

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

ETZ HAYIM (TREE OF LIFE) AWARD HONORING PATTY BAGGESE AND MARILYN FREUND

Susan Meyers, President

Three years ago Congregation Emeth created the *Tree of Life Award* to recognize people in our congregation who have a commitment to Emeth that is selfless and unwavering. Awardees are individuals who have devoted their time, energy, experience and expertise toward creating and sustaining a Jewish community in South Santa Clara County. Patty Baggesse and Marilyn Freund exemplify this commitment.



Patty Baggesse

Patty has been a member of Emeth for thirty-seven years. She was here in the days when a small group of Jews in Gilroy gathered in each others' homes for services, to celebrate holidays, and to begin to build a Jewish community. When her children, Lynn and Aaron, were young, Patty was there with others to organize and run a parent participation Jewish preschool. As the

children grew she continued to support Jewish education as an active volunteer in the religious school. Serving on the Board of Directors for more years than anyone can count, Patty has assumed the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer! Every organization has challenging years, and when Emeth needed a professional to facilitate retreats and difficult conversations, Patty was there to bring us together. She has chaired and coordinated numerous projects and events: dinners to celebrate breaking the fast, co-hosting the Mah Jongg tournament fund raiser, upgrading the Mazel Tov book for parents of Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, maintaining the Rachamim connection, creating and managing Emeth's gift shop, and much more. Any time culinary skills are called for, Patty, together with her husband Jim, are there with delicious contributions. For thirty-seven years Patty has been there to support, to listen, to care, and to offer a helping hand in building and sustaining our Jewish community.

Marilyn has been a member of Emeth for twenty-two years. Throughout those years Marilyn has lead the congregation in creating the warm, welcoming Jewish home that characterizes Congregation Emeth. Bringing her experience and expertise as a professional teacher, Marilyn has enriched our children's Jewish education serving as a substitute teacher for religious school and/or Hebrew school. Co-chair for Emeth's Sisterhood, she has devoted her energy toward enriching and enhancing friendships among the women of Emeth. It is through activities such as creating and delivering Rosh Hashanah baskets to those unable to join us for services in our synagogue and co-hosting the Sisterhood dinner and fundraiser that Marilyn opens doors for women to become active participants in our Congregation. Everyone who has hosted an event that requires organization and refreshments, from a Shabbat oneg to a Bar/Bat Mitzvah luncheon, has enjoyed the beautiful experience, the inspiration for elegance that Marilyn brings to these special occasions. A tireless member of the Membership Committee and incoming Membership chair, Marilyn has an uncanny ability to put people at ease, help them feel at home, and encourage them to become members of our Congregation. Always the first to offer her assistance, make the phone calls, or prepare meals, Marilyn can be counted on with positive energy to "be there" when there is a need to be filled.



Marilyn Freund

The Tree of Life Award is our opportunity to recognize and honor Patty Baggesse and Marilyn Freund for all they have done and continue to do to make Congregation Emeth a strong, viable Jewish community.

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 Communication Director, Elizabeth Mandel, at communication@emeth.net.

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

PARTNERING WITH RABBI ISRAEL

Susan Meyers, President



Susan Meyers

As President of Congregation Emeth, I have enjoyed the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of dedicated people who serve on our Board of Directors. And, working closely with Rabbi Israel, I have appreciated the opportunity to learn about her complex and multifaceted role from a new perspective.

I write this note for Kol Emeth in hopes that it will provide some **insights related to the role of Rabbi** for Congregation Emeth and will encourage you, the members of our community, to connect with your Rabbi. I have found that connection to be stimulating for my mind and enriching for my soul.

A student at heart, Rabbi Israel **devotes hours studying ancient texts and current events** as she prepares to combine the intellectual with a spiritual message for the children in our school, our teens, and adults who attend classes and services. Beyond teaching and learning Rabbi Israel **represents us** as she participates in meetings, publishes her thoughts and is an invited speaker for groups in the Jewish and interfaith communities.

As Rabbi, she is **responsible for our spiritual and religious activities**, working with cantors and lay leaders to create and lead meaningful Shabbat and holiday services. She also **attends meetings of Emeth committees, Board of Directors, and all Emeth events and programs**.

Unbeknownst to many of us, Rabbi Israel **counsels and comforts members of our community** of all ages who suffer with illness of body and/or soul. She **enriches our celebration of life cycle events** from brit milah and baby naming to bar/bat mitzvah and weddings, and she **brings messages of comfort** when we are bereaved by the passing of one we love.

Our Rabbi invites you to call her whenever needed!

RACHAMIM: HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH



Please contact Rabbi Israel when you know one of our members is in the hospital. With the patient's permission, she will notify Rachamim (our caring committee). Please be sure to include the following (as much as is known): Your name, the name of the patient/their significant other, the name of the hospital and room number, date admitted. Thank you for enabling the Rabbi to provide support and blessings to our congregants.

MAZAL TOV TO OUR GRADUATES!



Congratulations to our graduating students and their families:

David Miller, son of Mariaelena Miller and Steve Miller, is graduating from Christopher High School. He will be attending Cal Poly SLO, majoring in Business.

Rachel Summer Neto, daughter of Becky and Andre Neto, is graduating from Live Oak High School. She will be pursuing a degree in Fashion Design.

Natalie Valentine, daughter of Tracy and Scott Valentine, is graduating from Sobrato High School. She will be attending San Jose State University where she will study Biology.

Jacob Wisotsky, grandson of Lindy and Allen (of blessed memory) Wisotsky is graduating from Santa Cruz High School. He will be attending Cabrillo College. Jacob is the son of Rachel Wisotsky.

Dane Jordan, son of Melanie Jordan and Kevin Jordan, is graduating from Cal Poly SLO with a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering. After a trip to Israel with Birthright, he will be working for Schneider Electronics, first in Nashville and later in California.

Kailee Jordan, daughter of Melanie Jordan and Kevin Jordan, is graduating from San Francisco State University with a double major in Sociology and Journalism. She is going to Israel on assignment for CAMERA magazine (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America) in June. Possible future plans include law school with an emphasis on international law and advocacy for Israel.

Matt Zajac, son of Debbie Zajac, is graduating from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business with a Bachelor's in Business Administration. He will be working as an Associate in International Tax Services with PricewaterhouseCoopers in San Jose.

Craig Kabert, son of Iris and Alan Kabert, is graduating from San Francisco State University with a Master's in Elementary Education. He is interviewing for positions in Palo Alto, Woodside, and the surrounding Bay Area.

Emily Mandel, daughter of Elizabeth and Peter Mandel, is graduating from Yale University with a Master's in International and Development Economics.

Adam Shorr, son of Jan and Jack Shorr, is graduating from the University of Virginia law school. He will be working for Chase Bank in New York City as a corporate attorney.

Zev Wisotsky, son of Lindy and Allen (of blessed memory) Wisotsky, is graduating from UC Riverside with a PhD in Neuroscience. He has started post-doctoral research at Stanford University.

June 2015

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MAZAL TOV, EMET DOR KEF GRADUATES



Mazal tov to **David Miller**, **Rachel Neto** and **Natalie Valentine** on completing their formal Jewish education and graduating from our Emet Dor Kef program!

We wish them continued success and personal fulfillment as they take their next steps in life. Excitement awaits - we look forward to hearing about their adventures!

EMETH'S PURIM CARNIVAL: AN EMET DOR KEF TRADITION

Natalie Valentine (senior member of Emet Dor Kef, Emeth's Fun Generation)

The Purim carnival was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and everyone who aided in its success.

I would like to thank **Becky Neto** for supplying the costumes and **Rabbi Israel** for directing the Purim play. I hope everyone had a great time and I know that EDK put in a lot of hard work to put on this event.



Becky Neto

Purim is a joyous holiday which tells the story of the Jewish people in ancient Persia.



Emeth's teens performed the Purim spiel



The carnival featured various types of fair games, ring toss, bean bag toss, etc., face painting, and balloon animal making.



Andre Neto at the bbq

Homemade hamentashen were for sale as well as hotdogs.

Everyone emptied their pushkies (tzedakah boxes) so, if you still have yours, be sure to bring it to temple. As a reminder the money from the pushkies will be used to build a playground for religious school children to use.



I hope everyone had a great time at the Purim carnival. See you there next year!



The adults had fun too!

SAVE THE DATE, JULY 12, FOR A FUN EMETH FUNDRAISER:

A Taste of New York Jewish Culture
Connect with your Jewish heritage through an afternoon of live theater, NY deli food, and more!

Ticket price includes:

- » Performance of *The Producers* by South Valley Civic Theatre
- » Sampling of genuine New York deli nosh
- » Multi-media historical displays of the Jewish role in the evolution of Broadway

THE PRODUCERS

July 12 2:30 pm
Morgan Hill Community Playhouse
17090 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, CA

Tickets: \$36

Additional New York deli meats also available for pre-purchase.

Purchase tickets by check or PayPal at www.emeth.net/producers

For additional information or to volunteer to help, please contact Elizabeth Mandel, ea4mandel@gmail.com, go to www.emeth.net, or call 408-778-8200

Congregation Emeth has purchased the entire house for this special performance as a fundraiser. Invite your friends!

This fundraiser benefits Congregation Emeth's education programs.

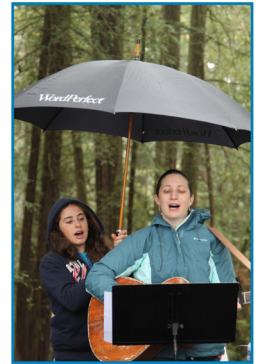
SHABBAT IN THE REDWOODS



Emeth's annual Shabbat in the Redwoods, in Mount Madonna Park, followed by a musical study

session with musician and composer

Lior Ben Hur, was an uplifting experience. Many thanks to Adult Education chair **Wendy Thowdis** for organizing the event.



GILROY GARLIC FESTIVAL: VOLUNTEER AT OUR PHOTO BOOTH!

Arthur Rudin, Event Chair

It is time to prepare for the Emeth's Photo Booth at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, July 24-26. I have had the privilege of working this event for the last two years and enjoyed the experience, spending time with our members while participating in this unique activity. It is a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of the visitors when they look at their photos, while knowing that we are generating money for our congregation. For many visitors, a photo at our booth is an annual event.



Last year we launched a green screen program that allowed us to place images of people in a variety of backgrounds, such as a fire flare-up at Gourmet Alley.

It is likely this year will be a banner year for attendance, given the strong economy. I encourage everyone to sign up!

We will have a kickoff meeting Monday, June 15, 7 pm in Emeth's Social Hall. I look forward to seeing you there and at the Garlic Festival.



PRESENTING EMETH'S 5775 B'NAI MITZVAH!

Haley Toch, daughter of Katherine Toch and Randy Toch - I feel very passionate about women's rights so, for my tzedakah projects, I chose to donate to two different organizations that support the rights of women and girls. The first organization is Girl Rising. The mission of Girl Rising is to change the way the world values girls by using the power of storytelling to share the simple truth that educating girls can transform societies. I found out about this organization by watching the documentary film *Girl Rising*, which tells the stories of ten girls from different countries across the world who have struggled to get an education. The second organization I chose is the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, which supports women's rights in Israel. My Parashat was Ki Tavo, which helped to establish the mitzvah of tzedakah by requiring the Israelites to give a portion of their food to the needy.



Matthew Ogden, son of Daria and Michael Ogden - Two of the things I love the most are art and the ocean. For my Bar Mitzvah tzedakah project, I chose two organizations. The first is an Israeli organization called Alut. Alut provides services and support to children with autism and their families. One of the ways they support these children is by providing opportunities for them to express themselves. One such way is through art. Many of the children are incredible artists and although they may not always be able to express themselves verbally, their artwork spoke volumes. Alut was kind enough to send calendars filled with some of the artwork for most of my guests.

The second organization was the Monterey Bay Aquarium. I spend a lot of time on the Monterey Bay kayaking and appreciating all the wonderful wildlife that makes the Monterey Bay their home. The Monterey Bay Aquarium not only has one of the best aquariums in the country, they spend a lot of time doing research and work endlessly on programs that promote conservation and preservation of the ocean. I plan on continually supporting Monterey Bay Aquarium so that many generations can continue to enjoy its beauty.

Addysen Abmont, daughter of Denise and Joe Abmont - I love playing sports and being outdoors. For my tzedakah project I donated to Leket Israel. They give food to those who don't have anything to eat. I chose this because it makes me sad to think they aren't getting any food and how lucky we are to have what we have. This program helps children and adults who are suffering from malnutrition. This made me aware of all the people who don't have food and are starving all around the world.



Jason Valentine, son of Tracy and Scott Valentine - I have chosen the Make a Wish Israel Foundation as my tzedakah project. I have always thought that kids with life threatening diseases should not spend their days in a hospital and instead should be having a fun time somewhere. Another reason I am donating to Make a Wish Israel is because I have always wanted to meet my favorite basketball player Aaron Craft and I can't imagine what that would be like.

Meghan Lee, daughter of Marby and Bryson Lee - For my Bat Mitzvah, I will be donating to Leket Israel, the country's largest food bank and food rescue network, actively working to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity among Israel's diverse population. My d'var Torah is about the consequences of losing your temper in public and being a bystander.





Rabbi Israel

NEW HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK: *MACHZOR MISHKAN HaNAFESH*

Rabbi Debbie Israel

After years of waiting, my advance copy of our new prayer book for the High Holidays, Machzor Mishkan HaNefesh, arrived. I've already spent hours studying it, with days and weeks of more study to go, in preparation for its use during our upcoming High Holy Days in September.



Truly worth the wait, the machzor is inspiring, challenging, uplifting, and spiritually engaging. It is modeled after our Shabbat prayerbooks, Siddur Mishkan T'fila. On the right side of the page are prayers, many with introductory comments, written in Hebrew, fully transliterated English and translations that are not literal but rather capture the spirit and intent of the prayer.

In my opinion the commentaries are the most meaningful addition to the machzor. They not only explain the prayers but also allow for meditation and reflection into the themes of the liturgy.

Quoting from the Yom Kippur introduction, "...the Reform nature of this machzor will be most evident in its respectful yet fresh approach to tradition; in its unwavering commitment to the equality of men and women; in its attention to concerns that are both immediate and timeless; in its faithfulness to the ethical and justice-seeking dimension of Judaism;...and perhaps most of all, in its efforts to deal with the tension between the historical theology of the High Holy Days and more contemporary beliefs..."

I will attempt to plan services that will be familiar and yet engaging and innovative. I anticipate including more English readings because of the beautiful writings in the new machzor. In fact, I would like to create a "choir" of readers to participate in this beautiful aspect of the machzor. It's an idea in formation; please let me know if you are willing to join this "chorus" (English reading only, no singing, adults and teens, Jews and non-Jews). Join the chorus: rabbidebbieisrael@gmail.com; if possible, tell me which services you will be attending.

I look forward to traveling on this spiritual journey with you and Mark Levy, our cantorial soloist. I hope every family will participate in donating toward our machzor fund, honoring loved ones and/or celebrating family or temple milestones.

Sometime during August I will offer an informal class to take a first look and study the machzor together.

Have a happy summer, enjoying God's natural wonders and blessings.

Rabbi Debbie Israel



Don't Miss This Opportunity to Honor a Friend or Loved One for the High Holidays!

We are half way through our dedication drive for our new High Holiday Machzorim, and there is still time to honor a friend, loved one, teacher, or member of the Congregation who has touched your life in a special way.

Honor a recent Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a member who you admire or have given of themselves to the Congregation, or in memory of a family member who has passed.

Each dedication for our High Holiday Machzorim set is \$40. Please fill out the following form and send it with your check made out to Congregation Emeth to:

Marby Lee, 15850 La Prenda Ct., Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Please indicate on the notation line that it is for Machzor Dedication.

Name _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

We hope families will participate in donating toward our machzor fund, honoring loved ones and/or celebrating family or temple milestones. Click on the donation form (above) or clip and mail to Congregation Emeth, 17835 Monterey Rd., MH.

EDUCATION REFLECTIONS

JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Daria Ogden,
Education Committee Chair*



Daria Ogden

With the end of the school year here, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our Religious School parents. You all have had a hand in making what I feel to be one of our best years yet! We have built this lovely community within the Religious School and I have enjoyed seeing it evolve.

As our school continues to grow, I have come to realize that there is a need to establish a "Religious School Committee" rather than a one person chair. Individuals are needed not only to support events and activities, but also to serve as a voice for the wants and needs of the Religious School families.

Our Religious School has the potential to do great things—field trips, special projects, social activities, and more—but it all takes time and volunteers. Please consider joining our Religious School Committee. Contact myself or Paula Marsh if you might be interested. Again, thank you for your support and have a wonderful summer!

Here at Emeth school
we learn about the Torah
all while having fun!

-- Andi Oberquell (Haiku)

School provides a place
to meet with new and old friends
Shabbat brings us rest.

--Grant Gordon (Haiku)

What I love most about my year in
Gesher is my teacher Kelsey. She is
also what I will miss the most!

-- Miriam Shem-Tov (a reflection)

This past year, our Emeth family has grown closer than ever! Our indefatigable Education Committee Chair, **Daria Ogden**, has created an inviting atmosphere for parents to unwind and bond while their children are in Chai School. It is a pleasure to see parents getting into the spirit of Shabbat—while sharing a glass of wine and nibbling on some hors d'oeuvres.

-- Paula Marsh, Religious School Principal (a reflection)



Paula Marsh

Rest
Enhance
Love
Inspire
God
Individuality
Original
Nurturing
--Joe Abmont
(Acrostic)

Friday night with friends
an extended family
end the week with joy.

Sense of connection
to others around the world
coming together.

Gathering to hear
an evening of songs and prayer
Sh'ma Y'israel.

-- Emily Shem-Tov (Haikus)

We meet at Emeth -
parents, children with Rabbi
to welcome Shabbat.

-- Bryson & Marby Lee (Haiku)

I loved the videos we got to watch on Kelsey's
computer. I learned a lot of things about Judaism
from the videos.

-- Ari Coleman (a reflection)

MACCABIAD!



Water relay



**Hebrew version of duck, duck, goose
= kelev, kelev, chatool (dog, dog, cat)**

Maccabiah games are
fun for everyone who comes
to play and have fun

-- Robin Yacona (Haiku)



Three-legged race

Photos by Paula Marsh

We were highly challenged in Rabbi's B'nai
Mitzvah class this year. The assignments
made us think a lot about everything we
do (i.e., our daily actions).

-- Addy Abmont & Meghan Lee (a reflection)

The Friday kids' Chai School has been
great! Watching my kids embrace their
Judaism has been incredible and enriching.
They are so proud to be Jewish -
they tell everyone. Thank you, Emeth!

-- Jay Latin (a reflection)

Helping
Everyone
Be
Religiously
Engaging
Within

Creating
Higher
Achieving
Individuals

Being
Near
And
Involved

Means
Individual
Teens are
Zestfully
Victorious
Over
Time

Just
Enjoying it,
When
I
Study
Hebrew

-- Robin Yacono
(Acrostics)

TODAH RABAH: EDUCATION AT EMETH

MariaElena Jarson, Emeth parent and teacher

The end of the school year is always bittersweet. Each year, by the time our lessons and routines are finally established enough to allow space for reflection, I realize how much we've learned and gained, and find myself full of gratitude... just as the year ends! My appreciation runs deep this year, so I wanted to share my *todah*, my thanks, with all of you.

I'm fortunate to be involved in the educational programs at Emeth on many levels, as a parent, a student, and an educator. This allows me to experience our classrooms through my children's enthusiasm for their Chai School and Hebrew School studies, through my own studies and growth in the B'not Mitzvah class last year and in the Mussar class this year, and through the eyes of my Zeraim (K/1) classroom community. This layered



perspective gives me an even greater appreciation for what we've created here for our children and ourselves.

At Emeth, we have the opportunity to learn from and be supported by a community of learners. We are guided by a rabbi and principal who've made lifelong learning a part of their own lives, and who inspire personal learning and growth in others. Our teachers, both adult and teen, are our friends and role models, bringing smiles at Emeth and making chance meetings around town a special treat. Our students benefit from activities across age groups, with buddy activities keeping diverse students engaged and making holiday celebrations and community gatherings even more exciting. Family involvement and community dinners further develop student

friendships and make Emeth a fun place to learn and play.



It's been my pleasure to work closely with a small group of Emeth students. Over several years, I've watched the students develop as individuals and as a community. I see their friendships growing to include each person and family in our class, and tendrils of friendship spreading into the other Beit Sefer classrooms with each buddy



activity. The students' friendships and enjoyment of sharing time together is only eclipsed by their enthusiasm for learning more about their shared Jewish traditions and identities. Each week, for the past two years, I've asked my students to

share their favorite part of the lesson or what they learned that day. With each of these check-ins, a clear picture of their passions and joys has emerged: our students love being together. They love being Jewish. And they love learning how to create their own Jewish lives and identities.

And that, right there, is exactly what I value so much about the Emeth educational model. We've created a community where students look forward to Religious School, a community where students learn from classmates and teachers they consider friends, and a community where students are eager to learn about themselves and their shared and unique Jewish heritage.

This is why I want to give a heartfelt *todah rabah* to our Emeth educational program. *Todah* to the Rabbi for leading our community and keeping the pleasure of learning bright within us. *Todah* to Paula Marsh, our principal, for her beautiful instructional vision and administrative balance. *Todah* to Daria Ogden for growing all the family and community pieces so that we can continue to foster the love of learning in our students. *Todah rabah* to the teachers and teen helpers making learning fun for our students. And a very special *todah* to the Beit Sefer families and Emeth community supporting our students and school. Together we're accomplishing so much.

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



Eriki Achache

Mazal Tov to the **Achache family** on the birth of **Enki Colette (Abra) Achache**. The Emet Dor Kef teens hosted Enki's baby naming as part of their life cycle event programming. The baby naming was followed by a lovely oneg, organized by **Becky Neto** and the Emet Dor Kef parents.

Our congregant **Esther Seibert** was featured in an article in The Tennessean newspaper, regarding the debilitating disease, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, now called Sysemic Exertion Intolerance Disease (SEID).



Esther Seibert

After reading the article ([CLICK HERE](#)), we encourage you to contact Esther (seibertesther@gmail.com) to find out how to help.

WOMEN'S SEDER

Marilyn Freund, Sisterhood Co-President

This year's seder, hosted by **Aileen Teren-Foster**, was a wonderful experience. We shared the injustices that are impacting society, representing them as today's plagues. Participants also reflected on woman who have most recently moved and inspired us in our lives.



L-R: Marilyn Freund, Susan Meyers, Carol Anderson, Carla Silverstein. Denise Weyl. Andi Oberquell, Aileen Teren-Foster. Back row: Cathy Gonick, Wendy Thowdis, Barb Dornseif, Cathy Silverstein, Lisa Sinizer, Rabbi Israel, Sherry Michelson, Robin Yacano. Not pictured: Dawn Chaffin

FAREWELL TO PERERA FAMILY

Paula Marsh, Religious School Principal

As the year comes to a close, we're sad to have to say goodbye to the **Perera family**, who will be relocating to Cary, North Carolina.

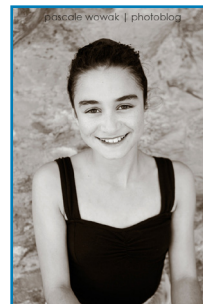


Michael, Stephanie, and their three wonderful children

(**Daniella, Zachary** and **Malia**) have been a lovely addition to our temple and Chai school for a few years. Although originally from Miami, Michael and Stephanie moved to Morgan Hill from North Carolina due to Michael's work. And now, another work transfer is taking them back "home." We wish them well on their journey and know that they'll be greeted by friends and dear ones they had to leave behind. Be well - keep us posted!

Young ballerina **Aliya Glatt**, daughter of Rena Dubin and Harlan Glatt, was recently feature in a lovely dance photography photo shoot.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more photos of Aliya the ballerina.



SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY SHABBAT

Marilyn Freund, Incoming Membership Chair



Mark your calendars for Friday, August 28 for our annual Prospective Member Shabbat. We will have an Open House Shabbat to welcome prospective members, followed by a festive oneg hosted by Emeth's Membership Committee.

Please invite friends and acquaintances whom you feel would like to learn more about Emeth.



Our New Tenant:

Providence (PPC)

Presbyterian Church

Grant Gordon, Ways & Means Chair

On behalf of the Emeth Board, I am excited to announce that we recently signed a three year agreement with Providence Presbyterian Church (PPC) to utilize our facilities on Sundays as well as two Thursday evenings per month. They will replace Church on the Rock (COTR) who found another location after a wonderful 3 ½ year relationship with Emeth. PPC is a very new organization (less than 1 year old) with 35 member households. Services are led by Pastor Tony Garbarino. I have had the opportunity meet with the Pastor several times, along with meeting various other members of the Church, and they are wonderful people. Rabbi Israel, Susan Meyers, and Michael Oshan also had a chance to meet some of the members prior to our finalizing an agreement.

Prior to partnering with Emeth, PPC met at the Masonic Lodge in Morgan Hill. Sunday, May 3, was their first official service at Emeth and everything went very smoothly. I look forward to another mutually beneficial relationship with PPC and I hope others at Emeth have the chance to meet Pastor Garbarino and other members of his Church in the weeks or months to come.

As with COTR, the main use of the funds collected from PPC will be used for debt reduction rather than ongoing operating expenses. It has been our policy over the last 5 years to cover our operating expenses through our fair share dues, school tuition, and ongoing generosity of our members. We do not intend to change this policy at the current time and will aggressively pursue debt reduction whenever financially prudent.

To learn more about our new partners, you may wish to review their website at <http://www.providencepresbyterianchurch.org/>

Mitzvah Makers

Special thanks to our members for their leadership on recent special projects:

- ♥ **Becky and Andre Neto**, the EDK teens, and their committee for the Purim carnival. **Andre Neto** for barbecuing.
- ♥ **Marilyn Freund** for coordinating and **Aileen Teren-Foster** for hosting the Women's Seder.
- ♥ Our new **Building Management Committee**, **Dale Foster** (chair), **Michael Oshan**, **Arthur Rudin**, and **Andre Neto**. Huge thanks to **Michael Oshan** for his many years serving as Building & Grounds chair.
- ♥ **Aileen Teren-Foster**, **Marby Lee**, and **Rena Dubin** for covering administrative needs while our administrator, Debbie Zajac, was unavailable.
- ♥ **Wendy Thowdis** for organizing Shabbat in the Redwoods.
- ♥ **Marby and Bryson Lee & Joe Abmont** for taking out our trash and recycling each week.

Be a Mitzvah Maker: Volunteer!

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

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

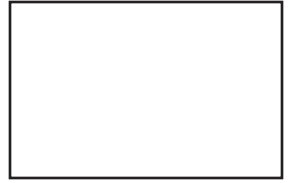
While many volunteers help with the kitchen, community dinners are an important component of Emeth's education, Shabbat, and social programming, and we want to ensure that consistent procedures are in place.

The **Building Management Committee** could use your skills and energy to improve our facility. Most projects are easy and result in a more accommodating home. Some of the projects include replacing outdoor lighting, security improvements, and organizing storage. If you like to fix things and are handy around the house (electrical, construction, and computers), contact facilities@emeth.net





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



Susan Braun

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH PROJECT

Susan Braun, Membership Chair

The Membership Committee is a vital part of a synagogue ... especially so in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Hollister because the Jewish population is limited and many residents are not even aware that Emeth is located here. The Membership Committee in many ways is the lifeblood of our existence, for it is our responsibility to identify and recruit new members, to stay in contact with prospective members, to integrate new members, and also to retain existing members.

Since there are many new homes and families moving into the area, this is an ideal time to reach out and make our presence known. *We are working on a huge project of mailing postcards to all new homeowners* with information about Emeth, in an effort to raise awareness that Emeth is here and to welcome those who have an interest in learning more about our congregation. Believe it or not there have been over 1500 home sales in Morgan Hill and Gilroy in the past year and in Hollister as well!

Thank you to EDK members **Rachel Neto**, **Quinn Neto**, and **Matthew Ogden** for their help in addressing postcards. I would really appreciate additional volunteers to address the remaining postcards—this can be done at your leisure, for example, while watching TV. Let me know if you can help! Email me at gkdragon2000@gmail.com.

Many prospective members have been pleasantly surprised that there is a synagogue in Morgan Hill.

We are always looking for ways to identify and attract new members. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to accomplish our goal of expanding or retaining membership I would love to hear from you. Also, if you know anyone or families that might be interested in hearing about Emeth please let me know.