

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

## CHANUKAH FESTIVITIES THROUGHOUT MORGAN HILL!

### Holiday Lights Parade

For the first time, Emeth celebrated Chanukah with the Morgan Hill community as part of the annual Holiday Lights Parade festivities. Following the parade, we lit our Chanukiah downtown. We intend to make this an annual event; the city supports us and spectators enjoyed seeing the candle lighting. We would also like to maintain a visible presence, with a lit Chanukiah in a public outdoor space, for the duration of Chanukah. However, we do not have a large, outdoor Chanukiah. Please let the board know if you know of anyone who might be interested in designing a Chanukiah for this purpose.



### Chanukah Featured at BookSmart

Thanks to **Marilyn Freund, MariaElena Jarson, Emily Shem-Tov, Dawn Chaffin, and Susan Braun** for a fun afternoon of card designing, cookie decorating, dreidel spinning, story telling, music, and more.



### Emeth's Annual Chanukah Party

Each family's lighting of their own Chanukiah is always special ...





## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

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

### 2015-2016 Board

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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](http://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](mailto:communication@emeth.net).

**Congregation Emeth**  
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(408) 778-8200

## CHALLAH BRAIDING AT BEIT SEFER

*Photos by Joelle Wolf & MariaElena Jarson*



Thank you to the **B'nei Mitzvah students** for supporting the Chai School students; **adult helpers:** Maria Walters, Susan Latin, and Marilyn Freund; and **Beit Sefer teachers:** Hana Cedon, Kelsey Valentine, MariaElena Jarson, and Joelle Wolf.

## CELEBRATE EMETH'S FIRST 40 YEARS!

*Friday, March 4, 7:15 PM*

### *Shabbat Services*

A family service celebrating  
Congregation Emeth's 40th Anniversary

Celebrating our past, present and future  
Honoring our Past Presidents, our youth, and  
Our Religious School families

Celebratory Oneg, hosted by Emeth's Board of Directors

*Saturday, March 5, 6:00 PM*  
*Dinner and Dancing to Live Music*

Cocktail attire / Live band / Photos / Choice of entrée  
Details at [www.emeth.net/community/40th](http://www.emeth.net/community/40th)

**RSVP by February 22**

Contact committee chair Aileen Teren-Foster with questions



*This beautiful commemorative art work is also for sale*

## February 2016

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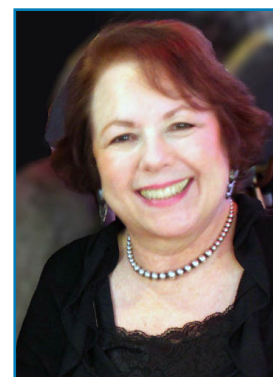
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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*Marilyn Freund, Membership Chair*



Our many outreach events have continued to increase Emeth's visibility in the South Valley. For example, we had a booth at the Taste of Morgan Hill, we collaborated with BookSmart to bring Chanukah activities to the Morgan Hill community, and, for the first time, residents of Morgan Hill enjoyed our chanukiah lighting after the holiday parade.



*All: please invite prospective members  
to Emeth events and services, and tell  
me about anyone whom you would  
like me to contact!*

Thank you Taste of Morgan Hill volunteers Joe Abmont, Susan Braun, Barry Freund, Elizabeth Mandel, Ginette & Michael Nehampkin, Arthur Rudin, Michael Nehampkin, Robin, Nathan & Ryan Yacono, and Debbie Zajac. Also, shown here, Aileen Teren-Foster and Marilyn Freund



# MEMBER NEWS



## Arrow of Light Award

Mazel tov to **Ryan Yacono**, son of **Robin and Tom Yacono**, who is being awarded the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light Award. He will also receive a "Super Achiever Award," as a Cub Scout who earned all of the 20 possible activity pins. And Ryan's super achievement does not end there: he raised \$5,100 for the Boy Scouts in door-to-door popcorn sales. This was the most in his pack and the fifth most in the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

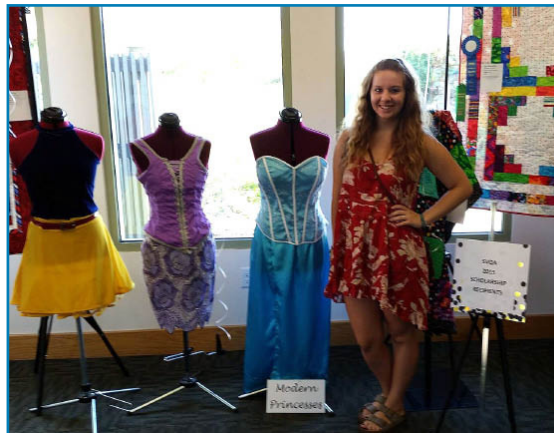
## Sarah Langerman Inducted into IDF



Best wishes to **Sarah Langerman**, daughter of **Robert Langerman**. Sarah has completed her basic training with the Israel Defence Forces, is now taking intensive Hebrew instruction, and will receive her placement in March.

## "Modern Princesses" at Taste of Morgan Hill

After creating a "Modern Disney Princesses" design line for her fashion class at Live Oak last year, **Rachel Summer Neto**, daughter of **Becky and Andre Neto** received a scholarship from the South Valley Quilters Association and was invited to display her creations at the Taste of Morgan Hill.



## THE POWER OF WORDS

Mazel tov to EDK member **Georgia Braun Rudin**, daughter of **Susan Braun and Arthur Rudin**, for her outstanding activities in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Georgia serves as her chapter's Mazkirah (corresponding secretary). Recently she led Havdallah services for almost 200 teens at the organization's Regional Kallah, a retreat dedicated to Judaism and educating teens about their religion. Georgia and other teens on the committee put together a meaningful Havdallah for the region. She also was inspired through her participation in the social action track of the retreat. Georgia observed:



*We discussed gun control, sex trafficking, and our thoughts about the tension between Israel and Islam. You might wonder how a bunch of teens could discuss such complex subjects. I was amazed at our ability to hold a respectful and educational conversation. We might be teens, but we are taught that the power of our voices will never go unheard by those who listen. We use words to help others. We use words to make a difference. During this convention, we used our words to fix the world one word at a time.*

*I will never forget my experience of these conversations and discussions. I saw passion and care within each teen that contributed. Most importantly, I saw the drive in all of us to make a difference in our world. We might not have been able to physically take action on these topics, but we were able to set a foundation for the future.*

## HONORING HANA CIDON

Yavneh Day School's loss has been our gain: Our wonderful member **Hana Cidon** was a Kindergarten teacher at Yavneh Day School for 18 years. She has provided a solid foundation on which her students have blossomed. Now that she is retiring, she has volunteered to teach in our Emeth Beit Sefer Religious School!



To celebrate Hana's contributions, Yavneh is holding a celebration: "A Night at the Shuk" on Sunday, February 28, 4-7 pm in the APJCC Auditorium in the Levy Family Campus, Los Gatos.

The evening will feature a vegetarian Israeli dinner, dancing, and live music from Lior Ben-Hur (who taught and sang with us at last year's Shabbat in the Redwoods) and Sol Tevel. Tickets are \$72/pp and \$18 for Yavneh alumni. For more information, or to purchase tickets and tributes, visit [www.yavnehdayschool.org](http://www.yavnehdayschool.org).

## EMETH READS

Emeth's book group meets quarterly to discuss books with Jewish themes. For January's meeting we read the wonderful memoir *Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home*. We were fortunate to be joined for the discussion, through Skipe, by the author, Leah Lax. What a memorable evening!



Everyone is invited to our next book club meeting in May, when we will be discussing *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Camon and Shana Knizhnik. Contact Adult Education chair Wendy Thowdis at [adulted@emeth.net](mailto:adulted@emeth.net) for additional information.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are a small congregation blessed with both a Rabbi and a building. We rely on volunteers to cover many of the responsibilities typically held by a facilities manager and /or building administration. In particular, can you help in one of the following areas:?

**WE WANT YOU!** (If you have any availability and interest, please contact Becky at [president@emeth.net](mailto:president@emeth.net).)

- 1) as a **volunteer administrator** for a few hours per week for office/clerical/miscellaneous work. Preferred times are Wednesday and/or Friday afternoons. Consistent hours would be very desirable.
- 2) as **kitchen manager**, overseeing expectations for our commercial kitchen use, including setting and maintaining procedures and standards for the many Emeth volunteers who help in the kitchen.

## MITZVAH MAKERS

*We are grateful to, and would like to acknowledge, those members who stepped up to take on these special projects::*

- ♥ **Putting up the sukkah** - Arthur Rudin, Andre, Becky & Quinn Neto, Shachar Shem-Tov, Michael Oshan, Nathan Yacono, Eleni & John Kululaki
- ♥ **Taking down the sukkah** - Arthur Rudin, Becky & Quinn Neto, Jay Latin
- ♥ **Taste of Morgan Hill booth** - volunteers listed in the membership article (p3)
- ♥ **Coordinating Emeth's dreidel board on behalf of JFS** - Susan Braun
- ♥ **BookSmart Chanukah Celebration** - volunteers listed in the Chanukah article
- ♥ **Coordinating Christmas at the Lord's Table** - Curt Palm and Nancy Altman
- ♥ **Preparing and sending year end tax statements** - Barry Freund
- ♥ **Cleaning the parking lot drains and pipes - A very dirty job!** - Grant Gordon and Arthur Rudin
- ♥ **Restriping the parking lot and yellow painting the curb** - Andre Neto
- ♥ **EDK Trip to San Francisco** - Rabbi Israel for taking the teens, Daria Ogden for helping with the coordination, and Barry & Marilyn Freund for hosting two of the out-of-town teens
- ♥ **Researching, purchasing, and coordinating installation of new video surveillance cameras** - Arthur Rudin
- ♥ **Providing Hebrew instruction with enthusiasm and spirit** - Joelle Wolf
- ♥ **Planning Emeth's 40th Anniversary event** - Aileen Teren-Foster (chair), Marilyn Freund, Susan Braun, Susan Meyers, Maureen Chassey, Kelly Coleman & Dale Foster

# INTERFAITH COMMUNITY STANDING TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP

The refugee crisis from the Syrian civil war is resulting in untold numbers of suffering and displaced people. In response to fearful reactions to this crisis, Rabbi Israel brought together clerical leaders from local churches to discuss their concerns regarding fears, prejudice and racial or religious intolerance. Their discussion led to:

1. The following letter, published in local newspapers and signed by Gilroy and Morgan Hill clerical leaders.



Dear Friends,

Times of crisis, distress, and violence too often expose our deeply held fears. People of faith share much in common: a desire for a peaceful world, respect for one another, and a commitment to strive collaboratively to advance social justice and the common good. Current attempts to isolate and demonize our Muslim sisters and brothers violate the foundation of our shared beliefs.

As an interfaith community, we must name and address the fears held by many Americans which place an undue threat and burden on our Muslim neighbors. Any words of bigotry, prejudice, narrow-mindedness, and racial or religious intolerance bring shame to us and our community. We must renew our commitment to seek more effective ways to protect and defend one another from words and actions that assault the safety, well-being, and dignity of groups and individuals.

The global refugee crisis and the acts of terror committed in this country and around the world demand our collective efforts and common prayers. Therefore, we will seek to stand shoulder to shoulder as agents of peace, justice, welcome, and reconciliation. In our effort to denounce that which divides us, we plead for the spread of love and friendship among all our people.

*Imam Ilyas Anwar, South Valley Islamic Community*

*Rev. Dawn Boyd, Gilroy United Methodist Church*

*Rev. Robert S. Brocato, St. Mary Catholic Church, Gilroy*

*Jan Bernstein Chargin, South Valley Unitarian Fellowship*

*Rev. Patrick E. Davis, Morgan Hill United Methodist Church*

*Msgr. Jerónimo Gutierrez, St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, Morgan Hill*

*Rabbi Debbie Israel, Congregation Emeth, South Valley Jewish Community*

*Rev. Ronald E. Koch, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Gilroy*

*Bishop Soren Koldewyn, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Morgan Hill*

*Father José Antonio Rubio, St. Mary Catholic Church, Gilroy*

*Rev. Dennis Tarr, Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church*

*Rev. Lee Tyler, Advent Lutheran Church, Morgan Hill*

*Rev. Anita R. Warner, Advent Lutheran Church, Morgan Hill*

*Pandit Ganesh Shasthry, Silicon Valley Hindu Temple San Jose/San Martin*



# STANDING TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP (CONTINUED)

2. A commitment to continue strengthening the bonds of the interfaith community, starting with an interfaith service, led by local clergy, on Martin Luther King Day, a day devoted to reflecting on social justice and peace. Close to 250 people attended the service, held at Advent Lutheran Church and led by clergy from each of the local religious organizations. Praying, singing and dancing together participants enjoyed an evening filled with hope for a future filled with peace and an appreciation for our differences.



The service concluded with clergy linking arms and joining in singing “We Shall Overcome”

- 3 Agreement by the local clergy for continued collaboration, such as in the leading of future interfaith services.
4. Formation of a lay interfaith planning committee. Emeth has taken the lead in inviting interested people to participate in organizing future interfaith events and community service activities. After the MLK service, 25 people signed up to attend the first meeting on February 4 at Congregation Emeth. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Susan Meyers at [pastpresident@emeth.net](mailto:pastpresident@emeth.net).



Rabbi Israel, Hamdy Abbass (South Valley Islamic Center), Imam Ilyas Anwar, Jerry Dubin

## NEW VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

*Arthur Rudin, Technology Guru*

Our congregation has been using a video camera system for a number of years, monitoring both outdoor and indoor areas of our facility. The board feels it is important to utilize this technology, given the constant turmoil in our world. Because we are continually made aware of improvements in both camera and software technology (resulting in sharper images and easier to operate applications), I recently researched new systems and purchased a replacement. Thank you to **Dale Foster** and **Michael Oshan** for their installation assistance.

Emeth's new video surveillance system was easy to set up and provides great images in high definition, day and night. In addition, we can view images remotely, meaning that, at random times, we can check our facility for safety and security.



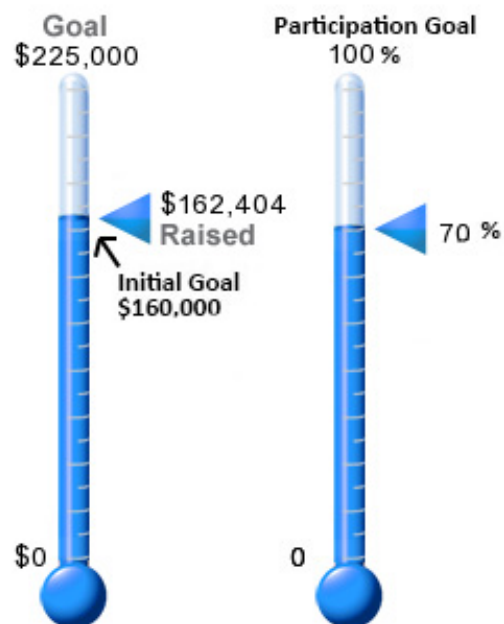
The above display shows the different images that are captured in a remote snapshot of our facility

It was a great pleasure working with our team to perform the installation and more fun for me to set this up for our congregation. Each time I contribute, whether it be financial or sweat equity, I feel closer to our congregation and community.

## BONIM B'YACHAD: BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

*Susan Meyers, Capital Campaign Chair*

Thanks to 70% of our Emeth members we on our way to reaching our goal of 100% participation in our first ever Capital Campaign and have already reached our initial monetary goal of \$160,000! If you have not made a commitment yet, please contact Susan Meyers at [pastpresident@emeth.net](mailto:pastpresident@emeth.net) or Grant Gordon at [fundraising@emeth.net](mailto:fundraising@emeth.net) now. We hope to reach 100% participation by March 4 when we celebrate Congregation Emeth's 40th anniversary.



Committees are forming to begin the planning for our new bimah, playground, covered patio and solar roof. This is the time for everyone to communicate your thoughts and ideas. What do you think the new bimah should look like? What is your vision for the playground and covered patio? We encourage you to contact any board member; join us in planning the details of our future together.



## START PLANNING FOR EMETH'S RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER!

Instead of a wine tasting event this year, we will be holding a giant rummage sale. Please start putting aside items for the sale, which is tentatively planned for April. Look for details soon!



# EDK TOUR OF JEWISH SAN FRANCISCO

*Report by Meghan Lee, EDK member - Photos by Rachel Neto, trip chaperone*

Every year or two, Emeth's youth group, Emet Dor Kef, takes a special trip to a city outside the Morgan Hill-San Jose area. This year we toured Jewish San Francisco. (Jews played a role in the founding of many of the Bay Area's most iconic businesses.) San Francisco is one of my favorite cities, so I was excited about going. Students from Congregation Emanuel, Redlands, and their Rabbi Jay Sherwood, joined us.



**Alcatraz**

On Friday night, before our trip, the teens led services and watched a PBS special on the Jews in San Francisco. A few of our members hosted the out-of-town teens joining us for the trip. The next morning, after a Shabbat service, we hit the road. We toured Alcatraz and discussed Jewish laws about punishment for crimes. Next we had dinner at Camp Newman, the URJ Jewish camp in Santa Rosa, where we also attended a Dan Nichols concert. Although some of us were unfamiliar with his music, we agreed it was good.



**Camp Newman**

The next day we boarded the "Mitzvah Cable Car," a mock cable car that drove us around the city and provided us a Jewish context for much of what we saw. Its final stop was the Jewish Contemporary Museum, where we toured a technology exhibit and had time to make our own art using technology. We finished the day with a look around Pier 39, a kosher Chinese vegetarian dinner, and an optional swim in the hotel pool.



**Jewish Contemporary Museum**

Our trip ended Monday, after a boat ride on Elkhorn Slough and a discussion of Jewish teachings on ecology. We bade farewell to the out-of-town teens and drove back to temple.



**Elkhorn Slough**

The trip was fun and refreshing after a week in school. My favorite part was the second day at the Jewish Contemporary Museum.



# CHAI SCHOOL: JEWISH WORKSHOP GUEST SPEAKERS

*MariaElena Jarson, Head Teacher*

Chai School, the K-5th grade class of our Religious School, this year features a program I call "Jewish Workshop." The format, a focused mini-lesson followed by independent work time (where the students practice the specific topic individually or in a small group), and closing with a whole-group reflection on what they've learned and/or how they applied their learning, is based upon educational research and helps the students incorporate our Jewish studies into their own lives.

Jewish Workshop gives the students a choice of learning activities for each topic and allows teachers **Hana Cidon, Kelsey Valentine** and me to work with small groups on specific topics of interest. We are able to meet the needs of each student and age group while challenging and supporting students as individuals within the larger group setting.



**Susan Meyers taught about Braille and teaching the blind**



**Dale Foster taught about being a firefighter and a hero/mensch**



**Arthur Rudin taught about solar energy, solar panels, and bringing electricity to rural India**



**Marilyn Freund read with students**

The beauty of our curriculum, teaching students how to create their own Jewish lives, is that all of our children are 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 K-5 Chai School classroom provides. Each student has the opportunity to learn and engage at their own pace and in their own preferred fashion. And, each student has the



**Rena Dubin taught Israeli dancing**

opportunity to make friends across grade levels, effectively turning Chai School into one large, close-knit community.

We've begun a **guest speaker series** this year to help inspire the students as they consider how they will live Jewishly now, and as adults. We've really enjoyed the diversity these speakers bring into our classroom, and look forward to learning from additional adult congregants in the future.

**Editor's Note:** Please consider sharing your special skill or interest as a guest speaker at Chai School. Contact MariaElena at [chaischool@emeth.net](mailto:chaischool@emeth.net). Thank you for your support of our students.



# TIKKUN OLAM

## SOCIAL ACTION & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Congregation Emeth is committed to many regular social action and social justice projects. These include:

- feeding those in need
- collecting for mazon during HHD
- holding food and clothing drives
- participating in the Jewish Family Services' "Embrace-A-Family" dreidel board
- implementing community service projects
- building bridges of friendship and communication with other faith-based organizations.



We have volunteers in the above areas; however, ***we need a volunteer who will coordinate Tikkun Olam activities and represent Tikkun Olam as a member of Emeth's Board.*** Contact Becky at [president@emeth.net](mailto:president@emeth.net) for more specifics.

### THANK YOU TO GEOFF AND SANDRA JACKSON

We at Congregation Emeth would like to express our appreciation to Geoff and Sandra for their many years of commitment to Emeth and for serving as role models for social justice and social action.



*Geoff at the Lord's Table*

Geoff was a longtime member of Emeth's board, as Social Action (now Tikkun Olam) Chair. Sandra initiated Emeth's monthly service at the Lord's Table at St. Joseph's Parrish in Gilroy (where she and Geoff still lead this work). Geoff and Sandra also volunteered at, and eventually became coordinators of, the Lord's Table Christmas dinner. Geoff chaired Emeth's "Walk for Tolerance" in 2012 and has organized local political debates. Their *tikkun olam* extends to regular visits to Emeth's members in care facilities, and they have volunteered at the Garlic Festival every year since joining Emeth.

And Geoff has had a broader social justice role in the Jewish community, as a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Silicon Valley. One of his responsibilities as part of the council has been to advocate for affordable housing programs in Santa Clara County.

*Thank you Geoff and Sandra for your service to the congregation and your work to better our community.*

### CHRISTMAS AT THE LORD'S TABLE

*Curt Palm, Coordinator*

More than two dozen people volunteered at the Lord's Table on December 25, preparing and serving a hot Christmas dinner for those in need. 16 turkeys were roasted the day before by volunteers at home. On the 25th, we prepared a complete turkey dinner, set up the dining area, served 170+ people, sorted and distributed lots of clothes, wrapped many, many toys that Santa distributed at the event, and cleaned up the cafeteria and kitchen afterwards. Thank you, volunteers, and special thanks to **Geoff and Sandra Jackson** for coordinating this in the past and handing off a well-organized event.



*Wrapping toys*



*Cheryl & Mark Thompson cooking dinner*

### GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO DREIDEL BOARD



Each year we ask Emeth's families to support Jewish Family Services-Silicon Valley, fulfilling requests from Jewish families in need. This year JFS-SV staff was once again delighted by Emeth's generosity, with our members filling over 30 requests.



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



## CONGREGATION EMETH'S SECOND TRIP TO ISRAEL!

We have an exciting trip planned for October 26 - November 7, 2016! Even people who have travelled to Israel before will find many new things to do. Go to <http://emeth.net/images/PDFs/documents/IsraelTrip.pdf> for a complete itinerary.

An informational meeting will be held later in the spring; RSVP to Rabbi Israel, [rabbi@emeth.net](mailto:rabbi@emeth.net). This trip is open to Emeth members, friends and family, near and far (Jews and non-Jews)!



*Congregation Emeth's first trip to Israel*

## SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY SEDER SATURDAY, APRIL 23



We will be having a catered Moroccan Seder on the second night of Passover. Details coming soon!

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

*Patty Baggese & Marilyn Freund, Co-Presidents*

- In December, 20 women gathered for a festive, delicious **Chanukah dinner and fundraiser**.
- In January, Sisterhood and Adult Education created a social evening to view the riveting **Holocaust movie Defiance**. It was followed by discussion, havdallah, and refreshments.
- The Sisterhood **Gift Shop** has new items ... call Patty or email [sisterhood@emeth.net](mailto:sisterhood@emeth.net) if you need anything in February.
- A date for the **Women's Seder** will be set soon.
- Our **Mahjong Tournament** fundraiser will be May 11. Save the date!