

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

## WHOSE TURN IS IT TO CLEAN OUT THE ATTIC?

*Becky Neto, President*

Congregation Emeth continues to grow and thrive. However, even with our membership growth, it is unique for a congregation our size to have both a Rabbi and a building. Given our small staff and the limited financial resources of a small congregation, we must rely on volunteers to make most of our programs and activities happen, with all doing our part in taking care of our Emeth family/home. In addition to your annual donation, we ask for 18 hours of annual volunteer time.



**Becky Neto**

As the number of congregants increases so does the desire and opportunity for more extensive programming. Here at Emeth you can find a variety of ways to engage:

- Have fun playing mah jongg or attending the progressive dinner, *Emeth Reads*, *Divas That Dine*, or the men's group.
- Or become involved in a traditional way by joining an ongoing committee: Ritual, Finance, Education, Membership, Tikkun Olam (Social Justice) and Building & Grounds always welcome new members.
- Do you enjoy organizing one-time events? Our annual Community Passover Seder, Purim Carnival, High Holy Days, Sukkot, and Chanukah celebrations all rely on volunteer coordinators and committees.
- There is thoughtful adult education to attend and a vibrant education program for our children.
- We support each other during life cycle events.
- We pray together on Shabbat.

All of these wonderful things take planning and very little would be possible if not for the volunteers. The next time you are asked to be a Shabbat host or help with an event, please remember it takes all of us to maintain Emeth and its many programs and activities. So, whose turn is it to clean out the attic?

## CHANUKAH FESTIVITIES

*Photos by Elizabeth Mandel & Emily Shem-Tov*

### Candle Lighting & Shabbat Service at Emeth



### Community Chanukah Celebration at BookSmart



The children enjoyed progressing through a series of Chanukah stations including crafts, playing dreidel, decorating Chanukah cookies, and listening to stories. We greatly appreciate **Marilyn Freund's** preparation and thank **Emily Shem-Tov** and **MariaElena Jarson** for their assistance in carrying on this fun annual tradition.

## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

Rabbi	Debbie Israel
Administrator	Charlene Rose
Controller	Barry Freund

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Ritual	Michael Oshan
Sisterhood	Patty Baggese, Marilyn Freund
Kitchen Supplies	Susan Latin
Technology	Arthur Rudin

Kol Emeth is published three times per year. Congregation membership includes a subscription to this publication.

**For the best (color) reading experience, this newsletter should 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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## INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH COUNTY RECEIVES COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

*Susan Meyers, Tikkun Olam Chair*



**Award presentation at Morgan Hill Chamber breakfast  
Pastor Anita Warner (Advent Lutheran) accepted on behalf of the group.**

The Interfaith Clergy and the Interfaith CommUNITY of South County (ICSC) lay group were honored by Gavilan College with the 2017 Community Spirit Award. The award honors people and institutions that contribute to improving the quality of life in the local community.

Congregation Emeth Rabbi Israel and Emeth Past President Susan Meyers assumed leadership positions in the development of the Interfaith Clergy and the lay Interfaith group. Our mission is to create compassionate communities through education, social and service programs. Both the clergy and the lay groups meet on a regular basis to learn from one another and to support our mission.

The ICSC is composed of eighteen faith communities in South Santa Clara County. Working together, the clergy and lay groups host Interfaith Thanksgiving and Interfaith Martin Luther King Day events that have been well attended and appreciated by the greater community. Our "Faith of our Neighbors" educational program, presented twice each year, is designed to provide an opportunity for members of each faith to "teach" the community about their religious practices. Starting with the South County Muslim Community, the Mormons, Jews and Lutherans have invited the community to learn in their places of worship. Service activities revolve around the needs of families who are homeless in South County.

Members of Emeth are encouraged to join us on Sunday, April 29th for the Faith of Our Neighbors: Buddhist Community presentation. If you are interested in learning more about how you can be involved in the ICSC, please contact Rabbi Israel or Susan Meyers.





**Cat in the Hat  
aka Rabbi Israel**

## IF YOU THOUGHT PURIM WAS ONLY FOR CHILDREN ...

*Rabbi Debbie Israel*

This year, the Ritual, Education, and Youth Committees, as well as Rabbi Israel, are planning a Purim that has something special for every age! While we've always had a Purim shpiel (play) and a carnival, this year we are expanding opportunities for both adults and children to celebrate!

Purim, and the entire Hebrew month of Adar, is a joyous time of celebration. For some reason, adults seem to think happy celebrations are only for children. We beg to differ. Therefore we have planned a **adult-themed Friday evening program** on March 2 that will include reading the Purim story from our own Megillah (scroll) – not every word but those parts that are usually avoided because there are children present! While families are welcome, the reading will be rated PG-13. Our teens will present their annual Purim shpiel (suitable for audiences of all ages!). We will have an abbreviated Shabbat service and then we'll go into our social hall for music and dancing, potluck party food, and wine and other adult beverages and more. If you like to party, put your costumes on and

join the fun! Free tickets for everyone in a costume (okay, there are no tickets but costumes add to the fun)! The evening Purim extravaganza begins at 7:15 pm. Families with children are of course welcome but be aware that this service and party is planned with adults and high school aged teens in mind.



**Adults in costume at Purim 2017**

**For families and children, our Chai School Purim celebration has two parts.**



**Part 1** is Friday afternoon, March 2, from 4:30-6:30 pm. Children enrolled in Chai School will attend class in costume beginning at 4:30 pm. Later families join students for our Purim Costume Parade, Talent Show, Purim Songfest, EDK Purim Shpiel, and, at 6:20 pm, Shabbat Rituals.

**Part 2**, new this year, will be an outdoor Purim Carnival, complete with a bouncy house and slide, on Sunday, March 4, 3 -6 pm. The booths our kids always love will be back, staffed by EDK teens, plus new prizes and new activities. Adults can enjoy beer, wine, chips and salsa while children are playing, and our usual light dinner will be available for purchase.

***This is a fundraiser, benefitting youth and school activities.***

***The carnival is open to all friends and neighbors! Spread the word on NextDoor and other venues.***

**Will you help? Contact [education@emeth.net](mailto:education@emeth.net) to volunteer!**

## February 2018

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**Children in costume at Purim 2017**



# SERVING CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

*Curt Palm, Event Chair*

*Photos by Elizabeth Mandel*



Once again, Congregation Emeth dished up Christmas dinner at the Lord's Table at St. Mary's Church in Gilroy. **Our awesome team provided a delicious turkey dinner with stuffing, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, rolls, fruit and desserts to over 170 people.** Preparation begins in November, when procuring the funding and supplies begin. **Cathy Silverstein** again led the charge to get donations of money and food from many local businesses. In addition, she coordinated the purchase and donation of 15 warm jackets from our members. **Emeth members** donated many toys and warm clothes. **EDK teens** wrapped the presents to be distributed on Christmas Day. **Sisterhood** donated backpacks packed with



warm clothes. Numerous congregants roasted (and several donated) turkeys for the dinner.

On the day of the event, we had a set up crew, gift wrappers, clothes distributors, a kitchen crew, a team of friendly servers, and a cleanup crew. A tree was decorated, tables set up and decorated and serving

tables set up. The kitchen crew prepped the food and maintained the flow of food as serving commenced. Guests enjoyed the hot meal, selecting clothing, receiving the backpacks and children were treated to a visit by Santa Claus (**Michael Oshan**) and the head elf (**Susan Meyers**) who distributed age appropriate presents to them. Smiles were plentiful as our guests partook of the meal and festivities.



**Please join me in acknowledging all the local businesses that have donated funds or goods:**

Starbucks, Vineyard Town Center; Starbucks, Cochrane Road; Nob Hill Foods, Morgan Hill; Safeway, Tennant Station; Walmart, Morgan Hill; Trader Joe's, Morgan Hill; Target, Gilroy; Costco, Gilroy; Grocery Outlet, Gilroy; Josephine's Bakery, Morgan Hill. If you are shopping at any of these stores, please feel free to thank the merchants for their donations.



**Thank you to all who helped make this annual event a heartwarming, belly filling success!**

Additional photos of the event can be viewed at this link <https://www.amazon.com/photos/share/fDJgx4ZnCK4KDh1ofGsmf1M2oRbRF-0b75Ep4RpJkPm>.





# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

*Matt Ogden, EDK member*

*Photos by Rachel Neto*

Emet Dor Kef's 2018 Confirmation Retreat was a smashing success. Teens enrolled in the program had an incredible weekend full of fun and laughter, all the while still addressing some of life's more profound questions such as:

Who is a Jew?

What are Judaism's core values?

What do Jews believe?

Is there a "right" or "wrong" way to participate in Judaism?

What are the differences between Jewish denominations?

Who/what is G-d?



Although each student reached their own answers to these questions, every student came out with a refreshed sense of spirituality and understanding of their Jewish faith. However, this is not where their Jewish involvement ended.

In addition to the numerous theological discussions, EDK students were also able to observe a personal Shabbat service headed by Rabbi Israel and watch an assortment of educational films about Jewish life and lessons. As a special treat, the teens explored the depths of "Jewish mysticism" as Jerry Dubin put on an incredibly robust magic show that left spectators in utter awe. All of this was concluded beautifully with a sunset lit Havdalah service on the beach.



When asked about her Confirmation experience, Haley Toch, an EDK student currently in her Junior year of high school said, "The retreat was a super special experience and very memorable. It really allowed us to create special bonds together while exploring what it means to be Jewish and a young Jewish adult".



## Mitzvah Makers

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

- ♥ **Setup and Cleanup for Break the Fast** - Marilyn Freund, Aileen Teren-Foster, Dale Foster, Andi & Tyler Oberquell, Marby, Bryson & Meghan Lee, Elizabeth Mandel
- ♥ **Set Up of Sukkah** - Michael Oshan, Michael, Matt & Jacob Ogden, Becky Neto
- ♥ **Taking Down the Roof of the Sukkah** - Bryson Lee
- ♥ **Taking Care of Our Building** - Dale Foster, Michael Oshan, and Grant Gordon
- ♥ **New Member Recruitment** - Marilyn Freund - see pp 6-7
- ♥ **Updating B'nai Mitzvah Mazal Tov Book** - Marilyn Freund & Patty Baggese
- ♥ **Sisterhood Chanukah Fundraiser** - Marilyn Freund & Patty Baggese - see p8
- ♥ **Community Chanukah Program at BookSmart** - Marilyn Freund, Emily Shem-Tov, MariaElena Jarson - see p1
- ♥ **Setting Up and Bringing Back the Large Chanukiah for the Community Parade** - Michael Oshan
- ♥ **Chanukah Celebration** - Grant Gordon, Daria Ogden, Susan Latin - see p1
- ♥ **Christmas Lord's Table** - Curt Palm and his team - see p4
- ♥ **Year End Financial Paperwork** - Barry Freund
- ♥ **Coordinating Participation in Women's March** - Susan Meyers - see p11
- ♥ **Confirmation Retreat** - Rabbi Israel, Rena Dubin & Daria Ogden (shopping), Tracy Valentine (driving) - see p5
- ♥ **Getting to Know Emeth Program** - Susan Meyers - see p7

*Be a Mitzvah Maker:  
Volunteer!*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



### TEJANO FAMILY

The Tejano family (Leah, Edgar, Noah (4), & Adeline (8 months) come from different backgrounds. Leah grew up in Sacramento in a conservative Jewish home, and Edgar grew up in San Leandro as a Filipino Catholic. They met while attending Cal Poly San

Luis Obispo and after graduation they moved north, living in San Jose for the last 9 years. Last year, looking for a better neighborhood and more kid-friendly community, they found a home in Morgan Hill and love it here! They are thrilled to have found the Emeth community and to have their kids grow up learning about Judaism and their Jewish heritage. They look forward to getting to know everyone.

### JUDITH PELS



Judith is a third generation San Franciscan (where she was a member of Sherith Israel). Now living in Hollister, she wanted to belong to a local temple. She enjoys doing things with Emeth's members and has been participating monthly with other congregants helping at the Lord's Table.

Judith has three daughters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Her other interests include tai chi, hiking, playing piano, and designing jewelry,



### MARCIA FISHMAN

Marcia joined Emeth before she moved here because she wanted a sense of belonging when she arrived from Michigan. After

visiting Emeth a few times, while on vacation in Morgan Hill, she was immediately drawn to the friendliness and communal spirit of the members. Marcia recently retired after a long career in the non-profit world. She hopes to put her career experiences to good use at Emeth. It is especially important to her that she enjoy her retirement and establish relationships through the interesting classes and activities in which she has started to participate.



### MADELYN ALTMAN

Maddie moved here from Newburyport, Massachusetts. She heard about Emeth from her son Adam, who lives in Gilroy with his family. (Adam discovered Emeth at the Taste of Morgan Hill.) Maddie first became involved with Emeth through playing mah jongg. Since starting fresh here, the warmth of the women playing mah jongg has helped her feel at home, but she would like to reach out more to the community, helping others and making friends.

*Do you know of Jewish households in the South Valley whose members might be interested in connecting with Emeth? Please give Marilyn Freund, Membership Director ([membership@emeth.net](mailto:membership@emeth.net)), specifics and she would be delighted to follow up. Thank you all for being ambassadors for Congregation Emeth!*





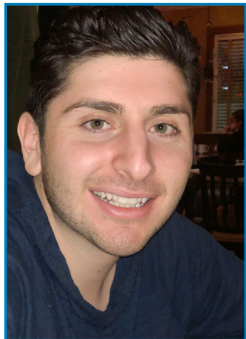
# WELCOME AND FAREWELL

## SHARI, JOHN, AND MATTHEW ANDREADIS

Shari was motivated to join Congregation Emeth by the outpouring of caring, friendly, warm, inviting people. She describes “feeling right at home with all the lovely congregants that came up and introduced themselves with such kindness and sincerity.” After attending two services and hearing the Rabbi’s words and the cantorial soloist sing, she knew she was in the right place. This feeling was reinforced when Rabbi Israel handed her the Torah during the Simchat Torah service to make her feel comfortable and welcome. She is thrilled to have joined Congregation Emeth and to be part of this special community!



Shari and John



Matthew

Shari hopes to gain a greater perspective on Judaism, give back to others, develop a feeling of belonging, and meet new dynamic people. She would like to pursue friendships, volunteering, and contentment surrounded by this wonderful community of people. Her hobbies include listening to music, hiking, and socializing with friends. Her career as a substitute teacher enables her to be with children, which she loves, as well as to have the flexibility to do other things she enjoys.

Shari and John’s son Matthew recently graduated from the School of Business at the University of Albany. He is now working at Merrill Lynch in Santana Row where he is training and undergoing licensing to be a Financial Advisor. Matthew hopes to reconnect with his Jewish roots at Congregation Emeth and be involved in Morgan Hill’s Jewish community.

## “GETTING TO KNOW EMETH”

*Susan Meyers, Program Coordinator*

Emeth has created a culture of warm welcome to all those who choose to become part of our South Valley Jewish Community. In keeping with that culture, we offer a unique orientation program to all new members, designed for us to get to know each other: Participants learn about our mission, history, culture, finances, governance, current leaders, and issues facing the congregation, and board members learn from our new members about their ideas, hopes and dreams for Emeth’s future.

We have offered *Getting to Know Emeth* for the past five years. The number of participants ranges from representatives from five to eight new families. Responses to the program have been consistently and enthusiastically positive. At the end of the two-hour session, new members have voiced their appreciation for this opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, to learn about our history, our Rabbi’s story, to take a tour of our building and to have the packet of materials including information about hosting Shabbat Onegs, our committees and committee chairs, as well as our Mazal Tov and Rachamin books and a current membership roster.

## RICH & SHERYL PUPKO



President Becky Neto presents a mezuzah to Rich for their new home

We bid farewell to members Rich and Sheryl Pupko, who moved to Las Vegas in January upon Rich’s retirement. Both were active temple members. Rich

was an invaluable member of the Ritual Committee, serving as lead usher for the High Holidays. He was a Torah reader and occasionally filled in for Rabbi Israel in her absence. Sheryl was actively engaged in Sisterhood and she, like Rich, regularly attended Shabbat services. Sheryl also quietly took it upon herself to come from Hollister during hot summer seasons to water some of our newer plants.

The Pupkos made important contributions to the temple and were part of the fabric of our Emeth community. We thank them for their friendship and service to Emeth, and we wish them well. They will be missed!



**Rabbi Israel**

## PURIM AND #Me TOO

*Rabbi Debbie Israel*

Thursday, March 8, is International Women's Day. The timing is especially meaningful this year, coming on the heels of the #Me Too movement as well as Purim. In many ways, Purim is the ultimate Time Is Up holiday!

The holiday of Purim is based on the biblical Book of Esther. Esther is one of two Bible characters whose deeds and story is recorded in its own book in the Bible. The other is the Book of Ruth. Esther is the hero of our story and, unique in biblical literature, a model for our young women. Yes, she was in her position because she won a beauty contest (oy vay). Yes, she was in her position because her uncle Mordechai told her to enter the contest. Yes, she went before the king to reveal the wicked Haman's evil plan against the Jews because Mordechai told her she must. And yes, she was able to save the Jews of Persia from slaughter because her husband loved her.

But there is a moment in the story when we see Esther become not only Mordecai's adopted daughter but also a woman of courage. Like many women today who are bravely telling their stories, Esther risked her own life when she went before her husband, the king, and told him who she was—a Jew—and that she was a victim of Haman's plot.

Today, we are seeing this kind of courage, especially in the young gymnasts who confronted their sexual abuser and in women speaking out in Hollywood and in Washington.

In the United States March 8 has been also designated as a "Day Without Women." I have a lot of sadness about this day. It seems to me that the time has long passed for us to be demanding women's rights in this country. It seems to me that fight should have been over long ago. And yet we still have to fight to make our own decisions about our bodies; we still fight for the right to progress to leadership positions in most corporations and receive equal pay for equal work; and as we have seen in recent months, we still must fight for respect and equality.

I long for the day when we will not be identified by our gender but rather by the excellence of our work, our work ethic, our ability. And I long for the day when my sisters in Israel can pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem with full equal access to our holy site and read from Torah, without harassment. I long for the day when we don't need a Women's Day any more than we need a Men's Day.

Yet, to be honest, as a feminist, I never really liked the Book of Esther, nor did I appreciate the Book of Ruth. As a young woman I longed for stories like that of the prophet Deborah—stories that presented women as models of courage, bravery, wisdom, leadership and strength. But now I tend to concede that something is better than nothing. Though, I still long for the day that we won't need an International Women's Day anymore.

Until then I celebrate Esther and this joyous holiday. Chag Purim Sameach—Happy Purim! And may you have a week of blessings and a Shabbat of great joy and gladness!

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

*Marilyn Freund & Patty Baggesse, Sisterhood co-Presidents*

In December, 36 women partook of a catered Israeli falafel dinner. This event was also a successful fundraiser, raising money for twelve backpacks with socks and gloves for the Lord's Table on December 25 and additional funds for summer camperships for Emeth's youth.

We also invite you to join in Sisterhood's upcoming movie night, Sunday, February 11, at 3 pm when we will screen both Israel's film of the year, *The Women's Balcony*, and the short documentary, *The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life*.

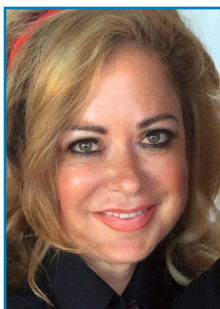


**The Divas Who Dine met for dinner Monday, January 22, at Mama Mias. All Emeth women are invited to this monthly social event.**



# MEET CHARLENE ROSE, EMETH'S ADMINISTRATOR

*Elizabeth Mandel, Editor*

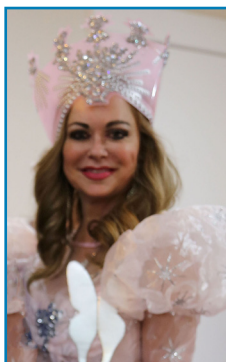


**Charlene Rose**

Emeth hired Charlene as our first non-volunteer temple administrator a year ago. In that year, Charlene has become integral to the running of the temple, managing the calendar, creating monthly flyers, creating evites and the weekly HaMadrach e-newsletter, and handling the administration of Emeth's religious school.

Previously, when her children were young, Charlene had her own event management company, running user groups, presidents' circles, and regional meetings for Bay Area tech companies. More recently, immediately prior to coming to Emeth, Charlene spent six months setting up a point-of-sale system for Miramar Vineyards. That job was wrapping up and, when she heard about Emeth's opening, she thought the number of hours and responsibilities would match her availability and skills well. Initially, however, she wasn't sure if it would be a good fit as she was not at all familiar with Jewish practices and terminology. But she has learned quickly and has found the congregation to be like a big family, non-judgmental, and extremely supportive.

Charlene brings creative talent to the role, as well as attention to detail and organizational skills. She particularly enjoys decorating for the Jewish holidays (and dressing up to accentuate the excitement), using MailChimp to create HaMadrach (because it uses her creative side), working with the Rabbi, and all the people she has gotten to know.



**Purim 2017**



**4th of July**



**Social hall decorated for Chanukah by Charlene**

If you have met Charlene, you know she has a lot of energy. Outside of Emeth, she wears many other hats:

She works part time at Gurrera Cellars, in the tasting room and as band concierge at their music events. She lives at a vineyard, Spadafore Estates, whose grapes are sold to Aimee June Vineyards, and she is learning about cultivating grapes. She started another event planning company (also called Spadafore Estates) 2 1/2 years ago and plans weddings, birthday parties, and graduations at the vineyard. Charlene also stays busy with daughters Brooke and Julie and granddaughters Hailey (5) and Lily (8 months), babysitting about once a week.



**Charlene with her daughters**

If you haven't met Charlene yet, please drop by and introduce yourself. You'll be glad you did!

## MAH JONGG ANYONE?

### Learn Mah Jongg

Back by popular demand, Cathy Gill will teach six mah jongg classes at Emeth, on Mondays at 10 am, beginning February 26. There is a one time charge of \$54 (checks should be made out to Congregation Emeth; memo "Mah jongg class") These are beginner classes—no experience expected! Please let Cathy know ([mahjongg@emeth.net](mailto:mahjongg@emeth.net)) by Friday, February 23 if you would like to join in the fun.

### Mah Jongg Tournament: Save the Date

Emeth will be hosting its annual Mah Jongg tournament on Wednesday, May 9. Contact Patty Baggese ([sisterhood@emeth.net](mailto:sisterhood@emeth.net)) with questions.



# INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH COUNTY COMES TOGETHER FOR MLK JR. DAY SERVICE

*Remarks (from the service) by Rabbi Israel*

*Photos by Rick Coencas*



**Rabbi Israel**

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote: *God never intended for one group of people to live in superfluous inordinate wealth while others live in abject deadening poverty. God intends for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life, and God has left in this universe enough and to spare for that purpose. So I call upon you to bridge the gulf between abject poverty and superfluous wealth.*



The clergy speaking before you today agreed to reflect on the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. from the perspective of their own religious tradition. The topic I have selected is economy and sustenance, which considers the economic needs of those in our communities, especially those who are deficient in shelter and food.

So it may surprise you when I tell you that Jews don't believe in charity. That's right; Jews do not practice charity, and the concept of charity is virtually nonexistent in Jewish tradition.



Instead of charity, the Jew gives what is called *tzedakah*, which means "righteousness" and "justice." When the Jew contributes one's money, time and resources to the needy, we are not being benevolent, generous or "charitable." We are doing what is right, what is righteous, and what is just.

Our world is so flagrantly—and often times violently—separated by prosperity and poverty. But, according to Jewish law, giving to the needy is a commandment and a good deed. This means that, on the one hand, it is not a random act, but a duty and an obligation. On the other hand, it is

a good deed—a credit to the one who recognizes one's duty and carries out one's obligation.

The Jew believes that material wealth is not a crime, but a blessing from G-d. One who has so been blessed should regard oneself as G-d's "banker"—the one who is privileged to have been entrusted by the Creator with the role of dispensing the resources of G-d's creation to others.

However, Jewish law requires every individual to give *tzedakah*. Everyone is required to give *tzedakah* according to one's means. Even the poorest Jews, those who need help themselves, are expected to put aside something from what they receive in order to give *tzedakah*. But that poor Jew's tiny donation is as great as the large donation of the wealthiest. If the purpose of *tzedakah* were merely to rectify the unequal distribution of wealth between rich and poor, this law would make no sense. *Tzedakah*, however, is much more than that: it is the opportunity granted to every person to become a "partner with G-d in creation."



How we give *tzedakah* is as important as what we give. "Do not humiliate a beggar," the sages warned us. "God is beside the pauper," Rabbi Eleazar said. It is forbidden to turn away a poor person empty-handed, but if one truly cannot give, we are expected to at least offer words of comfort.

Our great medieval philosopher Maimonides wrote: Whatever I want for myself, I want the same for that other person. And whatever I do not want for myself or my friends, I do not want for that other person. This is the meaning of the verse, "And you shall love the other person as yourself."

***Editor's Note: Rabbi Israel is grateful to the scholars whose words helped her in her research in preparing this presentation.***



## WOMEN'S MARCH 2018

*Photos by Elizabeth Mandel*



This January's Women's March in San Jose saw close to 40 members of Congregation Emeth marching with other members of the InterFaith CommUNITY of South County, including members of the South Valley Islamic Community and representatives from Morgan Hill churches.



Thank you to **Susan Meyers** for coordinating not just Emeth's participation but that of the other members of ICSC.



The March drew approximately 20,000 participants.



## TIKKUN OLAM .. AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY AND A NEW COMMITTEE

*Susan Meyers, Tikkun Olam Chair*

As Jews we are “commanded” to engaged in Tikkun Olam, to “Repair the World. Members of our congregation spoke at a recent Shabbat Oneg of their responses to the commandment by providing food for families in need, speaking up when they find injustice, raising funds for scholarships to make it possible for students to fulfill their dreams of a college education, and building parks for our community. Our Emeth members have been preparing and serving dinner on the third Thursday of the month at the Lord's Table in Gilroy for over twenty years.



In our efforts to encourage everyone to participate in Tikkun Olam activities, we have recently created a Tikkun Olam Committee.

### **Our first outreach has been focused on the issue of homelessness in our community.**

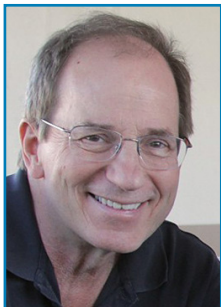
To that end, we have agreed to provide Friday night dinners to the families currently living in the “Safe Parking Program” in Morgan Hill. The program is designed to support families who are living in their cars or RVs with a safe place to park their vehicles, meals and professional guidance from a social worker. The goal is to find employment and housing for the families.

Members of the committee continue to explore opportunities to serve our community.

**The Tikkun Olam Committee will meet on February 20 at 7 pm to learn about the need for tutors and mentors for children participating in a program offered by the YMCA in Morgan Hill.**

All members are invited to participate. Please contact Susan at [tikkunolam@emeth.net](mailto:tikkunolam@emeth.net) to learn more. It is our hope that the Tikkun Olam Committee will continue to grow, providing an opportunity for Congregation Emeth members to engaged in our efforts to “Repair the World” one child, one family, one issue at a time.

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



**Michael Heil**

## CONGREGATION EMETH PHOTO BOOTH AT MUSHROOM MARDI GRAS

*Michael Heil, Event Chair*

Building on our tradition of fund-raising success over the years with the photo booth at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, Emeth will be at the Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras in 2018. This 39th annual event will be on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27. Based on recent years' attendance, we can expect 80,000. The Garlic Festival typically sees about 100,000 participants. These are the two largest community festivals in Santa Clara County—right here in our community.

Like our booth at the Garlic Festival, we expect that at the Mushroom Mardi Gras (MMG) we will accomplish our goals of significant fund raising to support our programs at Emeth, further increasing our visibility in the community and—for the volunteers who work at the booth—having fun together.

### **The MMG version of the photo booth should be more attractive to our volunteers:**

- We have streamlined the work process of our booth
- This MMG takes place over just two days (Garlic Festival is three)
- The MMG is more accessible than the Garlic Festival, with more convenient parking
- Since the MMG is in May, the temperature should be cooler than at the Garlic Festival

**We are counting on having new volunteers at this event. Stay tuned to learn how you can participate.**



## EMETH TEEN, LEVI GLATT, DISCUSSES MEDICINAL HERBS

The Jewish News of Northern California, recently published an article about Levi, his book on native herbs, and his skin salve that supports healing for the homeless. (If you helped at the Lord's Table on December 25, you would have seen Levi distributing his salve there.) Read the article at <https://www.jweekly.com/2017/11/28/teen-herbalists-book-supports-healing-homeless/>.

