

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



**Michael Heil**

## No MORE MORTGAGE!

*Michael Heil, Treasurer*

This spring, just 10 years after Congregation Emeth made the gigantic financial leap of purchasing our first spiritual home, I am delighted to announce that we have fully paid off our mortgage! All remaining financing is through bonds from our members (23 member households). This remaining debt represents less than 50% of the value of the building. (In contrast, at the time of purchase, we needed to finance 89% of the building cost.)

We have reached this milestone through a combination of specific financial strategies and member generosity:

1. Our initial financing included a commercial mortgage (\$359,000) from Pinnacle Bank and 5-year bonds (\$580,000) issued by Congregation Emeth. The board chose to issue bonds as a win-win opportunity: Our members could invest in Emeth and receive a good return on that investment, while the bond rate was lower than that of additional mortgage debt.
2. In addition to making regular mortgage payments, the board chose to direct tenant income (e.g. from church and kitchen renters) to pay down the mortgage, rather than spending it as part of the annual operating budget.
3. When the first 5-year issue of bonds matured, we successfully provided the opportunity for additional investors, enabling us to increase the bond amount, shifting the debt from the bank mortgage to member investors. At that time, several bondholders also made generous donations by canceling their bond debt.
4. Our recent, successful capital campaign raised funds specifically directed to further reduction of the mortgage, enabling us to pay our mortgage down by an additional \$48,000.
5. With the maturing of our second 5-year bond issue, some bondholders forgave additional existing bond debt and more members subscribed to our third bond release. A generous challenge gift by Emeth members encouraged these new subscriptions and was successfully triggered by reaching a target bond subscription level. These additional donations and bond subscriptions enabled us to fully pay off the mortgage.

*The board sincerely thanks all past, new, and continuing bondholders and those making generous donations toward Congregation Emeth's ownership of our temple.*



**Becky Neto**

## ETZ HAYIM (TREE OF LIFE) AWARD

*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.

*The recipients of this year's "Etz Hayim" (Tree of Life) Award are Elizabeth Mandel and Susan Meyers.*

*Read more on Page 4*

## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

<b>Rabbi</b>	Debbie Israel
<b>Administrator</b>	Charlene Rose
<b>Controller</b>	Barry Freund

### 2017-2018 Board

<b>President</b>	Becky Neto
<b>Vice President/ President Elect</b>	Peter Mandel
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Heil
<b>Secretary</b>	Denise Weyl
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Grant Gordon
<b>Membership</b>	Marilyn Freund
<b>Communication</b>	Elizabeth Mandel
<b>Tikkun Olam</b>	Susan Meyers
<b>Education Liaison/ Member at Large</b>	Eric Killough
<b>Adult Education/ Member at Large</b>	Susan Braun

### Non-Board Leadership

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<b>Library</b>	Linda Riesenberg
<b>Ritual</b>	Michael Oshan
<b>Sisterhood</b>	Patty Baggesse, Marilyn Freund
<b>Kitchen Supplies</b>	Susan Latin
<b>Technology</b>	Arthur Rudin

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**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 HOST "FAITH OF OUR NEIGHBORS: BUDDHISM"

*Susan Meyers, Tikkun Olam Chair*

*Photos by Rick Coencas*



The members of the ICSC and monks and staff of the Dhanakaya Silicon Valley Meditation Center invited members of the Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy communities to engage in a learning and meditation experience at their center in Morgan Hill. Fourteen Emeth families attended the event. Most of us were pleasantly surprised when we realized that we had meditated in silence for thirty minutes!

The "Faith of our Neighbors" program is offered twice each year. To date, the Muslim, Mormon, Jewish, Lutheran, Catholic and now Buddhist faith organizations have hosted the event. This program is based on the mission of the ICSC to create compassionate communities through education, social and service activities.





## CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY (YOM HA'ATZMA'UT)

*Photos by Rachel Neto, MariaElena Jarson & Lori Goldsmith*

In April, Emeth's celebration of Israel's 70th birthday started with



**Israeli dancing with Morah Hana**

Chai School games, dancing, and crafts. It continued with Tot Shabbat activities, followed by wonderful Israeli food, catered by our new tenant, Chef Mannie.



**Making Israeli Flags**



Members of all ages danced and celebrated into the evening, with entertainment provided by Lior Ben-Hur and his 3-piece band.



## June 2018

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## EXCITING 2018-2019 SCHOOL PLANS!

*Eric Killough, Education Committee*

There will be staffing changes for Emeth's school for 2018-19.

**In Chai School, Hana Cidon** will move from the upper grades to grades K-1. She will be assisted by **Haley Toch**. **MariaElena Jarson** will remain teaching the elementary students. Morah Jarson will teach grades 2-3. We are excited to introduce Emeth's newest teacher, **Sharon Genkin**. Morah Sharon comes to us highly recommended after years of teaching religious school and Hebrew School. She will teach grades 4-7.

**In Hebrew school, Morah Hana** will teach the Aleph students and Morah Sharon will teach Gimel and Dalet.

*We anticipate a great year with wonderful staffing! Happy summer!*

# ETZ HAYIM (TREE OF LIFE) AWARD HONORING ELIZABETH MANDEL AND SUSAN MEYERS

Becky Neto, President (Continued from Page 1)



Elizabeth Mandel

**Elizabeth Mandel** has been an active member of Congregation Emeth since she joined with her family in the fall of 2000. Her volunteerism began immediately when her two daughters started Emeth's religious school, which they continued through Confirmation. Elizabeth has served on the Board of Directors for about 12 years. She has been Emeth's

Education Chair, Secretary, and Membership Chair, and she is currently Communications Chair.

Elizabeth brings unique skills and knowledge to her role as Communications Chair. Of note are her role as photographer and editor of the Kol Emeth (produced three times a year) and designer, creator, and editor of the Emeth website, as well as the connections she has created with local newspapers and magazines to highlight events at Emeth. She also does most graphics, posters, flyers, and photography for the congregation as needed.

During the time Elizabeth was not on the Board she served as project manager when we purchased this building. Elizabeth was on the design committee and played an active role overseeing the renovations of the building taking it from a neglected restaurant to the beautiful space we now call our spiritual home and center of Jewish life in South Santa Clara County.

Elizabeth volunteers for Emeth's booth at the Garlic Festival. In addition, she has chaired Emeth's two very successful community wide theater fundraisers: *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Producers*.

Finally, Elizabeth is a model for those in our community who are not Jewish. An active participant in adult education classes offered by Rabbi Israel, Elizabeth engages in serious study to learn more about our religion, history, and faith traditions. The quality of her service is always outstanding.



Susan Meyers

**Susan Meyers** has been an active member of Congregation Emeth for almost 30 years. When Susan first joined Emeth there was no Rabbi and no spiritual place to call our own. Everything that happened was coordinated and run by the small group of members, and Susan was an integral part of this group. It was due to their dedication and commitment

that we have the Emeth we all know and love today.

Susan initiated several programs and activities that have become Emeth traditions: The Women's Seder (which was first hosted at her home), the popular Emeth Read's Book Club, the photo booth at the Gilroy Garlic Festival (which she started with her husband Michael), and the "Getting to Know Emeth" program for new members.

In addition, Susan was a founding member of Emeth Sisterhood, has been Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, and was Chair of the Bimah Committee. She has served on the Emeth Board of Directors as President Elect, President, Past President, and most recently Chair of the Tikkun Olam Committee. In this role, Susan became the Founding Director of the Interfaith COMMUNITY of South County.

Every Christmas Day you will find Susan, aka Santa's Elf, assisting Santa with the gift giving after preparing Christmas dinner at St. Joseph's. Six years ago Susan began chairing the annual Mah Jongg tournament, which donates funds raised back to the Emeth community.

Susan is personally engaged with Emeth as well. She was one of five women who studied together and celebrated their B'not Mitzvah, and she continues to participate in Rabbi Israel's adult education classes. You can regularly find Susan at a Shabbat service.

This award is becoming a very important tradition. It not only respects the people who give so much of themselves to our Jewish community, but also helps others know what can be done and what makes our community so vibrant.

*I encourage every member of Emeth to become an active volunteer.  
Emeth will certainly benefit, but you will as well.*

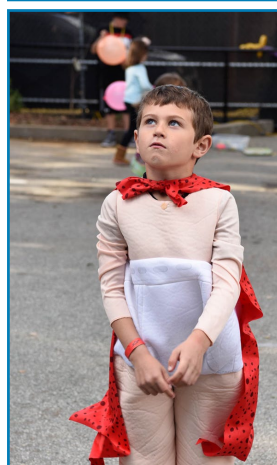


# NEW PURIM CARNIVAL FORMAT: FUN FOR ALL!

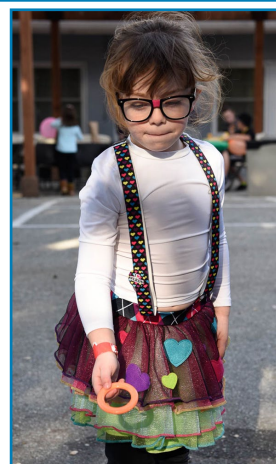
*Eric Killough, Education Committee*

*Photos by David Kirsch*

The temple Purim Carnival, a perennial favorite for young and not-so-young alike, received a new and different format and location this year. Staged outside in parking lots surrounding Emeth, attendees enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course, face painting, popcorn, golfing, bean bag toss, and many other carnival games. A cakewalk, with cakes provided by members was particularly well-received. Deemed a success by all those in attendance, plans are already in the works to expand next year's attendance beyond the Emeth community. Thank you to all who contributed: the EDK students who supervised the games, parents who staffed the booths, and all those who provided food!



The adults partied too: Andre, Becky, Rachel, Marby & Bryson





## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



### WELCOME TO THE PERRY FAMILY!

**Karen and Doug Perry** recently moved to Morgan Hill from Belmont. Their son Sam (19) is completing his first year at DeAnza College, and their daughter Jannah (22) graduates from UCLA in June. They are looking forward to reconnecting this summer as a family and also connecting with Emeth by participating in social activities and services.

Karen and Doug enjoy biking, walking, hiking, gardening, wine tasting, and relaxing with friends. They both work full time: Karen has her own business—Marblestone Insurance Services—as a long term care insurance specialist, and Doug works as a compliance officer at New York Life.

They are enjoying their new role as parents of young adults, one that comprises more “consulting” than “parenting”. As a family, the Perrys enjoy eating out together, cooking, hiking, watching Warriors and Giants games and travelling when they can.

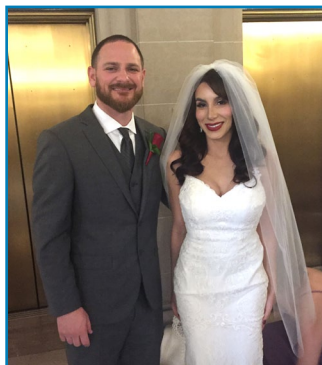
### APRIL WEDDINGS ... MAZEL TOV!



Sarah, daughter of **Robin and Tom Yacono** married Armando Romero. The couple will honeymoon in Europe this summer.



Seth Novack, son of **Marsha and Jerry Novack** married Amelia “Amy” Ettinger.



Jeff Maskell, son of **Jay Maskell and Terry-Jo Falcon**, married Rose Carrasco. The couple honeymooned in Japan. Jeff and Rose live in Hollister.

### RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS!



**Peter Mandel** is retiring after a 36 year software development career with IBM. He is looking forward to his upcoming role as Emeth’s President in addition to continuing his active participation on and off the stage with South Valley Civic Theatre.



**Susie Freiberg** is retiring after a 39 year teaching career in Gilroy. Most recently she taught Spanish and Dual Immersion Social Studies at Gilroy High School. She is looking forward to traveling as well as having more time to explore personal interests.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES AND THEIR FAMILIES!



**Nathan Yacono, son of Robin and Tom Yacono**, is graduating from Live Oak High School. He participated for five years in the Emerald Regime Marching Band, including state championship competitions. Nathan also earned letters for participation in track and field. In the fall, Nathan will be a

member of the San Jose State Marching Band while attending West Valley College. Nathan has been an active participant in our teen group, Emeth Dor Kef.

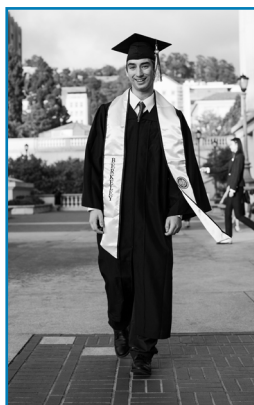
**Quinn Neto, son of Becky and Andre Neto**, is graduating from Live Oak High School. While at Live Oak, he played on the Acorn baseball team and participated for four years in Future Farmers of America (FFA). For two of those years he raised, showed, and sold a lamb at the Santa Clara County Fair and Auction.

Quinn's main plan for his future is to be happy. He hopes to join an apprenticeship through a local Union to be able to work with his hands. Quinn has been an active participant in our teen group, Emet Dor Kef.



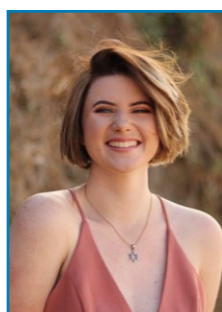
**Monica Flynn, daughter of Denise Weyl and Dan Flynn**, is graduating from the University of Oregon on June 18 with a double major in Psychology and Spanish. She is planning on spending a year in Spain, teaching and tutoring English.

**Joshua Toch, son of Randy Toch and Katherine Henderson Toch**, graduated from UC Berkeley's Hass School of Business with a BS in Business Administration. He is moving to Atlanta where he has accepted a position as an analyst with IBM's Human Resources Department.



**Jacob Rabin, grandson of Susan Meyers and Michael Oshan**, is graduating from UC Davis with a double major in Statistics and Economics. He will be leaving for Israel on Birthright Israel in June.

**Zack Freiberg, son of Susie and Ken Freiberg**, graduated from SAE Institute with an Audio Bachelor of Applied Science.



**Jannah Perry, daughter of new members Karen and Doug Perry**, is graduating from UCLA with a major in Sociology and a minor in Civic Engagement. She plans to work for a year before returning to school for a Master's in Social Work.

**Marnie Oshan, daughter of Michael Oshan and Susan Meyers**, is receiving an Executive MBA from the University of Washington. She has accepted a global marketing position for Ironman International in Tampa, Florida. *Marnie was Congregation Emeth's first Bat Mitzvah in 1992.*



**Andrew Foster, son of Dale Foster and Aileen Teren-Foster**, received an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Andrew is a partner in a restaurant group (FreshFin Poke), bringing poke to the Midwest.

**Erin Wolf, daughter of Joelle and Joel Wolf**, received an MD from Duke Medical School. She will be joining the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas for her three-year residency in Internal Medicine.



**Rabbi Israel**

## TORAH LISHMAH -- STUDY FOR ITS OWN SAKE!

*Rabbi Debbie Israel*

Rabbi Barry W. Holtz wrote: Studying is the essence of being a Jew. It defines who one is. Hence, Jewish learning is not only the instrumental gaining of skills, knowledge and competencies. It is the religious act par excellence. Religious education is not only a preparation for what will come later; it is being a Jew, realizing one's Jewishness, in the very act of studying. (*Textual Knowledge—Teaching the Bible in Theory and Practice*)

In July, I will have the opportunity to attend the Hartman Rabbinic Scholars Program in Jerusalem during my vacation. I've wanted to participate in this program for so many years but it seemed there was always an obstacle. This summer, I have shoved the obstacles aside and will be participating in this almost two-week seminar, studying with about 150 Rabbis from around the world. Our teachers are renown scholars. A dream realized!

In May Congregation Emeth completed our Chai and Hebrew School year, and four students graduated from its program. Hopefully these young people will continue their informal Jewish education through Emeth's prize program, Emet Dor Kef (EDK) for teens. We also celebrated with eight teenagers as they became confirmands. Our 15 Adult Jewish Education students completed their study of *Pirke Avot* (Ethics of our Sages) and *Mussar* (ethical behavior values). And our second adult B'not Mitzvah class has begun! A lot of teaching and a lot of learning, fulfilling our responsibility to not only teach our children but also *Torah Lishmah*, study Torah for it's own sake.

If there's a topic you are interested in, as we create next year's adult learning program, please be sure to tell Susan Braun (adulted@emeth.net) or me (rabbi@emeth.net)!

If you would like to study this summer, start with some good Jewish books. I have fiction and non-fiction to loan, and our beautiful library has many books I could recommend. May we continue to create many opportunities to learn together.

## MAH JONGG MAVENS HOST SUCCESSFUL TOURNAMENT

*Susan Meyers, Event Chair*

This year marks the sixth consecutive year of the Emeth Mah Jongg Tournament. This year we agreed to contribute \$1,500 to Emeth's Campership Fund and \$500 to the Grateful Garmet Organization. We enjoy such a wonderful reputation for our warm and welcoming Emeth home that many of the 36 women who came have participated in all 6 tournaments.



**36 women enjoyed Emeth's hospitality: breakfast, lunch, and mah jongg. Our tournament raised \$2,000.**



**Sisterhood working behind the scenes: Marilyn, Jan, Susan, Maddie, and more.**



Thanks to Sisterhood members, **Maddie Altman, Patty Baggese, Susan Braun, Maureen Chassy, Nancy Fishman, Marcia Fishman, Marilyn Freund, Cathy Gill, Susan Meyers, Jan Shorr, Cathy Silverstein, Aileen Teren-Foster and Cheryl Thompson**, our guests raved about our delicious home made breakfast and lunch. Thank you also to **Stewart Gill, Jack Shorr, Dale Foster, and Michael Oshan** for moving the tables. As they left for home, many of our Mah Jongg players promised to be back next year!



## MAZEL TOV TO OUR 2018 CONFIRMANDS AND THEIR PARENTS

Rabbi Debbie Israel

Photo by Elizabeth Mandel

In preparation for Confirmation, our students participated in a Confirmation retreat, studying with Rabbi Israel. The theme of the retreat was Rabbi Hillel's saying in Pirke Avot (Sayings of the Sages):

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?*

*If I am only for myself, what am I?*

*If not now, when?*



Front Row: Aliya Glatt, Levi Glatt, Meghan Lee, Jason Valentine, Tracy Valentine, Michael Ogden / Middle Row: Rena Dubin, Nathan Yacono, Haley Toch, Quinn Neto, Becky Neto, Matthew Ogden, Daria Ogden / Back Row: Harlan Glatt, Robin Yacono, Bryson Lee, Marby Lee, Randy Toch, Andre Neto

Our confirmands spoke about Hillel's statement or their reflections on one of the study topics of the retreat:

What is a Jew? Who is a Jew? What is Judaism?

Different Jewish Beliefs -- the Denominations/Movements in Judaism

Jewish Values -- Using Jewish Values for Ethical Decision Making

God talk; What do Jews believe (which Jews?)?

What does it mean to be confirmed?

We celebrated with these dedicated teens and their families:

<b>Aliya Glatt</b>	Daughter of Rena Dubin & Harlan Glatt
<b>Levi Glatt</b>	Son of Rena Dubin & Harlan Glatt
<b>Meghan Lee</b>	Daughter of Marby & Bryson Lee
<b>Quinn Neto</b>	Son of Becky & Andre Neto
<b>Matthew Ogden</b>	Son of Michael & Daria Ogden
<b>Haley Toch</b>	Daughter of Randy Toch & Katherine H. Toch
<b>Jason Valentine</b>	Son of Tracy & Scott Valentine
<b>Nathan Yacono</b>	Son of Robin & Tom Yacono

## SOCIAL HALL UPGRADES

Becky Neto, President

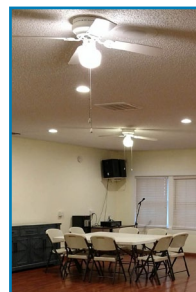
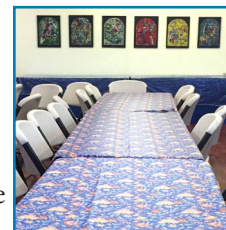
*Have you seen the recent changes in the Social Hall and wondered, "What's up?"*

In response to frequent offers of art, furniture, books, etcetera, the board decided a "Donations Committee" would provide a process for determining what proposed donations would be accepted by Emeth. The committee consists of **Grant Gordon, Denise Weyl** and myself.

**Nancy Fishman** and **Ronnie Wilner** were strong advocates for sprucing up the social hall to make it more inviting. And a cousin of Nancy's was willing to donate the needlepoints;



Nancy presented the idea in relation to her other social hall ideas, including new tablecloths to bring some much needed color into the room. Because Nancy had so many ideas and past experience we asked her to join the committee regarding items relating to the social hall. Nancy has been generous in putting her time and money behind her ideas.

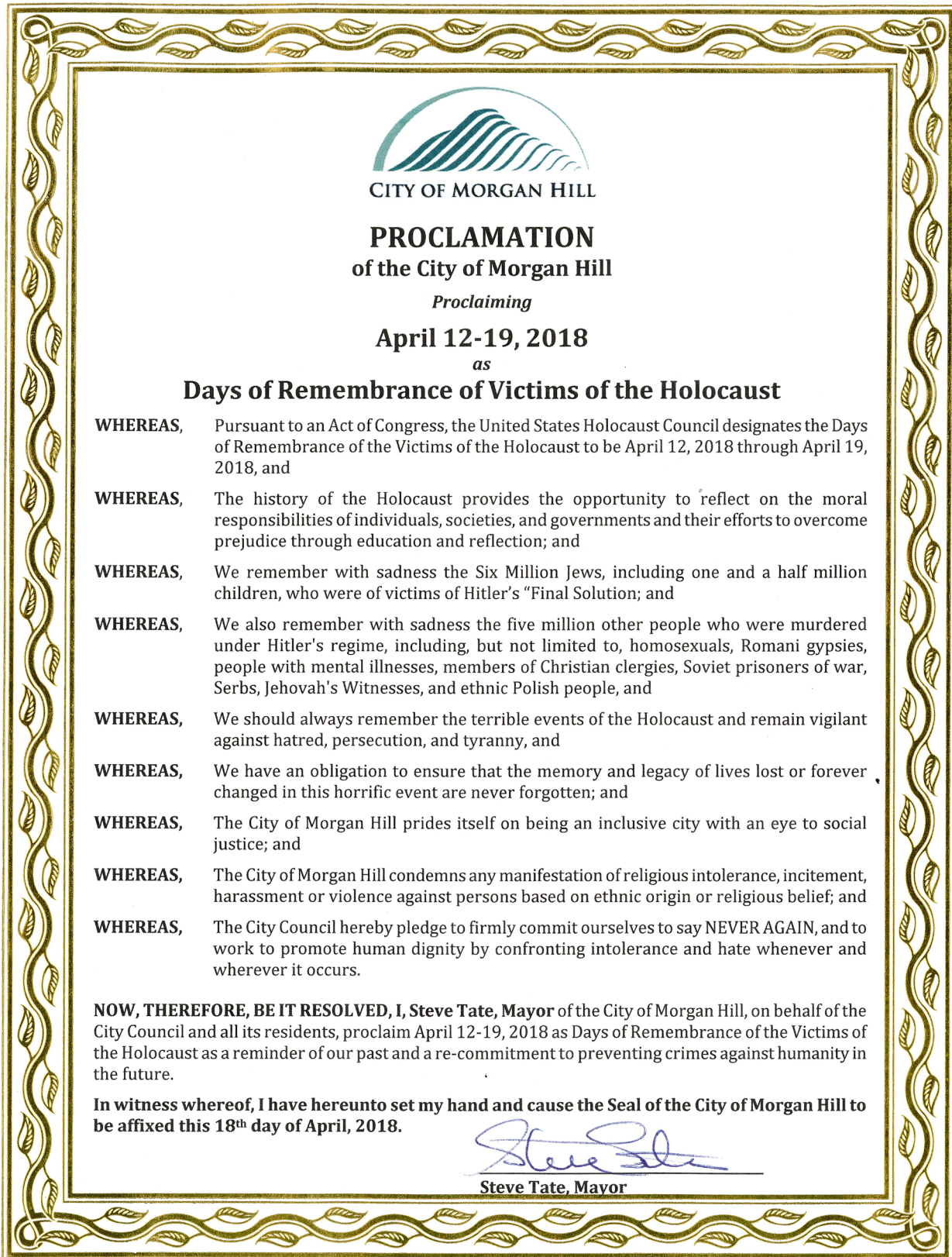


**Grant Gordon** has also replaced all the canned lights in the Social Hall with LED recessed lighting, further brightening up the room.

The plan is to next put some mirrors over the buffet and possibly more art work.

Longer term plans might include changing out the ceiling fans, sound proofing the ceiling, and possibly--longer term--adding ceiling beams and French doors to the patio.

*Please contact a member of this committee if you have questions or wish to make a donation.*



The Morgan Hill City Council presented a Yom HaShoah proclamation in April. Receiving the proclamation were Emeth's Second and Third Generation Survivors: **Susan Braun & Georgie Braun-Rudin, Joyce Maskell, and Randy & Haley Toch.**







## A JOYFUL COMMUNITY SEDER

*Rena Dubin, Event Chair*

*Photos by Elizabeth Mandel*

The Community Passover Seder was once again a joyful celebration! **Rabbi Israel** led an inspiring Seder, featuring a special guest appearance by Moses. The food, catered by Lucy Fried, was delicious. Thanks to all who came and participated, making the Seder so memorable!



Inviting Elijah in



A visit from Moses



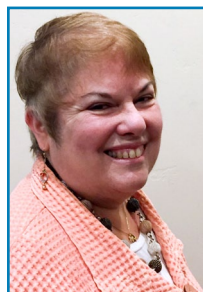
Special thanks to **Marilyn Freund** for her work behind-the-scenes, **Barry Freund** for gathering the registrations and money-related consultations, and **Aileen Teren-Foster and Dale Foster** for helping before, during, and after the Seder, even though they had just returned from a trip abroad! Many thanks also to the **Wolf-Dubins,**

**Glatts, and Jerry Dubin** for setting up the space. I am looking forward to a wonderful Seder again next year!



## WELCOMING THE STRANGER: SISTERHOOD'S WOMEN'S SEDER

*Marcia Fishman*



This past December I moved to Morgan Hill, and I have since been delighted with three different factors. First, I left Michigan during its first snowstorm—and I cannot be more happy that it was my last. Second, Morgan

Hill packs an environment with beautiful hills, convenient amenities, and a comfortable ambience—perfect for retirement. And finally, Congregation Emeth has provided opportunities for new friendships and stimulating activities—exemplified by Sisterhood's Women's Seder.

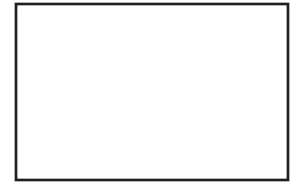
Approximately 16 women gathered at the home of **Wendy Thowdis** who, teamed with **Jackie Stevens**, offered warm hospitality and a beautiful setting. For me, the gracious reception coupled with the inclusive participation (including the food prep and Seder itself), confirmed that I found a community for which I sought.

I was asked to write this article from the viewpoint of a new member, and I could elaborate on the well-planned details. But the greater point as a newbie is how much work is involved when moving to a community and meeting new friends. And yet the Seder was an easy event. For anyone who wished to meet new people, avoid the concern of fitting in, diminish the awkwardness of jumping into a conversation, and leave with a phone number for a new social occurrence—this handed us a magic ticket. I have already started to spend my ticket and I hope that others new to the area will look to the temple's calendar and find the opportunities that suit them.

*Editor's Note: At Emeth we strive to provide a welcoming hand and open doors to involvement. Join Divas Who Dine, the Men's Club, or the Emeth Reads Book Club. Or meet others and take satisfaction from volunteer work. Contact a member of the board and/or Marilyn Freund at [membership@emeth.net](mailto:membership@emeth.net) for ideas on how to get involved or meet new people.*



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## MUSHROOM MARDI GRAS PHOTO BOOTH

*Michael Heil, Event Chair*



**Mardi Gras booth & banner**

Our first Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras photo booth fundraiser was held over Memorial Day weekend. We modeled this after Emeth's Gilroy Garlic Festival fundraiser, using a green screen background that featured a choice of giant mushrooms or Mardi Gras themed items (instead of the "flame up" or giant garlic options of the Garlic Festival photo booth). With a new printer and improved green screen, along with a more streamlined work process and trained volunteers, everything went smoothly. Our booth location was not very central, and the client demographic seemed more local (and less inclined to spend money) than the Garlic Festival, so business was slower than we would have liked. However, we were pleased with our improvements, our customers were delighted, and the Mushroom Mardi Gras staff clearly considers our booth a positive addition to the event (and, after seeing our booth and work product, has offered us a prime location next year).

Many thanks to my committee: **Marcia Fishman** and **Charlene Rose** (decorations and costumes), **Elizabeth Mandel** (signage and green screen), **Michael Oshan**, **Peter Mandel**, **Barry Freund**, and **Arthur Rudin**. Thank you also to all the terrific on-site volunteers, and I look forward to your participation again at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, July 27-29.

*If you have never volunteered at our photo booth,  
I encourage you to come give it a try at the Garlic Festival!*



**Thank you to Emeth's students and their families for posing for the photos for our banner**



**Booth workers: Michael Oshan, Susan Meyers, and Raul Fernandez with a client**