

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



**Peter Mandel**

## SEARCHING FOR A RABBI

*Peter Mandel, President*

Not so long ago, when Rabbi Israel informed me of her plan to retire, I was disoriented—had I misheard her? No, and I could not talk her out of it. At that point panic struck ... how DOES one hire a rabbi?

In case any of you are faced with a similar dilemma in the future, I thought I'd update you on our rabbi search process.

We have been blessed with Rabbi Israel as our spiritual leader for over a decade. Meanwhile, we as a congregation have grown significantly, acquired a building, and perhaps changed in demographics and/or expectations during those years. So the first step in this rabbi search was to understand the members' priorities and what, if any, changes the congregation is looking for in our future spiritual leadership.

Many of you have been touched by our initiative to understand those priorities as you have participated in one of our "Listening Tour" discussions, skillfully led by **Nancy Fishman** and **Susan Meyers**. The data collected helped us quantify the needs and desires of the congregation going forward. That input is then considered by a committee of nine congregants who have agreed to give their time and expertise to make up our "search team". (Note that many more congregants than were needed offered to participate on this team, and I thank you all.)

With comprehensive input from the congregation and a team ready to apply that knowledge to evaluating candidates, we now needed candidates. How does that happen? The organizations in Reform Judaism that train rabbis and cantors have a process by which students who are newly trained and about to be ordained can review openings at congregations around the country to find a fit. Similarly, practicing rabbis and cantors who are looking for a new congregational post are able to consider openings. We completed a lengthy application and posted it for both graduating students and practicing rabbis and cantors.

Note that while we are following the expected path of looking for a rabbi, ordained cantors are also able to lead congregations. Their training has differences in emphasis but is similarly rigorous. Based on your input to us, we decided to expand our search to see if a cantor could possibly—as an alternative to a rabbi—meet our needs, and we have posted our application to both audiences.

We are fortunate to have received several applicants. We have held—and continue to hold—many discussions. When we decide on our top candidate, we'll invite him or her for a visit to our congregation and the community. We may also choose to visit the temple that the candidate last served, as well as check references. If all that goes well, we may make an offer. And hopefully we will establish a spiritual partnership that is as wonderful, supportive, and nurturing as we have been blessed to have with Rabbi Israel for these many years.

## ADULT/TEEN PURIM GAME NIGHT PARTY!

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 8-10 PM**

We are planning another fabulous evening of games (poker, mah jongg, and Monopoly), along with costumes, snacks, wine, and camaraderie. Don't miss it!



# Congregation Emeth

## Staff

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

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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**  
[emeth.net/kol-emeth-newsletter](http://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 Communications Director / Kol Emeth Editor, **Elizabeth Mandel**.

**Congregation Emeth**  
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## SUKKOT SCRAPBOOK



Lulav and Etrog



Mini sukkah craft at Chai School



Divas dining in the sukkah



Teens sorting food donations



Students making paper chains



Community dinner in the sukkah

### Thank You!

#### Sukkah Builders:

Michael Oshan; Peter Mandel;  
Jay & Noah Latin; Brian & Nick  
Lemoff; Edgar Tejano; Jennifer,  
Elijah & Alyssa Karp; Scott,  
Tracy & Jason Valentine; Daria  
& Jacob Ogden; Rabbi Israel

#### Food Bags (EDK)

Nick Lemoff, Elijah Karp, Jacob  
Ogden, Jason Valentine



## MEET OUR MEMBERS: KARP FAMILY



**A winning team! At an escape room in San Jose.**

**Front: Jennifer and the kids (Alyssa 13, David 10, Elijah 16)**

**Back: Jennifer's mother Rachel and brother Joseph. Absent: Anatoly**

The Karp family moved to Morgan Hill in September, 2018 and joined Emeth right away, where they were warmly welcomed by the congregation. Alyssa quickly felt comfortable in Chai School and looks forward to spending time with friends there. Elijah enjoys EDK and had a blast with the other teens in last year's Purim play. Anatoly and David spend most holidays celebrating (and eating) with the congregation. Last year's frequent Friday night potlucks enabled Jennifer to quickly get to know the Religious School parents, and she met some of the other congregants through her volunteer activities.

Anatoly grew up in the Soviet Union. He and Jennifer met in Madison, WI while in graduate school (Jennifer in Sociology; Anatoly in Math). Jennifer converted to Judaism before their wedding. Anatoly is a software engineer at Google. Jennifer home schools their children, with Anatoly teaching programming to their kids as well as running a weekly online programming seminar for teens.

Jennifer's latest passion is audio books. Anatoly can be persuaded to play cards, chess, or Go. The children participate in several sports including gymnastics, tennis, swimming, and jiu-jitsu. Elijah enjoys math, programming, and chess. Alyssa enjoys art, creative writing, and animals (especially their cat Bailey). David enjoys tumbling, cats, and baking. (He has even baked for the Emeth oneg.)

Since the BSA Scouts (formerly the Boy Scouts) opened to all genders last year, all three children have become Scouts. David was one of his Cub Scout pack's top salespeople for their last fundraiser. Together with their troops the family has camped, hiked, and canoed.

## February 2020

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## WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS: YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Voting in the World Zionist Congress Elections runs January 21 - March 11, and your vote is critical to maintaining a large Reform presence in Israel and the United States.

### Vote Reform

World Zionist Congress Elections | January 21-March 11, 2020 | ARZA.org

arzenu ארזנו  UNION for REFORM JUDAISM  World Zionist Organization  ARZA ארצות

Your vote is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society as we continue efforts towards equality, pluralism, and tolerance.

Watch **THIS VIDEO** for complete instructions on the voting process.



**Rabbi Debbie Israel**

## TEACHING THE CHILDREN

*Rabbi Debbie Israel*

When I look at those areas of my rabbinate that has given me the greatest satisfaction, I always return to our precious Emeth children—those who are still here and those who have grown up and moved away. In June and July, the first two babies at whose naming ceremonies I officiated will become bat mitzvah. In July, I will officiate at the wedding of one of my first confirmands, who is the sister of my first bat mitzvah. I was so privileged to be part of welcoming all of the babies and officiating at all of the life cycle events over the past 13 years.

I started my career in Jewish education at age 14, teaching a class of nearly 30 4th-5th graders at my Orthodox synagogue in Houston! To this day, I can't imagine any synagogue doing that and I don't know how I did it. But from time to time when I go to Houston, one of those students will surprise me by telling me how meaningful that class was.

It was the start of developing an attitude toward teaching—that Jewish education should be fun. It was the foundation of the international Jewish children's newspaper I co-published. Stories, puzzles, games, crafts, facts—but always the Jewish content was the underpinning message. The purpose of the play was in order to teach or reinforce learning.

When I first came to Emeth, we had a good Hebrew school which met once a week, but religious school only met two times a month. We had no family services and no teen classes or programs. Working with devoted volunteers, we created a weekly religious school. After we moved into our precious sacred home, the temple leadership realized that we needed renters to help us financially. When a Sunday morning church renter was proposed to the education committee, we tried to figure out how to make it work.

A major potential change like this required a decision process that engaged all the families. Becky Neto, the Education Chair, invited the school parents to offer their ideas and suggestions, and all options were on the table.

At that meeting I offered my suggestion for a Friday afternoon program followed by dinner and a family service. It felt pedagogically sound (we teach, then we do). The parents at that meeting liked the idea, preferring Friday afternoon to Sunday morning because it would give them the weekend to travel, camp out, and be with family. Thus began the Chai School model that we follow today.

My greatest joy of the past 13 years has been the development of our unique teen program. For most of those years, almost every eligible student registered for our teen program after bar or bat mitzvah. This is unique for most temples! Our *Emet Dor Kef* ("Emeth's Fun Generation") teen program combines social and educational activities.



***Emet Dor Kef's 2018 Confirmation Retreat***

What started as a confirmation program evolved into a community of teens who grew to love and take care of one another. We traveled, had overnights and game nights, and studied together. The art mural in the upstairs classroom was created by those teens when we first moved into our temple. And many who have graduated still call me or come to see me, especially when they need advice or counsel. That is the greatest gift of all.

God has blessed me with the opportunity to be part of your children's lives and I won't forget it or them. I will always hug them in my heart and long to know what they do in life. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity.

# EXCITING NEW ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES!

*Susan Braun, Adult Education Chair*

## FIVE BIBLICAL CONUNDRUMS AND THEIR RESOLUTION WITH THE AID OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND RELATED SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE, HISTORICAL SOURCES, AND BIBLICAL NARRATIVES

*Presented by esteemed scholar and educator David Meir Levi\*\**

### The Biblical Creation Story vs Astrophysics: Which is right?

Tuesday, February 25, 7 pm



### The Flood Story: Geology Says it Happened! Really?

Tuesday, March 10, 7 pm



### Discovery, History, Content, and Truths About the Dead Sea Scrolls

Tuesday, March 31, 7 pm



### The Patriarchs: Pimps, Privateers or Princes?

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 PM



### The Exodus Story: Did it Happen?

Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 PM



*\*\*David Meir-Levi is an American-born Israeli living in Palo Alto. He holds an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. He studied and then taught Archaeology and Near Eastern History at the Hebrew University in Israel. Most recently, on the faculty at SJSU, he lectured on the Middle East and Israel.*

## ETHICS SERIES AT SHABBAT SERVICES

*Guest presenters will speak during evening services. Rabbi Israel will briefly add the Jewish perspective. Questions and discussion will take place during the oneg.*

Friday, February 21 **Bio-Ethics**

with Faith Protsman, MD

Friday, March 20 **Ethics in Business**

with Art Reidel

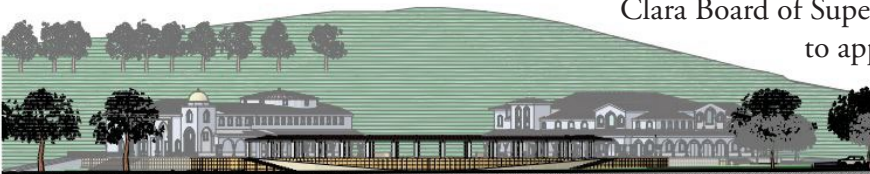
Friday, May 8 **Ethics in Law**

with Sharon Kirsch



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN THE SOUTH VALLEY ISLAMIC COMMUNITY!

On December 17, the final appeals were heard by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, and the Board declared their intent to approve the Cordoba Center, a religious and cultural center to serve the Muslim community of south Santa Clara County in San Martin. **LEARN MORE.**





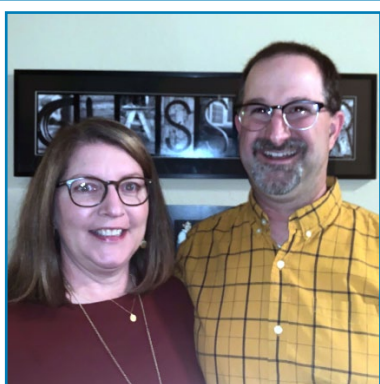
## MEMBER NEWS



### WELCOME ADRIEN DREW!

After attending services at Emeth several times over the past few years, Adrien decided she wanted to feel like a part of the Jewish community where she lives. She joined Emeth because she had come to value our warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Adrien has five children (two natural and three steps), 12 grandchildren, and 18 (going on 19) great-grandchildren! She has been a real estate broker for over 40 years, now only working with long term customers and friends. She also does the bookkeeping for her daughter's consulting business. To keep moving and busy, Adrien line dances at least three times a week.



### WELCOME MICHELE & DAVID GLASSNER!

Michele and David Glassner relocated from Connecticut in October, 2016, when David (who has a doctorate in Physics and has worked for Lumentum since 2000) was transferred here. Michele was fortunate to be home while the kids were young and then worked in the local school system in CT until the move here. They had lived in CT and raised their family there for almost 17 years, and it was very hard leaving 17 years of friendships behind, especially as Michele and David have no local family. They reached out to Emeth in search of a new community, a new extended family, and new friends.

They have a 24 year old son Zachary who lives in NYC and works as a web developer and a 21 year old daughter Madeleine, finishing her last year at University of Arizona and planning to continue on to medical school.

The Glassners enjoy traveling and spending time whenever they can with their kids/family. David enjoys sports that involve the Cubs, Bears or Blackhawks (guess where he grew up?) Michele tries to be a good sport about it!!! They also love trying new foods/restaurants and just exploring their new home in Northern California. Last of all, they enjoy walks around Morgan Hill with their dog, Tucker.

Michele and David have appreciated the warm welcome from their new Emeth family and look forward to being a part of this community.



### SUSAN FREIBERG: ADVOCATE FOR THE HOMELESS

Emeth member Susan Freiberg was recently honored by the Gilroy Compassion Center for her volunteer work on behalf of the homeless. Susie also leads Emeth's volunteers who serve one Thursday a month (with some serving more frequently) at The Lord's Table (St. Joseph's Family Services) in Gilroy.

Here is a recent St. Joseph's ad featuring Susie: "With increasing needs everywhere, it can feel overwhelming to make a difference. I decided to start small, in my own community, and impact where I can. At *The Lord's Table*, I feel I make a difference."

If you would like to be part of Emeth's team serving dinner at The Lord's Table the third Thursday of each month, please contact Susie at [lordstable@emeth.net](mailto:lordstable@emeth.net).

# SERVING CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

*Curt Palm, Event Chair; Photos by Elizabeth Mandel*



Thank you to all of Emeth's fabulous volunteers who once again came together to create a wonderful Christmas dinner for 190 people. This is one of the most heart-warming community outreach projects in which our congregation participates.

The gratitude of the clients who enjoy a delicious hot meal to the look of wonderment on the faces of children when Santa (**Michael Oshan**) and his faithful elf (**Susan Meyers**) enter the room makes the huge group effort so worthwhile.



**Food prep**



**Wrapping gifts**



**Meeting Santa**



**Serving**



**Santa's helpers sorting presents**



**Cooking**



**Decorating**

## Contributing Businesses

Our community is very generous. As you frequent these businesses, please let them know that we appreciate their kindness and support.

- Costco (Gilroy and South SJ)
- Josephine's Bakery (MH & Gilroy)
- Nob Hill (MH)
- Peets Coffee (MH)
- Safeway (both in MH)
- Safeway (Cottle Road, SJ)
- Sprouts (E Capitol Expwy, SJ)
- Starbucks (Walnut & Vineyard Ctr)
- Trader Joe's (MH)

Thank you also to all our members who solicited and/or made food and clothing donations. Thanks to **Cathy Silverstein** for obtaining donations from many businesses.



# CHANUKAH FUN!

## COOKIE PARTY

Thank you to **Grant Gordon** for hosting Emeth's first ever Chanukah Cookie Party for the Chai School students. Clearly they had a blast!



## SISTERHOOD'S ANNUAL CHANUKAH PARTY & FUNDRAISER

*Marcia Fishman*



**Question:** What do you get when you have a room of 30 women who will fight with no holds barred for the perfect Chanukah gift?

**Answer:** A bundle of laughs and camaraderie. The Sisterhood held their annual Chanukah party on December 16 and, as usual, it was the perfect event to thank all those who contribute to the sisterhood throughout the year. Catered by Chef Mannie, the evening allowed for more leisurely fun—and fun it was. The highlight is the game associated with the Chanukah gift exchange—and the sporting tussles in single-minded pursuit of the coveted presents. This event holds the ideal formula for the quintessential evening. Don't miss it next year!

## TOT SHABBAT AT BOOKSMART Co-Hosted by PJ LIBRARY



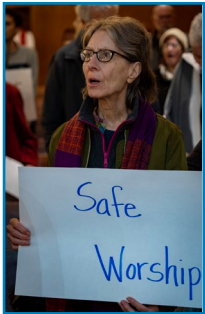


# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE

*Rick Coencas, Interfaith CommUNITY of South County Member, & Rabbi Israel; Photos by Rick Coencas*

Around 100 people from South County gathered to celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. at St. Mary's Church in Gilroy on Monday, January 20. Interfaith clergy participated as speakers and prayer leaders. The theme, March for Justice, focused on the enduring work of Dr. King.

The first two presenters were Valentin Lopez, head of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band who spoke about Earth Justice and Father Jose Rubio who spoke about Immigrant Justice.



Rabbi Israel was the final presenter, speaking about Ethnic and Religious Justice. Following the inspiration of Dr. King, she said, "We must stand in solidarity to gather moral courage, to fight all forms of hate and discrimination, and we must continue to do so through connections, outreach, caring, education and activism. We will not be overcome with fear or inaction. We begin by coming together in this interfaith community, standing together in solidarity and support with one another."

Rabbi Israel encouraged everyone to stand up to bigotry, to keep forming new relationships throughout our interfaith community and to express gratitude for those precious relationships we have already. The March for Justice ended with her inspiring the attendees to "say no to hate, yes to life and love".





**San Jose Moms Demand Action leaders  
Jessica Blitchok & Sharon Genkin**

## JEWISH PERSPECTIVES ON FIREARMS: A SUMMARY OF A TALK BY SHARON GENKIN WITH MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

he has destroyed the universe and he who saves one life it is as though he has saved the universe.” And Isaiah exhorts people to “beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”

In Genesis Rabbah, it says “one who sheds blood is regarded as though he has diminished G-d’s likeness.” Rabbi Joseph Caro, medieval authority, forbade bringing knives into a synagogue because “prayer lengthens human life and a knife shortens it.”

However, Jews are not pacifists, it is just preferred: “If while breaking in, the thief is discovered, and he is struck and dies, (it is as if) he has no blood.” (Exodus) Under Jewish Law, there is an obligation for a private citizen to assist another in trouble. Leviticus says, “You shall not stand by (the shedding of) your fellow’s blood. I am the Lord.” And in Deuteronomy “When you come near to a city to fight against it, then proclaim shalom to it.” Biblical morality opposes a violent solution when a nonviolent solution is possible.

Judaism supports Common Sense Gun Laws. Jewish law forbids the sale of arms to people who are suspect of criminal intentions. “And it has further been taught: One should not sell them either weapons or accessories of weapons, nor should one grind any weapons for them.” (Talmud) The Gemara offers the concept of *Lifnei Iver*—the prohibition against enabling someone else to commit a transgression. By providing weapons to someone who might use them for crime, one is enabling the crime. Talmud extends this prohibition to Jewish criminals as well, clearly demonstrating the responsibility to enforce background checks on prospective arms owners. “When you build a new house, you shall make a guard rail for your roof, so you shall not cause blood (to be spilled) in your house, that the one who falls should fall from it” Deuteronomy Rabbis understand flat roofs—which we can think of as an analogy for guns—are not forbidden—but we must build fences (protection). Maimonides wrote, “If you can separate combatants without the use of deadly force, deadly force is prohibited.” and in the Babylonian Talmud: “one who can forbid his fellow citizens from committing a sin, but does not, is seized for the sins of his fellow citizens.”

Judaism places a high value on preserving life, starting with the ten commandments: Thou Shalt not Murder. The Talmud says, “He who takes one life it is as though

Israelis learn *Tohar Haneshek* (purity of arms) a religious perspective which limits the use of guns only for the defense of life. The Rabbis in the Babylonian Talmud discussed what it mean to own items meant for destruction: “the ability to do so must be predicated on the requirement of the utmost protections both for the owner and for all those living in the same community.”

While there is an argument that we need guns to defend ourselves, Rabbi Steven Greenberg writes, “While NRA Jews and others claim that Hitler disarmed civilians, It is just not true. More importantly, had my grandfather had a gun in Paris, he would have been no match for the French police force sent to arrest him. To use a gun at that moment would have been suicide.”

Rabbi David Baum writes about his grandfather who survived the Holocaust: “No amount of guns would have saved us. We would have been saved if our neighbors had not turned against us.” Countries with huge militaries like France were overrun, but the places where Jews were saved were like Denmark, where neighbors protected the Jews. The notion that we can keep automatic weapons out of the hands of bad people, is faulty because we all have aspects of both the good and the bad, *Yetzer HaTov* and *Yetzer Hara*. Even Moses was denied entry into the promised land for his excessive violence.

The notion of peace, *Shalom*, is central to Judaism. In the Babylonian Talmud: “If you are a man of the sword, then you cannot lay claim to be a man of the Book. And if you are a person of the Book, you will not be a person of the Sword.” There is a sense that peace is even more important than loyalty to God. In the Talmud, “If in order to establish peace between husband and wife, the name of G-d which was written in holiness, may be blotted out, how much more so to bring about peace for the world as a whole. Many of us are familiar with the song “*Lo yisa goy el goy cherev, lo yilmadu od milchama*”—let us resist fighting with one another, studying war no more. Each Shabbat as we return the Torah scrolls we say: “*Deracheha darchei Noam, vchol Netivoteha Shalom*”—The Torah’s ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths lead to peace. Perhaps nothing exhibits the importance of peace more than the fact that almost every major Jewish prayer—Amidah, Kaddish, Grace after Meals—concludes with a prayer for peace—*Oseh Shalom bimromav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu*—May the One who makes peace in the heavens above bring peace upon us, upon Israel, and many of us add to the passage, “and upon all the world.”

**MOMS  
DEMAND  
ACTION**  
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA  
**LEARN MORE**



# EMETH SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS - A REVIEW:



Grant Gordon

## BUILDING SECURITY

*Grant Gordon, Building & Grounds Committee*

- **Lighting:** Lighting is significantly improved around the building, most importantly around the driveway entrance and the rear parking area that doubles as our kids' play area during recess.
- **Signage:** Additional "Alarm", "No Trespassing", and "Video Surveillance" signs have been posted around the facility.
- **Video surveillance:** We have installed a new surveillance system with additional capacity. All cameras have been realigned for optimal visibility in and around the building. We upgraded the computer system used to view video cameras during services.
- **Motion detection:** Motion activated cameras provide recorded video footage of anyone entering or moving around the building. That footage is accessible by Emeth, the alarm company, and the police. Motion detectors have also been added to various areas around the building that will set off the alarm if tripped.
- **Board rep role expanded:** The rep now staffs the sound booth during all services, monitoring the video camera. S/he also carries a panic alarm fob throughout the service to alert the police and alarm company in the event of an emergency.
- **Doors:** Front and side doors are now locked during services. A doorbell system, in conjunction with the video camera, alerts the board rep to come to the door and open it if safe to do so. The basement door has been replaced with a more secure door with a stronger locking system.
- **Police:** A direct police communication system has been installed and activated, allowing for much faster emergency response times than typical alarm system responses (60 seconds vs 6 minutes). Morgan Hill police were on site during the High Holidays as an added precaution to ensure member safety during our services.
- **Member training / Situational security:** We continue to work on better training and protocols for emergency evacuation and in-place situations. Members are periodically reminded to locate the closest emergency exit while in the facility (including a door within the sanctuary many were unaware even existed). We reviewed and shared the police Run, Hide, Fight training course that deals with Active Shooter situations. (**SEE VIDEO.**)

## CYBER SECURITY

*Elizabeth Mandel,  
Communications Director*



Elizabeth Mandel

**Emeth has established and follows these best practices for electronic communications:**

- **Email aliases** - All public communication (bulk emails / website) uses email aliases (xxx@emeth.net) versus displaying personal email addresses.
- **Single trusted source for emails** - All bulk emails (to Members and Friends of Emeth) come from a secure source, our MailChimp server. Bulk emails are never sent from a personal or congregational email address.
- **No attachments** - Additional information in bulk emails is provided via links to PDF documents on our website or to other trusted sources. This avoids the introduction of viruses.
- **Secure website** - Our website is hosted through the URJ which provides extra layers of protection from hacking. Sensitive documents on the website are on password protected webpages.



**We recommend you, in turn, always follow these personal cyber security practices:**

- **Check email sources** - Ensure emails are not from a fake account made to look real. (You can hover over the email address displayed.)
- **Never exchange sensitive information over email** - This includes passwords, PINs, or personal id info (social security numbers, birthdays, etc.).
- **Confirm legitimacy of requests** - If someone uses email to request items of monetary value, only respond through a known channel (e.g. phone or text the purported sender) to ensure validity of request.
- **Use complex & unique passwords** - And, for access to important personal data, consider adding two-level authentication.
- **Regularly update your security software** - Examples include antivirus software, firewalls, email filters, and anti-spyware.

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Congregation Emeth  
17835 Monterey Street  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037



## EMETH SISTERHOOD SUPPORTS TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT

*Susan Meyers, Tikkun Olam Committee Chair*



Our Emeth Tikkun Olam Committee has responded to a need voiced by our local St. Louise Hospital. A new law, an unfunded mandate for community hospitals, requires that the hospital provide a meal, transportation and weather appropriate clothing to any person who is homeless when discharged from the hospital. The hospital requested assistance with gathering the clothing. We were told that at least 10 pair of sweat pants and tops were needed each month during the winter months. At the recent Sisterhood Chanukah gathering, Emeth women donated the funds needed to provide the clothing for the month of January. The remaining months will be supported through our partnership with members of the Interfaith CommUNITY of South County. This is just one example of how our Emeth community is engaged in helping to meet the needs of our south Santa Clara County Community.

If you are interested in learning more about our Tikkun Olam committee please contact me at [tikkunolam@emeth.net](mailto:tikkunolam@emeth.net).

## WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL (CRC)?

*Susan Meyers, Emeth's CRC Representative*



**Susan Meyers** The Community Relations Council (CRC) of the Jewish Federation, serves as an advocate for the Jewish community, promoting understanding and cultural diversity. The Board of the CRC is tasked with providing education, fighting injustice and building strong bonds of communication between the Jewish community and other faith-based communities in Silicon Valley. Representatives from Santa Clara County Synagogues meet monthly to share information about local and national issues and events, problem solve and advocate for Jewish values.

As Emeth's representative to the CRC, it has been my privilege to speak about our engagement in our local community. Specifically, our Tikkun Olam projects, our leadership role in the Interfaith CommUNITY of South County and recent community events that are designed to provide education and build bonds of communication; for example, our Interfaith Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King services. Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility to represent our Emeth congregation.