Community building getting back on its feet

Thanks to Hurricane Ike, the community building sustained quite a bit of damage. But efforts are underway to get the facility back in shape.

All of the damaged, moldy, mildewed ceilings, walls and floor have been removed and the building has been dehumidified. The roof has been replaced and we are awaiting the settlement with the insurance company before proceeding with reconstruction.

Janet Bright is dealing with the insurance adjustor and furnishing lists of losses and necessary repairs. She and Denise Havenar have worked hard and done a great job cleaning the outside grounds and separating ruined items (books, pictures, etc.) from salvageable ones.

“I’m thrilled to be working with Don Teter to bring the community building up to date, and many thanks to Denise Havenar for her help cleaning the building with me. My greatest hope is to have a warm, inviting and relaxing community building that we all can enjoy for years to come,” Janet says.

On December 7 at 9 a.m., Denise and Janet plan to conduct a garage sale at the community building. Appliances, furniture, TV, PC and printer are some of the items that will be offered. All funds raised will go toward new doors for the building. If you have items you’d like to donate, or if you would like to help with the event, please e-mail Janet at trulybrightideas@yahoo.com.

Thanks to all for High Holy Day contributions

I would like to thank all of those responsible for leading our High Holy Day services, with special thanks to Ivan Edelman for a major role in all of the services. Ivan’s grandparents and parents were active members of our congregation, and he is continuing in their tradition.

Those who organized and led our services were Karen Aarons, Jim Bernick, Joan Linares, Jackie and Max Monheit, Manuel Razo, Stephanie Schwartz and Don Teter. Practically everyone present participated in the services. Also, thanks to the Levine family for organizing a Tashlich service.

We were unable to have our usual Rosh Hashanah reception because Hurricane Ike rendered our community building unusable. After the morning Rosh Hashanah service, we had apples, honey and challah in the foyer of the synagogue. This was hosted by Karen Aarons, Ruth Cornelius and Sharon Wilkenfeld.

We did not want to have to cancel our break-fast, so I called Grace United Methodist Church, which is located only a few blocks from our synagogue. When they heard of our plight, they said that not only could we use their dining hall, but they would waive their rental fee. Don, our treasurer, mailed them a thank-you letter and included a donation to their church. If some of your friends attend Grace Church, be sure to let them know that we appreciate them enabling us to have our break-fast in their dining hall.

Janet Bright deserves many accolades for organizing and implementing the break-fast. It was much more difficult since we were unable to have it in our own building, but she did a terrific job. Janet wants to thank the following people who came early to help set up: Ruth Cornelius, Denise Havenar, Stephanie and Justin Massengale, and Debra and Bruce Tait.

Everyone brought food for the break-fast or contributed money to defray the cost.

Beverly Manne provided beautiful floral arrangements for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and we are most appreciative of that.

GERTRUDE TETER

The monthly newsletter is a Berkowitz production. If you have an item to include, please e-mail it to: mcberk@earthlink.net