

The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION
OF ST THOMAS

NOVEMBER 2021

Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| November Services and Programs..... | 2 |
| Message from the Rabbi..... | 3-4 |
| Message from the President..... | 5-6 |
| A Timely Note: About Service Times..... | 7 |
| Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism..... | 8 |
| Interfaith Thanksgiving Service..... | 9 |
| Chanukah 2021..... | 10 |
| Mazal Tov to Rebecca Grbinich..... | 11 |
| Birthdays and Anniversaries..... | 12 |
| Prayers for Healing..... | 13 |
| Yahrtzeits and Memorials..... | 14-15 |
| Donors, Supporters and Friends..... | 16-17 |
| Board of Trustees..... | 17 |
| Back Page..... | 18 |



November Services and Programs

Parashat Toledot Genesis 25:19- 28:9

- 5 Erev Shabbat Family Svc, 6:30 PM
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 6 Shabbat Morning Study (Zoom only), 10:00 AM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Vayetzai Genesis 28:10-32:3

- 12 Erev Shabbat Service, **7 PM AST/6 PM EST**
Fri <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 13 Zoom Study, **10:30 AM AST/9:30 AM EST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Parashat Vayishlach Genesis 32:4-36:43

- 19 Erev Shabbat Svc, 7 PM AST/6 PM EST
Fri **49th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Svc
with the St Thomas Reformed Church
held in the Hebrew Congregation Sanctuary**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 20 Zoom Study, 10:30 AM AST/9:30 AM EST
Sat <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Friday, November 19, 2021. 7:00 PM



For almost 50 years, The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas and the St Thomas Reformed Church have come together in friendship and fellowship, to observe the American holiday of Thanksgiving. We come together again this year - in person for those vaccinated (if eligible), in our Sanctuary, on Friday, November 19, although without our usual Reception after the service. See page nine below for more info.

Parashat Vayeshev Genesis 37:1-40:23

- 22 Weekday Morning Service, 10:30 AM AST
Mon Bat Mitzvah of Ava Wayne (LCE)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 23 Weekday Morning Service, 10:00 AM AST:
Tue Bar Mitzvah of Ryan LaForge (LCE),
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 26 Erev Shabbat Service, 7 PM AST/6 PM EST
Fri Service led by Katina Coulianos
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
- 27 No Shabbat Morning Worship or Study
Sat

Chanukah 2021/5782



Chanukah is "early" this year. The first candle is lit on the evening of **Sunday, November 28, 2021.** See page ten below for more information about our communal observances for Chanukah!

What Did You Say?

Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



I realized something very recently, which, perhaps, I should have known long ago. It is this: it can take a lot of work to figure out what someone is trying to say.

I have long had a sense, when watching films or TV series in Hebrew, with subtitles on at the same time, that the translation does not match the original. But I only understood just how big an issue this is when, in the past two months, I watched two series on Netflix – one in Arabic (*AlRawabi School for Girls*, set in Jordan), and the other in Turkish. In both cases, the shows were dubbed – but we had subtitles on also.

You would think the dubbing and the subtitles would match each other. Not even close. They were far apart – sometimes very, very far apart. It was two totally different scripts.

Which means that, when watching something in a language I do not understand, I really have no sense of how close what I am hearing is to what the author, and the actors, meant to convey. (The single best series I have seen in years, by the way, was the Korean program called *Crash Landed on You*. But I don't know if what I heard and what was said match up at all.)



As frustrating as it may be to realize this, what is even more of a shock is the reminder that... even when people speak the same language... we may not really be “hearing,” or “getting,” or “grasping” what it is they mean to say.

(Continued on page 4)

Our tradition has a "*berakha*," a special prayer to recite, on seeing a large gathering of people. The prayer praises God as "*chacham harazim*; the knower of secrets." Or, perhaps, the One who is "wise to our ways." God may know what is inside of each of us. But, at times, it seems like this is not something we really know about one another!

This month we celebrate the American holiday of Thanksgiving. It is a time of coming together, of family gatherings, and a celebration of the closeness of the loved ones in our lives.

As families gather, though, sometimes old patterns reemerge, or the predefined ways we see each other are reenforced.

This year, after so much "distance," after some of us have only seen each other as pixels on a screen, let us try to celebrate not just by breaking bread, and talking turkey –but by diving deep. Let us try to share something of what we truly cherish about each other, and be clear, and careful, to convey who we really are, and what is really important to each of us.

Watching a dubbed program, you can catch the fact that the sound we hear and the lips we see are out of alignment with each other.

In the words of another prayer, from the morning liturgy:

לְעוֹלָם יְהִי אָדָם יִרְאֵה שָׁמַיִם בְּסִתְרָה וּבְגָלוּי
וְדוֹבֵר אֱמֶת בְּלִבּוֹ , וּמוֹדֵה עַל הָאֱמֶת

*L'Olam Y'hei Adam Y'rei Shamayim B'seiter u'v'Galui,
v'Doveir Emet B'l'vavo, u'Modeh Al HaEmet*

Loosely translated, the words mean: "Always may a person revere what is real in private and in public, be honest with oneself, and speak the truth out loud."

In other words, we pray, every day, that who we are on the inside, and how we are heard on the outside, are the same.

May we be able to delve into the subtleties of the subtitles. May we be seen and heard as we wish to be and for who we are... and may we see and hear others for who they really are. And may we all be able to see the best in each other.





Thankfulness, A Perspective for our Lives

Message from
Marilyn Blackhall, President

To Congregants and Chai Members :

We will soon be celebrating the American holiday of Thanksgiving. Even though Thanksgiving is a secular holiday, the day is filled with religious ideals that are not specific to any religious tradition. It provides a really wonderful opportunity to observe the melding of Jewish and American values, customs, and practices. It also allows us to share our religious thoughts, not specific to any religion, with interfaith prayer and celebration.

On Friday, November 19th we will be celebrating Thanksgiving for the 49th year in a row, jointly, with our friends and neighbors from the historic Reformed Church. Annually, we alternate between the Synagogue and the Reformed Church for the location of the service, and we alternate clergy to provide the sermon. This year the service will be held in the Synagogue and one of the pastors from the church will deliver the sermon. It is a wonderful tradition creating an opportunity for religious tolerance and celebration as we express our **Thankfulness** together.

I look forward to our shared Thanksgiving service annually!!! This year because of all we have been through I began thinking and reading about the concept of **Thankfulness** and would like to share some of the thoughts that, together, we can bring with us to the service. .

Thankfulness is a perspective. The opposite of **Thankfulness** is complaint. We need to become part of an **anti-complaint movement** by developing a **Thankfulness** perspective. That clearly means no longer focusing on the cup being half empty, on trivial complaints in a restaurant that my soda didn't have ice, or enough ice or too much ice, our cell phones not being good enough, heavy delaying traffic, too much rain, or not enough croutons on our salad, someone being rude to us or even larger more critical issues.

No matter what we face, there so many far, far worse situations than ours in the world. There are people with no safe drinking water, people starving for lack of any food at all, drought, an absence of medical care, natural disasters such as volcanoes and earthquakes, etc. etc.

So, this year between now and the Thanksgiving holiday though many of us, our families and our friends have suffered through Covid and its life changing effects, financial challenges, deaths, illnesses and more, let's think about our blessings and focus on Thankfulness. Let's keep a list to continuously add to and read periodically to ourselves and at our Thanksgiving service bring that list with us.

During silent prayer, let us say "*Baruch attach Adonai*, Blessed are you God" ... and then fill in whatever we have to be thankful for on our lists. Things like our families, our friends, our food, our homes, our country, the State of Israel, our Synagogue, and all of the other myriad of blessings in our lives.

And let us leave the service with an aura of **Thankfulness** and face the Thanksgiving holiday with hope, remembrance, and thoughts of a new and better world that continuously changes as we grow and develop.

A Timely Note

about the timing of services

As the mainland "falls back" and returns to Standard Time on November 7, we return to the service schedule we used from November until April last year.

Beginning on November 12, most Friday night services will begin at 7 PM Atlantic Standard Time, 6 PM Eastern Standard.

**There will be some exceptions
for holidays
and special occasions!**

**We love bringing people together,
and we welcome everyone!
"See" you soon!**

**Saturday morning study, as of November 13,
will begin at 10:30 AM AST, 9:30 AM EST**



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

Two remaining classes:

November 2: Choice and Commandment (PRACTICE I)

November 9: Creation and Covenant (ETHICS I)

Taught by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

**To participate in the remaining classes
if you have not been to the previous sessions,
write us at info@synagogue.vi**

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

The 49th Annual Joint Thanksgiving Service

including prayers for Erev Shabbat/ Friday Evening
Friday, November 19, 2021, 7:00 PM

A Special Service
of spirit and strength, celebration and affirmation
in person, and also streamed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312>
or use Meeting ID 340 774 4312



The Hebrew Congregation of Saint Thomas
The Saint Thomas Reformed Church
held in the Sanctuary of the St Thomas Synagogue

Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach
Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Pastor Ben Rowe

Chanelle Schaffer,
Minister of Music and Arts

COVID protocols remain in place:

We welcome those in person who are vaccinated (if eligible);
the mask mandate for indoor gatherings is still in effect.

Because of the pandemic, we will not serve our usual reception
following the service, but look forward to a special celebration next year,
for the 50th joint gathering of our two congregations.

Chanukah 2021/5782

Three Special Chanukah Moments in early December

Spreading Light:

Introduction to *The Judische Kulturbund Project*

Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 6 PM

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.

Night of a Thousand Menorahs

Friday, December 3, 2021,

probably at 6:00 PM AST



Our special family service for Chanukah, in person and also streamed, in the Sanctuary, followed by an outdoor Oneg, songs and games at Lilienfeld House. **Each family should bring its own menorah, to light at the start of the service!**

Watch for more detail in the December *Hourglass*!

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,
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!

This celebration is in person, for those vaccinated if eligible.

It will not be streamed online.

Mazal Tov
to Rebecca Grbinich,
daughter of Suzi Grbinich



Rebecca Grbinich has been recognized by
MNADV, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence,
for her work as a Victim Advocate working with
JCADA, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse.

This award honors Rebecca
for her devotion, compassion and dedication
to uplifting and empowering the survivors she works with.

JCADA's clients have stated that Rebecca
has made them feel heard and valued with her help and support.

Rebecca lives in Washington, DC
but was born here on St. Thomas where she spent her early years.
Her Mom, Suzi, recently retired and "moved home."

We look forward to seeing Rebecca at synagogue
when she comes home to visit.

Mazal Tov, Rebecca!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Jared Falek | Nov. 8 |
| Roger Minkoff | Nov. 12 |
| Benjamin Friedman | Nov. 14 |
| Diane Krasnick | Nov. 15 |
| Steve Berlin | Nov. 16 |
| Cristina Friedman | Nov. 16 |
| Daniel Feshbach | Nov. 17 |
| Naomi Laing | Nov. 19 |
| Peter Rosen | Nov. 19 |
| Dorothy Isaacs | Nov. 20 |
| Lane Sell | Nov. 25 |
| Mark Isaacs | Nov. 26 |
| Bonnie Weinberg | Nov. 27 |
| GG Steiner | Nov. 29 |

November Anniversaries

Mitchell and Thuy Rieder Nov. 21



רפואה שלימה

A complete
recovery to:



Robin Adler
Laurie Allen
Pauline Balsam
Alex Botros
Alan Brostein
Amiel Cohen
Quinn Copps
Dave Edwards
Yigal Ehrlich
Gina Talia Farahnick
Neamah Fils
Marci Finkelstein
Paula Finkelstein
Julie Friedman
Lisa Ann Gaston
Marilyn Grishman
Kimberly Jackson
Amanda Bari Johnson
Violet Adelaide Johnson
Rachel Korazim
Darrell Koren
Jay Kranitz
Michael Krienik
Helen Leneman
Sheri Levin
Linda Lewensohn

Ronnie Lockhart
Sara Lovinger
Steven Markowitz
Tom McCoy
Siobhan McCourt
Rabbi Shimon Moch
Catherine Lockhart Mills
Aparna Nagpal
James Nicholson
Maria Grace Nicholson
Emmanuelle Petillon
Rosa Pupko
Dorothy Ring
Steve Rockstein
Sandra Roland
Henia Rubins
Mary Sanchez
John Schenkel
Ruth Schloss
Maxine Shayna Stark
Bill Stein
Steve Steinberg
Robert Tunick
Andrea Weibel
Rona Wolfson
Ben Yeatts-Lonske
David Alan Yoskowitz

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 November 1-11

Monroe Abrams, Howard Brandstatter, Mariette Itta Evelyn, Murray Friedland, Lilly Brust Gach
Hilda Goldberg, Elizabeth Gurewitz, Minnie Kaplan, Ambassador Henry Kimelman, Jacob(Jack)Leibowitz
Abraham Machover, Harry Mark, Joan Nelthropp, Gov. Ralph M. Paiewonsky, Pauline Rosen
Ralph E. Schneider, Irving S. Schwimmer, Ida Shapiro, Goldie Weinstein

Week of November 12-18

Louise Becker, Harold Borden, Miriam Brizdle, Roselyn Friedman, Hannah Halpern
Sigmund A. Kimelman, Jerome Krienik, Marat Portnov, Howard L. Rosov, Elias J. Weibel

Week of November 19-25

Ovadia Rahmin Avigdor, Max Becker, Rosalyn Berg, Lola Bookman, Peyser Cohen, Irving Grishman
George Horwitz, Maxwell S. Matt, Reuben Philip Orenstein, Josephine E. Pomeranz, Elaine Athias Robles
Rabbi Stephen Schafer, Frieda M. Schwartz, Barnett Tunick

Week of November 26-30

Philip Isaac Berman, Miriam Bloom, Raymond Camhi, Morris Fidanque De Castro
Leo Flashman, Sara Fox, Bebe Berner Grbinich, Daniel Lee Heftel, Norma Lenkowsky
Thelma Ruth Maguire, Beatrice Manck, Rebecca Paiewonsky, Theodore Tunick

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

Week of November 1-4

Simy Aflalo, Miriam Azer, Muriel Cutler, Nathan Ginsberg, Kay Goodman, Herbert Gordon, Simon Greenberg
Jacob Hubberman, Ivor Isakov, Morris Jacovsky, Rose Jaffe, Lily Kallins, Shirlee Kaplan, William Karol
Hilda Lerner, Laurie Levy, Melvin Lieber, Tamy Lipsius, Hughes Miller, Freda Mogul, Jerome Moskowitz
Albert Nappen, Ray Niedergang, Dorothy Niskar, Jacob Relkin, Sam Rosenberg, Martha Schaffer, Alice Scher
Dolores Schneider, William Schneider, Dolores Sobel, Perri Sova, Racheal Spizz, Jordan Testa, Bruce Zaktzer

Week of November 5-11

Clare Bennett, Jennie Bernstein, Pearl Bernstein, Sherry Blumenthal, Joyce Bronner, Myrna Ditcher, Barry Gelberg
Minnie Goldberg, Sol Goldberg, Yetta Goldberger, Bella Goodman, Marilyn Grob, Laurette Healy, Luce Henschel
Arthur Herman, Celia Hochman, David Jeffries, Mary Kassirer, Joseph Leinoff, Bessie Lewis, Barton Loeb, Holly Lowe
George Moskowitz, Frank Neuman, Anne Polinsky, Jennie Prenskey, Adele Ridner, Ettie Robinson, Mary Rosenberg
Morris Rosenberg, Luyba Rubinshteyn, Herbert Ruff, Raymond Russman, Andor Schafer, Noel Schmerman,
Harry Schneider, Joseph Shapiro, Florence Shear, Albert Solomon, Samuel Solomon, Reuben Spizz,
Philip Strauss, Sandy Swan, Lorraine Tilley, Ruth Unger, Louis Wohl, Shirley Young

Week of November 12-18

Sylvia Abramson, Rose Achtel, Sam Bartick, Morris Bellows, Ruth Bernstein, Mildred Breggar, Philip Cashman
Jules Charlowe, Robert Dolitsky, Lillian Dorfman, Sidney Dorfman, Ruth Epstein, Abraham Firestone,
Jack Forest, Paul Gerson, Solomon Gerson, Anna Gold, Edith Goldfarb, Sarah Herling, Harry Hochman,
Sylvia Ivey, Harold Jacobs, Elliot Kapstein, Steven Keene, Samuel Levin, Albert Lonstein, Miriam Marcus, Simon Maslan,
Alison Narvaez, Gert Noble, Sylvia Nochimson, Abraham Orlinsky, Louis Pinchuk,
Pauline Querido, Joseph Rosen, Anna Sandler, Rose Slan, Serena Taub, Soledad Weinberg, Dr.Zayne Wilk

Week of November 19-25

Jacob Axilbond, Harriet Berg, Charles Blumenkehl, Rosalyn Brickman, Estelle Chaifetz, Harvey Cutler, Joseph Dworman
Robert Einhorn, Sigfried Elias, Jack Engel, Estelle Faskow, Harry Feuerzeig, Richard Fink
Marvin Fleischer, George Fried, Blanche Goldstein, Ruth Hendler, Morris Herman, Stui Kalaminsky, Leo Kornblath
Bernard Kornell, Sylvia Kowalsky, Saia Kugler, Reva Lander, Bernice Lauwasser, Rebecca Leff, AnnMarie Lehn
Herman Levin, Abraham Mandel, Lena Mansky, James Nash, Abe Neiberg, Beatrice Nelson, William Orlan
Esther Ozsarfati, Frieda Padwo, Meyer Paker, Edith Pinchuk, Samuel Resnic, Joseph Rosen, George Salzman,
Selma Schneider, Faye Schwartz, Reuben Schwartz, Gary Solomon, Albert Tannenbaum
Hazel Tynes, Eve Volkman, Mary Wolf, Ray Zimmerman

Week of November 26-30

Betsy Abrams, Morris Azrolan, Anna Berkman, Adele Berlin, Alice Browdy, Esther Cohen, Myra Cohen, Scott Forest
Ray Garron, Sandy Green, Kenneth Grinspoon, Perry Jaffe, Abraham Kahalas, Abe Kay, Minnie Kegler
Betty Kohn, Rita Kupetzky, Norman Levin, Estelle Levy, Samuel Lewin, Rita Lifson, George Marks, Nathan Meister
Marilyn Paget, Helen Paradise, Beatrice Parker, Dr. Sidney Pestka, Dr.Stanley Reichman, Harvey Rosen
Phyllis Rosen, Marshall Silverman, Sydney Simon, Jeffrey Spears, Charlotte Sporn, Evelyn Troy
Nathan Volkman, Janet Weiss, James Wilson



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**Our sincere thanks and deep appreciation
to our many supporters.**

New Chai Members

Chinyere Amadi
Arnie Applebaum
Gwen Castanet
Gillian Earle
Beth Fein
Mark Kronemer
Leonard Shaffer
Jonathan and Amy Warner
Jay and Deborah Weinberger

Life Time Chai

Deborah Shalom

**With Special Thanks to
Donald Sussman**

Thank you all!

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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 |
| Administrative Assistant: | Michelle Barnes |
| Docent/Gift Shop Manager: | Agnes Rampino |
| Custodian: | Michael Fuertes |

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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