

Congregation Emeth Continues Its Tradition of Innovation, Celebration and Development

Michael Heil, Treasurer

Serving the South Valley Jewish Community, Congregation Emeth has continued to mark our 40th anniversary with important developments.

This year we launched and are nearing completion of a capital campaign. Even though we are a small congregation, we set our sights with a bold vision. The campaign has already raised more than \$168,000, with participation by more than two-thirds of our membership which, at 85 households, has grown from fewer than 20 at our founding in 1976.

Called *Bonim B'Yachad* (Building Our Future Together), this fund raising program is supporting four projects: (1) a new Bimah that now graces our sanctuary, (2) a smartly designed structure that is both a playground for our religious school's children and a permanent Sukkah, (3) several energy conservation improvements and (4) a significant reduction in our mortgage principal.



Bonim B'Yachad was designed to meet diverse needs and appeal to prospective donors with diverse interests. The new Bimah, featuring a stained glass Tree of Life and Ner Tamid, beautifies the sanctuary for our weekly services. The playground provides the children in our school with a safe place to play with a play structure, a rubber surface and fencing. The permanent Sukkah makes set-up for Sukkot easier, but at the same time, provides shade for outdoor events. The energy conservation project—we call it the Greening of Emeth—includes a new reflective roof, insulation in the attic and interior LED lights. These improvements will, of course, also reduce our utilities expense. Finally, the reduction in the bank loan (needed to purchase and refurbish our own building in 2008) will take us another step towards financial security and independence. We hope to pay off the bank loan in full within the next few years. This will leave us with all of the capital financing for our building limited to bonds owned by our members.

In a wonderful coincidence of timing in this year of our 40th anniversary, we celebrated Rabbi Israel's 10th anniversary as our spiritual leader. The celebration was marked with a Sukkot service and the dedication of our permanent Sukkah that is integrated with *Gan HaShalva*, Tranquility Garden, dedicated to the Rabbi.

Congregation Emeth is South Valley's Jewish community center, located in Morgan Hill and serving South San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Hollister. For further information go to www.emeth.net, or call (408) 778-8200.