

# The First Hebrew Congregation



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Spring has finally been sighted, and we all look forward to the coming summer around the corner.

The time has come to tip our hats to the hardest working FHC board of directors in many years. Anne Moffat (vice president, building) coordinates the restoration of the Ben and Harriett Teitel Hall. Deb Ehrlich (event chairperson) coordinates the July dedication of our restored building. Remy Ruben (advertising and Friday night chair) is organizing Friday night services for many summer weekends and is placing ads for

events. Steve Tolen (treasurer) coordinates all contractor payments and handles all printing and communications with members. Michael Slotnick is putting new glides on all tables and chairs since the floors are now restored hardwood. Hyman Warshawsky offers guidance to all these efforts. Eric Rothner (religious chair) will work to build our summer Saturday minyan. Rose Chip (oversight chair) makes sure all committees dot their I's and cross T's. Barry Fidelman (president) pulls it all together. Members-at-large have also been active. Joyce Berman is in charge of the outside reader board and contacts members who are ill or homebound. Shelly Sommerfeld has helped every time she is asked. Karen Tolen cares for our reading garden and helped elsewhere. Karen Riffer-Reinert has assisted with various tasks. Also, Joseph and Chavie Steinfeld will lead our summer Saturday morning service and kiddush. Carole Hodgman continues to support our beautiful reading garden. Last but hardly least, Tem Horwitz has been a rock, coordinating and overseeing all renovation projects. Without these supremely qualified, unselfish Shul members, we would not be where we are today!

The celebration of Purim was held at Julie and Remy Rubin's home on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We had ten people who listened to the Megilla and, in a boisterous manner, removed the name of Haman from all parts of the reading. Thanks to all for the wonderful treats and the variety of Hamantashen was unbelievable

## Passover

Our Passover Seder will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The service will be led by Lou Price and include the best of Passover traditions. The menu includes matzoh

ball soup, gefilta fish, roast brisket and chicken, kishka, carrot tzimes, potato kugel, and many sweets. The meal is free but to cover the cost of wine and matzos, we charge \$25.00 per person. Children under 12 are free (they drink less wine).

## Saturday Morning Services

Summer, Saturday Shabbat service will start June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am followed by our famous Kiddush, hosted by Joseph and Chavie Steinfeld. The service is Orthodox, with separate seating.

## Lox Box

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, we will hold our Lox Box brunch takeout. Orders may be placed by calling 269 637 1603 or 616 820 5623. Please choose a 2(\$20.) or 4(\$40.) person bag. The two person bag has 3 bagels, four person has 6. Bags include juice, cream cheese, lox, onion, tomato, cucumber, blueberry muffins, plastic utensils and napkins.

## Restoration Dedication

Please hold the dates of July 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> for the party of the year, the dedication of the Ben and Harriett Teitel Hall. The 8:00 pm, Friday night service will be led by Rabbi Alan Cohen, followed by an Oneg. Saturday morning at 10:00 am there will be an Orthodox service, followed by a Kiddush. Sunday will have the dedication ceremony at 11:00 am, with refreshments. There will also be a Chagall exhibit to enjoy at the nearby South Haven Center for the Arts. Call (269 637 1041) or (616 820 5623) for details.

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## Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Danielle Riffer-Reinert, a student at Kalamazoo College, who was accepted to a program to study cognitive psychology in Budapest next fall. Also, Danielle had a by-lined article in a recent issue of the Detroit Jewish News, which reviewed a talk by reporter Mark Lavie at 'K' College on reporting from the Middle East. Danielle is the daughter of Karen and Tony Riffer-Reinert.

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## Spiritual Vorts

"Spiritual Vorts" contributed by Rabbi Alan Cohen

"Vort" is Yiddish for "word" and is often used to describe a brief and hopefully meaningful statement.

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

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. (Rabbi Reuven Hammer in his commentary to the Siddur Sim Shalom entitled Or Hadash) So should each of our days and weeks begin and end with these acts."

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## See Us on the Big Screen!

The movie "Saugatuck Cures" will be premiered in the Chicago area this summer. A portion of the movie was filmed last year at our Shul. We will keep you posted on the date and theater.