

The First Hebrew Congregation



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Winter has finally arrived in South Haven, and our FHC is snow covered and quiet. If we choose to remain in this frozen tundra of Michigan, we better either be making money or doing something productive. The latter is the course we choose. FHC is currently designing and will build a large cabinet and sink in the Teitel Social Hall just outside the door of the kitchen. It will be custom built as a period piece and will enhance our full restoration efforts. How nice it will be to have water and ice near our Rothner/Tolen Kiddush cabinet.

We would be remiss not to mention our wonderful members and benefactors, without whom the FHC would not be what it is today! The mere mention of a need and someone is calling or emailing us with willingness to support the new project. YOU ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SUCCESS STORY!

In case you did not notice our menorah in front of the Shul during the holiday season, it proudly was displayed for one month. Thank you Joe and Lynda Warshawsky for donating this wonderful tribute commemorating the Chanukah season. We would also like to applaud Will Hart for his skill in making the menorah and thank him for donating his time.

We had a great Chanukah party on December 13th with festive latkes and all the trimmings, with dreidels, and gelt for all. The party was so much fun. We wish to thank the committee for putting it together. Thanks to Deb Ehrlich, Julie Rubin, Shelley Sommerfeld, Joyce Berman, Karen Tolen, Karen Riffert- Reinert and to our cooks Barry Fidelman and Steve Tolen. Also, I must mention the wonderful package of Chanukah mementos and gifts from Ricky Rothner. We had a lot of laughs with them! A new service has been initiated for our parties. After the party, the committee will distribute takeout meals to members who cannot come and be with us that day. No extra fee for delivery within 15 miles of the Shul.

FHC is proud to announce the resurrection of the Catskills of the Midwest program for the summer of 2016 in conjunction with Historical Association of South Haven. This event is scheduled for this summer. Look for the exact dates and times in our next issue.

Save the Dates

The next event coming up is the Purim party on Friday, March 25 at 4:30. It will be led by Lou Price.

Please put on your calendar April 24th 2016, the date of our annual Passover Seder. We will give more details at a later date. Please remember that if you cannot come, we will deliver the meal to you within 15 miles. Please call and reserve your seat anytime in April.

We are shooting for June 25th for the start of our Shabbat Orthodox service, followed by our nationally known and famous Kiddush. The Rothner/Tolen Kiddush cabinet will be stocked and ready to go, so let's plan to attend and have a great Shabbat. We will post the dates of our Conservative and Reform Friday night services in an upcoming newsletter.

Thank you

Thank you to Jerry Cook for

sending us the recent article published by the Jewish Historical Journal. The article is about the Teitel family and their involvement with the restoration of the Ben and Harriett Teitel Community Hall. The entire article can be seen on the shul's web site:

www.firsthebrewcongregation.org .

Thank You

We would like to thank our web master, Larry Hoffman, for putting together our web site and doing an excellent job in maintaining it.

Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to Cliff and Joyce Berman on the graduation and honors for your son Robert Nolan Berman. Robert graduated Summa Cum Laude in finance from Lindenwood University. He also was named scholar athlete of the year for the last two years! Robert played hockey for the University.

Congratulations to Karen and Steve Tolen on the birth of their grandson on December 28th.

Condolences

We were sorry to hear that Sue Price's father, Donald Fisher, passed away on December 26th.

-----Anyone with news to share, please let us know by email or phone-----



Spiritual Vorts from Rabbi Alan Cohen

Converting individuals into spiritual entities and turning our community of individuals with personal agendas into a spiritual place with a shared agenda.

"We should serve God with all our strength, for all of it is needed. God wants us to serve in all ways."

(From Weekday Siddur Sim Shalom Introduction p.xii)

Adds Rabbi Cohen, "The implication is that the entire Torah exists to teach us deeds of loving kindness. Thus it begins and ends with such deeds on the part of God. So should each of our days and weeks begin and end with these acts."

(Commentary of Rabbi Hammer to the Siddur Sim Shalom)