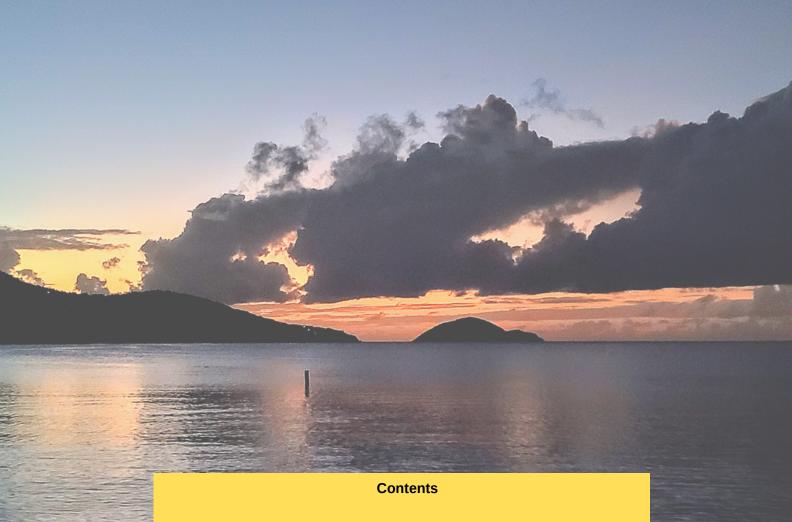
The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF
THE HEBREW CONGREGATION
OF ST THOMAS
JANUARY 2022



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January Services and Programs

Parashat Va'era Exodus 6:2-9:35		Parashat Beshalach (continued)
Special Champagne Shabbat 6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312	15 Sat	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
No Shabbat Morning Worship/Study		Shabbat Afternoon Service: Bar Mitzvah of Alex Harrison Mercer (LCE) 5:30 PM AST (4:30 PM EST)
Parashat Bo		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
EXOUUS 10.1-15.10		Tu B'Shevat
Erev Shabbat Service	16	Erev Tu'B;Shevat
6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/i/3407744312	Sun	See page 10, below.
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312		Parashat Yitro
		Exodus 18:1-20:23
Shabbat Morning Service:		
		Erev Shabbat Service: Special Torah Svc
	Fri	Reading of the Ten Commandments,
•		from our Sephardic Scroll;
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312		6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST)
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312
Darachat Pochalach/Shahhat Shira		Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
	22	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study,
LX0003 13.17-17.10		10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)
Annual Martin Luther King Service	Jac	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312
		Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
		Weeting 15. 5 to 77 1 1512
•		Parashat Mishpatim
Meeting ID: 340 774 4312		Exodus 21:1-24:18
Keynote Speaker: Del. Stacey Plaskett		
Presentation to MLK Award Winners	28	Erev Shabbat Service
See pages six and seven for more detail.	Fri	6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST)
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
7.M M +	22	
		Shabbat Morning Worship and Study,
	Sat	10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)
speaking to us with a prerecorded message.		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
	Special Champagne Shabbat 6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 No Shabbat Morning Worship/Study Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16 Erev Shabbat Service 6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Sheinbaum (LCE) 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 Parashat Beshalach/Shabbat Shira Exodus 13:17-17:16 Annual Martin Luther King Service, 6:30 PM PM AST (5:30 PM EST), ZOOM ONLY this year! https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 Keynote Speaker: Del. Stacey Plaskett Presentation to MLK Award Winners See pages six and seven for more detail. Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, who will be the keynote speaker at the Annual MLK Service, speaking to us with a	Special Champagne Shabbat 6:00 PM AST (5:00 PM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 No Shabbat Morning Worship/Study Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16 Erev Shabbat Service 6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Sheinbaum (LCE) 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 Parashat Beshalach/Shabbat Shira Exodus 13:17-17:16 22 Sat Annual Martin Luther King Service, 6:30 PM PM AST (5:30 PM EST), ZOOM ONLY this year! https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 Keynote Speaker: Del. Stacey Plaskett Presentation to MLK Award Winners See pages six and seven for more detail. Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, who will be the keynote speaker at the Annual MLK Service, speaking to us with a

Justice, Morality, Freedom A Trio of Themes for Friday Nights in January

Message from Rabbi Michael Feshbach



"When can we just have a 'regular' service?" That was the strange question I heard, in several "program" heavy congregations, from congregants already accustomed to coming every week.

What they meant was that synagogues can lean, sometimes heavily, on having something "extra" to "lure" people to services – a speaker, a theme, Sisterhood Shabbat, Scout Shabbat, Interfaith Thanksgiving.

This is a tradition I am comfortable with and have relied upon. I admit that it can go a bit far. I have never actually seen a "Mah-Jongg Shabbat" or a "Left-Handed Bowlers' Shabbat," but you get my drift.

In general, though, you know you have achieved some success in building a Jewish community when people say "how about Shabbat as a theme for Shabbat?"

In planning this next month's services, however, I am pleased to see a "theme" and "program" draw emerge. Following the First Friday Family-Style service on January 7, we have three Erev Shabbat services on themes of Justice, Morality and Freedom.

Please join us, in person or online, for:

The Pursuit of Justice Annual Service in Honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friday, January 14, 2022 Online Only

This is a special service at which we hear from and honor a selected student from every high school (public and private) on St. Thomas and St. John, who best represents the legacy of Martin Luther King. Our Keynote Speaker this year, in a prerecorded message specially for this online only service, is our territorial delegate, Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett.

(continued on page 4)

Message from the Rabbi

(continued from page 3)

The Foundation of Morality: Reading of the Ten Commandments Friday, January 21, 2022

Parashat Yitro, the Torah portion for this Shabbat, contains within it the Ten Commandments. We include this night a rare Friday evening Torah reading, using our Sephardic scroll, in the center of the congregation.

Repro Shabbat:

A Service in Support of Reproductive Freedom sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women Friday, January 28, 2022

Parashat Mishpatim, the portion for the last Shabbat in January, makes a very clear distinction between manslaughter and action which results in the loss of a pregnancy. Later writings show an understanding of challenges women face, and unmistakably favors the life of a woman over that of a fetus. And there are numerous situations in which termination of a pregnancy abortion is not merely permitted in Jewish law, but it is required!

Ending a pregnancy for reasons short of a threat to the life of the mother is a much more complicated question. Certainly, many Orthodox authorities permitted the procedure for a wide variety of reasons, over a long period of time. And, of course, in modern times, women and their partners might consult, but not feel bound by, the guidance of a religious tradition.

Whatever your own choices would be, or your own views on a controversial question, our tradition strongly recognizes that, on this issue, circumstances count. And once you concede that circumstances count, it anchors you in a certain place in today's heated conversation. It means that an absolute version of the so-called "pro-life" position would be a clear imposition of someone else's values and beliefs on our own.

We come together on the last Friday night in January, joining synagogues across the country, for the National Council of Jewish Women's "Repro Shabbat," in support of reproductive freedom and in defense of women's lives.

Happy (Secular) New Year!

Message from Marilyn Blackhall, President

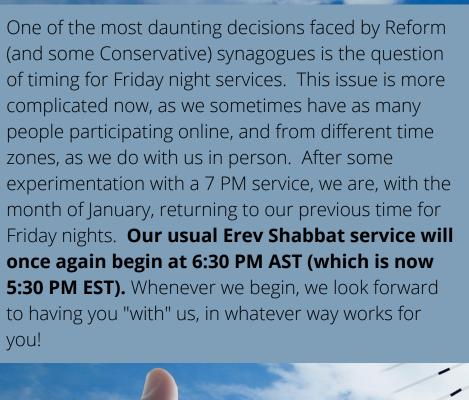


We as Jews are so fortunate to have two opportunities to mark the coming of a New Year. Each of the new year celebrations, Rosh Hashanah and the (Secular) New Year have significant different meanings and ways of commemorating them. But both are times when people celebrate the possibility of building a better tomorrow. And our world certainly needs a better tomorrow. As Covid cases increase, new variants take over, people still fighting the need for getting vaccinated, etc., I truly have no answers. How do we make the world a better place? except for each of us to do what we can to be safer, to care for others, to make charitable contributions, to move forward, and try to find ways to create happy moments with and for family, friends and our community.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and our Board of Directors, to once again thank our Members, our Chai Members, our Supporters, and our Friends. All of you who have contributed financially, have given of your time and energy to Synagogue matters, have attended services both live and via Zoom so we can be together, and have been a part of us this year are helping to keep us alive. And of course, our Rabbi and the staff "team", Stella, Agi, Michael and Michelle, without whom we could not exist, much appreciation and warm loving thoughts go your way from all of us. And let us all try to remember that it's not about WISHING for better things in the New Year but rather about CREATING better things in the new year. Cheers to 2022 and another chance for us to get it right. To learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow and look towards a world in which there are answers, solutions, and improvements.

So for this (secular) New Year I would simply like to ask each of us to put on a party hat, raise our Champagne glasses at midnight on December 31, 2021 with our loved ones and look towards a world that can provide answers, solutions and improvements

Timing of Services (Revisited)





Another pivot?

Is another pivot coming?

Are we looking at shutdowns and closures all over again?

We do not know what havoc Omicron will yet reap.

We are holding steady for now, but we are monitoring the numbers in the territory, recommendations of the CDC (which just indicated that people should not go on cruise ships)

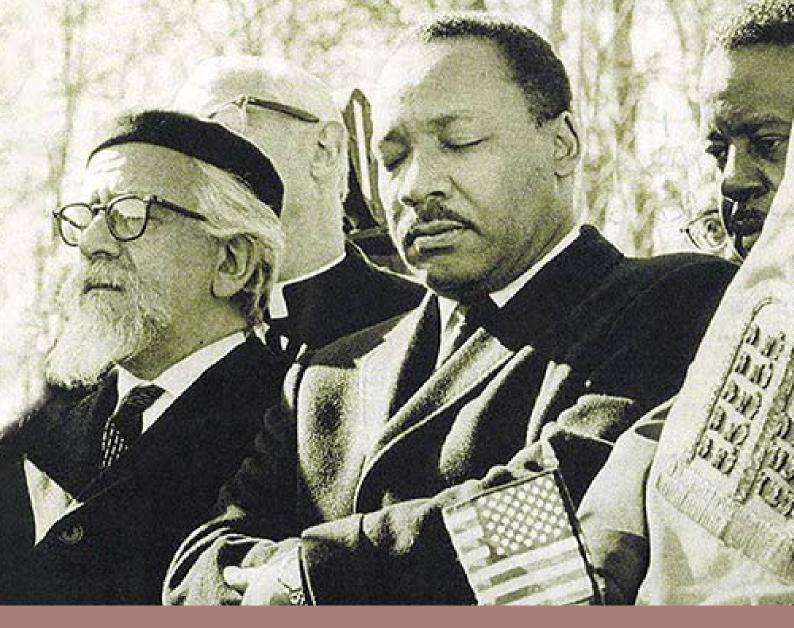
Watch our emails and announcements and Facebook page for the latest updates in synagogue activity, as we hope this latest, unwelcome wave passes swiftly, and without lasting harm.

and other metrics of safety, health and risk.



Most of all, stay healthy, safe, and well!

From the clergy, staff and leadership of The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas



The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas presents our

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

Friday, January 14, 2022, 6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 or Meeting ID: 340 774 4312 (This service is only online; it is not in person this year)

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett and our annual presentation of Scholarship Awards to a student from every high school on St Thomas and St John 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 14, 2022, 6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 or Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

This service is only online; it will not be held in person this year



Keynote Speaker: Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett



Our Delegate to Congress, Stacey Plaskett, returns to us this year! Long respected by anyone who knew her, Congresswoman Plaskett has become a nationally known, easily recognized and deeply admired figure since the first time she spoke with us as Keynote Speaker at our annual MLK Service in January, 2018. In numerous national and international media appearances over the past year, she has stood out for her grace, depth, wit and warmth. She represents our community, and our Virgin Islands, with passion and persistence. She frequently mentions our synagogue in speeches about the history and culture of the Virgin Islands. She will speak with us at this service in a pre-recorded message.

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 and St. John. These are students who demonstrate, through service and reflection, their commitment to the vision of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All Saints Cathedral School: Annadelle Brown

Antilles School: Araba Penn

Charlotte Amalie HS: Shaudae Richardson

Gifft Hill School: Jada Jn-Phillip
Ivanna Eudora Kean HS: Mariah Loo

Seventh Day Adventist School: Eden-Ahle Jania Baptiste Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School: Caleb Stadelman

VI Montessori School and Peter Gruber Int'l Academy: Gabriel Hess

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 Sunday night, January 16 and Monday, January 17 (MLK Day!)

It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'llanot (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.

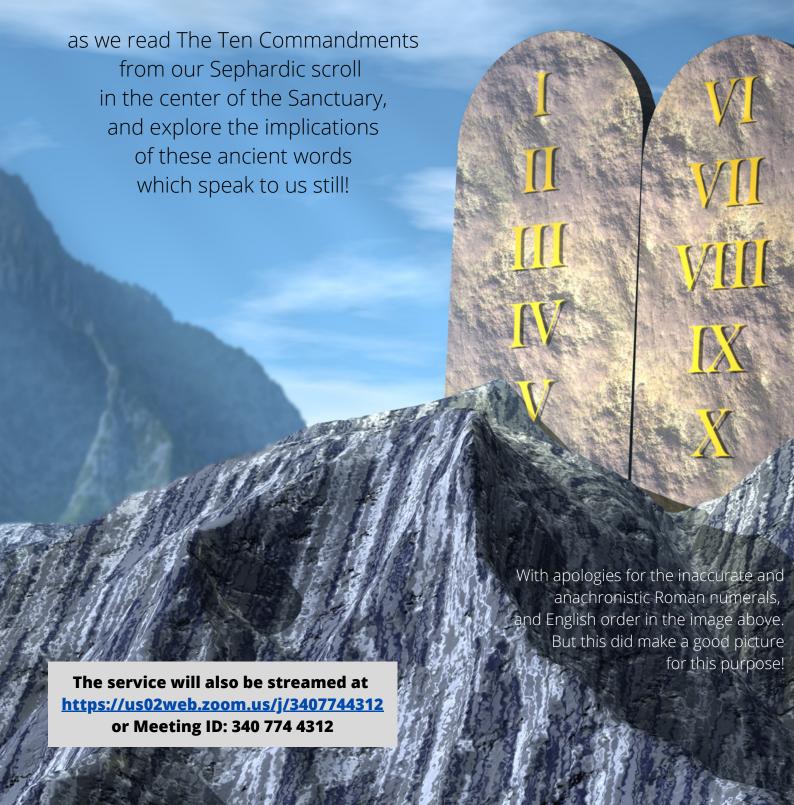
We will not be offering a Tu B'Shevat Seder this year.
But may you be able to enjoy the fruit of the season, wherever you live.
And may you take time to appreciate the natural world,
and the fragile planet which sustains us all,
at this season of awareness and
ecological appreciation.

The Ten Commandments

Are they, in fact, the foundations of Western morality? Is this a kind of universal law, or is that a misunderstanding? What were they, and what might they mean for us today?

Join us for a special Friday evening Torah service on

Friday, January 21, 2022 6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST)





Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

January Anniversaries

Michael Feshbach	January 1
Jacob Silverman	January 5
Daniel Seth Rom	January 7
Sharon Levin	January 8
Liam Chase Rosenthal	January 8
Jaci Silverberg	January 9
Mariah Prosterman	January 10
Richard Silver	January 10
Penny Feuerzeig	January 14
Nathan Rosenberg	January 16
Zendaya Newman	January 18
Stuart Wechter	January 20
Lennon Richman	January 21
David Goldberg	January 25
Adam Ackerman	January 31



רפואה שלימה

A complete recovery to:



Robin Adler

Laurie Allen

Pauline Balsam

Mark Borden

Alex Botros

Vesta Budhu

Amiel Cohen

Quinn Copps

Damali Barnes-David

Dave Edwards

Yigal Ehrlich

Gina Talia Farahnick

Neamah Fils

Marci Finkelstein

Paula Finkelstein

Julie Friedman

Marilyn Grishman

Kimberly Jackson

Amanda Bari Johnson

Violet Adelaide Johnson

Kim Kadingo

Elizabeth (Betsy) Kingery

Darrell Koren

Jay Kranitz

Michael Krienik

Helen Leneman

Sheri Levin

Linda Lewenshohn

Ronnie Lockhart

Sara Lovinger

Steven Markowitz

Siobhan McCourt

Rabbi Shimon Moch

Catherine Lockhart Mills

Aparna Nagpal

James Nicholson

Maria Grace Nicholson

Emmanuelle Petillon

Grace Poon

Mary Pupko

Rosa Pupko

Dorothy Rin

Brook Robin

Steve Rockstein

Henia Rubins

Mary Sanchez

John Schenkel

Ruth Schloss

Maxine Shayna Stark

Bill Stein

Steve Steinberg

Robert Tunick

Andrea Weibel

Rona Wolfson

David Alan Yoskowitz

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

Week of January 1-6

Selma Bradspies, Rodney Jones, Eva Gottfried Kaye, David Jonathan Kezner, Mark Klein Sarah Levitan Larie, Isaiah Pereira, Elijah E. Perlberg, Kathy Rosenthal, Ruzena Steglova Frank Steiner, Aron Tenenbaum, Mary Weintraub, Charles Young, David Zenchoff

Week of January 7-13

Bertha Becker, Sarah S. Becker, Meyer Davis, Sayde Jane Davis, John Finnimore Sylvia Greenwald, Sarah Kezner, George Klein, Harry Lobsenz, Gwendolyn Newman Nan Peirez, Lynn Rosenthal, Sally Solinger

Week of January 14-20

Andrew Bernsohn, Sylvia Cohen, Gene Feldman, Maurice Glazer, Miriam M. Gordon Janchel Groisman, Esther Gruber, Hannah Isaacson, Louis Kelemen, Florence Lapin Herman Lichstein, Harriet Mallin, Selma Minion, Anna Paiewonsky, E. Ray Pariser Erik K. Pedersen, Simon Shein, Aron Tennenhaus

Week of January 21-31

Lina Weinberg Bachrach, Helen Berlin, Sol Berman, Leonard Blazar
Sarah Becker Camhi, Arnold Carlin, Doreen Christensen Cole, Franzi Siggelkow Coulianos
Lafayette Dickerson, Ignaz Durr, Rochelle Ellick, Albert E. Frankel, Morris I. Gordon, Adam Jason Greenberg
Sanford Grishman, Renee Horowitz, Claire E. Klein, Fanny Kuperschmidt, Anna Lustig
Ann Manck, Ruzena Maxova, Enrique H. Moron, Phoebe Reckseit, Seymour Robinson, Aliya Robles
Samuel Schafer, Solomon Schouchana, Norma Schwartz, Melvin Shein, M.D., Harriet Siegel
Michael Silverman, Meyer Starr, Carol Weinberger, Walter Werbel, Rae Zucker, A.B."Twigs" Zweigenhaft

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

Week of January 1-6

Abraham Ast, Stanley Bangel, Joseph Barnett, Sam Benlolo, Susan Birn, Hyman Blum, Louis Bobrow, Rose Bodinger Sally Bohm, Benjamin Bolgla, Stanley Boyle, Caitlin Brown, Barney Chartor, Ethel Chase, Michael Chervony Robert Devore, Frances Eber, Lena Eisenberg, Baruch Epstein, Evelyn Feller, Regina Figowy, Dorothy Fletcher Bernie Friedkin, Fannie Fuchsman, Sidney Fuller, Bertram Fullman, Allan Garber, Ala Gertner, Frank Ghezzi Carol Gittess, Debbie Gutenplan, Marie Hack, Jake Heller, Charles Hirschfeld, Sadie Horn, Max Horwitz, Esther Jaffe Al Katz, David Kezner, Benjamin Klein, Alexander Leavitt, MD, Kurt Loewy, Simon Lubell, Nathan Lutzker, Rebeca Maza Sylvia Nash, Samuel Nattis, Irving Nelson, Lillian Resnikoff, Richard Richter, Leo Rosenberg, Gwenn Rosov Irving Schuster, Ellen Schwarz, Arnold Sherman, Morris Sherman, William Silverman, Ruth Sternberg, Edith Summer Jack Topkin, Benjamin Turk, Harold Walvisch, Isaac Weinberg, Esther Weingarten, Leona Wilk, James Woldow Joseph Wolpert, Elsie Woltz, Beatrice Yermanok, Seymour Zeleznik

Week of January 7-13

Norman Abel, Bella Bas Abraham, Earl Altman, Goldie Bershad, Anna Boyle, David Brill, Albert Chase, Lola Cohen Charles Devore, Jerome Dornfeld, Jennifer Forman, Beverly Gaines, Dr. Harvey Gilbert, Charles Ginsburg Peter Gold, Rae Goldberg, Edward Goldfeder, Isidor Goldstein, Sylvia Grant, Nathan Greenberg, Jeffrey Greenblatt Rebecca Grossman, Toba Harris, Veronica Heagen, Israel Isakov, Joseph Kahn, Fotios Karpousis, Rebecca Kolkin Dr. Abraham Langsam, Lee Lewitt, Paula Lifland, Rose Loewy, Albert Lonstein, David Marlowe, Debbie Marmer Sonia Mayers, Jack Melinger, Mollie Metz, Marci Newman, Naomi Ostrove, Hattie Ovetsky, Esther Patz, Vivian Pollack Harry Rodman, Leroy Rosenbaum, Andrew Ruben, Frances Saltz, Francis Saltz, Ruth Schimel, Ray Schindler Max Schwartz, Frank Seskin, Rudolph Slotnick, Marion Smith, Charles Stern, Shirley Tartak, Jerome Taylor Sheldon Wagner, Jerome Weiner, Sophie Weiner, Jonathan Weintraub, Robert Wunsch

Week of January 14-20

Milton Apple, Sarah Ast, Daniel Belenson, Arthur Berkley, Lorayne Brody, Milton Brown, Nuala Carragher
Howard Eckhaus, Ruth Fierberg, Irene Fink, Jack Finkelstein, Lila Fisher, Ruth Flicop, Lillian Fried, Carrie Fullman
Alice Holzer, Rose Inhaber, Minnie Keilin, Esther Korenge, Roselyn Korn, Alec Kornet, Stuart Letwat, Nathan Miller
Ann Muldorf, Minnie Orchovsky, Shirley Perry, Bernice Pestka, Max Pollock, Yetta Post, Beth Rice
Steven Rubenstein, Robert Rubinstein, Rachel Sandler, Sol Schindler, Helen Schwartz, Herman Siegle, Larry Silver
Helen Stein, Judith Stendig, Michael Toffel, Howard Wolf

Week of January 21-31

Rose Abramson, Wolf Amber, Michelle Baker, Norman Becker, Elsie Bennett, Leonard Berkman, Dr.Nathan Berlin Faye Bernstein, Lowery Bishop, Sam Blumenfeld, Hadassah Bogler, Jehoshua Bogler, Allen Brickman, Pearl Brill Lucille Brown, Harriette Brudner, David Callen, Henry Chakrin, Hertzl Cheifetz, Mary Chervony, Ethel Cohen Louis Cohn, Sherry Dosik, Millie Eisenberg, Margaret Fagenson, Robert Fink, Sam Fisher, Muriel Friedkin Frances Friedman, Sol Furman, Sophie Gertz, Mike Glasser, Louis Goldberg, Hortense Goldenberg, Joseph Greene David Groner, Rose Gross, Ray Heller, Ida Hochberg, Martin Hoffinger, Rosalyn W. Jones, Kayla Katz, Bertha Kawer Fern Keating, Bessie Kleid, Norma Kligman, Henry Kosterlitz, Rudolph Kronheim, Simon Kruger, Anthony Kurtz Harry Lefkoff, Irving Lerner, Esther Levin, Lisa Lobel, Morris London, Lillian Lorintz, Charles Martin Sonja Matos, Adolph Melasky, Sam Miller, Hilda Mirkin, Morris Mirkin, Esther Narrow, Marilyn Nochimson Eric Nussbaum, Janice Orbuch, Rose Parnis, Julius Perry, Tillie Pierce, Helaine Polansky, Morris Rosenzweig Saul Rudo, Ruth Saltzman, Irving Shechtman, Murray Sheffron, Albert Shipow, Elaine Singer, Matel Snitman Sidney Solomon, Zvi Spector, Gerald Starliper, Rosalie Sussman, Virginia Tannenbaum, Bella Tesher, Evelyn Torres Anna Turk, Bernad Turk, Jack Weinberger, Manuel Weinstein, Nathan Wicknin, Rosalyn Wolf, Helen Zeidman



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Prayer For Our Country At A Time of Trial

Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

edited and updated from a prayer 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 months and years
with our national institutions intact,
with our foundations of democracy holding firm,
with security and stability,
without violence, bloodshed and loss of life.

Source of Life, at a time of ongoing loss, a stubborn, persistent plague we cannot believe is still with us, 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.



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

Administrator Assistant: Michelle Barnes

Docent/Gift Shop Manager: Agnes Rampino

Custodian: Michael Fuertes

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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