

Kol Emeth

The Voice of Truth



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

Capital Campaign Yields Both Beautiful & Practical Facility Improvements

Michael Heil, Treasurer

We are nearing the end of a successful capital campaign. With 80% of member participation so far, we are delighted that we have raised \$167,207! Gifts have ranged from \$10 to \$50,000. We are optimistic with our expectation for 100% participation, particularly because we gratefully accept a gift of any level.

Remember, it is not too late for you to take part if you have not yet made a donation to the Capital Campaign.





A sukkah wall mural, designed by Rachel Neto and painted by EDK, is held up by some of the teens and Rabbi Israel. On the ground are children from Chai School. Photo courtesy of Gilroy Dispatch.

Successfully funded by the campaign are:

- A new Bimah, with a total cost of approximately \$30,000.
- A playground and permanent Sukkah with a total cost of approximately \$48,000. The playground should be completed within the next month.
- A project to reduce energy use and cost with attic insulation and a new energy efficient roof for a portion of the building. These improvements will be made over the next several months. The size of the improvements will be at least \$25,000 and will depend on the final fund-raising total.
- Reduction of our mortgage balance. We are expecting the reduction to be approximately \$65,000.

Congregation Emeth

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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 / Kol Emeth Editor, Elizabeth Mandel, at communication@emeth.net.

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

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE WITH THE INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH COUNTY

The newly formed Interfaith Community of South County (ICSC) is planning programs to celebrate American holidays. Their first group holiday celebration was Morgan Hill's Fourth of July parade, with over 60 participants! They will also host programs for Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day, and Memorial Day.







The group is also sponsoring a series of educational programs entitled "The Faith of Our Neighbors". The first two featured Islam and The Church of Latter Day Saints. Many thanks to Susan Meyers for her continued leadership. Contact Susan at pastpresident@emeth.net if you would like to learn more and participate in the group.

STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

Photos by MariaElena Jarson



Mel Weisblatt

teaches the Shomrim Class (primary students) how to blow the shofar. Their teacher,

MariaElena Jarson, also taught them the meaning of shofar and its relationship to the High Holy

Days.





October 2016

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SAVE THE DATE



Join your Emeth family as we celebrate Rabbi Israel's 10th anniversary

Friday, October 14

Dinner in the sukkah provided by the Emeth Board

Shabbat Sukkot Service

We will also dedicate our new (permanent) sukkah

Many Facility Updates for the New Year

TREE OF LIFE

This beautiful painting by **Suzana Achache** now graces the wall of our social hall!



Suzanna carried the *Etz Chaim* (Tree of Life) theme of our new ark's doors in creating this piece of art. The Hebrew writing says, in English, "It is a Tree of Life to those who hold fast to it," from the Torah service liturgy, comparing Torah to a tree of life. Suzanna is an accomplished artist whose work can be found in frescoes in churches in Greece. We are so honored that she has created this piece especially for us. To see more of her work, go to www.sukimodernart.com. Thank you!

LIBRARY CLEANUP

Linda Reisenberg has cleaned and organized Emeth's library. Members are free to check out books at any time... help yourself and, when you are finished, return them to their proper locations.





We also now have a cozy nook in the library for young children to enjoy during services.

AED Installed

Emeth now has its own AED (Automated External Defibrillator), a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia and is able to treat them through



defibrillation. The AED is designed to be used by a lay person, guiding the user with simple audio and visual commands.

Emeth's AED is now installed on the back wall of the sanctuary, behind the sound booth. Thank you to **Sandy** and **Art Reidel** for the donation and to **Jeff Bass** for training Emeth's board on use of the device.

CLASSROOMS SPRUCED UP!



MariaElena Jarson's classroom (in the portable) Shomrim (Guardians) - Grades K-2

Hana Cedon's classroom (upstairs) Kochavim (Stars) - Grade 3 - B'nai Mitzvah





Mazal Tov to Our Members



SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Neto, daughter of Becky and Andre Neto and EDK teacher has received a second scholarship from the South Valley Quilters Association (SVQA) at the Taste of Morgan Hill for her fashion designs



Santa Cruz County Fair

Congratulations to member Jerry **Dubin** who just rocked the Santa Cruz County Fair! He received three first place prizes for his beautiful flowers, made from recycled plastic for granddaughter Aliya's bat mitzvah table centerpieces.



SANDY GABE RECIPIENT OF 2016 COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Gavilan College has selected **Sandy Gabe** as the San Benito County individual winner of this annual award. Sandy enjoys supporting projects involving pets and belongs to the "Furry Friends," who take their dogs to visit children and adult facilities to give enjoyment and pet therapy. "Pet Friends" is another animal group she supports and helps.

Sandy also enjoys working with children. She volunteers at the County Library with Homework Club and mentors youth at Chamberlain's Children Center. And she teaches Adult Literacy at the County Library, where she enjoys seeing her students' language skills improve and their conversation confidence grow. In Gilroy, Sandy helps at The Lord's Table monthly, feeding the needy at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

A New Baby!

Congratulations to members **Stewart** and **Cathy Gill** on the birth of their granddaughter, Marlowe Gill.



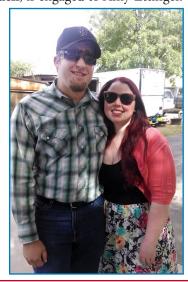
Wedding Congratulations



Gregg Heil and Nicole Berkold were married on September 24 in Aspen, Colorado. Gregg is the son of members **Michael Heil** and **Bette Gardner**.

Engagement

Seth Novack, son of **Marsha** and **Gerald Novack**, is engaged to Amy Ettinger.



Rabbi Israel

2016-2017 EDUCATION STAFF

Rabbi Debbie Israel

Congregation Emeth is blessed to have teachers in both our Hebrew School and Chai School who are not only Jewishly knowledgeable but who are also master teachers. Our Friday afternoon classes are taught by MariaElena Jarson, for our primary ages; and Hana Cidon for our students in third grade and older. Hebrew school is taught by Joelle Wolf, Paula Marsh, and Hana Cidon. Our teaching assistants, *madrichim*, are Meghan Lee and Jason Valentine. Our school *mazikira*, secretary, is Kelsey Valentine. Our high school program, Emet Dor Kef, is led by Rachel Neto and myself. I am also the supervisor of the Emeth's educational program.

This is Morah (teacher) Hana's first year teaching her own class in Chai School though last year she part of the team. Can you imagine our mazal (good fortune)? In 2015, she was honored by Yavneh day school for her 18 years teaching there and her devoted contribution to the lives of young Jewish students all of her adult life. Upon her retirement from Yavneh, she offered to teach in our Chai School and Hebrew School and she will also be leading High Holiday children's programs. An Israeli native she brings to our students a love of Torah, Israel, and Jewish values. She is our blessing!

Hana Cidor

2016-2017 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Hana Cidon

Can one ever say enough about valuing our children's education? Judaism has always taught and stressed the importance of study and learning.

Through our school we will instill in our students a love for Judaism, the

Torah, the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, as well as an appreciation for our rich heritage, and confidence in our Jewish identity.

Torah Study - How does the Torah differ from other books? Why is the Torah so important for the Jewish people? Students will listen to the stories of the Torah from creation through entering the Promised Land. Lessons will engage each student in the wonder of the Torah stories and the holiness of Torah learning.

Tefilah - Prayer - We will have conversations about God and ask questions such as: How do I know that God exists if I can't see God? How can I see God's imprint in the world and thereby recognize God's presence? Students will learn not only to recite and sing selections of the Sh'ma and Amidah prayers correctly, but also discuss them, inquiring into the meaning of the prayer texts and relating them to their personal experience.

Holidays - The students will be introduced to the basic themes, symbols, and traditions of each holiday. They will learn Hebrew words associated with the holidays and develop skills in reciting certain blessings.

Jewish Values - This study is intended to give our students an understanding of the values integrated into Jewish culture. Understanding and appreciating these values can help our students find a sense of direction and meaning in how they live every day of their lives. For example, why should we say we are sorry? When should we say we are sorry? Why should we forgive others? When should we forgive others? Why is peace among friends important? How can you play a role in making peace among friends? What are the risks in being a peacemaker?

Israel - Students will explore the significance and beauty of Israel past, present and future. Our program emphasizes the essential connection of every Jew to the Land of Israel. We would like our students to be knowledgeable about Israel, the people and the land. We will help our students strengthen their sense of Jewish identity and create understanding towards Jewish people around the world. Also, students will learn about our responsibility for helping Jews around the world.

Hebrew - Beginning with letter recognition for our beginners, our program leads our students through phonetic decoding and grammar concepts until they attain sufficient Hebrew for Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Your child's Hebrew vocabulary will grow through conversations and songs.

Synagogue Culture - One of the goals of our program is to make sure that our students feel at ease in any synagogue. They should be comfortable with major parts of the services, recognizing the recited texts and rituals.

Progressive Dinner Food — Fun — Friends



Emeth's annual progressive dinner, organized by Sisterhood co-president **Patty Baggesse**, saw more than 30 members visiting and eating at four different households.



The progressive dinner is always a unique opportunity for our members to enjoy each other's company along with plenty of homemade goodies.





Thank you to our hosts—MariaElena and Aaron Jarson (appetizers), Susie and Ken Freiberg (appetizers), Michael Heil (soups and salads), and Aileen Teren-Foster and Dale Foster (desserts). Thank you also to the Emet Dor Kef teens who provided childcare so families with young children could participate.

SISTERHOOD CREATES BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY BASKETS

Each year Sisterhood, under the guidance of Sisterhood co-president **Marilyn Freund**, creates baskets for Emeth's members who are unable to attend services.(And Sisterhood always hosts a fabulous Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg for those able to attend.) Thank you, Sisterhood, for all that you do!



L - R: Donna Weisblatt, Hilda Gallant, Aileen Teren-Foster, Susan Meyers, Nancy Fishman, Patty Baggese, Natalie Abmont

EMET DOR KEF PLANS

Article & photos by Rachel Neto, EDK teacher

EDK this year has many fun activities with me planned, as well as lots of study time with Rabbi. We started off with an ice cream social and painted the mural for the Sukkah.



Emeth's teens, under the inspiration of teacher Rachel Neto, create a mural—a temporary wall—for our new Sukkah.



Soon we will have dinner in the Sukkah with Rabbi as our first day of official study. We are going to have a kettle corn fundraiser to help fund our LA trip in February. Along with our Hanukkah celebration, we will be wrapping gifts for our less fortunate neighbors at the Lords Table. Then we get to go see "Jewish LA". When Purim comes long we will host another carnival and put on a fun spiel. In April we are honored to have a Holocaust speaker talk to us at Emeth's cemetery. And finally we will end the year with another fun sleepover at the temple!

Editor's Note: All members are invited to enjoy a meal in the Sukkah during the holidays. Come on by!

Congratulations to our Summer B'not Mitzvah



I love animals and can't stand to think that they may not be treated well and that's why I chose to donate to the SPCA Israel so I could make a difference in the lives of animals in need in Israel.

Ashtyn Abmont

I also took special meaning in my D'var Torah and in the message to be kind to others and be thoughtful

about how we treat our bodies both inside and outside.

Talia donated a portion of her gifts to Hadassah's Youth Aliyah project because "because I believe that it is very important for the youth that have once lived in poverty to connect with their heritage and learn and to grow up in healthy and supportive environments so they can become stable adults."



Talia Jordan

In her lessons from her Torah study, Talia spoke about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's philosophy of radical amazement. She taught, "If there is ever a time where the feeling of disappointment, or unhappiness, or the feeling that what you have is not good enough, think to yourself about what amazing things you already have."



Aliya Glatt

I would like to express a big thank you to all of the congregation Emeth members who were there to support me at my Bat Mitzvah! Your presence meant so much to me.

I donated 10 percent of my gift money to the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, because I am passionate about nature and I want to make sure that the ancient environment of Israel is protected.

I have gained much knowledge from this experience, and by studying with the Rabbi, who is also my grandmother, I feel a greater connection to Judaism than ever before. It was so special to be with all my family and friends on this day as I became a Bat Mitzvah, a daughter of the Commandment.

Welcome New Members!

Marilyn Freund, Membership Chair

FISHMAN / WILNER FAMILY

Nancy Fishman and Ronnie Wilner have been commuting back and forth across the country over the past few months as they complete their move from Michigan to Morgan Hill.

They moved here to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. Although they are



brand new to Emeth, other members may recall first meeting them when they volunteered this summer for Emeth's photography booth at the Garlic festival. Nancy and Ronnie are interested in becoming involved with Social Action, Sisterhood, and fundraising.

Pam Umann



Pam Umann is a hospice social worker living in Gilroy. She has three adult children. Pam is looking forward to connecting with her local Jewish community and is particularly interested in Emeth's

Adult Education and also in supporting Emeth's interfaith activities in the community.



LEMOFF FAMILY

The Lemoff family moved from Morgantown, WV to Morgan Hill this past summer. Sony and Brian both have PhD's in physics; Brian is working as an engineer for a startup in San Jose and Sony has just started looking for a job. Sons Jacob (15) and Nicholas (12) attend Sobrato High School and Murphy Middle School. Nicholas is preparing for his Bar Mitzvah in June. Everyone in the family enjoys learning new things and eating good food. Nick likes to play baseball and Jacob likes basketball. The family is looking forward to becoming actively involved with Emeth.

Membership Events

Marilyn Freund, Membership Chair

This is a busy time for membership activities! I appreciate everyone's support as we make special efforts to reach out to new and prospective members in preparation for the start of another school year and for the High Holidays.

New & Prospective Member Open House Shabbat - Congregation Emeth hosted an Open House Shabbat on Friday, September 9. We welcomed three new families with Shabbat Shalom baskets. Following the service, everyone was invited to our social hall for an ice-cream oneg. Special thanks to Aileen Teren-Foster, Dale Foster, Pi and Cathy Silverstein, and Dawn Chaffin for their assistance.



Marilyn volunteering at the Taste of Morgan Hill

Taste of Morgan Hill - Congregation Emeth regularly staffs a booth at the Taste of Morgan Hill, the last weekend in September. This is our chance to let members of our community know there is a local synagogue. We answered questions, distributed brochures, and (with the holidays so late this year) invited booth visitors to holiday services. Thank you to everyone who braved the heat to help out—Barry Freund, Denise Weyl, Debbie Zajac, Dawn Chaffin, Georgi Braun-Rudin, Susan Braun, Aileen Teren-Foster, Dale Foster, Kathy and Rick Coencas, and Bryson Lee.

"The Joshua Project" Growing Our Volunteer & Leadership Base

Becky Neto, President

Last year the Board of Directors implemented a new policy, setting an expectation that members volunteer a minimum of 18 hours per year. This valuable time will help Emeth maintain and expand our current level of programming. And, as those who volunteer regularly can attest, one of the benefits of volunteering is you will get more than you give.

Expanding on this increased volunteer expectation, the board is initiating a new program we call "The Joshua Project."

To refresh your memory, Joshua was the second person to lead the Jewish people in our early history. He took over from Moses, leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. From the beginning Joshua was quite a different leader than Moses. Moses acted as an intermediary between God and the Jews and was primarily an authoritarian leader. While wandering in the desert, needs were mainly met by God's miracles, and Moses' leadership style was appropriate. Joshua on the other hand was a capable military commander as well as a religious leader. Under his subsequent leadership, all of Canaan was captured. Joshua was the perfect leader for his time—once the destiny of the Jews was in their own hands. Joshua represents the continuation of leadership but also change.

It is important for new leaders to rotate in, bringing fresh and new ideas and their own particular skill set allowing for growth, improvement and change.

The Joshua Project is meant to identify, encourage and assist members to fulfill the many needed roles here at Emeth. One of the main things I wanted to see happen during my time as president was an increase in participation. A core value that needs to be re-instilled is the sense of obligation to Emeth, our religious and spiritual home. We need all our members to make Emeth a priority in your life, to step up, and take charge.

At a recent Board meeting Rabbi Israel presented a short video she had found online entitled "Somebody Else." As the video played I couldn't help but notice the reaction around the table, there were laughs and nods

of agreement. It was as though someone had secretly taped one our own board meetings. The video showed a temple board meeting in session. An excellent and worthwhile idea



Becky Neto

was brought forward, one the Board really wanted to see implemented. However, the only way for this to happen was for Someone to step forward and handle it, as each board member was overwhelmed with what they were already doing. The Board unanimously agreed and said "Let Someone Else handle it." Cut to this wonderful "Someone Else" individual stepping up and taking over, accomplishing all the stuff no one else wants or has time to do. We see "Someone Else" helping with administrative duties, working on a fundraiser, hosting Shabbat, helping the school, running a committee... you get the picture.

It was uncanny how familiar this video was. I realized, for a video like this to be made, many temples must be facing this same obstacle. My next thought: "It shouldn't be this way, especially not here at Emeth!" Emeth has always shattered statistics and exceeded expectations. For a congregation of our size to have both a Rabbi and a building and to offer our many programs is amazing. We have a unique approach to youth education, with a thriving school and professional teachers. Most of our teens join our youth group, remaining involved post b'nai mitzvah. Adult education and social action programs are offered as well, and we are a community leader in interfaith programming. Because of all this I am confident Emeth can break this "Someone Else" mentality.

There are many areas where your 18 hours can be well spent. There is so much to do to keep Emeth running, I'm sure there is a task perfect for your individual skills. (Review our volunteer form, http://www.emeth.net/images/PDFs/forms/volunteer_form.pdf on our website and/or email volunteer@emeth.net with your interests.)

Emeth needs "You" as "Someone Else" is burnt out and has left the building. https://player.vimeo.com/video/177462266

18 Ways to Support Emeth

How do you support Emeth? Financially? Through your leadership? As a volunteer?

Do you subscribe to Amazon Smile and eScrip? (Both programs provide income to Emeth at no cost to you.)

Following are just a few suggestions; for a comprehensive list, go to http://www.emeth.net/support-emeth.

Mitzvah Makers

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

- ▼ Temple cleanup day Dale Foster, John Jenkins, Shem-Tov family, Rick and Kathy Coencas, MariaElena Jarson and kids, Elizabeth Mandel, Susan Meyers, Michael Oshan, Becky Neto
- ▼ Sukkah construction Grant Gordon, Michael Oshan, Dale Foster, Jack Shorr, Eric and Kelly Coleman, Arthur Rudin, Georgi Braun-Rudin, Susan Braun, Andre and Becky Neto, Gordon Siebert
- ♥ Bimah project Mel Weisblatt, Susan Meyers. Dale Foster (light bulbs), Arthur Rudin (sound system)
- ♥ Painting social hall ceiling and walls **Andre Neto**
- ♥ Painting side and back of building **Andre Neto**
- ♥ Pressure washing the building **Andre Neto**
- ♥ Liason with church tenant Grant Gordon
- ♥ Classroom prep Dale Foster and Michael Oshan
- Organizing classroom supplies Susan Meyers,
 Becky Neto, and Quinn Neto
- ▼ Extra bookkeeping work to handle the start of the new year **Barry Freund**
- **♥** Volunteering at the Taste of MH (see p9)
- ♥ Helping with the New Member Shabbat (see p9)
- Hosting at the Progressive Dinner (see p7)

Be a Mitzvah Maker: Volunteer!

A complete list of volunteer opportunities is available at http://www.emeth.net/support-emeth/volunteer .

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

This is super easy and a very powerful fundraiser... all at no cost to you. Designate Congregation Emeth as your charity of choice (go to "your account" to designate a charity of choice), bookmark smile.amazon.com and ensure your Amazon shopping starts here. We will receive a portion of the proceeds from each of your purchases!

"Garden of Tranquility" Commemorative Plaques

Our newest fundraiser celebrates the 10th anniversary of Rabbi Israel with plaques in our new garden of tranquility.

גַן הַשַּׁלְנָה

Congregation Emeth is pleased to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our beloved rabbi, Debbie Israel at the dedication of our new (permanent) sukkah on Friday, October 14.

Your gift of \$180 or more will be recognized with a plaque on a commemorative brick, which you may dedicate in the Rabbi's honor or memory of any loved one, in our new "garden of tranquility" located adjacent to the sukkah.

Please complete and return the form below to reserve your brick.

Reservations made by Tuesday, October 4

will be ready in time for the celebration!

Garden of Tranquility Brick Reservation Form

Name_	
Addres	<u> </u>
Ciy/Sta	nte/Zip
Phone_	
Text:	Up to 20 characters per line on up to 3 lines on 2" x 6" plaque.
	Larger font available on first line up to 12 characters.
Line	1
Line	2
Line	3

Make your check for \$180.00 or more payable to Congregation Emeth and indicate that it is for a brick donation. Mail to:

Brick Reservation Congregation Emeth 17835 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037



Creating extraordinary results from everyday purchases.



eScrip is a fundraiser that won't cost you a penny! Go to www.escrip.com to sign up. Specify Congregation Emeth, Group ID 141252633 as your recipient.

Note that Safeway is no longer a participant; in order to benefit Emeth, you must sign up your charge cards. Whenever you use your charge card at a participating business, Emeth receives a portion of the proceeds.



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



18 Ways to Support Emeth (continued)

... A few more suggestions; for a comprehensive list, go to http://www.emeth.net/support-emeth.

Dedicate a HHD Machzor



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 Congregat 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 pas

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 Address/City/State/Zip __

Make a Donation for a **Special Occasion**

Donation to Congregation Emeth

Donations to synagogue programs can be a meaningful way to congratulate friends on happy occasions or show you care in time of sorrow. When you make a gift for some special purpose such as honoring a happy occasion, offering appreciation or good wishee, or remembering a deceased friend or relative, a card is sent to the recipient family and your gift will be acknowledged in our monthly flyers.

When you donate, you may designate that your gift go to the synagogue's general fund or to one of the other existing named funds or programs listed below. Please select where you would like your contribution credited:

Rachamim Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Religious School
Ritual Fund
Sisterhood
Social Action
Torah Fund
Youth Group (Emet Dor Kef)
Allen Wisotsky Education Schoo ☐ Adult Education

Name of contributor Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email	
This contribution is made: ☐ in honor of the occasion of		

in memory of

Dedicate a Yahrzeit Plaque

Remember your loved one in perpetuity Dedicate a plaque on the Congregation Emeth Memorial Board on the wall of our sanctuary



The price of each plaque is \$360

When inscribing a name you may either inscribe an English name, a Hebrew name or both. If you need help with the Hebrew spelling, please contact Rabbi Debbie Israel.

The inscription will also include both the Hebrew date of the Yahrzeit and the Gregorian date. The Rabbi can help with this as well.

Each memorial plaque will be lit for the entire Hebrew month in commemoration of the Yahrzeit Order Form

Please use one form for each memorial plaque				
Name of Deceased (English)				
(Hebrew male)	Ben			
(Hebrew female)	Bat			
If you know the Hebrew names of both pa	rents of the deceased please show them			
Date of Death (Gregorian)				
(Hebrew)				
Remembered by				
Please enclose a check for \$360 for ea				

Congregation Emeth Memorial Board 17835 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037