

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

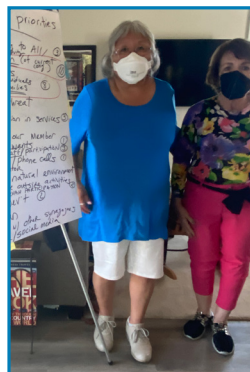
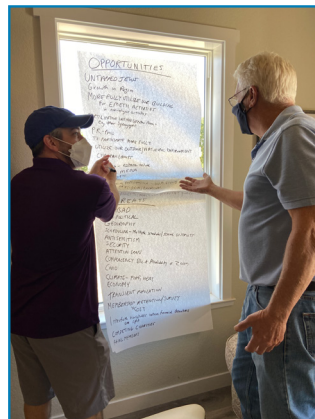
## NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD

At the June 26th annual meeting, new board members were sworn in to serve the community. Newly elected members **Rita Fisher** (Secretary), **Karen Perry** (Events), and **Marby Lee** (Ritual) joined returning members **Marilyn Freund** (Membership), **Emily Shem-Tov** (Communication), **Jay Latin** (Ways and Means), **Josh Levine** (Education Liaison), **Susan Braun** (Adult Education), and **Barry Freund** (Controller). Outgoing president **Michael Oshan** transitioned into the role of Past President.

On August 14th, the group met for a retreat where they spent the day getting to know each better and setting the group's priorities for the year. The board did some interactive group exercises to help identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) that Emeth has and to better understand the purpose and expectations of the board. The group identified many areas to work on, with the key focus areas being to better engage our members and increase participation, to continue to build out our membership base, and to better align support staff roles and responsibilities. The group looks forward to working with all the members of the congregation to make our community even stronger.



At the June 26th annual meeting, **Michael Oshan** handed over the role of president to **Marcia Fishman**. While unfortunately Marcia will be stepping down from the role soon, we thank her for all the work and energy she has already put into making our congregation even stronger.



### Did you know?

Each board meeting begins with a blessing reminding the group of their purpose:

*Barukh atah adonai eloheinu  
melekh ha'olam asher kidshanu  
b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok betzorkhei  
tzibur.*

How full of blessing you are, ETERNAL ONE, our God, majesty of the Universe, who has consecrated us with Your commands, and commanded us to occupy ourselves with the needs of the community.

Board members held a retreat to focus on the upcoming year's priorities

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,

אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו לעסוק בצרכי צבור

## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

<b>Rabbi</b>	Faith Joy Dantowitz
<b>Rabbi Emerita</b>	Debbie Israel
<b>Operations Mgr</b>	Sandi Diamond
<b>Technical Specialist</b>	Samuel Dantowitz
<b>Controller</b>	Barry Freund

### 2021-2022 Board

<b>President</b>	Marcia Fishman
<b>Past President</b>	Michael Oshan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Oshan
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Fisher
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Jay Latin
<b>Membership</b>	Marilyn Freund
<b>Communications</b>	Emily Shem-Tov
<b>Adult Education</b>	Susan Braun
<b>Education Liaison</b>	Josh Levine
<b>Ritual</b>	Marby Lee
<b>Events</b>	Karen Perry

### Non-Board Leadership

<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	Open Position
<b>Leadership Task Force</b>	Michael Heil
<b>Library</b>	Linda Riesenber
<b>Sisterhood</b>	Patty Baggesse, Marilyn Freund
<b>Tikkun Olam</b>	Jill Irwin
<b>Kitchen Supplies</b>	Susan Latin
<b>Historian</b>	Jack Fisher

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[admin@emeth.net](mailto:admin@emeth.net).

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, Emily Shem-Tov, [communication@emeth.net](mailto:communication@emeth.net).

**Congregation Emeth**  
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## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

We're very excited to kick off the 2022-2023 religious school program. There are three parts of the program: Hebrew School (Grades 3 - B'nai Mitzvah), Chai School (K - B Mitzvah), and Emet Dor Kef (Post B Mitzvah). The first day of Hebrew School class will be Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The first day of Chai School will be Thursday, October 13, 2022.

Our congregation's religious school uses the ShalomLearning platform, a curriculum that was developed for both the virtual or in-person classroom. While it is creative, fun and forward thinking, the lessons provide a range of content from Jewish culture, history, and stories. The lessons are interactive and values-based, providing tenets that we all share, like "Using your inner strength to do what's right" and "Taking responsibility for your actions." It is engaging and innovative Jewish educational content, and it includes videos, text studies, blessings, and activities.

Younger grades experience each lesson using the five senses. As the grades progress, each of seven values (or units) consists of four lessons, incorporating social and emotional skills that enable students to build positive relationships and make responsible decisions. Through the values, students look at Jewish text, history, tefillah, and holidays.

For more information, please reach out to [education@emeth.net](mailto:education@emeth.net).



Some of our younger members and friends joined together for a Tot Play Date on Sept 11th where they had a chance to play on the playground, make Rosh Hashannah cards, and eat apples and honey. Thank you to Marilyn Freund for organizing the fun event!



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Marcia Fishman, President*

Dear Congregation Emeth Members,

Why do so many of us love this Kol Emeth newsletter? It is because we read and visualize the vibrancy of our temple and all its activities. We may be comparably small, but we enjoy the needs and fun of other congregations throughout the country. However, maintaining such goings-on can be both a pleasure and a challenge.

When I accepted the presidency at the Shabbat service with the board installation, I had written and read the following: "Today I begin to be our congregation's president – joined by an incredible board of directors, comprised of clear thinkers and talented individuals. They understand the processes and best practices for our activities, our decisions to make, and our regular tasks at hand. With a "move forward" model, together we will take the successes of our past and merge them appropriately with changes for our future. Tonight, we as board members invite all of you in our congregation – in whatever capacity you choose – to introduce us – or remind us – of your many talents of which we might not be aware – so that you may join us in sustaining what is great and helping to transform what is not."

As many of you know, I will be stepping down as president due to my health concerns. But with my great interest in Emeth, I will remain active to the best of my ability. I am sincerely thankful for the support that I received, only confirming the fact that our little population is large in spirit. What would also be very special, would be a spur of inspiration for those of you who have not found the time or inclination to truly experience our heartfelt community. There are so many ways. Just read the words and peruse the photos on these pages. The door is open, and we will welcome you with grace and gratitude.

## September 2022

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## SECURITY TRAINING

We held Security training by **Rafi Brinner** from SF Jewish Community Federation on August 28. **Morgan Hill Police Chief Shane Palsgrove** attended as well and spoke at the beginning of the session. The training was attended by about two dozen people including a few from the Interfaith community. The Federation's community security training provides a roadmap for dealing with unexpected situations. The presentation and Q&A format covered how to maintain situational awareness, bring a security mindset to receiving visitors, and engage a run-hide-fight response when confronted with a worst-case scenario.



# Rabbi's Message

*Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz*

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, this month of Elul is a wonderful time to begin preparing for the new year. The name of this month, Elul, is also an acronym for “*ani l’dodi v’dodi li*” which means, “I am my beloved and my beloved is mine,” a line found in Song of Songs 6:3. Who are these beloveds referred to here? This is a metaphor for each of us and God. At this time of turning and returning, we are turning back towards God. We are turning toward the best version of ourselves. We are evaluating the year that has passed as we prepare to step into a new year. This imagery of the beloveds invites us to approach this with love. Our love for God and God’s love for us. And if we’re feeling uncertain of our relationship with God, that’s okay too.

Before we move forward to the new year, I’d like to reflect on this past year. Our community has maintained its sense of warmth and connection through the obstacles of various COVID variants. A few highlights of moments of connection included our first in person Temple Seder since 2019 on the second night of Passover. We had a special end of the school year Shabbat service with students and teachers which again showed our resilience as it was moved to Zoom due to a raging fire near the temple (fortunately no people were injured in the fire). A summer highlight was our Shabbat service in the Redwoods where 50 people gathered together to soak up the beauty of Shabbat surrounded by the God’s natural sanctuary—the forest.

We are entering 5783 at a time of transition for our congregation’s leadership and we need everyone to help make our congregation strong. Your participation matters. We are looking forward to a new year of learning, connecting and growing together. Please invite friends and newcomers to join us in our warm and welcoming congregation.

I look forward to seeing you in person soon!

L’shana tova,

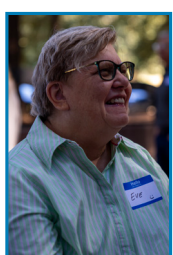
Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz



**Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz**



Photos from the Shabbat service in the Redwoods, August 13th, by **Rick Coencas**



Special thanks to **Wendy Thowdis**, chairperson of this special Emeth Shabbat, to **Cantor Richard Schwartz** who led the services along with **Rabbi Dantowitz**, and to everyone who attended and made this such a special Shabbat!



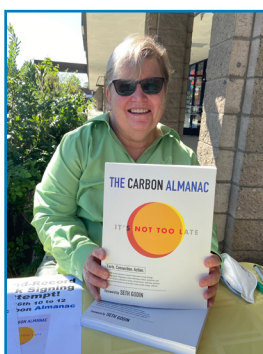
## MEMBER NEWS

A big welcome to new members **Bonnie Waldman** and **Nick Gumas**, and their daughter **Lila**, turning six in September. Bonnie is a speech/language specialist-pathologist and Nick is looking forward to volunteering for handyman projects!

Mazal tov to **Raul & Cynthia Fernandez** on the marriage of their daughter **Marie** and **Guillermo Teren Serrano** on May 27 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mazal tov to **Quinn Neto** who graduated from the IBEW Local 332 Residential Electrical Apprenticeship and passed the State Certification test.

Mazal tov to **Sharon and David Kirsch** on the birth of their grandson, **Owen Kenneth Bays** on May 31, 2022. Owen Kenneth's parents are **Lauren Tyler** and **Joshua Bays**.



**Eve Kedar** was one of 2000+ contributors to a newly published book about climate change, *The Carbon Almanac*. On July 16, Eve and other contributors from all around the world signed the new book, with Eve signing books at BookSmart. Their collective actions established the event as the first book signing to span all six habitable continents in 24 hours and as such a new World Record was established ("Largest Most-Global Book Signing" in history).



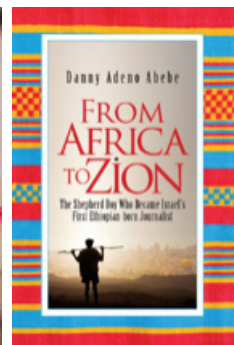
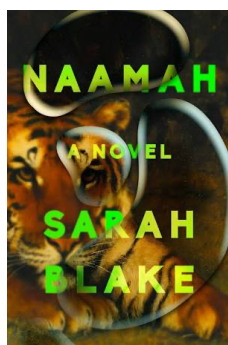
New members **Bonnie Waldman**, **Nick Gumas**, and **Lila**

## EMETH READS

The Emeth Reads book group had a wonderful discussion in June about a new book by Danny Adeno Abebe, *From Africa to Zion: The Shepherd Boy Who Became Israel's first Ethiopian -born journalist*. This is the extraordinary life story of Danny Adeno Abebe and his dangerous journey from Ethiopia, along with the truth, in all its painful complexity, about the Ethiopian experience in Israel, with **Marcia Fishman** as the well-organized conversation leader. In August, Emeth Reads had a terrific discussion of the book, *Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman* by Abby Chava Stein, a transgender rabbi. **Rabbi Dantowitz** was happy to share texts from the Talmud about the six genders in Judaism as part of the discussion.

Our next book to read and discuss is the novel *Naamah* by Sarah Blake. The discussion will be led by **Elizabeth Mandel** on Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 pm. *Naamah* was a New York Times best book of 2019 and a National Jewish Book Award Winner. The Washington Post offered this review comment: "An urgent feminist response to the Old Testament. . . . Blasphemous, carnal and committed to exaltation, *Naamah* delivers its truths in a torrent of heresies [and] dares us to center the experience and wisdom of women."

The group has also decided on the dates for next year: January 25, 2023, April 19, 2023, and June 28, 2023 and welcomes you to join them!





# TAKING ACTION

## SHARING OURSELVES WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD



A group from Emeth joined the Bans off our Bodies Rally for reproductive rights in San Jose on May 14th.



Rabbi Dantowitz spoke at the Morgan Hill community vigil on June 1st in response to the recent acts of gun violence in Uvalde, TX, Laguna Woods, CA and Buffalo, NY.



On July 13, Rabbi Dantowitz joined Cantor Devorah Felder Levy (Congregation Shir Hadash) and Rabbi Zoe McCoon (Temple Beth Torah - Fremont) on an online panel on "Reproductive Rights: Where are we? Next Steps?" to reflect and open a dialogue with our local community on where we are and what our next communal steps should be.





## RECENT EVENTS



It was so wonderful to celebrate our first in person Temple Seder since 2019! We had a successful congregational Seder on April 16. Huge thanks to Seder mavens **Marilyn Freund** and **Marcia Fishman** and Emeth Operations Manager **Sandi Diamond**. **Rabbi Dantowitz** was joined by **Cantor Alisa Fineman** in leading the seder.

Thank you as well to **Wendy Thowdis** and **Jackie Stevens** who led a wonderful Women's Seder on April 20th.



On Sunday, June 5th, we had a very cool celebration of Shavuot including ice cream truck treats (in keeping with the tradition of eating dairy on the holiday), a very special version of Twister that featured the Ten Commandments, and some fun photo opportunities. Shavuot is the festival celebrating God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai in the Land of Milk and Honey.



We held a lovely outdoor Shabbat service in Chitactac on May 7. Thank you to **Michael Oshan** and **Marcia Fishman** for their help with set up and kiddush.



A group from Emeth went to see Limelight's production of *The Outsider* in Gilroy on September 3rd. **Peter Mandel** played the lead role. **Emily Shem-Tov** and **Peter Mandel** produced the show, **Clara Shem-Tov** did the lighting operation, and **Elizabeth Mandel** did the publicity for the show.



# ADULT ED HIGHLIGHTS

Susan Braun

This past spring Rabbi Dantowitz taught a class entitled “From Freedom to Responsibility.” Each week we explored spiritual themes that emerge in the weekly Torah portion on our journey from Pesach to Shavuot. Sefirat HaOmer is the tradition to count the days (7 weeks) from Pesach to Shavuot. For each of the seven weeks, they teach, we should reflect on a particular personal quality. Each week, we should increase our capacity to express on that quality. The seven qualities are described using the language of the seven sefirot, seven qualities of God described in the *Zohar* (the “Big Book” of Jewish Mysticism).



Susan Braun

WEEK ONE: *Chesed* — Lovingkindness. In practice: the ability to love others in a way that enables them to draw close to the Divine.

WEEK TWO: *Gevurah* — Strength of character. In practice: the personal resolve to make necessary personal sacrifices without faltering.

WEEK THREE: *Tiferet* – Glory. In practice: acting without ulterior motives.

WEEK FOUR: *Netzach* – Eternity. In practice: discerning what is of enduring importance in life.

WEEK FIVE: *Hod* – Splendor. In practice: pursuing peace in every situation.

WEEK SIX: *Yesod* – Foundation. In practice: the moral commitment that is the foundation for human social life.

WEEK SEVEN: *Malchut* – Sovereignty. In practice: rising to do what we have been appointed by God to do.



Upcoming Adult Learning opportunities include a Selichot program 9/17 (On Repentance and Repair) and a Yom Kippur Study session. Classes will begin after the holidays. Also, Rabbi Dantowitz encourages anyone interested in Adult B’nai Mitzvah to contact her.

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

For his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout project, **Ryan Yacono** decided to focus his attention on the back area of Congregation Emeth. His original intention was to upgrade the playground with new equipment, stabilize the playhouse, then paint and clean the fenced in play area. The project grew after meeting with **Michael Oshan** and **Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz**. Michael mentioned that the pergola needed stain, the trees needed to be trimmed and the items along the cement fence, the side of the building and the basement needed to be removed. Rabbi mentioned that a GA-GA pit would be a nice addition. Ryan included these tasks plus power washing the entire area, top to bottom, cleaning the meditation area, plus more.



Robin Yacono sent in this great photo of Ryan in his uniform. Thank you to the whole family for this great project!

Eagle is the highest rank a Boy Scout can get. It is so rare only 4% of Scouts ever achieve it. Ryan demonstrated leadership as he organized the labor, managed the materials needed, and executed the plan.



Ryan would like to thank his troop, leadership, numerous scouts, friends, family, other adults, **Grant and Alexa Gordon**, and Johnson’s Lumber for their help in completing this service project to give Ryan the coveted status.

We’d all like to extend a special thank you to Ryan and his family for this wonderful project and look forward to all enjoying the wonderful space!





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



## Come Home to Emeth for the High Holy Days!

We are grateful to be able to gather together in our sanctuary this year, and we encourage you to join us in person! For the health and safety of our community, masks are strongly encouraged indoors. Most of the events will also be available to be streamed online.

Joining **Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz** to lead our High Holy Day services will be **Cantor Rebekah Mirsky** and **Michael Gill**, Bay Area composer and pianist. Based in LA, Cantor Mirsky is passionate about Jewish prayer, has two albums of original Jewish music and is a published songwriter. She is the founding cantor and co-creator of the “Music in Recovery Program” at Beit Teshuvah, a residential treatment center in Los Angeles for people in recovery from addiction, and currently serves as a spiritual advisor at Beit Teshuvah. Michael Gill is a Bay Area pianist and composer who focuses on jazz, progressive rock, and both traditional and contemporary Jewish music. He is the founder of the award-winning Bay Area Jewish/American wedding band, “The Shtelblasters.”

Access to all of the High Holy Day events and services are included in Emeth membership. If you have guests that would like to attend as well, please contact our membership director at [membership@emeth.net](mailto:membership@emeth.net), for more information including donations or cost of attendance. We sincerely look forward to seeing you!



**Saturday, September 17th, 2022**

- Selichot Services, 7:00 PM

**Sunday, September 25th, 2022**

- Rosh Hashanah Family Service, 5:00 PM

**Sunday, September 25th, 2022**

- Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:30 PM

**Monday, September 26th, 2022**

- Rosh Hashanah Morning Services, 10:00 AM

**Sunday, October 2, 2022**

- Tashlich Services at Anderson County Park, 10:00 AM

**Tuesday, October 4th, 2022**

- Kol Nidre Service, 7:30 PM

**Wednesday, October 5th, 2022**

- Yom Kippur Morning Services, 10:00 AM  
- Yom Kippur Afternoon Study Session, 3:30 PM  
- Yizkor, 4:30 PM  
- Concluding Services: Mincha and Neilah, 5:00 PM