

The First Hebrew Congregation



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No question about it, winter has arrived! In-person services have been suspended until spring, and we still have movie night. Movie showings are the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. The movies are Jewish themed, and the next one is *The Benny Goodman Story* on February 16th.

Events

Your board of directors has lined up a great spring and summer program.

- Purim will be celebrated March 17th, with our home-made Hamantaschen delivered to anyone

wanting them by calling the Shul at 269-637-1603 or Barry at 269-206-0659.

- A community Seder on April 17th, if Covid rules and numbers cooperate.
- Orthodox Saturday morning services will commence on June 25th throughout the summer, starting at 10 a.m. and our famous Kiddush at noon. If you cannot make the service, please attend the festive Rothner-Steinfeld Kiddush.
- We will have at least four Reform Friday night services throughout the summer. Dates will follow in the next newsletter.
- Lox Box fundraiser on July 3rd from 10 a.m. to noon. To put in your order, call 269-637-1603 and leave your name, the number of people you wish to serve, and your phone number. Two person box is \$20.00 and four person box is \$40.00. If you would like to volunteer to help with the lox box, either Saturday night (7/2) or Sunday morning (7/3), call the above number.

We are looking for sponsors for Kiddush and Friday night Oneg Shabbat. Honor a loved one or your family by sponsoring one of these events for \$180.00. You may book by calling Barry at 269-206-0659.

Book Club

Sharona Shapiro has again volunteered to lead the FHC book

club. She has selected four books and plans lively discussions. The books and dates will be posted soon, along with how to register.

Covid Relief??

We are praying that Covid will take some time off so your kitchen staff and committees can once again prepare wonderful meals for festivals and special events. Steve and Barry's talents are being wasted, and we are not getting any younger!

Condolences

Sadly we announce the passing of Gale Rothner, who will be sorely missed. We wish the best to the Rothner family, who are always in our thoughts. May Gale's memory be a blessing to us all.

We are sad to announce the passing of our long-time member and friend Phil Lapine. Phil is Miles Beermann's brother-in-law and a long-time attendee during the High Holiday Services. May his memory be a blessing to the Lapine and Beermann family and us all.

Old Friends

A big mitzvah is available to all that visit River Ridge Retirement Village and see Mike Slotnick and Bea Warshawsky. They are in the first building and would love to see old friends.

Neighbors to Our North

Lakeshore Museum Center has partnered with Congregation B'nai Israel to sponsor an exhibit that celebrates the Jewish Community of Muskegon. The exhibit will be up until April 23. For more information go to <https://lakeshoremuseum.org/ldor-vdor/>

And the Star of the Show

The synagogue was one of the features on *John McGivern's Main Streets*, with Barry being our star! The program features small Midwestern towns -- South Haven being one of them. The South Haven episode is to be aired this Sunday morning (2/13) at 10:30 out of Grand Rapids on CW17.

Spiritual Vorts from Rabbi Alan Cohen

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's "A Code of Jewish Ethics" p. 17

"Amos and Hosea also emphasized the significance of the ethical over the ritual. According to Amos, prayer offered by unethical people actually offends God. 'Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice well up as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.' (Amos 5:22-24)

Hosea teaches that ethical behavior, even when not accompanied by ritual observance, appeases God: 'For I desire kindness and not sacrifice, attachment to God rather than burnt offerings.' (Hosea 6:6)
