

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

## PRAYING FOR PEACE

The horrific attacks against Israel that began on October 7th have left us all shaken and saddened, grieving for and worried about our friends and loved ones there, and deeply concerned by the aftermath including the loss of innocent lives, and a rise in antisemitic incidents around the world. We will stand together and we come together as a community to support one another, and to continue to pray for peace.

For additional resources and opportunities to attend events or donate, please visit the [Emeth website](#).



עם ישראל חי  
Am Yisrael Chai



Emeth members attended a community vigil at Shir Hadash on Oct 8



Rabbi Dantowitz was one of the speakers at the South Bay Community Solidarity Gathering for Israel on Oct 12



Members of the community, included elected officials and clergy members joined Emeth members at a special Shabbat Service on Oct 13

## SUMMER LISTENING TOUR

To kick off the Emeth Board's Engagement initiatives, we held a "Summer Listening Tour" which involved a series of small group discussions. Thank you to those of you who attended and to our wonderful hosts, Marcia & Nancy Fishman, Jill Irwin, Denise Weyl, and Jay and Susan Latin.

When we asked people to describe what Emeth meant to them, a picture comes together of a supportive community, an accepting kind of environment, a warm wonderful group of people, and one that is inclusive of non-Jewish spouses and partners.

When we asked what was most important about being involved in the Emeth community, people highlighted being with other Jews. You talked about the friendships and relationships, the social engagement, the support, the ritual experiences, the spiritual guidance, the traditions, the ways we give back, the continuing Jewish education and personal growth, and the sense of belonging, of it being a place where you are welcomed, valued, and accepted unconditionally. You talked about being part of an extended family that shares our Jewish traditions and values, and many of you talked about the importance of having the community to help raise your children as Jews.

When we ask what kinds of things you would like to do with the Emeth community, there are a never-ending supply of wonderful ideas, ranging from a congregation choir, to museum field trips, to yoga, to social justice activities, to wine tasting, to hikes, to theater and concerts, to photo walks, to speakers and classes... and not surprisingly, a lot of interest around activities involving food.



Marcia and Nancy Fishman hosted one of the sessions



Families gathered at the Latins for a poolside session

We're working on planning activities and events based on the great input provided, and would love your help!

## Congregation Emeth

### Staff

<b>Rabbi</b>	Faith Joy Dantowitz
<b>Rabbi Emerita</b>	Debbie Israel
<b>Operations Mgr</b>	Open Position
<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
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<b>Education Liaison</b>	Josh Levine
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<b>Tikkun Olam</b>	Jill Irwin
<b>At Large</b>	Arlene Noodleman
<b>Membership</b>	Marilyn Freund*

### Non-Board Leadership

<b>Sisterhood</b>	Patty Baggesse, Marilyn Freund
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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

\*Non-Voting Member

## TORAH READERS NEEDED

Chanting Torah is a wonderful part of our Shabbat morning services. Whether you chanted last month or many years ago, we're happy to help you with your *aliyah*.

Or maybe you'd like to begin chanting Torah?

Each *aliyah* is 3 (often short) verses. Rabbi Dantowitz is happy to provide an audio file, a copy of the Torah portion, a photo of the portion in the scroll, and personal help as needed. Please honor us, your congregation, by accepting the honor of chanting Torah on a Shabbat morning.

Please contact Rabbi Dantowitz to let her know when you'd like to chant Torah.

Here are the upcoming dates:  
December 16th  
January 20th  
February 24th  
March 16th



## MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER ARLENE NOODLEMAN

Arlene Noodleman is an integrative and preventive medicine physician and CEO of Revercel clinical skin care. She holds BA and MD degrees from the University of Minnesota and received a Master of Public Health (MPH) from UC-Berkeley. She is board-certified in Preventive Medicine and fellowship-trained at the University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine. In addition to her professional activities, Arlene has a long history of volunteerism. Currently, she is Emeth's representative on Jewish Silicon Valley's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). She serves as Director of The Rotary Foundation of the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill and as a Global Advisor for How Women Lead, a national organization of top executive women focused on leadership and philanthropy. She has been a member of Emeth for 3 years. In her spare time, Arlene enjoys Pilates, travel, and reading.



**Arlene Noodleman, MD, MPH**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Karen Marblestone Perry*



**Karen Marblestone Perry**

It's difficult to know what to write at times like this. In a November 2 opinion piece in *The New York Times*, "How to Stay Sane in Brutalizing Times," David Brooks writes "We're living in a brutalizing time: Scenes of mass savagery pervade the media. Americans have become vicious toward one another amid our disagreements. Everywhere I go, people are coping with an avalanche of negative emotions: shock, pain, contempt, anger, anxiety, fear." He asks us, "How do you stay mentally healthy and spiritually whole in brutalizing times? How do you prevent yourself from becoming embittered, hate-filled, calloused over, suspicious and desensitized?"

In challenging times like this, the community we have built here at Congregation Emeth can hopefully help to provide a place of strength, solace and comfort to help us all stay mentally healthy and spiritually whole. I know that I am grateful to be part of this community and appreciate the support it has provided, and I've been talking to many of you about how can we, as a congregation, be there to support each other through these terrible times?

Starting with this summer's Listening Tour, we've been learning from a lot of you about what you hoped to see Emeth doing and we've already started to roll out some new programs and initiatives and are hoping to partner with you to do more in the coming months and years. The ultimate goal is to build and deepen relationships throughout our organization and community and so the Listening Tour was a first step in that direction.

Listening to the stories of why people joined and what Emeth means to them filled me with gratitude for what we have built here and grounded me in the meaningfulness that being a part of this congregation provides to so many of you. As we grapple with unfolding events going on around the world, it is more important to me than ever to make sure we have a warm and nurturing community here where everyone feels welcomed and supported.

Your Emeth community is here for you and wants to be here to meet the varied needs that different people have – during these times and in hopefully better times to come. Whether that means joining us at services, at educational events, at fun community activities, or just in reaching out to talk to our wonderful Rabbi for support and understanding during these times, Emeth is here to help nourish your spirituality, provide opportunities for support and friendship, and to help navigate the range of tough emotions we're all feeling.

We're scheduling opportunities to check-in and connect with each other about how we're doing during these times, to hear from Israelis about what the situation is like there right now, and opportunities to provide opportunities for self-care and comfort. As we gear up for Hanukkah celebrations, we'll continue to plan a variety of ways that we can come together as a community.

If you didn't have an opportunity to participate in one of the Listening Tour events – or even if you did and have more you want to say – please come chat with me! I want to hear more about why you joined Emeth and how we can continue to engage with each other, grow our wonderful community, and become even better together. Email me at [president@emeth.net](mailto:president@emeth.net) and let me know.

## November 2023

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# Rabbi's Message

*Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz*

Dear Congregants,

I thought I would be writing to you immediately after the High Holy Days, inspired by the beauty and joy and looking ahead to this coming year. Instead, our dancing turned into mourning on Simchat Torah with the Black Sabbath (as called in Israel) when Hamas terrorists attacked Israel by land, air and sea, murdering over 1400 people, mostly civilians and kidnapping over 200, from babies to elderly, children to grandmothers.

We are in a searingly painful time as a Jewish people. The War with Hamas, whose goal is to murder all Jews and wipe out Israel, is also a time of suffering for Palestinians in Gaza, caught under the abusive power of Hamas.

As if our hearts were not aching enough, antisemitism has skyrocketed more than 400% in the past month with attacks on college campuses, businesses, homes, and of course, social media.

So what do we do as Jews here in NorCal? My heart, my broken heart, is in the East (a poem by Yehuda HaLevi) and is also right here. As I continue to reach out to friends and colleagues in Israel, I also learn from their resilience. They express their concern for our well-being. They are aware of the increased antisemitism here. They are grateful for President Biden's support of Israel.

On Yom Kippur, 50 years since the 1973 War, I spoke about the challenges to a Democratic Israel today. Israel's protest movement redirected their focus only hours after Hamas' attack on Israel and today the *Hevra Ezerachit*—Civil Society—is leading efforts to support people throughout the country. Whether it's meals for soldiers, childcare, condolence calls, holding services or respite care, Israelis are supporting one another. Rabbi Naamah Kelman, former Dean of Students at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem, spoke about the incredible Civil society during a recent zoom call. The individuals are functioning as a *hamal* — an acronym for *heder milchama* — or war room, with *hemla* — compassion.

The Talmud teaches that *Kol yisrael aravin zeh bazei*—all Israel is responsible for one another. Rabbi Kelman encouraged us to continue to show support for Israel while also living joyous Jewish lives here. When giving *tzedakah*, donate to causes which reflect your values.

This is my message to you. Join us. Celebrate with us. Learn with us. Mourn with us. Take action with us. Stand up against hate with us. *Am Yisrael Chai*—the people of Israel lives.

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz



**Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz**

## Remarks from South Bay Community Solidarity Gathering for Israel

*10/12/23, Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz*

We come together in solidarity with and for our sisters and brothers – our siblings – in Israel.

We gather together this evening broken-hearted, outraged, worried, in shock and pain. We gather together as a community in solidarity to offer support to one another. Why do we gather? As we learn in this week's Torah portion, with the Creation of the world and human beings, "it is not good for a person to be alone." Your being here tonight shows us the power of being with others. Your presence helps bring comfort for all of us who mourn. Your presence is a balm to those who ache.

From the shock of last Saturday's surprise terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas by land, air and sea, we are reeling from the devastation. As the numbers continue to rise to more than 1200 dead, approximately 150 kidnapped, thousands injured, we continue to hear gruesome details of murders of babies, elderly, women, men, young people attending a peace concert, gunned down. Kibbutz members brutally murdered. Soldiers called to the front, many returning to be buried. We fear for the hostages, individuals of all ages from babies to a Holocaust survivor, pre-teens and young adults.

Every Jewish person has either a direct connection to a friend or family member in Israel or is only one or two degrees of separation. Our social media is filled with photos and stories. *L'chol ish/isha yesh shem*. Each person, each missing person, each murdered person, has a name and a story to be told and remembered. Our community strength is showing up for one another. While we can not erase this tragedy, we can hold one another close as we move through this devastating time together.



# MEMBER NEWS



**Noah Latin**

Congratulations to **Noah Latin** and **Miriam Shem-Tov** on their B'nai Mitzvah this summer! Both did a wonderful job and it was so extra special to have two in person celebrations for the whole Emeth community to participate in!

Noah's bar mitzvah took place on July 1st. **Cantor Richard Schwartz** joined **Rabbi Dantowitz** for the service. As part of his Bar Mitzvah, Noah raised money for Kavod and The Holocaust Museum Los Angeles. Noah's sister **Beka Latin** read a Torah portion, which was extra special for everyone because her own Bat Mitzvah had taken place on Zoom.

Miriam's Bat Mitzvah took place on July 29th and Rabbi Dantowitz was joined by Cantorial Solorist **Jamie Zimmer**, head of Jewish Studies at Yavneh Day School. Miriam chose the County

of Santa Clara Animal Services Center and Keshet as the causes she contributed to as part of her Bat Mitzvah, and her service project involved supporting the Animal Shelter's enrichment program by creating dog and cat toys.



**Noah and Family**



**Miriam Shem-Tov**



**Miriam and Family**

*An amazing part of turning 13 in Judaism is being called to the Torah for the first time as a Bar/Bar/B Mitzvah. The journey from learning alef-bet to leading the congregation in prayer and teaching Torah is remarkable. As students become more comfortable with the prayers, they also dive into learning about prayers, Torah and values. A significant part of the process is choosing to engage in meaningful mitzvah work. Noah's passion for history and the Holocaust led to his meeting with a survivor at the Holocaust Museum LA. Miriam's passion for animals led to her using her creative talents to make toys for dogs and cats at the animal shelter.*  
-- Rabbi Dantowitz



The congregation came together to celebrate both joyous events



## WELCOME

A big welcome to new members **Debbie Cochran** and her son **Robbie**!

## Pride

Emeth joined in the Silicon Valley Pride Walk on August 27th.





# TIKKUN OLAM: MADRONE CHANNEL CLEAN-UP

Jill Irwin



Emeth volunteers cleaning up the Madrone Channel area

Congregation Emeth has formally adopted the stretch of the Madrone Channel from E. Main to E. Dunne and plans to have organized volunteer clean-ups at least two times a year. An official sign indicating that we have adopted the stretch will be installed at the start of the trail, which can be accessed from the Jack in the Box parking lot. Valley Water provided the group with vests, garbage pickers, trash bags, and other materials, which we are storing to use in our next clean-up day.

On October 22, a crew of Emeth volunteers spent the morning walking part of the stretch of the channel and collecting bags full of garbage -- and even an abandoned shopping cart! Because the trail runs behind a few shopping centers with some fast food chains, hotels and gas stations, there is a fair bit of trash along the trail and down in the channel.

Valley Water established the Adopt-A-Creek program in 1992 to encourage residents of Santa Clara County to take an active role in helping to preserve the health and beauty of our local creeks. More than 50 groups around the county are involved in the program, but with 294 miles of creek owned by the district in Santa Clara County, many areas have yet to be adopted.

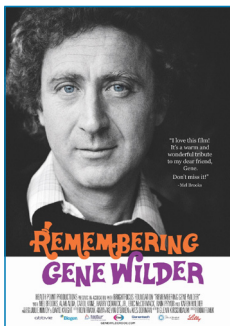
Reach out to us at [tikkunolam@emeth.net](mailto:tikkunolam@emeth.net) to get involved in this and other volunteer opportunities.



## OUT FOR DINNER AND A MOVIE

A group of Emeth members attended opening night of the Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival in Mountain View on October 15th to view the film *Remembering Gene Wilder*, meeting up first for dinner at the Pacific Catch restaurant.

Proudly Jewish and universally loved, the multi-talented Gene Wilder, had memorable performances as all-too-believable characters from Leo Bloom to Willy Wonka to The Waco Kid to Dr. Frederick Frankenstein. The film features intimate insights of friends and colleagues. His life was not without heartache. From the tragic death of his wife and co-star, Gilda Radner, to his own struggles against the ravages of Alzheimer's Disease, Gene faced the uncertainties of life with the same can-do spirit that was the hallmark of the characters he portrayed onscreen.



Tzvia Shelef, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival sent this message to the community following the October 7th events, "In times like this, we need to come together as a community. The Festival is an occasion to appreciate the unequalled talent of directors, writers, actors, producers and others who have created the best in Jewish film. This is also a unique opportunity to be grateful for Israeli cinema -- movies that portray the realities of Israeli life and the beauty of its cultural diversity, exactly the qualities that the murderers of Hamas attempted to erase."

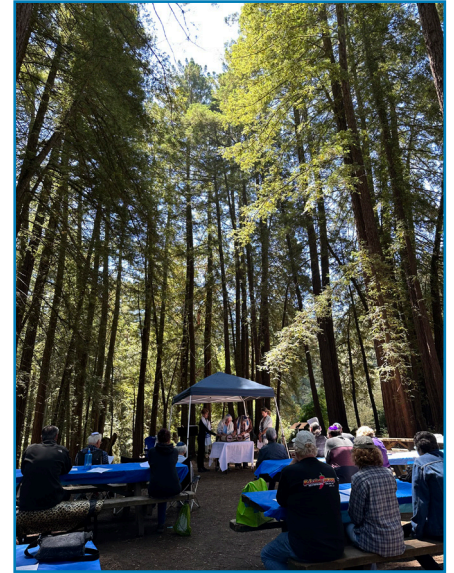


# SHABBAT IN THE REDWOODS

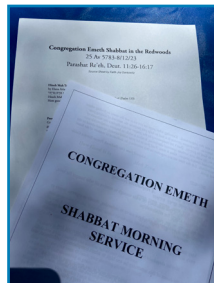
The annual Shabbat in the Redwoods, held on August 12, is always a congregation favorite. About 50 people attended this year's intergenerational Shabbat service.

Thank you to **Wendy Thowdis** for chairing the event beautifully and to **Michael Oshan** for providing a tent. **Cantor Richard Schwartz** joined Rabbi Dantowitz in leading services. Following lunch, **Adam Henig** led a hike around the surrounding area.

Inspired by ideas from author and Jewish leader Dr. Ron Wolfson's book, *Relational Judaism*, we handed out name tags where people could choose to indicate if they were "celebrating" "excited" or "grateful" for something – and it turned out to be fun to ask someone about the word they had chosen. We learned about people's anniversaries, family visits, new jobs, and more.

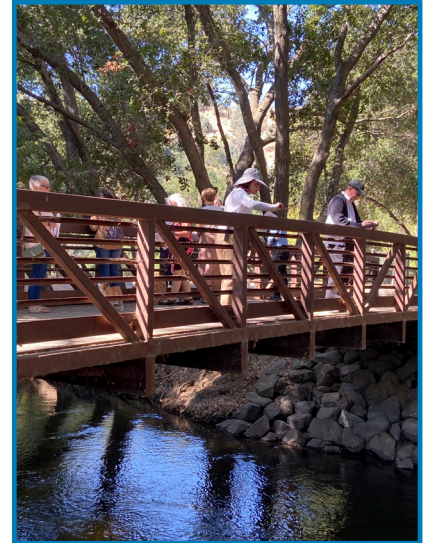


A beautiful location for services and a hike





# TASHLICH SERVICES



Tashlich services at Lake Anderson County Park

We followed-up Rosh Hashanah services with a bring-your-own picnic lunch at Lake Anderson County Park followed by Tashlich services, where we symbolically threw piles of dried leaves (to minimize our environmental impact) into the running water under the bridge. Rabbi Dantowitz concluded the service with a blast of the shofar.

## COMING TOGETHER IN OUR SUKKAH

We had many opportunities to come together in our Sukkah this season, including a Yom Kippur break fast, Sukkot services, Pizza in the Hut with our students, a Divas that Dine in the Sukkah event with Sisterhood, an Interfaith clergy gathering, and more.



Services and Yom Kippur break fast in the Sukkah, in front of a copy of the Israeli Declaration of Independence



Divas that Dine in the Sukkah



Interfaith Clergy



A big thank you to Josh Levine, Adam and Jacob Henig, Jay Latin, Edgar Tejano, Grant Gordon, Michael Oshan, Shachar Shem-Tov and others who helped put up and take down the Sukkah this year.



# UNITED AGAINST HATE

For the second consecutive year, the City of Morgan Hill is supporting "United Against Hate (UAH) Week" that is observed nationally from November 12-18, 2023. The Library, Culture, and Arts Commission, along with many community organizations, is organizing the City's second annual event this year. Highlighting the need to combat discrimination, prejudice, and intolerance, this week serves as a reminder and a call to action for communities to be inclusive and welcoming towards everyone regardless of their background, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic class, or any other characteristic. In our diverse society, embracing differences and fostering a sense of belonging is crucial. The UAH community partners include: Congregation Emeth, Interfaith Community of South County, Morgan Hill Library, Cordoba Center/South Valley Islamic Center, Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Association, Kiwanis Morgan Hill, SURJ South County, Gamma Alpha, AAUW Morgan Hill, and the Morgan Hill Unified School District.

MORGAN HILL  
STANDS  
UNITED  
AGAINST  
HATE

Similarly, Gilroy United Against Hate will be holding an event on Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ the Gilroy Library, 3:30-5:00 PM, with the title, "A Community Conversation: Building a Compassionate Community"



## TIKKUN OLAM'S FIT 4 FALL BACKPACK PROGRAM



Once again, the Emeth congregation came through with generous donations to make our 2023 Fit 4 Fall Back-to-School Drive a complete success!

Your donations enabled us to successfully stuff 50 bountiful backpacks with all the supplies a student could want or need. We filled 30 backpacks for grades K-3, and 20 backpacks for grades 4-8.

We were overjoyed to host a Make A Mitzvah event on Sunday, August 13. Seven school-age members filled all the backpacks after listening to a beautiful story read by Rabbi Dantowitz. We finished by filling our tummies with ice cream or Otter Pops.

Thank you to all who continue to help us heal the world, one backpack at a time!

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Hebrew School has been going well virtually for the kids in the program. Chai school kicked off with decorating and enjoying our Sukkah, as well as making edible Sukkahs! They also had fun making mini Torahs for Simchat Torah.

One topic that has been discussed so far in class has been *Teshuvah* (repentance) and how that applies to everyday life — we can be very good people but everyone makes mistakes. Topics coming up include certain lifecycle milestones. We had a great turnout of the school families at the family Shabbat on Friday, November 3, with all the kids participating in the service.



Edible Sukkah


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



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




## Upcoming Hanukkah Events -- Mark your calendar



Let's Celebrate the Festival of Lights Together

### A COMMUNITY HANUKKAH PARTY



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29,  
4:30-5:30 P.M.**

Join us at BookSmart for stories, songs,  
crafts, dreidels, snacks, and more!  
**Everyone welcome!**

BookSmart | 421 Vineyard Town Center, Morgan Hill | 408-778-6467  
[www.mybooksmart.com](http://www.mybooksmart.com)

Wednesday, November 29th, 4:30-5:30pm  
Community Hanukkah Party at BookSmart

Friday, December 8th  
Hanukkah Service & Dinner  
-- plus Latke and Dreidle Contests

Sunday, December 10th  
Sisterhood Hanukkah Brunch

Thursday, December 14th  
Outside Menorah Lighting  
w/ Hot Chocolate & Treats

Check *HaMadrish* for more  
details and ways to get involved.