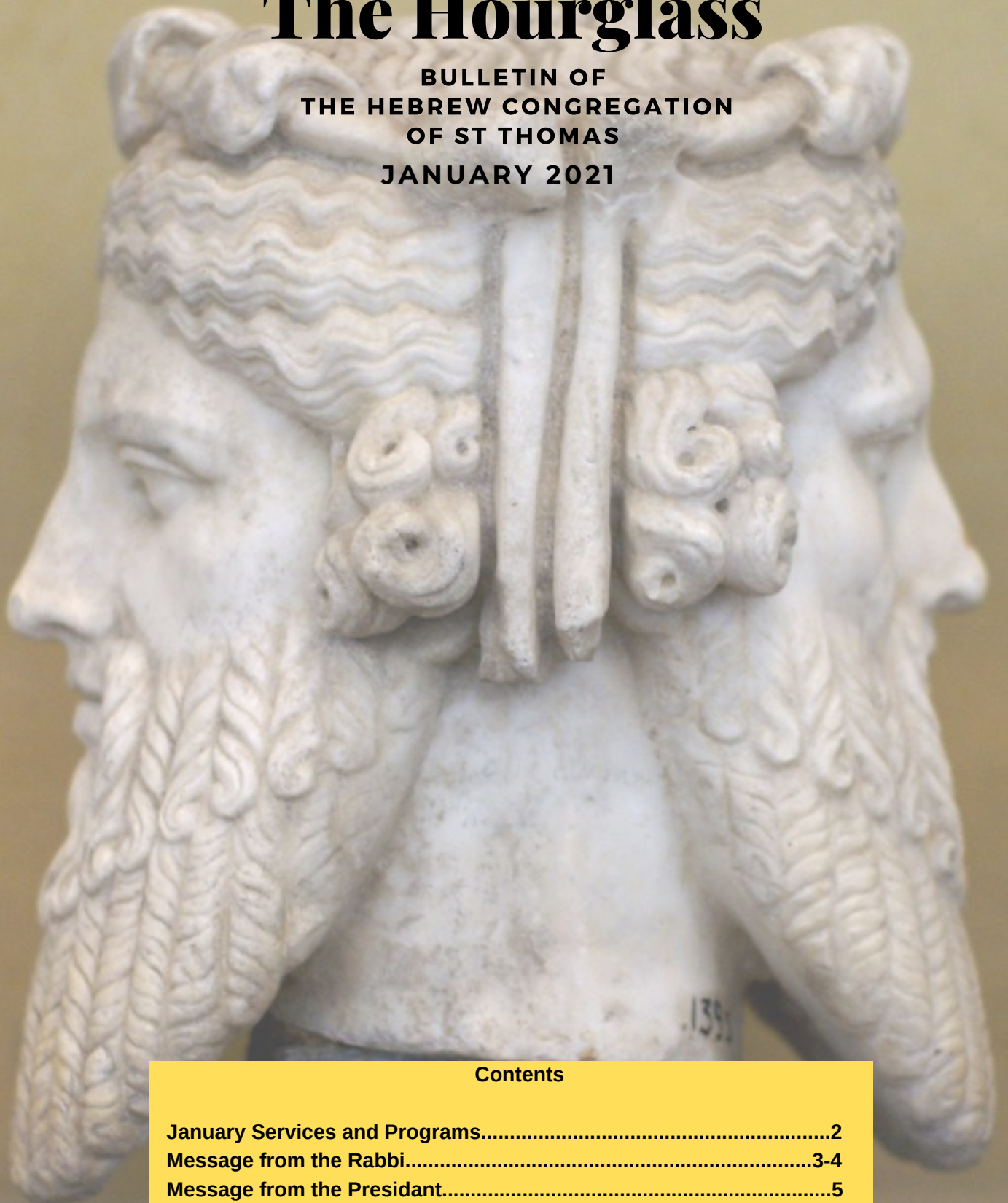


The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION
OF ST THOMAS
JANUARY 2021



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January Service and Programs

Parashat Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1

8 **Special Musical Shabbat Service with
Fri Jewish Bluegrass [Nefesh Mountain](#),
7:00 PM AST (6:00 PM EST)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

See page six for more detail.

9 Shabbat Morning Worship and Study,
Sat 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Va'era Exodus 6:2-9:35

15 Annual Svc in honor of Martin Luther King,
Fri 7:00 PM AST (6:00 PM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Keynote Speaker: Michael W. Twitty

Presentation to MLK Award Winners

See pages seven and eight for more detail.

16 Shabbat Morning Worship and Study,
Sat 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312



Michael W. Twitty

Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16

22 Erev Shabbat Service

Fri 7:00 PM AST (6:00 PM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

23 Shabbat Morning Worship and Study,

Sat 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Tu B'Shevat

27 **Possible Erev Tu'B;Shevat Seder**

Wed Details TBD; watch for more information.

Parashat Beshalach/Shabbat Shira Exodus 13:17-17:16

29 Erev Shabbat Service: Special Musical Svc

Fri 7:00 PM AST (6:00 PM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

30 Shabbat Morning Worship and Study,

Sat 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Invitation to our Gift Shop

Our online gift shop is available on our website www.synagogue.vi. Please take a look at all of the lovely, unusual pieces we have available.

Every order supports our historic Synagogue.

This is just one of the many unique pieces we carry. Please take a look:



Everything We Need to Know

Message from
Rabbi Michael Feshbach



Common wisdom holds that the month of January is named after the Roman god Janus. Of course, common wisdom is occasionally off base. Ancient sources indicate that the “tutelary deity” for the month was actually Juno.

But mistaken assumptions sometimes stick if they make intuitive sense. As Janus was, according to Wikipedia, the god of “beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames - and endings,” a link with the first month of a new year certainly seems to fit. Janus is often portrayed with two faces, looking forward and back. It is a perfect image, for a time of transition.

One of my favorite video clips from this whole pandemic period is a commercial for match.com. It showed the Devil himself, scanning computer profiles seeking a mate. He arranges to meet someone who seems suitable under an arch. When she approaches, he asks, with some trepidation: “are you... Two Zero, Two Zero?” To which she responds, somewhat breathlessly: “Please... call me 2020.” The ad goes on to feature empty stadiums, hoarded stacks of toilet paper, and more. If the link works, you can see it [here](#).

(My other favorite from last year was the [hilarious clip](#) of the young Israeli man attempting to teach his mother how to use Zoom. In the middle of laughter, it is also a reminder: it can be hard for any of us to learn new things quickly.)

As we look backwards, and ahead, remember the book *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. It taught us that many newly won life-lessons actually just reinforce what we already know.

So here are some things I am remembering now:

Tell the Truth. Reality is probably real. The Matrix is a matter for far out physics. Facts are mostly factual, and science saves lives.

Trust your instincts, but check your sources. Yes, common assumptions are sometimes wrong (see Juno and Janus, above). Sometimes alternative explanations do seem to make sense. So be open to new information. Trust your gut. But dig deep. And be very careful around anything which seems to explain everything. The need to know, or believing that things have to be a certain way can lead to lunacy, conspiracy and insanity. And craziness can be contagious.

(continued on page 4)

Message from the Rabbi

(continued from page 3)

Play Fair. Rules have to apply to everyone. A social compact in which we agree to be fair is not just for suckers and losers. It is the foundation of society and civilized life.

Share. How we distribute a vaccine – not just in our country, but also to the poorest corners of the world – will reveal a great deal about our values and moral character.

Be Nice. Most of the time, it costs less and yields more in the long run, even if our instant impulse may be to express frustration or give in to anger.

Do Your Best. We make miracles with truth and creativity and insight and effort. The world gets better when we work hard to make it so.

Stand Up for Yourself, and Others. On the other hand, sometimes we do need to be angry. As a man we will remember later this month said: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Grow. Improve, learn, strive to be better. All of life is about how we grow. Perhaps the word God, in English, is actually an acronym. Maybe it stands for this: Grow Or Die.

With *Kohelet*, “there is a time for every purpose.” A time to be patient, and a time to be impatient. A time to look back, and a time to move ahead.

And we carry with us much of what we need, already. Kindness, Competence, Integrity. We are ready for a new chapter, taking with us what we have learned and experienced before.

May we all get to where we want, and are meant, to be.

Shanah Tova, kivayachol.
A happy (secular) new year, as it were.

May it be
a better year
for us all.



WORDS OF HOPE AND GOOD CHEER FOR THE NEW YEAR

To Congregants and Chai Members from President Marilyn Blackhall

We are so lucky as Jews!!! We get to celebrate the New Year twice!!! At this time in our lives, I think we can all use some extra joy and happiness and another chance to focus our thoughts and prayers on a New Year that will be better and healthier for everyone.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hebrew Congregation, I would like to express our New Year's Wishes for each of you and those you love...

**12 months of *happiness*,
52 weeks of *fun* and *laughter*,
365 days of *success*,
8,760 hours of *good health*,
525,600 minutes of *blessings* &
31,536 seconds of *Joy*.**

Amen.

**HAVE A BLESSED, HEALTHY, HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS 2021 and beyond.**



**Join us for a special evening,
an extraordinary live service and experience!**

**Special Erev Shabbat Service
Live with [Nefesh Mountain](#) and
The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas**

**Friday, January 8, 2021,
7:00 PM AST/ 6:00 PM EST**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

or Meeting ID: 340 774 4312



The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas presents our

Annual Service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Friday, January 15, 2021, 7 PM AST (6 PM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

or Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Featuring Keynote Speaker [Michael W. Twitty](#),

African-American Jewish writer, culinary historian, and educator

**and our annual presentation of Scholarship Awards
to a student from every high school on St Thomas
who best represents the legacy of Dr. King**

The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas Annual Service in Honor of the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King

**Friday, January 15, 2021,
7:00 PM AST (6:00 PM EST)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

or Meeting ID: 340 774 4312



**Keynote Speaker: Michael W. Twitty,
"Recommitting to the Message"**



Michael W. Twitty is a culinary historian and food writer from the Washington D.C. area. He blogs at Afroculinaria.com. He has appeared on Bizarre Foods America with Andrew Zimmern, Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates and, most recently, Taste the Nation with Top Chef's Padma Lakshmi. His 2017 book *The Cooking Gene*, tracing his ancestry through food from Africa to America and from slavery to freedom, was a finalist for The Kirkus Prize and The Art of Eating Prize and a third place winner of Barnes&Noble's Discover New Writer's Awards in Nonfiction, *The Cooking Gene* won the 2018 James Beard Award for best writing as well as book of the year, making him the first Black author so awarded. his piece on visiting Ghana in Bon Appetit was included in Best Food Writing in 2019.

To honor the legacy of Dr. King, to continue his work and keep his dream alive, at this service we also present a scholarship to one student from every high school on St. Thomas. These are students who demonstrate, through service and reflection, their commitment to the vision of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All Saints Cathedral School: Maura Richardson

Antilles School: Janaei Boschulte

Charlotte Amalie HS: Mi'Kaylah Thomas

Ivanna Eudora Kean HS: Kaylin Wallen

Seventh Day Adventist School: Jonicia Faith Cardin

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School: Shaina Nieves

VI Montessori School and Peter Gruber Int'l Academy: Deja-Marie Simon



People of the Book
Jewish Book Group presents
its first open discussion:

The Wondering Jew

An amazing exploration of
identity, community and morality
by the dynamic Israeli thinker

[Micah Goodman](#)

He claims that his latest book is mostly about Israeli Judaism. But it offers deep insights into Jewish identity everywhere, and will be of great benefit to interested individuals from all faiths and backgrounds.

Book Group Open Discussion
led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach
Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas

Tuesday, January 26, 2021
7:30 PM AST (6:30 PM EST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

The Wondering Jew is available for Kindle or in hard copy, on Amazon.com or by clicking [here](#).

Dr. Micah Goodman is a leading voice on Judaism, Zionism, the Bible, and the challenges and opportunities facing Israel and contemporary world Jewry. He is the author of several Israeli bestsellers on canonical Jewish texts: Moses's Final Speech, The Dream of the Kuzari, and The Secrets of the Guide for the Perplexed. His 2017 book, Catch '67, also rose to the best-seller lists and prompted many discussions about the ramifications of the Six Day War at its 50th anniversary. Dr. Goodman directs Beit Midrash Yisraeli – Ein Prat, Israel's leading pluralistic Beit Midrash for young adults. Dr. Goodman lectures regularly overseas and at Israel's leading universities, think tanks, and cultural venues. He is a Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and is among the most popular teachers at this well-regarded institution.



Tu B'Shevat

Jewish Arbor Day
"The Birthday of the Trees"

Tu B'Shevat, which simply means the "fifteenth of the month of Shevat," falls this year on Wednesday night, January 27 and Thursday, January 28.

It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'Ilanot (Hebrew: ראש השנה לאילנות), literally 'New Year of the Trees'.

In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration.

Why do trees need a "new year," or a birthday? As mentioned in the Mishna, it was for the purpose of calculating the agricultural cycle, in order to assess tithes and contributions to the correct calendar year. In other words, it was originally about taxes. It was also used to calculate the age of a fruit-bearing tree, since all fruit until "the fourth year" was supposed to be allowed to fall on its own.

In the Middle Ages, Tu B'Shevat celebrations came to include a feast of fruits, given mystical meaning and crystalized in the custom of "Tu B'Shevat" Seders.

We may try to offer such an observance this year by Zoom. (If you are using an Apple computer does that mean you have one less fruit to buy?)

Watch for further announcements and more information if we are able to organize our own Tu B'Shevat Seder this year!

Upcoming Learning with HUC Connect

Over the next several months, we will, in partnership with our Reform movement seminary, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, offer an amazing array of one-session learning opportunities. We are still working on the details, but here are some of the sessions, topics and teachers to be offered through a program called HUC Connect:

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 10 AM AST/ 9 AM EST, Judaism & Culture Series --
Temples and Tabernacles: How the Ancient Israelites Worshipped**

Dr. David Ilan, Director, Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, HUC/Jerusalem

**Tuesday, February 17, 2021, Time TBD; Judaism & Culture Series
Opening the Ark: Bringing a Lost Polish Synagogue to Life**

Abby Schwartz, Director, Skirball Museum, HUC/Cincinnati

Shmuel Polin '21, Rabbinical Student, HUC/Cincinnati

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM AST/ 5:30 PM EST;

**Judaism & Civil Society Series: Dr. Fritz Bamberger Memorial Lecture Series
Language and Racism in the United States Today**

Sarah Bunin Benor, Ph.D., Prof. of Contemporary Jewish Studies, HUC/Los Angeles
with Jared Jackson, Founder and Executive Director of Jews in ALL Hues

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, Time TBD; Judaism & Religions Series

The Qu'ran and the Jews, Dr. Reuven Firestone,

Regenstein Prof. in Medieval Judaism and Islam, HUC/Los Angeles

Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 3:00 PM AST/EDT ; Judaism & History Series

**Reflections on the Significance of Holocaust Memory in the 21st Century
The Roger E. Joseph Prize Lecture**

Sara J. Bloomfield, Director, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Tuesday, April 27, 2021, Time TBD; Judaism & History Series

The World of the Cairo Genizah: The Jews of Medieval Islam

Jennifer Grayson, Ph.D., Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Assistant Professor of Jewish History,
HUC/Cincinnati, and Xavier University

HUC Connect (continued)

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, Time TBD; Judaism & Religions Series

The Apostle Paul: A First-Century Reform Jew?

Rabbi Joshua Garroway, Ph.D., Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies, Professor of Early Christianity and Second Commonwealth, HUC/Los Angeles

Tuesday, May 20, 2021 at 1:00 PM AST/EDT; Judaism & Culture Series

Every Book Has a Story: The Story of Alpha Betah of Ben Sira

Yoram Bitton, Director of Libraries, HUC

Thursday, May 27, 2021. Time TBD; Judaism & History Series

Pilgrims and Prisoners: Jews on the High Seas

Joshua Holo, Ph.D., Dean and Associate Professor of Jewish History, HUC/Los Angeles

June 8, 2021 at 3:00 PM AST/EDT; Judaism & Culture Series

Chagall and the Bible

Jean Bloch Rosensaft, Director, Dr. Bernard Heller Museum, HUC/New York

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, Time TBD; Judaism & History Series

A Jewish Grand Tour: Should 'Travel' Become the Jewish Practice of Our Age?

Jeremy Leigh, Coordinator, Richard J. Scheuer Israel Seminar, HUC/Jerusalem

Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM AST/EDT; Judaism & Civil Society Series:

The Dr. Fritz Bamberger Memorial Lecture Series

Jews, Whiteness, Power and Privilege

Marc Dollinger, Ph.D., Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair, Social Responsibility, San Francisco State University

Pending Sessions

Judaism & Women's Studies Series

Gender and Liturgy

Rabbi Dalia Marx, Ph.D., Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy, HUC/Jerusalem
Cantor Shani Ben-Or

Judaism & Women's Studies Series

**"If Flame Falls on Cedars, Women Leaders Will Put Out the Fire:
The Biblical Deborah Reimagined"**

Wendy Zierler, Ph.D., Sigmund Falk Professor of Feminist Studies and Modern Jewish Literature, HUC/New York

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

Michael Feshbach	January 1
Jacob Silverman	January 5
Daniel Seth Rom	January 7
Sharon Levin	January 8
Liam Chase Rosenthal	January 8
Judi Nagelberg	January 9
Jaci Silverberg	January 9
Mariah Prosterman	January 10
Richard Silver	January 10
Penny Feuerzeig	January 14
Nathan Rosenberg	January 16
Stuart Wechter	January 20
Lennon Richman	January 21
David Goldberg	January 25
Nir Ronen	January 30
Adam Ackerman	January 31

January Anniversaries



רפואה שלימה

A complete
recovery to:



Robin Adler
Laurie Allen
Charles Arthur
Pauline Balsam
Amiel Cohen
Quinn Copps
Yigal Ehrlich
Jared Falek
Gina Talia Farahnick
Marci Finkelstein
Wycliffe Francis
Julie Friedman
Marilyn Grishman
Violet Adelaide Johnson
Jay Kranitz
Helen Leneman
Sheri Levson
Linda Lewensohn
Steven Markowitz
Tom McCoy

Sheldon Minion
Raymond Newton
James Nicholson
Maria Grace Nicholson
Ella Ogden
Erik Pedersen
Neil Prior
Rosa Pupko
Dorothy Ring
Monte Rosenthal
Henia Rubins
John Schenkel
Ruth Schloss
Maxine Shayna Stark
Bill Stein
Robert Tunick
Rachel Wallace
Andrea Weibel
Rona Wolfso
Rayna Sandra Zaner

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.

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

Week of January 1-7

Ida M. Baum, Helen Bliss, Selma Bradspies, Rodney Jones
Mark Klein, Sarah Levitan Larie, Celia Minion, Lynn Rosenthal
Frank Steiner, Lillian Weiss, Charles Young, William Zahler

Week of January 8-14

Sarah S. Becker, George Klein, Harriet Mallin, Rose Nagelberg
Gwendolyn Newman, Nan Peirez, Elijah E. Perlberg, Jose Ruzansky
Simon Shein, Jack Weinberger, David Zenchoff

Week of January 15-21

Bertha Becker, Andrew Bernsohn, Sylvia Cohen, Meyer Davis, Gene Feldman
Maurice Glazer, Hannah Isaacson, David Jonathan Kezner, Sarah Kezner
Herman Lichstein, E. Ray Pariser, Ruzena Steglova, Aron Tenenbaum
Mary Weintraub

Week of January 22-31

Lina Weinberg Bachrach, Helen Berlin, Sol Berman, Leonard Blazar, Sarah Becker Camhi
Doreen Christensen Cole, Franzi Siggelkow Coulianos, Lafayette Dickerson, Ignaz Durr
Rochelle Ellick, Morris I. Gordon, Janchel Groisman, Esther Gruber, Florence Lapin
Harry Lobsenz, Ann Manck, Selma Minion, Enrique H. Moron, Anna Paiewonsky, Samuel Schafer
Salomon Schouchana, Sally Solinger, Meyer Starr, Aron Tennenhaus, Rae Zucker
A.B."Twigs" Zweigenhaft

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

Week of January 1-7

Carl Barov, Emile Benlolo, Alan Bennett, Leonard Black, Hyman Blum, Joseph Blumenkehl, Louis Bobrow, Martha Bookspan, Anna Boyle, Stanley Boyle, Ethel Chase, Michael Chervony, Joel Cohen, Bernard Dorfman, Regina Figowy, Dorothy Fletcher, Allan Garber, Sandi Garron, Ala Gertner, Frank Ghezzi, Carol Gittess, Brandon Granek Jennie Greenberg, Robert Greene, William Hack, Elaine Heine, Abraham Heller, Joseph Horowitz, Fotios Karpousis Al Katz, Naomi Kaufman, Eva Kaye Clifford Klein, Joseph Kohen, Hella Laska, Hester Liebman, Harvey Lipsitz Rebeca Mazal, Mollie Metz Abraham Miller, Sylvia Nash, Irving Nelson, Marci Newman, Miriam Novick, Rachel Ovadia Rosemary Palmer, Bob Paris, Isaiah Pereira, Adolph Peters, Lillian Resnikoff, Kathy Rosenthal, Gwenn Rosov Irving Schuster, Ellen Schwarz, Arnold Sherman, Morris Sherman, Joseph Shulman, Bessie Silverman, Phyllis Slobard Hilda Smoler, Akiva Stern, Kive Stern, Ruth Sternberg, George Sternberg, Ruth Stone, Benjamin Turk Jordan Walerstein, Hyman Walper, Isaac Weinberg, Leona Wilk, James Woldow, Bernard Wolf, Elsie Woltz Beatrice Yermanok, Seymour Zeleznik

Week of January 8-14

Bella Bas Harov Abraham, Abraham Ast, Harriet Aszkenas, Stanley Bangel, Joseph Barnett, Sam Benlolo Walter Berman, Goldie Bershad, Rose Bodinger, Benjamin Bolgla, Barney Chartor, Albert Chase, Myron Cohen Raoul Djian, Hayim Donin, Lena Eisenberg, Evelyn Feller, John Finnimore Ruth Flicop, Jennifer Forman, Bernie Friedkin Fannie Fuchsman, Sidney Fuller, Bertram Fullman Beverly Gaines, Robert Ginsberg, Peter Gold, Gus Goldstein Miriam Gordon, Nathan Greenberg, Stanley Gruberg, Marie Hack, Sadie Horn, Israel Isakov, Esther Jaffe, Joseph Kahn Julius Kaplan, Lillian Karol, Alexander Leavitt, MD, Moshe Lefler, Isadore Levin, Edith Levine, Lee Lewitt, Paula Lifland Fredric Lipton, Albert Lonstein, Simon Lubell, Samuel Nattis, Barbara Rosen, Leroy Rosenbaum, Zelda Rosenbluth Louis Schiff, Ruth Schimel, Max Schwartz, Frank Seskin, Rudolph Slotnick, Edith Summer, Shirley Tartak, Jerome Taylor Jack Topkin, Harold Walvisch, Charles Weiss, Harold Wolf

Week of January 15-21

Earl Altman, Bonnie Berman, David Brill, Caitlin Brown, Nuala Carragher, Sayde Davis, Charles Devore, Robert Devore Jerome Dornfeld, Frances Eber, Howard Eckhaus, Baruch Epstein, Ruth Fierberg, Jack Finkelstein, Rae Goldberg Edward Goldfeder, Isidor Goldstein, Debbie Gutenplan, Jake Heller, Charles Hirschfeld, Alice Holzer, Max Horwitz Sadie Kessler, David Kezner, Benjamin Klein, Norma Kligman, Roselyn Korn, Stuart Letwat, Kurt Loewy, Pearl Lovinger Nathan Lutzker, Debbie Marmer, Jack Melinger, Nathan Miller, Minnie Orchovsky, Naomi Ostrove, Shirley Perry Helaine Polansky, Beth Rice, Leo Rosenberg, Frances Saltz, Leo Samen, Sol Schindler, Larry Silver, William Silverman Marion Smith, Charles Stern, Esther Weingarten, Howard Wolf, Joseph Wolpert, Robert Wunsch

Week of January 22-31

Norman Abel, Milton Apple, Sarah Ast, Michelle Baker, Daniel Belenson, Elsie Bennett, Arthur Berkley, Lowery Bishop, Sam Blumenfeld, Allen Brickman, Lorayne Brody, Milton Brown, Harriette Brudner, Hertzl Cheifetz, Mary Chervony Lola Cohen, Margaret Fagenson, Irene Fink, Robert Fink, Lila Fisher, Lillian Fried, Muriel Friedkin, Carrie Fullman Dr. Harvey Gilbert, Mike Glasser, Sylvia Grant, Jeffrey Greenblatt, Sylvia Greenwald, Rebecca Grossman, Toba Harris Ida Hochberg, Martin Hoffinger, Rose Inhaber, Kayla Katz, Fern Keating, Minnie Keilin, Louis Kelemen, Rebecca Kolkin Esther Korenge, Fanny Kuperschmidt, Dr. Abraham Langsam, Rose Loewy, David Marlowe, Adolph Melasky Ann Muldorf, Marilyn Nochimson, Hattie Ovetsky, Rose Parnis, Julius Perry, Bernice Pestka, Vivian Pollack, Max Pollock Aliya Robles, Harry Rodman, Robert Rubinstein, Steven Rubenstein, Saul Rudo, Ruth Saltzman, Rachel Sandler Helen Schwartz, Norma Schwartz, Irving Shechtman, Melvin Shein, M.D., Herman Siegle, Zvi Spector, Gerald Satriper Helen Stein, Judith Stendig, Virginia Tannenbaum, Michal Toffel, Evelyn Torres, Anna Turk, Carol Weinberger Jack Weinberger, Jonathan Weintraub, Helen Zeidman



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Prayer For Our Country At A Time of Trial

Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

written on January 4, 2021, two days
before the violent events at our Nation's Capital

**Holy One of Blessing,
let us get through these next few days and weeks
with our national institutions intact,
with our foundations of democracy holding firm,
with security and stability,
and without [more] violence, bloodshed and loss of life.**

**Source of Life, at a time of great and terrible loss,
let us put aside delusions and distraction,
so that we may make a priority
of protecting each other, and preserving our lives.**

**Amidst division and deceit,
may we somehow find our way back
towards common ground,
basic decency, compassion, a sense of shared purpose,
and a remembrance of love.**

**Our country has done great and wonderful things
when we have come together.
While we know that nothing is forever
except for our sense of Eternity itself,
let this not be the end of our national endeavor as we know it.**

**For we have chapters yet to write,
and much good work yet to do in this world.
We face moments of truth, a crisis of trust, and a trial of character.
May we remember the better angels of our nature,
and the goodness and grace we have, and still can
share with one another.**

Amen.



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.

Rabbi:	Michael L. Feshbach
Administrator:	Stella Minion
Docent/Gift Shop Manager:	Agnes Rampino
Custodian:	Michael Fuertes

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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