

The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION
OF ST THOMAS

DECEMBER 2021



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December Services and Programs

Parashat Miketz; Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Shabbat Chanukah

Genesis 41:1 - 44:17

- 3 **Night of a Thousand Menorahs,**
Fri Special Service for Shabbat and Chanukah

6:00 PM AST/5:00 PM EST

Each family should bring a menorah!

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

- 4 Shabbat Morning Study (Zoom only)

Sat 10:30 AM AST/9:30 AM EST

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Vayigash

Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

- 10 Erev Shabbat Service, 7:00 PM AST

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 43122

- 11 Shabbat Morning Study (Zoom only)

Sat 10:30 AM AST/ 9:30 AM EST

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Vayechi

Genesis 47:28-50:26

- 17 Erev Shabbat Service, 7:00 PM AST

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 43122

- 18 Shabbat Morning Study (Zoom only)

Sat 10:30 AM AST/ 9:30 AM EST

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Shemot

Exodus 1:1-6:1

- 20 **Weekday Morning Service, 10:30 AM**

Mon Bar Mitzvah of Obi Blumenfield (LCE)

- 23 **Weekday Morning Service, 10:30 AM**

Thu Bat Mitzvah of Adina Rose Uhl (LCE)

- 24 **Special Early Erev Shabbat Service,**

Fri 6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST)

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

- 25 No Shabbat Morning Study

Sat

Parashat Va'era

Exodus 6:2-9:35

- 28 **Weekday Morning Service, 10:30 AM**

Tue B'not Mitzvah of Ellie Berlin and
Madeline Kaizer (LCE)

- 29 **Weekday Morning Service, 10:30 AM**

Wed Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Max Goldberg (LCE)

- 31 **Champagne Shabbat**

Fri Special Early Erev Shabbat Service,
6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST)

Join us to toast out the year or bring a bubbly
drink to the Live Stream. Share hopes for
happiness and health in 2022!

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

- Jan 1 No Shabbat Morning Study

Sat

Appreciation and Dedication

Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



I write these words on the eve of a fairly rare confluence of celebrations. This year, the last day of an American holiday period coincides with the first night of a Jewish festival. This year, the Sunday evening of Thanksgiving weekend is the first night of Chanukah.

One holiday contains, in its name, the idea of appreciation. The other holiday, in translation, means “dedication.” And so, for now, I want to express appreciation, and gratitude, for the dedication of so many of you.

The time I have been in St. Thomas has been a period of trauma and disruption. The twin storms, our “Category 10” double hit of Irma and Maria, came just months after we moved here. And then came not a geographically isolated storm, but a global one, in the form of a pandemic which hit deeper, and is lasting longer, than almost anyone could have imagined.

I learned after Irma and Maria one ironic fact of life: despite physically living on a little rock in the middle of an ocean, metaphorically, at least – no one is an island.

From its creation in the waning years of the 18th century, through cycles of boom and bust, our Jewish community never has, truly, existed in isolation. We have grown from, contributed to, and basically survived all these years only through the interest, connections with and, really, support from all over the Jewish world. This was the case in our leanest years. It has been true over the past few decades, as we have come to serve as a “host” congregation, a home away from home in the beautiful Caribbean, to hundreds of destination weddings, *B’nai Mitzvah*, renewal ceremonies and even naming services for children. It was true after the storms, in the material and financial support which allowed us not only to replace physical objects, but also provide Shabbat and holiday meals for several years at no charge – and to lead five distribution drives of food and medicine in the hardest hit areas of the island, as well as delivering a hundred generators and other support to those in need.

And your support, your presence, literally your voices from all over the world sustain us now, through online learning and virtual services, even as we work our way back towards being together in person as well.

(continued on page 4)

These past two years have hit everyone hard. We have been challenged, and we have grown in what we offer, what we are able to accomplish, the ways we have found to continue to connect with you, and with each other.

We express our deep gratitude to those who have lent their energy and their resources to allow us to happen – donors who funded the streaming equipment, foundations and grants which help us move forward, government programs which enabled us to keep our team intact.

And to the very many of you who have supported us, whether through individual Chai membership or our Kol Nidrei campaign or other requests, all I can say, in as many ways as I can think of to say it, is: **thank you.** We truly would not be able to be here, as a beacon and ongoing link in a chain of the history of this particularly interesting Jewish story here, without what you have done.

And yet the challenge before us remains acute. The destination life cycle events, the weddings and b'nai mitzvah, and the ongoing cruise-ship and tourist traffic to our beautiful Sanctuary – and in our Gift Shop – are still a fraction of what they were, and what we need it to be to carry on.

And so, as we step into December, as I write this in between appreciation and dedication, I am going to do something I have rarely, if ever, done through this forum before. I am asking for your dedication, your support, once again.

If you are in a position where you can make year-end contributions to help our community, please do so. [Go to <https://synagogue.vi/general-donations-and-support/> for an easy way to do this. You can even check out our Gift Shop online, at <https://synagogue.vi/shop/>.]

We welcome – and we depend on – your energy, involvement and ideas. There are other ways to help as well. If you have time and expertise in communications, desktop publishing, or public relations, we could use your help. If you are interested in particular programs [music comes to mind at the moment, as does an ongoing need for maintenance and restoration in our museum and our historic cemeteries], please, please, let us know.

We need you. We need each other. And in return, I hope, may you have a sense – even if all you can contribute is presence and interest! – of the role you place in helping keep this Jewish story alive. Our hope, and our goal, is that we can play a role in strengthening your Jewish life and spiritual journey as well!

Dedication. *“Chanukat habayit,”* the consecration of our Jewish home. We give thanks, now, for all of you, and all of your interest and support.

May it be a time of healing, recovery, resilience, and the first steps in a vibrant renaissance, for you, and for us all. Happy Chanukah, and a happy secular new year of 2022.

WE MUST NEVER LOSE HOPE, NO MATTER WHAT!!

**Message from
Marilyn Blackhall,
President**



Chanukah is a celebration of miracles against all odds. A tiny vat of oil incredibly lasted eight full days. (Imagine a cellphone at one per cent battery lasting a week!)

That makes Chanukah a festival of hope. Even if the hope is only a glimmer, only a single candle burning brightly in a world that has suffered increasing darkness throughout the past two years. While the darkness persists, it is within each of us to increase the light in our lives, with every passing day, and help to brighten the light in the life of others. BUT...no matter what, we must never lose hope.

The commandment for Chanukah isn't just to light the candles, but to display them in the window, for everyone passing by to see. This allows us to remember the miracle and be inspired by our festival of hope, just as candles have the power to kindle other lights.

This year, the candles in the windows remind us more than ever of the power of hope. Eventually, the hours of daylight will get longer again and life will continue to become increasingly more "normal" (at least to the "new normal").

In the meantime, we always have candles to give light and warmth, no matter how dark it gets.

On behalf of the Board of the Hebrew Congregation, I would like to wish all Members, Chai Members, Contributors and Friends a joyous Chanukah and all the best for this season. Thank you for your continued generosity. We need your contributions more than ever as our expenses increase. We count on you to survive and to provide wonderful, streamed and live services, classes, charity to those in need, and so much more.

*The sentiments expressed in this article were gleaned from a variety of Rabbinic sources

Chanukah begins this year on Sunday night, November 28, 2021 with the lighting of the first candle. We come together as a community for several celebrations of the eight-day holiday. But Chanukah is basically a home-based observance. As evening falls, positioning our menorahs in a window if possible, so they can be seen from outside, we light, and recite the blessings below:

Chanukah Candle Blessings

From all of our leaders of the past, we learn what it means to be Jewish. This Chanukah, we dedicate our lives to God and our proud heritage of Judaism as we recite these blessings:



BARUCH atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav
v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

BLESSED are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

BARUCH atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu
bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

BLESSED are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

For first night only

BARUCH atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיְנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Spreading Light: Introduction to *The Judische Kulturbund Project*

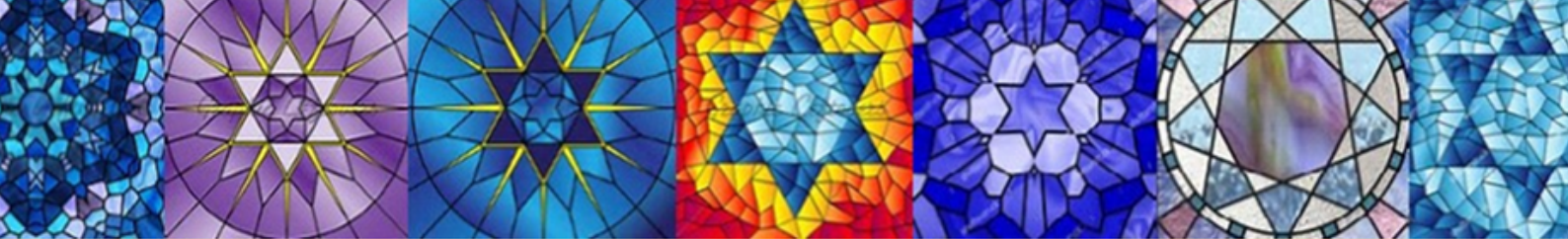
Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 6 PM AST

We come together at Lilienfeld House to light the menorah for the fourth night of Chanukah, and for a special evening of cultural education and social justice work. We hear from our member **Gail Prensky** about this special project, which responds to oppression wherever it is found through music and art. We will see the short films ***Shared Stories*** and ***I Am Peace***, and hear about ***Bullets to Books, a new initiative in South Sudan*** building bridges towards peace and unity through culture and education. We will also meet and hear from **Jok Abraham Thon**, founder of Promised Land Secondary School and partner of this initiative in South Sudan.

Partners in production of new JKP initiative, **The Song of Slavery**, include Tony Cohen and Maya Davis. Tony is an African American who has discovered Jewish roots - both Ashkenazi forebears and a Sephardic family line whose history includes the Virgin Islands. Tony founded the Underground Railroad Foundation, which is located in Maryland. Maya Davis' family goes back to the 1800s in Mosquito Bay, with a connection to the Moravian Church at Nisky. Her grandmother's great grandfather was Lionel Valdemar Roberts, a local legislator, cricketer, and journalist. The field in St. Thomas is named after him.

To learn more about
The Judische Kulturbund Project,
go to www.judischekulturbund.com/





Night of a Thousand Menorahs

Friday, December 3, 2021

A Chanukah Family Service , 6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST)

in person in the Sanctuary of The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas

and Streamed by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>

or use ID 340 774 4312. Or find us on Facebook or You Tube!

We ask those joining in person to be vaccinated (if eligible).

Bring your family Menorah for individual lighting!

Goodies, games, songs and celebration follows the service

during an expanded Oneg Shabbat at Lilienfeld Community House.

Latke Recipes,

Guide to Games,

and Chanukah Songs for

home celebration sent out

separately, or by request

to info@synagogue.vi



A PDF version of the service

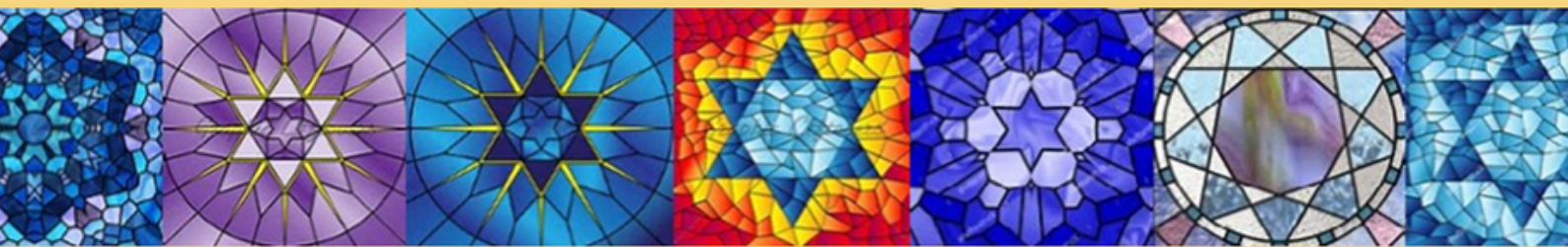
we will use that night


can be found at

[https://synagogue.vi/wp-content/](https://synagogue.vi/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Night-of-1000-Menorahs-2021.pdf)

[uploads/2021/11/Night-of-1000-](https://synagogue.vi/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Night-of-1000-Menorahs-2021.pdf)

[Menorahs-2021.pdf](https://synagogue.vi/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Night-of-1000-Menorahs-2021.pdf)





Family Fun and "the Full Menorah" Celebration for the last night of Chanukah

**Sunday, December 5, 2021,
3:00 PM-6:PM AST**

**A fun, family-friendly celebration and Pot Luck,
at the home of Neil and Trudie Prior!**

**RSVP by December 3 to info@synagogue.vi
or 340-774-4312 for directions and more information
and to let us know what you can bring.**

**This celebration is in person,
for those vaccinated if eligible.
It will not be streamed online.**

HAPPY

CHANUKAH

Light Up the Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jzh-TKzXN2k>

Maccabeats: A Hamilton Chanukah -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3UubcYj49k>

613: A Dfferent Hamilton Chanukah -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWcd-K8_X34

Peter, Paul & Mary: Light One Candle -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1cRXgDFiSs>

Adam Sandler's Chanukah Song -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KX5Z-HpHH9g>



Some Chanukah Music Videos

Two Very Special Erev Shabbat Services

Friday, December 24, 2021

"Erev Christmas" to our Neighbors
and Christian family members

**Our Erev Shabbat Service begins
that night at 6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST)
led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach
and Cantorial Soloist Talia Feshbach**

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Friday, December 31, 2021

"Champagne Shabbat"

6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST)

**led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach
and Cantorial Soloist Talia Feshbach**

Join us to toast out the year or
bring a bubbly drink to the Live Stream. Share
hopes for happiness and health in 2022!

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312





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

Friday, January 14, 2021, probably 6:30 PM AST

Save the date now for this special service.

**Because of ongoing concerns about public safety,
this service will, once again, be entirely online, on Zoom.**

**We are working with all high schools on St. Thomas and St. John to
continue this important tradition!**

More details to follow.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays

Alexandra Laing	Dec. 1
Mitchell Rieder	Dec. 1
Frances Rosenthal	Dec. 2
Rachel Rampino	Dec. 4
Agi Rampino	Dec. 6
Ryan Eilon	Dec. 11
Hank Feuerzeig	Dec. 12
Jordana Jacobs	Dec. 14
Joshua Jacobs	Dec. 14
Samuel Laing	Dec. 17
Henri Minion	Dec. 19
Owen Goldberg	Dec. 20
Ashley Reed	Dec. 24
Jennifer Reed	Dec. 24
Larry Goldman	Dec. 26
Carole Goldberg	Dec. 28
Andrea Goldberg	Dec. 29
Alan Friedman	Dec. 30
Andrea Leland	Dec. 31

December Anniversaries

Larry and Helen Goldman Dec. 27



רפואה שלימה

A complete
recovery to:



Robin Adler	Sara Lovinger
Laurie Allen	Steven Markowitz
Pauline Balsam	Siobhan McCourt
Alex Botros	Rabbi Shimon Moch
Vesta Budhu	Catherine Lockhart Mills
Amiel Cohen	Aparna Nagpal
Quinn Copps	James Nicholson
Damali Barnes-David	Maria Grace Nicholson
Dave Edwards	Emmanuelle Petillon
Yigal Ehrlich	Rosa Pupko
Gina Talia Farahnick	Dorothy Rin
Eugene Feinberg	Brook Robin
Neamah Fils	Steve Rockstein
Marci Finkelstein	Sandra Roland
Paula Finkelstein	Henia Rubins
Julie Friedman	Mary Sanchez
Lisa Anne Gaston	John Schenkel
Marilyn Grishman	Ruth Schloss
Kimberly Jackson	Maxine Shayna Stark
Amanda Bari Johnson	Bill Stein
Violet Adelaide Johnson	Steve Steinberg
Rachel Korazim	Robert Tunick
Darrell Koren	Andrea Weibel
Jay Kranitz	Rona Wolfson
Michael Krienik	Ben Yeatts-Lonske
Helen Leneman	David Alan Yoskowitz
Sheri Levin	
Linda Lewenshohn	
Ronnie Lockhart	

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 December 1-9

Anita Anton, Judy Brizzle, Mary Demetriff, Edith Echenberg, Judith Fields
Elliot Fishman, Manuel Goldman, Dora Gottenberg, Sidney K. Halpern, Charlotte Isaacs
Samuel J. Karlin, Stanley P. Lapin, Leah LeBlang, Hyman Livinson, Isidor Paiewonsky
Dorothy Schwimmer, Helen Sheftelman, Eva Geller Silverman, Steven Geller Silverman
Herb Stein, Charles J. Weiss, Sidney Werbel, Lisa E. Whitney

Week of December 10-16

Gussie Berner, Gladys Robles DeCastro, Max Geller, Florence Goldman
Hulda Paiewonsky, Leah S. Shein, Vera Srour, Frank Steiner
Belle M. Stern, Minnie Weinberger

Week of December 17-23

David Greenman, Abraham Heller, Bernice Hoffeld, Israel Levin, Romi Levine
Louis Richwerger, Gwenn Alyce Rosov, Douglas Sell, Hyman Shein, Arlene M. Turk
Lillian Weiss, Betty Wine, Cherie Young

Week of December 24-31

Ida M. Baum, Helen Bliss, Louis Fleishman, Adele Weiner Gordon, Irving M. Grishman, Nanci B. Margolis
Evelyn Migdal, Celia Minion, Kathie Prior Phillips, James Rosenthal, Helen Rothman, Jose Ruzansky
Maurice Leo Schwartz, Yosefa Shamir, Ben Slosky, Jack Soloway, Irving Sternberg, Doris R. Tunick
Jack Weinberger, William Zahler

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

Week of December 1-9

Bernard Abels, Robert Abrams, Eli Afalo, Kirit Alleyne, Jeffrey Askenas, Herman Berg, Raiza Berg, Irving Block
Simon Bookspan, Marion Breitstein, Daniel Chaifetz, Milton Chasin, Louis Cohen, Charles Dashe, Pauline Diskin
Birdie Epner, Avrum Fitch, Ellen Fitch, Matthew Fox, Louis Glick, Hannah Golderger, Ida Goldstein, Sol Goldstein
Adele Gordon, Estelle Green, Rose Green, Abraham Gross, Sonia Grossman, Nochem Guttenberg, Milton Hinden
Samuel Hoffman, Jeanette Israel, Herman Jaffe, Gisela Kestenbaum, Benjamin Klein, Henry Lang, Harry Lazare
David Lefkowitz, Jeanette Leibson, Sylvan Levitan, David Lewensohn, Hyman Libowsky, Herbert Lifland, Sol Lisitza
Margaret Menin, Renee Mirsky, Pamela Mitchell, Bessie Mittleman, Marie Morris, Sadie Nappen, Bessie Perlman
Thomas Price, Kathy Reidhaar, Theresa Reish, Marvin Ridzinski, Lillian Rosen, Hymen Rosenberg
Minnie Rosenblum, Morris Rosenthal, Howard Rosov, Ann Rubinstein, Harry Rubinstein, Maurice Rubner, Jacob Saltz
Leon Schaffer, Robert Segal, Gary Shapira, Harold Shapiro, Harry Shayman, Leopold Shevelev, Irving Shulman
Oscar Siegal, Edith Singer, Gussie Sinnreich, Robert Slan, David Sobel, Sam Soblick, Pincus Stahl MD
Milton Steinberg, Madi Taylor, Paul Wapner, Kate Weinstein, Bee Wolf, Emil Zagon

Week of December 10-16

Sarah Applebaum, Susan Beck, Rubin Block, Dooley Cohan, Esther Cohen, Morris Dreyfus, Esther Elzweig
Samuel Fisher, Mark Fitch, Michael Fleischer, Edith Freeman, Gertrude Frumkin, Emma Goldman, Anne Goldner
Frank Goldstein, Billie Greene, Lisa Guberman, George Holstein, Lola Kader, Louis Kanter, Benjamin Katz
Ruth Kobart, Harry Kornell, Claire Lang, Gertrude Lawrence, Jeanette Leibson, Joseph Levine, Samuel Levine
Shirley Mande, William Menin, Sam Neiberg, Harry Pierce, Herbert Posner, Sima Rittersky, Ernest Rosen
Dorothy Roth, Dorothy Saltiel, Maurice Schmerling, Lois Schur, Becky Sherman, Dorothy Shwadran, Hannah Sichel
Rabbi Simson, Sally Soblick, Sophia Sollen, Werner Spanier, Otto Spiegel, Leon Steinberg, Jack Sussman
Barney Woldow, Robert Woldow, Gabriel Wolf, Pauline Zeiger

Week of December 17-23

Lila Barth, Lina Benchimol, Emile Benlolo, Alan Bennett, Irene Blackburn, Joseph Blumenkehl, Esther Blumenthal
Martha Bookspan, D. L. Brechner, Jean Cohen, Marcia Day, Miriam Dembo, Herman Dorf, Bernard Dorfman
Miriam Dorfman, Mildred Feldman, Sophie Fishel, Beatrice Freedman, Abraham Freeman, Raymond Friedkin
Bernard Gordon, Samuel Gordon, M.D., Brandon Granek, Jennie Greenberg, Benjamin Gruberg, Maurice Hazen
Joseph Horowitz, Hyman Isaacson, Clifford Klein, Darlene Klein, Joseph Kohen, Sylvia Lefkowitz, Milton Levitz
Hester Liebman, Claire Lipschutz, Harvey Lipsitz, Elizabeth Manton, Elaine Mesnick, Abraham Miller, Samuel Miller
William Nathan, Bob Paris, Gladys Paris, Domino Perry, Murray Polner, Edward Port, Babe Resnic, Elaine Richman
Neil Robbins, Arnold Rodkin, Mildred Romanoff, George Rumelt, Frieda Schwartz, Lee Shapiro, Bessie Silverman
Kate Solomon, Jake Spector, Rubin Sporn, Norman Steinberg, Jacob Steindler, Akiva Stern, Ruth Stone, Philip Tuch
Jordan Walerstein, Jeanne Weisberg, Bernard Wolf, Charles Wolf

Week of December 24-31

Bessie Adoff, Harriet Aszkenas, Joseph Barisa, Carl Barov, Walter Berman, Leonard Black, Ray Blumenfeld
Ruth Bobrow, Evelyn Bressler, George Bressler, Dooley A. Cohan, Joel Cohen, Myron Cohen, Esther Davis
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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.

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Custodian:	Michael Fuertes

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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