



Kol Emeth

The Voice of Truth

קול אמת

Let Torah be a way of life, and welcome every person as a friend – Pirke Avot

September 2011 / Elul 5771

Emeth Presents New Formats for Friday Night Services

The Ritual Committee is pleased to present new formats for our Shabbat services on Friday night. Three different formats have been designed but they share several important elements: every service will begin at 7:15 pm, and every service will include prayers for healing and the mourners' Kaddish.

"Congregants now can say Kaddish on the Shabbat during the week of the *yartzheit* (the anniversary of someone's death)," explained Mel Weisblatt, chair of the Ritual Committee. "And when someone phones to ask if we have services, we can regularly answer yes!"

Because we hope to share so many Erev Shabbat (Friday evening) meals together, we encourage families to bring Shabbat candlesticks and candles to the temple. "Bring an extra set, and leave them at the temple," Rabbi Israel advised. "Then each week you and your family can light your own candles along with the congregational candlelighting." Our gift shop has several sets of candlesticks available for purchase. Just be sure to label or write your name on the bottom of the candlesticks so they won't be lost or confused with another family's candlesticks.

The following is a description of Emeth Services:

Friday Night Light:

This is an informal, short Erev Shabbat (Friday evening) service. Participants will learn the meaning of the prayers and discuss the Torah portion of the week. This service is led by the Rabbi and is especially appropriate for both children and adults. Part of the Religious School curriculum, it is preceded by a community dinner with Shabbat rituals.

Friday Night Live:

This Erev Shabbat service highlights the introductory prayers and psalms of the Shabbat service. This is a

high energy, musical, abbreviated service appropriate for both children and adults. Part of the Religious School curriculum, it is preceded by a potluck dinner with Shabbat rituals.

TNT – Torah 'N T'filah:

This Erev Shabbat service is a longer service, and will include reading the weekly Torah portion and a sermon. It is a complete Shabbat service. Families are encouraged to enjoy a Shabbat meal at home preceding services.

We hope all congregants attend and enjoy these various Shabbat experiences! RSVPs to the community and potluck dinners are essential for planning and always appreciated

Learn about our new High Holiday prayer books on page 7...

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A Message from Rabbi Israel

Celebrating the Season of our Freedom



Sing unto God a new song; sing unto God, all the earth.

Sing unto God, bless God's name;

Proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

God's marvelous works among all the people.

Psalm 96

The path to spirituality is a mystery for many of us. Some of us learn early in life how to find the Divine in our lives, and for others it's a lifelong search.

In my mid-30s, I learned that music affects me at a profound spiritual level. My prayers are deeply influenced by music. My appreciation for cantorial music began when I was fortunate enough to have brilliant Jewish musicians as my cantors and teachers. One of them, Hazzan (cantor) David Propis, is now the president of the Cantorial Assembly of the Conservative Movement. Cantors Steven and Elizabeth Berke not only sang beautifully, but also encouraged me and others to learn how to chant prayers as *sh'lichei tzibur*, prayer leaders.

I am moved most by the High Holiday *nusach*, the prayer melodies. In every service – daily, Shabbat, holidays – *nusach* sets the mood. The specific melody used depends on the holiday and which type of service. For example, the *nusach* for a Friday evening service is different than a Shabbat morning service.

At Congregation Emeth, we are blessed with several wonderful cantorial soloists. Each is unique and brings a special and distinctive style to our prayer services. Additionally, it has always been my intention to encourage more of the congregants to be active participants in singing our beautiful prayers.

When we attended a service in Israel last February, our tour witnessed the power of having several strong voices in the congregation. The congregational participation invited everyone to join in, and most people did, transforming everyone present. Wanting to extend that invitation to our members here at Emeth, I considered it a high priority to organize our own chorus. Thanks to the diligence of

our chorus coordinator, Rick Coencas, we now have a core group who are the beginnings of a group I hope will one day include most of you.

In August, cantorial soloist Angela Gold taught the chorus a variety of prayers and psalms for the Friday evening service, which will be the centerpiece for our new Friday Night Live format. This is not a typical choir, who would stand on the bimah and "perform" – this is a group of prayer-singers who will sit in the congregation, which means that anyone and everyone can join in.

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CONGREGATION EMETH

Debbie Israel	Rabbi
Rebecca Kaminsky	Principal
Debbie Zajac	Administrator

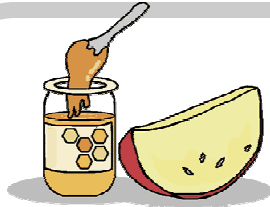
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Kathy Coencas	Membership
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Susan Meyers	Adult Learning
Mel Weisblatt	Ritual
Patty Baggesse	Sisterhood Co Pres
Marilyn Freund	Sisterhood Co Pres

Upcoming Events...



Sep 06 Emeth Reads
 Sep 06 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Sep 07 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Sep 08 Emet Dor Kef
 Sep 09 Religious School & Friday Night Light
 Sep 13 Board Meeting
 Sep 13 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Sep 14 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Sep 15 Lord's Table
 Sep 16 Religious School
 Sep 16 Pot Luck & Friday Night Live
 Sep 20 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Sep 21 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Sep 22 Emet Dor Kef
 Sep 23 Religious School & Friday Night Light
 Sep 24 Evening Study & Selichot Service
 Sep 28 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
 Sep 29 Rosh Hashanah Service



Oct 01 Family High Holiday & Shabbat Service
 Oct 04 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Oct 05 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Oct 06 Emet Dor Kef
 Oct 07 Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur Service
 Oct 09 Build Sukkah
 Oct 11 Board Meeting
 Oct 14 Religious School
 Oct 14 Pot Luck & Friday Night Live
 Oct 16 PJ Library Dinner in the Sukkah
 Oct 20 Lord's Table
 Oct 21 Simchat Torah Service & Confirmation
 Oct 21 Norah 'N T'filah
 Oct 25 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Oct 26 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Oct 28 Religious School & Friday Night Light



Nov 01 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Nov 02 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Nov 03 Emet Dor Kef
 Nov 04 Religious School & Friday Night Live
 Nov 08 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Nov 09 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Nov 11 Friday Night Live & Potluck
 Nov 15 Board Meeting
 Nov 15 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Nov 16 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet
 Nov 17 Emet Dor Kef
 Nov 18 Religious School & Friday Service
 Nov 18 Lord's Table
 Nov 29 Hebrew School : Aleph & Bet
 Nov 30 Hebrew School : Gimel & Dalet

High Holiday Schedule

Rosh Hashanah Eve:

Wednesday, September 28

7:30 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
 Holiday oneg (reception) following services

Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, September 29

9:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
 9:30 AM Children's program begins (completed reservation form required)

Saturday, October 1

10:00 AM Family Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat Service

Yom Kippur Eve

Friday, October 7

7:30 PM Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 8

9:30 AM Yom Kippur Service
 9:30 AM Children's program begins (completed reservation form required)
 3:30 PM Text Study
 4:30 PM Yizkor Services (Childcare will be provided)
 5:00 PM Concluding Services (Mincha and Neilah)
 6:30 PM Sounding of the shofar

Following Neilah services, a light snack for breaking the fast will be provided.

October 12 Sukkot Holiday Begins
October 14 Community Potluck in Sukkah
October 21 Simchat Torah & Confirmation Service

President's Message

Grant Gordon



I can hardly believe that summer is rapidly coming to an end and families are getting back into the daily routine of school, homework, after school activities, and much more. While I know that vacation time is never long enough, I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and took some well

deserved time to relax and enjoy time with friends and family.

As for Congregation Emeth, the year seems to be off to a great start. We recently completed a very successful fundraising event at the Gilroy Garlic Festival leveraging our very own Garlic Photo Booth. This event comes on the heels of our wonderful annual wine and dinner fundraiser at Satori Winery that took place in June. Thanks to everyone who supported one or both of these events as an attendee and/or a volunteer. Your support is incredibly appreciated.

For those of you who were unable to make it, we had a very fun PJ Library event for our youngest children on Friday, August 19, followed by a great barbeque and prospective member Shabbat dinner and services. The event was very well attended and everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time. The service was very enjoyable as well, complimented by our new Congregation Emeth Chorus. This is very exciting and hopefully others will join the chorus over time so that we can fill the sanctuary with talented vocalists, all well versed in the songs and prayers performed by our various cantorial soloists along with Rabbi Debbie.

On a more tactical level, I would like to remind parents of school age children to please send in your religious school enrollment forms immediately if you have not done so already. We are needing to order school supplies for the school year and are still missing several enrollment forms. School will be kick-

ing off very shortly and I want to remind everyone that our religious school program for this year has been changed from a bi-weekly Sunday Program to a weekly Friday program. This has also allowed us to expand our Religious program to include weekly Services whereas previously they were every other week. We have received very positive feedback around the changes to our Shabbat service schedule and format and hope that it will meet the broader needs of our congregation in the coming year.

I would also like to remind everyone to please send in your FY2012 Pledge Forms if you have not already done so. I would like to formally acknowledge those families who have already pledged for taking our message for additional support seriously. As a result of our outreach, we have seen an average pledge increase across those who have already pledged of almost \$360. While I recognize that this might not be possible for every family, I would like to ask that each family do what they can to support our congregation. Every bit helps and if everyone participates in some small way, it will make a huge difference in our ability to meet our short, mid, and longer term financial commitments. I recognize that this is a very difficult financial environment and would not be asking if we, too, did not truly need to help.

As many of you may be aware, we signed a three year lease with Church On The Rock (COTR) at the beginning of the summer and things seem to be working out very nicely with that relationship. We are in current talks with COTR regarding some planned minor facilities enhancements to accommodate their specific needs (such as a projector and screen in the sanctuary and social hall, along with upgraded sound equipment). The monies received from COTR will be used to start chipping away at some of our debts as well which is a critical focus area among the current board.

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In May, the annual Emeth School Maccabi Games were held at Galvan Park. It was a beautiful sunny day for the event. Teams competed in traditional games such as sack relays, three-legged races, and the children's favorite – anything having to do with water! The games were followed by a delicious barbeque and teacher appreciation. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a great success.

Welcome Back to School! It's a new ballgame this year as we start a whole new schedule for Hebrew and Religious Schools. The school format was revised in part to enable us to rent our use of our building. Change can be good as it has been a long time goal of the Education Committee to have a weekly Religious School. As the Rabbi has mentioned there will also be changes in the Friday Night Services.

Paul Crompton is the Emeth Dor Kef advisor. Melanie Khamis will once again be teaching Hebrew School. Alef-Bet Level (1st and 2nd years) will be meeting on Tuesday afternoons. Gimel-Dalet Level (3rd and 4th years) will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons. This year we are welcoming Joelle Jenkins to the Religious School teaching staff. In addition, Melanie Khamis, Lynda Stahl and Barbara Yazman will be returning as religious school teachers and Rebecca Kaminsky is continuing as our volunteer Principal. Religious School classes will be meeting on Friday afternoons. All Hebrew and Religious School classes start at 4:30 and end at 6 pm.

This new format allows us to still share a meal together after religious school and prior to services which start at 7:15 pm. Students and their families are highly encouraged to stay for Friday Night Light and Friday Night Live services since this is part of the school's curriculum. B'nai Mitzvah students are required to attend all Friday Night Services including Torah 'N T'filah.

The Education Committee is always looking for new members and ideas. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings and share their thoughts.

Becky Neto
Director of Education
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PJ Library Program

Some of Emeth's youngest members got together for some Shabbat stories, songs and crafts before the August 19 potluck. With a program organized by PJ Library, the kids enjoyed hearing "Bim and Bam: A Shabbat Tale," "Hanna's Sabbath Dress," and "The Friday Nights of Nana," read by Emily Shem-Tov, and songs and Shabbat fingerplays taught to the group by Rabbi Israel. Marilyn Freud led the group in a craft making beautiful challah covers in the upstairs classroom (pictured here) and provided adorable individual-sized challahs for the kids to enjoy at dinner.



Emeth is part of the Silicon Valley piece of the national PJ Library Program. The program seeks to assist young Jewish families in discovering quality Jewish children's books, and free books are sent each month by mail to kids homes. It is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and it is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations throughout North America. Learn more at <http://pjlibrary.org/communities> and if you have kids or grandkids under 7 years of age and are not receiving the wonderful books each month, please sign up there.

Two more Emeth/PJ Library events are already on the calendar -- please join us on Sunday, October 16 for a Sukkot PJ Library program and dinner in the sukkah and on Sunday, December 11 for a PJ Library Chanukah program.

Emily Shem-Tov

Sisterhood Update...



Hard to believe that we are already planning a New Year of 2011-2012 for Emeth's Sisterhood. We cordially invite both members and non-members to join us as we come together through many different avenues of Congregation Emeth life. Our dues will be \$36 for members and \$54 for non-members.

Thus far, we kicked off the year with an intuitive visit to the SFMOMA to view the Gertrude Stein Collection, led by a docent, mother of one of our congregants. We held a planning meeting recently. We supported Membership of Emeth on a recent Shabbat to welcome prospective members.

We are setting up a Rosh Hashanah Oneg for September 28 after services to linger and enjoy the holiday and each other over pastries and apples and honey. Round Challahs can be ordered at Mitra's Bakery in Morgan Hill by Nob Hill by September 20. We'll need helpers to make and deliver Rachamim Baskets for Congregants who can't come to Emeth for holiday Services. We need you to sign up for Rachamim to assist when needed for visiting, taking a meal, calling, sending a card, etc.

Upcoming Sisterhood Events:

- ◇ On November 5, we'd like to encourage you to save that date to participate in Emeth's Progressive Dinner.
- ◇ A Chanukah Party and Fundraiser for Emeth will take place on December 12.
- ◇ There will be a Women's Passover Seder on April 12.
- ◇ In May our own Rabbi Israel will lead us in a program on Spirituality.
- ◇ We have such a good time being together and we can make a difference with you!

Co-Presidents

Patty Baggese

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Marilyn Freund

mfreund@mailstation.com

Membership

By Kathy Coencas



On Friday, August 19, Congregation Emeth hosted our annual Welcome Shabbat. With summer winding down, and the kids ready to go back to school, what better way to celebrate than with a good old fashioned barbecue? Veteran Emeth BBQ Master Andre Neto grilled burgers to perfection. Gilroy Fire Chief Dale Foster was near at hand, just in case! Rick Coencas, Aileen Teren-Foster, Wendy Thowdis, Marilyn Freund and many others helped with setup, food prep and Barry Freund organized the cleanup crew. Many of our families with young children attended the PJ Library program and stayed for dinner. Our newest member, 10-day-old Maliya Ashleigh even made an appearance!

After dinner, members and friends of the congregation enjoyed dessert and had an opportunity to speak with committee chairs and Board members about volunteer and leadership opportunities at Emeth. During the Shabbat service, cantorial soloist Angela Gold led the music, and the Emeth Chorus joined their voices with the congregation to make some really beautiful music. Rabbi Debbie brought a message about the "Value of Community." In all 88 people enjoyed the events of Friday evening.

If you'd like more information about events or volunteer opportunities at Congregation Emeth, please email membership@emeth.net.



The Gift Shop now has some new and exciting ritual items as well as other new items from Israel! Please come by during our open hours and take a look at our traditional Chanukah candles, kiddush cups, candle sticks, cards for all occasions, and other wonderful items. We also have mezuzahs, tzedakah boxes, Shabbat candles, jewelry, and more! So always consider our gift shop for Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts, hostess gifts or something special for Chanukah.

Please note the new the schedule for the gift shop: We are always open at least once a month on Friday from 4:00-6:00. Remember, you can call Patty Baggese at (408) 842-6876, or Marilyn Freund at (408) 776-1817 to schedule a specific time to browse our collection, or to suggest specific items you would like to see in our gift shop.

Social Action Update

We are starting our High Holy Days Food Drive earlier this year. Grocery sacks can now be found at the back of the sanctuary. Please take a sack and return it at your convenience to the synagogue. Please note that Mazon* donation envelopes are attached to the sacks. (*Mazon is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing and alleviating hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds.)



Donated food (non-perishable, unopened and non-outdated food please) will be taken to St Katherine's food distribution center in Morgan Hill and St Joseph's Family Center in Gilroy. We are hoping to exceed last year's total of 44 bags, so please help!

We continue to feed the needy every 3rd Thursday of each month. Sadly the number of people needing meals has been rising lately. We'd like to thank our regular crew and back-up volunteers for making this ongoing mitzvah possible.

Masha Maskell's Bat Mitzvah project was volunteering at the Morgan Hill "Town Cats" no-kill animal shelter. Please help Masha by donating unopened bags or cans of food, litter, food/water bowls. Place donations in the pet supply donation bin in Emeth's social hall. For a complete list of items requested by the shelter please go to www.towncats.org.

Lastly, I wanted to give you an update of my work with *Project Homeless Connect* as part of my JCRC board role. The organization has had a presence at various events in Gilroy where different city, county, and State agencies host information tables where attendees can sign up for food stamps, apply for housing assistance, and get help in securing employment. Additionally a medical team provides basic health checks, and free haircuts are provided by Gavilan College hairdressing students. This is part of the JCRC's anti-hunger advocacy and anti-poverty initiatives.

B'shalom, Geoff Jackson,
Social Action Committee chair
ggj49@yahoo.com

We Have New High Holiday Prayer Books!

If your Hebrew reading skills are limited or non-existent, and you've had trouble participating in High Holiday services before, Congregation Emeth has a wonderful spiritual surprise for you this year! We will be using *Wings of Awe*, an almost fully transliterated High Holiday *machzor* (prayer book specifically for High Holidays) created for Hillel's use in universities across the country. (A transliterated prayer book offers the prayers by changing Hebrew script to English letters.)

We were able to acquire these *machzorim* (the plural of *machzor*) thanks to an even exchange with Vanderbilt Hillel. Our Gates of Repentance were sent to Hillel for their Reform service and we received their *Wings of Awe*.

"We wait with eager anticipation for the new *machzorim* to be offered by the Reform movement, which will follow the style and format of our Shabbat prayer books, *Mishkan T'fila*," said Mel Weisblatt, chair of the Ritual Committee. "In the meantime, this transliterated *machzor* gives us the opportunity to meet the many varying Hebrew skill levels of our members, including those who cannot read Hebrew at all. We hope this transliteration will make the services more meaningful for everyone and will enhance congregation participation since everyone will be able to follow the service and sing along in prayer with the cantor."

Rabbi Israel has been working with the *machzor* in July and August so that the content of the service will be familiar to us, with only a few changes. "This *machzor*'s English is written in a more modern style, and it offers several alternative readings. It is intended to be used in both Conservative and Reform congregations, which might make it somewhat confusing for a student-led or lay-led congregation but it perfect for us for short-term use," Rabbi Israel said. "I think the congregation will be pleased, and our members who cannot read Hebrew will feel part of the service because they can now participate."

Our mutual agreement with Vanderbilt Hillel is that both institutions will evaluate the exchange after the Holy Days and decide if either wants to return to the old books or keep the new ones. Therefore, it is important for congregants to give Rabbi Israel, Mel Weisblatt, and other members of the Ritual Committee feedback after the holidays are over.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN - For preschoolers and elementary-aged children

High Holiday Children's Service

Rosh Hashanah day, Thursday, September 29, 9:30 AM

Yom Kippur day, Saturday, October 1, 9:30 AM

Fee: no fee for those who pre-register; \$18 per child for those who are not pre-registered. Registration forms available on the temple website: www.emeth.net

Congregation Emeth provides an educational and fun program for children, from preschool to fifth grade. While there is no separate fee for this service for those who are preregistered, one parent of each child enrolled is required to assist in the supervision for 30 minutes on each holiday.

For children aged 2-7, the program focuses on teaching about the High Holidays, emphasizing that it is an important and special time of year. When children see their parents dressing up and going to the synagogue, they know there is something special going on! Congregation Emeth's program includes reading stories that help them understand what the day is about; leading a short prayer service, eating holiday appropriate snacks, and having some arts and crafts time that centers around the holiday. Educator Lynda Stahl has designed and will lead this program, assisted by Daniela Shuman.

High Holiday Babysitting - Congregation Emeth provides babysitting for children under preschool age. The program will run from 9:30 AM to conclusion of worship services on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings. While there is no separate fee for this service for those who are preregistered, one parent of each child enrolled is required to assist in the supervision for 30 minutes on each holiday and to provide snacks for their child. *Parents who do not pre-register their children will be billed \$18 per child.*

High Holiday Family Service - Saturday, October 1, 10:00 AM. Emeth offers a special Family High Holiday-Shabbat Service on the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Since young children are in their own program during the times of holiday services, this special service gives families the opportunity to experience the holiday in a service designed just for them. Families with children of all ages are welcome.

Sukkot Family Dinner in the Sukkah - Friday, October 13, 6:00 PM. The entire congregation and children of all ages are invited to our community potluck dinner in our sukkah on the temple's patio. Dinner begins at 6:00 PM, following Religious School. Our Friday Night Live services will begin after dinner, at 7:15 PM.

PJ Library Program and Potluck Dinner in the Sukkah - Sunday, October 16, 4:30 PM. This Sukkot holiday program for our children aged 2-7 (and older and younger siblings, of course!) will include storytelling, songs, crafts, and dinner in the synagogue's sukkah! This is one of Emeth's most popular programs, and all parents with young children should plan to attend.

Simchat Torah Celebration - Friday, October 21, 7:15 PM. Children are encouraged to attend this special celebration, when the Torah is unrolled and the first and last lines of Torah are read. The evening includes dancing around the Torah, waving flags, and dancing to music provided by our own Emeth band, Klezmerology! This is a child-friendly service! (After the Torah reading, families with young children who can't stay up longer may leave at any time.)

The Importance of Tzedakah

When most people hear the word "Tzedakah" they think it means charity. Did you know the word "tzedakah" is derived from the Hebrew root Tzadei-Dalet-Qof, meaning righteousness, justice or fairness? In Judaism, giving to the poor is not viewed as a generous, magnanimous act. It is simply an act of justice and righteousness. Giving to the poor is an obligation in Judaism, a duty that cannot be forsaken even by those who are themselves in need. Every person is required to give tzedakah according to their means. Even the poorest Jews, those who need help themselves, are expected to put aside something from what they receive in order to give tzedakah. Some scholars have said that tzedakah is the highest of all commandments, equal to all others combined.



Tzedakah is reinforced in our Emeth classrooms and students provide input to the charities we support with the generous money that is collected throughout the year. As the scheduling for this school year has changed, so will the Tzedakah collection procedure. At Friday religious school a tzedakah box will be passed around prior to the start of services since it is traditional to give tzedakah before Shabbat begins. Of course tzedakah boxes will still be around all week long and can be found at the back of the sanctuary and on the desk near the school entrance. We encourage everyone to contribute. Please help your child to remember to bring in that change. Those quarters and dimes really do add up!

Mazal Tov To 2011 Confirmands

Celebration to take place during Simchat Torah Services

Five students will celebrate their Confirmation during our Simchat Torah services on Friday night, October 21. This is a newly designed program for Congregation Emeth; in the past Confirmation took place during Shavuot services. However, these five eligible students wanted to study in a different format, necessitating a creative approach to celebrating this milestone event.

What is Confirmation?

While a bar or bat mitzvah ceremony focuses on the young person being responsible for one's own behavior as an individual, the focus of Confirmation is more on the sacred community they are entering. The center-point of Confirmation ceremonies is young adults "confirming" their commitment to Judaism. It could be compared to a graduation from high school Jewish studies, however in most temples – including ours – the students continue in our high school program until graduating from high school. Confirmation ceremonies focus on a community of young adults confirming their loyalty to Judaism.

Emeth's Confirmation Program

Our teens felt that they could not add another day of study to prepare for Confirmation. The eligible teens are active participants in our Emet Dor Kef, our high school program. But they did want to experience Confirmation and were willing to participate in an intensive retreat. In June, as soon as school was out and before most left for summer camping experiences, five students traveled with Rabbi Israel and Debbie Zajac to Lake Tahoe for the retreat.

The participants were Monica Flynn, Sarah Langerman, Josh Toch, Sarah Sinizer-Hopkins, and Sarah Zajac. They learned and discussed the following topics: what is Judaism; who is a Jew; denominations and beliefs within Judaism; and Jewish beliefs about God. During their Confirmation celebration, the students will speak about one of those topics, offering what they learned and their own viewpoints.

The entire congregation is encouraged to attend, to share the evening with our students and to celebrate completing the reading cycle of Torah at our Simchat Torah services.

Emet Dor Kef & Nfty!

Emeth's teen youth group, Emet Dor Kef is now affiliated with Nfty (North American Federation of Temple Youth) Nfty is affiliated with The Union of Reform Judaism and *snif* (branch) of Netzer Olami. Nfty is a national teen Jewish Organization. Being a part of Nfty will mean that we are connected more with other Jewish teens in the Bay Area and across the nation.

Nfty has roles for each Synagogue to fill and for this year our roles are: Communication Vice President and Treasurer is Sarah Zajac, Membership Vice President is Sarah Langerman, Social Action Vice President is Monica Flynn, the Religious and Cultural Vice Presidents are David Miller, and the Programming Vice President are Sam Doubek and Rachel Neto. I am the President of our youth group. If you have any questions or requests for something the youth group should do/help out with, feel free to e-mail me at joshuatoch@charter.net.

President Josh Toch

Garlic Kisses!

Thanks to all who helped operate the GarlicPics photo booth at the 2011 Gilroy Garlic Festival. We had a successful year with a much improved operation this year with the added help from our professionals from Printroom.com. Special thanks to over 30 members of Emeth who showed up to bring in over \$7000 in gross revenues this year.

Maintenance Mavens Needed

Michael Oshan continues to recruit people to help maintain our building. Volunteer opportunities are available for people with or without special skills to do things like painting, yard maintenance, electrical upgrades and repairs, building shelves, etc. Please contact Mike Oshan at mike3011@yahoo.com

President's Message

(continued from page 4)

Last, but not least, I want to encourage every member of Congregation Emeth to explore available volunteer opportunities. As you can imagine, it takes a great deal to run a congregation, and given the small size of our congregation the list of tasks can become overwhelming if left to a few people to deliver. Various members of the congregation have been amazing over the last year, stepping up and helping each and every time the need arose. However, I am asking for much broader participation this year. I truly believe that being an active member of Emeth should include getting involved and working together with your fellow friends and family to create a warm, inviting atmosphere that everyone wants to be a part of. Getting involved can be a great deal of fun and if everyone takes a small piece of the workload; it will remain fun for everyone rather than creating a burden for a select few.

For those who are interested in getting involved with the congregation in a more significant way, I wanted to let you know that we are starting to talk with members who may be interested in filling a board level position for next year. While it is almost 10 months away, it is not too early to start talking about being part of our future leadership team. The board has been very focused on ensuring the long term health of the congregation over the past year and we will remain focused on this over the coming year. We are very proud of what we have accomplished as an organization up to this point and are excited about the religious, spiritual, and academic programs being offered this year. We hope everyone is as happy as we are to be part of this wonderful place many of us consider to be our second home.

Thanks again for all of your support and please let me know if you have any suggestions for ways to make Congregation Emeth even better in the future. I am always interested in your feedback.



President
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Message From Rabbi Israel

(continued from page 2)

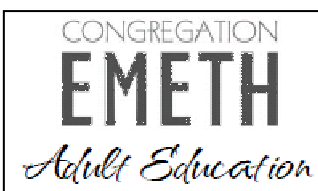
In rabbinical school, I had a teacher who began each class with music. Sometimes it would be cantorial music, sometimes Israeli music, and other times secular music with a message. This wonderful Rabbi couldn't sing a note on key, not if his life depended on it. But it never stopped him from singing out loud with feeling, and watching him I learned an important lesson – when the music is meant to be prayer, it comes *into* and *through* us. It is not meant to impress others; it is meant to move us spiritually. Tone and pitch matter on American Idol; but in the congregation, heart and soul are the qualities for which we yearn.

May you find your voice during this new year, and may you join the chorus of praise to the Holy One. Jerry joins me in wishing you a *shana tova* – a new year filled with gladness, joy, health, prosperity, and peace.

Shalom u'vracha – peace and blessings in the new year,



rabbidebbieisrael@gmail.com



Congregation Emeth's Adult Education program is designed to offer opportunities for adults to enjoy the process of learning together. Everyone is welcome! No prior knowledge is required – just bring your interest and enthusiasm for learning!

Current Schedule

Sept 6 Great Reads with Jewish Themes
Sept 24 Selichot Program and Service
Oct 8 Yom Kippur Educational Program
Dec 6 Great Reads with Jewish Themes
Jan 5 Story behind the Headlines – Chanukah
Feb 2 Story behind the Headlines – Purim
Mar 1 Story behind the Headlines – Shavuot
Mar 6 Great Reads with Jewish Themes
Mar 15 How to have your own Passover Seder
June 5 Great Reads with Jewish Themes

Emeth Donations March thru July 2011

*Thank
you*

Allen Wisotsky Education Fund

Memory of Hi Bloom
Memory of Sam Wisotsky
Memory of Allen Wisotsky
Memory of Allen Wisotsky
Memory of Mitchell Rubin
Memory of Paula Walter
Honor of Jacob Wisotsky's Bar Mitzvah
Memory of Paula Walter

Lindy Wisotsky
Lindy Wisotsky
Debra & Larry Gable
Kabo Orimoto
Lindy Wisotsky
Lindy Wisotsky
Mona & Fred Oken
Raul & Cynthia Fernandez

B. Meyer Campership Fund

Good Health Wish for Paula Walter
Good Health Wish for Marilyn Freund
Good Health Wish for Penny Doubek
Good Health Wish for Aileen Teren & Dale Foster
Memory of Arthur Meyer
Honor of Lauren Jenkins' Good Health
Memory of Betty Meyer/Beth Baggesse
Memory of Dorothy Meyer

Patty & Jim Baggesse
Patty & Jim Baggesse
Patty & Jim Baggesse
Patty & Jim Baggesse
Patty & Jim Baggesse
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Susan Meyers & Michael Oshan

Building Fund

Building Fund Donation
Donation for Fence Improvement
Building Fund Donation
Building Fund Donation
Memory of Molly & Maurice Oshan

Denise Weyl
Kathy & Rick Coencas
Linda Riesenbergl
Raul & Cynthia Fernandez
Susan Meyers & Michael Oshan

General Fund

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Memory of Sid Chassy
Honor of Joyce Barman
Honor of Paula Walter
Memory of Phil Steinway
Honor of Jacob Gordon
Honor of Deanna Brodsky's Bat Mitzvah
Memory of David Buzanski

Joe & Denise Abmont
Joel & Maureen Chassy
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Michael Hurley & Judith Lessow Hurley

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Lunch Sponsor Donation
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Passover Donation

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Raul Fernandez

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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Discretionary Fund Donation
Appreciation of Rabbi Debbie

Lindy Wisotsky
Jay & Susan Latin
Lindy Wisotsky

Rachamim Donation

Memory of Paula Walter
Memory of Paula Walter
Memory of Harry Simon
Memory of Paula Walter

Margot Kakalec
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Marilyn & Barry Freund
Patty & Jim Baggesse

Wine Fundraiser

Wine Fundraiser Donation
Wine Fundraiser Donation

Ed & Sarah Strongin
Peter & Carole Friedmann

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**Fun at
Emeth's End
of Year BBQ!**

