The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF THE HEBREW CONCREGATION OF ST THOMAS MARCH 2022

Special Message: Ukraine and Us,

pages 11-12

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 - Service led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach and Cantorial Soloist Talia Feshbach Speaker: Professor Alexander Aleinikoff See page 6; Oneg Shabbat to follow.
- 5 Shabbat Morning Study (online only) Sat 10:30 AM AST (9:30 AM EST)

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12 No Shabbat Morning Worship and StudySat

Purim

- 16 Erev Purim (The Eve of Purim)
- Wed Pizza, Pastry, Purim Pool Party at the home of Rabbi Michael Feshbach and Julie Novick. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM See page 8 for details.

Parashat Tzav Leviticus 6:1-8:26

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- 21 Weekday Morning Service:
- Mon Bat Mitzvah of Sela Judith Rozov (LCE) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312
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 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312; Oneg Shabbat to follow
- 26 No Shabbat Morning Worship and Study Sat



The Most Important Part?

Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

Years ago, when I was an Assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton, the synagogue switchboard received the same inquiry, almost every Friday morning. "Who's preaching," the caller wanted to know... "and what's being served for Oneg."

The word "Oneg," which means "enjoyment," is shorthand for "Oneg Shabbat," the savoring of Shabbat, referring to the food/dessert and drinks after a Friday night service. (The equivalent term for food after a Shabbat morning service is Kiddush, using the term for the blessing over the wine as shorthand for the food/meal which follows.)

To the best of my recollection, the food at the Oneg at Beth El in Boca was the same, every Friday night.

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This is hard to admit. But it is probably true anyway: for all the work rabbis do in putting together a service, for the consideration of logistics and style, the crafting of a message, attention to the flow and the feeling in the Sanctuary... and for all the energy which cantors give, to lifting our spirit, sharing music which might move the soul, serving as a bridge between the sound of the past and the tastes of the present... for all of this, still, I think... the most important part of a service... is what takes place after it is over.

And here, I wish I meant reflection on the message, the meaning, letting the values of our ancient aspirations walk with us into the weekday world. But, no, what I mean, instead, is that the most important part of the service may well be... the Oneg, or the Kiddush.

Now, maybe those are some really good brownies. I have certainly had rugelach whose taste was so divine it almost changed my life (I'm looking at you, Marzipan Bakery in Jerusalem!) But here, the power not, actually, in the food. It is in the simple act of human connection. And that relationship building, that interaction is what has been so sorely curtailed during this long pandemic.

At first we tried, when services were streamed, to pull a Jackson Browne. "Won't you stay," we asked the participants "just a little bit longer." But there were meals to serve, and Zoom fatigue, and soon we faded from one another's screens. Then, as we returned in person, we tried to gather on the steps of our foyer – and found that people were crowding too close to one another.

It has felt, to me, as if something major was missing when, after services, we muttered a quick few blessings, and immediately went our separate ways. But, now, it seems, the surge may be passing, the numbers are lower, our need to connect is stronger... and it is time for our enforced separation to be put aside.

Beginning this Friday night, March 4, in addition to having a special speaker (see page 6), and the return (for two Friday nights) of my daughter, Talia, as our Cantorial Soloist (it is spring break at Bryn Mawr and Haverford College and she is back on island), **we are going to attempt to restore our Oneg Shabbat gathering.** This will be, at first, in the outside area at Lilienfeld House, in between the main building and the library. We will still be careful. But I believe that a return to breaking bread together, to hanging out with one another for even a short while, is a truly important part of our communal life.

Jews relate to Judaism in a variety of ways. Yes, it is true, Steinberg may go to shul (synagogue) to talk to God. But it is also true that Bergstein goes to shul... to talk to Steinberg. In our tradition, both of those are part of what we do, and why we are here.



RABBINIC SEARCH: SEEKING A NEW RABBI FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Message from Marilyn Blackhall, President



As you know, we are sadly losing Rabbi Feshbach who will be leaving our shores to become the rabbi of another congregation at the end of June. We are now in the midst of the challenging process of Rabbinic Search with the help and support of the Rabbinical Placement Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).

A diverse Rabbinic Search Committee of nine members was selected comprised of men and women of various age groups with short and long-term congregation membership, with and without children, single and married, etc. to interview and select a new Rabbi. Once the search is completed and a selection made, this selection will be brought to the Board for approval and then to the membership for an approval vote, as well.

We truly hope that our search will bring us a new spiritual leader who will continue to help us grow and flourish as we emerge from a very difficult period. Starting in 2017, after two hurricanes followed by the pandemic currently in our midst, we have been direly affected and challenged in many different ways. Yet we have worked diligently with Rabbi Feshbach to survive well, which we pray will continue to happen with a new Rabbi.

We will miss Rabbi Feshbach and all that he has brought to us and trust that he and his family will continue to be in touch and maintain our relationship. He has offered to help in any way possible, during and after our search, which we greatly appreciate.

The Rabbinic Search Committee is working on behalf of the entire congregation. Your thoughts, opinions, and ideas are all valuable to our work. They will help shape the next chapter in the Hebrew Congregation's long history. Please be in touch with me regarding any questions or input as we search for the best candidate to join our Hebrew Congregation Community.



Aaron Wolff: *Macher* and Master Roots, A Family Tree, and a Journey Into St Thomas' Jewish History

Erev Shabbat Services at The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas Friday, March 4, 2022 6:30 PM AST/5:30 PM EST

> Speaker: Professor Alexander Aleinikoff

In person, or streamed at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Professor T. Alexander Aleinikoff is University Professor and Director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at The New School. He served as United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees (2010-15) and was a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where he also served as Dean and Executive Vice President of Georgetown University. From 1994 to 1997, he held senior positions at the US Immigration and Naturalization Service. Prof. Aleinikoff taught at the University of Michigan Law School from 1981 to 1997.

Prof. Aleinikoff is the author of The Arc of Protection: Reforming the International Refugee Regime (with Leah Zamore; Stanford Univ. Press 2019), Semblances of Sovereignty: The Constitution, the State, and American Citizenship (Harvard Univ. Press 2002), and numerous articles on immigration and refugee law and constitutional law. He received a J.D. from the Yale Law School and a B.A. from Swarthmore College. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts of Sciences in 2014.

Visiting Cantorial Soloist



Join us for a Special Musical Shabbat

Friday, March 11, 2022 6:30 PM AST (5:30 PM EST)

for a service led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach Cantorial Soloist Talia Feshbach... and Visiting Musician Barbara Mazer, who services as co-Cantorial Soloist for Temple Beth El, St Petersburg, FL

Barbara Mazer is a classically trained soloist, music teacher and choir director. She has been a song leader and Cantorial Soloist since 1993. She has served a dozen Reform congregations and Jewish Community Centers in Nashville, St. Louis, Columbus, Tampa, Clearwater & St. Petersburg. During the day Barbara works for The Florida Orchestra, focusing on development and strategic planning, and more importantly, is the proud mom of two wonderful children!

This service is In person, or streamed at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Purim 5782/2022

with The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas

Erev Purim (The Eve of Purim) Pizza, Pastry and Purim Pool Party Wednesday, March 16, 2022

at the home of Rabbi Michael Feshbach and Julie Novick, 7730 Misgunst (13B Misgunst), across the street from "the Mafolie Church"

Hamentaschen Making/Baking,

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Pizza and Pool Party, 6:00 PM-6:45 PM

Informal Purim Service, Mini-Megillah Reading and Parody from the Past, 6:45 PM-7:30 PM

> RSVP by Friday, March 11 to <u>info@synagogue.vi</u> or 340-774-4312. This Purim observance is in person, and will not be streamed online.

Passover 2022

at The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas

Community Seder

for the First Night of Pesach

Friday, April 15, 2022 Lilienfeld Community House, beginning at 6:00 PM

Join us for a very special evening, with amazing food, a spirited Seder, and great company. Led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

Vaccination required; procedure for showing proof of vaccination to follow.

\$36 for members/children under 12: free
\$54 for visitors/children under 12: \$18
Please RSVP by Friday, April 8
to 340-774-4312 or info@synagogue.vi

Clergy Cook-Off: Matza Brei Like You've Never Had!

Saturday, April 16, 2022 Lilienfeld House, 9:00 AM, followed by

Pesach/Shabbat Festival Service

Saturday, April 16, 2022, Sanctuary, 10:30 AM

This will be our first community Seder since 2019, before the pandemic! Details may change if conditions warrant, but this is our current plan!

The Saturday morning service in the Sanctuary will be streamed; the Seder itself may not be.



There are four *mitzvot* (commandments) associated with the holiday of Purim.

1. *Mikra Megilla:* The Reading of the Scroll We are commanded to read/hear the Book of Esther on Purim.

2. Shlach Manos (or: Mishloach Manot): Giving of Gifts

Purim is the original gift-giving holiday of Judaism, not Chanukah. Today such gifts are usually baskets of candy and pastry, or fun trinkets.

3. Se'udah: A Festive Meal

We are Jews. There is a commandment to eat during most holidays!

4. Matanot L'Evyonim: Giving to the Poor

Tzedakah, giving — supporting those in need in our midst

Ukraine, and Us: A Statement by Rabbi Michael Feshbach

The names hit home as if it is an intimate tour of Jewish history, its creative heights and its catastrophic tragedies alike. Even to hear them awakens half-forgotten memories for many of us, an echo, a kind of resonance we thought we had left behind. *Chernobyl* (for Menachem Mendl, long before a nuclear power plant). *Berdichev* (Levi Yitzchak), *Mezhbizh. Ruzhin. Skver. Bratslav* where Reb Nachman of Bratslav was born), *Uman* (where he is buried), *Chortkov, Khotin* (where my father's family is from), *Kopczynitz. Odessa. Kyiv* (*Kiev*). *Lviv* (*Lvov*). *Crimea* (home to descendants of the Khazar kingdom, perhaps, as well as a large group of Karaites, and Turkic-speaking Krymchak Jews). *The Litvak-Galitzianer split*.

Jewish scholar Susannah Heschel, descendant of dozens of different Chasidic dynasties, writes that "I think I know more names of Ukrainian villages than names of American cities."

Creativity. But also catastrophe. The dark side, screams out of our worst nightmares. The *Khmelnytsy Uprising* (1648), the *Polodia pogroms*, the *Mariupol massacres*. *Babi Yar*, the memorial for which was just bombed by the Russian onslaught. And so many more.

So much Jewish life. So much Jewish blood spilled. And, yet, now: a Jewish president! A Jewish prime minister! A Jewish minister of defense. Unthinkable! Amazing! And, still, 40,000-200,000 Jews remain, if not more. At least before this latest war.

(To read more about the history of Jews in Ukraine, you can go to <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History of the Jews in Ukraine</u>)

continued on the next page

There are so many feelings: anger, astonishment, determination. Helplessness, and compassion. A desire to do something, to help.

What, then, can we do?

For now, there are numerous organizations offering aid within Ukraine, and to the refugees coming out of the country. There are those specifically aiding the Jewish community, Jewish relief agencies offering assistance to all in need, and general non-denominational aid agencies.

Here are a places to start:

• Ukraine Crisis Fund of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (the international umbrella organization of the Reform movement): https://wupj.org/give/ukraine/ [I made a donation here in the name of our congregation.]
• The Crisis In Ukraine Campaign of the Jewish Federations of North America: https://jewishfederations.org/crisis-in-ukraine2022 [I am about to make a contribution to this fund as well.]
• The Disaster Relief Hub of the Afya Foundation – an outstanding organization devoted to the delivery of medical supplies and other humanitarian relief:

https://afyafoundation.org/donate/ [They flew medicine and supplies in to St Thomas after the 2017 hurricanes. We have, personally, made a contribution here as well.]

These are places to start. I know the situation will change even in the time between when I write these words and when you read them. But the need, if anything, will only increase.

With prayer for peace – and determination to, somehow, lend a hand, hold on to hope, and fix even part of what is broken in the world around us.





Birthdays and Anniversaries

March Birthdays

March 8
March 8
March 9
March 18
March 25
March 26
March 26
March 28

March Anniversaries

Abe and Wendy Tarapani March 23



רפואה שלימה

A complete recovery to:

Laurie Allen **Pauline Balsam** Marc Blazar Alex Botros Jeff Chase **Amiel Cohen Quinn Copps Tom Craft Moises Cukier Allison Durst Dave Edwards Yigal Ehrlich Gina Talia Farahnick Paul Feuerzeia** Neamah Fils Marci Finkelstein Paula Finkelstein **Julie Friedman** Adela Gea Marian Goodman **Rick Gratch Marilyn Grishman Kimberly Jackson** Amanda Bari Johnson Violet Adelaide Johnson **Kim Kadingo Darell Koren Jay Kranitz Michael Krienik** Helen Leneman

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healing

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 March 1-10

Matthew Agurkis, Ben E. Bayne, Capt. Costas H. Coulianos, Harriet Fleishman Benjamin Goldberger, Sol Goldman, Erno Havas, Mabel Alfreda Johnson Raymond Newman III, Charlotte Paiewonsky, Zorah Paiewonsky, Samuel Rosenthal Rosa Schwartz, Lillian M. Stern, Roselle Jacobs Teperman, Emanuel Weinberger

Week of March 11-17

Amanda Davis, Frances C. Davis, James N. Davis, MD, Laura Fenster Mollie Glassman, Dr. Solomon Jollek, Dr. Herman Kaplan, Louis Kessler Edwin Lick, Alex Rabinowitz, Marie Dorethea Roberts, Nakiya Marie Roberts Leah Schouchana, Alan B. Schwartz, Kate M. Shpetner, Lewis Stern

Week of March 18-24

Moris Berner, Ruth Levenbook, MD, David C. Miller, Seema Judi Nagelberg Joel Michael Schafer, Harry Schwartz, Rabbi Theodore Tsuruoka, Louis Weinberg

Week of March 25-31

Michael E. Beck, Louis S. Borow, M.D, Margaret Cohen, Gladys Steinhoff Falek Earl W. Fleeger, Bernard Kaufman, Michael G. Mallin, Eric Munoz, Julius Roberts



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

Week of March 1-10

Norman Alter, Bette Austrian, Gerald Baker, Philip Bodinger, Ruth Borenstein, Cheryl Britt, Isaac Brown, Elliott Browner, Dorothy Chudnofsky, Irene Cohan, Ida Dashe, Bruce Davidson, Seymour Dolby Selma Fein, Iris Feldman, Helen Fierberg, Hyman Fox, Rosa Frank, Manny Goldblatt, Morris Green Donna Hillman, Ruth Hinden, Michael Hoffman, Szama Holand, Cis Hollenberg, David Jones
Goldie Kessler, Jennie Kessler, Tillie Kravitz, Herbert Kreiter, Beatrice Leavitt, Jacob Leff, Evelyn Levin Gussie Lewin, Anne Liberman, Diane Lichterman, Muriel Lubin, Michael Lustig, Romaine Menaker Charlotte Mills, Israel Mittleman, Miriam Novick, Phyllis Powell, William Ragless, Frances Randall Steven Robbins, Sally Rosenberg, David Rosman, Rose Rudberg, Nathan Schatz, Ellen Schindler Beatrice Schwartz, Pauline Selzer, Rosalynn Sherman, Benjamin Shwadran, Ida Silverman Florence Simon, Joseph Solomon, Isaac Troy, Daniel Wachtel, Bernice Weinstein, Doris Weiss Bernice Weinstein, Abraham Yermanok , Bruce Zoeller

Week of March 11-17

Iva Arnold, Esther Askenazi, Esther Berkovic, Aranka Bohm, David Brass, Esther Bromberg Leonard Buder, Irene Cohan, Dr. Jay Cowl, Leon Cutler, Harry Daneiko, Sydelle Darlow, Lillian Epstein Fred Feldman, Carolyn Finkelstein, Bernice Freedman, Max Freedman, Ruth Furrow, Joan Goldenberg Jack Goldner, Eva Granek, Harry Harris, Abraham Hendler, George Janov, Alvin Kaplan David Kestenbaum, Max Klein, Kate Lainof, Paul Leston, Saul Mayerson, Leona Ohringer Chester Parry, Joseph Perlov, Michele Plesser, Seymour Saltzman, Perry Schwartz, Helen Shapiro Samuel Singer, Daniel Snitman, Jilda Strauss, Sam Strauss, Toby Uris, Abraham Weingarten Howard Wolfson, Ruth Zagon

Week of March 18-24

Rudy Abraham, Lois Brechner, Marilyn Bressler, Seymour Bromberg, Marion Carch, Ruth Fuller Esther Goldblatt, Reynold Goldstein, Ruth Harrouch, Norman Howard, Henry Katz, Harold Levy Herman Lowitz, Esther Maletzky, Sonia Miller, Jack Nederman, Jacqueline Obstgarten, Janet Pace Edna Paget, Tully Plesser, Jerome Rose, Jerome J. Rose, Debra Rosen Nathan Rotfort, Audrey Rubner, Stanley Tuerk

Week of March 25-31

Harvey Ammerman, Murray Beck, Alfred Blatnikoff, Tillie Block, Rise Bressler, Bertha Cohen Sam Cohen, Ph.D., Robert Fein, Lawrence Fine, Gladys Fisher, Ruth Freedman, Goldie Goldstein Hyman Hochberg, Samuel Keene, Ida Kronheim, Arthur Lancaster, Anne Lefkoff, Felicia Levitt Bertha Lowe, Sidney Manton, Melissa Neier, Mildred Relkin, Beth Rosenblum, Anne Rotenberg Henry Saltiel, Shelly Sands, Anthony Saviano, Kitty Schildkraut, Alice Shein, Bernice Sherman Hy Sherman, Bennie Shulman, Joel Slavin, Jeanette Solomon, Harold Walerstein, Morris Wilk

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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: Administrator: Administrative Assistant: Docent/Gift Shop Manager: Custodian: Michael L. Feshbach Stella Minion Michelle Barnes Agnes Rampino 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