

The First Hebrew Congregation



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From the President

It has been said, "One man's ski trip is another man's blizzard". Well, I have yet to talk to anyone who has stayed in South Haven for the winter, who is here on a ski trip! Our Shul has been dug out at least three times and it is still mid-winter. The cold weather has not slowed our resolve to continue restoring our historic Shul.

Plans to renovate the bathrooms are moving ahead and will hopefully start soon. As with other aspects of the restoration, the 1920s style will be retained but with modern plumbing!

A designer has been hired to draw up a plan for the Community Room. This plan will incorporate a wish list of things the Board feels is needed, such as more storage and electrical outlets, while keeping the historic nature of the original building.

Three bids have been received for the heating and cooling plant replacement. They are expensive and modifications that may reduce the price a little are being considered.

For all our snowbirds, we wait for your return and some signs of summer. Picture an older couple sitting on their porch swing looking at the sunset with a glass of fine wine in hand. After a long silence the bubbie says, "I love you, and I don't know what life would be without you." Grandpa ponders and responds, "Oh, that's just the wine talking." She looks at him and says "No, that's me talking TO the wine!"

Passover Seder

Our annual Passover Seder will be on April 13, at 5 p.m. Please call 637 1603 or 616 820 5623 to reserve. Guests are welcome. The price will be \$ 25.00 per person and children under 12 will be charged \$ 10.00. The menu will be brisket and chicken with the usual sides and plenty of wine and matzos.

Reminders

This will be the last month we will keep the old signed Siddurim. If you know anyone on the list given last month, please contact them and we will return the books.

We have yet to receive any requests for child care for the High Holidays. Please let us know asap so plans can be made.

Get well

Get well wishes to Esther Price, who has been under the weather lately. Barry Fidelman and Mike Slotnick stopped over to see her and brought some home made chili. She ended up in the hospital the next day and said, "Tell Barry that his chili put me in the hospital". Still funny even under duress.

Our thoughts are with Kim Lynch, who is undergoing medical treatment. Get well soon! Kim has little local family so calls are welcome, especially during the early evening. Her number is 269-639-8172.

Rabbi Alan Cohen, has generously agreed to contact congregants desiring pastoral care. If you know someone in need, contact a Shul Board officer, and connections will be made.

Thanks to Cliff and Joyce Berman for the wine glasses, a very useful gift!

Thanks to our Restoration Donors

The following individuals, families and foundations made gifts to the second half of the "Challenge Grant", from August, 2012 through June, 2013, raising more than \$50,000. The Shul is grateful to all donors, especially those who made multiple gifts. In total, more than \$100,000 has been raised since the Challenge Grant was announced by Tem Horwitz in late 2011. The FHC Board is honored to have the privilege to restore our historic synagogue for the benefit of current and future members. Watch our newsletter to learn how these funds help our Shul. And, again, thanks to the following folks, a community of long time and new Shul members and

friends:

Thank you, our donors !

Lawrence Abraham

Anonymous

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