05 PM



MENU

Assorted Fruit Juices

Bagels with Plain and Flavored Cream Cheeses

Lox

Sliced Tomatoes, Red Onions, and Cucumbers

Cheese Blintz Souffle w/Fruit Compote

Vegetable Quiche (Regular and Gluten Free)

Fresh Fruit

Assorted Pastries

Coffee - Tea

\$18.00 per person

Please RSVP to the Office by Wednesday, September 16th

Cash, Check, Credit Card or Zelle (treasurer@bethemethaz.org)



**Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley
Invites you to the
Installation Ceremony of Rabbi Lev Ettelson**



Sunday, October 25, 2026, starting at 2:00 pm

Please join us for the **Installation Ceremony of Rabbi Lev Ettelson**
as Rabbi of Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley.

Rabbi Marc Soloway of Congregation Bonai Shalom in Boulder, Colorado
will be officiating the ceremony in our Sanctuary.

Following the ceremony, there will be a celebration toast and refreshments
in the Hindin Social Hall.

There is no charge to attend this event but donations are welcomed.

For your donation of **\$100 or more**, your name will be listed in the event program.

For your donation of less than \$100, you will be acknowledged with our monthly
donations.

Make donations payable to: **Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley**
Attn: Installation

Please RSVP to the Office by Wednesday, October 21

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley
623-584-7210

13702 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375
www.bethemethaz.org

Security provided by the Arizona Rangers

HELPING HANDS AT WORK!!

As the High Holidays approach, we will need help in moving chairs, setting up and breaking down tables, and building our Sukkah.

If you are able to move chairs, tables, etc. before & or after services or before events, just ask: **"what can I do to help?"**

We will be very grateful for your choosing to pitch in!!

LIFTING PRAYERS, SHARING FOOD, HONORING TRADITIONS.

We gather for laughter, For family moments,

We gather in freedom, we gather in pride.

At peace in our homes, the most blessed of places,

We gather to keep our history alive.

Marilyn Newberg

Marasha Tikvah

marilyn.newberg@bethemethaz.org

Upcoming Sponsored Kiddushim

Please let me know how we can help you celebrate a milestone or special event with a special Kiddush. Menus are in this issue.

Please help us clean up after the Kiddush. **'LET'S ALL PITCH IN TOGETHER!! THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO, SO ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED.**

Our kitchen "elves" are here on Shabbat and after all EVENTS for several hours. **PLEASE DO NOT JUST WALK OUT!!!**

Marilyn Newberg

marilyn.newberg@bethemethaz.org



Sponsor a Kiddush

The menus below are just an idea of what can be served. Based on 35 people. Each Sponsored Kiddush is customized.

BASIC - \$150:

- Egg Salad or sliced eggs
- Tuna Salad
- Herring
- Fruit
- Salad or veggie platter
- Dessert, coffee, tea, beverages

STANDARD - \$250 Basic plus:

- Blintz Souffle or Quiche or Kugel
- Salads
- Dessert

DELUXE - \$350 Standard plus:

- Bagels, Lox, Cream Cheese
- Hummus or Mock Chopped Liver
- Salads
- Dessert

**Contact Marilyn Newberg to book your
Sponsored Kiddush –
marilyn.newberg@bethemethaz.org**

A beautiful Sponsored Kiddush

The event happened on Saturday, August 1st at the synagogue. It was the naming ceremony of my great grandchildren, twin boy and girl. Their names are Brewer and Navy and they are now 6 months old. They were born on January 16th, 3 months premature and spent 3 months in the NICU. My other great granddaughter Syndi is 2 ½ years old and was also named at the same time. The services were wonderful and Rabbi Lev did an outstanding baby naming. I think he was kvelling over performing this event. My heartfelt thanks to him.

The kiddush lunch was a beautiful spread of lox, bagels, egg salad, herring, kugel, mock liver, cranberry coleslaw, vegetables and hummus. At the dessert table were all homemade pastries, chocolate covered strawberries, and a fruit bowl. This could not be done overnight.

The committee of seven wonderful people worked several days to prepare. They are Ketzi Toney, Marilyn Newberg, Susan Hersch, Irene Lehrer, Rosemary Abrami, Carol Madvig, and Janice Rothschild. Arnie Becker and Phil Gillenson helped with the setup of tables and chairs.

Helping with the cleanup was Martha Dalmeida, Leah Tarnor, Suzan Giloni, Sunny Altman, and Laura Becker.

It was a beautiful kiddush lunch.

On behalf of my family, I personally would like to thank everyone involved. If I left anyone out, please forgive me.

Thank you all,
Natalie Morrison , Co-President



Apple Sour Cream Cake

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| ½ cup shortening (Crisco or coconut oil) | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup sour cream or yogurt | ½ cup chopped nuts |
| 4 medium apples, peeled and finely chopped | ½ cup brown sugar, packed |
| 1 teaspoon cinnamon | 2 cups flour |
| 2 tablespoons butter | 2 eggs |
| 1 cup sugar (or ¾ cup Monkfruit sweetener) | 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| 1 teaspoons vanilla extract | 1 teaspoon baking soda |

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Set oven rack to second-lowest position.
3. Grease a 13 x 9-inch baking pan (this can also be made in an 11 x 7-inch baking pan).
4. In a mixing bowl, cream the shortening and sugar for a couple of minutes until smooth.
5. Add in the eggs and vanilla extract, beat for about 5 minutes.
6. In a bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
7. Add to cream mixture alternating with sour cream.
8. Fold in the apples.
9. Spread the batter into prepared baking pan.
10. In a small bowl, combine the nuts, brown sugar, cinnamon and butter.
11. Sprinkle the nut mixture evenly over the batter.
12. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until the cake tests clean with a toothpick.

Keeps in refrigerator up to a week.

Zucchini Honey Cake Recipe



A moist, honey-sweetened zucchini cake with warm spices and optional nuts or raisins.

Ingredients:

- 3 large eggs
- 1½ cups liquid honey
- 1 cup oil (vegetable, canola, or melted coconut)
- 2 cups finely shredded zucchini
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour or gluten-free flour
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped nuts (walnuts, pecans) or raisins (optional)

Instructions:

1. **Preheat oven** to 325°F (163°C).
 2. **Prepare pans:** Oil and flour 2 medium loaf pans or 3 mini loaf pans.
 3. **Mix wet ingredients:** In a large bowl, beat eggs until frothy. Add honey and oil, then mix until well combined.
 4. **Add zucchini and vanilla:** Stir in shredded zucchini and vanilla.
 5. **Combine dry ingredients:** Sift together flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, and cinnamon.
 6. **Fold in mix-ins:** Add nuts or raisins and gently fold into the batter.
 7. **Bake:** Pour batter into prepared pans about ¾ full. Bake for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
 8. **Cool:** Let cakes rest in pans for 10 minutes, then remove and cool completely before slicing.
- Storage:** Keep at room temperature for a few days or refrigerate for longer freshness.



Vegetarian/Vegan Chopped Liver

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup cashews
- 2 yellow onions chopped
- 1 pounds mushrooms chopped and stems removed (white button or Baby Bella)
- 1-2 tablespoons water
- salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 325F. Cover a sheet pan with parchment paper and spread out the walnuts and cashews in a single layer. Toast in the oven for about 8-10 minutes. Nuts can burn quickly, so check frequently and stir halfway through. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

Heat a skillet over medium heat, then add the olive oil. Allow the oil to warm up, then add the onions to the pan and sauté for 5-10 minutes, until softened and lightly browned.

Add the mushrooms and a pinch of salt to the pan, and sauté the mixture for another 6-7 minutes, until the mushrooms are soft. Remove from heat and cool for several minutes.

Add the mushroom and onion mixture and the toasted nuts to the bowl of a food processor. Blend the mixture until smooth, adding water 1 tablespoon at a time to achieve a smooth texture and scraping down the sides as needed. Add salt and pepper to taste and blend one more time to fully incorporate the seasonings.

Note for vegetarians – Add 1 hardboiled egg to mixture while mixing the mushrooms and the onions in the food processor.



Donald Stevens	9/4
Marilyn Newberg	9/8
Sherry Davidson	9/9
Ronald Paul	9/21
Rebecca Breverman	9/25



Max and Sherry Lazar	9/5
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Don't see you birthday or anniversary listed?
Call the Office 623-584-7210 and have your information updated in our system.

Save the Dates!

**More information on these events are coming soon.
These are in addition to the fliers in this issue!**

- ☆ Sunday, October 11 - Speaker on Medicare Changes
- ☆ Sunday, October 25 - Rabbi's Installation
- ☆ Saturday, January 23 - Film Festival
- ☆ Sunday, January 24 - Film Festival
- ☆ Monday January 25 - Film Festival
- ☆ Sunday, February 7 - Rural Street Klezmer Band
- ☆ Sunday, March 14 - Mah Jongg Tournament
- ☆ Wednesday April 21 (evening) - Thursday, April 29 - Passover
- ☆ Friday, May 14 - Israel Independence Day

Many more activities are in the planning stages - Game Day, Geneolgy speaker, Al Jolson event plus activities from the Chavurah, Men's Club and Sisterhood.

Ritual Committee

Please help us reach a Minyan so that those who need to, can say Kaddish.

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

I look forward to greeting each of you at services!

Arthur Bennett, 3rd Vice President

arthur.bennett@bethemethaz.org

3rdvicepresident@bethemethaz.org

Treasurer's Corner Brad Friedlander, Treasurer

Funds Needing Your Support

Installation Fund: Donations will be used to help pay for the Installation Ceremony for Rabbi Lev Ettelson.

Capital Improvement Fund: Donations are used for major repairs and improvements.

- Current need is \$14,000 for "Sewer System Repair".
- Expenditure is necessary and approved by the Board

Security Fund: The Board has created a new fund that will only be used for security expenses.

- We spend \$275 on armed security each Shabbat.
- High Holy Day security was \$1340 in 2025.
- The total for 2025 was \$20,130 (*i.e.*, holiday services and special events).

Chair Fund: We need \$1,000 to cover the cost of new folding chairs.

Biblical Garden: The donation will only be used for the Biblical Garden project.

Torah Maintenance Fundraiser: We have collected \$13,000 to pay for fixing four Torot. New donations will be designated for future maintenance of our Torot.

2026 Dues Payments and Donations

Zelle Payments

You can pay dues or make donations using Zelle with this QR code or treasurer@bethemethaz.org as the receiver.



Zelle QR Code

Credit Card

You can pay using a credit card.

- Your credit card information can be securely stored.
- You'll automatically get a receipt emailed to you.
- Call the office to make a credit card payment.

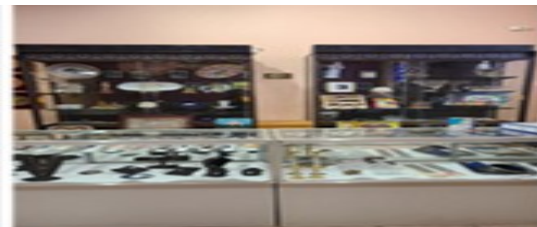
► Checks

Save Taxes on Donations

If you have an IRA, please consider using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

- A QCD is part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) and is not taxable.
- Please see your financial advisor for details.
- You can include other donations besides your dues.
- Contact me for the Congregation's EIN which your IRA firm will require.

Please contact me at treasurer@bethemethaz.org if you have any questions.



Greetings from out JUDAICA SHOP! Let us help you get ready for the High Holidays!

Lulav and Etrog sets are now available to order - look for the flier in this issue!

**Stop by anytime Monday– Friday 9:00 am—noon!
Payments accepted by cash, Credit card, check or Zelle!**

**Susan Hersch, Judaica Shop Manager
susan.hersch@bethemethaz.org**

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley Chavurah updates!

Shalom,

On Sunday, August 10th Rita and Harvey Zarensky hosted our Chavurah group at their home.

We played Mexican Train and enjoyed a buffet of yummy food. It was a fun afternoon enjoyed by all of us. Several of us continued our gathering for dinner.

Our next gathering will take place on September 6.

Charlie and I want to wish our Temple Family a Happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Leah Tarnor

If you are interested in joining a group, fill out a form with your interests and put it in my mailbox in the office. I can be reached at leah.tarnor@bethemethaz.org.



Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

WISH LIST

What we wish to have donated.....

Our current wish is for 50 folding chairs for the Social Hall



Each chair is \$20.

Donations payable to:

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley

Attn: chairs

Payable in cash, check, credit card in the Office during regular hours or Zelle (treasurer@bethemethaz.org)

Please note - your donation will be listed on the monthly donations page of the Observer.

There will not be any nameplates on the chairs.

We can only purchase chairs in groups of 10.

You do not have to donate 10 unless you wish to!

Etz Chaim—Our Tree of Life

I invite you to become part of the permanent legacy of our Synagogue. Through the end of the year, “leaves” on our Etz Chaim (Tree of Life) in our Lobby are just **\$99 each!**

“Apples” are only \$150!

Buy them for yourself or a loved one!

Or commemorating a special occasion! Let’s fill the Tree!

Happy to discuss with you how to place an order.

Arnold “Arnie” Becker, Co-President

president@bethemethaz.org or

arnold.becker@bethemethaz.org



Yahrzeit Plaques

We have many Yahrzeit plaque spaces available on our Sanctuary wall.

Yahrzeit plaques can be purchased in memory of someone who has passed away or be reserved for a future use.

Plaques are \$350 each.

Payment by cash, check, credit card or Zelle!

Please reach out to me for further information.

Arnold “Arnie” Becker, Co-President

president@bethemethaz.org or

arnold.becker@bethemethaz.org





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



**The following Yahrzeits will be observed during Elul and Tishrei.
Kaddish may be said at Friday evening services (6:00 pm), and Saturday morning
services (9:30 am)**

Date	Hebrew Date	Deceased	Observant	Relationship
1-Sep	Elul 19	Mary Finkelstein	Marlene Friedlander	Mother
5-Sep	Elul 23	Gerard Gariepy	Debra Gariepy	Father
5-Sep	Elul 23	Donald Lehrer	Irene Lehrer	Husband
6-Sep	Elul 24	Esther Bernstein	Alice Bernstein	Mother-in-law
7-Sep	Elul 25	Helen Koven	Sheldon Koven	Mother
8-Sep	Elul 26	Morris Zarensky	Harvey Zarensky	Father
9-Sep	Elul 27	Samuel Koven	Sheldon Koven	Father
11-Sep	Elul 29	Howard Marshall	Sonia Marshall	Husband
11-Sep	Elul 29	Charles Kram	Bill Kram	Brother
12-Sep	Tishrei 1	Sigrid Kram	Bill Kram	Wife
12-Sep	Tishrei 1	Harry Freidman	Ketzi Toney	Father
14-Sep	Tishrei 3	Barbara Bennett	Arthur Bennett	Wife
15-Sep	Tishrei 4	Anna Lerman	Debra R. Karam	Mother
15-Sep	Tishrei 4	Murray Friedman	Sharon Rothzeit	Father
17-Sep	Tishrei 6	Mary Friedlander	Brad Friedlander	Grandmother
18-Sep	Tishrei 7	Suzanne Levine	Joel Levine	Wife
22-Sep	Tishrei 11	Sol Becker	Arnie Becker	Father
26-Sep	Tishrei 15	Martha Loebman	Arthur Bennett	Mother
27-Sep	Tishrei 16	Morris Cohen	Gary Cohen	Father
30-Sep	Tishrei 19	Julia Hamerschlag	Marty Hamer	Mother

Did we miss a Yahrzeit in memory of your loved one?
Please call the office to update your records in our database.

Todah Rabah for your continued support!

<u>Biblical Garden</u> Arnold Becker Marilyn Newberg Doc Gunderson	<u>Memorial Plaque</u> Phyllis Bern
<u>Member Donation</u> Natalie Morrison Saul and Sharon Rothzeit Leah and Charlie Tamor Martin Hamer Launa Winegard and Benjamin Dahukey Sonia Marshall Evelyn Dragiff Shelly Moschel Diane Shapiro	<u>Non Member Donation</u> Charles and Marisela Erichsen Martha Dalmeida Howard Lonn
<u>High Holiday Donation</u> Susan Hersch Gary and Enid Cohen	<u>High Holiday Yizkor Donations</u> Irene Lehrer Stephen and Rachelle Lederman
<u>Rabbi's Installation Ceremony</u> Brand and Marlene Friedlander	<u>Rabbi's Discretionary Fund</u> Joan Rothfeld
<u>Observer Advertising</u> Sun Health Senior Living LLC	<u>Security Fund</u> Dov and Suzan Giloni Rosemary Abrami
<u>In Memory of</u> Jeff Bennett – Brad and Marlene Friedlander Jeff Bennett - Natalie Morrison	<u>Torah Aliyot</u> Ronald Paul
<u>Yahrzeit Donations</u> Joan Rothfeld Steven and Janice Rothschild Ann Goldfarb Irene Lehrer William Kram and Diane Shapiro Brad and Marlene Friedlander Brad and Marlene Friedlander Sheldon Koven Sonia Marshall Yahrzeit for Phillip Rothfeld Yahrzeit for Ernest Rothschild Yahrzeit for Irving Scher Yahrzeit for Donald Lehrer Yahrzeit for Sigrid Kram and Charles Kram Yahrzeit for Mary Finkelstein Yahrzeit for Mary Friedlander Yahrzeit for Helen and Samuel Koven Yahrzeit for Howard Marshall	
<u>Sponsored Kiddush</u> Sisterhood Beth Emeth Arnold Becker Susan Hersch Rosemary Abrami Gyorgyi Rosenthal Carol Loewith Sonia Altman Ketzi Toney Arthur Bennett Brad and Marlene Friedlander Natalie Morrison Saul and Sharon Rothzeit Marilyn Newberg Harvey and Rita Zarensky Judith Weinberg Dov and Suzan Giloni William Kram and Diane Shapiro Sheldon Koven	

Please note, the above donations were posted and recorded between 7/21 and 8/24. If you made a donation and do not see it listed, please contact Ray Karam at financialsecretary@bethemethaz.org or the Office. Donations for the Book of Remembrance will be listed in October.



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, October 18, 2026

Beth Emeth Congregation of the West Valley's Men's Club will be hosting a breakfast and speaker program.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a lox and bagel breakfast.

Look for full details in the October Observer.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Lee Shedroff, Organizer

Sisterhood

**Beth Emeth Congregation
of the West Valley**



Wishes you a
L'Shanah Tovah U'metukah



***May you and your family be blessed
with a Sweet and Healthy New Year!***

***We hope you will enjoy our programing
for 5787***

***Ladies, you are all invited to join Sisterhood! Look
for our Invitation & Membership Form***



Message from the Sisterhood President September 2026

Hillel's powerful adage "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I, and if not now, when?" has been reverberating in my mind. I know it is time for me to start focusing on the emotional and physically taxing work I have been avoiding. For four years, Sisterhood and working on synagogue-related projects have been all consuming. After Jim's passing, it once again became a distraction from facing an overload of additional difficult tasks. Alas, the time is now for me to start prioritizing taking care of myself.

It is with a heavy heart that I must announce that this is the last year that I will serve as Sisterhood President. I am not just walking away now. My hope is that individuals will step up to take on Sisterhood board positions and/or agree to take on primary pieces of the operational work for those position. This should contribute to a smooth transition between now and after June 30, 2027.

I want to thank Lael Summer for agreeing to be the nominating committee chair. If you have a skill that would benefit our group, please reach out to Lael or **say "yes"** if she reaches out to you. To paraphrase (and take liberty with) JFK's famous adage, don't ask what Sisterhood can do for you. Ask what you can do for Sisterhood.

Thank you to Rosemary Abrami who has been sending cards to our members, working on our membership roster and getting our information on the *Jewish News* calendar. I want to welcome and thank Judi Boyd, who will serve as treasure beginning in November; Judy Rischall, who will produce and distribute flyers to the Shalom clubs and to the *Observer* starting in January; and Claire Maultasch for ordering the Mah Jongg cards. Bless you ladies for stepping up! I would be remiss if I didn't thank those who served on the planning committee for this year, as well as those that signed up to help set up and clean up for each program. These women get a special thank you. Programs can't be done with out you! Thank you all!

There is so much more that we need. Our immediate need is for a secretary! Other needed task include assisting with Women's league data entry, Torah Fund, programing, working on the Sisterhood tab on the web page with our web master Lou Sniderman, and help with additional marketing. Individuals willing to help make phone calls and distribute flyers would be much appreciated.

As part of my teshuvah in preparation for the High Holidays, I humbly ask you to please forgive me if I have offended you or hurt you in any way, knowingly, accidentally, or even unknowingly. I pray HaShem will forgive my shortcomings.

May we all be blessed with a ***L'Shanah Tovah U'metukah***

Ketzi Toney, Sisterhood President



You're Invited

To become a member of Sisterhood

Beth Emeth Congregation

13702 W Meeker Blvd, SCW, AZ 85375

Sisterhood is affiliated with the Pacific Southwest Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ). Our calendar year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Our membership drive for the 26-27 year is now underway. Part of your Sisterhood dues covers membership in WLCJ which, in addition to our Sisterhood programing, provides access to a host of webinars, opportunities to study with Scholars, and participate in creative Judaic arts.

*Sisterhood Membership is \$36 per year
for Beth Emeth members*

\$46 per year for non members

*Become a Beth Emeth Member and Sisterhood membership
is waved for the first year!*

*Sisterhood membership is a way to:
connect Jewishly with others, celebrate holidays,
commemorate special moments, learn together,
participate in Mitzvot and Tzedakah projects, contribute, socialize,
make new friends, feel part of a community/extended family
and have fun!*

We hope you will join us!

Please look for and complete our Sisterhood Membership Form...

We look forward to welcoming you!



MEMBERSHIP FORM for JULY 2026 - JUNE 2027

Congregation Member \$36 per year

Non Members \$46 per year

Includes membership in Women's League of Conservative Judaism

First year of Sisterhood Membership is Free for new Beth Emeth Members

Please complete and submit with your payment

Checks Payable to **Sisterhood** Beth Emeth Congregation

Or Zelle payment to sisterhoodbec1@gmail.com

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone # _____ Home Phone _____

Email _____ Anniversary Date _____

Emergency Contact _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

☐ **Yes you may list my information on a Sisterhood directory** ☐ **No please do not list**

Volunteer tasks I am able to help with check all that apply: ☐ take photos

☐ planning organizing ☐ kitchen food prep ☐ set up ☐ clean up

☐ phone calls ☐ driving car pool ☐ publicity ☐ computer work

☐ teaching a class ☐ leading an activity Please Specify

Types of Programs you enjoy _____



Fashion Show October 8th, 2026

Join us for **Lunch, Fashion Show & Shopping**
Cost \$40

Checks payable to **Sisterhood**

Doors open at 10:00 am

Lunch at 11:30 am

Fashion Show at noon

Fashions by **New Image Fashions**

To be held in the Grand Room

Grand View Terrace

14515 W Granite Valley Drive

Sun City West, AZ 85375

Only want to Shop?

Come from 10-11:30 am or from
1:00-2:00 pm no charge



Registration

I _____ will attend

My phone # _____ my email _____

Please select the lunch option you prefer

☐

Asian Salad with Salmon

☐

Croissant with Tuna Salad & Fruit

meals come with dessert, and beverage

Registration Deadline is Thursday September 24th



Send or bring in
registration
form

Sisterhood Beth Emeth Congregation
13702 W Meeker Blvd. Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-584-7210 Office hours 9:00am - Noon



13702 W Meeker Blvd. SCW, AZ 85375

Sisterhood Jazzes It Up

Elise Hurst (vocals/violin)
Bill Applegate on guitars
Doug Mossing on keys, saxophones
and flute

November 15th
2:00-3:00 pm
Sisterhood Presents

Jazzona

Tickets \$18 each
Will go on sale in
October

Refreshments following
Concert

Save the Date

Watch for Ticket Sales
You don't want
to miss out !
Mark Your Calendar Now



This Program
Is Open
To ALL!
Tickets go on Sale
In October



Soup, Salad, & Skit August 16, 2026

Twenty-one ladies attended our Sisterhood luncheon. We had egg salad, couscous, green salad, cold beet borscht with boiled potatoes and cucumbers topped with sour cream, and homemade rolls. Everyone enjoyed the skit, and the desserts were amazing. Door prizes added to the fun. It was a lovely afternoon. The program was enjoyed by everyone.

A big thank you to Evelyn Dragiff for bringing the skit to us.



Grandview Terrace brings new meaning to *Independent Living*

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In addition, residents receive membership to Sun City West's state-of-the-art recreational center and social amenities, including championship golf courses and dozens of charter clubs. It's another way that **Grandview Terrace** makes it easy to live a healthy and happy life.

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Jewish Holiday Calendar

5787

2026

2027

Rosh Hashanah

September 11 - 13

The Jewish New Year begins with wishes for sweetness and joy. Families gather around the table, dip apples in honey, and welcome a year filled with blessings.

Yom Kippur

September 20 - 21

The holiest day of the year, devoted to prayer, reflection, and forgiveness. A quiet time to look inward and begin anew.

Sukkot

September 25 - October 2

Families share meals in a sukkah, a temporary outdoor shelter, remembering gratitude, harvest, and the simple joys of life.

Shemeni Atzeret Simchat Torah

October 2 - 4

Communities celebrate the completion of the Torah reading cycle with singing, dancing, and great joy.

Hanukkah

December 4 - 12

For eight nights, candles are lit to remember the miracle of light. Families gather, play games, and enjoy special holiday treats.

Tu BiShvat

January 23

Known as the New Year for Trees, this holiday celebrates nature, growth, and the beauty of the land.

Purim

March 22 - 23

One of the happiest Jewish holidays, filled with costumes, laughter, festive meals, and sweet hamantaschen pastries.

Passover

April 21 - 29

Families gather for the Seder to retell the story of freedom and share traditions passed down through generations.

Lag BaOmer

May 25

Celebrated with bonfires, music, and outdoor gatherings, bringing families and communities together.

Shavuot

June 10 - 12

The holiday that marks the giving of the Torah and the harvest season, often celebrated with flowers and delicious dairy dishes.

Tisha B'Av

August 11 - 12

A solemn day of remembrance and reflection marking the destruction of the Holy Temples and the Jewish exile.

September 2026

Elul 5786 - Tishrei 5787

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Sep 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
17th of Elul ● 10am Installation committee	18th of Elul	19th of Elul ● 4pm Grief Support Group	20th of Elul ● 10am Women's Torah Study	21st of Elul ● 9am Morning minyan ● 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	22nd of Elul ● 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat ● 6:33pm Light Candles at: 6:33	23rd of Elul Leil Selichot Parashat Nitzavim-Vayeilech ● 9:30am Shabbat Service ● 7:27pm Shabbat Ends: 7:27 PM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
24th of Elul	25th of Elul Labor Day	26th of Elul ● 10am Sisterhood Meeting ● 4pm Grief Support Group	27th of Elul ● 10am Women's Torah Study	28th of Elul ● 9am Morning minyan ● 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	Erev Rosh Hashanah 29th of Elul Erev Rosh Hashana ● 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat 2 more	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 1st of Tishrei, 5787 Rosh Hashana 5787 ● 9:30am Shabbat Service ● 7:17pm Eve of Second day Ro
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 2nd of Tishrei Rosh Hashana II ● 7:15pm Holiday Ends: 7:15 PM	Fast of Gedalia 3rd of Tishrei Tzom Gedaliah	4th of Tishrei ● 9:30am Board meeting ● 4pm Grief Support Group	5th of Tishrei ● 10am Women's Torah Study	6th of Tishrei ● 9am Morning minyan ● 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	7th of Tishrei ● 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat ● 6:13pm Light Candles at: 6:13	Shabbat Shuva 8th of Tishrei Shabbat Shuva Parashat Ha'azinu 2 more
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Erev Yom Kippur 9th of Tishrei Erev Yom Kippur ● 6:11pm Eve of Yom Kippur, Lig	Yom Kippur 10th of Tishrei Yom Kippur ● 7:04pm Yom Kippur, Holiday I	11th of Tishrei ● 4pm Grief Support Group	12th of Tishrei ● 10am Women's Torah Study	13th of Tishrei ● 9am Morning minyan ● 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	Erev Sukkot 14th of Tishrei Erev Sukkot ● 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat ● 6:04pm Eve of First day Sukk	Sukkot Day 1 15th of Tishrei Sukkot I ● 9:30am Shabbat Service ● 6:57pm Eve of Second day Su
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
Sukkot Day 2 16th of Tishrei Sukkot II ● 6:56pm Holiday Ends: 6:56 PM	Sukkot Chol Ha Moed 17th of Tishrei Sukkot III (CH"M)	Sukkot Chol Ha Moed 18th of Tishrei Sukkot IV (CH"M) ● 4pm Grief Support Group	Sukkot Chol Ha Moed 19th of Tishrei Sukkot V (CH"M) ● 10am Women's Torah Study	20th of Tishrei Sukkot VI (CH"M) ● 9am Morning minyan ● 11am Torah Class - Reb Lev	21st of Tishrei Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba) ● 5:54pm Eve of Shemini Atzeret ● 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat	22nd of Tishrei Shmini Atzeret ● 9:30am Shabbat Service ● 6:48pm Eve of Simchat Torah



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	Arnold Becker and Natalie Morrison
1st VP	Susan Hersch
2nd VP	Iris Kingma-Johnson
3rd VP	Arthur Bennett
Treasurer	Brad Friedlander
Financial Secretary	Raymond Karam
Recording Secretary/ Corresponding Secretary	Marlene Friedlander

Directors

Leah Tarnor
Harvey Zarensky
Marvin Wachs
Gary Cohen

Sisterhood President

Ketzi Toney