

April Services and Programs

Parashat Tazria/Rosh Chodesh Nisan Leviticus 12:1-13:59

1 Erev Shabbat Family Service, 6:30 PM

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

2 Shabbat Morning Torah Study,

Sat Online Only (by Zoom), 10:30 AM https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Special Presentation

6 A Jewish Gem in the Caribbean:

Wed A Virtual Tour and History of The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

See page eight for details.

Parashat Metzorah/ Shabbat HaGadol Leviticus 14:1-15:33

8 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM

Fri Service led by Katina Coulianos

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

9 No Shabbat Morning Worship and Study Sat

Pesach/Passover

15 First Night Community Seder

Fri Lilienfeld House, 6:00 PM

See details below, on page six.

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

16 First Morning Passover

Sat No Clergy Cookoff this year

Pesach Festival Morning Svc, 10:30 AM

Online Only, by Zoom, at our usual:

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

19 Pesach Cho HaMoed and Weekday

Tue Morning Service: B'not Mitzvah of
Morgan and Shelby York (LCE), 10:30 AM

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

Special Presentation

20 First-Hand Report on a Mission

Wed to Poland to Aid Ukrainian Refugees

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

See page nine for details.

22 Erev Shabbat and Concluding

Fri (Last Night) of Pesach Service, 6:30 PM

including Yizkor Memorial Prayers

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

23 No Shabbat Morning Worship and Study

Sat

Congregational Meeting

28 The Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Thu 7:00 PM, Lilienfeld Community House Details to come under separate cover.

Parashat Acharei Mot

Leviticus 16:1-18:30

29 Erev Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

including Yom HaShoah Holocaust

Memorial Observance

30 Shabbat Morning Torah Study,

Sat Online Only (by Zoom), 10:30 AM

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

Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

History and Power; Misdirection and Misinformation

Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



In 2010 we took what I consider, still, one of the most powerful trips in my family experience. We spent six weeks in Israel that summer - three weeks as I studied at the Shalom Hartman Institute for the first time, a week exploring with just my family, and then two weeks leading a congregational trip.

That summer was the first time I can recall having a GPS system that talked to us. And, in her British accent and weird mispronunciation of Hebrew street names, she really had quite an attitude. But I will never forget our then 9-year old daughters' unintentional pun in giving the contraption a name. The GPS, Talia declaried, was to be called "Miss Directions."

We got a lot of mileage out of that very apt name. For the moment, however, it is another lady of interest who holds my attention. I want to share with you some thoughts about Miss Information.

It is Nisan as I write these words, and teh story of Pesach is on our minds. There is a theme in the Exodus narrative which has always troubled me. It is the nature of Moses' demand of Pharoah, repeated several times in only slightly altered form. The request is not, always, "let my people go" -- to freedom, to our own lives, to our own land.

No, in fact fairly often, the request is more modest: let us go, a few days away... that we may worship our God in a way which does not offend Egyptian culture, and sensibilities!

At one point, Pharoah agrees: go, but only your men, and without the livestock and possessions you are asking to take. And Moses demurs, his bluff called - and announces yet another plague.

So what is going on here? The fact is: Moses is, well, um, lying. He is just not telling the truth about his intentions. And Pharoah knows that perfectly well. You say you want to just go daven off away somewhere? Fine! Go. But you're coming right back! Which, of course, was never the intention.

Moses, lying? I have always really disliked all that religious pre-Rennaisance Italian art, which depicted Biblical figures with halos around their heads. What Bible are these people reading? Jacob tricked his brother and deceived his father; Abraham and Isaac both passed their wives off as their sister; all in all there is rarely a wholly completely admirable figure in all of Scripture! Halos? Who are they kidding?

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To me,. the power of our tradition is precisely that a Divine plan and purpose unfolds through the lives of real human beings, flawed, stumbling, making mistakes -- and yet nevertheless able to serve a pattern of meaning and memory and holiness.

So Moses, on behalf of an enslaved people, confronting an absolute dictator who had declared a genocide against us...lied. So what? Misdirection, misinformation - is that not a morally justified tool used by the powerless and oppressed in all times and places?

And yet, now, a Big Lie continues to tear our country apart. And as war ravishes Europe once again... truth and accuracy and morality itself all seem to hang on who you hear, and where you get your information.

As "justified" as it might be to use misdirection if you are the party who is weak, or oppressed, as much as it has been a tool of the sidelined and powerless, perhaps, indeed, this is a time where we must be scrupulous in presenting what is factual, and accurate.

By the time you read these words I will be preparing for or on my way to Poland, with a group of Reform and progressive rabbis and cantors from North America, Israel and Europe. There, we will meet with Ukrainian refugees. (See page nine, below, for details of when I will report back on that trip.) We are going to Poland to bring aid, supplies, and funds. But we are also going to bring comfort... and to bear witness. There are too many lies around us now, far too much falsehood. It is time to hear the voices of the victims, to see the cost and consequences of misinformation, and to do what we can to bring a small measure of healing in a world filled with horror and hurt.

We live at a time of severe civil strife, and actual war - atrocious and blatant falsehoods thrown around easily in our own country, and atrocities uncovered every day overseas. It is a time, if ever there was, to engage in a renewed quest for common ground, an energetic return to accuracy.

We don't need an actual war to realize that we are very different from one another. But I hope we can return to an old adage which claims that we are each entitled to our own opinions - but we are not entitled to our own facts.

The Hebrew word for "truth" is "emet." It consists of the first, middle and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It may take looking at things from all angles... but we should be able to know that someday, and somehow, truth will come out.



A 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

> No Clergy Cook Off Breakfast this year... but we will come together online for a

Pesach/Shabbat Festival Service

Saturday, April 16, 2022, 10:30 AM https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3407744312 Meeting ID: 340 774 4312

This will be our first community Seder since 2019, before the pandemic!

Both the Seder and the Saturday morning service will be streamed at the link above.

M'chirat Chametz; "Selling" the Leaven in our Homes

In Jewish tradition, there are three basic commandments at the heart of the holiday of Pesach. We commanded to **1) Tell the Story** (which we do at the Seder).

- **2) Eat Matza** (technically we are only commanded to do this on the first night of the holiday) and, finally
- **3) To Not Eat** *Chametz* **for Seven Days** (*Chametz* is any food product made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt that has come into contact with water and been allowed to ferment and "rise.")

Reform rabbis rarely say "should" about ritual commandments, preferring to empower people to make their own choices.

I actually believe, however, that avoiding *chametz* for the week of Passover is a **unique and particularly important act in Jewish life.**

Although I observe a moderate level of the general dietary laws, it does not offend me when someone eats non-kosher food in front of me.

Bread during Passover is another story.

Putting leaven aside for a week is, traditionally, a core marker of Jewish identity.

For centuries, Jews who observed little else still did this.

The custom is an amazing opportunity for Spring Cleaning - especially now, this year, when so many of us are spending so much time at home!

And yet, while throwing out that which may be on the borderline of going bad is quite satisfying, and giving away some of our good food to those who need it is a worthy act, it is neither practical nor responsible to waste good food.

And so a custom has developed of simply setting aside some of the food which is not allowed during Passover, but not getting rid of it.

Except, technically, we are not allowed to "own" chametz during the holiday.

Here, the genius of Jewish law comes up with a "legal fiction" the act of symbolically selling what chametz may remain in our homes. Through various mechanisms, the food "reverts" to our possession after the holiday.

For any of you who would like to participate in, or perhaps "try on" this tradition, there is a form on the next page by which I would become your "agent" in this act, taking care of the sale for you.

However you observe the holiday, may it be fulfilling, happy -- and healthy and safe in this still very challenging year!



In one level of preparation, much of our *chametz* (food not acceptable during Pesach), or materials containing such unacceptable food – might be discarded or given away before the holiday begins. Any remaining *chametz* should be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday. Its actual ownership is transferred until the holiday ends.

Should you wish an "agent" in the fulfillment of this tradition, please complete the following form by Wednesday, April 13, 2022, and submit it, by email, directly to Rabbi Feshbach, at his synagogue email: rabbifeshbach@synagogue.vi. If you cannot cut and paste the language of the form, just submit the information requested below, adding a sentence that you agree to the language stated on the form.

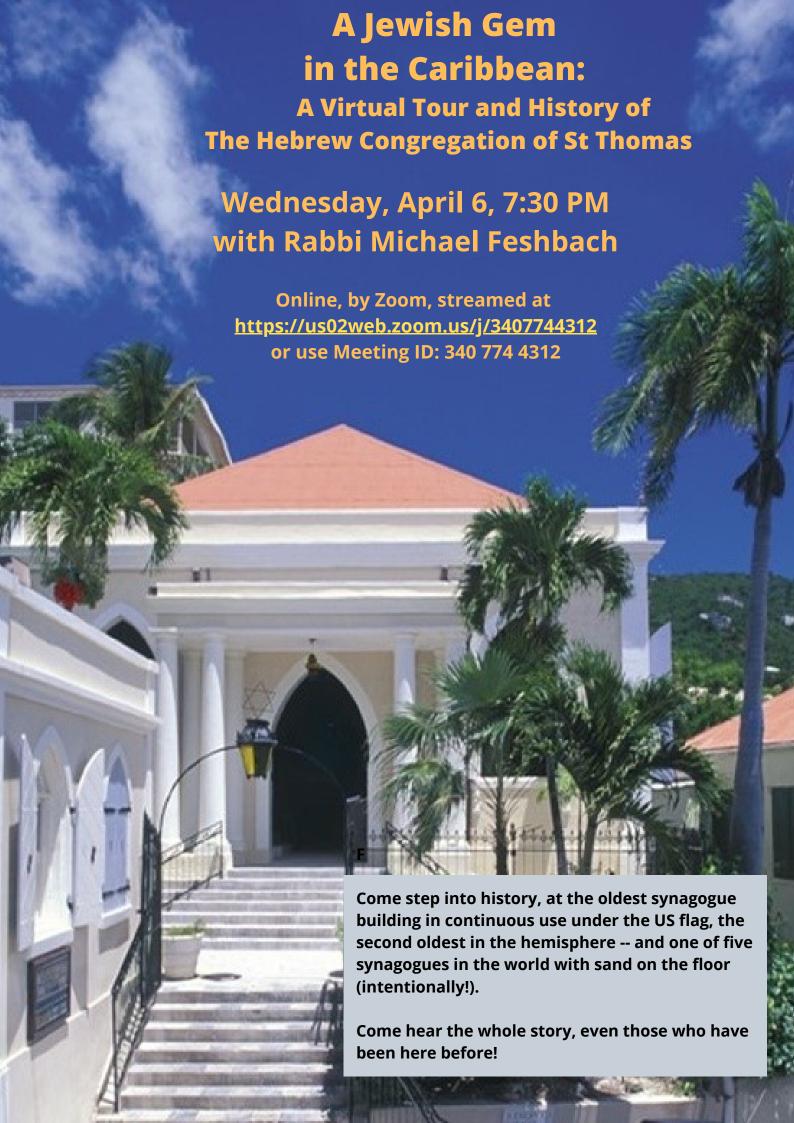
Form for the Selling of Chametz

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Michael Feshbach to act, in my behalf, to sell all *chametz* possessed by me – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein *chametz* owned by me and in my possession may be found.

This transaction will be in effect for the duration of Pesach, which this year begins with sundown on Friday, April 15, 2022, and runs through the end of the day on Friday, April 22, 2022 (if you observe seven days) or Saturday, April 23, 2022 (if you observe eight days).

Name:				
Address at w	hich <i>Chametz</i> is loca	ted:		
City:	State/	Territory:	Zip Code:	
Email:	Phone	e:		
Signed:		Date: _		_
	(E-signature welcome)			

It is traditional to consider a gift of *tzedakah* (charity) to the synagogue or to a local organization helping feed the hungry in conjunction with the assignment of this agency.





Special Report to The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas and any others who are interested

First-Hand Account of a Recent Journey of Progressive Rabbis to Assist Ukrainian Refugees

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 7:30 PM AST/EDT with Rabbi Michael Feshbach

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

We stand, perhaps, at an inflection point in history, an intersection of horror and hope. Now, in the midst of our holiday of redemption, come hear how we can best assist the newest exiles in Jewish history, those most in need and hear Rabbi Feshbach's reflections on his recent experience with a group of Reform rabbis and Jewish relief agencies bringing aid and comfort to those displaced by the worst violence in Europe since World War Two.



Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Martyr's and Heroes' Remembrance Day observed this year on Friday, April 29, 2022



If you have not already done so, send names of relatives who were lost in the Holocaust to us at info@synagogue.vi by April 26, 2022

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthday

April Anniversaries

Jesse Kass	April 2
Nina Schafer	April 3
Sunny Steinberg	April 5
Avna Cassinelli	April 8
Richard Newman	April 9
Michael Krienick	April 11
Suzi Grbinich	April 12
Arielle Rieder	April 14
Rabbi Stephen Moch	April 15
Elisabeth Goldberg	April 16
Eileen Berlin	April 17
Ashley Pomeranz	April 18
Christine Udycz	April 19
Morgan Rosenberg	April 30

Hank and Penny Feuerzeig April 8
Mark and Dorothy Isaacs April 8
Jeffrey and Bethany Silverman April 12



רפואה שלימה

A complete recovery to:



Laurie Allen Pauline Balsam Marc Blazar Alex Botros Amiel Cohen **Quinn Copps** Tom Craft Moises Cukier Judith DiDomenico **Allison Durst** Dave Edwards Yigal Ehrlich Gina Talia Farahnick Maria Ferraras Paul Feuerezeig 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 Darrell Koren Jay Kranitz Helen Leneman Sheri Levin

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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 April 1-7

Regina Abrams, Herman Braunsberg, Sarah Herling, Lena Kaplun Yetta Rock, Jane Rothbart, Harry Schwartz, Arthur Zucker

Week of April 8-14

Benjamin H. Becker, Muriel Mallin Berman, Nathan Buder, Rose Ellick, Zina Ida Gothelf Moshe Horwitz, Frances Kessler, Abraham Kezner, Sidney Krasnick, Dorothy Milburn Sylvia Oberweger, Norman Orenstein, Annette Perlberg, Helen Portnoy, Harry Slosky

Week of April 15-21

Rose Adel, Delmar Craft, Cornelle Dixon, Yetta Fixler, Sam Gruber Irene Kornblath, Marilyn Kreke, Lena B. Matt, Hanus Nettl

Week of April 22-30

Jayne Rein Abrams, Melvin Benson, Cornelle Dixon, Shirley Gorin, Ralph Gruber Morris Gurewitz, Lena Halperin, Harry Herstik, Elijah David Houston, Rita Jacobs Abraham Jaffee, Belle Jaffee, Anna Shapira Jollek, Marcus Jollek, Mordechai Jollek Sali Jollek, Claire Kantor, Murray King, Abraham Levin, Beatrice Lilienfeld Sida Jollek Lubianker, Robert John Maguire, Bertha Cardoze Osorio, Benjamin Schuster Chaim Leib Schuster, Gitel Weissman Schuster, Herschel Schuster, Rosa Schuster Vivienne Silver, Herman Simons, Helen Starr, Edward Teperman, Louis Tobin, M.D.



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

Week of April 1-7

Dr. Robert Aaron, Hannah Anihovsky, Fannie Axilbund, Peter Azer, Helen Barash, Mary Barov, George Black Clara Blumenfield, Milton Danzinger, Faith Diskin, Percy Dolgin, Samuel Feldman, Elaine Firstenbrg Harry Fonoroff, David Gabelman, Joan Ganz, Rosina Ghezzi, Beatrice Glaser, Frieda Glaser, Hugo Goldberger Jeffrey Goldberger, Frances Greenberg, Mary Greenberg, Morris Henechowicz, David Herling, Mary Iacabone Rose Jaffe, Bertha Katz, Anne Klein, Sarah Kramer, Jack Levitt, Allan Mayro, Milton Miller, Sidney Nulman Roman Ostashinski, Joseph Paverman, Susan Prince, Stanley Reiss, Gail Rider, Samuel Rider, Estelle Ring Sadelle Robinson, Dennis Rosenzweig, Solomon Rosenzweig, Lydia Rothschild, Beatrice Rubinstein Matilda Rudo, Lenny Schafer, Buffie Schafer, Morris Scher, Serena Sechy, Rose Skowron, Daniel Snitman Clara Solomon, Rose Solomon, Paul Stein, Esther Steinman, Shirley Sussman, Betty Taflin, Edgar Taub Robert Thrasher, Barry Trelisky, Donald Walgren, June Wapner, Arthur Widerman, Marilyn Willer

Week of April 8-14

Rosalia Bauch, Esther Berman, Naomi Berman, Harriet Bernstein, Susan Black, Sophie Bueno, Andre Cohen Herman Cohen, Walter Cooper, Pat Dellapi, Faith Diskin, Benjamin Elzweig, Joan Fabe, Phillip Feinberg Morris Fishman, Ilse Friedrichs, Milton Gimbel, Freda Goldman, Norman Goldstein, Yehuda Gozluklu Marvin Green, Channa Guttenberg, Joseph Haiman, Vin Harwell, Billy Iler, Sadie Levin, Ellis Liebman, Rose Like Allan Loren, Ida Mayro, Patricia Mayro, Irene Meister, Benjamin Mogul, Rae Muchnick, Marvin Nadel Benjamin Parnis, Blanche Paverman, Beryl Pell, Dr. Seymour Pollock, Rae Portnoy, Arlene Rodkin Bennett Rodkin, Ethel Rudman, Rosa Rudnet, Chanah Sager, Ely Schoendorf, Robert Sherman Samuel Slosman, Melvin Stein, Paul Tartak, Louis Vernick, Jeffrey Walerstein, Elizabeth Watchel Miriam Weber, Vicki Wess, Eric Willenz, Martin Yermanok, Philip Zell, Annette Zimmerman, Leo Zornow

Week of April 15-21

Harry Berkman, Rebecca Block, Herschel Bornstein, MD, Isadore Boyle, Rosalie Brand, Zelda Brandt Robert Burden, Lillian Cashman, William Cohen, Lawrence Epstein, William Feder, Gene Ferstenberg Sadie Firestone, Dora Friedel, Ephraim Friedman, Hedy Goldman, Joseph Goldman, Lillian Goldman Steven Green, David Harris, Joseph Harris, Sylvia Hartman, Lillian Herman, David Idelson, Clifford Jewell Leonard Kaplan, Joe Kashinejad, David Kolkin, Louis Kramer, Lillian Kurcias, Hyman Kurzman Richard LevittMaxine Levy, Moses Locker, George London, Sam Mansky, Stephanie Mizrachi, Herbert Mossett Barry Nederman, Maxwell Peel, Lorayne Peretz, Goldie Pollock, Martha Rosenberg, Marvin Ross Nina Rozenberg, Louis Rudman, Jerome Satin, Annie Scheinin, Nathan Schwartz, Lillian Sherman Philip Sherman, Irving Silver, Norma Silverman, Leah Sloven, Pearl Stein, Thelma Strauss Neil Trager, Sydelle Wax, Marilyn Wolfson

Week of April 22-30

Arthur Abramson, Harold Altus, Dr. Sol Austrian, Edna Axilbond, Gertrude Bach, Morris Beck, Doris Blumenkehl Patricia Bosecke, Solly Bromberg, Regina Cole, Ethel Davis, Max Davis, Bennie Deich, Bernice Dlatt Bertram Fagenson, Sarah Fisher, Richard Freedman, Florence Friedman, Walter Garrowny, Gertrude Gentry Samuel Gordon, Bernard Gourwitz, Ruth Groner, Mildred Halpern, Rose Herman, Mae Honigman Rose Kaminsky, Leona Karp, Sidney Katz, Harold Keene, Max Kleid, Dorothy Klein, Helen Laudon Joseph Letwat, Saul Lew, Florence Lipton, David Lutkoff, Alice Meyer, Tess Meyer, Charlotte Neiberg Evelyn Newman, Ruhama Nizri, Joe Orbuch, Judith Peel, Ralph Pfingst, Doris Praga, Stuart Rich, Ruth Rosen Mildred Rosenberg, Helen Samurin, Harry Sayetta, Bertha Schlefstein, Olga Schurmacher, Sandra Sickerman Nathan Steinhart, Mary Tannenbaum, Barachiah Thompson, Morris Varon, Esther Wasserman Calvin Weinstein, Bernard Wolfe, Ellen Wolman, Elmer Yavitz

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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

Administrator: Stella Minion

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The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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