

Emeth Celebrates 35 Years!



On January 29, 2012, Congregation Emeth celebrated 35 years as the center of Jewish life in South County. A sumptuous gourmet lunch from Odeum's and presentations by congregational leaders were the highlight of the afternoon. "Mostly, we came together to celebrate! A larger than expected turnout and a more bountiful than expected luncheon provided a festive attitude!" said Grant Gordon, President, who planned the program with support from Danielle Di Carlo, Kathy Coencas, Brigit Strongin, Aileen Teren-Foster, Wendy Thowdis, and Rabbi Debbie Israel. In addition, Michael Oshan wrote our history which was used in Kol Emeth as well as background material for our community newspapers.

The program for the afternoon included a candle-lighting ceremony. Congregation Emeth leaders lit one of the candles in the 7-branch menorah and offered their personal perspectives. Candle lighters included current president Grant Gordon, and past presidents Patty Bagesse, Paul Crompton, Michael Oshan, Perry Strongin; and Sisterhood co-President Marilyn Freund and youth group President Joshua Toch.

In his stirring remarks, 16-year-old Josh said, "This is not (just) a religious building with some praying Jews. This

is a family of caring, loving Jews...I have been in this family for more than a decade, since I was in kindergarten. This place (Congregation Emeth) is part of me and I am part of it. This is my second home. The teens who have grown up together are like brothers and sisters. When we are together I can be who I am and they will love me no matter what. I could say that most of my closest friends are here. It's not just the teens; it is the whole synagogue. We all accept each other for who we are. We are here for one another."

"This has been a year of many changes and great successes," said Rabbi Israel. "Our attendance has never been greater! Our school is thriving! We are attracting young families, representing our future. Our leadership is committed to ensuring our future successes. And in this remarkable year, our 35th anniversary celebration certainly is one of the highlights."

Inside this issue:

Calendar Of Events	3
President's Message	4
Meet Our Members	5
Education Update	6
Sisterhood Update	7
Adult Education	7
Fundraiser Program	8
Lighting Chanukah Candles	9
Emeth Donations	10

A Message from Rabbi Israel



Soon we will sit around our Passover seder, and the youngest child at the table will ask the Four Questions. The children in every generation ask these questions, as we remember our ancestors' enslavement in Egypt and then the glorious freedom of the Exodus.

As we sit around the table and observe what is before us, we understand that three of these questions are reasonable ones to ask, year after year: *Why are we eating this strange food, matza, and not bread? All year we eat all kinds of vegetables, but tonight, why bitter herbs? Why are we dipping food in salt water, not once but twice?*

These are questions anyone would want answered. But the fourth question some might consider strange and not as obvious a question as the other three: *Why is it that on all other nights we eat either sitting straight or reclining, but on this night we all recline?*

As a child, on any other night, were you, like me, instructed to "sit up straight at the table"? Who every reclined at the table? And, even at the seder, who really reclines? At my seder table, I have a pillow behind me, but following the dictionary definition (to lean or lie back; rest in a recumbent position), I'm not really reclining. So why do we ask this question?

The seder is modeled after the ancient Roman festive meals, when "resting in a recumbent position" was the common way of eating. There aren't too many of us who sit that way even on seder night. A way to reframe this question might be: on all other nights we eat either hurriedly or at leisure, but tonight we're all at leisure.

I like this phrasing, because on most nights, many of us eat hurriedly, with fast food being an easy way to grab a bite before we rush to the next ac-

tivity. Frequently family members eat at different times because we each have so many things to do.

But Passover is different. It is a long and leisurely meal. We take our time. Appetizers help us curb our hunger as we spend time reading and asking questions about the biblical story of our freedom. (I suggest adding more than just parsley as appetizers to your seder plates! At my home seder, we usually add artichokes which gives us an opportunity for lots of dipping.) The family comes together and often friends join us as well. The television is turned off. On this night, we have a meal of leisure.

So here is a fifth question I encourage you to consider this Passover: what is it that enslaves YOU? None of us are slaves to a cruel and oppressive ruler (thank God), but most of us are slaves to other things. Time is probably one of the things to which most of us are truly enslaved. But, to be really free, one should feel that time is your own. The luxury of a leisurely meal shouldn't be reserved for the seder only.

In celebration of your freedom, take control of your time, not just during Passover. Shabbat every week is the perfect opportunity to practice leisurely meals and unhurried time. The lessons of the festival of freedom aren't meant to be realized just once a year. Mark this festival as the beginning of your own liberation from the calendar and the clock.

May you have a festival of great joy! Happy Passover!

Rabbi Debbie Israel

rabbidebbieisrael@gmail.com



Emeth

Upcoming Events



March



Mar 25	Sisterhood/Education Fundraiser Deli Dinner & Concert with Alisa Fineman
Mar 27	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
Mar 28	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
Mar 30	Religious School/Model Seder
Mar 30	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet

April



Apr 3	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
Apr 4	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
Apr 5	Emet Dor Kef
Apr 7	Community Potluck Passover Seder
Apr 12	Women's Seder
Apr 13	TNT - Torah 'N T'filah
Apr 14	Junior Congregation
Apr 17	Board Meeting
Apr 17	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
Apr 18	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
Apr 19	Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Memorial Day
Apr 19	Lord's Table
Apr 19	Emet Dor Kef
Apr 20	Religious School
Apr 20	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet
Apr 24	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
Apr 25	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
Apr 26	Emet Dor Kef
Apr 26	Yom HaAtzmaut/Israel Independence Day
Apr 27	Religious School
Apr 27	Friday Night Live Service and Potluck

May



May 1	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
May 2	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
May 3	Emet Dor Kef
May 4	Religious School
May 5	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet
May 8	Board Meeting
May 8	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
May 9	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
May 11	Religious School
May 11	Friday Night Live Service and Potluck
May 14	Sisterhood Spirituality Program
May 15	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
May 17	Lord's Table
May 17	Emet Dor Kef
May 18	Religious School Maccabiad in Park
May 18	Emeth Town Meeting and Elections in Park
May 18	Community Shabbat Dinner
May 22	Hebrew School - Aleph & Bet
May 23	Hebrew School - Gimel & Dalet
May 24	Emet Dor Kef
May 25	TNT - Torah 'N T'filah/Shavout

Meet Our Members...

By Kathy Coencas

Welcome to Susan Braun, Arthur Rudin and Georgi Braun-Rudin



Arthur Rudin was born and grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. He loves cars and has a passion for electronics and electrical gadgets. He attended Northeastern University and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. His first job after college was in solar engineering and he still remains passionate about solar. He moved to Southern California to enhance his career and to follow his childhood dream. He was offered an amazing position in Northern California which is the solar hub in the United States. So he moved to Morgan Hill and is currently the VP of Product Development at a solar company in San Jose.

Susan was born and grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. She had a close family who spent most Jewish holidays and Sabbath at her grandparents' house. It was a rich cultural and spiritual atmosphere. Susan attended American University in Washington, DC, moved to Southern California and graduated from Cal State Northridge. Her first job after college was in hospital administration and that launched her career. She pursued a Master Degree from USC in Hospital Administration and became an Executive Recruiter specializing in healthcare. She worked for a successful recruiting firm and eventually created and managed her own search firm totaling a span of nearly 30 years.

Georgi was born in the province of Hubei, China in 2000. Arthur and Susan travelled half way around

the world in 2002 to receive her. Thirty-five other families went on this journey to receive their daughters and Georgi has 35 Chinese sisters. Georgi currently attends Yavneh Day School and is in 5th grade. She has many interests including, horseback riding, gourmet cooking, volley ball, springboard diving, gymnastics, tae kwon do and popular music. She is already making new friends at Congregation Emeth.

Susan loves animals and the family currently has 2 dogs (an Akita-Fujii, a Chihuahua-Martin), 3 cats (Tiramisu, Little Boy and Gooney) and 2 horses (a Gypsy Drum-Biggie Boy and a quarter horse paint-Sedona).

Welcome to Peter, Lauren & Vivian Langel

Peter and Lauren met at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 2002 while studying Industrial Technology. They got married in 2009 and moved to Morgan Hill in 2010, completely renovating their house themselves. Vivian Rose was born in August 2011. Peter was raised in Gilroy in a non-religious household and Lauren was raised in Monterey in a Jewish household. Peter is a Manufacturing Engineer at Lockheed Martin and Lauren is a licensed Real Estate Broker Associate but is currently a stay-at-home mom. They also have a yellow lab/basset mixed dog who is full of personality. They look forward to meeting all of the Emeth members.



Meet Our Members continued on next page

... Plus Other News

Welcome to Gary Zatkin



Gary Zatkin is local to the Bay Area. He attended San Jose State University with the intention of working in the juvenile justice system or teaching in the classroom. His career took a right turn when he went to work in parks maintenance for the City of San Jose, where he picked up landscape design and construction techniques that evolved into teaching part time. He completed an administrative graduate degree, and now has over 36 years working for the City in administration, landscape, storm/sewer system management, and construction inspection.

Gary recently retired, and is currently helping put on the Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival, serving on an HOA Board, and is committed to a variety of other volunteer efforts. His former neighbor and friend Barbara Yazman influenced his decision to join Emeth.

Community Seder Saturday, April 7th!

Congregation Emeth is once again holding our community Seder on the second night of Passover, Saturday, April 7th at 6 PM at the synagogue. In order to make this a wonderful event for everyone, we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to oversee the following areas:

- ✧ Administrative Tasks
- ✧ Food Committee Member
- ✧ Set-up Committee Member
- ✧ Table Hosts Committee Member
- ✧ Clean-up Committee Member

If everyone pitches in, we will be able to evenly distribute all the tasks and make sure our Seder is a great event for everyone. Please email Marby Lee at marbles@garlic.com by Friday, March 23rd to let her know what task you would like to help out with. Thank you in advance for your help & support!

All reservations for the seder MUST be received by mail by March 23, with full payment included; or those going to the Concert on March 25 may bring their reservation form and payment at that time.



Education Update...



The Education Committee is busy planning for the next school year. The new format of having religious school on Friday afternoons will remain the same. We expect at least one of our teachers to be unavailable next year, so if anyone is interested in teaching or know someone who is, please contact Becky Neto.

There are now quite a few families with young children here at Emeth. We are hoping to expand our program for next year by introducing a pre-school class for 3 - 5 year olds. More details to follow.

Becky Neto, Netolove@aol.com
Director of Education



Purim at Emeth

A festive Purim celebration was held on Friday, March 9th. Religious school students, joined by many of Emeth's youngest generation, tried their luck at carnival games as well as keeping a constant line at the face painting area. Thank you to the school staff for running the carnival.



New to the entertainment this year was "The Great Dubini", aka Jerry Dubin, who dazzled with a magic show fit for a King. The crowd was tough but very much enjoyed assisting with some of the tricks. About 70 people shared a pot-luck Shabbat dinner, including all the hamentashen one could eat.

The Friday Night Live service - lead by our own "King of Rock and Roll", Rabbi Israel, and Cheerleader, Angela Gold - included a reading of the Megillah by our children. Many of the students, staff and congregants joined in the costume fun. Thank you to Becky Neto and everyone who helped make the Purim Celebration a success.



Social Action Committee Update

We have so many people to thank for all their support for the good work we've been doing, especially at the Lord's Table in Gilroy.

First of all we would like to thank our regular crew for their efforts in helping to feed 70 – 100 needy people. Of special mention are: Betty and Paul Grunewald, for collecting donated supermarket food, Susie Freiberg, for being a great chef and Spanish linguist, Laura Freiberg, Cheryl Thompson, Sandi Gabe, Joan Halperin and Sheryl Pupko. Extra kudos to David Miller who volunteered recently and is now helping out at the Lord's Table independently of Emeth. Many thanks to Rabbi Debbie for the monthly donations from her Discretionary Fund which enables us to buy fresh fruits and vegetables for the monthly meal.

We would also like to thank our Christmas crew for all their support (this is beginning to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech). As well as helping to cook, serve and clean up on the day there were a lot of supporting roles such as cooking turkeys, donating cash, food, clothing and gifts. Of special mention are Michael Oshan as Santa and Susan Meyers as elf. Special thanks to Marnie Oshan for the water bottle and backpack donations from Moshan Productions. Last, but not least, many thanks to Eddie Strongin for donating a large portion of his 90th birthday cake to share with for our 158 guests, including 62 children.

Finally we would like to thank our congregants for their generous donations to the Winter Clothing Drive and the High Holiday Food Drive. We collected over 40 sacks of groceries, which were distributed evenly between St Katherine's Food Bank in Morgan Hill and St Joseph's Family Food Bank in Gilroy. However, it must be stressed that expiration dates and condition of food needs to be checked before it is donated. We filled 5 sacks of expired food donations, which unfortunately had to be thrown away.

On other matters, please let me know at ggj49@yahoo.com if you have a small (13 – 15 inch) working TV that you could donate to a needy congregant. It must have the red and yellow earphone jacks so that we can attach wireless headphones.

Thanks to everyone once again.

Happy Pesach.

Geoff Jackson. Social Action/Social Justice.



5th ANNUAL WINE TASTING EVENT

Join us for a fun afternoon of wine tasting with international appetizer pairings, BBQ diner, music, silent auctions and raffles. All proceeds benefit Congregation Emeth.

To purchase tickets please call 408 425 2255, or visit winetastingfundraiser.eventbrite.com

Tickets: \$45.00 - Discounts available for early registration, table purchases and children under 12





Sisterhood Update

Our festive Chanukah Dinner Party and Social/Fundraiser enabled us to purchase *Godcast*, a DVD that presents the weekly Torah readings and Jewish holidays, for Congregation

Emeth's Religious School. A big thanks to all who participated!

Sisterhood and the Religious School present Alisa Fineman and Kimball Hurd in concert at Congregation Emeth on Sunday, March 25 at 4:30 P.M. Missed the deadline for the Concert and Deli? You can still purchase concert-only tickets, for \$18, prepaid or at the door. If you wished you had ordered a deli meal, email netolove@aol.com to see if your meal order can still be accommodated.

Please save the date for Thursday, April 12 for a Women's Seder. Information about the seder can be found elsewhere in Kol Emeth and complete details will be announced soon.

To conclude the year, on Monday evening May 14, at 7:00 PM, Rabbi Debbie Israel will lead us in a special discussion on "Our Spiritual Pathway." Describing the program, the Rabbi stated, "The yearning for a spiritual connection lies at the core of every human being. In a group discussion, we will use the 4 models of our Matriarchs to explore how to awaken this profound inner desire." Join us for coffee and tea and dessert, as we come together for this enriching experience. These events are open for all women congregants and friends

Co-Presidents

Patty Baggesse

pbaggase@garlic.com

Marilyn Freund

mfreund@mailstation.com

The Emeth Gift Shop

We have new items for Passover. Please contact Patty Baggesse, 842-6876, for an appointment to purchase items such as seder plates, matzah covers, or other ritual items including Shabbat candles, jewelry, gifts and cards for all occasions. Many items are made in Israel.



Also, the schedule of dates the Gift Shop is open is on the front of the Gift Shop cabinet at the Synagogue and printed in the weekly announcements. Appointments are also available.

Emeth Women's Seder Thursday April 12th

A special "Women's Seder" will be held on Thursday evening April 12th. Last year, for the first time, we joined congregations across the country that have celebrated the Passover holiday with a Women's Seder highlighting the heroic deeds of our sisters Miriam, Yocheved, Shifrah and Puah, and the voices of the Matriarchs. The women who attended our first Emeth Women's Seder agreed that this beautiful new tradition provided us with a unique opportunity to come together to participate in a seder that honors the role that women have played in the history of our people. We hope that you will join us this year on April 12th. Details regarding time and place will be announced soon.

Congregation Emeth's Rachamim Committee

We offer these services and more to our Emeth families:

Do you know a member who would benefit from our friendly hands or who might need a friendly phone call?

Please contact Marilyn Freund, 408-776-1817, for information and assistance.

And More News..

Emeth Reads!

Our Emeth Reads group has enjoyed a series of wonderful discussions! Our final meeting for this year will be held on Tuesday, June 5th, beginning at 7:00 PM. That evening each of us will have the opportunity to speak briefly about the book s/he would recommend for the rest of us to read this summer. We have found our book group to be a great way learn from each other and to appreciate a vast range of books with Jewish themes both fiction and non fiction. Everyone is welcome to join us! Susan Meyers chairs the Adult Education Committee and coordinates Emeth Reads.

Save your Stuff for our Emeth Rummage Sale

On Sunday May 20th, our Congregation will hold a fund raiser- rummage sale. Marby Lee has graciously agreed to host the event at her home. Please save the date and your "stuff"! We will be collecting items for the rummage sale in May. More information will be forthcoming.

Garlic Pics

Congregation Emeth will be operating our popular photo booth at the Gilroy Garlic Festival again this year and is looking for volunteers. We are in need of workers for the event on July 27-29 and set up people for July 26. If you are able to participate, contact Michael Oshan at: michaeloshan@sbcglobal.net. Last year we earned over \$5000 for our Congregation.



*Kol Emeth's Editor is Mike Ogden
If you have any comments or suggestions,
or would like to contribute content
to future editions of Kol Emeth, please
contact Mike at:
mike_a_ogden@yahoo.com*

CONGREGATION EMETH

Debbie Israel	Rabbi
Rebecca Kaminsky	Principal
Debbie Zajac	Administrator

BOARD MEMBERS

Grant Gordon	President
Paul Crompton	Past President
Barry Freund	Vice President
Michael Oshan	Secretary
Michael Heil	Treasurer
Becky Neto	Education
Kathy Coencas	Membership
Randy Toch	Facilities
Joe Abmont	Special Projects
Perry Strongin	Communications

NON-BOARD MEMBERS

Geoff Jackson	Social Action
Richard Pupko	Library
Michael Ogden	Newsletter Editor
Michael Oshan	Building & Grounds
Susan Meyers	Adult Learning
Mel Weisblatt	Ritual
Patty Baggesse	Sisterhood Co Pres



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com
search : congregation emeth

Emeth Donations...

*Thank
you*

Allen Wisotsky Educ. Fund

Lindy Wisotsky	In Memory Of Joel Chassy
Lindy Wisotsky	In Memory Of Marcia Reid
Lindy Wisotsky	In Memory Of Ann Wisotsky

Education

Steve Miller	Emet Dor Kef Donation
Rebecca And Harold Kaminsky	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Cathy And Pi Silverstein	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Marilyn And Barry Freund	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Kathy And Rick Coencas	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Patty And Jim Baggesse	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Debbie And David Zajac	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Lindy Wisotsky	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Donna And Mel Weisblatt	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Susan Braun And Arthur Rudin	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Aileen Teren-Foster And Dale Foster	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Bette Gardner And Michael Heil	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Cheryl And Mark Thompson	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Brigit And Perry Strongin	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Penny And Scott Doubek	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Janice Frank	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Susan Meyers And Michael Oshan	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Natalie Abmont	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation
Sandra And Geoff Jackson	Sisterhood Chanukah Donation

General Fund

Mike And Daria Ogden	General Fund Donation - Kol Emeth
Robert Langerman	General Fund Donation
Gay Gale	In Honor Of Patty Baggesse
Aileen Teren Foster And Dale Foster	In Memory Of Todd Latin
Marilyn And Barry Freund	In Memory Of Todd Latin
Donna And Mel Weisblatt	In Honor Of Emeth'S 35Th Anniversary
Susan Meyers And Michael Oshan	In Memory Of Todd Latin
Marilyn And Barry Freund	In Memory Of Samuel Freund And Adolph Axelrod

... December 2011 to February 2012

Thank
you

Kari Munowitch Memorial Fund

Barry And Sharon Munowitch Family	In Memory Of Kari Munowitch
David Munowitch And Emily Habib	In Memory Of Kari Munowitch

Rabbi'S Discretionary Fund

Steve Miller	In Memory Of Leonard Miller
Steve Miller	Discretionary Fund Donation
Maureen Chassy	Thank You To Rabbi Debbie
Michael Kerner And Wendy Thowdis	In Memory Of Murray Kerner
Hana And Yigal Cidon	In Memory Of Rudolf Zobel
Janice Frank	In Memory Of Warren Frank, Jeffrey Frank, Charles Glueck

Rachamim

Pi And Cathy Silverstein	Maona Grabscheid Retirement
Marilyn And Barry Freund	In Memory Of Patricia Doubek D'Aquisto
Marilyn And Barry Freund	In Memory Of Joyce Barman
Marilyn And Barry Freund	In Honor Of Rabbi Debbie'S Caring

Religious School

Aileen Teren-Foster And Dale Foster	Religious School Donation
Rick And Kathy Coencas	School Meal Donation
Jeff And Sherri Bass	School Meal Donation
Ruth Kaufman	School Meal Donation

Sisterhood

Steve Miller	Sisterhood Donation
--------------	---------------------

Youth Group Fund

Lauren And John Jenkins	In Memory Of Joel Chassy
Robert Langerman	Youth Group Fund Donation

B. Meyer Campership Fund

Iris And Alan Kabert	Honor Susan Meyer'S Career At Sjsu
----------------------	------------------------------------

Building Fund

Joyce And Jay Maskell	Building Fund Donation
Linda Riesenber	Building Fund Donation

Congregation Emeth

17835 Monterey St

Morgan Hill, CA 95037

www.emeth.net



CONGREGATION
EMETH

Your South Valley Jewish Community

17835 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037

408-778-8200 admin@emeth.net