

# Baytown Jewish Community News

MARCH 2008

## In brief

### First-Friday service:

March 7, 7:45 p.m. Oneg hosts: Julie Robinson, Karen Aarons.

**Jewish history:** Don Teter has completed the Baytown Jewish History project. Don can e-mail a Microsoft Word document that can be downloaded and printed at no cost to anyone who wants it. Hard copies can be purchased from Don at his cost, \$5. Contact him by phone (281-424-5829) or e-mail (donte@hal-pc.org) if you're interested.

**Plan a visit:** Jean and Merv Rosenbaum will move to their new abode on March 7. They'd like everyone to come visit: 7134 Mapleridge #3E; Houston TX 77081; 713-432-7182.

**Havenars' happy news:** We're so happy to announce the engagement of our daughter, Stephanie Ann, to Justin Thomas Massengale. They're planning a fall wedding.  
— Denise Havenar

**Harrison places third:** In the 2008 Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby competition, Harrison Bright placed third in the fourth grade Webelos division and tied for third in the grand finals. He also received several activity pins and his Webelos badge.

## Renovation of kitchen, restrooms completed

Renovation of the kitchen and restrooms in the CKI community building has been completed. This is a really beautiful upgrade of our facilities that everyone should enjoy for many years.

Contributions toward this project have been received from the following: John and Denise Havenar, the Mose Sumner estate, Baytown Hadassah, Natalie Altman, Jackie and Max Monheit, Gertrude and Don Teter, Joan and Ruben Linares, Julie Robinson and Neil Davidson, Jerry Fram, Janet Bright, Jean and Merv Rosenbaum, Lana and David Berkowitz, Murrell Koushel, and Dolly and Eddy Golden.

The congregation is truly appreciative of this generous response. However, the funding goal has not been attained; further contributions are needed and will be welcomed. Please send them to CKI at PO Box 702, Baytown TX 77522.

And thanks to everyone who helped move everything out of the kitchen so the renovation work could begin.

## Purim dinner, service will be held March 20

The annual Purim dinner and service is set for Thursday, March 20. The hot dog dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in the community building and the service will follow.

Call or e-mail coordinator Ruth Cornelius (281-420-2038, recbythbay@aol.com) to let her know if you plan to attend and what condiments or desserts you can bring.

## Keith Rosen leads Jewish heritage tour of Caribbean

Keith Rosen recently led a Jewish heritage tour of the Caribbean for 18 people, including participants from Texas, New Mexico and Maryland. Highlights of the trip, according to Keith:

- We attended services at Temple Beth Shalom in San Juan, Puerto Rico, using trilingual prayer books (English, Hebrew and Spanish). Congregation Beth Shalom was established in 1967. Cuban exiles were the majority of the founders.
- We toured the oldest Jewish congregation in the new world, Congregation Mikve Israel, in Willemstad, Curacao. It's one of four congregations in the Caribbean with sand floors.
- We also visited the oldest Jewish cemetery in the new world, Beit Haim. It dates back to 1659.
- We attended services in the sand floor synagogue in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, in the American Virgin Islands. The congregation is called the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas. This is the oldest synagogue or temple in continuous use in the United States. It was built in 1833. The service was conducted with all of the shutters and the front door open.
- In each of these historic synagogues where we attended services, the spiritual leader met with our party to talk about the congregation's history, present and projected future. They were great experiences.