

CONGREGATION EMETH INSTALLS RABBI, OFFICERS AND BOARD SEPT. 4TH

Congregation Emeth of South Valley (Morgan Hill) will have a community celebration on September 4th, beginning at 8:00 p.m. As part of its Erev Shabbat services, the congregation will officially install Debbie Israel as its Rabbi. Its new officers and Board of Directors will be installed as well.

Rabbi Stan Levy, one of the founders of the Academy for Jewish Religion/CA (AJR/CA), Los Angeles, will install Rabbi Israel, who was ordained by AJR/CA in May. Levy is Rabbi of B'nai Horin, a practicing attorney, and currently Vice Chair of AJR's Board of Directors. "Rabbi Stan was one of my primary mentors. He had a profound effect on my rabbinate. I am so honored that he will be the one to officiate at this extraordinary moment in my life," said Rabbi Israel. Cantor Meeka Simerly, one of Israel's former classmates and Cantor at Temple Emanu-El, will join Rabbi Israel on the bimah for the Erev Shabbat (Friday evening) service.

Following the Rabbi's installation, Paul Crompton will be installed as President of Congregation Emeth. Crompton previously served as President in 2005-2006, and coincidentally was the president who hired Rabbi Israel as interim/student Rabbi. Michael Oshan, who served as President for the past three years, also will be honored for his dedicated service; during his term the congregation moved into its first permanent home in its 33-year-old history in downtown Morgan Hill.

Rabbi Israel is descended from generations of Rabbis. From 1994 to 2000, she was the director of the Western Region of Jewish Women International. Prior to that, she was the managing editor and co-publisher of Noah's Ark, an award-winning international newspaper for Jewish children, with more than a million readers. Israel was honored with the International B'nai B'rith Girls Miriam Alpert Award and the Rising Star Award from B'nai B'rith Women International. She also received a special award for her contributions to Jewish education from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

A past president of a 500-member Conservative Synagogue, Israel entered rabbinical school five years ago, first commuting weekly to Los Angeles from her home in Houston, Texas, then later from her new home in Capitola. AJR/CA is a trans-denominational school training rabbis, cantors, and chaplains, and is not associated with any particular branch of Judaism. Congregation Emeth is affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism.

The entire community is invited to this special Shabbat honoring both Rabbi Israel and the congregation's leadership. Congregation Emeth is located at 17835 Monterey Street in Morgan Hill. For more information, call 408-778-8200 or visit www.emeth.net.



Traveling to Los Angeles for ordination are (l to r, front row:) Peter Mandel, Jim and Patty Baggese, Elizabeth Mandel, Barbara Yazman, Marilyn Freund, Susan Meyers, Rebecca and Harold Kaminsky, Cantorial Soloist Alisa Fineman; (second row:) Paul Crompton, Barry Freund, Rabbi Israel, Michael Oshan, Kathy and Rick Coencas.