

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



Peter Mandel

WHY DOES CONGREGATION EMETH EXIST?

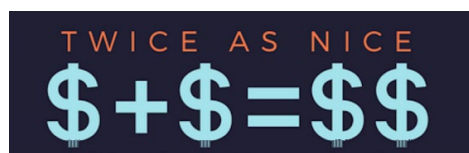
Peter Mandel, President

As a new temple president, I attended a seminar to help build skills and knowledge to succeed in this job. One question that I pondered while I was in this thoughtful setting was “Why does Congregation Emeth exist?” We’ve been around for over 40 years. I’ve been a member for over 15 years. Over those years, while the congregation is still relatively small, it has grown in membership, has vastly increased the breadth and depth of programs offered, provides a wide range of educational offerings for both youth and adults, has broadened its participation in the community, and is recognized as having an impact on society in the South Valley. Clearly all this is evidence of progress and growth, but to what end?

The seminar introduced to me an observation from Rabbi Tarfon in Pirkei Avot: “It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are you free to desist from it.” Perhaps our Congregation exists because it gives all of us another way to work on ‘perfecting our world’. Congregation Emeth gives us a way to further our relationships, offer caring and support to those in need, help our community in ways that would not otherwise be available to us. As we all try to step up to our responsibility to help ‘perfect the world’, our congregation gives us a powerful foundation for taking the next step in that journey.

PLEDGE CHALLENGE FOR 2018-19

Art Reidel, Treasurer



Inspired by the successful challenge grant during the bond Campaign, several Emeth leaders have challenged our membership to modestly increase annual donation pledges with a \$7500 matching grant. As a result, any increase in total pledges up to that amount will be doubled—If the membership increases pledges by \$7500 in total, the congregation will benefit by \$15,000.

Please consider a modest increase to your pledge, and double your impact!

FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF DINING IN OUR BEAUTIFUL SUKKAH!

Share a meal with congregants, family, and friends during the Sukkot holiday! *You and your family are welcome to picnic in our sukkah any time, breakfast, lunch, or dinner!* Or join us at one or more of these specially programmed events in the sukkah:

Friday, September 21, 6:30 pm - Our annual Sukkot celebration, this year hosted by Chai School as “Pizza in the Hut”! A very short Shabbat and Sukkot Short ‘n Sweet will follow at 7:15 pm.

Monday, September 24, 6:00 pm - Sisterhood’s Divas Who Dine, Potluck Dinner. RSVP to Marilyn Freund, membership@emeth.net.

Tuesday, September 25, 6:00 pm - Pick up your children at Hebrew School and join us with your picnic in the sukkah for a family dinner!

Friday, September 28, 6:30 pm - Chai School Community Dinner preceding our Simchat Torah celebration at 7:15 pm.

Sunday, September 30, 5:00 pm - EDK’s annual Pizza in the Hut!

Congregation Emeth

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Rabbi	Debbie Israel
Administrator	Charlene Rose
Controller	Barry Freund

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Member at Large	

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Ritual	Michael Oshan
Sisterhood	Patty Baggesse, Marilyn Freund
Tikkun Olam	Susan Meyers
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.

Follow Congregation Emeth on Facebook for the latest news and photos.



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

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

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH COUNTY (ICSC) WELCOMES ALL

Susan Meyers

The ICSC continues to engage in activities that reflect our mission ... "to create compassionate communities through educational, social and service programs". Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month. If you are interested in learning more about the ICSC, please contact me at tikkunolam@emeth.net. You are more than welcome to join us at our monthly meetings!

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, led by the Interfaith Clergy Alliance, will be held on Sunday November 18, 5 pm at Advent Lutheran Church in Morgan Hill. All are encouraged to come for this inspirational service followed by a social gathering with refreshments provided by the 18 faith communities participating in the ICSC. A children's choir is forming for this service; contact me for more information, tikkunolam@emeth.net.

The ICSC Educational Program "The Faith of Our Neighbors" is to be hosted by the Catholic Community of St. Catherine's Church in Morgan Hill in October, specific date to be announced. "The Faith of our Neighbors" is designed to offer an opportunity to our South County residents to learn about the faith communities in our area. Participants in the ICSC invite the community to their house of worship to listen and ask questions. Over the past two years, the Muslim, Mormon, Jewish, Buddhist, and Lutheran communities have hosted this program with positive feedback from all.

ICSC Community Service revolves around the Safe Parking Project sponsored by the City of Morgan Hill. The project serves families who are living in their vehicles with a safe place to park, support from a social worker and the faith communities who provide meals, clothing, toys, and other essential items requested by the families. With the help of the social worker, families have found housing, jobs and connection with the support networks in our community.

MEET MORAH SHARON

We are delighted to introduce Sharon Genkin, the newest member of our Hebrew and Chai School staff. Sharon's son, Joshua, will also be a Madrich at Emeth. Sharon has been an elementary school teacher and principal. She has a Master's degree in education, as well as a Certificate of Supervision and Administration. She has previously taught Bet and Gimel (first and second level) Hebrew as well as Religious School for over 5 years.



Sharon Genkin

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUMMER B'NAI MITZVAH!



Tyler Oberquel

Tyler says, "I think the most significant thing that happened for my bar mitzvah was donating \$130 to two charities. Half went to help purple ribbon diseases (invisible, autoimmune diseases like Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Crohn's, and Ulcerative Colitis, which I suffer from) and the other half to help breast cancer. The reason why I choose those is because they affect me and my family; my mom and I have a purple disease (not the same disease) and my aunt has breast cancer."



Ryan Yacono

Ryan chose two tzedakah projects. The first, "The Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem", preserves rare animals and species threatened with extinction. Ryan chose this project because he loves all animals. His second project was the "North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry". Ryan wants to help them bring Ethiopian Jews back to Israel where they want to be.



Max Brown

Max says, "My tzedakah project was The Society for the Protection of Animals in Israel. You've heard of the SPCA in the United States. This is the Israeli branch. Israel has a very high homeless cat population. For the amount of cats there are there is not enough food. The Society for the Protection of Animals in Israel neuters these cats to lower the cat population and also takes them off the streets in a protected environment, and hopefully finds them homes. A lot of funding is needed for this."

September 2018

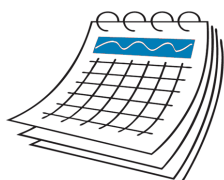
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IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION UPDATES

Elizabeth Mandel, Communication Director (communication@emeth.net)

Emeth Website - I recently revamped our website and moved it to WordPress. Current content and layout is similar to the previous website, but I am hoping to add more photos and video, as well as a members-only area (e.g. for the membership directory). Please send me suggestions at any time.



Google Calendar - Stay prompted re upcoming Emeth events. *If you use*

Google Calendar, I can feed Emeth's calendar automatically to your personal calendar. Emeth has several distinct calendars: Worship, Adult Education, School (Youth Education), Social Action, Teens (EDK), Events (Social). and Emeth (Meetings, etc.). These are the calendars you see on the Emeth website. If you would like any or all of these calendars fed to your personal Google Calendar, just let me know and I will set them up.

Kol Emeth Newsletter - Kol Emeth is published just three times annually. I am looking for someone to assist and/or take over as editor. Perhaps you would like to start by writing some articles? Please let me know if this interests you. Thanks!



Elizabeth Mandel



Barbara Yazman

FOND MEMORIES OF BARBARA YAZMAN

Patty Baggese

We met Barbara, Paul, Eric, and Andrew in the late 90's at a party at the Chassy's home. As with everyone who met Barbara, we became instant friends. Barbara and Paul joined the Congregation and were ready to be involved at all levels of the organization. Through the years they served in many capacities of leadership and support for our congregants. Their involvement was recognized by the Board of Directors by awarding them the Tree of Life Award. There was never a time when a request went out for help that Barbara was not the first to step up and volunteer. She was our Rachamim committee before there was a Rachamim committee. Barbara would help in any possible way but the activity she enjoyed the most was working with and helping children. No matter what child, she showed such enthusiasm when greeting and interacting with the children.

Through the years, Barbara and I spent a lot of time together and worked on many functions/activities for the Congregation. Beyond the Congregation activities, we both were big Giants fans so we attended Giants games together. We even went to Spring Training together to celebrate our retirements that occurred a few months apart.

I believe Barbara was at the forefront of breaking barriers for women. Barbara graduated from UC Berkeley and worked for the DMV as an investigator, where she was licensed to carry a weapon. I remember once she told me that, during one of her investigations, she had to "take down" a large man. We all knew not to mess with Barbara.

Barbara was in the memory care facility in 2016 and I went to her room the night Hillary was going to be nominated to run for president. I sat with her during the nomination process and during Hillary's acceptance speech. I do not know how much Barbara understood at that time. I thought the nomination of the first woman for president would have been important to her. We talked about the nomination during the evening and she seemed to understand some of what was happening.

With everything in her life, Barbara expressed the most joy when talking about her sons Eric and Andrew and her husband Paul.

I will miss Barbara as a wonderful friend, and I believe the congregation will miss her hard work and especially her joyous attitude.



Eric, Barbara, Andrew & Paul

Editor's Notes:

- *Over the years, Barbara's welcoming presence prompted many families to join Emeth.*
- *Barbara was one of the founders of Sisterhood. Sisterhood has purchased a memorial plaque for our Yahrzeit Board.*
- *A mezuzah honoring Barbara will be placed on Emeth's new classroom (the room where Barbara taught); in her memory the plaque will read: "Make for yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend (Pirke Avot)".*
- *Donations in Barbara's memory may be made to Rachamim. Go to Emeth's website for a donation form or to donate online.*

ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Save the Date!
Saturday, October 20, 5 pm





Rabbi Israel

THE 3 R'S OF A SABBATICAL

Rabbi Debbie Israel

Last spring, I was talking to one of my clergy friends from the Interfaith Community. My pastor friend was surprised to learn that, as I begin my 12th year as your Rabbi, I have never taken a sabbatical, which usually takes place every seven years.

As we shared our stories, and the difference between clergy's work and the work of professionals in other sectors of society, we recognized that all clergy share a unique responsibility and "job description." For example, it is not unusual in a single day for me to interact with congregants about a death or serious illness, to counsel them about serious and sometimes desperate matters, to enthusiastically share in good news, like the birth of a child or grandchild, and then to prepare for the evening's class or meeting. Many days are like that for me, a roller coaster of emotions. No wonder there is so much talk of burn-out among the clergy. Clergy are on 24-hour call. I go to sleep knowing I might get awakened by a phone call from a congregant with an urgent problem or see a pressing text upon awakening. Vacations are often interrupted, sometimes only by a phone call but other times by a need to return as quickly as possible.

It is for these reasons and more that the idea of a sabbatical is woven into the clergy's professional life. While other professions also have sabbaticals, the meaning of a sabbatical in religious life is different than, say, academia. For clergy, a sabbatical is closely identified with the word's origin – a sabbath. The purpose is the 3 R's: rest, rejuvenation and renewal. (The Torah says that on the seventh day (*shabbat*) God rested and was refreshed.)

In the Torah we read about the sabbatical year where the reference is about allowing the land to rest every seven years. In religious professional terms it has come to mean a time of extended Shabbat. It's like having a lot of Shabbat days without the weekdays in between! A Sabbatical is also an opportunity to reconnect with God. Time to allow the Holy One to restore my soul (23rd Psalm). (That's two more R's!)

For those reasons, I discussed with Congregation Emeth's Board of Trustees my hope to take a sabbatical during this new year. Our board understood the importance of a sabbatical for clergy and wished me well as I began to plan.

It's very hard for me to imagine disconnecting from you, the people I care about, for 3 months (a sabbatical usually lasts anytime up to a year; some Rabbis divide the time in two years, with 3 months in the fall and 3 months in the spring). I thought 3 months was the right number for us. I'm grateful to my pastor friend who convinced me of the importance of doing this.

I will be thinking about you and continuing to love and care about you. And please don't be concerned—we already have volunteers to cover our religious services and clergy in the area on-call for your pastoral needs. I'll be gone beginning in November, returning the first week in February.

GILROY GARLIC FESTIVAL PHOTO BOOTH

Michael Heil, Event Chair

Thanks to all our wonderful, hard-working volunteers, our fundraising program at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, July 27-29, was a success. We raised over \$4,000 for the temple. This was quite good considering that overall festival attendance was reported to be significantly lower this year. Also--as indicated by the reactions we got during the photo process, when customers picked up their pictures, and via email response to the many digital images that we sold--we made many, many of our customers very happy.



Delighted customers!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME COHEN FAMILY!



Jackie and Art Cohen with sons **Zimin and Nate** recently moved to Morgan Hill. Long time friends of the Jarson family, they are interested in Tikkun Olam, serving at The Lord's Table, Sisterhood, religious services, and Jewish education.

WELCOME GALLOP FAMILY!

The Gallop family, **Matthew, Alece** and their children **Greyson (5) and Kassidy (2)**, are excited to have found Congregation Emeth where they can connect with other Jewish families and learn about the importance of Jewish traditions and values. Alece and Matthew both work in San Jose and enjoy spending their time off with their children. You may see them at Gilroy Gardens, grabbing breakfast out, at dance and sports classes, or at the park.



A FOND FAREWELL TO THE ACHACHE FAMILY



Suzana and Jim Achache with their family have moved to Boulder, CO. We wish them well, and we will always cherish the Tree of Life painting that Suzana created for Emeth and that now hangs in Emeth's sanctuary.

MAZEL TOV!



Daniel Novack, son of members **Marsha and Jerry Novack** married **Deanna Delevati** on August 25 in Woodland, CA.

MEMBERSHIP SHABBAT & ICE CREAM ONEG



At the August 17 Membership Shabbat we presented our newest families (the Perrys and the Cohens) with welcome baskets as well as meeting visitors and prospective members. Thank you to all who supported the event: Membership Director Marilyn Freund, Rabbi Israel, President Peter Mandel, cantorial soloist Aliya Glatt, pianist Elizabeth Herman and organizers and servers of the extravagant ice cream creations.

MEET OUR TENANTS

Ever since we first purchased our building, tenants have been an integral part of Emeth's financial strategy, enabling us, for example, to pay down and eventually pay off our bank mortgage. We currently have two tenants:



1) **Chef Manny, Cochi BBQ and Catering**, 408-512-4502, can be found in Emeth's commercial kitchen on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (as well as when he is catering events). Manny specializes in BBQ, classic Mexican, and Mediterranean food. He makes all his food from scratch and does full party and event planning.

2) **The Apostolic Christ Tabernacle** (www.actmh.org) rents our sanctuary Sunday mornings. They also use our building on Wednesday evenings.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about our tenants, please contact Ways & Means Director, **Grant Gordon**, fundraising@emeth.net.

TIKKUN OLAM: HELP SHAPE OUR DIRECTION

Susan Meyers, Committee Chair



Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) is a relatively new committee for Emeth. We are a small group expecting to grow! Meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in Emeth library. Members of the

committee have been exploring local programs and projects as we look to identify the focus for our community service. To date, we have agreed to support the Safe Parking Project in Morgan Hill by providing Friday Night dinners for the month of October as well as clothing, books and toys for the families. Other potential projects to be discussed include partnering with Congregation Shir Hadash to bring a health fair to South County and "It's Not If But When" a project that involves assuming a leadership role in preparing our temple and our membership for natural disasters. To learn more, please contact me at tikkunolam@emeth.net or just come to our next meeting October 16.

HIGH HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Throughout our High Holiday prayers, we repeat the importance of *teshuvah* (repentance), *t'fila* (prayer), and *tzedakah* (charity, justice, righteousness). These three words capture the essence of the Holy Days.

Customarily, tzedakah is given during the Holy Day season to the temple, as a remembrance of those who have died. Our tradition teaches that by giving of tzedakah in their name, our loved ones live on through our deeds. We encourage you to fulfill this mitzvah.

Donations received by September 12 will be listed in the Yom Kippur HaShavua. Donations received after September 12 will be listed in the November monthly donation flyer.

Send your gift of remembrance to Congregation Emeth, 17835 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill 95037 or [click here](#) to make your donation online through our website. Donations of \$10-\$18 per name are suggested however any amount is appreciated and fulfills the mitzvah.



HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Emet Dor Kef

This year's food drive has begun!

Take a sack(s) and fill with non-perishable and unopened groceries.
(Remember to check expiration dates.)



Return the filled sacks and donations for Mazon (a Jewish response to hunger) between now and Yom Kippur.

All food collected will be distributed to food pantries in Morgan Hill and Gilroy.



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



SISTERHOOD SPONSORED TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO

We will be going to the Contemporary Jewish Museum to see the exhibit, "Veiled Meanings: Fashioning Jewish Dress, From the Collection of the



Israel Museum, Jerusalem." This exhibit explores the diversity of Jewish life and culture across the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and the Americas over the past 200 years as shown through 65 masterpieces of textile art and craft.

\$16 Regular or \$14 Senior admission includes a share of the docent cost. We are also investigating taking a bus which would be an additional cost.

Look for additional details in HaMadrich. If you have further questions please contact Patty or Marilyn at sisterhood@emeth.net.

A NEW, BIGGER CLASSROOM!

Major changes in preparation for a new school year included removal of our portable classroom and, as a replacement, combining of classrooms "1" and "2" into a single larger room.

The classroom enlargement was a huge task, including knocking out a concrete wall, installing carpet, repairing the ceiling and adding electrical outlets (over concrete block walls). Many thanks to **Grant Gordon** for the countless hours he spent preparing the classroom through the spring and summer, and to **Andre Neto** for the fresh coat of paint.



Ready for the new school year!