

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

BONIM B'YACHAD: BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Susan Meyers, Capital Campaign Chair; Grant Gordon, Ways & Means Director



At the time of this publication (September 17) we are off to a great start toward our goals.

In 2016, Congregation Emeth will celebrate 40 years of serving our Jewish community in South Santa Clara County. To mark this auspicious anniversary we are engaged in our first major capital campaign to *Build Our Future Together*. Our successful campaign will result in a playground for the growing number of children in our religious school, a beautiful new bimah to honor our spiritual home, a covered patio which will both provide a permanent sukkah and expand our space for outdoor luncheons and receptions, a new roof, with solar panels and insulation and a reduction in our mortgage debt.

Our goals are twofold: 1) 100% member participation, and 2) \$160,000 raised.

To learn more about *Bonim B'Yachad* and/or to make a pledge, please contact **Susan Meyers**, pastpresident@emeth.net or **Grant Gordon**, fundraising@emeth.net.

NEW BEGINNINGS!

Becky Neto, President

Welcome to a New Year! This is the perfect time to both reflect on the past and look forward to the future. It is with enormous gratitude that I recognize **Susan Meyers** for her time as Congregational President. Susan was an inspirational leader who tirelessly pursued her goal of getting more congregants engaged at Emeth. As a result, many of our committees were able to gain new members. Besides lightening the workload, new committee members bring fresh ideas. I would also like to acknowledge **Geoff Jackson** for his long time commitment to the Board of Directors as chair of the Social Action Committee. Thank you also to the many people who took part in putting together our spiritually enriched high holiday program.



Becky Neto

Looking to the immediate future, we are embarking on Emeth's first ever capital campaign, *Bonim B'Yachad*, Building Our Future Together. Funds raised will go towards a variety of needs, appealing to all our congregants. Not only do we hope to reach our financial goal of \$160,000 but we are asking for 100% participation from the congregation. My father always taught me if you don't work for it yourself you don't appreciate it; 100% participation would demonstrate the connection of each and every member. Please be sure to attend Yom Kippur services to see how far we have already come.

I am proud to represent Emeth as your president for the next two years. We have a strong, fabulous Board of Directors in place along with a wonderfully dedicated Rabbi and staff. The word I want to put into more use is "NOW." I'm hoping the "NOW" attitude will spread throughout the entire congregation. The time we need you is NOW! I am looking forward to the beneficial changes that will soon be seen at Emeth as a result of *Bonim B'Yachad*. I truly believe these changes will affect Emeth in more ways than we can imagine.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu – May you be inscribed for a good year in the Book of Life.

Congregation Emeth

Staff

Rabbi	Debbie Israel
Principal	Paula Marsh
Administrator	Debbie Zajac
Controller	Barry Freund

2015-2016 Board

President	Becky Neto
Vice President	Susan Braun
Past President	Susan Meyers
Treasurer	Michael Heil
Secretary	Denise Weyl
Ways & Means	Grant Gordon
Membership	Marilyn Freund
Education Rep	TBD
Communication	Elizabeth Mandel
Social Action	TBD

Non-Board Leadership

Adult Education	Wendy Thowdis
Assistant Treasurer	TBD
Building & Grounds	Dale Foster
Calendar	Rena Dubin
Education	Daria Ogden
Library	Donna Weisblatt
Ritual	Michael Oshan
Sisterhood	Patty Baggesse, Marilyn Freund
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

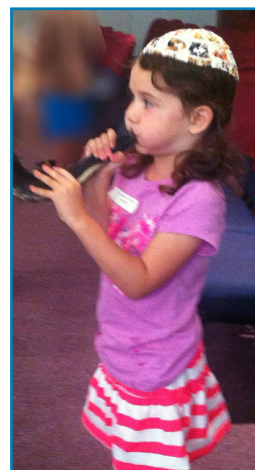
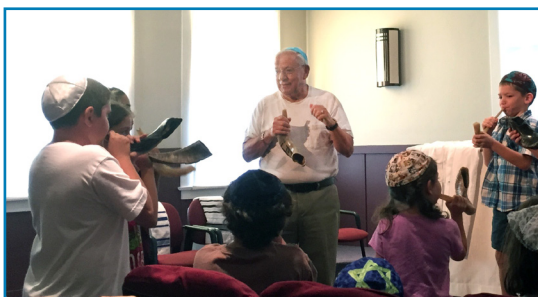
Follow Congregation Emeth on Facebook for the latest news and photos.



To submit articles and/or event photos, please email them to Communication Director and Kol Emeth Editor, Elizabeth Mandel, at communication@emeth.net.

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

SOUNDING THE SHOFAR



Thank you to **Mel Weisblatt** for instructing Chai School on the finer points of shofar blowing ... the students had a blast!

ROSH HAsHANAH APPLE PICKING

Photos by MariaElena Jarson



Thank you to **MariaElena Jarson** for leading an apple picking outing for young families in preparation for Rosh HaShanah. What sweet memories you have made for Emeth's children!

September 2015

Table of Contents

1	BONIM B'YACHAD:
	BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
1	NEW BEGINNINGS
2	SOUNDING THE SHOFAR
3	ROSH HAsHANAH APPLE PICKING
3	RENEW YOUR eSCRIP MEMBERSHIP
4	WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
4	TELL GOVERNOR BROWN TO SIGN RACIAL PROFILING BILL
5	CHAI SCHOOL: A CLASSROOM COMMUNITY
6	MEET OUR CHAI SCHOOL STAFF
7	CHAI SCHOOL STAFF (CONTINUED)
7	REMEMBERING LAUREN JENKINS
8	GARLIC FESTIVAL RECAP
8	<i>THE PRODUCERS</i> RECAP
8	NEW YEAR'S MITZVAH MAKERS
9	MAZEL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS
9	EDK: PERFORMING MITZVOT
9	HIGH HOLIDAY MACHZORIM DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES
10	ADULT EDUCATION:
	TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR
11	ADULT EDUCATION (CONTINUED)
11	SUMMER CAMPS SUPPORT JEWISH IDENTITY
12	PROGRESSIVE DINNER
12	MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

It's TIME TO RENEW YOUR

eScrip 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.

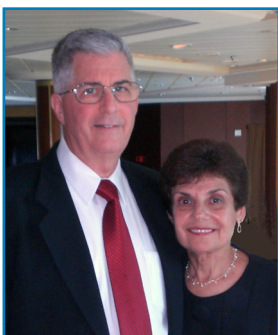
Our Group ID is #141252633.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Stu & Hilda Gallant

We've been married 44 years and have two married children, Avi who is married to Tami and live in Vallejo and Josh, married to Antje, who are the parents of our "almost 4 year old" granddaughter Addie and who live in NYC. Stu recently became employed with Apple and we decided to move to Morgan Hill where we found Emeth via a web search! We're excited to become a part of the community and have really enjoyed the welcome from many congregants.



Stu and Hilda Gallant

We enjoy walking, reading and leisure time together as well as visiting our kids and granddaughter as much as possible. We've been active members of a synagogue wherever we have lived (Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Baltimore, San Diego and Orange County), and Stu has been a *Ba'al T'filah* (Service Leader) and *Ba'al Koreh* (Torah Reader) since his pre-teen youth. Hilda was born in Cuba and lived in Israel for six years before coming to Philadelphia where she met Stu in college. She is bilingual and has worked in numerous positions using these language skills.

The Grabscheid family moved to Morgan Hill five years ago from San Jose. They have three daughters aged 15, 5, and 3. Tamara currently works part time at Stryker in the Accounting department and Joel works for the County as a juvenile probation counselor. They love traveling, good food, the beach, camping, and just being together. The kids bring lots of laughter to their home. They hope to pass on their Jewish traditions and knowledge with the help of Emeth and hopefully meet other young Jewish families.



Tamara and Joel Grabscheid with daughters Rylye, Isabel, Brianna



Julie O'Neil

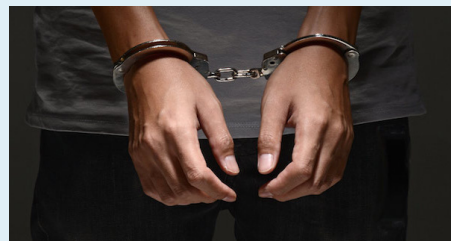
Julie O'Neil has lived in Morgan Hill for 5 1/2 years. She retired from Stanford in February, 2014 and now enjoys spending time studying acting and voiceover, walking the Harvey Bear Trail twice a week, meeting with friends, and reading. She also recently joined Emeth's Mah Jongg group and is loving it.

Julie joined Emeth in order to feel connected with the local community. At Emeth she hopes to participate in services (she has already read Torah for us), learning Torah, and helping out where she can.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism Take Action: Tell Governor Brown to Sign Racial Profiling Bill

Join Reform Jews from across California acting for racial justice during the High Holy Days. Call Governor Jerry Brown and urge him to sign AB 953, the racial profiling bill which recently passed in the legislature.

African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately more likely to be detained, arrested, charged with a crime, imprisoned, and killed by police than whites. The Talmud teaches us that God created humankind from one human being so that no person can say, "My ancestor is greater than yours." We are taught in Pirkei Avot that "your friend's dignity should be as dear to you as your own." Jewish tradition compels us to speak out against biased policing. AB 953 will enhance transparency and accountability, mend trust in law enforcement, and improve public safety. Visit the Reform California action page, <http://www.rac.org/advocacy/reform-california> where you can get more information about AB 953 and contact Governor Brown.



CHAI SCHOOL - A CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

MariaElena Jarson, Head Teacher

At Emeth, 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 year, I will be teaching the entire Chai School as one combined class with **Kelsey Valentine** and **Hana Cidon**. Kelsey taught Gesher last year, and will continue to teach activities during Choice Time this year. Hana is an experienced Yavneh teacher. She will be teaching art, music, and/or dance during Choice Time. Together, we will offer the students a variety of diverse learning opportunities.

Each month we will study specific prayers or songs, Jewish holidays, concepts, and mitzvot. Other topics, like Shabbat songs and the blessings for food, holidays, and occasions, have been and will remain part of our classroom rituals and routines. Three new topics will be introduced this year: Mussar, the weekly parsha (Torah portion), and a monthly focus on specific prayers.

Mussar, which Alan Morinis calls, "a treasure house of practical wisdom and guidance for inner living that has been built up in the Jewish world over the past millennium," is a wonderful path to living Jewishly. Just as performing mitzvot helps us to make the outside world a better place, focusing on middot, the "soul traits" of Mussar, provides us with a practice to make ourselves happier and healthier on the inside. Each month we will focus on a different middah.

Understanding the stories within our Torah, and connecting them to our own lives, is another path toward living a Jewish life. Each class session, I will provide the students with an introduction to the weekly parsha, often through the short animated videos from G-dcast (<http://www.g-dcast.com/video/>). We will discuss the passages, and work to develop a greater understanding of each week's portion through small group discussions, projects, and performances—as age and interest level permits.

Monthly prayers, or songs, will be taught in a similar scaffolded fashion. The entire Chai School will learn the

opening lines or chorus, and individual students will progress on to learning the entire prayer and/or reading it in Hebrew, as age and interests indicate. The prayers and songs are from our Siddur. I will teach them using our Emeth melodies.

Due to the nature of our expanded class, the students will have a choice of learning activities for each topic this year. Class sessions will include both a quiet and an active activity. Quiet activities could include journaling, reading, crafting, and independent art projects. Active activities could include group games, building projects, gardening, cooking, dance, exercise, and music. This workshop format will allow me to meet the needs of each student and each age group while challenging and supporting students as individuals within the larger group setting. The beauty of our curriculum, teaching students how to create their own Jewish lives, is that all of our children will be exposed to the appropriate understandings and practices for their age and interest levels, while simultaneously benefiting from the greater classroom community and friendship network that our expanded Chai School classroom provides. All students will have the opportunity to learn and engage at their own pace and in their own preferred fashion. And, each student will have the opportunity to make friends across grade levels, effectively turning Chai School into one large, close-knit community.

Our syllabus also includes several field trips, kitchen adventures, and guest speakers. The students always love field trips, kitchen adventures, and buddy activities, so we're excited to welcome adult congregants into our classroom as special buddies this year. Each connection the students make with these caring adults helps the children imagine their own "grown-up" Jewish lives and brings the entire Emeth community closer. Please let me know if you, or someone you know, could enrich our classroom discussions with a special presentation or activity.

Editor's note: *Chai School is Emeth's lower school, consisting of all students younger than the B'nai Mitzvah class. The B'nai Mitzvah class is taught by Rabbi Israel. Emeth also offers Hebrew school, as well as Emet Dor Kef for teens.*

MEET OUR CHAI SCHOOL STAFF

MariaElena Jarson - Head Teacher - I have taught kindergarten through eighth grade at Montessori, Jewish Day, and public schools. I taught Torah for Tots at Congregation Sinai and have been teaching in the Beit Sefer for the past three years. I have a degree in literature from UCSC and received my teaching credential and a Master's in Education at UCSD.

I enjoy the students' enthusiasm for their Jewish friendships and studies, and look forward to including the entire school in our classroom community. I appreciate our new format and expanded classroom because it will allow for more student choice and individual expression, encourage multi-age friendships, and establish a continuous progression through the Chai School curriculum.



MariaElena Jarson

I love teaching because I love learning. Sharing my enthusiasm for learning, and inspiring students to follow their own passions and interests, keeps teaching interesting and rewarding for me.



Hana Cidon

Hana Cidon - For more than 45 years, I have had the pleasure and the honor of teaching several generations of kindergarten age children. I have seen kindergartens evolve dramatically from glorified daycare services to structured curriculum based programs. My personal experience, education, observation and reflection have led to my own philosophy on kindergarten.

I believe that every child deserves the opportunity to grow and develop to full potential. When children are happy and feel good about themselves, those children will try to do their best. I take the time to get to know each child in our Gan individually. I strive to understand his/her needs. My students know that I respect and care about them. Each day, I work to help them feel secure and happy. I encourage my students to talk about their own feelings, to learn to respect the ideas and feelings of others and to take responsibility for their own behavior.

I advocate my students to be a mensch, a person with integrity and honor. Critical thinking and problem solving are a natural part of our daily schedule. The children are learning to become independent in handling personal needs, caring for their classroom materials and follow routines.

I strongly believe that for a person to develop a strong Jewish identity, he/she must receive daily exposure from an early age. My experience as an Israeli/American/Jewish parent has shown me that it is not enough to teach your children at home about their Jewish identity. It is not enough to celebrate Jewish holidays or talk about Judaism in order to instill in your child a love and appreciation for who they are. You need to make sure that your child is immersed early on in all kinds of Jewish activities at home and in the wider Jewish community.

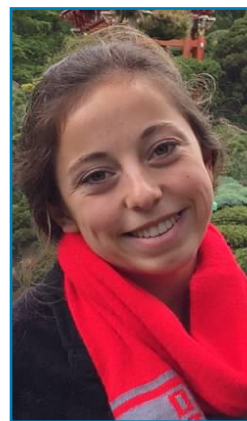
Yigal and I have four children and four grandchildren. Besides spending time with my husband, I enjoy creating earrings and working in our garden.

I'm very excited to join the Chai School. When we came to California in 1997, I taught Hebrew in Emeth Hebrew school for four years. I always wanted to continue and now that I'm semi-retired I'm happy to be part of the school. I don't know yet what will be my role in Chai School but it has to do with music. I play the accordion and I love teaching Israeli dancing.

MEET OUR CHAI SCHOOL STAFF (CONTINUED)

Kelsey Valentine - This will be my second year teaching at Chai School and I can't wait for all the good times we will have this year as students continue to learn about their religion! Last year one of my favorite parts of teaching was seeing how excited students would get about topics or projects. It was great to see them enjoying learning and working hard to understand topics covered.

This year due to the new format of the school we will be having a Choice Time in which all the kids will be able to choose an activity led by Hana, MariaElena, or myself. For this Choice Time I will primarily be leading the outdoor activities. These activities will include a wide range of fun and active activities, including a garden that Chai School students will be able to create this year. This will be an exciting activity as it will allow students to have fun outside as well as enjoy and share the produce that will hopefully be grown! I can't wait to help the students out on creating this new project.



Kelsey Valentine

REMEMBERING LAUREN JENKINS



Lauren Jenkins passed away Monday, September 14. We will miss her warmth, her intellect, her bubbly personality, her sense of humor, and her positive outlook. She leaves behind a legacy of caring and giving, both at Emeth and in the broader community.

Professionally, Lauren was regional director at Kaiser's clinical genetics lab. She loved sharing her excitement about science, lecturing about DNA, for example, at both San Jose State University and Tech Trek, an AAUW (American Association of University Women) science camp for girls.

A gifted educator, Lauren believed in hands-on learning. At Emeth she served as Education Chair and later as a Religious School teacher. She also created Emeth's library, donating many of her own books. Lauren was passionate about science education and, particularly, girls' engagement in math and science. When her children were young, she volunteered in the classroom as a science teacher, ran a summer science camp from her home, and taught science at Country Day School (now Oakwood) and Yavneh. An active member of AAUW, Lauren was Tech Trek coordinator for many years and also founded GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science), a club for teenage girls. Lauren's passion for learning was felt by the many students whose lives she touched.

Lauren left us on Rosh HaShanah. Our new Rosh HaShanah machzor instructs us, "... The way we act, the way we speak, the way we meet G-d's image in ourselves and in others—these things have great power to make our lives matter. Therefore, ... let dreams give birth to justice and goodness." Lauren's life was a testament to these instructions; in her too short life; her actions spread justice and goodness to countless others.

Lauren leaves behind her loving family: husband John Jenkins, children Joelle and Zachary, parents Bette and Gerald Sallus, and brother Marc Sallus (Dev Cohen and sons Micah and Ari).

In lieu of flowers, Lauren's request is that donations be made to one of the following:

- Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (<http://www.lungcancerfoundation.org/>)
- Congregation Emeth - memo Building Fund (<http://www.emeth.net>)
- AAUW Morgan Hill - memo GEMS (<http://www.aauw-morganhill.org>) - Write checks to ISPF-AAUW.
- W.E.R.C. - Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (<http://www.werc-ca.org/>)

GARLIC FESTIVAL RECAP

Arthur Rudin, Event Chair

This was a great festival for us with a large turnout at our booth. I am thrilled to share our success with you:

- 700 photos taken over 3 days
- Total revenue ~ \$6,100
- Net profit ~ \$5,200

We did not need to purchase any supplies this year, resulting in a higher profit margin.

I wish I had captured pictures of you working diligently and with enthusiasm, getting folks into our booth and through the photo process. Our tent was larger this year, enabling a new layout and improved flow. Our equipment was reliable and the weather was good. At times the line of customers stretched outside our booth! Our volunteers continued to refine the process as the weekend progressed, and many suggestions provided at a follow-up meeting will be implemented next year as well.

It was a privilege to work with and learn from you. I thank you, your family, and your friends for your participation and support.



The "flame up" green screen background was the most popular.

THE PRODUCERS RECAP

Elizabeth Mandel, Event Chair

Thank you to the event committee members and attendees who made our "Taste of New York Jewish Culture" a fun event and a successful fundraiser.



Full house!

With a full house, fabulous deli food, and wonderful camaraderie, we could not have asked for more!



Lobby displays featured Broadway history



Authentic NY deli food at intermission



Teens ran the soda fountain

New Year's Mitzvah Makers

We are starting a new year on the Jewish calendar and also a new school year. Thank you to all those members who have gone above and beyond to get the year off to a great start.

- ♥ **Rabbi Israel** for the countless hours she spent this summer familiarizing herself with our new High Holiday Machzorim.
- ♥ **Emeth's Ritual Committee: Raul Fernandez** for the beautiful flowers, for polishing the ritual silver, and for arranging for Torah readers; **Rich Pupko** for arranging for ushers; **Michael Oshan** for holiday setup, and **Mel Weisblatt** for organizing member participation in the holiday services.
- ♥ **Dale Foster** for coordinating extra High Holiday grounds work and for leading Emeth's security review.
- ♥ Sisterhood, led by co-Presidents, **Marilyn Freund** and **Patty Baggese**, for hosting the Rosh Hashanah oneg and arranging for holiday baskets for shut-ins.
- ♥ **MariaElena Jarson** for organizing special holiday events: an apple picking day for young families and a Tashlich potluck.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **Daria Ogden**, Education Chair; **MariaElena Jarson**, head teacher; and **Paula Marsh**, Principal, for overseeing and communicating all aspects of the Chai School changes for the upcoming year.
- ♥ **Susan Meyers** for chairing Emeth's Capital Campaign.
- ♥ **Becky Neto**, president, and the incoming board for taking on leadership responsibilities for the upcoming year.

Be a Mitzvah Maker: Volunteer!

Review the list of volunteer opportunities on our website:

www.emeth.net/support-emeth/volunteer or email **Becky** at volunteer@emeth.net.

MAZEL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS

Anniversary Celebrations

Congratulations to our congregants who have recently celebrated milestone wedding anniversaries. These include:

- **Daria & Mike Ogden** - 20 years
- **Marilyn & Barry Freund** - 45 years
- **Donna & Mel Weisblatt** - 50 years



Mel and Donna Weisblatt with daughter Marci (L) and son Jay (R)

Wedding Congratulations

Mazel Tov to **Wendy Thowdis** and **Michael Kerner**, whose son/stepson, Jeremy Thowdis Deuel, was married to Nicole Elsea on Saturday, August 1 in southern California. The wedding was officiated by Maria Scaros, Wendy's cousin. The couple will reside in San Jose, where Jeremy is a lawyer with the law firm of Matthew Rudy. Nicki is a Marketing/Advertising Coordinator for Nintendo in Redwood City.



Jeremy and Nicole

Josh Toch Gives Ted Talk

What a remarkable young man; we are so proud of Josh! Listen to his "Ted Talk," given at UC Davis: *Humanity, The Root of the Solution*. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmrTjZeWKQ>.



EDK: PERFORMING MITZVOT

Kelsey Valentine, Emet Dor Kef

In an effort to help our community, the teens in EDK are planning a series of community service events alongside our studies. As we began planning our first event, collecting items for care packages for those in need, we became excited about trying to help in other areas as well. We all felt that there is a need for those in our community to help each other, and throughout our Jewish education we have been taught to perform mitzvot. Now that we can put these lessons into action, we decided EDK would try to help those in need.

Our first project this year will also be ongoing, collecting food, hygienic products, and other items into care packages to hand out to people who are without these necessities. A huge part of this project is getting the community involved in helping us; just as we are trying to help the community, we really need help from the community in order to accomplish our projects. Look for the donation bin, located at temple, for anything you are able to contribute.

Other projects this year will also revolve around collecting food items for the High Holidays, providing Thanksgiving dinner to a family in need, and much more. We are really excited to work together to make a difference this year, and anyone else from the community is welcome to join us as well!

HIGH HOLIDAY MACHZORIM DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES



Now that you have experienced our wonderful new machzor, won't you consider making a dedication? Honor an accomplishment or the memory of a loved one. Your donation of \$40 will provide two book plates, one in the Rosh Hashanah Machzor and one in the Yom Kippur Machzor.

Find the dedication form on our website, www.emeth.net/support-emeth.

ADULT EDUCATION: TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR!

Rabbi Debbie Israel, Susan Meyers, Donna Weisblatt

MUSSAR

Mussar is a path of contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years to help an individual soul to pinpoint and then to break through the barriers that surround it and obstruct the flow of inner light in our lives. Mussar is a treasury of techniques and understandings that offers immensely valuable guidance for the journey of our lives... The human reality that Mussar addresses is actually universal, and the gifts it offers can be used by all people. As a spiritual practice, Mussar originated in the 10th century and evolved into a social/spiritual movement, inspired by the leadership of Rabbi Israel Salanter. (Edited from the Mussar Institute homepage.)



Ongoing – Thursdays, 11:00-12:30 PM. Now in its second year, this group is now “closed” as an advanced group. Demonstrating the success in Mussar’s ability to help participants develop certain values (patience, equanimity, gratitude, awe to name a few) and find balance in their lives, the group requested to continue a second year.

New Mussar Group in Formation -Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM. If you would like to experience the power of Mussar, you are invited to register for this class. Open to members only, the group is appropriate for men and women, Jewish and non-Jewish. If you are interested in participating, contact Rabbi Israel, rabbi@emeth.net. If a minimum of five members register, the class will begin in November. As a benefit of membership there is no fee for the class; students are expected to purchase the textbook, *Everyday Holiness*, by Alan Moranis.

ADULT BEGINNING HEBREW

Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 PM. If you vaguely remember how to read Hebrew and have some familiarity with the letters, or if you can’t recognize an aleph from a gimel (those are two of the Hebrew letters!), this class is for you. If you started the class the last time it was offered and didn’t complete it, or need a refresher, join this class! As a benefit of membership there is no charge for the class other than the cost of the workbook. After completing the workbook, if students are interested, Rabbi Israel will begin applying the reading skills to learning prayers from the prayerbook. If a minimum of five members register, the class will begin January 7, 2016. If you are interested in participating, contact Rabbi Israel, rabbi@emeth.net.

EMETH READS

Please join us Tuesday, September 29 for a discussion of *Fugitive Colors* by Lisa Barr. Our 7 pm discussion will be preceded by a 6:30 potluck in the sukkah. RSVP to Susan Meyers, pastpresident@emeth.net. Our Emeth Reads book group meets approximately quarterly. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore fiction and non-fiction literature with men and women who enjoy a good read! Our book selections range from fun novels with Jewish themes to informative historical novels, and non-fiction accounts and biographies of Jewish men and women who have made valuable contributions to humanity around the world. We look forward to seeing you on September 29.



LEARN YIDDISH

Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 PM. October 8 - December 17 (10 classes; no class on Thanksgiving). Instructor is Jon Levitow, who also teaches Yiddish at Stanford and UC Santa Cruz. Cost is \$200 for Emeth members or \$250 for non-members. The textbook is approximate \$30 in addition. Please make checks out to Congregation Emeth (write “Yiddish” in the memo field) and mail to Congregation Emeth / 17835 Monterey Road / Morgan Hill, CA 05937.

Yiddish was at one time the international language of Ashkenazic Jews (the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe and their descendants). A hybrid of Hebrew and medieval German, Yiddish takes about three-quarters of its vocabulary from German, but borrows words liberally from Hebrew and many other languages from the lands where Ashkenazic Jews have lived. It has a grammatical structure all of its own, and is written in an alphabet based on Hebrew characters.

ADULT EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Yiddish developed enormously rich literature, theater and music. A resurgence of the language is evident on college campuses such as UCLA, The Ohio State University as well as Stanford and UC Santa Cruz.

Jon's instruction will include learning the alphabet, grammar and syntax as well as learning to read and converse in Yiddish. Contact Donna Weisblatt, yiddish@emeth.net, with questions.

ISRAEL 2016

Plan now to be part of Congregation Emeth's Second Pilgrimage to Israel. Our favorite tour guide, Yoram Preminger, has reserved the dates for us! Because of the 2016 Jewish holiday schedule (our Simchat Torah celebration will take place October 28), the **trip dates are October 30-November 13, 2016**. We need a core group of 10 Emeth participants, after which the group will be open to the community at large to join us. If you think you might want to travel with us, contact Rabbi Israel, rabbi@emeth.net. Expressing your interest does not represent a promise but helps us know if this trip is possible!



Congregation Emeth in Israel, 2011

SUMMER CAMPS SUPPORT JEWISH IDENTITY

Camp enhances students' Jewish identity as it provides the opportunity for students to experience a wholly Jewish environment and schedule. Scholarships are available through the Betty Meyer Camper Fund. Three of Emeth's students attended Jewish camps this summer and share their experiences here:

Addysen Admont - This was my first year at Camp Newman and it was amazing. There were so many fun activities like swimming, frisbee, hiking, camping. I made so many new friends. My favorite part of camp was the overnight. We hiked all day and then stayed at an overnight spot where we made hamburgers and hotdogs, and then had s'mores. Over all I had an amazing time.



Addysen (center) with camp friends

Meghan Lee - This was my first year going to Jewish camp. For me, it was so cool to have girls my age understanding what this part of my life was, who knew what a Bat Mitzvah is and know what the Shema is, stuff like that. Our cabin was titled The Khloe Kardashians, and we had quotes of hers all around the cabin. The thirteen girls in my cabin bonded quickly. Sometimes we would joke they put something in the food that made us all happy. Our cabin was prone to randomly bursting out in song or funny chants we made up.

It became almost a tradition to go to the Hadar (dining hall) and make yourself a PB&J. The meals were inconsistent, but Friday night dinner was always the best because of Shabbat. Shabbat dinner was the King of Dinners at camp. There was chicken, rice, challah, eggplant and tofu parmigiana, green beans, and brownies. After the meal, all the sessions would parade to the basketball court where we would dance together, celebrating being Jewish and Shabbat. I'll definitely go back next year if I have a chance. It was a wonderful experience and I hope other kids will find it as well.

Talia Jordan - Camp Newman is one of my favorite places to be. I always make such great memories and friends there. The food is great, the cabins are nice, their counselors and C.I.T's (Counselors in training) are amazing. I especially love all of their Israeli games and dances they teach us. I wish to go there every year until I become a counselor myself. And, of course, I am very grateful for Congregation Emeth for helping me go to camp this year.



Talia (right) with a camp friend



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



PROGRESSIVE DINNER A SUMMER TRADITION

Marilyn Freund, Sisterhood Co-President

Sisterhood Co-President **Patty Baggesse** organized Congregation Emeth's annual Progressive Dinner on August 8. Nineteen Emeth members enjoyed the three courses in three host homes: **Donna and Mel Weisblatt's** for appetizers, **Kathy and Rick Coencas's** for soup and salad, and **Aileen Teren-Foster's and Dale Foster's** for dessert and fresh fruit.

Members enjoyed a festive, evening of gourmet recipes. Please consider joining us next summer; this is a great way to get to know your fellow Emeth members in a casual social setting.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

Marilyn Freund, Membership Chair



Marilyn Freund

Membership marked the end of summer and the start of Religious and Hebrew Schools by hosting an open house ice cream social. We celebrated our new members and invited prospective members to experience the warmth and sense of community that we take pride in here at Congregation Emeth. A tour of the facilities was followed by a special Shabbat service focusing on the importance of community. We finished the evening with a scrumptious assortment of ice creams and toppings.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening: **Carla Silverstein, Barb Dornseif, Cathy Sliverstein, Susan Braun, Dawn Chaffin, Aileen Teren-Foster, and Dale Foster.**

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 and throughout the year, making them feel welcome!