

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

TOGETHER IN PERSON — AND ONLINE — FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

During this past September we experienced the *Tishrei* holidays of *Yamim Noraim* (The Days of Awe / High Holy Days), *Sukkot*, and *Simchat Torah*, with some of us coming back together in person at our synagogue for the first time since the start of the pandemic. We were able to create meaningful holiday celebrations together in person and on zoom, and were able to connect in ways that everyone felt safe while also continuing to include members geographically far away.



We met at Anderson Lake County Park for a short *Tashlich* service to symbolically cast away our sins/mistakes and to hear the shofar.



Being together outside in our *sukkah* together made for a very special Shabbat Sukkot. Because the *sukkah*, a temporary structure, represents the fragility of life, it underscored the lesson for us to celebrate even in the midst of uncertainty.

Congregation Emeth

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View our newsletter online at emeth.net/kol-emeth-newsletter.

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To submit articles and/or event photos, please email them to Communications Director / Kol Emeth Editor, Emily Shem-Tov, communication@emeth.net.

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Yahrzeit Updates

Up until now we have been notifying members of their yahrzeits based on the Hebrew calendar. Many congregants have preferred to light a candle and remember those who have died based on the English date.

If you would prefer getting notification based on the English date and have the Rabbi read the names at the Shabbat nearest the English date, please let us know by writing to Yahrzeit@emeth.net

NEW STAFF MEMBER!

The Board is excited to welcome **Sandi Diamond** as our new part-time Operations Manager. Sandi's responsibilities will mainly focus on improving our facility. She is actively creating operating procedures in order to help the Board and our members have increased enjoyment of our shul and its activities.

In the short time she has been with us, we have passed our annual Fire Suppression System/Fire Extinguisher review by CalFire; passed our annual Water Back Flow Assessment by the City of Morgan Hill; organized the reorder of the temple's Donation Envelopes and the purchase of the Etrog & Lulav set for our Sukkot services. She oversees the set-up of Kiddush when services are held at the temple, and assists Rabbi Dantowitz with printing documents for use in services and with the Beit Sefer program.

Sandi had long careers in banking, academia, web design and content management, public service at the City of San Jose, as well as volunteer experience at Congregation Beth David in Saratoga, CA. When not working at Emeth, Sandi is busy with her pet care business, cooking, baking and learning to paint.

You can reach Sandi at operations@emeth.net



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Visit <http://smile.amazon.com>, select the charitable organization to support (Congregation Emeth), bookmark the page and support Congregation Emeth every time you shop! After you've done this once, Amazon will remind you – what an easy way to support Emeth!

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Michael Oshan, President

October 2021

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Michael Oshan

High Holy Days are now behind us and we are looking forward to an early Chanukah, at least it is early on the Gregorian calendar, it always falls on the 25th of *Kislev* on the Jewish calendar. We are hoping to have a live and in person Congregation celebration this year, though we remain fluid in our planning as we continue to consider health concerns. We have had several new families join Emeth in recent months and I am excited to see that we continue to grow our *Kehillah*, our sacred Jewish community in the south county. One of the best ways to enrich and encourage interaction is to share our festivals and Shabbat together. You may notice that we

generally have one or two “shabbat at home” on the calendar each month. I want to encourage each of our member families to use those dates to get together with other Emeth members for a shabbat meal. In past years we have strongly supported this activity as a congregation to the mutual benefit of all those who participate. Invite someone who you may not know well or ask another parent to share shabbat rituals with your two families. We have so many creative and interesting people in our Congregation that you will only enhance your Jewish experience by sharing your time and shabbat meal. If you find yourself being a bit shy, send me an email and I will see that someone will facilitate a pairing of your family for a specific date. There has also been discussion of organizing specific *Chaverim* (small social groups that get together on a regular basis to engage in Jewish related activities). The leadership of Emeth is encouraging these informal groups as their existence tends to strengthen the larger Congregation. These are the sort of connections that can last a lifetime and foster mutual growth.

Another great way to build community is to participate in our congregational workdays and projects. The decoration of the sukkah this year was one of those projects and we had several families help with that activity. It seemed to me that everyone was having fun doing this mitzvah. I want to especially thank the **Shem-Tov, Latin, and Jarson** families for their work on setting up and on the tear down and cleanup post-Sukkot. We will have some scheduled dates for workdays beginning in the next couple of months and it is once again a way to give back to the Jewish community while enhancing our building or making something special happen in the greater South Valley Community. Previous examples of these activities have been volunteering at a Communitywide Health Fair, doing a creek cleanup project and supporting various causes such as immigration rights and feeding the hungry or homeless.

We are planning to continue to increase the use of our building as the Covid crisis continues to subside, and we continue to follow all health guidelines for Santa Clara County, which, now, includes wearing of a mask for all indoor activities. I hope that each family will continue to support our activities, pay your pledges, and join a committee/and or *chavara* to strengthen our Jewish community. Remember, we are more than a religious organization and your participation can take many forms. Shabbat and holiday services are only some of the ways you can participate, find your niche, make friends, keep our *Kehillah* powerful as we look forward to our 45th anniversary year. As always, I am available to meet with any members and discuss any issues that concern Emeth. Happy Holidays to all.

I can be most easily reached through email: president@emeth.net.

Believe.

Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

Believe.

That's the sign hanging in the locker room of the Richmond soccer team.

Are you watching Ted Lasso? This series on Apple TV provided me much joy and comfort in the weeks it was aired. Each episode included life lessons and many extra doses of positivity.

As we entered into a 2nd pandemic High Holy Day this past Fall, a show like Ted Lasso was a balm for the soul, urging us to "Believe."

Things have not been easy, but there is hope.



Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz



Here are a few Lessons from Ted Lasso

- Believe -Faith.
- Always look on the bright side of life.
- Corny jokes are sweet.
- Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.
- Power of connection -friendship, community.
- Failing is part of life.
- Be yourself (There is a Jewish teaching that tells us Reb Zusya said: *In the world to come, I will not be asked "Why were you not more like Moses, but, why were you not more like Zusya."*)
- Mental health challenge is real, not anything to be embarrassed about, and it is time to embrace all in need.

At our first in person outdoor Chai School session this month, we explored the Jewish value of *Areyvut*, responsibility. The Talmud teaches that everyone is responsible for the community and the community is responsible for everyone. The Talmud also says, "*kol Yisrael arevin zeh l'zeh*"-all of Israel is responsible for each other.

As a congregation, we have worked hard to Believe--in a brighter future and to embody the value of *Areyvut*-responsibility.

I am touched by the many acts of kindness our members engage in here at Emeth and in the larger community.

I am eager to connect more with each of you in my 2nd year as your rabbi and eager for you to connect more with one another.

We are still navigating our way and strive for stability in the face of uncertainty.

When we recite the prayer for healing, *Mi Shebeirach*, we pray for healing of body and spirit. Just as we pray for healing for an individual facing a physical challenge, so too we pray and offer support for those with mental health challenges. As your rabbi, I want you know I am here to provide pastoral support through any of life's challenges.

We show our commitment to *Areyvut* by joining together as a community in as many ways as we can. Whether online hybrid worship, in person services, social gatherings (including Divas who Dine and a Young Families *Chavurah* forming) or engaging in *Tikkun Olam*.

Next month we will join together outdoors for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Interfaith Clergy Association and the Interfaith CommUNITY of South County on Sunday, 11/21, 3 pm @ St. Mary in Gilroy. The theme for the service is 'grateful to gather.'

Chanukah begins days after the cranberry sauce is set on the table (great for latkes too)

- Sunday, 11/28 is the 1st candle and the 8th candle is Sunday, 12/5.
- Friday night, 12/3--Chanukah Shabbat service----in this still uncertain time--we will still find ways to celebrate together. We learned that we can spread light and joy over Zoom as well and are working on Chanukah celebrations for that week.

Believe.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

We are excited to begin the year continuing our virtual ShalomLearning curriculum while hosting one 'in person' class each month at Emeth or at another location. This will give our children the chance to see their friends and classmates safely in person while participating in some fun activities as a community. These events will be taught by **Cantor Fineman** and Emeth religious school alum **Alexandra Mandel**.

For our online classes, we are thrilled to welcome back our teacher from last year, **Caleb Robinson** and want to extend a warm welcome to our new teacher **Kelli Haar**, who leads our new class for K-2.



**New Chai School teacher
Kelli Haar**

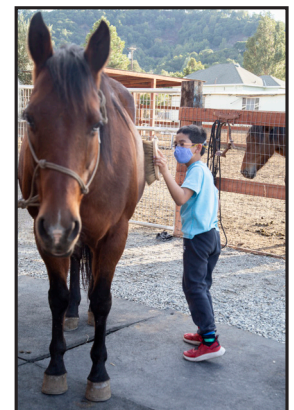
We are also excited to have family shabbat services on Saturday, November 6th, and Friday, December 3rd.

Hebrew School will remain virtual and we recommend all children to try out one of the classes if they have not already! We're excited to welcome a new teacher, **Ilissa Nelsen**. Ilissa is an experienced Hebrew teacher, as well as a Jewish Studies and B'nai Mitzvah teacher. She lives in Florida with her family. She enjoys using games to teach Hebrew.



**New Hebrew teacher
Ilissa Nelsen**

We had the first in-person class outdoors on October 21st. We had a wonderful afternoon with our host **Beth Anstandig**, yoga teacher and congregant, **Jill Irwin**, and in-person Chai School teacher, **Alex Mandel**. We explored the Jewish value of *Areyvut* -Responsibility to one's community and to the world. Students also had an opportunity to see the ranch animals up close.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Narumi family is excited to now be a part of Congregation Emeth! The Narumis enjoy celebrating the Jewish holidays and look forward to celebrating with Emeth. They are excited to have their daughters **Hannah** and **Ellie** participate in Jewish activities and they look forward to meeting everyone. **Sara, Keiichi, Hannah and Ellie** enjoy the outdoors, taking road trips, reading, games, sports, cooking, baking, yoga, gardening, music and dance. Sara grew up in Gilroy CA. Keiichi was born and partially grew up in Tokyo, Japan. Keiichi moved to CA when he was 15 years old. Keiichi and Sara met when living in Austin, TX ten years ago. They moved back to Morgan Hill five years ago. They love living in Morgan Hill and are excited about being members of Emeth.

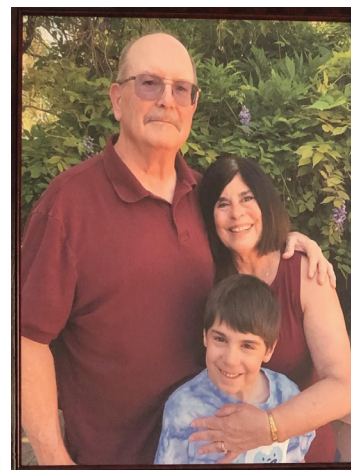


**Keiichi, Sara, Hannah
and Ellie Narumi**



Welcome to Sharon Shackelford. Recently widowed, Sharon and her husband, Gil, of blessed memory, moved to San Jose in 1979 and raised their three children there. Sharon later earned her teaching credential. She taught Kindergarten for 18 years before retiring in 2019.

She enjoys volunteer work, especially when it involves children, and she likes exercising and spending time with friends and family. Sharon notes that "I am looking forward to being part of Emeth's community, and getting to know the members and exploring the opportunities available within your warm and welcoming congregation."



**Sharon, Gil z"l, and their
grandson Charlie in one of
Sharon's favorite photos,
taken last April**

Welcome Adam and Tricia Green and their children **Cameron and Piper!** The Greens want to engage in Emeth in many ways: from religious services, activities with families, social action, interfaith events, and being part of a *Havurah!*

**Welcome Natalie and Brian
Brisbin** and their family:
Abigale, Brooke, and George
who have recently joined
Congregation Emeth!

Mazal tov to **Brenda Hoy** on the birth of her first grandchild, **Jay**, son of **Samuel and Johanna Black**, Aug 23.

Mazal Tov to **Aileen Teren-Foster and Dale Foster** on the birth of their granddaughter **Emery Posie Mullan** on Sept 28. She joins siblings Sullivan and Juniper in Verona, WI. Emery is the Aileen and Dale's sixth grandchild (4 girls, 2 boys).



MAZEL TOV!

Mazel Tov to **Sherry Michelson and Gary Albert Hernandez** who are getting married in the Boston area on Sunday, November 14th.

RECENT EVENTS

SHABBAT IN THE REDWOODS

Over fifty people joined us on August 14 for a very special outdoor event. Cantor Alisa Fineman and Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz led services together enjoying the sacred “chapel in the woods”, gorgeous weather, uplifting prayer, and connecting with congregants. Wendy Thowdis had organized camping for a group of congregants the night before, and a group went on a short hike together after lunch. It was truly wonderful to be able to meet in person together after so long, and we look forward to continuing this tradition.



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PICNIC

On Saturday, July 7th, the Interfaith CommUNITY held their first ICSC CommUNITY Picnic at Las Animas Park. While capacity was limited due to CDC pandemic restrictions, there was a wonderful turnout of about 65 friends. The group enjoyed good food and activities that helped them make new friends across a variety of faith communities.

Susan Myers was part of the picnic committee, and along with the others did an outstanding job organizing and managing all facets of the picnic. By all aspects, it was a great success and a stepping stone to additional events in the future, Covid conditions permitting.



TIKKUN OLAM UPDATES

Jill Irwin

The Tikkun Olam committee continued to focus on helping the unhoused. The end of 5781 found us being educated by several experts in this field in Santa Clara County. The group also sponsored a donation drive via Jewish Family Service of Silicon Valley to help refugees.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the Gavilan College Clothing Closet, a clothing giveaway at Gavilan College on the first and third Thursday of each month. One or two people are needed per shift to set up, help with clients, and then clean up. Contact **Susie Freiberg** at susandfreiberg@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping out.

As we move into 5782, we are interested in knowing what social action topics interest you. What is it that you want us to focus on in this coming year? Look for more on this soon!

Are any of you interested in joining our committee? All you need is a desire to make our world a better place. Contact **Jill Irwin** at jillhirwin@gmail.com. We would love to have you! We can all help to repair the world.



Thank you to all who contributed to Emeth's High Holy Day Food drive. More than 200 lbs of food was donated to St Joseph's with the help of EDK students R. Jarson, Clara Shem-Tov, and their families.



**Jill Irwin
and her granddaughter**



ADULT ED RECAP

Susan Braun

This fall, a variety of different classes were offered to our Emeth community and many more are in the works.

We started with the presentation, "Reflections on my life as a Rabbi" with **Sally J. Priesand**, the first woman publicly ordained as a rabbi. 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of her ordination, and we learned that her groundbreaking ordination, which opened the door for subsequent generations of women, was preceded by the impactful lives of other, lesser-known female scholars and community leaders. In a four-session adult education series in October and November, we shined a spotlight on a few of the significant women from the 1500's to the early modern period who held quasi-rabbinic status in their communities and reflected on how women's leadership has changed the rabbinate and the Jewish community as a whole.

In October, we also held classes on the Israeli/Palestinian Dilemma and on Zionist Beit Midrash, examining why we, as American Reform Jews, should have a connection and relationship with Israel, and what it means to be a Zionist in today's contemporary reality.

We're looking forward to more interesting discussions with you in the classes to come!



Susan Braun





Kol Emeth
Congregation Emeth
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Coming soon....Chanukah!

Sunday, Nov 28th - Sunday, Dec 5th

Let's celebrate together each day as we increase the light!

Sunday, Nov 28th:

> Zoom Candle lighting, 6:45pm-7:00pm

Monday, Nov 29th:

> Zoom Candle lighting, 6:45pm-7:00pm

Tuesday Nov 30th:

> Chanukah Adult Learning with Jewish Studio Process, on Zoom 12:00-1:30pm

> Zoom Candle lighting, 6:45pm-7:00pm

Wednesday, Dec 1st:

> Zoom Candle lighting, 6:45pm-7:00pm

Thursday, Dec 2nd:

> Chai School and EDK Chanukah celebrations in person

> Zoom Candle lighting, 6:45pm-7:00pm

Friday, Dec 3rd:

> Hybrid Shabbat Chanukah service with Cantor Alisa Fineman and Rabbi Dantowitz (in person and zoom)

Candle lighting @ 6:45pm, followed by Shabbat Service

Saturday, Dec 4th:

> Zoom Candle lighting, 6:45pm-7:00pm

Sunday Dec 5th:

> Sisterhood Chanukah Brunch, @ 11:00am

> In person outside candle lighting with the large Chanukiah at temple @ 5:00pm



Stay tuned for more Chanukah information!