

The First Hebrew Congregation



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Winter has finally arrived, and we still have some fond memories of our lovely fall in South Haven. The FHC Simchas Torah celebration was one to remember! Lou Price led the service and the 20 plus people rejoiced, while 5 of our shtarkers danced our 5 Torah's around the sanctuary seven times. I must admit one of our members who was slightly flush in the face tried to convince me that fifth time around was number seven, but some of his compatriots were less confused and straightened it out!

Barry Fidelman was asked to attend a meeting in Kalamazoo of Jewish community leaders in S.W. Michigan. The event had representatives from Kalamazoo College, Hillel, Hadassah, South Bend, St. Joseph, and Grand Rapids. Better communication between congregations and communities were discussed.

Chanukah

Our annual Chanukah celebration will be held on Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. We will serve our traditional latke dinner sponsored by Hy and Shelley Warshawsky. A Friday night service will follow. The dinner is free, but of course, we will accept any donations offered! Please come and rejoice with us, but if you cannot attend, leave your name on the Shul answering machine to order for home delivery. If you need a ride, we have a crew of driver volunteers who have offered to brave the winter weather to pick you up and take you home, so just give us a call!

Building Projects

We just completed one of our last projects, the kitchen, which is now freshly painted. Thanks to David Ashen and Steve Tolen for taking on the job. With the restoration of the machitza, our building will be fully completed. That project will start soon and be finished by spring.

Save the Dates

A friendly reminder we will celebrate Purim on March 12th, and a Passover Seder on April 11th. Write down the dates and plan to attend both celebrations.

Thank You

Please note the beautiful Menorah in the reading garden. Thanks Lou and Stu Price for putting it up. It looks great and includes the FHC in the festive look of downtown South Haven.

Thanks to Deb Zuckerman for framing a number of old posters. The wall of old posters looks great! Deb has helped us in our quest to preserve historical documents and pictures and to beautify the building. Thank you for your generosity, time and continued help.

Thank you to Ricky Rothner for donating new velcro Torah ties. We now even have two sets, one for all year and one for High Holidays.

Finally, thank you to Nancy Vilims for always being there when we have trouble with the computer. As I am sure some of you know things don't always work as we had planned, and Nancy is always there to volunteer her services for the synagogue as our computer maven.

Mazel Tov

A mazel tov to Don and Carole Hodgman on their 50th wedding anniversary. May there be many more.

Be Well

We have a number of members for whom we pray for better health in the new year: Michael Slotnick, Bea Warshawsky, Shelley Warshawsky, Diane Paskin, Lois Moret, and Barb Adler.

Condolences

Condolences to Carole and Don Hodgman on the loss of their brother-in-law. Our thoughts are with you.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Renee Kaplan's father, Henry Render.

Spiritual Vorts

Helping people become more spiritual in their lives:

The Talmud (Berakhot 28b) teaches us: "I give thanks unto You, Adonai my God, that you have placed my portion with those who frequent houses of study and not with those who sit idly around street corners. I rise early and they rise early, but I rise early to study Torah and they rise early to engage in idle talk. I labor and they labor, but I labor and receive reward and they labor and receive no reward. I run and they run, but I run to life in the world to come and they to the pit of destruction."

If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so soon. We want you to be a part of the historic resurgence of the FHC in South Haven.
