

The First Hebrew Congregation



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With sadness, we announce the passing of our reading garden, for this season. Due to the premature arrival of the South Haven winter, and half a foot of snow, all the annual flowers have frozen, their blossoms covered in white. We can now look and remember the beauty that we enjoyed all spring and summer, and thank Karen Tolen and Lawn Boys for the lovely memories. Every Saturday morning the garden was used before services to greet and reflect, which enhanced everyone's frame of mind preparing for prayer.

Chanukah Party

FHC will have a Chanukah party on December 21, at 12 noon. Please join

us for latkes, tuna salad, egg salad, and much more. Please bring your menorahs and we will provide the candles. Bring your voices and we will provide the song books. It will cost \$10.00 per person for the song books: the food is free! Knife, fork, and plate come with the song book.

Save the Date

On April 5, our Shul will conduct a third night Seder at 4pm. Put the date on your calendar and the rest of the details will come later.

Major Gift Received for Social Hall Improvements

The Shul has received the first half of a \$35,000 pledge from the Ben Teitel Charitable Trust to restore its lower level Community Room, to be named "Ben and Harriett Teitel Hall." The gift was announced by Gerald Cook, nephew of the Teitels and attorney for the Teitel Charitable Trust.

"Ben and Harriett were much loved and respected by fellow FHC congregants, citizens of South Haven, and thousands of guests at Mendelson's Atlantic resort, where Ben was general manager and Harriett the gracious hostess, who ran the hotel with her sisters, Becky Patner and Sara Weiss, and their husbands, Phil Patner and Mickey Weiss," says Cook. "It is a privilege to name the room that hosts South Haven's Jewish cultural and social life in Ben and Harriett's honor."

Adds FHC president Barry Fidelman, "Harriett and Ben were said to 'live each day as if it were Saturday night'. That is excellent advice to follow in planning programs for the refurbished Teitel Hall."

After Harriett died in 1964, Ben developed and operated apartments in South Haven and four other cities along Lake Michigan. He died in 1985, leaving a philanthropic trust that funded, for example, the Harriett & Ben Teitel Oncology Day Care Unit at the Children's Medical Center of Israel, two day care centers for pre-school children and one for senior citizens in Israel, and the flight costs of transporting 340 Jewish émigrés from the former Soviet Union to Israel. In Michigan, the trust supported the Harriett & Ben Teitel Jewish Apartments tower in Oak Park, the new dining room and kitchen at Habonim Camp Tavor, near Three Rivers, the living room at Michigan State University's Hillel and travel for hundreds of Detroit teens to visit Israel.

Now, that trust will fund part of the cost of our Shul's new heating and cooling system and most of the restoration and improvement of the social hall. The Teitel legacy has come full circle, starting in South Haven in the mid 1940s and returning home 70 years later.



Ben & Harriett Teitel in the early 1960s

Summer Services

Our plan for the summer of 2015 will include Orthodox Shabbat services on Saturday mornings, starting at 10 am, and followed by a wonderful kiddush. We plan to book visiting Rabbis for Friday night services, likely in the Reform or Conservative traditions, and will notify our members of the dates. The time will be at 8pm, regardless of sunset time, and followed by a joyful Oneg.

Travelers

Welcome home to Keith and Anne Moffat and Janet and Bob Helman from their trip to Cuba. We are anxious to hear all about it.



FHC members Janet Helman(4th from left), Keith Moffat(5th from left), Anne Moffat (6th from left) and Bob Helman (far right) are shown at Templo Beth Shalom in Havana. Third from left is Temple Presidenta, Adela Dworin.

Welcome home, also, to Ricky Rothner from his trip to Israel.

Congratulations to Hy Warshawsky on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Shriners Club. "Mazel Tov," Hy.

Get Well

A big get well is sent to Michael Slotnick. We pray for your speedy recovery from back and leg problems.

If you need:

Anyone needing transportation and/or assistance for our Jewish celebrations, please call Steve Tolen at 269-501-5758.

Any Shul members in need of religious advice can call our Rabbi Alan Cohen at 816-210-2629 in Florida. For information on our Shul, call Barry Fidelman at 616-820-5623.

Spiritual "Vorts"

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

Consider each day how to turn one's actions more Godly--The Book of Deuteronomy instructs us to "walk in all God's ways" (Deuteronomy 11:22)--how can a human achieve Godlike behavior? --God's attributes are our models--we can imitate God by acting as God acts