

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

## THE SECURITY OF OUR CONGREGATION

*Peter Mandel, President*



**Peter Mandel**

We live in a community where members of many faiths know each other, live in peace with each other, and support each other. When any faith feels threatened, all the faiths gather to lend support and share strength. This is a wonderful community.

We live in a community where we personally know the members of the city council, the city manager, the chief of police. We live in a community where the police department contacts us without our asking, ensuring we feel safe when an incident occurs even hundreds of miles away that threatens members of our Jewish faith. This is a wonderful community.

We live in a community where we can have our temple on the main street of the town proudly proclaiming that we are the center of Jewish life in the South County, providing for the spiritual, intellectual, and social needs of all who seek a meaningful Jewish connection. This is a wonderful community.

As we take steps to tighten the security of our congregation, it is too easy to let fear dominate our thoughts and forget that we live in such a wonderful community. Let us not forget how fortunate we are, while at the same time let us acknowledge that evil acts and expressions of hate are on the rise. Expressions of anti-Semitism have been increasing, and the leadership of our temple knows that it is only prudent to take steps to further provide for the safety and comfort of our membership. Some of these changes to the security of the temple will not be obvious, and some will be kept confidential. However, in most cases, you should be aware of the steps we are taking:

- A security company has conducted an audit of our facility and our processes to ensure we have a comprehensive set of recommendations.
- We have upgraded and expanded our video system monitoring the facility. This allows us to monitor

both inside and outside the facility in real time and to record footage should it be needed later. We are also connecting our video system to the Morgan Hill Police. The MHPD will not be monitoring our video feeds; however we can send our feeds to them should a need arise to provide them with a real time view of our temple. A designated Board Rep will monitor a video feed throughout services, enabling us to know what is occurring at the entrances and around the building.

- The building will remain locked at all times. Before services, the side door will be available to enter as usual, with an usher there to greet you. During services, the side door will be monitored and a silent doorbell will alert the Board Rep, allowing entrance by members and guests as appropriate. In addition, our door code locks have been adjusted to further limit who has access to the building and at what times and days.
- Beyond the previously installed security alarm system, a silent alarm system is also now available both to notify our alarm company and, when needed, to directly alert the Morgan Hill police of a security incident.
- Various physical changes are being made to the facility to harden the entrances throughout the building. And we are providing training sessions on security to our staff, school, and membership. Part of that training is viewing of a video that provides guidance on how to act in case of a security threat. If you can't attend a training session, please take a few minutes to view this video. **RUN, HIDE, DEFEND** and this **ACTIVE SHOOTER POCKET GUIDE**. Familiarity with this content has proven invaluable in recent tragic cases of attacks on synagogues around the country.

We want our spiritual home to be remain warm, inviting, and comforting. While the above security steps might initially make you more cautious, I hope this information will instead give you comfort knowing that your Board leadership is taking an active role in providing a safe and secure facility and that you can continue to find warmth and ease attending any Congregation Emeth event.

## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

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

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<b>Library</b>	Linda Riesenber
<b>Ritual</b>	Michael Oshan
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<b>Tikkun Olam</b>	Susan Meyers
<b>Kitchen Supplies</b>	Susan Latin
<b>Technology</b>	Arthur Rudin

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View our newsletter online at [www.emeth.net/kol-emeth-newsletter](http://www.emeth.net/kol-emeth-newsletter).

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**.

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

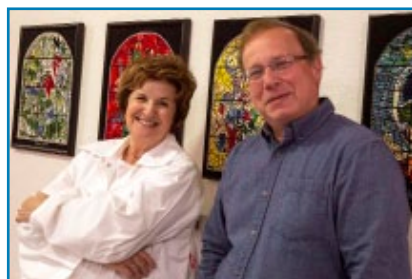


Rena Dubin

## COMMUNITY SEDER

*Rena Dubin, Event Chair*

We had another memorable community Passover Seder! We took advantage of our lovely social hall to celebrate together with a lively ritual and meal. Rabbi Israel incorporated fascinating insights—and show tunes—into this year's ceremony.



Thanks to everyone who came and shared this special event! Special gratitude for the Seder Team, who put so much effort into the set up and clean up: **Marilyn & Barry Freund; Cathy & Pi Silverstein; Eileen Teren-Foster & Dale Foster; Jerry Dubin; Robin Yacono with Tom, Nathan & Ryan; and Harlan, Levi & Aliya Glatt.** We are already looking forward to next year's event!





# TIKKUN OLAM SUPPORTS “SAFE PARKING PROGRAM”

*Susan Meyers, Tikkun Olam Chair*



Morgan Hill’s “Safe Parking Program”, organized by the Gilroy Compassion Center and hosted by the Morgan Hill Bible Church, provides a safe place for homeless families to park the vehicles they live in. The families work with a social worker at the park who assists them in finding a place to live, employment and information about social networks that will help them to become independent.

Friday night dinners are provided by members of the Interfaith Community of South County. Our Emeth Tikkun Olam committee provided Friday night dinners in May to the 17 people (7 children and 10 adults) living in the safe park. Thank you to **Cathy & Stewart Gill, Denise Weyl, Karen & Doug Perry, Nancy Fishman & Ronnie Wilner, Marilyn & Barry Freund, Kathy & Rick Coencas, and Susan Meyers & Michael Oshan**, our mitzvah makers who took dinner to the families this month.

## *Editor’s notes:*

- **READ MORE** in a recent *MH Times* article.
- **CONTACT SUSAN MEYERS**, *Tikkun Olam Chair*, to learn more about *Tikkun Olam* activities.

## June 2019

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## WOMEN’S SEDER

*Wendy Thowdis, Event Co-Chair*

Each year I feel honored to be able to host the Women’s Seder, where up to 20 women come together to tell a Passover story that appreciates the contributions of Jewish women in history.

This year, **Denise Weyl** and I added a bit of enrichment to our service by including the following two additions: “The Ten Plagues: According to Jewish Women” and a request that each participant share their response to the question: “If you could bring an invisible guest to our table tonight to share this experience—a woman, living or deceased—whom would it be?” Once again, this event continues to be one of my favorite Emeth gatherings, thanks to the amazing women who come together to participate in the service and share a meal together.



# GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS & EDUCATION PLANS

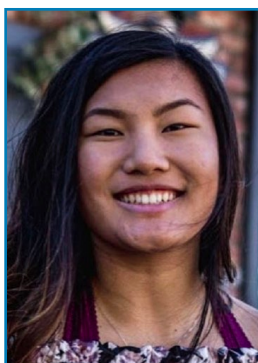
**Haley Toch**, daughter of **Randy Toch** and **Katherine Henderson Toch**, is graduating from Ann Sobrato High School. She will be attending the University of Washington (Seattle, WA). She will major in Psychology and hopes to work with youth. Haley has been active in EDK, Emeth's teen program, and as a Madricha for two years.



**Natalie Valentine**, daughter of **Tracy and Scott Valentine**, is graduating from UC Davis with a BS in Economics and a minor in Women's Studies. She plans to work for a couple of years and then go back to graduate school.



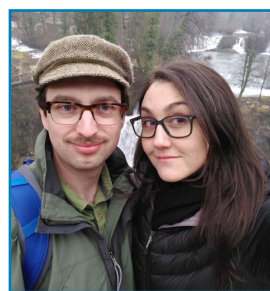
**Sam Doubek**, son of **Penny and Scott Doubek**, is graduating from the University of Puget Sound.



**Georgia Braun-Rudin**, daughter of **Susan Braun** and **Arthur Rudin**, is graduating from Oakwood School. She will be attending Cabrillo College, playing Varsity Volleyball, and continuing to work at Trader Joe's.



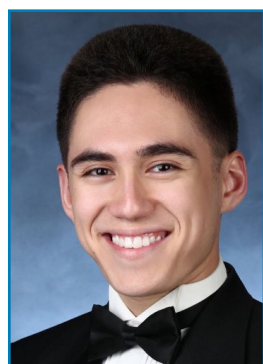
**Matthew Ogden**, son of **Daria and Michael Ogden** is graduating from Christopher High School. He will be attending UC Santa Barbara where he will study Economics. Matt has been an active participant in EDK.



**Aaron Palm**, son of **Nancy Altman and Curt Palm**, has earned a JDL from the University of Maine; his wife, Brook Kolarich, earned a Masters in Law, having already received a law degree and passed the bar exam. They are relocating to the Washington DC area where Aaron will be working for the FDA in tobacco regulation.

## EDK PURIM SHPIEL "THE OFFICE" OR "HA MISRAD"

*Aliya Glatt, EDK Member*



**Jacob Lemoff**, son of **Sony and Brian Lemoff**, is graduating as validictorian from Ann Sobrato High School. He will be attending UCLA, majoring in Business Economics.



**Quinn Neto**, son of **Becky and Andre Neto**, has been accepted into and has started an Electrical Apprenticeship Program with the local IBEW 332.

My experience participating in the EDK Purim Shpiel was thoroughly enjoyable! Cleverly based on the American sitcom "The Office", the witty script **Meghan Lee** wrote perfectly captured each individual character on the show, while skillfully incorporating the Purim story. In several table-reads and a few filming days, we brought this wonderful production together. I loved working with the lovely cast, who all did a fabulous job in their roles. I would also like to thank **Meghan Lee** for her excellent writing, amicable directing, and excellent filming! And of course, we would be nowhere without **Rabbi** figuring out schedules and supporting us constantly along the way! (She might even make a cameo at some point in the video...) We would be thrilled if you watched "Ha Misrad", and saw the all the effort and dedication that is present throughout!

**WATCH VIDEO**



# EDK AND THE CIRCLE UP EXPERIENCE

Meghan Lee, EDK Member

Photos by Beth Killough



We changed up our usual Emet Dor Kef (EDK, Emeth's teen group) meeting with one a little more... horsey. We visited Take A Chance Ranch, owned by our Congregation's own Killough family, to learn about both horses and ourselves. The Killough family—including Beth, Eric, and Emma—began the visit telling us about their horses as well as horse behavior in general. Mrs. Killough explained that horses are herd animals, and they live in communities, much like we do. She went on to say that horses are inherently good at reading emotions, both horse and human. Horses' quick senses and judgement have to be fine-tuned to survive in the wild. This is why they make such good companions. She brought this back to why it's so beneficial to work with horses—because they can teach us how to work in communities safely and effectively. She then gave us our challenge. We, as our EDK class, would have to approach one of the horses, put a lead on it, lead it to the barn, and then groom it. We would have to work together at each of the steps to accomplish it.

We first decided roles for each other based on our relative personalities and skills. We then set off for our mission. We came to our first hump in the challenge in choosing a horse. We had to gain one's trust to put a lead on it. How do you convince a horse that it should stop eating contently to have a lead put on it? Moreover, how do you do it gently enough that the horse will trust you, without being completely ineffective?

The Killough's horse we felt most comfortable approaching was Sally. Sally was quite content eating her grass undisturbed, and wearing a lead seemed to be the furthest from her mind when we first tried to put it on. We regrouped, trying a firmer but still considerate

approach. With a combination of petting and careful knot-tying, Ryan Yacono and Talia Jordan managed to get the lead on Sally. Next was leading her to the barn. Jason Valentine took on that role decisively, talking Sally through the whole process carefully. Then it was time for grooming, which involved brushing her coat and cleaning the mud off Sally's hooves. Brushing Sally was a much easier process than the first too.

But then, it was my turn to clean her hooves. This involved getting Sally to bend her knee so I could get to the underside of her hoof. I was timid at first, as I'm not exactly used to crouching under large animals. I knew I couldn't just outright grab her leg and bend it. I'd have to use gentle force, with understanding, to get her to bend her knee willingly. Carefully, I managed to get her knee bent so I could hold it to clean it. The success felt wonderful. Elijah Karp did the other foot, teaming up with Ryan to finish the task.



Once we'd completed the full mission, we debriefed. What had we learned? How had we worked together to accomplish the task? We'd found that even though we'd decided on roles beforehand, we'd all fallen into ones naturally and were able to work

together. Although all of us in our EDK class are different, our experiences helped to come and work together effectively for a common goal. We found this emphasis on togetherness reflected our understanding of how our larger Jewish community functions.

***Note from Rabbi Israel, EDK leader: Beth Killough has invited us to return to the Circle Up Ranch near the beginning of our 2019-2020 EDK year! Thank you to this generous family!***



**Rabbi Israel**

## ENRICHING OUR LIVES THROUGH INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

*Rabbi Debbie Israel*

I have lived my life almost exclusively in Jewish circles. From childhood through adulthood, I had very few friends or even acquaintances who weren't Jewish. Professionally, I was first a Jewish educator, then I became a regional director for a Jewish women's organization. I was president of my 500-member synagogue, working my way up the ranks. I lived in a Jewish world.

Fast forward to my life in South County as your Rabbi. As Rabbi, what is remarkably different about my life is that I am not only deeply immersed in Judaism, but for the first time in my life, I have friends from all religious backgrounds. Some are the non-Jewish partners of Jews, many of whom are also parents of Jewish children. Others are clergy of other faiths who have become treasured friends. Of course, I interact with the many people I've met through South County interfaith events. My non-Jewish congregants, associates and friends are people I've come to admire and respect, people who have enriched my life.

I'm not someone who says there are no differences between us. There are BIG differences in our beliefs and style of prayer and even our view of God. We are different, but differences aren't barriers to relationships. They make us interesting and give us thought-provoking conversations.

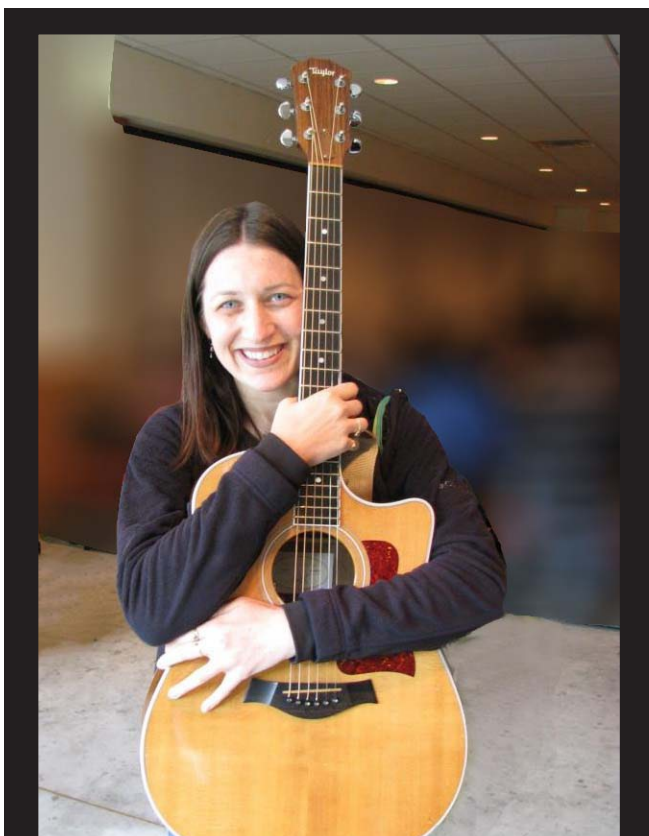


**Formation of Interfaith Clergy Alliance 12-15**

I am grateful that I stepped out of my comfort zone and became part of this precious interfaith community as we wrestle with the consequences of the emerging white supremacists, racial and religious terrorists. Our interfaith community has "closed ranks." We are united in our support of one another. We show up when needed and share messages of comradeship, affection, and determination to keep South County a safe place for all to worship.

Congregants who attended our Solidarity Shabbat on May 4, who were welcomed by the interfaith community standing guard to protect us in prayer, who came inside and were surrounded by Christians and Muslims during our prayer service understand how important this relationship is. But it must be reciprocal. When the attacks occurred on the mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, many Congregation Emeth's members went to the Friday prayer service of the Islamic Community of South County to show our solidarity.

My father of blessed memory used to say, "There are many mountaintops but all of them reach for the stars." Or, quoting Albert Einstein along the same thought, "All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree." Through engagement with the interfaith community of South County I've learned the wisdom of these teachings.



**In Memoriam Angela Gold**





Cantor Edward Robin

## CANTOR EDWARD ROBIN ACCEPTS INVITATION TO CHANT HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

After last year's Yom Kippur services, congregants communicated to our leadership that they were deeply moved and appreciative of the exquisite holy day music performed by our visiting Cantor, Edward Robin. For that reason, the Ritual Committee and the Board of Directors enthusiastically approved a recommendation to invite Cantor Robin to return as our cantor for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this September and October.

"Planning the services and sharing the bimah with my colleague and friend Cantor Robin last year was one of the highlights of my tenure as your Rabbi," said Rabbi Israel. "We shared our years of schooling together and were ordained together, and it has long been my dream to introduce him to Congregation Emeth. Cantor Robin raises the High Holiday music to a deep level of spirituality, inviting all of us to connect to the prayers and be moved by them, each in our own individual way. I asked Cantor Robin to write a letter to you, our congregants, to allow you to get to know him a little better. Here is his response."

*"Cantor Robin raises the High Holiday music to a deep level of spirituality, inviting all of us to connect to the prayers and be moved by them, each in our own individual way."*

*To my new friends at Congregation Emeth*

*I enjoyed being with you last Yom Kippur, and the Rabbi asked me to share a few thoughts about myself with you in anticipation of being with you again, both for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, in just a few months from now.*

*I think I was always connected to the spirituality of sound. As a very young person, I remember listening to records where popular singers sang songs with happy sounds and close harmonies. As I grew up, I listened to my brothers and my father harmonize. I always felt an emotional connection to sound.*

*But those emotions are enhanced as I now get to "be" the instrument and feel the voice singing the prayers through me, connecting to your hearts and to your souls. This is a gift and a blessing, and also a responsibility I take seriously.*

*I've learned over the years that often things happen for a reason. The convergence of streams and circumstances that have brought me here to Morgan Hill is not happenstance. It is such a joy to be on this road with you as our paths converge at the special and significant time of the year.*

*May we be sustained and kept until we meet in person soon.*

*Sincerely,  
Cantor Edward Robin*



### SAVE THE DATES!

**Rosh Hashanah Services: September 29 (evening), September 30**  
**Yom Kippur Services: October 8 (evening), October 9**



# PURIM CARNIVAL

*Photos by Elizabeth Mandel*

The Education Committee (**Kelley Coleman, Eric Killough, Grant Gordon, Adam Henig, and MariaElena Jarson**) organized another fabulous event for our students. Special thanks to **Morah Sharon's students** for running the booths for the younger children!





# INAUGURAL ADULT PURIM GAME NIGHT PARTY!

*Marcia Fishman, Event Coordinator    Photos by Elizabeth Mandel*

Our sages said that when the month of Adar enters, then joy increases. And since Adar is the month of Purim, we hope and expect to have a lively celebration. This year's "game" party at Congregation Emeth did not disappoint.



**Mah Jongg**



**Monopoly**



**Poker**



**Decor by Charlene Rose**

With a room arranged for poker, mah jongg, and the Jerusalem version of Monopoly—and related decorations that were beautifully displayed—the evening was set for success. Then came the members' contributions of foods on buffet, followed by 40 teenagers and adults—and the promise of a great time was fulfilled.



**Food**



**Drink**

I was thrilled at the results of the party, but I always ask the same questions when I do write-ups for our events:

- Why do we have so few events when so many have a great time?
- What are your special interests that will bring you out in the future?

We as board members can guess or presume, but I would rather ask the questions and hope to receive your opinions. Please let us hear from you.

Special thanks for the evening go to **Charlene Rose, Grant Gordon, Marilyn Freund, and all who contributed the delicious food.**



# THESE WERE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS: REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR AT CHAI SCHOOL

*Chai School Students of Kitah Shomrei Chayot*

*Photos by Morah Maria Elena Jarson*



## MITZVAH SPEAKER SERIES

We had many amazing guest speakers this year. In March, Rick Hopkins taught us about mountain lions. The fake poop and real skulls were awesome! Thank you Dr. Rick for bringing in things we could touch and hold.



Then, in April, Elizabeth Mandel joined us for the mitzvah of *kehillah*, Jewish community. She helped us write articles for Kol Emeth, Emeth's newsletter. We liked sharing our class activities with the congregation. We can't wait to see our names in print! Thanks for making us reporters Elizabeth.

## HAMANTASCHEN

*Brianna Grabscheid*

This year, Chai School made *hamantaschen* for Purim. All the students stood around three long tables. First, we cut circles from



dough. Then we put one spoonful of filling in the middle. We could choose from chocolate chips, strawberry jam, poppy seeds, raspberry jam, and more! Last, we pinched three corners like Haman's hat. We want to thank all the parents who helped us have a great time.

## YOM HA'ATZMAUT

*Emma Killough*

Yom Ha'atzmaut is Israel's Independence Day / Birthday. It is turning 71. We celebrated it with a birthday party and cake. My favorite part is the cake and lighting it and singing happy birthday. That's what I like about Yom Ha'atzmaut.



## MAKING CHALLAH

*Noah Latin*

All the Beit Sefer kids made *challah* together. In their recipe, they added sprinkles. It was very sticky. In conclusion, everyone had fun eating the *challah* that they had made.





## THESE WERE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS (CONTINUED)

### THE PURIM SHPIEL

*Bradley Goldsmith*

The class Purim Shpiel was my first time doing a play: This is what it was like: I played Haman. Haman is a bad guy. My favorite part of the play was being able to burp at the dinner table and being dragged off the stage. I would like to be in more plays.



### TIKKUN OLAM MITZVAH PROJECTS

*Ari Coleman and Ari Jarson*

We did lots of new mitzvah projects this year. Ari

Coleman and Ari Jarson started two different *tikkun olam* clean-up projects. On Veteran's Day we cleaned up Moss Landing Beach. On Tu B'Shevat and Martin Luther King Jr. Day we cleaned up Llagas Creek. We cleaned up 20 bags of trash in all. it was a lot of fun. We hope you join us next year!



### ANIMAL SHELTER MITZVAH PROJECT

*Lucie Hall and Miriam Shem-Tov*

This year we went to the animal shelter. We saw a lot of cool animals. We raised \$62.60 in *tzedakah* for the animals. That was the most money we have ever raised. Last year, we raised \$51.17. Next year, we hope to get at least \$70.00! There were huskies and cute fluffy dogs. There were small dogs and big dogs too. The cats were shy until you brought their toys out. We love animals so much. This was an amazing field trip.



**Susan Meyers**

## EMETH SISTERHOOD MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT: ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

Our Emeth mah jongg tournament has become so popular that this year we had five players on the waiting list. After the event players were asking to make sure they are on the list for next year. They appreciated the warmth of the welcome, the delicious breakfast and lunch, the beautiful decorations and the well organized tournament.

Thanks to our amazing, creative team, **Patty Baggese, Marcia Fishman, Nancy Fishman, Cheryl Thompson, Marilyn Freund, Jan Hopson, Jan Shorr, Maddie Altman, Aileen Teren-Foster, Georgia Santos, Cathy Gill, Maureen Chassey, Susan Braun, Bette O'Sullivan, Lynne Meyer,** and our terrific set up crew **Stewart Gill, Jim Baggese, Michael Oshan, Mark Thompson and Dale Foster!** *The mah jongg group will contribute \$2,000 to enhance the security of the doors of our congregation.* Maybe even more important, our annual tournament enhances our reputation as a warm and welcoming congregation.



## NEW ROOF & AIR CONDITIONING

*Grant Gordon*

You may recall that the final project funded by our recent capital campaign, installing a new roof, was delayed because our old, failing HVAC (air conditioning unit) was mounted on the old roof. With a new HVAC now installed (and taken off the roof), we have received final quotes for the new roof and expect to proceed with installation soon.

The new HVAC was an unplanned capital expense; however, we have an additional new tenant (they will be using the social hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings). Combining this new rental income with additional, previously unallocated income—such as the matching funds that the Board pledged to match increased membership pledges—we have minimized the financial impact of this additional expenditure.

## CHAIR COVERS IN SOCIAL HALL

*Nancy Fishman*

As part of the social hall beautification projection, a sewing party was organized to sew chair covers for all the social hall chairs. **Rachel Neto** made the patterns and was instrumental in fabric selection. The social hall was turned into an assembly line with some participants cutting fabric while others sewed the pieces together. Lunch was brought in for a short break before spending the rest of the afternoon completing enough covers to fit over every chair in the social hall! If you haven't yet seen the transformation, please stop in and admire the handiwork of your fellow congregants.

Thank you to the workers: **Rachel Neto, Elizabeth Mandel, Dawn Chaffin, Jodi Hall (with Dillon and Lucie), Aileen Teren-Foster, Marilyn Freund, Jennifer Karp, Sharon Kirsch, Cheryl Thompson, Marcia Fishman, and Nancy Fishman.**



## HEALTHY LIVING FAIR

*Michael Oshan*

In April, Congregation Emeth partnered with Congregation Shir Hadash to organize and sponsor a Healthy Living Fair which provided direct health care services to about 470 people. This is the 13th year that Shir Hadash has put on this event and the first time it was offered in the South County. This free event was open to all comers and there was no requirement of citizenship, residency, or financial need. Doctors, nurses, dentists, and optometrists volunteered their time and skills to provide direct, short term services to those who attended the Fair. Clients received glasses and/or prescriptions on the spot, as well as diagnoses for a variety of health issues. In some cases patients received the first dental care of their lives and were able to make follow-up appointments to assist them with improving their personal health. The Fair also hosted 12 nonprofit exhibitors who were able to make important connections with people in need of their services.

The event was held at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Gilroy with well over 100 volunteers and many members of the South County Interfaith Community participated. Led by **Susan Meyers and the Tikkun Olam committee**, Emeth provided over 20 of those volunteers. After seeing the enthusiastic participation of the South County volunteers and the obvious need for services, the Shir Hadash organizing committee has agreed to run the event in the South County again next year. A warm thank you to everyone who helped put on this community outreach effort.

