

## **Yiddish Instruction: Evoking a Rich Cultural Heritage**

At Congregation Emeth, Morgan Hill, adult students in the Yiddish class are finding themselves recalling many Yiddish phrases from their childhood, especially when their parents and grandparents did not want them to know what was being said: "shtil, di kinder." ("Quiet, the children!") As adult learners, they are discovering Yiddish is much more than funny phrases or the language our parents used when they did not want us to know what they were talking about to each other. It encompasses an enormously rich history of literature, theater and music. Students are learning the Yiddish vowels, alphabet, grammar and syntax in addition to reading and conversation.

The Yiddish classes are part of Congregation Emeth's innovative and varied adult education programming for 2015-2016, available to members and non-members at the 80-family congregation in South County. Other offerings include an ongoing Mussar class, now in its second year, and "Emeth Reads," a long standing book club, and more. Later in the year, adult beginning Hebrew and Ancient Jewish civilizations will be offered as well.

"We offered this class in response to requests from members," said Donna Weisblatt, coordinator. "We were pleased with the number of adults who registered, including a freshman college student!" The resurgence of Yiddish is evident on college campuses, such as Stanford and UC-Santa Cruz where the class instructor, Jon Lewtow--aka Rev Yankl--also teaches with knowledge, levity and flexibility.

For more information about Congregation Emeth and its schedule of adult education offerings, go to [www.Emeth.net](http://www.Emeth.net), or call the temple at 408-778-8200.

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