

JOSHUA TOCH IS STUDENT LEADER *PAR EXCELLENCE*

Joshua Toch, 17, is a leader of the youth group of Congregation Emeth in Morgan Hill and an incoming senior honors student at Live Oak High School where he is the school's Student Body Vice President. This summer, he was selected for multiple honors.

Joshua was selected by American Legion Post 217 in Gilroy to be one of its two representatives at the 2013 American Legion California Boys State, where he was elected Lieutenant Governor by the 1,041 attendees. He was then selected to be one of two Senators to represent the State of California at the 68th Annual American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., which was held July 19-27, 2013.

At Boys Nation, Joshua was selected from among 23 candidates to be his party's nominee for Boys Nation President. The Presidential debates, campaign speeches, and Presidential election were all streamed live on LegionTV and were closely followed throughout the United States.

Joshua was also honored to have been selected for the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, which will be held from August 5-9, 2013.

The teen is also a past President of *Emet Dor Kef* ("Emeth's fun generation") Teen Group at Congregation Emeth and a *madrish* (student teaching assistant) in the temple's Religious and Hebrew Schools for the past three years.

He is four time alumni of summer programs run by Camp Towonga (San Francisco Jewish Federation), including the Northwest/Canada Quest, the California Magical Mystery Quest, and two summer programs at Camp Towonga itself. He also attended one summer at Camp Newman. In the summer of 2012, Joshua was honored to have been selected as a member of the first class of Young Judaea's "I Speak Israel" (ISI) program, which was partially underwritten by the David Project, the only California participant on the hand-picked program. As part of ISI, Joshua spent a month in Israel studying speech and debate techniques and advocacy for the State of Israel. While in Israel, the ISI group toured the country extensively and met with stakeholders from all sides of the Arab/Israeli/Palestinian issue.

"Congregation Emeth is like one big family," said Rabbi Debbie Israel. "We are small enough that we know all of our children and take pride as they go through our school and become *menschen* (people with admirable qualities) in the community. Josh is a great example of such a student. He is a regular attendee at our services, helps with our audio equipment, and he acts like big brother to the younger students in our schools. We are as proud as if we are all his aunts and uncles. We expect him to continue to achieve great things, with a strong Jewish foundation as his homebase." Joshua is the son of Emeth members Randy Toch and Katherine Toch.