

# The Hourglass

**BULLETIN OF  
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION  
OF ST THOMAS**

JUNE 2020:  
CORONA EDITION III

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# June Services and Programs

## **Parashat Naso II** **Numbers 4:21-7:89**

5 Early Erev Shabbat Family Service, 6:00 PM  
Fri <https://zoom.us/j/98232790189>  
Meeting ID: 982 3279 0189

6 Shabbat Morning Service, 10:00 AM  
Sat Torah Study, approximately 10:30 AM  
<https://zoom.us/j/99608524890>  
Meeting ID: 996 0852 4890

## **Parashat Beha'lot'cha** **Numbers 8:1-12:16**

12 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM  
Fri <https://zoom.us/j/97668389370>  
Meeting ID: 976 6838 9370

13 Shabbat Morning Service, 10:00 AM  
Sat Torah Study, approximately 10:30 AM  
<https://zoom.us/j/99608524890>  
Meeting ID: 996 0852 4890

## **Parashat Shelach-Lecha:** **Numbers 13:1-15:41**

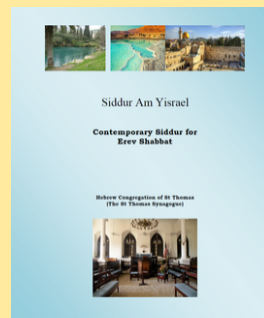
19 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM  
Fri <https://zoom.us/j/97668389370>  
Meeting ID: 976 6838 9370

20 Shabbat Morning Service, 10:00 AM  
Sat Torah Study, approximately 10:30 AM  
<https://zoom.us/j/99608524890>  
Meeting ID: 996 0852 4890

## **Parashat Korach** **Numbers 16:1 - 18:32**

26 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM  
Fri <https://zoom.us/j/97668389370>  
Meeting ID: 976 6838 9370

27 Shabbat Morning Service, 10:00 AM  
Sat Torah Study, approximately 10:30 AM  
<https://zoom.us/j/99608524890>  
Meeting ID: 996 0852 4890



The downloadable *siddur* (prayerbook) we are using at services Friday nights is at <https://synagogue.vi/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Siddur-Am-Yisrael-for-Erev-Shabbat.pdf>

The prayerbook we will use on Shabbat Mornings is at <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-weekdays-shabbat-festivals/>

All of the above URLs can also be found, as working hyperlinks, on the Home Page of our website, at [www.synagogue.vi](http://www.synagogue.vi)

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, June 7, 2020**

see page seven, and watch for details to come



# Race and The Cure

## Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

For those of us on island, do you remember how, weeks after the hurricanes, it was such a... relief... when we finally had an opportunity to talk about something else? Something other than storms, or the ongoing power outage (108 days for us in the places we were sheltered and then living), the unavailable internet or cell service, the devastation and destruction around us? Or even something other than our tentative steps towards recovery and renewal – resilience of spirit yet a snail's pace of progress?

So maybe, now, it's déjà vu, all over again. Finally, what seems to be another topic forces its way into the forefront of our vision.

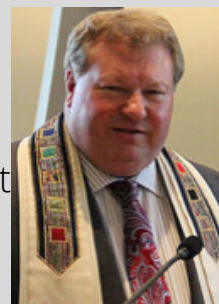
Or is it, indeed, another topic at all? And: for all of the moral horror we inflict upon one another... maybe we'd rather be talking about the virus after all!

But the images burn, and the video will not stop. Turn off the media, and yet there it is – on the inside of the retina, bile on the tongue, an aching in any heart with any compassion yet to give.

Central Park, again. Minnesota. Now Louisville, for good measure as well.

Calling the cops: weaponized words against a bird watcher in a park, politely abiding by the rules. Or those not even leaving home at all: an Ivy League student resting in the lounge of her own dorm, at Yale. And police reaction: disparate, discriminatory, deadly.

All that's new is that it makes the news. Videos go viral, and we catch a glimpse of what we hope is not routine, but suspect is but a hint of that which goes unseen.



As Arlo Guthrie once sang at a what-me-guilty pleading president: "if you don't know about that one, well then what else don't you know?"

*Dayyeinu!* Enough already! Or, with Dylan: "how many deaths will it take till we know... that too many people have died?" And I'm not talking about Corona.

Insurance companies call hurricanes and pandemics "acts of God." That'd just bad theology, in my view. Despite the claims of classic tradition, I believe in a God who cares but does not cause, in the individual sense, each and every stubbed toe or senseless tragedy in our lives. These are the "evils" of nature, the risk and exposure we have as part of just being in the world.

Corona attacks us from outside. Racism is something else. It comes from within. It is an "act of inhumanity," a sin which flows from a hating heart. It comes out through our hands. It is in our hands to stop it.

And yet as our eyes seem pulled from one problem to the other, tentacles of connection begin to be clear.

Disproportionate force, and disproportionate loss, aimed at the same community. Greater suspicion and greater suffering found in the same place.

All that is clear, as we pass from an unimaginable spring into an uncertain summer, is that we have a lot of work to do. And we must be clear, and real, and honest, about all of the dangers we face – those we did not cause but may have made worse (and can yet tamp down), and those that come from the perversion of priorities, and the way we see each other.

We face a disease which hits our heart and our body, and one which comes from our heart and our soul. The challenge ahead is to find a balance between grace and grit, justice and healing, in facing both racism and COVID19.

**וַיְבְרָא אֱלֹהִים | אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְמֵ אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם:**

*Vayivra E' et HaAdam b'tzalmo; b'Tzelem E' bara oto; zachar u'n'keiva bara otam*

„And God created the human being in God's image; in the image of God“

(did God create the human; male and female God created them.” (Genesis 1:27

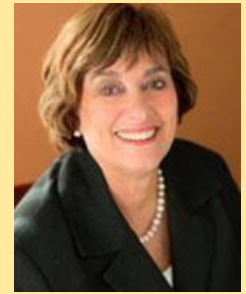
We are made in the image of the Eternal. All of us. Each and every human being. All who survive, all of the 400,000-plus we have lost. Male and female, rich and poor, gay and straight, tall and short, thin and... less thin, white and yellow and black and brown, all of us, each one and all together, made in the image of the Highest we can imagine

With all the work we have yet to do, with a race for a cure and a cure for racism, maybe it is a good place to start... to remember that



# Looking Backward and Ahead

## Message from the President Dorothy Isaacs



This is my last President's Report after serving as President of the Congregation for the last two years.

It has been, to say the least, a very hectic two years. I took over the helm in May 2018 just as we were recovering from the two devastating hurricanes, Irma and Maria.

And now as I leave the presidency, we are in the midst of this horrific pandemic which caused Services to be off sight for the first time in almost 200 years except for a few occasions.

Out of every bad comes something good.

The Pandemic created a situation where we could stream our Services. We were delighted when so many of our Chai members joined us for Services. We really appreciate our Chai Members and having them in this way was wonderful.

Financially, we have been very hard hit by these two devastating situations which are very much beyond our control.



Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 7 by Zoom. Stella will be sending out information on how to access the meeting. I am urging all our members to attend as there are very important issues to address, including voting on the new slate of officers, the budget and changes to our Bylaws! We must have a quorum in order to take care of the congregations' important business. We are hoping that our Chai Members will join us after the business portion of the meeting.

Notwithstanding everything we have been through, we have made much progress these past two years. We were able to obtain the funds from our insurance carrier to make the repairs to the Synagogue. Phase one of the Cemetery project is completed and we expect to begin work on the landscaping phase within the next couple of months. We are so grateful to the Kimelman, Fishman, Paiewonsky-Cassinelli families, Pat Gruber, Neil and Trudie Prior, Jim and Becky Tunick, Janie and Paul Hoffman and Katina Coulianos for their generous contributions to the project, without which this project would never have happened. The Casa de Rodearo has been completely restored and will now be around for another 200 years.

continued on page 6

We were also able to obtain approval from the Historic Trust to be able to create a small parking lot on the Lilienfeld House property. However, that project has stalled due to lack of finances. We have been able to ensure that the Synagogue Building and Lilienfeld House are in good and secure condition as we face Hurricane season.

Through the generous contribution of Peter Rosen and Prosolar we are hoping to install sufficient power to the Synagogue to sustain us during power outages without the need for a noisy generator.

We continue to benefit from the generosity of the Prior Foundation and all our members who so generously donate not only money but their time to preserve our very special piece of Jewish history on our tiny island! I am very grateful to the Board and the Rabbi, Stella, Agi, Brook, Brenda and Michael who have worked so tirelessly this year under challenging circumstances.

I want to take this opportunity to pay a small tribute to Bea Lilienfeld who so generously left her home and four acres in Bakkerø to the Congregation in her Will. Bea and her husband Julius Edgar Lilienfeld moved to St. Thomas in 1935 and became members of our Congregation. Dr. Lilienfeld was a physicist who conceived the first field-effect transistor in the mid 1920's. It could be said that he was the father of the transistor, and all the modern inventions that have flowed from that breakthrough.

He held many patents including the first patent for the field-effect transistor which he filed in 1925. He died in 1968 but Beatrice Ginsberg Lilienfeld, his widow, remained on St. Thomas and was a devoted member of our congregation until her death in 1988.

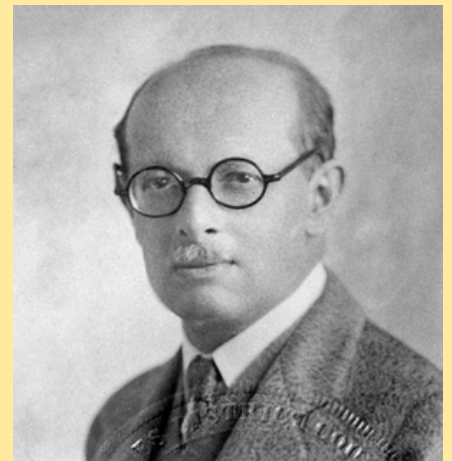
Bea was a lovely and very caring woman.

Although, initially the property was used as the home of the Rabbi, it was subsequently sold and the property which now houses Lilienfeld House was purchased and renovated with the proceeds.

There is a very nice portrait of Bea at Lilienfeld House which was donated by the Hoffman Family. The addition of Lilienfeld House has been such an asset to our congregation that we are forever grateful to Bea for her generosity! Next time you are attending a dinner, Services, class or other occasion at Lilienfeld House please be sure to look at the picture of our lovely benefactor.

Thank you all for caring about our historic Synagogue. It has been my real pleasure to serve as the president of the congregation my ancestors founded and which my family has been a part of since 1796!

Shalom,  
Dorothy



Julius Edgar Lilienfeld

# Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas Annual Meeting of the Congregation

**Sunday, June 7, 2020**

Details on timing in upcoming email.



Always an important gathering for our congregation, this year there is more "on the table" than at many other meetings.

We come together to

- Elect a new President, Officers and Board of Trustees.
- Decide upon a significantly updated By-Laws/Constitution.
- Approve the budget at a time of challenge and change.
- Re-engagement of Rabbi Michael Feshbach.

**As it is still the "best practice" recommended by officials and experts in public health and safety, we will meet by "Zoom" this year.**

Full members and Chai members,  
**watch for email with detailed invitation**, coming soon!

**We welcome all with any connection to the congregaiton. But especially voting members of the congregation: please come!  
We need you -- and we need a quorum!**



With any comments or questions, please contact Dorothy Isaacs, President of the Congregation by phone or email at 703-508-14411 or [Disaacs48@gmail.com](mailto:Disaacs48@gmail.com)



**The Maimonides Medical Society of  
Western New York and  
The Alpha Omega Dental Society of  
Western New York  
invite you to  
an exploration of**

# **Jewish Perspectives on the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**June 4, 2020, 7:00 PM**

**Go to Zoom Meeting**

<https://buffalo.zoom.us/j/92296355002>

or use Meeting ID: 922 9635 5002

Password: 227973


## **Presentations by**

**Rabbi Jonathan Freirich**, Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, NY

**Rabbi Michael Feshbach**, Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Maimonides himself was the Dr. Fauci of his day -- a physician who served his community, and also worked for the government of his country. And he was one of the most masterful voices in all of Jewish history at applying the insights of tradition to novel conditions.

What does our tradition have to offer us in the situation we face today? Join us for a spirited exploration of **Jewish Ethics at a Time of Pandemic**: how can and should we "hear" ancient voices in these new conditions? How do we handle allocation of scarce resources, experimentation around treatment, controversies over vaccination, and even controversial modifications of traditional practices in the midst of an emergency? Join us for an exploration of facts versus fear, science and superstition, ethics, law and history at times of challenge and change.



**With questions or for more information contact  
Dr. Robert Stall at [drstall@stallseniormedical.com](mailto:drstall@stallseniormedical.com)**

Spread Hope

MBW COVID-19 RESPONSE



**So far our congregation and our friends have *doubled* the number of drivers MBW has available to deliver meals! Let's keep it up a little longer!**

## WE DELIVER!!

**Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas volunteers help My Brother's Workshop deliver meals to those in need**

## WHY?

*Tikkun Olam*; repairing the world. Serving the community at a time of need. It's what we do.

## WHEN?

Weekdays  
June 1-5 and June 8-12, for just an hour to an hour and a half, any time between 11AM-2 PM.

## WHAT?

We need drivers - with their vehicles - possibly two days a week each during these dates. Or whatever you can do. Safe practice protocols will be in place.

## HOW?

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Suzi Grbinich, [suzigrbinich@gmail.com](mailto:suzigrbinich@gmail.com) or 561-714-0520 by May 15.

## MORE

MBW cooks the meals, and has addresses and directions. They just need help with delivery!



## DO A MITZVAH!

LET'S HELP AS WE CAN!

With questions or for more information contact Hope Wearing at [distribution@mybrothersworkshop.org](mailto:distribution@mybrothersworkshop.org) or Rabbi Michael Feshbach at [michael.feshbach@gmail.com](mailto:michael.feshbach@gmail.com) or 301-980-5465

# **A Warm Welcome to our High Holy Day Student Cantor, Sonya (Laynie) Zell**

It is too soon to know, at this point, exactly what form our services for the coming High Holy Days will take.

Obviously, we hope to be together, in person, in our Sanctuary, as we normally would be.



We were blessed, last year, to have **Student Cantor Ella Gladstone Martin** with us, as well as **Cantorial Soloist Luba Dolgopolsky**.

This coming year, beginning in mid-August, Luba will be a much more frequent presence, being with us almost weekly!

**But for the High Holy Days we also welcome a new Student Cantor, just back from her year in Israel, Sonya (Laynie) Zell.**

**Laynie grew up in Great Falls, VA, where her family was very involved at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation. She went on to teach Hebrew and Judaica there while in high school.**

**She attended the College of William and Mary, where she studied psychology and music. She took time off after her third year, working as an e-learning instructional designer. She also wrote and published a novel (!), and taught at Temple Rodef Shalom.**

**After deciding she wanted to become a Cantor, she returned to college, graduating in 2019 with a BA in English Literature. She has just completed her first year at Hebrew Union College and is excited to be a part of our unique community for the High Holy Days as our Student Cantor!**

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## June Birthdays

Sasha Klein	June 2
Dania Ebenholtz	June 3
Justin Blackhall	June 6
Joy Stillman	June 9
Andrew Blazar	June 10
George Borden	June 11
Helen Abrams	June 12
Ethan Ronen	June 26
Mia Ronen	June 26
Liza Margolis	June 28
Katina Coulianos	June 29
Julie Novick	June 29
Elissa Runyon	June 29

## June Anniversaries

Neil and Trudie Prior	June 6
Andrew and Joy Stillman	June 8
Michael Feshbach and Julie Novick	June 11
Louis and Stella Minion	June 13



# רפואה שלימה

## A complete recovery to:

Robin Adler  
Laurie Allen  
Charles Arthur  
Hila Babin  
Pauline Balsam  
Buster Chidester  
Gina Talia Farahnick  
Paula Finkelstein  
Beth Flashner  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Jake Goldstein  
Dr. Robert Gordon  
Marilyn Grishman  
Debra Goodman-Herman  
Violet Adelaide Johnson  
Sheri Levson  
Nina Lewis  
Barry A. Lubin  
Amanda Maguire  
Steven Markowitz  
Tom McCoy  
Sheldon Minion  
James Nicholson  
Rosa Pupko  
Agi Rampino  
Carolyn Rosenthal  
Ruth Schloss  
Cara Sell  
Maxine Shayna Stark  
Bill Stein  
Robert Tunick  
Hershell Wais  
Rachel Wallace  
Rona Wolfson



Please be in touch with us to let us know of any updates.  
Hopefully we will hear from you with good news, of recovery  
and a return to health for you or your loved ones.  
You can write us at [info@synagogue.vi](mailto:info@synagogue.vi).

# We remember former members and those who are dear to our members.

## Week of June 1-11

Rebecca Deleon Abendanone, David Abrams, Ephraim Athias, Ethel Auron, Hannah Baiz, Benjamin Bienvenisto, Arlen Brodsky, Isaac D.Sasso, Haim Gabriel de Costa, David de Meza Rosabel de Meza, Solomon Lopez Dubec, Ida Edel, Mordecai Garcias, Gertie Glazer Dee Doris Greene, Deborah Pretto Henriquez, Rebecca Popotte Henriquez, Solomon G. Jacobs Toni Leipsic, George Daniel Levi, Zelda LeVine Levitan, Mordecai Levy Maduro Rachel Levy Maduro, Moses Paiewonsky, Ben Peirez, Jeosuah M. Piza, Jacob Pomeranz Rachel Rodrigues, George Daniel Sasso, Jacob M. Sasso, Samuel Sasso, Esther Elvire Sasso, Michael Weinman, Josephine Luna Wolff

## Week of June 12-18

Joseph Abner, Ira Joseph Barbash, Irene E. Bayne, Isaac Cardoze, Rabbi David Cardoze Harry Costas Coulianos, Jacob Haim de Sola, Esther Deleao, Dina Deleon, Grace Cardoze Delvalle Judith Delvalle, Solomon J. Delvalle, Solomon Fidanque, Albert Gentry, Louis Grosswirth, Myriam Jacob Leah Jacobs, Harris Lee Keller, Samuel J. Lang, Esther Levy Maduro, Philip Nitkin Isabella Braudo Paiewonsky, Sarah Petit, Alfred A. Pomeranz, Rachel Solomon Jerome Stark, Miriam Van Vlierden, Elias Wolff, Rachel Wolff

## Week of June 19-30

Fidanque de Castro Aoa, Selomon Curiel, Daughter of Cohen D'Azevedo, Rosa de Castro Sara Semach de Valencia, Audrey Edlis, Gidon Elad, Rachel Delvalle Fidanque David Gomez Fonseca, Samuel Friedman, Jean Abel Galiber, Abraham Garcia Minnie Goldberger, Michael Allan Goodfriend, Edward Henriquez Moron, Esther Henriquez Moron Molly Herzoff, Perla Grace Hoheb, Reginald Isaacs, Hannah Julien, Belle Kessler, Vivian Leibowitz Leopold Levy, Grace Sarah Lindo, Isaac Jacob Maduro, William Edward Millburn, Clara Moron Bessie O'Kean, Morris Paiewonsky, Sylvania Lopez Penha, Israel Reiffel, Esther Athias Robles Joseph Athias Robles, Golda Levin Ruiz, A. Sasso, Abraham Samuel Sasso, Isaac Sasso Leah Sasso, Samuel Sasso, Jerry Silverberg, Anna K. Watson, Karl Ludwig Weibel



# We remember our Chai Members and those who are dear to our Chai Members

## Week of June 1-11

Cynthia Altus, Hilda Apple, Maurice Baigelman, Ruth Bain, Etta Breitbart, Morton Chertoff, Sylvia Clough  
Mark Combs, Joseph Cohen, Ruth Domin, Sydney Echenberg, Jean Eckhaus, Audrey Edlis, Irene Eisenberg  
Sol Eisenberg, Herman Feinberg, Howard Feldschneider, Sidney Fenton, Vivian Finkel, Marvin Fracter  
Frances Friedman, Theodor Friedrichs, Norma Gerson, Lorraine Glick, Joseph Goldfarb, Thomas Goodman  
Lillian Gottlieb, Irving Green, Sol Green, Sariva Greenbaum, Irving Greenberg, Sylvia Grossman, Rose Haimovitz  
Ruth Herman, Hyman Hirshhorn, Joseph Hochman, Anne Howard, Isador Janov, Buddy Kava, Charles Kruvant  
Gertrude Kurzman, Mollie Levine, Shaun Lupson-Holden, Gina Lupson-Holden-Young Joshua Lupson-Young  
Benjamin Mayro, Francine Meyer, Murray Miller, Jack Nimetz, Joel Novick, Helen Podolsky, Mildred Raskin  
Edward Reish, Joseph Reiss, Florence Ridzinski, Edward Ritter, Ruth Rosen, Solomon Rosenberg, Anna Sandler  
Netty Schapira, Marian Segal, Pauline Silver, Rayzel Bat Simonowits, Max Slavin, Milton Slosky, Sander Tobias  
Jack Tzorfas, Doris Weiss, Ida Weiss, Gerald Zeidman, Pearl Zerolnick, Alice Zinn, Abraham Zweiback

## Week of June 12-18

William Abrams, Dora Barnett, Bernard Beck, Morris Bornstein, Irving Brickman, Sydelle Charlowe, Lillian Cieply  
Benjamin Fisher, HaRav Frieder, Edward Friedland, Gert Friedrichs, Muriel Goldberg, Bella Gorevitz  
Kenneth Grahame, Bert Grossman, Henry Hayworth, Gerald Hershenson, Evelyn Horowitz, Israel Ilivicky  
Stephen Kadish, William Kay, Anna Levine, Rose Linky, Linda Lowe, Ethel Mandel, Mala Miller, Joseph Posniack  
Karl Preisler, Eleanor Pressman, Oscar Robins, Robert Rose, Bessie Rosen, Edith Schwartz, Louis Silverman  
Harry Sloven, Lynn Spizz, Paula Tzorfas, Miriam Walerstein, Mary Weiner  
William Wine, Eleanor Wolf, Shirley Yermanok

## Week of June 19-30

Shirley Adler, Michael Andreyckisk, Moritz Bauch, Frances Bechick, Ruth Black, Benjamin Bliss  
Marvin Brooderson, Sylvia Brown, Silvia Chochinov, Harold Cohen, Abraham Ben Dovid, Errol Echenberg  
Kate Eisemann, Klara Fenyves, Hermann Figowy, Ernest Fishel, Howard Fishman, Leon Gittelman  
Mildred Goldman, Murray Goren, Milton Guberman, Lillian Heller, Joan Ilivicky, Nettie Janov  
Leonard Kadish, Frances King, Lou Kosterich, Selig Kowalsky, Ben Kramer, Herbert Kwoczka  
Herman Kupetzky, Leonard Lefkowitz, Sima Lefler, Larry Leshin, William Levy, Irving Like, Abbe Litvack  
Lena Luttinger, Meyer Lutzker, Harold Mandel, Ralph Manton, Renee Perry, Harry Pestka, Greta Pik  
Ann Prehle, Benny Rabinovitch, Sandra Rinder, Lillian Roberts, Theodore Romer, Edward Rosenbluth  
Manya Rosenthal, David Rothman, Dorothy Rubenstein, Eva Rubner, Nettie Saltz, Frances Samuels  
Sarah Scharf, Harold Schildkraut, Irwin Schlossberg, Shirley Schmerling, Jacob Shapiro, Milton Shapiro  
Bertha Sheffron, Bella Siegal, Solomon Simmans, Louis Singer, Hon. Harry Smoler, Lulu Sogot, Melvin Sroka  
Harry Stein, Sylvia Sussman, Judy Troiano, Ida Wasserstrom, Sylvia Weiner  
Simon Weinstein, Shirley Weiss, Eric Wells, Benjamin White, Julius Winter, Helen Wohl

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Our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to our many supporters

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Raline Paper  
Stephen and Susan Solomon

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Gony Goldberg  
Julian Koss  
Network for Good  
Irene Watkins

## Rabbi Feshbach's Discretionary Fund

Doing Good Fund

Thank  
you!

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**Your support enables all of our work**

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Liza Margolis, Trudie Prior, Peter Rosen



# HOURGLASS

Shalom and welcome  
to a place where history and destiny meet,  
where looking up, and looking down, and looking around  
all tell a tale unlike almost any other.

We have come together here,  
as a community and as a congregation,  
in spirituality and study and service,  
one generation to the next, since 1796  
— and in our current building since 1833.

In coming together now, you step into that tradition,  
and help write the next chapter in our ongoing story.

<b>Rabbi:</b>	Michael L. Feshbach
<b>Administrator:</b>	Stella Minion
<b>Docent/Gift Shop Manager:</b>	Agnes Rampino
<b>Student Cantor:</b>	Ella Gladstone Martin
<b>Custodian:</b>	Michael Fuertes

## **The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas**

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Mailing address: PO Box 266, St. Thomas, VI 00804

340-774-4312, [info@synagogue.vi](mailto:info@synagogue.vi)