

A special NY treat

by *Chuck Flagg*

Congregation Emeth of Morgan Hill invites local residents to an opportunity to sample the culture of New York City. The group will partner with South Valley Civic Theatre to present a special performance of “The Producers” at 2:30 p.m. on July 12. This musical comedy, co-written by Borscht Belt comedian turned movie producer Mel Brooks, tells the story of two men who scheme to make money by producing a theatrical show guaranteed to fail, but which instead becomes an unexpected hit. This creates a business problem for the show’s producers, who must pay out profits to investors, of which there are a few too many. Based on a 1968 film that was controversial because of its irreverent story line, the musical version has since become a theatrical classic.

Although “The Producers” will be performed at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse, 17090 Monterey Road, from July 10 to Aug. 8, the July 12 performance is a special event because of the partnership with Congregation Emeth for that matinee. Tickets are \$36 and available at www.emeth.net/producers, by calling (408) 778-8200 or emailing events@emeth.net.

This unique presentation will feature many extra experiences, in addition to the well-loved play:

- Multimedia interactive displays chronicling the evolution of Broadway, including iconic figures like George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, the Marx Brothers and Mel Brooks.
- Videos of Yiddish theatre, Vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley.
- An extended intermission allowing the audience to sample a selection of classic New York deli foods, including pastrami and corned beef on rye, drinks like cream soda, black cherry, celery tonic, root beer, chocolate phosphates and desserts.
- Additional deli meats, air-freighted from the East Coast, can be pre-purchased for \$15 per pound with ticket orders for pickup after the performance.

Congregation Emeth, a 90-member synagogue, began with a 1976 advertisement in the Gilroy Dispatch that brought together members of the local Jewish community. In 1978, it purchased a permanent home at 17835 Monterey Road in Morgan Hill.

South Valley Civic Theatre has been part of the South County arts scene for nearly half a century. Founded in 1969 as the Gilroy Community Theatre, it incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1974. Early productions were mounted in theaters at Gavilan College, Gilroy High School and some local restaurants.

SVCT is the resident company of the 186-seat Morgan Hill Community Playhouse.