

The First Hebrew Congregation



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Spring is in the air, and the First Hebrew Congregation (FHC) board has begun implementing the spring-summer programs. We would like to thank Rabbi Cohen and his family for inviting us to join them by Zoom for a Second Night "Dessert" Seder. It was informative, as always, and enjoyed by all those who attended. Barry prepared fresh gefilte fish and distributed to all known to be in town.

Lox Box Returns

FHC's annual Lox Box, with plain bagels and all the amenities, will be held on July 4, with curbside pick-up on Church Street. The two-person bag is \$24.00; 4 person, \$48.00.

Book Club

The book club, led by Sharona Shapiro, will meet on May 23, June 27, July 25, and August 22 at the Shul at 10 a.m., or by Zoom if necessary. For more information and to RSVP, please email Debbie Ehrlich at debehrlich@hotmail.com.

Shabbat Services

We will have four Friday night Reform services, followed by an Oneg Shabbat, and we will keep you posted as to the format—Zoom or in-person.

The Orthodox Saturday service will start June 26 through Labor Day at 10 a.m., and will be followed by our famous Steinfeld-Rothner Kiddush--including Barry's herring and much more. If you cannot attend the service, you are still welcome at noon for the festive Kiddush. Kiddush will follow the rules allowed in Michigan at the time of the event.

High Holidays

Rosh Hashanah starts Labor Day, with services at 8 p.m.; 9:30 a.m., September 7th; and 9:30 a.m. September 8th.

Yom Kippur will start September 15th at 8 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the 16th. All services will be led by Rabbi Alan Cohen and will be in egalitarian Conservative format.

Membership

We are proud to announce our membership has grown to 79 members! I like to think this is because we have provided interesting programs to meet congregant needs and have responded to our members' suggestions. If you have a suggestion for our yearly schedule, please contact Remy Rubin or Barry Fidelman with your suggestion. A reminder that FHC dues are \$300/family/yr.

Painless and No Charge!

Donate painlessly to FHC with your Amazon purchases. When buying, go to smile.amazon.com and select First Hebrew Congregation of South Haven as your favorite charity. Amazon will then contribute one half of one percent of your purchase to FHC.

Thank You!

A special thanks to the Hodgman family and LawnBoys for the maintenance and planting of our reading garden in front of the Shul. We also wish to acknowledge the garden crew: Patti Gaylord and Karen Tolen. This year we plan a FHC cemetery cleanup day and will keep you posted on the date.

Special Thoughts

FHC Board encourages you to be fully vaccinated so safety is enhanced as we strive to return to in-person services and events. We love our FHC family and want you to be well and to flourish.

I don't often do this but I feel it necessary in these troubled times to say a little prayer:

G-d, please give me the wisdom to close the windows of my house during this time of raining hate and bigotry. Let my family be safe from this downpour, and my house protected!

Spiritual Vorts from Rabbi Alan Cohen

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's "Jewish Wisdom" p. 27

"As Maimonides makes clear, neediness is not always synonymous with poverty; it can refer also to those who are emotionally and/or psychologically destitute. Thus, even the widows and orphans of a king may be vulnerable and in need of emotional support."

"Let all who are hungry come in and eat, let all who needy come are in and make Passover." -- From the Hagaddah