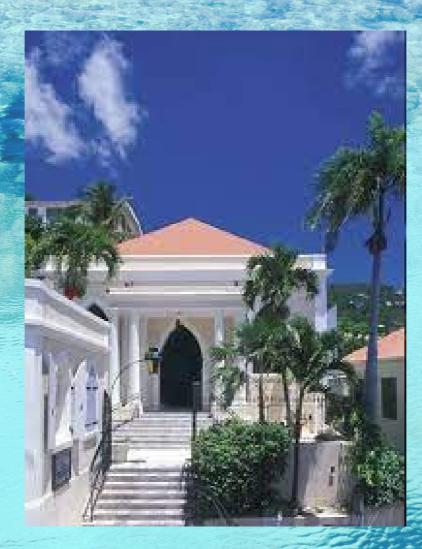
The Hourglass

BULLETIN OF THE HEBREW CONGREGATION OF ST THOMAS

AUGUST 2022



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<u>August Services and Programs</u>

Shabbat<u>H</u>azon - Parashah: Devarim (Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22) Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27

Friday, August 5 Erev Shabbat Services - 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 6 Torah Study and Shabbat Services - 10:30 AM Lilienfeld House

Sunday, August 7 Tish'a B'Av - Family Beach Art Activity Magens Bay - Shed 1 - 10:30 AM

Shabbat Na<u>h</u>amu -*Parashah: Va'et<u>h</u>annan (Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11)* Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26

> Friday, August 12 Erev Shabbat Services - 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 13 Torah Study and Shabbat Services - 10:30 AM Lilienfeld House

Parashah: Ekev (Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25) Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

Friday, August 20 Erev Shabbat Services - 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 21

Torah Study and Shabbat Services - 10:30 AM

Parashah: Re'eh (Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17, Numbers 28:9-15) Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24

> Friday, August 26 Erev Shabbat Services - 6:30 PM

Saturday, August 27

Torah Study and Shabbat Services - 10:30 PM

Message from Rabbi Shimon Moch



<u>Treating Needy Asylum Seekers as</u> <u>We Wanted and Needed to Be Treated</u>

Title 42 is a World War II-era policy that continues to be used to expel people at the U.S.-Mexico border without the opportunity to seek asylum. This policy prohibits most asylum seekers from exercising their legal right to ask for safety, and as a result, has helped to create a chaotic border situation and forced many into dangerous situations. Title 42 kept Jews out of the United States when they desperately sought to flee Hitler's effort to rid the world of Jews but it almost allowed Jewish refugees to settle temporarily here in the Virgin Islands.

Yes. the US Virgin Islands tried to accept Jewish refugees no one else would take. On Nov. 18, 1938, nine days after the attacks on Jews throughout Germany in what became known as Kristallnacht, the nascent Virgin Islands legislature that included our own Synagogue member, Ralph Paiewonsky, passed a measure unanimously that then Governor Lawrence W. Cramer ratified. It proclaimed that refugee peoples "shall find surcease from misfortune in the Virgin Islands of the United States."

United States Interior Secretary, Harold Ickes, attempted to help in this effort by circumventing the anti-Semitic State Department's opposition to accepting the refugees. Ickes resolved to provide a haven in the territories under his jurisdiction. The U.S. Virgin Islands with 130 square miles and a population of only 25,000 could easily accommodate tens of thousands of refugees.

Refugee quotas at that time meant refugees would have to wait years that they did not have until their number came up. Ickes and Cramer proposed temporary visas that would let people wait out the immigration-application process here in the islands. Legal battles ensued with opponents in the State Department which prevented the policy from taking effect. Then on Nov. 7, 1940, Governor Cramer signed a proclamation offering temporary haven in the U.S. Virgin Islands to those who could meet certain financial and security safeguards, including prior vetting by the State and Labor departments and by the White House. Interior Secretary Ickes issued a report declaring the decree "legally unassailable."

The decree lit a fire under Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long, a virulent anti-Semite, who wrote in his diary in 1938 that Hitler's "Mein Kampf" was "eloquent in opposition to Jewry and to Jews as exponents of Communism and chaos." Long had control of consular quotas and blocked even the small extant quotas for Jewish refugees.

He then complained about it to an irritated President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who in turn sent a memo to Ickes declaring that refugee matters were for him and the State Department to decide." Although he expressed sympathy for the refugees he could "not do anything which would conceivably hurt the future of present American citizens." He included the possibility that spies could be found among these refugees. Cramer continued to press the President but Long convinced Navy Secretary Kirk to declare the Virgin Islands a restricted area for military use, effectively eliminating Interior Department control and removing, as Long wrote in his diary on April 22, 1941, any "political questions involved in this refugee and undesirable citizen traffic." That ended a valiant attempt of the VI government to save Jewish refugees.

On September 18, 2011, The David S. Wyman Holocaust Institute for Holocaust Studies presented to our then Congressional Representative, Donna Christiansen, a plaque that says "to the Hon. Donna Christiansen with Gratitude for the Efforts by Governor Lawrence W. Cramer and the Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands To Help Rescue Jews from the Nazis. Representative Christiansen lent that plaque to the Synagogue. You can see it in the museum room behind the Synagogue.

Today similar attempts made to allow refugee status outside the actual borders of the United States are used to keep asylum seekers over the border in Mexico. Instead of finding a safe haven there while their status as an asylum seeker is approved in US immigration courts they suffer extortion and every sort of life threatening abuse at the hands of criminal predators. This World War II era policy now works not to help refugees but to expel people at the U.S.-Mexico border without any real opportunity to seek asylum and forces them into dangerous situations. This should not be how seeking asylum in the U.S. works. **Unfortunately, lawmakers from both political parties are working to pass legislation that would keep Title 42 in place for the foreseeable future.**

Hebrew Congregation Members and Chai Members wherever you live, please take time to call your Congressional Representative right away and ask them to stand up for asylum seekers. Make it clear that you support a safe and orderly and efficient asylum system and that people who are looking for safety have the right to ask for protection in the US.





With Challenge Comes Opportunity! Welcome to Rabbi Shimon Moch

Message from Marilyn Blackhall, President

While we continue the challenging search for a new permanent Rabbi, it is with great pride and pleasure that we welcome Rabbi Shimon Moch to the interim position of Rabbi of the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas.

Rabbi Moch is most definitely not a stranger to us. He was the Hebrew Congregation's permanent Rabbi beginning December 2008 and remained our Rabbi for 6 years, until 2014. Having recently retired, he graciously accepted our interim position and has hit the ground running. His ideas, energy, love for the congregation, and willingness to embrace all of our needs, along with his wonderful leadership of Friday night services has been a true blessing.

Rabbi Moch graduated from George Washington University, spending his junior year at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He received a master's degree from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion n Jerusalem and Cincinnati, and was later awarded his doctorate of divinity from the same institution after having completed 25 years of rabbinic service. He has served several congregations throughout his career in Guatemala, Florida, Arkansas, North Carolina, Illinois, the Caribbean, Canada, and South America, to name a few.

Rabbi Moch plans to have programs for children and adults and to provide opportunities for learning, and the spiritual enjoyment of our Judaism.

Let us join together in offering this blessing for Rabbi Moch:

May Torah and tradition continue to be a source of joy for Rabbi Moch and may he be blessed with insight and inspiration as he contributes to Jewish learning and practice. May he have the wisdom and compassion to teach and comfort those in need and may words of wisdom come from his lips and compassion fill his heart as we move together from strength to strength.





Don't spend Tish'a B'Av alone. Join Hebrew Congregation friends Sunday, August 7, 2022, 10:30 am At Magen's Bay Shed 1

In our lifetime, we have lived to see the rebirth and blossoming of the State of Israel, the third Jewish Commonwealth A new kind of spirit of Torah now goes forth from Zion It is time to CELEBRATE not mourn, time to FEAST not fast We celebrate what history deemed worthy to save and preserve from Jewish teaching and life.

What do we value, live and strive to pass on?

FAMILY BEACH ART ACTIVITY

We will create family or group collages that represent what we value. We will put them together to make a community collage. Bring ideas. What do you value from Jewish life? Bring food and fun activities for the beach.

High Holiday Schedule 5783-2022

Selihot: 9:00pm - 11:00pm, Sunday, August 28
Rosh Hashana Eve: 6:00pm, Sunday, September 25

Dinner following services in Lilienfeld House

Rosh Hashana Morning: 10:00am, Monday, September 26
RH Family Service & Tashlich: 3:30pm, Monday, September 26

at Magen's Bay - Shed (TBD)

Rosh Hashana 2nd Day: 10:00am, Tuesday, September 27
Brunch/discussion at the Home of Dorothy and Mark Isaacs
Yizkor Services at both Cemeteries: Sunday, October 2

9:00am at Savan followed by tour of grave markers
10:00am at Altona followed by tour of grave markers

If your loved ones are buried far away, you are welcome to come to one of our cemeteries for that Yizkor and to remember them on holy ground.

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre: 7:00pm, Tuesday, October 4 Yom Kippur Morning: 10:00am, Wednesday, October 5

Discussion: "The challenge of making things right" 1:00pm

Yom Kippur Afternoon Service: 4:00pm Yom Kippur Yizkor: 5:30pm Yom Kippur Ne'ila: 6:00pm Break fast: 7:00pm

Erev Sukkot Schedule: Sunday, October 9 Sukkah Decorating Program: 4:30pm Erev Sukkot Service: 5:30pm Dinner in Sukkah: 6:00pm Sukkot morning Service: 9:30am Monday, October 10 Lunch in Sukkah provided by Rabbi Moch Sukkot lunches or dinners may be reserved through the Synagogue office. Simhat Torah/Shemini Atzeret: 6:30pm, Sunday October 16 and consecration. Snack for the children before services. Shemini Atzeret Morning Service and Yizkor: 8:30am, Monday, October 17

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays

Louise Fishman	Aug. 1
Marilyn Blackhall	Aug. 2
Edwin Schouchana	Aug. 7
Lynn Kass	Aug. 10
Louis Minion	Aug. 10
Hannah Schafer	Aug. 10
Harry Boucher Sell	Aug. 15
Martin Goldberg	Aug. 19
Brook Robin	Aug. 21
Jared Kass	Aug. 23
Todd Roskin	Aug. 25
Jeffrey Weinberg	Aug. 27
Rebecca Grbinich	Aug. 30
Trudie Prior	Aug. 30
Jessica Paiewonsky	Aug. 31
Dr. Bert Shapiro	Aug. 31

August Anniversaries

Archie & Ella Ogden	Aug. 2
Harvey & Glenda Werbel	Aug. 6
Dr. Matthew & Christine Krefetz	Aug. 12
Dr. Bert & Frances Shapiro	Aug. 16
Marc & Diane Krasnick	Aug. 20

רפואה שלימה

A complete recovery to:



Robin Adler Pauline Balsam Alex Botros Charles Buffon Amiel Cohen **Quinn Copps** Tom Craft Erva Denham Judith DiDomenico Allison Durst Dave Edwards **Yigal Ehrlich** Kathleen Frion Gina Talia Farahnick Faigel Federman Paul Feuerzeig Neamah Fils Marci Finkelstein Paula Finkelstein Julie Friedman Mary Gleason Marian Goodman **Rick Gratch** Lee Marsh Grayson Marilyn Grishman Alan "Buck" Hein Amanda Bari Johnson Violet Adelaide Johnson Kim Kadingo

Darell Koren Ed Koren Jay Kranitz Helen Leneman Sheri Levin Linda Lewensohn Steven Markowitz Siobhan McCourt **James Nicholson** Maria Grace Nicholson Pam Oppenheimer **Edward Pascal** Arthur Pomerantz Rosa Pupko Joshua Redel Dorothy Ring Brook Robin Steve Rockstein Henia Rubins Mary Sanchez John Schenkel **Ruth Schloss** Maxine Shayna Stark Bill Stein Steve Steinberg James Tunick Robert Tunick Rona Wolfson 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 August 1-11

Benjamin D. Bienvenista, Abraham Mendes Belisario, Moses D. Cardoze, Mary Cohen Joseph Curiel, Jr., Abraham Levy deNieza, Bernard Fenster, Joseph Fidanque
Solomon Haim Fidanque, Sara Fonseca, Zillah Fidanque Henriguez, Audrey Kessler
Gregory Kirchner, Beatrice Leland, Alexander Levy, Leah Lobo, David Maraches
Solomon Melendez, Leopold Henriquez Moron, Solomon Cohen Peichoto
Francis Raphael Peixotto, Jeremy Pinkerton, Maureen Camhi Puritz
Jennie Reichbaum, Becky Reiffel, Jerome Reisberg, Ruth Helen Richwerger
Elisabeth Ringel, Michael Rosenberg, Edna Rosenthal, Abigail Sasso
Abraham Haim Sasso, Gertrude Victoria Siggelkow, Aaron Wolff

Week of August 12 - 18

Bathseba Abendanon, Levy Abrams, Jacob Athias, Simon Haim Bar Solomon, Solomon Benjamin, Samuel Aaron Cappe, Leo Falek, Samuel A. Feuerzeig, Jacob Fidanque, Jr. Alvin Goldstein, Richard Eric Herter, Bernard Hirsch, Christopher T. Kent Harry Levenbook, M.D., Leah A. Levy, Queenie Levy, Isaac Lindo, Isaac Machover Sadie Maisler, Benjamin Naar, David de Pinna, Gustav Aaron Pissarro Sarah Rosenthal, Isaac D'Aaron Salzedo, Jacques C. Sternberg, Rachel Wachsberg

Week of August 19 - 30

Joshua Benlisa, Louis Bernstein, Grace Clara de Castro, Ruby Ehrgott Abraham (Al) Gorin, Hannah Grosswirth, Morris A. Halman, Betty Herter, Rachel Jacobs Nathan Barned Joseph, Julius Kushner, Freada Laing, Henry Haim Levi, Jacob Henry Levi, Rachel Baiz Levi, Bruce Levin, David Levy, Julia Levy, Hannah Hoheb Lindo Gertrude Louise Siggelkow, Grace Levy Maduro, Levy "Daughter" Maduro Rebecca Levy Maduro, Isadore Marcus, Harold Monoson, Joshua Naar Abie Nathan, Hannah Caroline Nones, Felix Numes, Deborah Olimpia Pereira James Daley Power, Sarah Jessurun Pinto, Bernard Reckseit, Jacob Athias Robles Wilhelm Rosenbaum, Ruben Rosenthal, Evelyn Sandhaus, Esther Sasso, Judah Sasso Moses Sasso, Philip Scheinin, Eliza Gomez Silva Hilda Skora, Stillborn "female" Vallobre, Arnold Weinberg



Week of August 1-4

Joan Adoff, Louis Beck, Joseph Bohm, Frieda Cantor, Pearl Feinberg, David Goldstein, Leo Goodman, Rose Greene William Herman, Zelman Kamien, Anne Katz, Kent Katz, Sarah Kauffman, Yetta Kay, Queenie Levy, Ray Lipschutz Sondra Lonstein, Sally Luttinger, David Ohringer, Dora Pardo, Arthur Riesenfeld, Pauline Rose, Edith Rosenberg Bella Rosman, Betty Schreiber, Larry Shapiro, Rose Silver, Jean Slavin, Rose Spiegel, Minnie Sporn Gussie Trelisky, Max Tushman, Ann Ziper

Week of August 5-11

Eve Aizenchtein, Carl Bach, Joe Bass, Sidney Bernstein, Edward Diskin, Hannah Fastlick, Harry Feldman Kurt Felsenburg, Bernhard Ferstenberg, Louis Freedman, Rose Gelber, Bernice Goldfarb, Dr. Irvig Grenville Rhoda Heller, George Herman, Joseph Honigman, Dora Horowitz, Max Inhaber, Betsy Kamins, Florence Kaplan Myrna Kaufmann, Dorothy Kayner, Anne Kontner, Joyce Lawrence, Sala Locker, Dorothy Loeb, Beatrice London Joan Lynton, Karen Mallory, Herman Mayo, Robert Miller, Betty Mitchell, Ruby Orlan, Robustino Ramus Jonathan Redelheim, Stephen Renyi, Robert Rider, Max Ritter, Milton Rudo, Roslind Rudo Pauline Shapiro, Miriam Simon, Mildred Spector, Mark Stern, Barbara Wasserman Bradley Woldow, Sadie Wolff

Week of August 12-18

Frank Ardoin, Rose Baker, Adolph Barer, Elka Bas Hershka, Donnette Bates, Marilyn Behar Leon Brass, Morty Bromberg, Beatrice Cohen, Allan Cohn, Shirley Davidson, Jack Dorman Edythe Ellis, Marion Engel, Ruth Fein, Roslyn Fox, Eileen Garland, Anthony Gennarelli Gordon Gerstein, Edith Goldstein, Julia Hoexter, Ralph Katz, George Keller, Harry Kessler Joseph Kestenbaum, Fred Koffler, Irving Krebs, Robby Lalli, Percy Lehrer, Ethel Levitan Goodwin Lichtenberg, Milton Mandel, Dorothy Mayerson, Rebecca Miller, Rosa Morenu
Fred Oppenheimer, Philip Opper, Naomi Pomper, Laurel Reiss, Marilyn Roark, Irving Rubinstein
Rose Sandhaus, Emanuel Schwartz, Sylvia Schwartz, Al Silverstein, Hannah Slater, Rose Slotnick Herman Solomon, Jack Solomon, Leon Sporn, Philip Zimmerman, Vily Zucker

Week of August 19 - 30

Robyn Aaron, Howard Alderman, Martin Alderman, Norman Aflalo, Julius Alterman, Milton Baron Martin Beale, Gerri Berkman, Johanna Bonem, Barry Bressler, Sadie Burke, Theodore Cohen, Edward Diskin Jerry Eisenberg, Arthur Friedman, Riva Garroway, Samuel Gelman, Morris Godlberg, Dorothy Goldman Lucy Goldstein, Chuck Goodwin, Pearl Grossman, Henrietta Guberman, Ruth Harris, Rose Kanter, Max Karp Robert Kaugman, Abe Kawer, Sally Kodis, Diane Lander, Miriam Levien, Arthur Levine, Aaron Lichtenberg Harvey Lichtenberg, Elliot Lipschutz, Dora Lubell, Sophie Mandel, Burt Mayerson, Rosalind Meyer, Jerry Meyers Albert Miller, Lena Moche, Jean Morris, Cantor Murray Nixon, Jean Noble, Leon Osacky, Leroy Paget, David Pardo Tom Perego, Gloria Perkin, Diane Pomper, Bertha Radbel, Dora Rosen, Bessie Rosenberg, Janice Rothschild Ruth Rubinstein, Albert Sachs, Donald Schacher, Sally Schafer, Victor Schreiber, Arthur Selzer, Abraham Shapiro Rabbi Shebshaievitz, Gertrude Sherman, Lillian Shulman, Leonard Silverman, Marsha Singer, Jakob Skowron Victor Slotnick, Nikki Sova, Howard Spector, Nathan Spiegel, Yetta Stahl, Helen Taylor, Israel Van Maarsen Lidy Van Maarsen, Seymour Wasserman, Ralph Weber, Hy Weiss, Morris Weiss Rose Yanofsky, Sandra Zales, Lea Zimmerman



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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.

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The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas

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