

The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION
OF ST THOMAS

AUGUST 2021

Contents

August Services and Programs.....	2
Message from Rabbi Feshbach.....	3-4
Vaccine Information and Expectation.....	5
Welcome to our High Holy Day Student Cantor.....	6
High Holy Day and Fall Festival Calendar.....	7
Selichot Program.....	8
Service of Selichot.....	9
Community Dinner for Rosh HaShanah.....	10
New Intro to Judaism class.....	11
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	12
For Those in Need of Healing.....	13
Yahrtzeits and Memorials.....	14-15
Chai Members, Donors and Friends.....	16-17
Board of Trustees.....	17

August Services and Programs

Parashat Re'eh **Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17**

- 6 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
Oneg Shabbat follows the service (LH)
- 7 Shabbat Morning Worship/Study, 10 AM
Sat <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Shoftim **Deuteronomy 16:18-21:29**

- 13 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri Congregant-led Service
Oneg Shabbat follows (Courtyard)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 14 No Shabbat Morning Worship/Study
Sat

Parashat Ki Tetzei **Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19**

- 20 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri Congregant-led Service
Oneg Shabbat follows (courtyard)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 21 No Shabbat Morning Worship/Study
Sat

Parashat Ki Tavo **Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19**

- 27 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Fri **Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days**
Special Oneg: Meet our HHDay Student Cantor Laynie Zell (LH)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 28 Shabbat Morning Worship/Study, 10 AM
Sat <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Selichot: A Service of Spirituality and Preparation

- 28 **Selichot Program: Footnote, 8:00 PM**
Sat **Lillienfeld Community House**
Havdalah and Candle-lit Service of Selichot, Sanctuary, 10:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Is It You or Is It Me?

Message from
Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



I know something of what it is like to hold an unpopular opinion, to rely on specialized news sources with their own agenda, to face the withering gaze and only sometimes unstated scorn of those with opposing views. After all, I am a Jew, and I am a Zionist.

These days, as a supporter of Israel, I find myself in arguments with people with whom I agree about pretty much all other issues.

These are my friends, these are allies, these are folks with whom I thought I shared values and a world-view. **Could it be that, when it comes to Israel, I am right, and all of them are wrong?**

I have thought about this question for a long time. And the answer, basically, is, well, yes.

But only because (ahem) my position is so nuanced, balanced, and reasonable!

This is not, actually, a column about Israel, but I will share for those who are interested that I am among what sometimes seems to be a shrinking cohort of pro-Israel, pro-peace, progressive and left-leaning Zionists. This is what used to be called Labor Zionism, I suppose, although that was always too narrow a term. And the nuances of what is going on in Israel is an appropriate topic, for another time.

For now, I raise this only to state that holding an unpopular opinion, based on your own silo or circle, your own bubble of sources, is not a crime. It is your right to do this.

Opinions about Israel may be heated and intense. Attitudes towards the pandemic, though, are an immediate threat. You are welcome to your own opinion -- up until the point when your attitude, and your actions, pose a danger to others.

We are at – no, we are far past that point now. We are all at real risk from the ignorance and defiance of some, based for too many on a warped view of an “American individualism” more committed to its fanatical view of freedom than to sanity, safety, responsibility or even morality.

I live in the United States Virgin Islands.

As of late July we rank fifth from last in the nation in vaccination rates -- above only Mississippi, Alabama, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, but worse than Wyoming, Louisiana and Arkansas.

As far as I can see, there are four different groups resistant or opposed to getting the vaccine. Not all of these are found in large numbers here, but the groups are 1) those who do not trust the government because of past lies and racist medical experimentation, 2) those who do not trust the government out of fear and political orientation, mostly on the right, 3) a certain strain of libertarians and 4) certain (left-leaning?) holistic health enthusiasts.

Continued on page 4

There is a great deal of baggage behind all these perspectives. But a healthy community can, somehow, sort out facts from fear, truth from fantasy, anger at the crimes of the past from the real needs of today.

Yes, racism is real, and colonialism is part of our history, and these islands have been treated with scorn. And yes, yes, experiments happened, and governments lied.

But in this case, the vaccinated are right, and the anti-vaxxers are wrong. And at this point, vaccine resistance is right up there with those who still believe that the earth is flat. It is demonstrably wrong, delusional, and dangerous.

We face a common foe. And this is not just a personal choice. In the end the unvaccinated put everyone else in harm's way again, incubators and breeding ground for a future variant, one less likely to be tamed by the shots in our arms we have now.

Do you want evidence of a miracle in our lives? These vaccines were... are... as close to a miracle as we can find right now.

You want to rely on prayer alone to keep you safe? Prayer can be powerful. But, come on. This is like the woman who prays to win the lottery. And God answers: "Lady, help me out here! Could you at least...you know... *buy a ticket?*"

From the time of the Talmud, comes the story of a man on a boat. In the middle of a voyage at sea, he takes out an ax, and begins hacking away at the wooden bottom of the boat directly under where he is sitting. Others rush up to him! They beg him to stop. "But why?" he asks.

"After all, this is my seat. You can't tell me what to do! I can do anything I want."

To those of us who live here, we are on the same island. Metaphorically, wherever we live, we are in the same boat. To get where we want, we have to go together. We have to teach, to show, to convince those with axes that all of us are affected by what any of us do. Or those who will not take care of themselves that if they are hurt then, that, too, may have an impact on others.

I am not speaking, here, of the right to bear arms. I am saying, rather, that it is right to bare arms.

May we all come through this, on the side of science and sanity and responsibility and, simply, knowing the difference, here, between what is wrong, and what is right.





Take your best shot
against COVID-19.

Get the Vaccine.

Book your appointment
today by phone or online

340.777.8227

vitema.vi.gov

Choose to be part
of a solution.

Get the Facts.

covid19usvi.com



The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas
welcomes visitors and we very much
appreciate your interest.

**During this pandemic,
we do expect anyone who visits
our historic Sanctuary to be masked,
and to be vaccinated
if eligible for the vaccines.**

(Children under 12 are welcome as well)



Welcome "back" to our High Holy Day Student Cantor, Sonya (Laynie) Zell

Laynie Zell was a wonderful presence with us during our High Holy Day services last year. And she has not yet been on island in person!



**We look ahead to
the High Holy Day Season in person this year
(although services will also be live-streamed).**

**And we are delighted to announce
that Laynie will be "returning" to us,
and continuing in her role as our
High Holy Day Student Cantor!**

Laynie will be on island, God willing,
from late August
(in time for Selichot,
on Saturday evening, August 28!)
through the day after Yom Kippur,
August 26-September 17.

**To all of us on island,
let's all do our part
to welcome her
here in person!**

**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 second 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!**

**Come meet Laynie Zell in person
for the first time at services on
Friday, August 27, 2021, at 6:30 PM,
and at a special Oneg Shabbat to
welcome her at Lilienfeld House
following that service!**

Yamim Nora'im (Days of Awe)

The High Holy Days and Fall Festivals 2021/5782

The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas (The St Thomas Synagogue)

Live, in person and also streamed. Zoom Info for almost all services:

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>, or use Mtg ID: 340 774 4312

Selichot: A Mystical Service of Spiritual Preparation:

Saturday evening, August 28, 2021,

Selichot Program/Film, 8:00 PM, Candle-lit Service, 10 PM



Rosh HaShanah

Erev Rosh HaShanah: Monday, September 6

Evening Service, 6:00 PM; Dinner follows the service

RSVP needed by August 26 to info@synagogue.vi or 340-774-4312



Rosh Hashanah Day: Tuesday, September 7

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 10:00 AM

Family Service and Story, Magens Bay Beach, 3:30 PM

Tashlich, Magens Bay Beach, 4:00 PM



Second Day Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, September 8

Rosh Hashanah Brunch and Chat

Location TBD, 10:30 AM



Yom Kippur

Kol Nidrei/Erev Yom Kippur: Wednesday evening, September 15

Kol Nidrei Service, 8:00 PM



Yom Kippur: Thursday, September 16

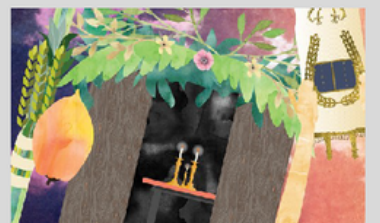
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10:00 AM

Family Service, 3:30 PM; Afternoon Service, 4:15 PM

Yizkor Memorial and Ne'ilah Services follow the Afternoon Service

Community Break Fast follows Nei'lah at approximately 7:00 PM

Fish/Dairy Pot Luck; RSVP by Sept.10 to info@synagogue.vi or 340-774-4312



Sukkot

Erev Sukkot: Monday evening, September 20

Erev Sukkot Service, 6:00 PM

First Day of Sukkot: Tuesday, September 21

Sukkot Festival Morning Service, 8:30 AM



Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah/Sh'mini Atzeret: Tuesday, September 28 (Reform)

Festival Morning and Yizkor Memorial Service, 8:30 AM

The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas, 2116 Crystal Gade (Synagogue Hill), St. Thomas, VI 00802;

Mailing Address: PO Box 266, St Thomas, VI 00804 Website: www.synagogue.vi.

For more information contact us at 340-774-4312 or info@synagogue.vi

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"THE FILM IS A HUMAN COMEDY THAT SPANS AND UNDERSTANDS THE GENERATIONS."

Time Magazine



FOOTNOTE

A FILM BY JOSEPH CEDAR

WESTEND FILMS, UNITED KING FILMS AND MOVIE PLUS PRESENT A FILM BY JOSEPH CEDAR "FOOTNOTE" SHLOMO BAR ABU LIDOR ASHKENAZI ALISA ROSEN ALMA ZAK MICAH LEWENSOHN
DANIEL MARKOVICH YUVAL SCHARF NEVO KIMCHI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY YARON SCHARF EDITOR EINAT GLASER ZARHIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARAD SAWAT MUSIC AMIT POZNANSKY
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THE FILM WAS PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF ISRAEL FILM FUND, JERUSALEM AND TELEVISION FUND, AVI CHAI FOUNDATION

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Saturday, August 28, 2021,

Lilienfeld Community House, Crystal Gade, 8 PM

The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas presents an island-screening of "*Footnote*," a multiple-award winning exploration of integrity, loyalty, rivalry and truth in the arcane world of academic research. The film is especially appropriate for teachers, students or anyone who has ever been part of a family!

The film will be followed by our powerful service of Selichot, a haunting, candle-lit introspective experience of preparation for the Jewish High Holy Days, in the sanctuary of the St Thomas Synagogue, at 10:00 PM

With questions or for more information contact us at
340-774-4312 or info@synagogue.vi

The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas
(The St Thomas Synagogue) invites you to

the mystical, magical, candle-lit

Service of Selichot

Saturday, August 28, 2021

("Selichot" means "forgiveness")

Forgive

We come together at **Lilienfeld Community House at 8:00 PM** for a screening of the amazing Israeli film *Footnote*, about family, integrity, loyalty and identity.

Following refreshments and a brief discussion we then enter into the....

Sanctuary of the Synagogue at 10:00 PM, as our teens lead us in the Havdalah ceremony marking the end of the Sabbath, bring the now white-robed Torah scrolls in to the Sanctuary, and we continue with the Service of Selichot. The service ends at around 11:15 PM with the final sound of the Shofar.

With questions or for more information: 340-774-4312 or info@synagogue.vi
The 10 PM service will be streamed on Zoom using Meeting ID 340 774 4312



The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas
Community Dinner for Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 6, 2021
following our Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Services begin in the Sanctuary
of the St Thomas Synagogue at 6:00 PM
Dinner at Lilienfeld Community House
follows immediately afterwards

After an unprecedented time of being apart,
join us for a communal coming together!

RSVP needed by Thursday, August 26
to 340-774-4312 or info@synagogue.vi.

No charge, but contributions and donations
are welcome and appreciated!



Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism

An introduction to philosophical ideas in Jewish peoplehood, practice, faith, and ethics based on Hartman Torah from the past four decades.

The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas
(The St Thomas Synagogue) presents:

An Introduction to Judaism

using a cutting-edge new curriculum from
the teachers and thinkers at The Shalom Hartman Institute

Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
By Zoom; possible physical location TBD

October 5: Being and Becoming (PEOPLEHOOD I)

October 12: Multiple Paths (PEOPLEHOOD II)

October 19: Pathways to Faith (FAITH I)

October 26: Trust and Risk (FAITH II)

November 2: Choice and Commandment (PRACTICE I)

November 9: Creation and Covenant (ETHICS I)

Taught by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

Cost: \$36/members of the congregation; \$54 all others

**Minimum advanced registration of ten (10) participants required
by September 30, 2021 to offer this class.**

For more information or to
register, contact us by phone
at 340-774-4312 or email at
info@synagogue.vi



מכון שאלום הרטמן
SHALOM HARTMAN
INSTITUTE

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays

Louise Fishman	August 1
Marilyn Blackhall	August 2
Edwin Schouchana	August 7
Lynn Kass	August 10
Louis Minion	August 10
Hannah Schafer	August 10
Martin Goldberg	August 19
Brook Robin	August 21
Jared Kass	August 23
Dyland Rosenberg	August 24
Todd Roskin	August 25
Jeffrey Weinberg	August 27
Trudie Prior	August 30
Luis Garriga	August 31
Jessica Paiewonsky	August 31
Dr. Bert Shapiro	August 31

August Anniversaries

Archie and Ella Ogden	August 2
Harvey and Glenda Werbel	August 6
Matt and Christine Krefetz	August 12
Rabbi Arthur and Linda Starr	August 15
Dr. Bert and Frances Shapiro	August 16
Diane and Marc Krasnick	August 20



רפואה שלימה

**A complete
recovery to:**



Robin Adler
Laurie Allen
Charles Arthur
Pauline Balsam
Amiel Cohen
Alfred Convissar
Quinn Copps
Damali Barnes-David
Dave Edwards
Yigal Ehrlich
Gina Talia Farahnick
Hank Feuerzeig
Neamah Fils
Marci Finkelstein
Paula Finkelstein
Julie Friedman
Dwight Gilbert
Suzi Grbinich
Marilyn Grishman
Elijah James
Amanda Bari Johnson
Violet Adelaide Johnson
Jay Kranitz
Helen Leneman
Sheri Levin
Linda Lewensohn
Sara Lovinger

Steven Markowitz
Siobhan McCourt
Tom McCoy
Catherine Lockhart Mills
Raymond Newton
James Nicholson
Maria Grace Nicholson
Rosa Pupko
Dorothy Ring
Steve Rockstein
Henia Rubins
Mary Sanchez
John Schenkel
Ruth Schloss
Maxine Shayna Stark
Bill Stein
Steve Steinberg
Robert Tunick
Rachel Wallace
Andrea Weibel
Mitch Weinberger
Rona Wolfson
David Alan Yoskowitz
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 August 1-5

Bernard Fenster, Betty Herter, Henry Haim Levi, David Levy, Levy "Daughter" Maduro
Rebecca Levy Maduro, Felix Numes, Deborah Olimpia Pereira, Jeremy Pinkerton
Becky Reiffel, Jerome (Jerry) Reisberg, Judah Sasso, Stillborn "female" Vallobre

Week of August 6-12

Joshua Benlisa, Louis Bernstein, Grace Clara de Castro, Abraham (Al) Gorin, Hannah Grosswirth
Morris A. Halman, Nathan Barned Joseph, Audrey Kessler, Elizabeth Levi, Jacob Henry Levi
Rachel Baiz Levi, Bruce Levin, Julia Levy, Hannah Hoheb Lindo, Grace Levy Maduro, Harold Monoson
Joshua Naar, Hannah Caroline Nones, Sarah Jessurun Pinto, Bernard Reckseit, Elisabeth Ringel
Jacob Athias Robles, Wilhelm Rosenbaum, Michael Rosenberg, Ruben Rosenthal, Moses Sasso
Gertrude Victoria Siggelkow, Eliza Gomez Silva, Hilda Skora

Week of August 13-19

Solomon Cortisso, Daniel de Castro, Samuel A. Feuerzeig, Alvin Goldstein
David Henriques, Esther Pretto Henriquez, Naphtaly Bar Jeudah, Jodi Hilda Kimelman
Julius Edgar Lilienfeld, Benjamin Hoheb Lindo, Sadie Maisler, Bessy Newman
Leah Orenstein, Mildred Pomeranz, Goldie Raye, Sarah Robles, Esther Robles Sasso

Week of August 20-31

Youssef Avigdor, David Herling, Julius Kushner, Freada Laing, Samuel List
Isadore Marcus, Harold Monoson, Abie Nathan, Noah Newman, Louis A. Peirez
James Daley Power, Evelyn Sandhaus, Dr. Robert I. Schwartz
Harry Shapiro, Samuel Siegel, Arnold Weinberg



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

Week of August 1-5

Joan Adoff, Howard Alderman, Louis Beck, Barry Bressler, Sadie Burke, Pearl Feinberg
David Goldstein, Lucy Goldstein, Pearl Grossman, Henrietta Guberman, William Herman
Sally Kodis, Beatrice Leland, Queenie Levy, Harvey Lichtenberg, Elliot Lipschutz, Sondra Lonstein
Cantor Murray Nixon, Dora Pardo, Robustino Ramus, Arthur Riesenfeld, Pauline Rose, Edna Rosenthal
Bella Rosman, Ruth Rubinstein, Philip Scheinin, Betty Schreiber, Larry Shapiro, Lillian Shulman
Rose Silver, Leonard Silverman, Barbara Wasserman, Seymour Wasserman, Bradley Woldow

Week of August 6-12

Martin Adelman, Norman Aflalo, Eve Aizenchtein, Carl Bach, Joe Bass, Donnette Bates
Martin Beale, Gerri Berkman, Sidney Bernstein, Edward Diskin, David Epstein, Hannah Fastlick
Rose Gelber, Samuel Gelman, Morris Goldberg, Dr. Irving Grenville, Ruth Harris, Rhoda Heller
Dora Horowitz, Rose Kanter, Myrna Kaufmann, Abe Kawer, Dorothy Kayner, Anne Kontner
Diane Lander, Joyce Lawrence, Aaron Lichtenberg, Dorothy Loeb, Dora Lubell, Joan Lynton
Karen Mallory, Rosalind Meyer, Robert Miller, Lena Moche, Jean Morris, Jean Noble, Ruby Orlan
Leroy Paget, Tom Perego, Gloria Perkin, Diane Pomper, Bertha Radbel, Max Ritter, Dora Rosen
Bessie Rosenberg, Milton Rudo, Roslind Rudo, Abraham Shapiro, Rose Slotnick, Victor Slotnick
Mildred Spector, Nathan Spiegel, Ralph Weber, Sandra Zales, Philip Zimmerman

Week of August 13-19

Frank Ardoin, Aaron Barnett, Solika Benlolo, Gussie Berman, Frances Bernstein, Morty Bromberg
Max Brown, Barbara Carmichael, Beatrice Cohen, Jeannette Cohn, Shirley Davidson
Helen Edles, Edythe Ellis, Marion Engel, Ruth Fein, Anthony Gennarelli, Ethel Goldman
Edith Goldstein, Herman Goodman, Dr. William Heine, Rosalyn Hirschfeld, Herman Katz
Samuel Kauffman, George Keller, Samuel Kessler, Sandra Komisar, Sandra Kopp, Robby Lalli
Percy Lehrer, Dorothy Levy, William Liedtke, Dorothy Mayerson, Rebecca Miller, Rosa Morenu
Laurel Reiss, Norman Rosiner, Emanuel Schwartz, Sylvia Schwartz, Shirley Shapiro, Henry Shulman
Lauren Silver, Herman Solomon, Leon Sporn, Yosef Waldman, Stewart Weiss

Week of August 20-31

Robyn Aaron, Julius Alterman, Hannah Aszkenas, Eleanor Baker, Sophie Bernstein, Abner Blumenfield
Grace Blumstein, Janet Bookspan, Gertrude Cohen, Irving Cohen, Max Cohen, Theodore Cohen
Max Dorfman, Joseph Ben Dovid, Ruby Ehr Gott, Florence Epstein, Sharon Fagin, Ira Farnell
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Miriam Levien, Sidney Levin, Arthur Levine, Sarah Levitt, Wilbur Lipsius, Sophie Mandel, Mildred Marks
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Thank
you!

Important Reminder

Please return your responses
for our annual Book of Remembrance
listings as soon as possible

Please be in touch with Stella Minion at
stella@synagogue.vi with any questions!



5782-2021



The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
הַחֵבְרִית הַיְּהוּדִית סְטִי תוֹמַס, אִי. וִירְגִין
The Holy Congregation of Blessing, Peace and Loving Deeds

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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
HHDAY Student Cantor	Laynie Zell
Administrator:	Stella Minion
Administrative Assistant:	Michelle Barnes
Docent/Gift Shop Manager:	Agnes Rampino
Custodian:	Michael Fuertes

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

Physical Address: 2116 Crystal Gade, St. Thomas, VI 00802

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

340-774-4312, info@synagogue.vi