

The First Hebrew Congregation



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We Did It !

Members and friends of the First Hebrew Congregation have raised \$50,000, successfully meeting the Challenge Grant from the Horwitz Charitable Fund of Tem, Jonah, Mihal Rose and Daniel Joaquin Horwitz, where the Fund matches dollar-for-dollar money raised by the Shul. The challenge was offered by the Horwitz Charitable Fund early 2012, with the condition that the \$100,000 be used for the total restoration of the 85 year-old synagogue building and that all funds be raised within two years. Raising the \$50,000 took only 18 months and gifts came from congregants and friends nationwide.

“The response of the First Hebrew Congregation has been outstanding.” Says Tem Horwitz.” “ From the fund’s perspective, it’s been gratifying to see our Shul recruit new members and strengthen the involvement of the current members to build a strong future.” Horwitz, a FHC member and long time resident of Covert and Chicago, describes himself as someone who “Teaches Tai Chi Ch’uan, has a diminutive publishing company and a tiny real estate empire in Chicago”

Adds Temple President Barry Fidelman, “This huge accomplishment shows that our small and historic community can swiftly and successfully come together to meet a challenge.”

Once the first \$25,000 was raised and matched last fall, much needed work was done to the synagogue’s masonry, fascia and soffits, and new copper gutters and downspouts were installed. The next restoration project may be an upgrade of our bathrooms. Heating and cooling problems are also being analyzed along with outside building drainage, to decide building restoration priorities. Fundraising may continue to deal with required building needs.

As word spread that we neared the fund raising goal, several congregants came forward to pledge and put us ‘over the top’ by several thousand dollars. They include Alvin Block, Arnold and Krystyan Kamen and the Esther and Seymour Padnos Community Fund. Additional gifts are still welcome. A list of all donors to the Restoration Fund will be printed in the next issue of “The Bulletin”

Presidents Message

I decided the opening of the June bulletin would read South Haven summer has finally arrived! To protect myself from being called a liar, I had to wait another week to put out this “well thought out” piece of literature. Although our

congregation numbers are limited, much progress was made this June.

On June 21 at 8pm, I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Alan Cohen will lead a conservative Shabbat service followed by a Kiddush. The service will be “egalitarian”, which means women will be involved in the service. Also, on Saturday, June 22 at 10am Rabbi Cohen will lead our morning service followed by another Kiddush. Please come and meet our guest Rabbi.

The restoration of the FHC classroom and Rabbi’s study are complete. They look great and are ready to receive vintage furniture. Tem Horwitz has graciously agreed to find us some and we anxiously await its arrival. Electrical outlets have been installed downstairs, enabling the use of the new air conditioning unit. Saturday Shabbat patrons can now walk a little faster to Shul knowing we now have a place for you to cool down! New front doors will be installed soon, giving a great new “old” look to the Shul from the street side. These doors are a work of art. Please come see them.

Elections

Election of the FHC board of directors will take place via ballots mailed with the July bulletin. We are now seeking nominations for Board of Director seats. Nominations, which must include a brief biography, should be sent to the Shul. Next month, please take time to fill out your ballot and return it as soon as possible. With the ballot will come a by-law change that has been endorsed by the full board. It will change half of the board seats to a 2 year term, thus keeping some experienced board members on, as election

transitions take place.

Our scenic garden in the front of the Shul is absolutely beautiful. Numerous are the comments from South Haven residents and visitors about our lovely upgrade. Thanks to Lawn Boys and the Hodgmans for their continued support of the FHC. The refinishing of the two garden benches look great.

It has recently occurred to me that accolades have been issued to many of the supporters in our restoration of the Shul but one blatant omission has taken place. Mr. Hy Warshawsky, without your good judgment and financial wisdom, this Shul would not be where it is today. Hy and Shelly have given so much of their time and expertise over so many years that we can't count. Hy has been our treasurer for....well, I am 66 years old.....as long as I can remember!

Simchas & Tzoris

Condolences to Dr. Chip and Rosie on the passing of Rosie's mother, Lessie Atlas. The Chips thank all those who made the minyan all week. Way to go South Haven, you really came through.

Condolences to Julie and Remey Rubin on the passing of Julie's brother in law, Marvin Gitler

Get well to Myrna Shapiro as she recovers from back surgery.

Best wishes to Remey and Julie Rubin on their daughter Karolyn's marriage.

Congratulation to Barry Fidelman on the graduation "with honors" of son Ben Fidelman from St. Joseph High School and acceptance by the University of Michigan.

The First Hebrew Congregation's Campaign to Restore Our Historic Shul
Raising \$50,000 to Match a \$50,000 Pledge in Two Years
(*We Did It!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*)

Statement of Pledge

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pledge

In support of the Campaign to Restore Our Historic Shul, I hereby pledge: \$ _____

Payment Information

I enclose payment herewith in the amount of: \$ _____ or