



Congregation of Blessing
and Peace and Loving Deeds

St. Thomas Synagogue

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Synagogue will host noted Islamic cleric

The St. Thomas Synagogue will present the noted Moslem cleric, Imam Yahya Hendi of Washington, D.C., at several venues from Feb. 4 to 7, 2005.

Utilizing the synagogue's "World of Difference" fund, it will bring this dynamic Imam, scholar and speaker to St. Thomas, first as the guest speaker at the 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, worship services at the St. Thomas Islamic Center, and then as guest speaker at the synagogue's Shabbat evening service at 6:30 p.m. Imam Hendi will also be the guest speaker at the 9 a.m. Sunday worship services at the St Thomas Reformed Church.

Imam Hendi will conclude his visit here with an evening presentation at 6:30 Monday, Feb. 7, at Frederick Lutheran Church. His topic for discussion will be "Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Confrontation or Cooperation."

Imam Yahya Hendi is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, the first American university to hire a full-time Muslim chaplain. He is also the Imam of the Islamic Society of Frederick, Maryland, the Muslim Chaplain at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., and a member and the spokesman for the Islamic Jurisprudence Council of North America.

He earned a B.A. degree in Islamic Law and Theology from the University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan. He holds two Master's Degrees, including one in Comparative Religion from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT. Imam Hendi is a Ph.D. candidate in the Comparative Religion program at Temple University, Philadelphia, and in Islamic Theology at American Open University, Falls Church, Va.

He has written numerous publications, including ones on the topic of women in Islam, women and gender relations in Islam, the coming of the Messiah, and religion and Islam in the United States. A sought-after speaker, Imam Hendi has presented a multitude of interfaith and general lectures in the USA and overseas over the past eight years. He was one of the Muslim leaders who met with President Bush in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 tragedy. Imam Hendi has appeared on many national and international television and radio shows as an expert on Islam.

The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas is honored to bring to our community this gifted speaker.

"I met Imam Hendi when we were both at Hartford Seminary last June," said Rabbi Arthur Starr of the Hebrew Congregation. "I was impressed with his eloquence, his message of unity and understanding and I knew that our community in St. Thomas could benefit from his presence here. I am delighted that the synagogue is able to bring this wonderful human being to speak in our

community. I hope that everyone interested in interfaith relations in our community will have an opportunity to hear him speak."

Reformed Church offers Shabbat parking

Concerned about parking near the Synagogue on Friday nights? Our friends at the Reformed Church have graciously opened their parking lot to members and visitors for our Erev Shabbat services.

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MLK awardee says thanks

Ruth Elmes, one of seven recipients of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. awards, says the honor will inspire her to "continue to strive for the best."

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Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute dedicated

It was a day of pride and joy for Virgin Islanders, including members of our Congregation, as the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute was dedicated January 17.

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Kol Nidre Appeal dedicated to Katrina victims

Perhaps because we know what hurricane devastation is like, our Congregation was quick to respond to the needs of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. One decision: 100 percent of our Kol Nidre Appeal will go to hurricane relief efforts. So please give now - and give generously!

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Help feed the hungry in our community

Start the new year with the most important of the mitzvot: to sustain life. You can do this by joining the Congregation's annual High Holy Days food drive to help feed hungry people in St. Thomas.

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Sisterhood elects new officers

Congratulations to Sydney Stern and Liza Margolis, the new co-presidents elected at Sisterhood's meeting June 20.

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Rabbi Boxman gets big play in Baltimore newspaper

The Baltimore Jewish Times did a cover story recently on our

former rabbi, Bradd Boxman, with a photo on the cover of him playing hockey and a photo inside of his family.

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Reformed Church offers its thanks for Imam's visit

Members of the St. Thomas Reformed Church wrote to thank the Synagogue for bringing Imam Yahya Hendi to the island for a weekend of interfaith activities.

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