

# The First Hebrew Congregation



## 249 BROADWAY

South Haven, MI 49090

[firsthebrewcong@gmail.com](mailto:firsthebrewcong@gmail.com)

269-637-1603

Remy Rubin

President

269-637-4764

[neogrizz@aol.com](mailto:neogrizz@aol.com)

Lou Price

Vice President

Stephen Tolen

Treasurer

Debbie Ehrlich

Secretary

Barry Fidelman

Newsletter Author

What a time for celebration! Our building is finally fully restored with the completion of the mechitzah. It is now time to pause and reflect on the wonderful people who brought us to this point. Anne Moffat thank you for making Tem Horwitz aware of our needs. Without Tem's guidance, I am sure short cuts would have been taken that did not happen. Thank you, Tem! The Maurice Horwitz study looks great! Jerry Cook, thank you and the Teitel Foundation for the Teitel Hall. Ben and Harriett would be so proud. When we look at the beautiful

Mogen David stained glass window, we think of Hy Warshawsky, and Al Block who were quite involved making it happen. Looking at the beautiful new doors at our entrance we think of the Miles Beermann and Sherwin Zuckerman families. The window treatments and picture framing are the work of Arnie and Deb Zuckerman. Our reading garden was the brain child of Don and Carole Hodgman and LawnBoys, really started this entire restoration project. When we look at the buffet in the social hall, we think of Barry Fidelman who helped design and implement its building. Jerry Morgan, thank you for donation for our new heating and cooling system. Rick Rothner and Bob Abel, thanks for your financial and legal help. Russ Puckett, thank you for the new wiring in the kitchen. Remy Rubin, thanks for taking the helm and guiding us. Finally, I must tell all that there is not enough room in this article for all that Steve Tolen has done! His dedication to the Shul is amazing.

---

## Purim Celebration

The annual Purim party to be held March 12 at 1 p.m., is sponsored by Remy and Julie Rubin who wish all in the area to join them in a lunch and the reading of the Megillah. Plenty of hamantaschen will be passed out to all. A reminder to all who have transportation problems, call the Shul phone and we will pick you up. The party is free and donations are always accepted.

---

## Dates to Remember

Our Passover seder will be April 11 at 5 p.m. Join us for the full Seder and meal with plenty of matzo and wine. Menu and details will be in a later newsletter.

Rabbi Cohen will join us and host Shavout on May 31, with many events through the Shabbat weekend.

Regular Shabbat services will commence on June 24<sup>th</sup> and be followed by our wonderful Kiddush.

The annual Lox Box will be held on July 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

---

## A New Fund!

The restoration of the synagogue is near completion; this does not mean that we can forget about the building. The next big project needed at some point will be repair or replacement of the roof. Kent and Deborah Fisher recognize this and want to be part of the solution and we want to thank them for establishing a new Roof Repair fund. They have been watching the progress of the shul's restoration and have been impressed with the work and the building itself. They live in Kalamazoo and have a strong history to South Haven. Kent's grandparents, Sussman and Hattie Gerber, were long time South Havenites who owned and

ran a men's clothing store on the west end of Phoenix Street from the early twenties to the mid-fifties. Kent's father was raised in South Haven. Anyone wanting to add to the fund just add a note to your donation specifying the Roof Fund.

---

## 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. I continue with the Shema:

“El Melekh Ne-eman” (“God is a faithful sovereign”)—“The first letters of these three Hebrew words form the word ‘Amen’”. There are 245 words in the Sh’ma. According to tradition, there are 248 parts in the human body. In order to make these numbers match and thus express the feeling that the entire body is dedicated to God, three words were added to the Sh’ma. When the Sh’ma is recited with a minyan, those three are the words that the leader adds at the end: ‘Adonai Eloheikhem Emet’ (Adonai your God, who is Truth). When the individual recites the Sh’ma without a minyan and those words are not added, one adds these three before the Sh’ma to make the total of 248. They are said silently.”