

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

## RAISE THE TORAH! CELEBRATING OUR NEW ACQUISITION

We were excited to celebrate and raise a newly acquired Torah at a special event on June 11.

Much appreciation goes to those who donated their time to make this event a success, including Kathy and Rick Coencas, Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz, Rita Gutierrez-Fisher, Marcia Fishman, Marilyn and



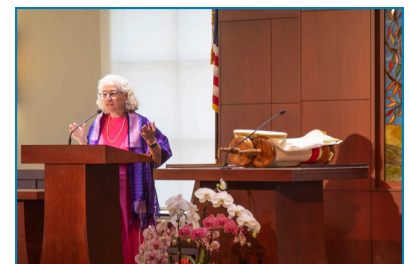
**Rick & Kathy Coencas**

Barry Freund, Elizabeth and Peter Mandel, Susan Meyers, Brigit and Perry Strongin, Mel Weisblatt, as well as all of our donors who made the purchase possible and to our anonymous donor in our community who stepped forward to match donations for this special event.

Learn more about the journey to getting our new Torah on Page Six.



**Raise the Torah Committee Members**



**Rabbi Dantowitz with the new Torah**

## TREE OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENT: PETER MANDEL

Peter Mandel was presented with the 2023 Tree of Life Award at the annual meeting on June 25th. Peter has been an active member and leader of Congregation Emeth for over 15 years. He has served on the Board of Directors for at least 5 terms, including serving as President. This past year, Peter again stepped in to become interim President of the Congregation. He also spearheaded the drive to obtain the new torah which was dedicated on June 11 of this year. Additionally, Peter was the chair of the search committee which resulted in the hiring of Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz.

When we first bought our building, Peter was one of the Emeth members who volunteered many hours of service to assist us in the renovation of the building and he was one of the first investors in the Bond Campaign to fund the purchase of the building. He set up the theatrical lighting and has continued to be involved in the operation and upgrades in the sound system, security systems, and various tech related jobs at Emeth. Peter also used his theatrical talents to make our High Holiday program more interesting, as for several years he performed the Jonah and the whale story on Yom Kippur.

Overall, Peter has always been one of the people that Emeth could always count on during his many years of service to and participation in our Jewish community. The award was voted on unanimously by the previous recipients of this award. His name has now been placed on the permanent plaque in our Library for all to see.

Thank you for your service, Peter and congratulations.



**Michael Oshan congratulates Peter on the award. The plaque with all of the names of all the past recipients hangs in the Emeth library.**

## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

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

### 2023-2024 Board

<b>President</b>	Karen Marblestone Perry
<b>Past President</b>	Peter Mandel
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Oshan
<b>Vice President</b>	Rita Gutierrez-Fisher
<b>Secretary</b>	Marcia Fishman
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Jay Latin
<b>Communications</b>	Emily Shem-Tov
<b>Education Liaison</b>	Josh Levine
<b>Ritual</b>	Marby Lee
<b>Tikkun Olam</b>	Jill Irwin
<b>At Large</b>	Arlene Noodleman
<b>Membership</b>	Marilyn Freund (nv)

### Non-Board Leadership

<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	Open Position
<b>Sisterhood</b>	Patty Baggese, Marilyn Freund

Kol Emeth is published electronically three times per year. Congregation membership includes a subscription to this publication. If you would like a printed (black and white) copy, please contact us at [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

17835 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
(408) 778-8200

## 2023-2024 EMETH BOARD

The newly elected 2023-2024 Emeth Board gathered at the Annual Meeting. Attendees enjoyed a festive bagel breakfast and listened to a synopsis of the past year's activities. We honored out-going interim President Peter Mandel, and thanked him for stepping up as president this past year. We also honored Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz's 30 years in the Rabbinate!



Emeth Board Members at the Annual Meeting



Outgoing President Peter Mandel recaps the past year



Marilyn Freund presents Peter Mandel with a gift

## MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER JILL IRWIN

"I joined Emeth in 2020, right after Rabbi Dantowitz. Joining during Covid was interesting; I never knew how tall people were! In January of 2021, I was asked to be the chair of the Tikkun Olam committee, a position that I absolutely love. I've recently attended a few board meetings and enjoyed seeing how the business side is managed. I'm ready to take on a more active role in leading the congregation, not just the social action committee. In my life, I've had too many leadership positions to list, going back to PTA chair 30 years ago and now serving on the temple board. When I'm not actively involved with Tikkun Olam and our congregation, I spend my time with my 2 granddaughters who live in Morgan Hill. I'm also getting acclimated to life in this beautiful city as I moved here (from south San Jose) 4 months ago. I love being with "my grandgirls", walking my wonderful dog Joey, and doing yoga. I look forward to getting to know more of you!"



Jill Irwin



## Q&A WITH NEW PRESIDENT KAREN MARBLESTONE PERRY

### Tell us a little about your background:

I was born in Seattle, raised in San Mateo and went to Peninsula Temple Beth-El. I went to the University of Oregon to study Gerontology and worked in aging services for the first part of my career and then transitioned into financial services specializing in retirement and long-term care planning. I created my own business (Marblestone Insurance Services) implementing long-term care insurance programs for California Community Colleges and individuals seeking long-term care planning. Partnering with husband, Doug, we recently created a second business, 65andMe, focusing on Medicare planning. Along with my husband of 28+ years, we raised two amazing children Jannah (27) and Sam (24) who are fortunately still residing in the Bay Area!



Karen Marblestone Perry

### How long have you been a member of Congregation Emeth? What brought you to the congregation initially?

We moved from Belmont, CA to Morgan Hill just 5 years ago and we just love it here! What brought us here was an opportunity to purchase a lovely home, Congregation Emeth and the “*Haimish*” feeling (having qualities associated with a homelike atmosphere, unpretensions and cozy) that overcame me visiting during the Purim Carnival, a beautiful knit shop, an inviting Centennial Rec Center and.... a neighborhood Trader Joes! Having lost my parents within 6 weeks of each other 5 years ago, buying a new house and moving into a new community, all at once, Doug and I found Congregation Emeth a warm, inviting place I felt instantly welcomed and comforted by.

### What are some of your favorite things about Congregation Emeth?

The feeling of “*Haimish*” came over me instantly and has continued for the past 5 years. After coming from being an active member at Peninsula Temple Beth-El in San Mateo with over 900 members, coming to a more intimate, *Haimish*, engaging environment is what I enjoy the most.

### What are you most excited about for this upcoming year at Emeth?

I am most excited about engaging with new people. I’m looking forward to making new, lasting friendships, and helping create those friendships for others within our Emeth community. I’ve learned over the years that the most important thing to me is creating lasting relationships whether they be professional or personal; it is through those relationships in my life that give me strength, insight into myself, and happiness. If I can help foster our members to strengthen or create new relationships in the coming year—I believe this can help set the stage for increased engagement in a broad range of activities in our beautiful community at Emeth. A legacy I would be proud to help strengthen.

June 2023

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## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Josh Levine

It was another great year at Emeth for both Chai School and Hebrew classes. Once again using the Shalom Learning curriculum, our kids were able to have in person Chai school classes all year supported by our wonderful teachers, Rabbi Dantowitz, guest participants and volunteers. Some highlights this year were family services, Purim, Passover and Chanukah events as well as congregation-wide events like Shabbat in the Redwoods!

The next school year for Emeth will start after Yom Kippur as we begin to celebrate Sukkot. We hope to have at least one get together before then to kick off a sweet new year once we all return from summer break. We hope to see you at this year’s Shabbat in the Redwoods or even sooner.



Josh Levine

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

## Rabbi's Message

*Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz*

Dear Congregants,

Thirty years ago I was ordained a rabbi. Looking back over the decades, what I reflect on most is the power of sacred relationships. Whether I was delivering a sermon to thousands of people in my first congregation on the High Holy Days or thankful to welcome a *minyan* on Shabbat, part of the joy of being a rabbi is cultivating meaningful Jewish experiences while building relationships. Some happen when we expect them—such as a lifecycle event. Some happen unannounced—a student discovering how to read the word Sh'ma for the first time. Others involve putting our faith into action.

I am particularly proud of Reform Judaism welcoming LGBTQ+. I lived in NJ before Marriage Equality was legal in our country and lobbied for marriage equality at the State House multiple times, testifying before the legislators.



**Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz**

This June I've been thinking a lot about the LGBTQ+ community in celebration of Pride month and in recognition of the extremely challenging time facing so many in our country as many states have passed laws harming individuals. My colleagues in many states with transgender children are not able to access healthcare for their kids.

Why is this a Jewish issue? Well, we only need to look to the Torah Gen. 1:27 "And God created them in God's image; male and female God created them." Yes, in our Torah we see that the first human being was gender inclusive. Or as one meme I've recently seen says: God, the original They/Them.

Judaism's ancient texts—the *Mishna* and *Talmud*, over 2000 years old—also include multiple mentions of at least 6 genders in Judaism.

Congregation Emeth is a warm and welcoming community, affirming each individual created *B'tzelem Elohim*, in God's image. We celebrate Jewish families, intermarried families, individual members, LGBTQ+ families. With each individual, we have the opportunity to engage in sacred relationship.

## TIKKUN OLAM

*Jill Irwin*



**Assembling Hygiene Bags at Purim**

At our recent congregational Annual Meeting, it was great to take a moment to reflect on the different projects the Tikkun Olam committee worked on over the past year.

Last summer we partnered with Cecelia's Closet to collect backpacks for their Back to School drive benefitting local students. In the fall, we organized the annual Canned Food Drive, the Every Voice Every Vote Campaign postcard drive, and spearheaded Morgan Hill Stands United Against Hate Week. In the winter, we created the auxiliary group called *Chaver*, for people who are "friends" of Tikkun Olam without wanting to be on the committee, and we now have six wonderful folks who we can call on to step up and help when we need them. We also collected donations for the Jewish Federation's Dreidel Board and provided Safe Park dinners in January. Then, more recently, we organized the

assembly of hygiene bags for women as part of our Purim initiatives.

Now that summer has come again, we're working on this year's Back to School Backpack Drive and preparing for our August round of Safe Park Dinners. We are also working on organizing a Creek Cleanup so stay tuned for notices about how you can get involved or reach out to us at [tikkunolam@emeth.net](mailto:tikkunolam@emeth.net).

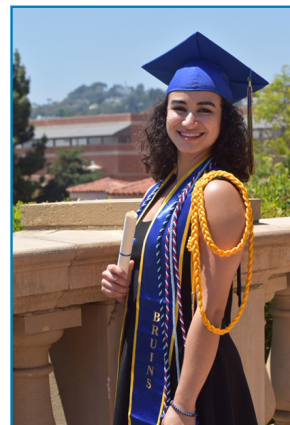
# MEMBER NEWS

**Haley Toch** received her B.A. from the University of Washington College of Arts & Sciences, with a double major in “English” and “Comparative History of Ideas”, and with a minor in “Education”. She will be starting graduate school in the fall at Seattle University. She wants to be a High School English Teacher and is enrolled in SU’s combined M.A. in Teaching and Teaching Credential program, which also includes classroom student teaching. So, by this time next year, she should be a fully credentialed English Teacher with a Master’s Degree. Kudos to Haley and to proud father **Randy Toch**.



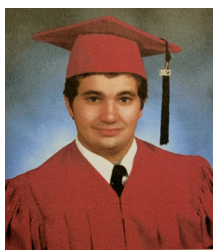
**Haley Toch**

Congratulations to **Aliya Glatt** who graduated summa cum laude from UCLA on June 16, 2023, majoring in Linguistic Anthropology and minoring in French. She has been accepted into the Masters program at UCLA. Aliya is the daughter of **Rena Dubin** and **Harlan Glatt**, and the granddaughter of **Rabbi Debbie Israel** and **Jerry Dubin**.



**Aliya Glatt**

Mazel tov to **Arlene and Rick Noodleman** on the arrival of their new grandchild **Everett Kai Noodleman**, May 24th in San Jose, Costa Rica.



Mazel tov to **Ryan Yacono** on his graduation from Sobrato High School. Ryan received a \$500 Future Farmers of America (FFA) scholarship for his work with animals and a \$2,500 scholarship from Trail’s End for selling a lot of Boy Scouts of America popcorn over the years. He also received sashes for participating in the FFA for four years, volunteering over 50 hours each year for four years, and for participating in concert and marching band for four years. Congrats!



Mazel tov to **Dale Foster** and **Aileen Teren-Foster** on the birth of their grandson, **Owen Dennis Foster**, born June 22nd. Son of **Andrew** and **Abby Foster**.

A big welcome to new members **Sharon Genkin** and **Ronald Mandel**, and their son **Josh**!

Sharon Genkin and Ronald Mandel grew up around the corner from each other in Brooklyn, New York. When their mothers saw each other at a Bat Mitzvah, they decided their unmarried children, who were living on opposite sides of the country at the time, should date. And of course, who can resist a Jewish mother? They were married within the year, and Sharon moved from NY to CA 23 years ago.

Sharon worked as a public school teacher, literacy staff developer, and principal for over twenty years in NY and CA. She became an adult Bat Mitzvah and has taught both Hebrew and religious studies. She is currently teaching Chai School to the 4th and 5th graders at Emeth, a part-time job she loves. Sharon is also passionate about Tikkun Olam/Social Justice. She serves as the volunteer CA Statewide Lead for Community Outreach and Partnerships for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, as well as working as a National Trainer, Mentor, and Racial Justice Coach for that organization. Hiking, reading, and art journaling are Sharon’s hobbies.

Ronald worked as a systems engineer and organizational manager/director at Lockheed Martin for over 40 years before retiring. He currently serves as one of the volunteer CA State Data leads and national trainer for Moms Demand Action as well. (It’s a family affair!) His hobbies include photography, technology, and walking near the ocean with his family. Josh Mandel just turned 20 and is a student at DeAnza College. His passion is meteorology, which he plans to turn into a career. Josh’s hobbies include travel (he did a Birthright trip to Israel and has been to both Italy and Ireland with his family), his dog Lilly, hiking, and of course video games. Josh is deeply committed to being Jewish and encouraged us to join Emeth.

Sharon, Ronald, and Josh all feel very lucky to be so welcomed by this warm community.



**Ronald Mandel and Sharon Genkin with their son Josh**



# NEW TORAH

Congregation Emeth is blessed to have recently acquired a third Torah scroll and we celebrate how we continue to add to the story of the Jewish people.

Years ago, the congregation bought a scroll in great condition and it was used for many years. It is a wonderful Torah but it is very heavy -- over 26 lbs without anything on it. About 10-15 years ago, the congregation, with **Rabbi Debbie Israel's** help, purchased a lighter scroll (about 11 lbs) which is made up of rescued pieces of scrolls from the Holocaust. Unfortunately, this scroll's condition is no longer kosher and would require extensive repairs to stay kosher.

A few years ago, a donor stepped forward to make a significant gift and was happy to learn a Torah scroll was under consideration. Purchasing a Torah turns out to not be as simple as the online ordering we've all become used to. After searching through a variety of channels, we connected with a recently merged congregation in Ohio which had more Torahs than it would ever need. Former board member **Tracy Valentine** and her husband **Scott** had moved to Ohio and brought a scroll to Morgan Hill so we could get it evaluated.

Members of the ritual committee helped with this process including chair, **Marby Lee**, past chair **Mel Weisblatt**, **Michael Oshan** and then president **Marcia Fishman**.

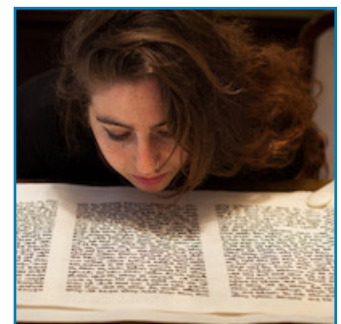
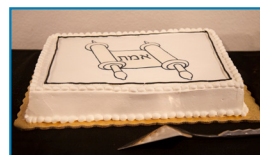
The next step was finding a *sofer* or *soferet*, a scribe trained to write and/or repair Torah scrolls to evaluate and do the repairs. Rabbi Dantowitz found Rachel Jackson, part of an organization called STAM Scribes—all women *sofrot*. Rachel was visiting California from Massachusetts last Fall and examined our newly acquired scroll. In January, she did the needed work on it to make sure it was in an excellent condition for our usage.

After a successful fundraising effort, the congregation celebrated the new scroll and looks forward to using it for many years to come!

*Did you know every Torah contains 304,805 letters which combine to a total of 79,976 words.*



Members of the congregation had a chance to take a look at our new Torah and then enjoy a lovely reception.



Rachel Jackson is a full-time scribe, bookbinder, designer, artist. She is a proud member of the Stam Scribes scribal collective. She notes in her bio that, until the early 2000s, this tradition was primarily relegated to men. However, in recent years there has been a small but growing cohort of female scribes—including herself—who fully embrace the *halachic* (ritual laws) of *sofrot* and are committed to opening it up to a wider range of practitioners and communities.



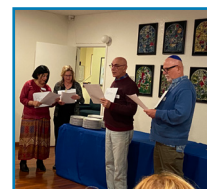
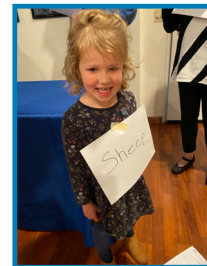


# RECENT EVENTS

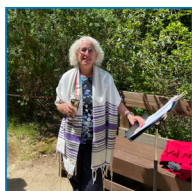
We celebrated Purim with a Shabbat Service & Spiel (March 10), Roll in the Dough Purim Game Night (March 11), and Purim Bowling (March 12.)



April was filled with Passover events, including a cooking class with Bonnie Fishman, a Congregation Seder (April 6), and the Emeth Women's Seder (April 11)



We enjoyed outdoor Shabbat Services at Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park in Gilroy (April 29)



The Divas that Dine always have the best time!





## ABOUT THE INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH COUNTY

By Susan Meyers

Following the example of our local clergy interfaith group, 7 years ago Emeth led the way for the foundational meetings of what became our Interfaith CommUNITY of South County (ICSC). Together with our friends from 18 houses of worship in the Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister area, we have gathered a group of people who are committed to creating compassionate communities through education, service, and social programs.

At the outset we agreed we wanted to learn about each other. That was the initiative for our “Faith of our Neighbors” program that offered each group the opportunity to host the program in their house of worship and teach about their faith traditions. It was just as important for us to celebrate all that we share in common. So, we participated in the annual 4th of July Parade in Morgan Hill, and we host annual events at Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Day.

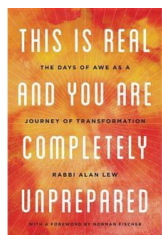
The ICSC provides service through our partnerships with the Gilroy Compassion Center and the Morgan Hill Edward Prado Foundation. We share the value of “*tikkun olam*” and *rachamim* as we provide dinners for those unhoused, clothing, school supplies and hygiene kits. Service to our community extends as we demonstrate our values related to creating peace and understanding in our South County towns. We introduced the national “Standing up Against Hate” movement, bringing Morgan Hill into the national light through posters and programs that promote peace and understanding.

Once we were safely able to meet in person, we brought back our annual spring picnic. This social scene brought people together from the 18 participating houses of worship. With space limited to 125 people, each group was limited to 10 representatives. Once again, Emeth led the group with Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz there to share a blessing before the meal. The ICSC Steering Committee meets monthly. Our meetings always include an opportunity for learning, introducing new ideas and appreciating the opportunity to engage in building friendships and nurturing our commitment to creating compassionate communities. **Rick Coencas** and I have been attending these meetings throughout the last 7 years. If you are interested in learning more about the ICSC and/or joining us for an ICSC meeting, please contact me or Rick. You will be warmly welcomed!



## EMETH READS

The Emeth Reads book group continued its string of wonderful book discussions with more great picks. The group’s April book was *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood* by Mark Oppenheimer (2021) with the discussion led by **Adam Henig**. In June, **Marilyn Freund** led the discussion on *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* by Dani Shapiro.



The congregation is invited to join Emeth Reads for this August’s book discussion in preparation for the High Holy Days, August 30 at 7pm. The book will be: *This is Real and you are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation* by Alan Lew. Rabbi Alan Lew’s book outlines the path from terror to acceptance, confusion to clarity, doubt to belief, and from complacency to awe in the period leading up to the High Holidays. Weaving together Torah readings, Buddhist parables, Jewish fables, and stories from Dr. Lew’s life, he draws on ancient rituals to awaken our souls and transform us. The discussion will be led by **Rabbi Dantowitz**.



April Emeth Read discussion group



# CONGREGATION EMETH CODE OF ETHICS

By Susan Meyers

## Why an Emeth “Code of Ethics”?

Congregation Emeth is part of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). As a member congregation, our Board of Directors receives guidance from the URJ. This year, after exploring the URJ rationale for each Reform Congregation to approve a “Code of Ethics”, our Emeth Board reviewed the recommendations and designed a “Code of Ethics” that supports the warm and inclusive culture that is “Emeth.”



Susan Meyers

The Emeth Code of Ethics is presented in three parts:

**Part One:** An introduction and rationale for the Code of Ethics.

**Part Two:** The Code sets forth the principles and expectations for adherence to standards of conduct for our clergy, congregants, staff, visitors and guests, whether participation in an Emeth activity that is in the building, online or off-site.

The five components of the Code are clearly related to our Jewish values, as follows:

- Exemplify Holiness (*K'Dushah*) – Congregation Emeth welcomes all who wish to engage with our sacred community.
- Honesty (*Yosher*) – Congregation Emeth expects all who engage in our community to conduct themselves in an honest manner
- Honor (*Kavod*) – Congregation Emeth values acting with integrity
- Compassion (*Rachamim*) – Congregation Emeth embraces the fundamental value of performing acts of lovingkindness (*g'milut chasadim*)
- Justice (*Tzedek*) – Congregation Emeth believes everyone entering our sacred space has the right to feel safe and respected.

**Part Three:** Addressing Allegations of Unethical Behavior

Procedures are delineated to guide Emeth leadership (Rabbi and Congregation President) if there is a need to respond to incidents of unethical behavior.

The entire Emeth Code of Ethics will be published on our Congregation Website.

## ADULT ED PROGRAMS

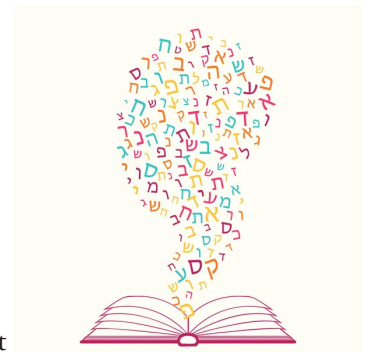
Learning is a lifelong journey and we are eager to explore together. If you're interested in getting involved with Adult Education (attending a class; planning an event), please contact **Rabbi Dantowitz**.

### Keep an eye out for announcements of upcoming programs, including:

- Getting Ready for the New Year with Emeth Reads Wednesday, August 30th - *This is Real and you are Completely Unprepared* by Alan Lew
- *Selichot*—In preparation for the High Holy Days, Saturday, September 9th 7:00-9:00 PM
- Adult Study Session on Yom Kippur
- Sukkot Speaker
- *Mussar* Series-Beginning in October on alternate Thursdays (afternoon or evening, tbd)

What is *Mussar*? It is a virtue based ethics/Jewish spiritual practice based on *Middot*--values. *Tikkun Middot* is the idea of cultivating our inner virtues to work on our own repair. There are numerous middot and this learning requires practice. For example, if the middah we explore is judgment, it would mean evaluating how you do during the day judging others/judging yourself.

The learning includes Jewish text sources, mindfulness practice, journaling, personal reflection and conversation/sharing. Ideally, each person is paired with another student for 'check-in' over the course of the weeks between class sessions.



Would you like to help lead services, chant Torah or write and deliver a *D'var Torah*? Contact Rabbi Dantowitz



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



## Upcoming Events -- Mark your calendar

Saturday, July 15  
Progressive Dinner



Saturday, August 12  
Shabbat in the  
Redwoods

High Holy Days 5784

Friday, September 15th, 2023  
- Family Service, 5:00 PM  
Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:30 PM



Saturday, September 16th, 2022  
- Rosh Hashanah Morning Services, 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 24th, 2023  
- Kol Nidre Service, 7:30 PM



Monday, September 25th, 2023  
- 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

## Join us on the Ritual Committee!

We are inviting members to join the Ritual Committee. The Ritual Committee assists the Rabbi with and oversees the administration of Ritual duties. Our main responsibilities are getting kiddush ready for Shabbat services, getting the sanctuary ready for High Holidays (changing out Torah covers and exchanging *Siddurim* (Shabbat prayer books) for *Machzorim* (High Holiday prayer books), assigning and managing Torah readers for services, and assisting the Rabbi in any Ritual needs. It is a great learning opportunity, and we welcome you to join us!

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

*join us*