

The First Hebrew Congregation



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Welcome to Spring in South Haven! The FHC has a summer lineup to remember for our members and friends. The Passover second night Seder was a huge success! Our sponsors Steve and Karen Tolen not only financed the wonderful dinner but worked in the kitchen and dining room preparing, serving and CLEANING UP. We had 32 people enjoy the Lou Price led Seder and meal, and every part of the meal was delicious! With the second night falling on a Tuesday we were not sure we would have many people show, but they came. It was especially

great to see the Warshawsksys and the Paskins in attendance, and their smiling faces were appreciated. Thank you to Karen Riffer-Reinert, Julie Rubin, and Marlene Riffer for setting a beautiful Seder table.

Shavuot Service

On June 1st we will have a Shavuot service and meal starting at 6 p.m. lead by Lou Price. This event is being sponsored by Steve and Debbie Ehrlich so come and enjoy an evening with the Ehrlichs and the rest of our community!

Saturday Morning Services

The weekly Shabbat service and Kiddush will commence on June 24th and continue till after Labor Day. Services will start at 10 a.m. followed by the Steinfeld's and Rothner's famous Kiddush at approximately 12 noon. A special thanks to Ricky Rothner for having one of our Torahs repaired. We will finally have a set of 5 perfect Torahs to read from.

Lox Box

Our annual Lox Box fundraiser will be held on July 2 from 10 a.m. till 12 p.m. Please mark the date and time for the best brunch in town. Bagels, lox, cream cheese, onion, tomatoes, cucumbers, blueberry muffins, juice, in a bag to take home. We are looking for sponsors for various items such as bagels or the lox in this fundraiser. If you have any interest in doing so please contact Barry Fidelman at 616-820-5623. The lox cost usually

runs around \$300 and the bagels about \$250. Your family name will be attached to the event as a sponsor.

Cemetery Improvements

Anyone wishing to donate to our cemetery fund will be appreciated. We will be hiring the local stone company to clean and reseal the headstones. Some of them are barely able to be read because of mineral deposits.

Dishes for Sale

We have little storage space at the FHC so it has been decided to sell the full set of brown dairy dishes that have not been used in years. We have two other sets of dairy dishes that we use. The set is perfect and has cups and saucers included.

One our members asked that we put the transliteration of Shabbat candle lighting prayer in our newsletter:

Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom A-sher Ki-de-sho-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Le-had-lik Ner Shel Shabbat Ko-desh.

Blessed are you, L-rd, our G-D, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of the holy Shabbat.

A get well to Remey Rubin who will undergo surgery in Chicago the third week in April. We need our fearless leader back soon for the busy summer season.

A quick recovery for Bea Kraus who had surgery recently. Get well Bea, we need you well and in South Haven soon.

A visit to Bea Warshawsky at River Ridge Rehab Center would be welcomed. If you are in town plan a visit for a wonderful Mitzvah.

Vorts - Rabbi Alan Cohen

Understanding prayer is the first step to an enhanced and meaningful experience at services. In the next newsletters, I will be explaining some of the prayers we recite. The two central prayers for us are the Shema and the Amidah. I continue with the Shema:

5. The third paragraph of the Sh'ma contains the Torahitic command of tzitzit (the fringes on the corners of a garment). The Talmud (Berakhot 12b) explains why this section concerning tzitzit was included in the Sh'ma—because of the following contained within:

- a. the commandment to wear tzitzit
- b. the mention of the Exodus from Egypt
- c. the 'yoke of mitzvot'
- d. the warning against heretical belief
- e. the warning against going astray
- f. the warning against idolatry