

# The First Hebrew Congregation



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Picture this: Eve sitting under a tree in the Garden of Eden eating a lovely leafy salad. Adam walks up to her and both clad in nothing but a fig leaf he says "I don't want to ruin your lunch but you are eating my dirty laundry! Sometimes the most normal act can create a unpleasant result. At the Jewish cemetery near Blue Star Highway it has become necessary to do some normal maintenance. Many years of stone piles brought to gravesides have accumulated to the point of falling off the grave markers and getting in the lawn mower. These stones are nicking the grave markers and are dangerous to the people operating the weed eater and the

mower. We have checked with various Rabbis and are informed that there is no rule against removal of these stones. With the understanding of gravesite owners, we will remove the memorial stones and put them back in the urn. However, anyone who objects to this cleanup can e-mail or write the FHC board, requesting that their site not be touched. We will wait one month to give response time to all.

Many members have asked about the development of the Save a Lot property north of the Shul. The two bars that a developer wanted to put there is a dead deal. However, the property is certain to be developed and we will monitor and scrutinize all proposals that cross the South Haven Planning Commission desk. There are several options that are being discussed, including another version of the original brewpub plan. It is too early to determine the viability of such plans. Your comments to City Hall supporting the integrity of our synagogue would be helpful. Also, support from other faith groups, in terms of written notes to City Hall, is welcome.

## Restoration

Our Shul renovation is 90% completed and looks great! We have come a long way since the small kitchen remodeling a few years ago started a major renovation project, and all with your help. We hope everyone is proud of the job that has been done by our tireless board and generous benefactors.

Everyone is looking forward to the

weekend of July 17, 18, 19, and the dedication of the Ben and Harriett Teitel Hall. Friday night will be a Conservative service starting at 8 pm. followed by an Oneg Shabbat, all led by our Rabbi Alan Cohen. Saturday will be the usual Orthodox service followed by a special kiddush to honor the occasion. Sunday will be the dedication starting at 11 a.m., followed by light refreshment and beverages. The entire weekend will also offer an opportunity for viewing the Chagall exhibit at the neighboring South Haven Center for the Arts, which is being co-sponsored by the FHC.

## Services

June 27 will start our Shabbat services for the summer. The Orthodox service will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings and be followed by a lovely Kiddush, sponsored by Joseph and Chavie Steinfeld. If you cannot attend the service stop by and enjoy the herring and schnapps at around noon.

FHC has expanded our Shabbat services to include 5 Friday night services starting at 8 p.m. Rabbi Nina Mizrahi will lead us on July 10th and 31st. Rabbi Alan Cohen on July 17th, and Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus on Aug. 7 and 21st. All Friday night services will be Reformed or Conservative, with communal seating, and be followed by

a wonderful Oneg. A special thanks to Julie and Remey Rubin for arranging the Friday night schedule.

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## Membership

We are pleased to announce that our membership is now above 60 family units and growing! Memberships are still coming in and if you have not applied yet there is still an opportunity for this year. More people want to be a part of FHC's success story so please get your \$300.00 dues in and join our family.

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## Don't Forget the Lox Box

At the risk of being redundant, we announce the annual Lox Box take out brunch on Sunday July 5th starting at 10 a.m. Bags will be being made until noon and filled with bagels, lox, cream cheese, tomato, cucumber, onion, juice, and blueberry muffins. The price is \$ 20.00 for a 2 person bag and \$ 40.00 for a 4 person bag. As always, the portions are generous, so reserve your bag by calling 616 820 5623 or 269 637 1603. Orders will be filled with pre orders taking a priority so please call in your reservation.

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Our beautiful reading garden is fully planted and looking beautiful. Thanks to the Hodgman family and Lawn Boys for the timely plantings. Please come sit and enjoy in this lovely setting.

Congratulations to Ben Fidelman who had two sports articles reported in the Detroit News this last month. Ben is a writer for the U of Michigan Daily newspaper, and is in the curriculum of Sports Management.

A huge thank you is extended to Debbie, Arnie and Aaron Zuckerman, of Lakeshore Paint, for volunteering their time and talent to prepare window coverings and photo presentations for the upcoming dedication of Teitel Hall.

Our condolences are extended to the Family of Jerry Cook on the death of his mother Jeannette. We hope they gain comfort in knowing their loss is shared by our entire First Hebrew Community.

## 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.

Tikun Olam (restorative acts that improve the world) is one way in which we give life to the words of Torah--what are the actions we will take today to make the world a better place in which to live.