



Kol Emeth

The Voice of Truth

קול אמת

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

March 2013 / Adar 5773

JEWISH CEMETERY EXPANDED – Pre Sale Visits Sunday March 10



Congregation Emeth now exclusive managers of the Jewish Section!

Habing Funeral Home and Congregation Emeth entered into an agreement recently which resulted in the Jewish section of Gavilan Hills Cemetery now being under the temple's management. Congregation Emeth is now the exclusive contact for anyone wishing to buy a plot in the Jewish section. As a consequence, we are now able to offer a substantial purchasing discount to members, especially to those who buy their plots anytime from March 10 through April 23, 2013 when an even greater pre-sale will take place. This 45-day significant presale price is only available to members, who will also have first choice in designating

their burial sites. On April 24, a special non-member sale will be offered to the Jewish communities throughout South Valley and Silicon Valley so we encourage interested members to act quickly.

Given the extremely high rates for plots at some of the Silicon Valley Jewish Cemeteries, our goal was to offer members a chance to purchase plots for considerably less money. The member rate is based on taking the non-member rate (approx. 30% below one other area cemetery) and reducing an additional \$700-\$1000 (single/double grave options). During the presale, we will be offering an additional 15% discount to members up and above the discounts listed above. Final pricing is being determined, but Single/Double Plots with Flat Markers will be approximately \$3415/\$5060 respectively or \$5175/\$7695 for those selecting an Upright Marker. Prices will increase to approximately \$4140/\$6125 (Flat) and \$6205/\$9225 (Upright) after the sale so please do not miss out on this one time opportunity. Prices for non-members increase an additional \$700/\$100 (single / double grave). Concrete liners will also be made available at \$975 + applicable tax if purchased at time of plot purchase. Endowment care is currently a one-time \$400 fee, and Internment fees are \$890. When all burial related expenses are considered, the current offer represents a 42% reduction off fees paid at one other area cemetery and a 24% reduction off the fees paid at a different area cemetery which also only allows for double graves and flat markers.

Continued on page 7

Inside this issue:

A Message From Rabbi Israel	2
Calendar Of Events	3
President's Message	4
A Guide to Friday Services	5
Youth Group Adventure	6
Social Action Update	7
Education Update	8
Sisterhood Update	9
Passover In The Home	10
Emeth Donations	11

17835 Monterey St,
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 778 8200

Congregation Emeth
Your Jewish Community in the South Valley

This newsletter can also be
viewed at www.emeth.net

A Message from Rabbi Israel



Throughout our Passover seder, we are reminded: "Once we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but God brought us out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. If the Holy One, blessed be God, had not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, then we, our children, and our grandchildren, would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt."

This is the enduring message of the seder: Once we were slaves and now we are free.

Shortly after experiencing our freedom, we received the Ten Commandments at the foot of Mount Sinai. This was followed by the laws and ordinances that we agreed to obey, the rules for living that are contained in the Torah. First on that list are the laws detailing treatment of slaves. How peculiar! Because we were slaves, one would expect the law to be precise and simple: No slaves!

As hard as it is for us moderns to read this, Torah is not referring to the kind of treatment that we received in Egypt – a condition of cruel, permanent bondage which is clearly unacceptable. The slavery legislated in Torah is dealing with people who find themselves unable to take care of themselves and so they sell their labor for a specific time. Eventually, slavery was abolished altogether. But in the early years of freedom, becoming a slave was an accepted way to repay a debt or overcome bankruptcy.

Unique to Torah is the expectation that slavery would be short lived. The core teaching is how the slave becomes free. The slave would work for six years and in the seventh year, the slave could go free. No payment is given to the master; the slave earned the right to be free. Torah insists on decent treatment and in fact considers slaves to be virtually members of the slave owner's family. At the end of the proscribed time if the slave chooses not to go free, this is permitted according to a specific procedure.

Later, during the time of the Rabbinic Period, the Rabbis taught that the words, "he fares well *with* you" (Deuteronomy 15:16) specify that the Hebrew servant had to be "with" — that is, equal to — the master in food and drink. The owner couldn't eat quality food while the servant was fed poor quality. The master couldn't sleep on a feather bed while the servant slept on straw. In addition, the master had to

support the servant's wife and children until the servant was released.

On *Pesach*, the holiday of freedom, we are taught that we must remember when WE were slaves. The memory is not for nostalgia – it is meant to teach us lessons that are eternal. One lesson, of course, is gratitude to the Holy One for the blessing of freedom. But another perhaps more pressing lesson is that we cannot tolerate oppression. We cannot become too lazy to take action when we see the stranger mistreated. We cannot tolerate a world that still enslaves people. We cannot accept inequality and injustice as normal.

"*Avadim hayenu. Atah b'nei chorim*. Once we were slaves. Now we are free."

Chag Sameach – Happy Pesach!

rabbidebbieisrael@gmail.com

CONGREGATION EMETH

Debbie Israel	Rabbi
Melanie Khamis	Principal
Debbie Zajac	Administrator

BOARD MEMBERS

Grant Gordon	President
Susan Meyers	Vice President and President Elect
Paul Crompton	Secretary
Michael Heil	Treasurer
Becky Neto	Education
Elizabeth Mandel	Membership
Geoff Jackson	Social Action
Wendy Thowdis	Adult Learning

NON-BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Coencas	Library
Michael Ogden	Kol Emeth Editor
Michael Oshan	Building & Grounds
Mel Weisblatt	Ritual
Randy Toch	Facilities Rental
Patty Baggesse, Marilyn Freund	Sisterhood Presidents



Emeth

Upcoming Events



March

Hebrew School	Mar 6	Sisterhood Program
March 6th	Mar 7	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
March 13th	Mar 7	Emet Dor Kef - Paul
March 20th	Mar 8	Friday Night Live
No School March 27th	Mar 12	Board Meeting
	Mar 14	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
	Mar 15	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet
Religious School	Mar 21	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
March 8th	Mar 21	Lord's Table
March 15th	Mar 21	Emet Dor Kef - Paul
March 22th	Mar 22	Erev Shabbat Service
No School March 29th	Mar 25	First Night of Passover, first Seder
	Mar 26	Second Night of Passover, second Seder
	Mar 28	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
	Mar 28	Women's Seder
	Mar 29	Shabbat Passover Service with Yizkor

April

Hebrew School	Apr 1	Last day of Passover
No School April 3rd	Apr 4	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
April 10th	Apr 5	Erev Shabbat Service
April 17th	Apr 7	Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Program at Shir Hadash
April 24th	Apr 9	Board Meeting
	Apr 11	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
Religious School	Apr 11	Emet Dor Kef - Paul
No School April 5th	Apr 12	Friday Night Live
April 12th	Apr 14	Confronting Anti-Semitism for teens and their parents
April 19th	Apr 16	Israeli Independence Day
April 26th	Apr 18	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
	Apr 18	Lord's Table
	Apr 18	Emet Dor Kef - Rabbi
	Apr 19	Erev Shabbat Service/Michael Nehamkin Bar Mitzvah
	Apr 25	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
	Apr 25	Emet Dor Kef - Paul
	Apr 26	TNT - Torah 'N T'filah

May

Hebrew School	May 2	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
May 1st	May 2	Emet Dor Kef - Paul
May 8th	May 3	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet
No School May 15th	May 7	Board Meeting
May 22nd	May 8	Emeth's Mahjong Tournament
May 29th	May 9	Adult Bnot Mitzvah Class
	May 10	TNT - Torah 'N T'filah-Shavuot observed
Religious School	May 16	Lord's Table
May 3rd	May 16	Emet Dor Kef - Paul
May 10th	May 17	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet
May 17th	May 21	Emeth Reads
No School May 24th	May 24	Friday Night Live
May 31	May 30	Emet Dor Kef End of Year Celebration - Rabbi
	May 31	Community Shabbat Dinner & Shabbat Short 'N Sweet

June

June 2nd	End of School Maccibiad & Annual Meeting & BBQ Lunch
----------	--

President's Message

Grant Gordon



Dear Families and Friends of Congregation Emeth,

It is with mixed emotions that I am sitting down to write my last Kol Emeth Passover Edition article as President of the congregation. It has been almost three years since I was honored to be elected as President, and during that time it has been a wonderful journey. Symbolically, Passover also represents a journey. A journey that resulted in freeing the Israelites from a life of slavery. This significant historical event caused people to rethink priorities, determine next steps on the journey, and execute a plan with the goal of enriching the lives of all of the families and friends involved. As each of you sit down this year at the Seder table with family and friends, please take time out to reflect on the ways in which your life has been enriched by someone or something, and think about what you might be able to do this coming year to enrich the life of someone else. Remember to thank your family and friends for being there for you in good times and bad times and remember that we all have a role in making the world a better place.

While it is tough to let go of something that you have held close and cared for like a child over the past few years, I am equally honored to have Susan Meyers sitting in the wings as President Elect and current Vice President of Emeth. For those who know Susan, you already know how lucky we are to have her to guide the way. For those who do not know Susan yet, please make an effort to meet her. Once you do, you will know what all of the fuss is about. As I prepare to hand over the reins to Susan, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support, honest feedback, and active participation in the evolution of Emeth. We still have a ways to go but everyone should feel very proud of how much we have accomplished to date.

The goal of Emeth's leadership over the past few years has also been that of trying to enrich the lives of our members and friends. We started out with a few main goals. First was financial stability, and we have come a long way toward achieving that goal over the last few years. As many of you know, we are in the process of renewing our bonds that allowed us to purchase our first building almost five years ago. The board is incredibly appreciative of the fact the several new families were in a position to purchase bonds. Many of the original bondholders were able to roll over their bonds which we also greatly appreciate. It was a wonderful surprise that we oversubscribed our

bonds this time which will allow Congregation Emeth to buy down our mortgage by a significant amount in April, lowering our effective interest rate on our building financing. We were also fortunate to find a wonderful Partner in Church On The Rock (COTR) a year ago and their support has also helped us to strengthen our balance sheet, an important goal this last year.

Our second and third goals were focused around increasing our membership as well as retaining and delighting our current members. Significant time was spent trying to learn more about the needs and interests of our current and prospective members. Through those efforts, several changes have taken place within Congregation Emeth. These changes included revamping the curriculum for our Hebrew and Religious Schools, changing the format of our now WEEKLY Shabbat Services to meet the varied needs of our congregation, retrofitting the social hall to accommodate larger groups, and most recently expanding and improving the Jewish Cemetery in Gilroy. Our youth group is more active than ever and attendance at services has been wonderful. It has also been exciting to see families sharing Shabbat dinners together prior to services at Emeth. We have an amazing group of families and interacting with each other is part of what strengthens the bonds with Emeth. We encourage everyone to participate at the various events and activities Emeth has to offer

Our newest goal of the board focuses around the area of succession planning. If you have an interest in being part of the leadership of Congregation Emeth, or just want to learn a bit more about what is involved, please reach out to any one of the board members. We would be happy to discuss the various roles and responsibilities that make up the leadership team and are always open to hearing suggestions for how to improve this incredible place many of us call our second home, Congregation Emeth. Wishing you a wonderful Passover and a Seder filled with friends and family.

Grant Gordon

President
grantgordon88@gmail.com

A GUIDE TO OUR FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES



Last year, Congregation Emeth began offering different formats for our Erev Shabbat Services in order to appeal to the needs of our growing membership. The formats have evolved to best serve our congregants. All Friday evening services begin at 7:15 PM and all include Mourner's Kaddish and Prayers for Healing. Here's a brief description of our formats:

SHABBAT SHORT 'N SWEET - SSS

Usually held on the first and third Shabbats of the month, this service follows a community Shabbat dinner, sponsored by the Religious School. The dinner begins at 6:30 PM, after the completion of Religious School. Religious School students and their families are expected to attend this service and the entire congregation is also welcome and encouraged to attend. The service is Rabbi-led, with explanations of prayers and the Torah reading of the week. Students participate in leading the service. Adults as well as children enjoy the relaxed style and the interaction between participants and the Rabbi.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE - FNL

Usually held on the second Shabbat of the month, the primary focus of this service is experiencing the joy of Shabbat through music, led by the Rabbi and a cantorial soloist. The format has changed in 2013. The service expanded to a 1 ½ hour format. In addition to our songbook, we use our *siddur* (prayer book) and include both the *Kabbalat Shabbat* (introductory psalms) and the Friday evening service. Sometimes Rabbi Israel leads a discussion, sometimes there is a *D'var Torah* (words of Torah, a sermon), and other times she chants the *Haftarah*, from the Book of Prophets. An *Oneg Shabbat* (joy of Shabbat) dessert table follows the service.

TORAH 'N T'FILA - TNT

Usually held on the fourth Shabbat of the month, this is a complete *Erev Shabbat* (Friday night) service. Led by the Rabbi and a cantorial soloist, this service includes a Torah Service and a *D'var Torah*. An *Oneg Shabbat* (joy of Shabbat) dessert table follows the service.

SHABBAT HOSTS

Religious School parents rotate hosting the community Shabbat dinners. FNL and TNT are hosted by other volunteers in the community, again on a rotating basis. If you have not yet volunteered to host one evening, please contact admin@emeth.net and volunteer. The hospitality we offer is part of what makes Congregation Emeth unique and everyone looks forward to socializing at the end of services. Your volunteering is essential and appreciated.

MEALS BEFORE SERVICES

SSS services are preceded by the community dinners--the FNL and TNT services have a dessert table at the end of services instead of dinner before. However, all members are most welcome to bring a picnic dinner for your family to eat in the social hall between Religious School and Services. If you would like to participate in Shabbat rituals (optional of course), we will gladly provide candles and wine/grape juice.

As always, your feedback and suggestions are appreciated. Contact Mel Weisblatt, Ritual Chair, at Mel@probusbrokers.com or Rabbi Israel at Rabbidebbieisrael@gmail.com.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com
search : congregation emeth

AMAZING YOUTH GROUP ADVENTURE

by Sarah Langerman

Emeth Dor Kef (EDK – “Emeth’s fun generation”) recently returned from an amazing trip to Los Angeles, held over MLK weekend in January.

Starting off with a six hour car ride does not seem ideal, but it turned out to be a great way to bond. The weekend was jam packed with activities! From going to Disneyland, to ending with the Museum of Tolerance (with a whole bunch of trivia in between). The weekend was filled with excitement from the start to end.

Our Rabbi Debbie Israel and Rabbi Jay Sherwood (from Rancho Cucamonga) did a remarkable job incorporating Jewish activities that normally would not be all that exciting, and turning them into interesting learning experiences and fun activities. For instance, when we went to visit the Mount Sinai Jewish cemetery, one would not think that would be “a trip of a lifetime” but it happened to be a major highlight of the weekend. Viewing the massive mosaic filled with Jewish history was moving. The mosaic incorporated famous leaders and movements that have helped the Jewish people throughout time. This one “picture” had so much history underneath the surface and told a story that none of us has ever seen before. In the same cemetery, we went to view a replica of the zodiac symbols that were found in a ruined temple from previous centuries. We went into critical thinking of why a mosaic of zodiac signs would be on the floor of a temple, and it shows the cultural influence during the time.

Another experience that was unlike any other, happened to take place at one of the few rest spots we visited. Two of the three days of the trip, we went to Jewish restaurants in the Pico-Robertson area, a section of Los Angeles that was filled with Jewish residents. After we finished eating our falafel wraps and kosher burgers, we had some time to explore this strip of Judaism. All eight of us teens walked together down the street. First, we went into a Jewish market that happened to be the first Jewish one many of had been to. The store featured food like “alef-bet cookies” and even ice cream containers were labeled in Hebrew! After that we crossed the street and checked out “The Mitzvah Store” which Rabbi Israel recommended to us. This store carried a wide selection of *kippot* (headcoverings) and interesting books about Judaism. The experience in that store, though, was more than the books. One of the workers in the store saw us come in and instantly greeted us with a smile. He saw that we were looking at some books and started talking to us about great ones that we all should read. All eight of us started having a conversation with this man

about how it is sometimes hard being Jewish, especially in an environment where not everyone around you is the same. He understood, and in that store, I do not think I have ever before felt a sense of belonging and community so big and so open hearted. He continued talking to us and we did not want to leave, but by the time we had to walk back across the street to meet with the two Rabbis, I had felt something I had never truly felt before. I gained a whole new level of pride in my roots and of being Jewish. The community that we were placed into was not shy and was ever welcoming, and I am positive that this short trip will forever remain in all of our hearts.

This weekend trip to Los Angeles was more than a getaway and visit to Disney Land; it was an experience. The Emet Dor Kef youth group bonded more than ever before, and a new sense of Jewish pride was unleashed in all of us. I cannot thank Rabbi Israel and Rabbi Sherwood enough for taking us on this wonderful trip, and all of the parents for letting us go!

We are also so grateful to the Emeth adults who supported the trip, including: the women who sponsored the mahjong tournament and donated the proceeds to us; Brigit Strongin who sponsored a jewelry sale and donated the profits to us, as well as everyone who bought jewelry from her; everyone who participated in the Chili’s Restaurant fundraiser; and those who made individual donations to the Youth Group fund. Thank you so much for this life-changing Jewish experience!

Attended by Monica Flynn, Sam Doubek, Sarah Langerman, David Miller, Rachel Nato, Sarah Sinizer-Hopkins, Joshua Tock, Jacob Wisotsky.

Trip Leader: Rabbi Debbie Israel.

Tour Leader: Rabbi Jay Sherwood, Rancho Cucamonga



EDK teens in front of the American Jewish History mosaic at Sinai Cemetery

Social Action Update...

The Lord's Table Xmas lunch and celebration was once again a great success. We had 181 guests served by 31 Emeth volunteers. As always, our kitchen captain, Jack Shorr, ensured that the meal was prepared in a timely manner.



Despite the fact that there were three turkeys short this year, we were able to stretch out servings to make sure everyone got a satisfactory portion. Many thanks to Rabbi Israel for making a last minute shopping trip to buy toys for the children when we were running low on gifts. Thanks also to Santa Michael Oshan and Elf Susan Meyers for making the event enjoyable for the children!

The monthly Lords Table program is still going strong. Guest attendance is up to about 100 people per sitting now. That's a marked increase over previous years. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers for helping us with this mitzvah and to Rabbi Israel for providing money from her discretionary fund to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thanks also to Bette Gardner for organizing additional meals for the homeless at the Lords Table. This is an opportunity to support Inter-faith Peace-Building while performing a community service mitzvah.

Please remember our ongoing clothing, food and pet supplies program. The collection bins are in the social hall and we thank those of you who have donated over the past year. The animal shelter in San Martin is always grateful for our donations. St Katherine's Church pantry in Morgan Hill is our local recipient of food donations.

Sandra and I wish you a happy Pesach.

B'shalom, Geoff Jackson,
ggj49@yahoo.com



Kol Emeth's is edited by Mike Ogden and Susan Braun. If you would like to contribute content to future editions of Kol Emeth, please contact Mike at: mike_a_ogden@yahoo.com or Susan at gkdrag-on2000@gmail.com

Jewish Cemetery Expanded

(continued from page 1)

"The expansion and beautification of our cemetery has been a year-long process," explained Grant Gordon, President. "It began with inserting a physical boundary and a fence around the Jewish section in keeping with Jewish tradition, under the direction of Rabbi Debbie Israel and Michael Oshan. Then, the area was recently expanded to three times the original size, grass was planted and trees were moved. The Holocaust Memorial was also relocated to a more appropriate area in our section."

Pre-selecting plots and purchasing them in advance is a gift one gives to one's survivors. Congregation Emeth benefits from the purchases as well, thanks to the goodwill of Habing Funeral Home. In exchange, our Rabbi and the cemetery committee regularly check the site to be certain standards are maintained, in addition to the rights of membership during a time of loss of loved ones. Congregation Emeth has invested significant time and money into the expansion and beautification of the Jewish Cemetery and believe that it now represents a space of which we can be proud.

A special Pre-Sale Day has been set for Sunday, March 10, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Grant Gordon and/or board representatives will be present during that time with a site map to explain pricing and assist with plot selection. Reservations must be made in advance. Kindly offer 3 choices (appointments will be scheduled every 15 minutes, i.e., 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45 etc.). To schedule your appointment or for further information, please email president@emeth.net

Emeth Needs You!



The majority of the upkeep and maintenance of our building is provided by volunteers and there is a continuing need for members to participate in regular maintenance tasks to keep our sacred space in good condition. Some jobs are one-time events and others are ongoing. This is a great way help us keep the costs of operation under control and can be a way for families who cannot meet minimum financial commitments to step up. For more information contact our facilities chairperson, Michael Oshan by phone (408) 842-8149 or email: mike3011@yahoo.com

EDUCATION UPDATE...



It is hard to believe how fast the school year has been going by. The newly formed PreK-K Religious School class is a big success and one of the largest classes we have. During religious school the children have

learned about many of the Jewish holidays. Some highlights of the past few months have been: Emeth Dor Kef being able to have a sleep out in the enlarged Sukkah which was once again built by Paul Crompton and a small team of volunteers; the B'Nai Mitzvah class led by Lynda Stahl holding a "Mad Hatter" drive mitzvah project to make hats in order to donate them; making beeswax candles for Chanukah; sharing "Fruits of the Trees" for Tu B'Shevat and baking Hammentashen for Purim. The biggest change for Hebrew school is that all levels now meeting on Wednesdays. Classes are still led by Melanie Khamis assisted by both Josh Toch and Monica Flynn.

Many families at Emeth hold their own Passover Seders at home or attend a seder at a friend or family's home. In the past, a seder has also been hosted at Emeth. For those that normally attend the congregational seder, which is not being held this year, it is very important for our families with children to participate in the matching program sponsored by the ritual committee. Please do take advantage of this opportunity to join with another family to observe this holiday together. Every child should attend a seder.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the Lee, Jarson, Walters and Yacono families for preparing the delicious school sponsored dinners held before the Shabbat Short 'N Sweet services. These families have stepped it up a notch and have served such a wonderful variety of food. We are very lucky and appreciative for all their efforts. Dinners are sponsored by religious school families, however, donations are always welcomed. All congregants are welcome at this dinner. Watching the PreK-K religious school class participate in the Shabbat rituals will surely put a smile on your face.

It is very unfortunate for the Emeth community that I announce that we will be losing Melanie Khamis at the end of the school year. Melanie, her husband Steve, and their family will be relocating. Melanie has been such an integral part of the Emeth School for many years now. She has taught religious school, Hebrew school, and adult Hebrew. Most recently, she has taken over as principal in addition to teaching religious school and being our only Hebrew

school teacher this year. She is constantly looking for ways to improve our school. Melanie's enthusiasm, background and knowledge have made her an important asset here at Emeth. I am confident that Melanie will achieve great success in whatever her future holds. Mazel Tov to the entire Khamis Family in this new chapter of their lives.

We are in the process of forming our school team for 2013-2014. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please have them contact either me or Rabbi Israel.

Please mark your calendars for the end of the year Maccabiah Games scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2013 at 10:30. More details will follow.

Becky Neto
Director of Education
Netolove@aol.com

Welcome New Members:

Pamella, Siena and Mateo Gallo

Pamella and her children, Siena (age 11), and Mateo (age 8), live in Watsonville, a few miles from Rabbi Israel.

Pamella works as a full-time social worker at Watsonville Community Hospital. Her interests include dancing and running. Siena is in the fifth grade, and her hobbies are acting and singing. Mateo is in second grade and loves to build with Legos, sort coins, sing and tap dance.

They have joined Emeth because they want to be part of a community with other Jewish families. Pamella hopes that being part of the synagogue will help them deepen their relationships with God, others, and their family members.

By Elizabeth Mandel



Sisterhood Update...



Emeth Sisterhood has worked hard to create a difference. The Jewish New Year began for Emeth's Sisterhood by purchasing ingredients, assembling, and delivering Yontiff Gift Bags to congregants who were unable to attend services. Thanks are in order to Susan Meyers and Michael Oshan who assisted in

this project. We appreciate everyone who created special purchases for Emeth.

On November 11, Sisterhood joined with Emeth's Adult Education to attend Sonny Boy. Thanks to Gary Zarkin, Wendy Thowdis, and Debbie Zajac for coordinating and helping us with this Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival event.

A Chanukah Dinner: We celebrated on December 18 at the Baggese home where we were able to recognize some of the additional accomplishments achieved in the past year. We supported Emeth's Social Action for their December 25, Lord's Table Celebration by providing jackets, blankets, sweaters, hats, and gloves. We sent items for The PJ Library's Blue Comforter Project for needy Jewish families in the community. We were able to send a check for The Union of Reformed Judaism to help West End Temple in Neponsit, NJ which sustained terrific damage from Hurricane Sandy. A contribution went to Shalom Bayit in Oakland to help abused Jewish woman. Lastly, funds were given to Emeth's Religious School. We had a wonderful evening, socializing, enjoying dinner, and feeling proud of this effort's impact.

Sisterhood hosts our Women's Seder on March 28th

Our third annual Women's seder will be held on Thursday March 28th. All women are encouraged to join us! Women's seders have become a phenomenon of our time. From New York to Nebraska from Berlin to London, thousands of Jewish women throughout the world celebrate the Passover holiday with an evening ceremony and remembrance led by women for women. We will read our Sisterhood Haggadah, sing traditional and current songs and enjoy an evening sharing this important holiday together. Specific time and place will be announced soon. Any questions, please contact Susan Meyers or Wendy Thowdis

Emeth Mavens: Emeth Mavens Mah Jongg Tournament May 8th-- Our Emeth mah jongg mavens will be hosting our third mah jongg tournament on May 8th at the temple. All women are invited to join us to help make this fundraiser a big success. If you are interested in learning to play mah jongg or would just like to come and participate in creating a warm welcome for the players, please contact Susan Meyers.

Women of Emeth Support Our Youth Group: Thanks to the Women of Emeth who raised funds to support our youth group trip to Jewish Los Angeles!! Brigit Strongin hosted a jewelry party and Kathy Coencas, Denise Weyl, Becky Neto and Ginette Nehamkin were all there to support the fundraiser. Our Emeth Mah Jongg Mavens-- Patty Baggese, Cheryl Thompson, Susan Braun, Maureen Chassy, Lindy Wisotsky, Aileen Teren-Foster, Rebecca Kaminsky, Cathy Gill, Rabbi Israel and Susan Meyers also hosted a Mah Jongg Tournament.

A Sisterhood thank you to Rebecca Kaminsky for designing the white and burgundy skirts for our new table on the bimah.

Our appreciation to Marsha Novack and Rachamim Volunteers who support Emeth during the times of illness or loss and also for times of joy.

If you have ideas or resources on programs for 2013 and 2014, we'd like to hear from you.

Patty Baggese
pbaggese@garlic.com
408-842-6876

Marilyn Freund
mfreund@mailstation.com
408-776-1817

With Contributions from Susan Meyers



The Gift Shop

The Gift Shop does not have scheduled open times. However, you can make arrangements with either Marilyn Freund or Patty Baggese to open the shop for your personal shopping experience by simply giving them a call. The shop has life cycle cards, ritual and Passover items, and a selection of gift ideas. Marilyn and Patty can also help you with special order items that are not kept in stock.

PASSOVER IN THE HOME

"Let All Who Are Hungry, Come and Eat."

This year Passover is a little early – the first Seder is on Monday March 25th and the second on Tuesday March 26th. In the past, our congregation has held a community Seder on the second night of Passover. This year, in lieu of a second Seder, we decided to try something different:

CONGREGATION EMETH'S SEDER MATCHING PROGRAM.

It is a *mitzvah* (commandment) of Passover to open our homes to others, especially those who need a Seder to attend.

We know there are many of our congregants who have at least one and maybe two Seders in their homes. We also know there are some of our congregants who are not comfortable in leading a home Seder or have no one to share it with. So this year, we are going to try to match up those families!



If you normally have a home Seder and would be willing to invite some of our congregants who may not have any place to go, please let us know. We need to know which night you can welcome guests and how many.



If you have never led a Seder or it has really been a long time and you are not sure what to do, just contact Rabbi Israel at RabbiDebbielIsrael@gmail.com and she will give you the tutorial on how conduct it at your comfort level. We have a lot of Haggadot at the synagogue that you are welcome to borrow. Then, if you are willing to be a host, just let us know. OR, if you know of families who you would like to personally invite, don't wait for us to match you up, just call and extend that invitation.



If you have no family with whom to share your Seder or you are not comfortable in leading a seder and would like an invitation to another member's home, we can help.

IF YOU NEED OUR HELP AND WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONGREGATION'S SEDER MATCHING PROGRAM, SEND AN EMAIL TO SederMatch@charter.net

If you can host please tell us:

How many guests you can accommodate

Which night or nights you can have congregation members as your guest

If you would like an invitation, please tell us:

How many in your family, and the ages of the children

Which of the two nights would work best for you.

Please do not wait until the last minute. Deadline for us to find places for all our congregants is March 15th.

Remember it is a *mitzvah* to make sure everyone who wants to attend a Seder has a place to go. If you have any questions, contact either Rabbi Israel at RabbiDebbielIsrael@gmail.com or Mel Weisblatt at SederMatch@charter.net.



Emeth Donations August 2012 thru January 2013

*Thank
you*

A. Wisotsky Education Fund

Rene King	In Memory of Allan King
Melanie Jordan	Honor of Lindy Wisotsky High Holiday Music
Maureen Chassy	In Memory of Ruth Simon
Maureen Chassy	In Memory of Bea Chassy
Lindy Wisotsky	In Honor of Susie & Ken Freiberg's Anniversary
Lindy Wisotsky	In Honor of Dale Foster'S Retirement
Lindy Wisotsky	In Memory of Irene Rubin
Lindy Wisotsky	In Memory of Al & Ann Wisotsky
Lindy Wisotsky	In Memory of Marcia Reid
Grant & Elizabeth Gordon	School Scholarship Donation

Meyer Memorial Campers Fund

Terry-Jo & Mark Falcon	In Honor of Lynn Bagesse'S Engagement
Patty & Jim Baggese	In Memory of Betty/Arthur Meyer & Beth Baggese
Maureen Chassy	In Memory of Harvey Chassy
Marilyn & Barry Freund	In Honor of Lynn Bagesse'S Engagement
Marilyn & Barry Freund	In Honor of The Birth of Emiliana Oshan

Building Fund

Gerald & Bette Sallus	Honor of Spending High Holidays At Emeth
Gary Zatkan	Building Power Connection

Education Donation

Sandra & Geoff Jackson	Sisterhood Education Donation
Rebecca & Harold Kaminsky	Sisterhood Education Donation
Lauren & John Jenkins	Sisterhood Education Donation
Kathy & Rick Coencas	Sisterhood Education Donation

Rachamim

Brigit & Perry Strongin	In Memory of Ruth Simon
-------------------------	-------------------------

Social Action

Marilyn & Barry Freund	Lord'S Table Food
------------------------	-------------------

General Fund

Susan Meyers & Michal Oshan	In Honor of Dale Foster'S Retirement
Susan Meyer & Michael Oshan	In Memory of Martha Kerner
Reid Lerner	Car Donation
Marilyn & Barry Freund	In Memory of Samuel Freund
Marianne & Kris Snook	Car Donation
Maria & Jonathan Walters	High Holiday Donation
Lee & Christina Kole	High Holiday Donation
Kathy & Rick Coencas	In Memory of Kathy Coencas' Father
Joyce & Jay Maskell	General Fund Donation
Joel & Catherine Levine	In Memory of Sylvia & Henry Levine
Jerome Shapiro	High Holiday Donation
Gail & David Markham	High Holiday Donation
Edward & Sarah Stongin	Yahrzeit Donation
Bette Gardner & Michael Heil	In Memory of Martha Kerner

Gift Shop

Aileen Teren-Foster & Dale Foster	Gift Shop Donation
-----------------------------------	--------------------

Membership

Martha Jacobs	In Memory of Ruth Simon
---------------	-------------------------

Youth Group

Shirley Hazelton	Youth Group Trip Donation
Penny & Scott Doubek	Youth Group Trip Donation
Nona & Jack Sheff	Youth Group Trip Donation
Maureen Chassy	In Appreciation of Rabbi Debbie
Lauren & John Jenkins	Youth Group Trip Donation
Donna & Mel Weisblatt	Youth Group Trip Donation
Steve Miller	In Honor of David Miller
Pi & Cathy Silverstein	In Memory of Ruth Simon
Maureen Chassy	Garlic Festival Donation
Aileen-Teren Foster & Dale Foster	In Memory of Ruth Simon

School Meal

Shachar & Emily Shem-Tov	School Meal Sponsor Donation
Ruth Kaufman	Meal Sponsor Donation
Maria & Jonathan Walters	School Meal Sponsor Donation
Daria & Michael Ogden	Meal Sponsor Donation
Grant & Elizabeth Gordon	Meal Sponsor Donation

Rabbi'S Discretionary Fund

Susan Meyers & Michael Oshan	Thank You To Rabbi Debbie
Steve Miller	In Honor of David Miller
R&y Toch	Discretionary Fund Donation
Melanie Jordan	In Memory of Irwin Keyson
Marilyn & Barry Freund	Canned Food For The Needy
Becky & &re Neto	In Memory of Rebecca Perlman
Aileen Teren-Foster & Dale Foster	B'Not Mitzvah / High Holiday Honors

Religious School

Aileen Teren-Foster & Dale Foster	Religious School Donation
-----------------------------------	---------------------------

Cemetery

Gil Walter	Memorial Stone Donation
------------	-------------------------

Sisterhood

Susan Braun & Arthur Rudin	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Patty & Jim Baggese	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Natalie Abmont	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Marilyn & Barry Freund	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Lindy Wisotsky	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Iris & Alan Kabert	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Donna & Mel Weisblatt	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Debbie Zajac	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Cheryl & Mark Thompson	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Aileen Teren-Foster & Dale Foster	Sisterhood Charity Donation
Steve Miller	In Honor of Yetta Miller
Marilyn & Barry Freund	In Memory of Harry Shapiro
Marilyn & Barry Freund	In Memory of Max Steinway

Kari Munowitch Fund

Barry & Sharon Munowitch	Memory of Kari Munowitch
--------------------------	--------------------------

Outreach

Brigit & Perry Strongin	Outreach Donation
-------------------------	-------------------

Congregation Emeth
Your Jewish Community in the South Valley

Congregation Emeth
17835 Monterey St
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
www.emeth.net



2013 Gilroy Garlic Festival

Volunteers are needed to assist in the operation and planning for the Emeth GarlicPics Booth at the Gilroy Garlic Festival this year. The dates of the Festival are July 26,27 & 28 with set up taking place on July 25. This is a major fund raiser for our Congregation and one of the times that we can benefit from funds that come from outside our immediate community. There are several types of jobs available and all the participants have a great time at the Festival. Shifts at our booth are 5 hours minimum. For more information, contact Michael Oshan by email: mike3011@yahoo.com or Susan Meyers at smeyers.sjsu@gmail.com

You will be doing a mitzvah for the Congregation and are certain to have fun. We will be having an organizational meeting in early March

