

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

ETZ HAYIM (TREE OF LIFE) AWARD HONORING MEL WEISBLATT AND GRANT GORDON

Becky Neto, President

The Tree of Life Award is designed to recognize individuals in Congregation Emeth who have contributed their time, energy and expertise over time and across venues, positions and activities. These are the people who can be counted on to lend a hand with a positive attitude; to assume leadership roles; the people who make Congregation Emeth a priority in their lives and thereby strengthen the well-being of the Congregation. Now in its fourth year, Congregation Emeth's "Etz Hayim" (Tree of Life) Award is bestowed upon Mel Weisblatt and Grant Gordon.



Mel Weisblatt

Mel Weisblatt has been a member of Emeth for over 30 years. Mel's experience as both a Temple Administrator and Real Estate Broker has assisted him in the many different roles he has assumed over these years, assisting our Jewish community in building the organization we currently have. He has served on the Board of

Directors as Treasurer as well as Chair of the Ritual Committee for over a decade. He has always been generous with his detailed knowledge of how a temple should operate. Under his leadership the Ritual Committee acquired new Siddurim (prayerbooks) and he has stepped in to lead services when needed. Mel has been in charge of lighting the Yartzheit (Memorial) Board since we moved into our building, keeps the on-going records of Yartzheit dates, and reminds our members when the anniversary of dates of death occur. Mel co-sponsored the "Scattered Among the Nations" program. More recently Mel has been a part of the Capital Campaign Committee, where once again his experience and advise was critical to the success of the campaign. Having lobbied for an improved prayer space for years, Mel is also a part of the bimah project. He has been instrumental in the design and creation of what will be our new bimah. Mel has always unstintingly shared his time and expertise to improve the Emeth community for us all.



Grant Gordon

Grant Gordon has been a member of Emeth for over 15 years. From the moment Grant joined the Emeth family he made us a priority by serving on the Board of Directors. Throughout those years Grant has served on the Board of Directors as President and as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. While President,

Grant successfully lead the congregation through tough financial times. He encouraged total transparency of our financial situation to the entire congregation and, under his budget supervision, Emeth remained solvent. Grant was extremely involved in the retrofitting of our building when it was first purchased in 2008. He has been chairperson or highly involved in every fundraiser over the last dozen years, and he has found every renter that we have had, resulting in approximately \$140,000 in rental income for Emeth to date! Grant negotiated for Emeth to be in charge of Gan Emet (Emeth Gardens), on the grounds of Gavilan Hills Memorial Park in Gilroy, and currently oversees this project. He also remains involved in our improvement projects; for example, he recently stayed with the cement people the entire time they were leveling around our drains. Grant is an exceptional leader and a model of what it means to "Give of oneself"; Emeth is truly grateful for all he does.

Congregation Emeth

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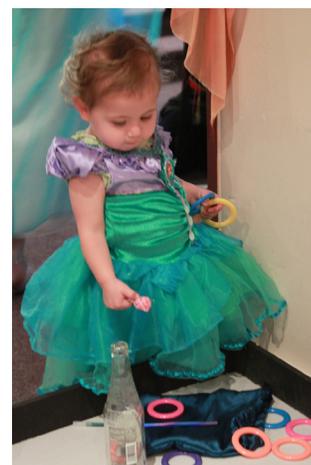
To submit articles and/or event photos, please email them to Communication Director / Kol Emeth Editor, Elizabeth Mandel, at communication@emeth.net.

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PURIM CARNIVAL!

Photos by Elizabeth Mandel

Aren't we lucky to have such a fabulous group of EDK teens and their parents put on this amazing event each year, under the creative leadership of Becky Neto? Thank you to everyone who made it so much fun! For next year the board is discussing finding ways to broaden the appeal of our event to include more families without school-age children.



REFLECTIONS ON TWO YEARS OF STUDYING

MUSSAR WITH RABBI ISRAEL

*Susan Braun, Marilyn Freund, MariaElena Jarson,
Elizabeth Mandel, Susan Meyers, Robin Yacono*

Mussar can be defined as “*a treasure house of practical wisdom and guidance for inner living that has been built up in the Jewish world for the past millennium.*”

“Our mussar sessions have been most inspirational and revealing. For example, the impact of ‘lashon harah’ (gossip) on others as well as on myself has been most telling. I realize that what I say and how I say it reflects who I am.”

“Mussar taught me to delve into patterns, using a Jewish lens, and make changes that improved every aspect of my life.”

“I am so thankful for our Mussar group for teaching me the power and beauty of building connections and using Jewish study to make my own life a better place.”

“The study of mussar, by internalizing *Everyday Holiness* by Alan Morinis, reinvigorated me into taking action and making a difference as I studied each middah (value), utilizing them daily.”

“The study of Mussar taught me a process that enriches my life through a conscious effort to be fully engaged in the practice of living in the moment and bringing the “middot” soul traits into my daily interactions, thoughts and deeds. I am deeply grateful for Rabbi Israel’s leadership and guidance and the support of my Mussar Sisters.”

June 2016

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GARLIC FESTIVAL, JULY 29-31!

Arthur Rudin, Event Chair



Save the date to help at Congregation Emeth’s photo booth at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Our commemorative Garlic Festival photos are a unique product and are featured on the official Garlic Festival website as a key part of the event.

Last year we revised our booth’s work and customer flow and added several new “green screen” backgrounds. Our booth was very popular and we sold out our inventory of printed photos. People loved our selection of products (and had a blast getting into their garlic accessories), the weather was great, and the flow of customers was steady.

This year we are continuing with our new booth layout, but reducing our photo options in order to increase the throughput of customers and ease our assembly effort. ***This is a fun but important fundraiser for Emeth*** and I encourage all of you to participate. You’ll enjoy our customers’ smiling faces as they view their photo memories. If you have never been to the festival, this is a great way to experience the event while helping our congregation. ***We will have a kickoff meeting Tuesday, June 14, 7 pm in Emeth’s Social Hall.*** I look forward to seeing you there and at the Garlic Festival.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - MOVING FORWARD!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As we begin implementation of the projects funded by Emeth's Capital Campaign, **70% of Emeth's families** have contributed, for a total of **\$162,404**. Individual contributions range from \$18 to \$50,000. If you have not yet made a contribution, our goal remains 100% participation—we want all our members to be a part of what we are achieving together. Contact Capital Campaign Chair **Susan Meyers**, pastpresident@emeth.net to discuss your support and/or to make a pledge.

DEMOLITION!

Thank you to everyone who came out May 22 to prepare for our permanent Sukkah and playground.



L-R: Andre Neto, Jason Valentine, Susan Meyers, Quinn Neto, Joel Grabscheid, Jonathan Walters, Eric Coleman, Michael Oshan. Also (the photographer) Beck Neto

Our next temple-wide work day will be June 26, 1:30 pm. There will be building projects and more.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND PLANS

Michael Oshan, chair of the Playground and Sukkah Capital Campaign projects, is moving forward with **Scott Carpenter** (construction supervisor on our initial building remodel) on the children's playground, with completion by the end of July. Plans are:



- play structure (replacing aluminum shed in that space) on special base material
- fenced, gated playground space (including play structure and extending to portable)
- removal of large outdoor storage/refrigerator unit east of the shed and addition of raised children's garden and fence (along south side of building)
- sliding gate to block off back parking lot when children are outdoors

Look for upcoming requests for volunteer help with demolition and painting.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all our members who have contributed generously to the future of our temple. Special thanks to the Capital Campaign committee: **Susan Meyers, Grant Gordon, Michael Oshan, Michael Heil, Becky Neto, Mel Weisblatt**, and **Rabbi Israel**. As we move into design and implementation, we also thank the following leaders:

- **Permanent Sukkah & Playground** - Michael Oshan
- **Bimah** - Mel Weisblatt and Susan Meyers
- **Roof/Insulation**- Grant Gordon, Arthur Rudin, Michael Heil

CHAI SCHOOL DONATION TO PLAYGROUND



Over the past year, Chai School has donated their Tzedakah—over \$130—to the Capital Campaign for Emeth's new playground. Here are the students proudly presenting their donation to **Becky Neto**, Board President.

SISTERHOOD DONATION TO PLAYGROUND INCLUDES MAH JONGG PROCEEDS

Emeth's annual mah jongg tournament drew 36 women from Carmel, Fresno, Sonora and all around Santa Clara County. Thank you to Emeth's hosts, **Susan Meyers, Patty Baggese, Marilyn Freund, Susan Braun, Maureen Chassy, Julie O'Neal, Cathy Gill, Cathy Silverstein, Cheryl Thompson, Rabbi Israel, and Aileen Teren Foster.**



The \$1,800 profit from our tournament together with funds from other Sisterhood activities enabled Sisterhood to make a generous \$3000 contribution to Emeth's Capital Campaign for the children's playground.



Rabbi Israel

TEN YEAR REFLECTIONS

Rabbi Debbie Israel

When I tell people that I've been Rabbi of Congregation Emeth for ten years, there's doubt and surprise. Because the time has flown by so quickly, I too had doubts and had to double check my facts. My first contract with Emeth was signed on June 6, 2006. That first year I was a student intern, then I served as interim Rabbi for the second and third years. In 2009, I became your official spiritual leader. But to me, the relationship began that day in April 2006, when I sat in the Weisblatt home, interviewed by Emeth's leadership. I knew then I had found my spiritual home.

Emeth has changed significantly over these past ten years. During my first three years, we held Shabbat services and Religious School at a school and later at a church, following by necessity the structure of the previous 29 years. We had fewer than 50 families. Shabbat services were held twice a month, only on Friday nights, except when there was a bar/bat mitzvah. Religious school was also twice a month, though Hebrew School was weekly. Our schools were small, and very few children attended services.

We have accomplished remarkable things in the last decade. In contrast to ten years ago, we are now in our own permanent spiritual home, we have services every Shabbat, either Friday night or Shabbat morning, and we have a vibrant Beit Sefer (Religious School and Hebrew School), both meeting weekly. We have a growing membership of families with children, the lifeblood of any congregation.

During my 10 years, we have celebrated together our 30th, 35th, and 40th anniversaries. We developed a model format for religious school: by having school on Friday afternoons, twice monthly followed by community dinners and a family-friendly Shabbat service. We are able to not only teach but also demonstrate the beauty of Jewish living. I think the development and implementation of this format brings me the most personal pride and satisfaction. Of course, it couldn't happen without the support of parents, teachers, Education committee leadership, and our Board. Looking forward, I pray that our future years will bring continued growth. When I began, my personal goals were to have weekly services, weekly religious school, and at least 100 members. Two out of three so far!

What are my primary hopes and goals for the future?

Topping the list of course is continued membership growth to allow us to be financially comfortable, and helping us create an even more vibrant Jewish community in South County.

I hope that more people will step up and accept positions of leadership and even volunteer for more mundane but necessary tasks. The members who are serving in leadership began volunteering when their children were young and in school; it is time for the next generation of parents to do the same. Everyone is busy, but if Congregation Emeth is important to you and your family, everyone has to take their measure of responsibility.

I envision more multi-generational programs, where older members *qvell* (take pride) in our children and younger families are willing to participate from time to time in activities where children aren't the focus. I want us to see ourselves like any family where all generations come together. Shabbat Short N Sweet is one place where that could happen, Shabbat in the Redwoods is another. I hope you will join me in actively seeking other opportunities.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Rabbi. You have enhanced my spiritual life in unimaginable ways. I am so blessed to have you in my life, so blessed that you allow me into your private spaces of sadness and anguish as well as joy. I can't imagine serving anywhere else and I pray the Holy One continues to bless me with good health, patience, creative thinking, and lots of energy so that I can serve you as you deserve.

Editor's Note: SAVE THE DATE! We will be celebrating Rabbi Israel's first 10 years with Congregation Emeth at Sukkot services, Friday, October 14.

CONGREGATION EMETH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS!

Article by Aileen Teren-Foster, Event Chair

Photos by Elizabeth Mandel

In March Congregation Emeth celebrated its 40th anniversary. The two-day celebration started with a joyous Friday evening Torah service honoring Emeth's past, present, and future--all of Emeth's past presidents,



Past Presidents (L-R): Grant Gordon, Becky Neto, Perry Strongin, Susan Meyers, Michael Oshan, Patty Baggese

the teen community (Emet Dor Kef), and the religious school parents and families. The festivities continued Saturday evening with a dinner dance at Old City Hall Restaurant in Gilroy. Congregants had an opportunity to participate in one or all of the weekend celebration.

Our special guest was Ellen Fuchs, Congregation Emeth's founder. She shared with us, via video and in person, her struggle to form a Jewish community in South County. Patty Baggese, another founding member, presented highlights from our first 40 years, including rabbinical and lay leadership, dedication of a Jewish cemetery, Torah purchases, evolution of our religious school programs, purchase of our first permanent home in 2008, volunteerism, Sisterhood, and social action.



Ellen Fuchs



CLICK HERE TO READ PATTY'S ARTICLE. The presence of Ellen, Patty, and other founding members and leaders reinforced the significance of our 40 year journey and made the evening particularly meaningful and joyful.



Thank you to my event committee. We worked well together in putting together a grand and fun 40th anniversary celebration. Together we collaborated on meshing our event vision with board expectations, found a venue and a band, created a video with founding member Ellen Fuchs, ordered cake, brought champagne and wine, and spent the day of the event setting up and putting together the centerpieces.



Committee members (L-R): Aileen Teren-Foster, Maureen Chassey, Susan Braun, Kelly Coleman, Marilyn Freund, Dale Foster, Susan Meyers

Thank you also to **Rick Coencas, Michael Oshan, Arthur Rudin, and Barry Freund** for all of their help.

Our celebration honored the past and the present. As Rabbi Debbie Israel wrote in her Shabbat message, "Siman tov and mazal tov – it is a good and lucky sign for us – and may our beautiful temple go from strength to strength; from one generation to another."

A MOROCCAN COMMUNITY SEDER

Article by Susan Braun

Photos by Elizabeth Mandel

The eight-day Passover celebration must start with the Seder, a ritual meal that recounts the Jews' exodus from Egypt. This is done through story, prayer and song, all while eating symbolic foods, dining lavishly and drinking four cups of wine.

This year at Congregation Emeth we decided to experience a seder influenced by Sephardic traditions--specifically from Morocco. In the Sephardic Seder blessings are said over a 7 candle menorah and the first and third cup of wine only.

Foods were different as well--no gefilte fish or matzoh ball soup. However, there were delicious carrot and beet salads using spices such as cumin, cinnamon, and honey. The charoset was made with dates and shaped into little balls.



Rabbi Israel conducted educational and enjoyable rituals and we had over 65 attendees, making this our largest community seder ever.



Our Passover committee was outstanding. Many thanks to our chair, **Rena Dubin**, and her helpers **Aliya** and **Levi Glatt**. Special thanks to **Jerry Dubin** and **Aaron Jarson** for setting up the room, as well as **Aileen Teren-Foster** and **Dale Foster**. **Marilyn Freund** and **Georgi Braun-Rudin** were our decorators whose artistic eyes and use of flowers and Moroccan patterned material made the room spectacular. And I arranged for the menu with the caterers.



We look forward to another seder adventure next year!

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JEW HAT

A Slam Poem by Meghan Lee



Meghan Lee

“Is that your jew hat?”
Asks my fourth grade class
when I bring in my kippah for student of the week.
“Well”, I explain,
“It’s a traditional head covering”
“Oh”, they reply with disdain,
the information passing over their brains.
Two years later,
I find myself dismayed
while learning about mon-o-the-ism
we’re taught to say jud-ism
Rather than learning about
the Torah
and the Horah
rabbis,
and Rahab and the spies,
teaching us the common lies
and quickly moving on.
But on them does it ever dawn,
To understand
that it’s Hebrew,
no one speaks “jew”
And if they’d listen
everything would sink-in
You may think you’re being funny,
and on the outside I look sunny,
but I’m not laughing with you.
And true,

my people have faced worse,
but it’s honestly a curse
because isn’t the thinking
what sparked my people’s sinking
into despair
beyond repair
And you may scoff at the phrase “my people”
But I tell you,
it’s not about schlepping to services,
or getting out of school,
sure, that seems cool,
But I am hearing the words of my faith
proudly chanted by my congregation.
Yet when I tell people about my Bat Mitzvah,
instead of inquiring,
“What was your Torah portion, Meghan Lee?”
They ask,
“Why didn’t you invite me?”
or when people tell me the Mourner’s Kaddish
sounds like gibberish
I ponder
if they were really wondering about my religion,
they would actually listen.
So when someone correctly defines “yamicha”
or knows how many nights in Channukah,
I jump and almost hug them
because at least I know
There is one less person in this world
who won’t ask me
about jew hats.

***Editor’s Note: Meghan wrote this amazing piece
for an 8th grade class poetry assignment***

RACHAMIM (COMPASSION)

Marsha Novak, Rachamim Chair



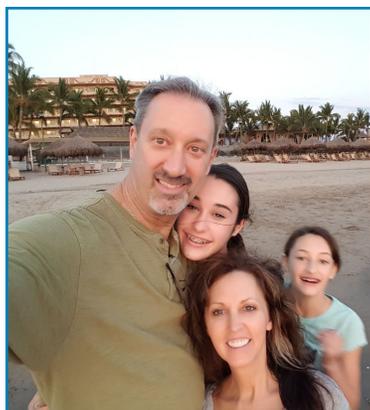
As Jews, compassion is central to our way of life. If G-d is compassionate, then we should be also. Congregation Emeth is blessed with a plethora of compassionate men and women who constantly and consistently give of themselves to their fellow congregants. Whether it be a phone call, a meal, soup, an errand, flowers, a card, a visit or something more complex, like setting up a website to assist others in helping those in need, the women of Emeth have always risen to the occasion. All deserve to be commended for their selflessness in giving of their precious time to assist others. I am honored to be the chair of the Rachamim Committee, but without the consistent assistance of the Emeth Sisterhood membership this committee would be overwhelmed and woefully short of help.

I appeal to every congregant to take time with those of our congregants in need. It is a mitzvah and more importantly, it is the right thing to do. Examples of Rachamim activities include making meals, driving people, visiting the house-bound, and signing up as the Rachamim backup for a month during the year. Anyone who has more questions or is interested in volunteering can contact me at rachamim@emeth.net.

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

FAREWELL FROM ABMONT FAMILY

Being a member of Congregation Emeth over the past twenty years has been a time in my life I will never forget. I remember being a member in the young couples club before we even had kids and then, with the birth of Addysen and Ashtyn, Emeth was always there. Through good times and bad I have always took solace in knowing that my second family was there to help if needed. Congregation Emeth has been a second home for me and a safe haven to escape the crazy hectic life we live. My girls have grown up at Emeth and they will never forget their years here either, as I believe that they now have a strong Jewish identity due in large part to our temple family and time at Congregation Emeth. I won't be saying goodbye as we still have Ashtyn's Bat Mitzvah coming up and I will return monthly for services and visits with all my dear friends here.



We are moving to Eagle Idaho, which is just west of Boise. It is a small family community of around 20,000 with lots of outdoor activities to enjoy. The Boise River is just a couple blocks away from us so a lot of fishing and water activities are in our future along with biking and skiing just one hour north of us. There is a synagogue just nine miles east of us that we have visited and look forward to getting to know better.

All our love,
Joe, Denise Addysen and Ashtyn

MAZAL TOV TO OUR GRADUATES!

Evan Jordan, son of **Melanie Jordan**, is graduating from Live Oak High School and will be attending UC Davis, where he will study evolution, ecology and biodiversity.

Masha Maskell, daughter of **Joyce and Jay Maskell**, is graduating from Live Oak High School. She will be majoring in Environmental Studies/Biology (a combined major) at UC Santa Cruz.



Alexandra Mandel, daughter of **Elizabeth and Peter Mandel**, is graduating from the University of Washington with a Masters in Social Work in the Health Concentration. She will be moving back to California and plans to work in inpatient pediatric social work in a hospital in the Bay Area.



NEW MEMBERS IRA & WANDA MARSHALL



We look forward to meeting and welcoming our newest members soon!

WELCOME GOLDSMITH FAMILY



Jacob and Lori Goldsmith along with Bradley (5), Hannah (3) and Blake (1) moved to Gilroy 2 years ago.

“Originally from NY, we have lived in California for five years. Our family enjoys soccer, bike rides, exercising, drawing, word puzzles, movie nights, playing at the park, going to the beach and especially swimming! We decided to join Emeth to get the kids more involved in learning about their religion and meet more Jewish families in the area. We hope to continue to build relationship, get more involved in community service as well as participate in any children activities. Everyone has been so warm, welcoming and friendly it has truly been a positive experience.”

EMETH DOR KEF YEAR END SLEEP-OVER

Photos by Rachel Neto



B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS REFLECTIONS

The five students in Rabbi Israel's B'nai Mitzvah class had as their primary focuses:

- The Year of Living Jewishly, meaning bringing the abstraction of mitzvot (commandments) into practical day to day living.
- Mussar, the study of Jewish values, such as equanimity, order, truth, and awe.
- Torah and Talmud, in order to see the practical value, even in our own time, of studying ancient texts as living documents.

Here are reflections of some of the students.

I really enjoyed this year's Chai School. Every week, one of my classmates draws a card, written on which is the mitzvah, or commandment, that we are urged to fulfill. In addition, we are also assigned a middah, or value, every class. This includes values such as patience, kindness, gratitude, or forgiveness. I feel like I am a changed person from practicing the mitzvot and middot every week, and this has led me to see things in a new light. Graduating from Chai School doesn't mean that I'm going to stop looking for opportunities to fulfill G-d's commandments. In fact, these years were only my introduction to what it means to walk in the ways of G-d and make the world a better place.

-- *Aliya Glatt*

During religious school, I have learned many things. The thing I value most was not the teachings but the journey. When I first arrived here, I thought here is another place where I won't be with people I like. But I was wrong...The most important thing I learned was this: Love thy neighbor as thyself. Though this year has been tough, I had fun.

-- *Ross Gordon*

I learned how to be kind, forgiving and responsibility. I learned this by practicing my mitzvot. I learned how to speak a different language and that's pretty cool. Chai School has taught me that I can do much more than just sitting there, when someone is crying and go up and help them, no matter what anyone says. Chai School has taught so much. I hope I can learn more from it.

-- *Ashtyn Abmont*

What I liked about Chai School: Learning with Rabbi. Choosing from the mitzvah cards. The others students in class. I like it when my mom helps me. I like to learn. I'm not ready for my bat mitzvah.

-- *Raquel Jarson*

CHAI SCHOOL CLASS REFLECTIONS

MariaElena Jarson, Head Teacher

Emeth's K-5 students enjoyed a busy year in Chai School. Several new activities were introduced, from guest speakers to the children's garden, and the students continued to develop their Jewish identities and community through the music, art, and cooking activities that they've traditionally enjoyed together. It was a wonderful year, full of fun and friendship. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Thank you so much for supporting our young students. I really appreciate the visits Emeth congregants and families made to our classroom this year. Our guest speakers and kitchen adventures built lasting bridges between the students and our congregation. Our adult volunteers were fantastic and deserve special appreciation for supporting and engaging the Chai students.

THANK YOU TO EMETH'S MAINTENANCE MENSCHES



Dale Foster



Michael Oshan



Arthur Rudin



Andre Neto



Grant Gordon

We all know how much work it is to maintain our homes. How would you feel about having to maintain an additional large, old building with 80+ families coming and going? While also being expected to support all those families as a volunteer? This is what our Building Management Committee (core team of Dale, Michael, and Arthur with additional special project support from Andre and Grant) does week after week. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

These members have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to Emeth. The committee manages the mundane but essential day-to-day work—grounds maintenance, light bulbs replaced, ceiling tiles replaced, roof leaks repaired, etc.—and each individual also has his own focus and area of expertise:

- **Dale Foster** took over last year as committee chair after Michael spent years (in fact, ever since we purchased our building) managing the building and grounds. Dale specializes in safety and security. For example, he recently led the team in installing additional lights in the parking lot and he makes sure the building satisfies codes, such as having working fire extinguishers.
- **Michael Oshan** is kept busy monitoring and maintaining the grounds. He also ensures the commercial kitchen is in compliance, and he obtained the new code lock for the side entrance. He is currently leading design and planning for the new permanent sukkah and the children's playground.
- **Arthur Rudin** is our technology guru and recently researched and organized the installation of additional security cameras. He also maintains the video and audio systems, as well as anything related to IT.
- **Andre Neto's** special projects have included signage and painting (including indoors and outdoor parking lot stripes and curbs). Next he will be painting the social hall as well as repairing the roof in the social hall and sanctuary.
- **Grant Gordon** jumps in as needed, frequently for dirty, unpleasant jobs. He recently led the work to fix the drains in our parking lot. He has also cleaned and created useable storage space in the downstairs apartment. He is very involved in planning use of funds raised from the capital campaign.

WORK DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1:30 PM

We have a busy summer ahead with the installation of our Sukkah and playground, the demolition of old storage space, and much more. Look for notices in HaMadrach and come out to support your temple!



Mitzvah Makers

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

- ♥ Purim festivities (see p2) - **Mike & Daria Ogden; Andre, Becky, & Rachel Neto; Joe Abmont, Scott & Tracy Valentine, Rena Dubin, Marby Lee, Paula Marsh, Marilyn Freund, Michael Oshan, and Emet Dor Kef**
- ♥ Emeth's 40th anniversary celebration (see p6) - **Aileen Teren-Foster and her team**
- ♥ Community Seder (see p7) - **Rena Dubin and her team**
- ♥ Demolition crew for the new playground and sukkah (see p4) - **Michael Oshan had his workers**
- ♥ Capital Campaign Committee for leading the raising of over \$160,000 (see p4) - **Susan Meyers and her committee**
- ♥ Implementation leadership on Capital Campaign projects (see p4) - **Michael Oshan, Mel Weisblatt, Grant Gordon, Michael Heil, Susan Meyers, and Arthur Rudin**
- ♥ Spearheading South County's clergy and lay interfaith community organizations (see p 12) - **Rabbi Israel & Susan Meyers**

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.



Kol Emeth
Congregation Emeth
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EMETH INSTRUMENTAL IN FORMING NEW INTERFAITH GROUPS

Susan Meyers, Interfaith Community Chair



Susan Meyers

Inspired by the interfaith service led by sixteen local clergy, held on Martin Luther King Day 2016, and by their formation of the Interfaith Clergy Alliance of South County, a group of enthusiastic individuals met at Congregation Emeth and launched the “Interfaith Community of South County (ICSC).” This new interfaith group is committed to creating compassionate communities through social, service, and educational programs.

Current members of the ICSC belong to Church of Latter Day Saints, St Mary’s Parish, Advent Lutheran Church, Gavilan Hills Unity Church, Gilroy United Methodist Church, Morgan Hills United Methodist Church, Congregation Emeth, South Valley Islamic Center, Community Christian, Morgan Hill Presbyterian Church, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Vaidica Vidhya Ganapathi Center (Hindu).

The group agreed to sponsor a series of educational programs entitled “The Faith of Our Neighbors”. The first program in the series focused on the faith of Islam. Two hundred people learned about Islam from Mr. Ali Atalie, a leading Islamic scholar and Ms. Maha Elgenaidi, CEO of Islamic Networks Group. Rabbi Israel welcomed the attendees and set the stage for the presentations, Father Phil Cooke from the Episcopal Church facilitated the question/answer portion of the program and Rabbi Israel led a closing prayer. Feedback from those who attended was extremely positive!

Future plans include programs to celebrate American holidays, starting with participating in the Morgan Hill 4th of July Parade. The ICSC, together with the local Interfaith Clergy group, will also host programs for Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day, and Memorial Day.