

The First Hebrew Congregation



249 BROADWAY

South Haven, MI 49090

firsthebrewcong@gmail.com

269-637-1603

Remy Rubin
President
269-637-4764
newgriz@aol.com

Lou Price
Vice President

Stephen Tolen
Treasurer

Debbie Ehrlich
Secretary

Barry Fidelman
Newsletter Author

What a summer it has been! Those who attended our Friday night Reform Shabbat services have been treated to four of the most insightful and fulfilling services of the season. Rabbi Dreyfus and Rabbi Mizrahi, thank you for putting the First Hebrew Congregation on your itinerary. Our Rabbi Cohen, plus these two, give us the best teaching opportunity we have had in years!

Members and friends, please take advantage of these inspiring services.

Saturday morning Orthodox services have been well attended, and the following Kiddush and social hour have just been wonderful. Thank you Steinfelds and Rothners for the wonderful pastries, and Kiddush cabinet beverages and herring treats. Folks, those of you who cannot make the 10 am service, please come to the social hour at noon. You will find it fun and rewarding.

Crepes and Crooners was a success! We had 35 people enjoy homemade cheese blintzes and blueberry sauce with tons of fresh fruit and the best tomatoes of the season. The dessert table was an array of fresh pastries and fruit pies. Thank you Lou for the great songs of the 50's, 60's, and 70's and although we had some technical glitches, it was still great.

Elections

Members, please return the ballots for the election of board members as soon as possible as we need to conclude the vote by the end of the month.

New Brochures

Be looking around town for the new

brochures, put together by Bob Abel and Patti Gaylord, showing the schedule of events of the FHC for the season. Our goal is to have a schedule for all members and friends available in the early spring next year.

High Holiday Services

Rosh Hashanah begins Wednesday evening, September 20th and Yom Kippur begins Friday evening, September 29th. Our High Holiday schedule will be in the next newsletter, letting you know approximate times for the parts of the service. We welcome back Rabbi Cohen to lead us in our spiritual quest.

Thank You

I cannot begin to tell you how many people have commented on our reading garden this season! Thank you Karen Tolen, Patti Gaylord, LawnBoys and the Hodgmans for giving us this great opportunity to showcase ourselves to the public as one of the loveliest places in the City of South Haven.

Many of you have written personal responses in your membership form. Thank you for the information. We have the following for which to be grateful:

Mazol Tov!

Congrats to Danielle Riffer-Reinert, recent graduate of Kalamazoo College with a B.A in psychology and religion, with a concentration in Judaism.

Congrats to Charles Rosenbaum and Mona Medow who announced the engagement of their daughter.

Congrats to Allen and Candi Green on the birth of their seventh grandchild, Abraham Edward Green, and the celebration of their 44th wedding anniversary.

Congratulation to Chavie Steinfeld on the completion of the landscaping of her front yard.

Condolences

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Nancy Benchell-Eisman father, Ernest Benchell.

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.

THE AMIDAH-

The first blessing is “Avot” (the ancestors). We identify God as our God and the God of our ancestors. We must first come to know God in a personal way before we can identify God as the God of our ancestors. Each of us must have a personal relationship with God.

The second blessing is “Gevurot” (might). God is everywhere and all around us. God fills all of the spaces of the universe. One of God’s names is “HaMakom” (the place) implying that God is in all places. Yet, there is room for each and every one of us as well. This is God’s might—to be in all places but to make room for us as well as God’s partners in the creation and completion process.

The third blessing is “Kedushah” (holiness, uniqueness or separateness). This blessing is seen through the words of the angels whose behavior we copy when reciting this blessing. It is a tradition to rise on our toes with each recitation of the word “kadosh” as if we, like the angels, were trying to raise our spirits to God. It is a mystic encounter with God.

