

EMETH SPONSORS WALK FOR TOLERANCE

More than 200 participants in Walk!

At Congregation Emeth's training program for the 2012-2013 Board of Directions, one of the board members commented that he thought one of Emeth's finest moments was a Walk for Tolerance held in Gilroy many years ago. The Board wondered if it was time to do that again.

The next day, Rabbi Israel and Pastor Patrick Davis of the United Methodist Church were talking about the anti-Islamic slander going on in South Valley and they agreed this was the time to show solidarity for all faiths. Geoff Jackson, Emeth Social Justice Chair, was called in, and the Walk for Tolerance was planned for one week later, taking place on August 22, 2012.

Joining Congregation Emeth in convening the Walk were United Methodist Church, Advent Lutheran Church, South Valley Islamic Community, Unitarian Universalist Church, and the JCRC of Silicon Valley. The Walk was the interfaith community's response to recent acts of violence and intolerance, and including the mass shooting at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin in which seven worshippers were murdered.

Rabbi Israel said, "This walk was intended to be a statement of tolerance, acceptance, and peaceful co-existence among all people." The Walk began with readings in the parking lot of Congregation Emeth, and ended with a Candlelight Vigil at the United Methodist Church. The walkers marched through downtown Morgan Hill, led by Emeth's teen volunteers holding the banner.

Geoff Jackson especially extends gratitude to the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley) for their support and for providing our Walk for Tolerance Banner.



Hundreds of participants gathered for the Candlelight Vigil



Clergy leading the Walk and vigil, Pastor Anita Warner, Advent Lutheran Church; Pastor Patrick Davis, United Methodist Church; Imam Ilyas Anwar, South Valley Islamic Community; and Rabbi Debbie Israel, Congregation Emeth.

