

The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION
OF ST THOMAS

MAY 2021



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May Services and Programs

Parashat Behar-Bechukotai:

Leviticus 25:1-27:34

7 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

8 Special Early Torah Study, 9:00 AM
Sat <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat BaMidbar **Numbers 1:1-4:20**

14 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

15 Shabbat Mrng Worship/Study, 10:00 AM
Sat <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Shavuot: The Feast of Weeks Celebrating the Gift of Torah

16 Erev Shavuot: A Three Part Celebration
Sun Ice Cream and Torah: **Tot Shavuot** for
the Young and Young at Heart
Scoops and Brew Crown Bay, 5:00 PM

Standing Again at Sinai: First Return to
our **Historic Sanctuary**, Brief Service at
St. Thomas Synagogue, 6:30 PM

Tikkun Leil Shavuot **Zoom Study Sessions**
from our homes, beginning at 8:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Shavuot (continued)

17 **Shavuot Festival Morning**
Mon **and Yizkor Memorial Service**, 10:00 AM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

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

21 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

22 No Shabbat Morning Worship or Study
Sat

Parashat Be'ha'alot'cha **Numbers 8:1 - 12:16**

28 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

29 **Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah**
Sat **of Lena Rose Blumenstock (LCE)**, 10:30 AM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

The Sound of Silence

Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

Shavu'ot, The Festival of Weeks, focused at first only on its agricultural origin, came to be known in Jewish tradition as the time of Revelation, the giving of Torah on Mt. Sinai.

And here, immediately, several problems arise. For in reading the description of Sinai as it appears in the Torah, it seems -- it certainly seems to be the case, that God "speaks."

And, of course, dozens of times we read the words
"And God spoke to Moses..."

It is not just modern skeptics who are startled by this. Jewish tradition, too, wonders: How can a God who has no body "speak" or make sound?

My favorite answer comes in the form of a story, which I first heard from Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. In brief, the rabbis ponder, perhaps it was not the entire Ten Commandments the people heard on Sinai. Perhaps it was just the first? "I am the Eternal you God, who brought you out of Egypt..." And they were frightened, and they said: "Moses, we're done; you get the rest." But, wait. Perhaps it was just the first *word* that they heard, just "*Anochi*; I" Just the self-identification of God was enough... But, wait, just one more time. Perhaps it was just the first *letter* that they heard, and it was enough, and they said: "Moses, you get the rest..."

And the first letter of the first word of the first of the Ten Commandments is, of course... The Letter Aleph. And, unless it has a vowel... the letter Aleph... makes no sound.

What a profound insight! A story which solves the problem and answers the question of how a God who has no body speaks to us! What did we hear on Sinai? The pregnant pause, an emptiness that is... filled with everything. Or, as Simon and Gafunkle would have said: the Sound of Silence.

What is the source, of the voice that calls to you?

Is it from outside, or within? Does it come in words, in sentences?

Or is it a yearning, a learning, or a sense of what is right and just and good? What is it that God demands of you? How do you know? What do you hear?

And what do you have to say, in response?



Shavu'ot

The Feast of Weeks

Celebrating the Gift of Torah

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Erev Shavu'ot

**Ice Cream and Torah,
Scoops and Brew, Crown Bay Marina, 5:00 PM**

**Standing Again at Sinai: Brief Service,
with reading of The Ten Commandments,
Hebrew Congregation Sanctuary, 6:30 PM**

***Tikkun Leil Shavu'ot* Study
by Zoom, **from our homes**, 8:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID 340 774 4312**

Monday, May 17, 2021

**Shavuot Festival Morning and Yizkor Service, 10:00 AM,
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>, Meeting ID: 340 774 4312**

with *Hallel* (Psalms of Praise), The Ten Commandments,
and *Yizkor* Memorial Prayers for loved ones we have lost.

Two sessions of special interest in May

Register at www.huc.edu/HUCConnect



Jews of Color

IN MEMORY OF RABBI AARON D. PANKEN, PH.D.,
ON HIS THIRD YAHRZEIT

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl,
Central Synagogue, New York City

Bruce Phillips, Ph.D.,
Professor of Sociology & Jewish Communal Service,
HUC/Los Angeles

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.,
HUC President, Moderator

TUES., MAY 11
6:00 PM ET

Register at huc.edu/HUCConnect



The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas
ק"ק ברכה ושלוש וגמילות חסדים

In partnership with HUC-JIR



Pilgrims and Prisoners: Jews on the High Seas

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

THURS., MAY 27
6:00 PM ET

Register at huc.edu/HUCConnect



The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas
ק"ק ברכה ושלוש וגמילות חסדים

In partnership with HUC-JIR



Other amazing opportunities in May

Register at www.huc.edu/HUCConnect



Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 3:00 pm ET

JUDAISM & CIVIL SOCIETY: INTERSECTIONAL JEWISH IDENTITIES

Dr. Mijal Bitton, Scholar in Residence at the Shalom Hartman Institute
Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., HUC President; Moderator

We often speak of American Jews in ways that elide their differences or that assume they are all Ashkenazi or white. But American Jews are characterized by vibrant ethnic and racial diversity that must be understood by those of us working to build inclusive Jewish communities. Through her sociological scholarship on Sephardic Jews in America and her own identity as a Latina immigrant, Dr. Bitton will help us consider what is required to nourish a Jewish American diversity project that is complex, rich, and compelling.



Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm ET

JUDAISM & CIVIL SOCIETY: Race, Civility, and American Democracy

Dr. Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., Department Chair, James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, Department of African American Studies, Princeton University
Sasha Baken, 4th Year Rabbinical Student, HUC/NY
Becky Jaye, 4th Year Rabbinical Student, HUC/NY
Alexandra Stein, 4th Year Rabbinical Student, HUC/NY

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., HUC President; Moderator

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., esteemed scholar, author, and cultural and political pundit, engages in a compelling conversation about race in America with HUC students and President Andrew Rehfeld. Join us for this presentation to recontextualize your understanding of racial dynamics in the US from the perspective of Jewish texts.



Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm ET

JUDAISM & CIVIL SOCIETY: PEW 2020 STUDY OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY: WHAT'S NEXT?

Sarah Bunin Benor, Ph.D., Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies, HUC/LA
Alan Cooperman, Director of Religion Research, Pew Research Center
Bruce Phillips, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology & Jewish Communal Service, HUC/LA
Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., HUC President; Moderator

Join us for an exclusive, early look at the Pew 2020 study of the American Jewish community with the director of the study and two of the leading scholars of contemporary Jewish life in America. What does this mean for the future of the Reform Movement, synagogues, and the contours of Jewish life? HUC faculty members and experts in the field of social science will explore some of the implications of the new report in this session.



Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 1:00 pm ET

JUDAISM & CULTURE: EVERY BOOK HAS A STORY: THE STORY OF ALPHA BETAH OF BEN SIRÁ

Yoram Bitton, Director of Libraries, HUC

More than 500 years ago, a contentious and unsettling book representative of what today we would call Pulp Fiction was published. Entitled *Alpha Betah of Ben Sirá*, it was printed for the first time in Constantinople in 1519, became very popular, and was reprinted many times in the 16th century. Through this book's fascinating story and its social-historical context, glimpse one of the treasures among the more than one million collection items preserved on HUC's library shelves.

Presented by the Klau Library.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May Birthdays

Glenda Werbel	May 4
Bethany Silverman	May 9
Michael Adell	May 10
Joseph Rom	May 14
Chelsea Laing	May 19
Zachary Schafer	May 20
Marc Krasnick	May 21
Helen Goldman	May 26
Stephen Prosterman	May 28

May Anniversaries

Donald and Carolyn Pomeranz	May 15
Michael and Nadia Adell	May 19



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

Week of May 1-6

Ramah Benlisa Cohen, Zipporah Cohen, Natalie Cohn, Elaine Matt Davis, Rabbi David J. Forman
Mollie Greenberg, Dorothy Gruber, Rachel J. Henrique Moron, Jonas Kaufman, Frances Kessler
Irving Lentnek, Isaac Herman Levi, Mordecai Levin, Morris Levin, Hattie Livinson, Aaron Mathias
Jacob Paiewonsky, Isaac Petit, Grace de Pinna, Isaac A. Sasso, Salomon Schuster, Philip Singer
Reba Singer, Esther Valencia

Week of May 7-13

Batia Abadi, George Ackerman, Eitan Avigdor, Issac Fonseca Brandao, Irving Cairo, James Clayton
Rachel Antoinette da Costa, Moses Osorio deCastro, Millie Deich, Abigail Campos Deleon, Robert Galvin
Gertrude Mandel Gentry, Samuel Gordon, Larry Hall, Morris Halperin, Rose Herstik, Herman " Jesse" Jesner
Frances Kahalas, Caroline Kimelman, Morris Klaiman, Jacob Alfred Lev, Moses Levy, Ribca Mansana
Louis Meyer, Samuel Louis Monsanto, Rebecca Mendez Monsanto, Sarah Henriques Moron
Ethel Rachel Paiewonsky, Leonard Jay Reade, Grace Athias Robles, Charles Solomon Schafer
Abraham Haim Semach, Louis Slomovitz, Bernard Smollett, Israel Zerppert, Irene S. Zweigenhaft

Week of May 14-20

Ribca Abrams, Isaac Athias, Eva Becker, Esther D'Azevedo, Jacob de Meza, Esther Delvalle
Rachel Lopez Dubec, Jeffery Ted Feldman, Harry Gould, Anna Heller, Elliott Louis Hyman, Eleanora Jacobs
Joshua L. Levin, Robert J. Light, Samuel Louis Lopes, Rachel Levy Maduro, Samuel Levy Maduro
Sarah Meriam Naar, Elkah Cohen Pereira, Emma Rosenbaum, Mollie Werbel

Week of May 21-27

Rebecca Deleon Abendanone, David Abrams, Ephraim Athias Robles, Arlen Brodsky, Isaac Ernest D.Sasso
David de Meza, Rosabel de Meza, Dee Doris Greene, Rebecca Popotte Henriquez, Isaack Kriegel
George Daniel Levi, Zelda LeVine Levitan, Mordecai Levy Maduro, Jeosuah M. Piza, Jacob Pomeranz
Katherine D. Prior, Ronald Reckseit, George Daniel Sasso, Karen Starr,
John Douglas Watson, Josephine Luna Wolff

Week of May 28-31

Hannah Baiz, Ira Joseph Barbash, Benjamin Bienvenisto, Haim Gabriel de Costa
Grace Cardoze Delvalle, Solomon J. Delvalle, Solomon Lopez Dubec, Richard Joel Friedman Mordecai
Garcias, Gertie Glazer, Louis Grosswirth, Deborah Pretto Henriquez, Solomon G. Jacobs
Margaret Kerwin Kirkland, Esther Levy, Walter John Maguire, Rachel Rodrigues
Jacob [unclear], Rachel Wolff



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

Week of May 1-6

Lazar Arber, David Auron, Esther Beck, Fred Bennett, Walter Birn, Ira Boyle, Abraham Cohen, Margaret Coupe Bertha Fleischer Louis Fleischer, Phil Frisch, Abraham Frumkin, Jerome Gaines, Robert Gardner Sr, Serena Gilbert Herbert Gluckson, Benjamin Goldstein, Sophie Gordon, Mollie Greenberg, Belle Kaufman, Anna Kertser, Gussie Leinoff, Max Linsky, Anna Lowitz Betty Miller, Lorraine Paker, Benjamin Raver, James Rogers, Leonard Sandel, Kamile Santana, Fred Schwartz Burton Sickerman, Edith Silver, Eleanor Simon, Adam Sollen, Marilyn Solomon, Irwin Sporn Alan Stolberg, Edwin Unger, Abraham Weintraub, June Willenz, Sara Wolf, Ernest Zimmermann

Week of May 7-13

Hilda Apple, Eunice Balas, Minnie Block, Florence Braverman, Albert Deixter, Janice Devore, Dr. Allen Edles, Milton Finkel Rose Finkelstein, Howard Garland, Leo Gelber, Matilde Glass, Doris Goldberg, Bernard Goldstein, Alegra Gozhluklu Charlotte Harley, Howard Heller, Frances Kahalas, Alan Kahn, Irving Kurcias, Myer Lawrence, Bernard Lenoff, Albert Levin Beatrice Lew, Irving Lubin, Joseph Meyer, Slotnick Mitchell, Max Muchnick, Pearl November, Herman Parker, Morris Peretz Irene Phindeman, Sandy Reiss, Herbert Rubinstein, Philip Sachs, Minnie Satinoff, Bob Savage, Ludwig Schwarz, Leonard Selig, Shirley Shaeval, Theresa Singer, Bella Solomon, Maurice Solomon, Louis Soupcoff, Shirley Steinbock Hannah Stern, Amy Tighe, Raymond Wax, Albert Wolfson

Week of May 14-20

Allen Altman, Jerome Aszkenas, Seymour Aszkenas, Gussie Barnett, Ernie Bennett, Frank Blumenthal, Etta Breitbart Lisbeth Brodie, Morris Browner, Lucy Casuto, Philip Eisenberg, Harry Farbman, Sylvia Feldman, Ben Fiterman, Marvin Fracter Albert Gentry, Francine Gerstman, Lorraine Glick, Evelyn Goldberg, Fay Goodman, Becky Greenberg, Irving Greenberg Muriel Greenberg, Irving Haimovitz, Anna Heller, Victoria Inga, Ida Iwrey, Philip Katz, Joseph Kessler, Mollie Leeb Marge Lefkowitz, Jack Levy, Irving Michaels, Joel Novick, Leonard Polansky, Gloria Pollock, Irving Querido Hanan Rosbruch, Elizabeth Rosenthal, Anna Sandler, Mollie Sayetta, Ruth Schneider, Marian Segal, Ida Shapiro Jacob Sobel Harvey Somach, Esther Sosland, Helene Spizz, Adam Stark, Harry Sternberg, Gregory Tutleman Gloria Vogelbaum, Marion Weiner, Betty Woldow, Ellen Zurbin

Week of May 21-27

Cynthia Altus, Ethel Auron, Maurice Baigelman, Ruth Bain, Roslyn Beale, Paul Carch, Sol Eisenberg, Sidney Feldman Howard Feldschneider, Evelyn Glass, Thomas Goodman, Sol Green, Rose Haimovitz, Perch Hankin, Myra Hersh Hyman Hirshhorn, Jennie Horowitz, Moss Jacobs, Rhoda Janov, William Kantor, Gertrude Kurzman, Helen Lewis Ethel Mandel, Mollie Michaels, JD Mooney, Helen Podolsky, Mildred Raskin, Edward Reish, Joseph Reiss Florence Ridzinski, Solomon Rosenberg, Netty Schapira, Pauline Silver, Martin Smith, Jack Tighe, Sander Tobias Abraham Tobol, Bertram Weiss, Doris Weiss, Ida Weiss, Lillian Zeleznik, Alice Zinn

Week of May 28-31

Irving Clamage, Jean Clamage, Nathan Dembo, Irene Eisenberg, Milton Finkel, Norma Gerson, Gertie Glazer Muriel Goldberg, Irving Green, Sylvia Grossman, Louis Grosswirth, Irwin Halpert, Henry Hayworth, Anne Howard Israel Kader Charles Kruvant, Murray Miller, Marion Neimkin, Max Slavin, Kenneth Sternberg, Jack Tzorfas Michael Varat, Philip Winick, Abraham Zweiback

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Listings will appear in our next bulletin!

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Discretionary Fund

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you!

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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
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Docent/Gift Shop Manager:	Agnes Rampino
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The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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