

# The First Hebrew Congregation



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What a great holiday season for the FHC. Rabbi Cohen and Lou Price were at their best, and all of our High Holiday services were well attended and enjoyed by all. The number of new faces in attendance was encouraging for the upcoming year and the future of our shul. Cliff Berman chanted Kol Nidre and did a great job. Break-the-Fast was delicious and the

crowd stayed and kibitzed for a long time. A special thanks to Lou Price for sponsoring the Break-the-Fast meal.

The Rothsteins made the trip from Indiana to attend services. They joined us despite their health problems, and we appreciate their effort, which added to the joy of the occasion.

We missed some of our regular attendees due to health problems and pray for their speedy recovery. Phil Lapine, Shelly Warshawsky, and Bea Warshawsky we will look forward to you being with us next year!

## Proclamation by the City!

On the 19th of September, the FHC was honored by the City of South Haven, the Lakeshore Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the South Haven Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony honoring the completion of our major renovation project. The city, represented by Mayor Burr, gave the Board of Directors a plaque honoring our accomplishments and recognizing the beauty of our reading garden and building.

A Becky Kark article on the front page of the South Haven Daily Tribune acknowledged many of the major donors. What a proud moment for the members and the Board.

## Save this Date

Our annual Chanukah party will be held on December 17 at 2 p.m. and is sponsored by Butch and Buddy Slotnick. Come join us for latkes and gelt. Charge for the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 years old.

## Many Thanks

“Thank you” goes out to Mordecai Haller and Chabad for bringing the portable sukkah. Twenty plus people ate, drank and prayed outside the shul and stayed for at least one hour. It was like old times.

A big “thank you” goes out to Joe and Chavie Steinfeld and Ricky Rothner for all you have done to make the Shabbat services and

Kiddush both well attended and memorable this year. May next year be even greater!

Ricky Rothner, thank you for the new Tallisim you provided! Believe it or not, we needed them with the increased attendance for the holidays.

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### Vorts - Rabbi Alan Cohen

Understanding prayer is the first step to an enhanced and meaningful experience at services. In the next newsletters, I will be explaining some of the prayers we recite. The two central prayers for us are the Shema and the Amidah.

The middle blessings of the weekday Amidah (numbers 4-17) are considered petitionary. They “constitute a prayer for the redemption of Israel from exile and for the restoration of the institutions of independence. This prayer was formulated and instituted by Rabban Gamliel around 100 C.E. in Yavneh” according to the Talmud (Megillah 17b). The sages had established an academy of learning there after the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 C.E. Thus, learning and living would continue even after the Temple was no more. Deeds of loving kindness were to be prioritized.