

The First Hebrew Congregation



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We are entering a final phase of the current restoration of our historic FHC building.

Spearheading this task are Shul members Tem Horwitz and Anne Moffat. Everything possible is being done to protect our history while, at the same time, updating our hallowed building, built in 1928, to serve the congregation's current needs. Please reserve the dates of July 17-19 for the formal dedication of our renovated social hall, to be named the Ben and Harriett Teitel Hall. The committee for this event, headed by Debbie Ehrlich, is planning a wonderful weekend of events.

Nostalgia

An amusing event happened while we packed up all the books and memorabilia in preparation for restoration work on the social hall. Shelly Sommerfeld was packing up the 'Dolls of Freedom' display when she noticed two donation canisters designated for the Red Mogen David ambulance fund. The canisters were full of money and we decided to call the number on the can to see if it was still in service. Low and behold, they answered and instructed us to open them and send a check to the fund. The Shul will match the \$20.00 and send a check for \$40.00 to the fund. The newest coin in the cans was dated 1985! (We knew you would wonder.)

Barry and Steve packed all the books in the library cabinets and, while doing so, found a treasure trove of old cheder work books, all signed. We have been sending them off to the individuals as a nostalgic memento of the olden days and fond memories.

One of the wonderful things we also found is a 'Messenger' from May 11, 1960. This was the yearly newsletter of the congregation. The cover is designed by Blanche Ashen, and the first of six pages has Rabbi Richter's letter to the congregation. It is a stirring letter explaining why in the prior month he offered his resignation. If Barry's memory serves him well, it was the issue of communal seating that spurred the crisis. A committee was formed, met with the Rabbi and a solution was found. We have scanned the full

'Messenger' and anyone who is interested in having it, please e-Mail the Shul and Steve Tolen will send it to you.

Another issue has been resolved. During the High Holy Days last fall, Sandy McGuire saw the omission of the name of her father, Martin Eichenbaum, on the past presidents' plaque. Guess who was president in the 1960 issue of the 'Messenger'? It was Martin Eichenbaum!

Purim-take note

Due to the condition of the community hall during restoration, it is necessary to relocate the Purim celebration to someone's home. Julie and Remy Rubin kindly offered to host the party at their home, 622 North Shore Drive, at 2pm., Friday, March 6.

Passover-Save the Date

Our plan is to still hold Passover at the new Teitel Hall even though it may not have its finishing touches. It will be Sunday, April 5th at 5pm. Please plan on coming and attend the first religious celebration in the Ben and Harriett Teitel Hall. Reservation details will be in the next Bulletin.

Mazel Tov

Ben Fidelman, son of Barry, is a sophomore at the U of Michigan and a sportswriter for the

Michigan Daily newspaper. The web address is www.michigandaily.com/sports. He is the baseball beat writer and has many fine articles to peruse. Ben is a law and sports management major.

Congrats to Hy and Shelly Warshawsky, whose grandson Reuben has been accepted to medical school at Indiana University. Reuben, if you had chosen the career of hotel and restaurant management, we would claim the Shul trained you! Thank you for all the times you and your brother helped in the kitchen.

More Nostalgia

Steve Tolen came downstairs a little while before the services ended on Yom Kipper and met Joseph Stulberg in the lobby. He told Steve that he thought his grandfather may have built the ark in the sanctuary. With a little research on our part, including his sister Mira, it was confirmed that Harry Leiberman of Bangor, MI, was his grandfather and, in fact, he did build the ark.

Mr. Leiberman was a very interesting, creative man. Emigrating from Russia after escaping the Russian army, he came to Chicago and bought a small lumber yard. Unfortunately, he lost that lumber yard during the depression. As a trade with the bank, he acquired land in Bangor and, along with his wife and two daughters, moved to this area. He farmed, ran a resort and worked as a woodworker. He helped rebuild a structure at Fidelman's resort in the 50's after a fire. Barry does remember a fire in the "White House" and remembers that it was rebuilt.

He was a master craftsman as one can see by looking at the ark. He not only designed and built the structure, but also carved all the lettering and probably carved the lions that are at the top of the ark. He also built the ark in Kalamazoo's Congregation of Moses. We are so lucky to have had such a wonderful craftsman to have built our ark. Everyone who sees it for the first time is so impressed that a little synagogue in such a small town has such an impressive sanctuary.



Harry Leiberman

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the donor list in last month's newsletter:

Aaron Engel

Robert Nowak & Marilyn Katzin

Barbara Haislip

Sherwin & Sheri Zuckerman

Corrections:

Robert & Sharon Handelsman

David Lerner & Sharona Shapiro

Gerald & Adrienne Lasin

Jack & Myrna Shapiro