

Kol Emeth

The Voice of Truth

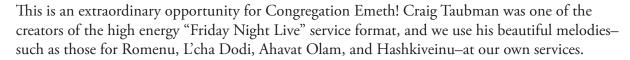


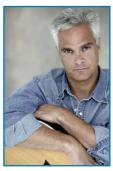
September 2014 Nissan 5775

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

Craig Taubman–Jewish Singer/Songwriter/Music Producer–Coming to Congregation Emeth!

Friday Night Live, Friday, January 23, 2015





Listen to Craig on YouTube: Hashkiveinu www.youtube.com/watch?v=aevi1t7mVNc. We will also have CD's of his *Friday Night Live* in plenty of time for everyone to learn the prayers so we can all participate. *This will be a memorable service for the entire family!*

For more information about Craig, go to http://craignco.com/v3/wordpress/about-craig/.

BIG Things Are Happening in Beit Sefer

Daria Ogden, Education Chair

Big things ARE happening in Beit Sefer, Congregation Emeth's religious school, the biggest being the addition of two new portable classrooms for the new 2014-2015 school year!

As our youngest congregants become ready for Hebrew and religious school, our enrollment has steadily increased. With the increase, we have found the need for more space to teach, learn, and s-t-r-e-t-c-h! These new portables will allow us to do just that.

The classrooms have been set up along the edge of the back parking lot and will house grades K-1 and 4-5, some Hebrew School classes, and a lovely children's library.



We are thrilled to have these new classrooms, but it has not come without a few bumps in the road. Due to a delay in obtaining the unit, religious school classes will be starting AFTER High Holidays on October 10. A small price to pay for such a blessing!

A big thank you to **Becky Neto** and **Grant Gordon**, as well as Congregation Emeth's board for all their help with acquiring this new addition. We look forward to many more years educating Congregation Emeth's children, with lots of room to GROW!

Editor's note: Stopping by the temple on September 14, on my way to Emeth's Wine Tasting, I saw whole families (including the kids) spending their afternoon setting up the portables: Andre Neto was painting the walls and everyone was moving furniture and supplies. Thank you to the Ogden, Walters, Jarson, and Neto families!

Congregation Emeth

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Social Activities

Robin Yacono

Kol Emeth is published three times per year. Congregation membership includes a subscription to this publication.

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

Follow Congregation Emeth on Facebook for the latest news and photos.



To submit articles and/or event photos, please email them to Communications Director, Elizabeth Mandel.

at communication@emeth.net.

Congregation Emeth 17835 Monterey Street, MH, CA 95037 (408) 778-8200

We're Rolling! Morgan Hill's Fourth of July PARADE

It's been a few years, but it was great to finally have Congregation Emeth back in the Fourth of July Parade. What a great way to let people know there *IS* a synagogue in the South Valley.





Quinn on his unicycle



Isaac on his bike

Thank you to Pi Silverstein for sponsoring our entry, the Netos for providing the vehicle, and the Neto and Jarson families for their lively participation. Let's do this again next year!



SCATTERED Among the Nations:

Unique Jewish Communities in Remote Regions of the World

Donna Weisblatt



Since the Diaspora, Jews have carried their religion with them wherever they have settled. Today 13,000,000 Jews remain, living mainly in well-established Jewish centers in Israel and the larger cities of North America and Western Europe.

Most of us, however, are unaware of the Jews living in isolated communities in Africa, Asia, South America and parts of Europe and the former Soviet Union, where Jews do not have white skin, nor do they live our fast-paced, modern lives. Many of these Jewish communities exist in places geographically remote and culturally distinct from other Jews.

Examples include the Jewish Incas of Peru, Argentina's Jews, Jews of the Brazilian Amazon, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Tunisia, South Africa, India, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Portugal. Each of these communities maintain traditions apart from the mainstream Jewish community, struggling to preserve Jewish practice, rituals and culture amidst often harsh surroundings.

Bryan Schwartz, writer/photographer, has visited dozens of the most hidden communities in recent years. He will present his photographs and commentary on these Jewish communities at Congregation Emeth. The presentation is open to the public. Donations are welcome.

Save the Date!

Where: Congregation Emeth

When: Sunday, November 2, 4-6 pm

September 2014

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PROGRESSIVE DINNER: An Evening of Food AND FRIENDSHIP

Marilyn Freund, Sisterhood Co-President

Sisterhood Co-President Patty Baggese organized Congregation Emeth's annual Progressive Dinner on August 16. Thirty-one Emeth members enjoyed the three courses in three host homes: Steve Miller's for appetizers, Cathy and Pi Silverstein's for soup and salad, and Denise Weyl's for dessert.

It was a festive, gourmet evening, filled with great conversation and joy in being together in these gracious homes.

Meet Emeth's Teen Teachers

We're excited to have five terrific teens as part of this year's teaching staff! These teens are also all active members of *Emet Dor Kef* (Emeth's "Fun Generation"), our teen youth group. Go to our website for a complete Beit Sefer staff list: www.emeth.net/education/education-staff.)



Quinn Neto

Quinn Neto - I will be a *madrich* (assistant teacher) for Hebrew School and Chai School. I went through Emeth religious school starting at age 6, and I had my bar mitzvah in 2013. I decided to now become a *madrich* because I looked up to my male teachers when I was younger and I am hoping to become a role model for the boys since all the other staff are girls. I want to become familiar with how the school is run so that I can teach in the future.

I am a Freshman at Live Oak High School. This year Visual Communications is my favorite class. I like to juggle, ride my unicycle, and build things. I played Morgan Hill Pony Baseball for seven years including three years of travel ball. Now that I'm in high school I plan to try out for the baseball team.

Rachel Neto - I'm going to be teaching Aleph (beginning Hebrew) and Grades 2-3 Chai School. This will be my fifth year working at Emeth. Previous positions I have held have been the art director, preschool teacher, and *madricha* for both Hebrew and Religious School. Most recently I was the religious school teacher for Grades 1-2 and Hebrew teacher for Grades 3-4. I went through the Emeth school system myself and had my bat mitzvah in 2010. I love working with my assigned age group and I am hoping to work on my student's Hebrew reading confidence.

I am a Senior at Live Oak High School. Fashion is my passion; I will be taking my third year of fashion design and am considering it as a possible major in college. I also really enjoy my criminal justice class. For fun I like to go to the dirt track races in Watsonville.



Rachel Neto



Masha Maskell

Masha Maskell - I will be a *madricha* (assistant teacher) this year. Last year, I was a *madricha* at Congregation Emeth working with four, five, and six year olds. I also worked at the Jewish Community Center in Los Gatos in the summer as a CIT (Counselor in Training). I enjoy working with children and they gravitate towards me. I am looking forward to meeting the kids and having a fun year.

I am a Junior at Live Oak High School. I enjoy reading, running, hiking, and movies. My favorite subject at school is science. At school I run cross country and track. I will also be joining the photography and environmental clubs this year.

TEEN TEACHERS (CONTINUED)

Kelsey Valentine - This year at Emeth I will be a *madricha* (assistant teacher). I decided to do this because I love helping others learn and being involved in the Jewish community. I have never worked as a teacher before and am really excited to be starting this year at Emeth! I think it is a great opportunity and I am most excited to work with kids, which is something else I really like doing, and to be helping others learn about there Jewish faith and heritage while maybe even learning things myself as I help teach!

I am a sophomore at Ann Sobrato High School. My favorite subjects are math and science. I also love to run and am on my school's cross county, soccer, and track teams. I also participate in

clubs such as Red Cross, CSF, peer counseling, and robotics.



Kelsey Valentine

Natalie Valentine - I'm going to be teaching about Jewish values and different places and things in Israel (Grades 4-5 Chai School). I decided to teach at Emeth because I really enjoy working with little kids, and I thought this was a really awesome opportunity. I haven't taught before! I am really looking forward to my class's *tzedakah* project!

I am a Senior at Ann Sobrato High School. At school, I play soccer and also run cross country. Outside of school, I really enjoy volunteering at the soup kitchen.

Natalie Valentine

TIKKUN OLAM - REPAIRING THE WORLD JOSHUA TOCH RECIPIENT OF DILLER AWARD

Joshus Toch was one of 15 young Jewish leaders, nationwide, honored this summer by the Helen Diller Family Foundation for exceptional leadership and commitment to social good. The teens are each the recipient of a \$36,000 award to further their philanthropic vision and education.

Joshua experienced significant bullying in his youth as a result of his disability. One day Joshua decided to talk about his experience living with cerebral palsy, and was surprised and excited by how receptive others were to his message and the conversation. This led Joshua to participate in a local speech competition, speaking on how bullying impacted his life—and he knew he'd been successful when a self-identified bully told him after the speech that he'd been inspired to change his ways. This experience empowered Joshua to launch *Mind Before Mouth*, a student-run initiative through which young people speak candidly and powerfully about the challenges they face from bullying and our collective responsibility to speak up and speak out against it. Speakers share diverse perspectives on what it means to be a teen, transforming perceived weaknesses into strengths and building bridges to help teens better understand one another. Through *Mind Before Mouth*, Joshua has sparked conversations and helped generate empathy among more than 7,000 teens in seven schools.



Photo by Christopher Shaw

Adele Corvin (Overall Chair of the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards) and Susan Epstein (California Co-Chair of the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards) present Joshua with his award.

Editor's notes: Josh was nominated for the Diller award by Rabbi Israel, with Susan Meyers writing a supporting letter of recommendation. The above description of his project is from the Diller Teen Awards website. For more information about the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam awards and to read about the equally impressive accomplishments of the fourteen other 2014 award recipients, go to www.dillerteenawards.org.

EMET DOR KEF AT THE SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK

In August, after the Confirmation retreat, the EDK teens met up at the Boardwalk.







Here some of them are demonstrating that they are clearly Emeth's "Fun Generation." Thanks to **Becky and Andre Neto** for chaperoning.

SUMMER TRAVELS TO ISRAEL

While it may sound like a mixed blessing to have visited Israel this past July, members of Emeth who went ahead with previously scheduled trips reported that "life just goes on," although "the TV was on constantly and pop stations on the radio would cut into the songs to announce what cities were having alarms right then."

Emily and Shachar Shem-Tov, with their daughters, focused on their visit with family. "The girls loved spending so much time with their grandparents, great grandmother, aunts, uncles, and tons of cousins and have been asking to go back since we left." Emily also observed, "We were remarkably fortunate to



Cable car to the beach at Haifa

to not be right where there were alarms at all so we didn't have to take the kids to the



Miriam and Clara swimming in the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret)

shelters, but everywhere you went there were signs for the closest shelter and we were in places where days before or after the people we had visited had had to take shelter so everyone was pretty on edge."

Emily Mandel, daughter of Elizabeth and Peter Mandel, also in Israel for two weeks in July, would not have missed the trip ... although she did choose to curtail some hiking plans in favor of staying in the more urban areas protected by the "Iron Dome," Israel's air defense system designed to intercept and destroy shortrange rockets and shells. She also visited Eliat (which remained unaffected by the conflict),



Ben Gurion Airport departure board

snorkeling in the Red Sea. In contrast, in the Tel Aviv area, "there were occasional sirens, followed by the flash and boom of rockets being destroyed (with everyone listening intently for the number of booms before carrying on with their lives)." Leaving Israel after many commercial airlines had cancelled flights to and from Israel, she was fortunate to have a confirmed seat on El Al.

Eric Crompton, son of **Barbara Yazman** and **Paul Crompton** and a member of the IDF, was stationed on the Gaza border with his tank battalion during the conflict. He has now finished his term in the IDF and is living on a kibbutz, deciding on his plans for the future.

Meanwhile **Lauren Jenkins** wanted to pass on news of son **Zac** who is starting a gap year program in Israel. "Zac is in Jerusalem and is already having others over for Sunday challah french toast casserole and then for BBQ. He got his first choice, *Archeological Dig.* And he wants to add another course, *Politics of Israel and the Middle East ...* What a year this will be!"

Finally **Sarah Langerman**, daughter of **Robert Langerman** will be returning to Israel in October for her 10-month leadership training program with Shnat Netzer.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Rabbi Debbie Israel



Rabbi Israel

My entire adult life – even before I was an adult actually – I've worked with teenagers in Jewish youth group settings. I was a leader of Young Judaea, city director of Young Judaea, a USY leader, and advisor to three different chapters of B'nai B'rith Youth, two girls' chapters and one boys'. I've taught all ages of Jewish high school students. It is my greatest joy. There is something quite extraordinary about being around teenagers. I know, when they're your own, this point of view sounds a little crazy (although my own kids' teen years were my most fun parenting years).

So the opportunity to create and be part of Emet Dor Kef, Emeth's "fun generation", is a treasured activity of my rabbinate. And the two Confirmation Retreats that I've had the joy of staffing have been the best of the best.

This year's retreat was held over the weekend of August 22-24, at my house in Watsonville (thank you, Jerry!). Participants were **Masha Maskell**, **David Miller**, **Rachel Neto**, **Kelsey Valentine**, and **Natalie Valentine**.

The decision to have a retreat instead of regular Confirmation classes was made a few years ago, after a conversation with Sarah Zajac. Talking to her, I realized that our teens lead such jam-packed lives (too jammed if you ask me) that I couldn't see adding yet another activity to their schedule. But confirmation is an important part of their Jewish education. So I decided that I would take them away for a weekend of learning instead of weekly classes. The first confirmation class enjoyed it and got value from it, and I can say the same for the second. By the way, the retreat is open to 10-12th graders, so it's held every two-three years, depending on the ages of our teen members.

The topics we studied included: What is a Jew?; Jewish denominations (what's a Reform Jew?); our beliefs about God; and Jewish values. We spoke a lot about what was happening in Israel and the Gaza War; the students for the most part knew nothing about it. We watched the movies, *The Chosen* and *Oh God!* as part of the lessons. The movies showed their age, but the group seemed to enjoy them and get value from them.

The students will be speaking about aspects of the retreat, focusing on a specific idea that is meaningful to each, at Simchat Torah services on October 17. I hope everyone will attend, to hear our amazing young people, to learn from them, and to take pride in them!

When the retreat was over, the teens joined other Emet Dor Kef members at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk for an afternoon of fun. Thanks to Andre and Becky Neto for chaperoning!

One last thought—sitting around the Friday night Shabbat dinner table, I realized that each of the students were current or past teachers or *madrichim* in our religious school! A moment of great pride!

Shana tovah, Rabbi Debbie Israel

MAZEL TOV!

Carla Silverstein, daughter of members Cathy and Pi, married her partner, Barbara Dornseif, on July 27 at Eagle Ridge in Gilroy. Cathy and Pi feel blessed to belong to such a welcoming synagogue, and are equally grateful that Rabbi Israel agreed to skip the garlic festival in order to lead the joyous event!



Barb and Carla

Congratulations also to **Anna**, daughter of former Emeth member **Lana Olsson**, who married Karl Martin Lundh on June 7 in Gothenburg, Sweden. Lana reports: that, "The wedding was delightful and, between our jet lag and the Swedish midnight sun, it felt like a fairy tale."

Editor's note: Welcome to Carla and Barb, the newest members of Congregation Emeth!

Mitzvah Makers

Our board and committee members are dedicated volunteers. We are also grateful to, and would like to acknowledge, those members who step up to take on additional special projects as they arise:

- ♥ Denise Weyl for chairing another successful Wine Tasting fundraiser.
 Susan Meyers and Michael Oshan for once again chairing the Garlic Festival Photography Booth.
- ▼ **Arthur Rudin** for his enhancements to the Photography Booth and his onging tech support at the temple.
- **♥ Becky Neto** for obtaining portables for additional classroom space.
- ♥ **Joyce Maskell f**or monitoring our phone and ensuring a timely response.
- ▼ Michael Oshan for the enormous time and effort he routinely puts into building and grounds maintenance.
- **▼ MariaElena Jarson** for organizing an apple picking day for young families.
- **▼ Marby Lee** for setting up our Machzor dedication process.
- ♥ Wendy Thowdis for coordinating our Shabbat in the Redwoods (including camping and Shabbat meals).
- ▼ Debbie Zajac, Congregation Emeth's volunteer administrator, for all her extra work during the holidays.
- ♥ **Barry Freund**, volunteer controller. This is also a busy time for him.
- **▼ Marilyn Freund** for again coordinating holiday baskets for shut-ins.

Be a Mitzvah Maker: Volunteer!

For volunteer opportunities, review the complete list on our website: www.emeth.net/support-emeth/volunteer or email **Becky** at volunteer@emeth.net.

In particular, we are looking for a volunteer to oversee our commercial kitchen use and standards ...

While many volunteers help with the kitchen, we will be having two community dinners a month and want to ensure that consistent procedures are in place.

RSVP ... Let's Initiate <u>A NEW CULTURE</u>

Susan Meyers, President

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who step up to plan the events, activities and spiritual programs for our Congregation. As we enjoy these



occasions, which usually involve refreshments or even an elaborate meal, I've learned that, as a group we have become a little forgetful about letting our volunteers know our plans. We are not very good about responding to invitations with the requested RSVP. I am hoping that this reminder will be a first step in changing that culture. Next time you see an invitation (usually an Evite) from Emeth, please think about the people who are planning the event. By sending your RSVP you give the volunteers the information they need to be prepared to provide for everyone.

Toda Raba - Thank you very much!



High Holiday Machzor Dedication Opportunity

Congregation Emeth is taking dedications for our new Machzorim (prayer books for the High Holidays.).

This is a wonderful way to honor an accomplishment of a friend or loved one, celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or in memory of those we have lost. The donation for each dedication is \$40, which will provide two book plates; one in the Rosh Hashanah Machzor and one in the Yom Kippur Machzor.

Please fill out the form below, and mail it with your check made out to

Congregation Emeth to:

Marby Lee

Attn: Machzor Dedication 15850 La Prenda Ct. Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Please indicate on the notation line that it is for Machzor Dedication. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Marby Lee at 408-779-2824 or marbles@garlic.com.

Name	—— Please make your check out to
Address	"Congregation Emeth" and indicate
City/State/Zip	that is it for a Machzor Dedication.
Phone	
	Thank you!
☐ In Honor of	
☐ In Memory of	

How Can You Support Congregation Emeth?

(For a comprehensive list, go to www.emeth.net/support-emeth.)

EMETH RUNS ON VOLUNTEER ENERGY



Susan Meyers, President

Most non-profit organizations can boast that twenty percent of their membership is actively engaged in supporting the organization with their time and talent. Emeth is unique!

Sixty percent of our eighty-one families are represented on our list of volunteers!

And in many cases more than one person in each family is contributing time and talent to make it possible for us to enjoy a full complement of programs designed to nurture the spiritual, intellectual and social needs of all individuals and families who seek a meaningful Jewish connection in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and the surrounding communities.

Thank you to all of you who have assumed responsibility for the continued health of our community. Our goal is to include everyone on the list of volunteers. If you have not yet found the volunteer opportunity that "speaks" to you, please review our website, www.emeth.net/support-emeth/volunteer for a match to your interests and/or contact our volunteer coordinator, Becky Neto, at volunteer@emeth.net or myself at president@emeth.net.

Make a Monetary Donation!

We gratefully accept all donations; they are vital for maintaining and enriching our programs. All monetary donations are publicly acknowledged in our monthly flyers.

Donations may be made to commemorate joyous occasions or in response to troubles or sorrow. You can choose to either make your donation to our general fund or designate it for a particular special fund.

For a <u>list of special funds</u> and a <u>donation form</u>, go to our website <u>www.emeth.net/support-emeth/donate</u>.

HIGH HOLIDAY MACHZOR DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY

Marby Lee



We are taking dedications for our new Machzorim (prayer books for the High Holidays). This is a wonderful way to honor an accomplishment or the memory of a loved one. The donation for each dedication is \$40, which will provide two book plates, one in the Rosh Hashanah Machzor and one in the Yom Kippur Machzor.

The dedication form can be found on our website, www.emeth.net/support-emeth (click on "Machzor Dedication Form") or on p8 of this newsletter.

New: Donate Marriot Rewards Points

Do you travel a lot on business but rarely get a chance to redeem your points? For every \$15,000 points, you can make a \$50 cash donation to Congregation Emeth. Check it out at https://mr.userewards.com/charity/.

It's Time to Renew Your Scrip Membership

At no cost to you, your shopping can support Emeth's education programs. Your membership must be renewed annually by October 31. Go to www.escrip.com to join or renew.

Our Group ID is #141252633.

For step by step instructions, go to www.emeth.net/support-emeth/escrip.

Еметн Сооквоок

LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT RECIPES!

Sisterhood is accepting recipes for their fundraiser cookbook until October 24.

- Please no pork, shellfish, or recipes with meat and dairy in one dish.
- There will be a separate section of recipes from those aged 12 and under.
- Both members and non-members are welcome to submit recipes.
- If your recipe is a family favorite, please include that information on the form.
- Go to our website, www.emeth.net/community/emeth-cookbook, to submit a recipe online.

COOKBOOK TASTINGS PLANNED AT POTLUCK DINNERS

November 14 (Dairy) November 21 (Meat)

Mark the dates on your calendar now!

We hope to have the finished product for sale by mid-November, in time for Chanukah gift purchases.

GILROY GARLIC FESTIVAL PHOTO BOOTH SIZZLES!

Thank you to **Susan Meyers** and **Michael Oshan** for once again chairing Emeth's Gilroy Garlic Festival Photo Booth fundraiser. Special thanks to **Arthur Rudin** for updating our procedures and adding fun new "green screen" options, so patrons can choose their backdrop.



Georgi and Barry recruit customers



Susan, Georgi and Arthur model the new "flame up" backdrop

Festival attendance (and consequently photo sales) were down a bit this year. However, we're already planning for next year, with more customer backdrop options and faster turnaround. Please contact Arthur Rudin if you'd like to be part of the planning team.

Kol Emeth September 2014

Membership Barbecue

Susan Braun, Membership Chair

Congregation Emeth's annual membership barbecue marks the end of summer and the start of Religious and Hebrew Schools. It is an opportunity to celebrate our new members and to invite prospective members to experience the warmth and sense of community that we take pride in here at Congregation Emeth. A potluck dinner, coordinated by Membership is followed by a special Shabbat service focusing on the importance of community.

This year's barbecue, on Friday, September 5 was a great success. The food was delicious, the social hall looked spectacular, and—best of all—several prospective member families attended.

I couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening: Marilyn Freund (who assisted with planning, setup, decorations, desserts, and much more), Elizabeth Mandel (my guiding light), Jim Bagesse and Andre Neto (grill masters), Rick Coencas (slice master), Donna Weisblatt (who brought the challot), and Kathy Coencas, Marby and Meghan Lee, Joyce and Jay Maskell, and Daria Ogden (all of whom helped with preparation, setup, and tear down).

Let's each consider ourselves a part of Congregation Emeth's "Membership Committee" as we greet these new and prospective members and others during the holidays, making them feel welcome!



Perform the *ultimate* mitzvah...

Bone Marrow Registration Drive

- October 4, 2014 at approximately 12:30 pm (immediately following Yom Kippur services) at Congregation Emeth
- Consent forms will be available to fill out at the event. The swabbing and paperwork will take only a few minutes per person.
- To get more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Geoff Jackson, at ggj49@yahoo.com, 408-629-8274.

...Swab your cheek at our bone marrow recruitment drive this Yom Kippur!





A SIMPLE CHEEK SWAB IS ALL IT TAKES! For many children and adults suffering from leukemia, lymphoma and other blood related diseases, the only hope for a cure is a bone marrow transplant. Join the registry today and you could save a life tomorrow.

Eligible donors must be between the ages of 18-60 and in general good health, meet the guidelines, and be willing to donate to any patient, at any time, worldwide.

If you are unable to attend, you can register to be a donor online by visiting www.giftoflife.org

HIGH HOLY DAYS FOOD DRIVE

Social Action Committee

This year's food drive has begun!

Take a sack(s) and fill with non-perishable and unopened groceries.
(Remember to check expiration dates.)



Return the filled sacks and donations for Mazon (a Jewish response to hunger) between now and Yom Kippur.

All food collected will be distributed to food pantries in Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Thank you!



Kol Emeth Congregation Emeth 17835 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Wine Tasting Fundraiser: Successful & Enjoyable

Denise Weyl, Event Chair

On the hot sunny day of Sunday, September 14 we held a Wine Tasting fundraiser at the beautiful Castillo Hillside Shire Winery in Morgan Hill. All guests received tastes of five Castillo wines and also took home a delicious bottle of Syrah. All enjoyed a relaxed, lovely setting along with appetizers, music, and terrific raffle and silent auction prizes.





Of course, that's what this event was about: Fundraising. The goal was to inspire congregants to bring their friends for a fun afternoon and hopefully enlarge the group of people to bid on all of the donated items collected for the event. Through the efforts of our team, we were able to obtain nearly 50 items for the raffle and auction. A number of them were personal donations of special talents (plane ride, dinner, photography session, etc.) or other generous donations from members (beach house, Giants tickets, paintings, etc.). We are so grateful for everyone who contributed items and/or obtained donations from local businesses to make this a success!

Special thanks to the group of people who worked diligently to make this a success: Rick & Kathy Coencas, Susan Meyers, Michael Oshan, Dale and Aileen (Teren) Foster, Sandy Reidel, Debbie Zajac, Perry and Brigit Strongin, Eric and Kelly Coleman, Marilyn Freund, and Grant Gordon. Thanks also to the Castillo family, who generously donated

their property to us for the second year in a row. And a final thanks to the members who attended the event and brought their friends, because without a large guest attendance, this fundraiser would not have been successful.