

## EMETH'S PURIM CARNIVAL: BY KIDS, FOR KIDS

The Purim Carnival held annually at Congregation Emeth in Morgan Hill is not your average carnival. This celebration is unlike any other because instead of being run by adults, it is run by kids, for kids. The temple's youth group, Emet Dor Kef ("Emeth's fun generation"), plans and executes the whole event as a fundraiser for their youth group. Rabbi Debbie Israel comments on this event by saying, "Our carnival is held Friday afternoon, and includes Friday night Shabbat rituals and an abbreviated service. It is unique because it is run by our Emet Dor Kef teens, who do the set up and run the booths as a youth group fundraiser. They act out on the Purim shpiel to everyone's amusement! It's a highlight on the Emeth calendar!"

During this year's carnival all of the teens showed up in their costumes, which were pajamas, ranging from onesies to fuzzy pajama pants to embrace their "inner child". They set almost everything up the previous night from the games to the booths, which had been created and built by Emeth's vice president, Becky Neto.



On Friday afternoon, the teens showed up early before the children arrived, just to make sure everything was perfect. At 5:00 PM, the children started to show up with their parents to partake in carnival games. The booths included everything from putt-putt golf to face paint! The kids had a blast playing games, winning prizes, and eating delicious hamburgers at some point in between.

The highlight of the evening was the skit for Purim, with one of the teen boys playing beautiful Esther and one of the girls playing manly Mordechai. This year's skit was better than any of the previous as it was equipped with elegant costumes, proper makeup for the parts, and microphones. After the skit ended, hamantashens were enjoyed to remember the horrible Haman who brought us this holiday.

Preceding the skit, a Purim costume parade took place. Most children and even a lot of adults came in costume, ranging from the traditional Purim characters to a variety of other characters. The congregation's president, Susan Meyers, dressed as Alice in Wonderland, and her husband, past president Michael Oshan, was the giant White Rabbit. Rabbi Israel dressed as Cat in the Hat, and introduced the Purimshpiel in Dr. Seuss-style rhyme.

All in all, the teens succeeded in running an amazing carnival and everyone went home with smiling faces, a happy tummy, and a face full of paint!

By Sarah Langerman, senior member of Emeth Dor Kef, published in JValleyNews, 4-2014