

# First Hebrew Congregation

SHEVAT/ADAR 5785 | FEBRUARY 2025



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The winter months are usually pretty quiet here in South Haven. But we have been busy at First Hebrew Congregation!

## Chanukah 2024

Our Chanukah party that was held on December 29th was quite the festive occasion.

You folks wanted a party - and we gave you one! We had 87 attendees, and the food was sumptuous. Fresh deli from Detroit was provided by Sharona Shapiro, who promoted this event in a magnificent manner. The kitchen crew, comprised of Lou Price, David Kaplan, and our trusty helper, Clarence, put out a supply of the best potato pancakes. There were enough of them for 200 people, and they were all taken - a testament to how good they were! Many people served on the committee: Debbie Ehrlich, Renee Kaplan, and the balance of our incredible crew. We haven't seen an event that was so well attended in years! Thanks to all.

## Thank You

We would be remiss in not extending a big thank you to Sharona Shapiro and her entire crew - what a job they have done in creating new and innovative ways to celebrate and bring people together.

## Local Theater

The Tony-award-winning musical, *Parade*, will be performed at the Kalamazoo Civic Center March 14-23. The play is set in rural Georgia in 1913 where Leo Frank, a Jewish Brooklyn native, finds himself on trial for the murder of a 13-year-old girl under his employ at a local pencil factory. With a soaring score by Jason Robert Brown and book by Alfred Uhry, *Parade* delivers a powerful message about religious intolerance, social injustice, and the resilience of love in the face of insurmountable odds. Our own **Lou Price** is in the cast!

## Membership Dues

To all members who have not paid their dues - they are due. You may pay them by going to the website ([firsthebrewcongregation.org](http://firsthebrewcongregation.org)) or mailing a check to us at 249 Broadway, South Haven, MI 49090. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Upcoming Dates

Mark your calendar for these upcoming activities:

- March 16, 1:00pm – Purim celebration with homemade blintzes and fresh blueberry sauce prepared by Barry Fidelman. The entire meal will be dairy.
- March 19 – Movie: This Is Where I Leave You
- April 13 - Passover Seder
- May 8 – Israel Independence Day Celebration
- May 21 – Movie: To Be or Not to Be (Jack Benny)
- June 18 – Movie: The Heartbreak Kid (1972)
- July 6 - Annual Lox Box
- July 16 - Movie: Woman in Gold. South Haven Center for the Arts has been invited to join us.
- August 20 – Movie: An American Tale. We will be inviting the Mitten Museum and ice cream will be served.
- September 28 - Annual Apples and Honey event at Crane Orchards
- December 21 - Chanukah on Broadway

## Shabbat Services

Our lineup of Reform Friday night services will begin on July 4th. All of these services will begin at 7:00pm.

- 7/4 with Rabbi Nina Mizrahi
- 7/18 with Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus
- 7/25 with Rabbi Anita Silvert
- 8/1 with Rabbi Nina Mizrahi
- 8/8 with Rabbi Anita Silvert
- 8/10 (Sunday) with Anita Silvert, including a bagel brunch
- 8/29 with Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus

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## Sponsorship Opportunities

The opportunity to honor your family or past loved ones can be realized by sponsoring one of our Friday Night onegs. Sponsorship is \$180 and most dates are still available. We are also looking for sponsorship

of our Purim Party, Passover Seder, Israel Independence Day, and Lox Box events. What a wonderful way to honor your loved ones and family. Contact the synagogue at [firsthebrewcong@gmail.com](mailto:firsthebrewcong@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

### **Building Update**

The synagogue ceilings and walls have been completely repaired and repainted and look fantastic. Thanks to the painter Dureya Gibson and his team for a month of hard work. This was one of the last projects Steve Tolen launched before he passed away and it is a visual reminder of the loving care he gave to the congregation, the synagogue and the cemetery.