



# BAT YAM MATTERS

Number 104

May-August, 2019

Nissan/Av

## BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

*A Jewish congregation serving residents and guests of Sanibel, Captiva, Fort Myers, and surrounding communities, providing a place of worship in the Reform tradition and creating an extended Jewish family*

### BAT YAM 2019 HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

All High Holiday events except for *Selichot* and *Tashlich* will take place in Fellowship Hall of SCUCC and will be led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. Cantor Murray Simon will chant the prayers, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison.

- Saturday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. - *Selichot* reflection and discussion at the home of Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs, 1839 Farm Trail, Sanibel

#### ***Rosh HaShanah***

- Sunday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. - *Erev Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. - *Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 1:00 p.m. - *Tashlich* service – hosted by Elissa Karasin Samet and Michael Samet in the party room of their condo at 1605 Middle Gulf Drive
- Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. - *Shabbat Shuva* service

#### ***Yom Kippur***

- Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. - *Kol Nidre* service
- Wednesday, October 9
  - 10:00 a.m. – *Yom Kippur* morning service, immediately followed by Congregant's Hour. Three congregants – Alan Lessack, Nancy Morrison, and June Rosner – will each speak for approximately ten minutes about their journeys to Judaism, what *Yom Kippur* means to them, and the important influences in their lives.
  - 3:00 p.m. – Service of Music and Meditation featuring cellist Susannah Kelly and pianist Abigail Allison
  - 4:00 p.m. – *Yom Kippur* afternoon service – Discussion of the Book of Jonah, the *Yom Kippur* afternoon *Haftarah*, immediately followed by *Yizkor*/memorial service and *Ne'ilah*/closing service, immediately followed by Break-the-Fast in Heron Hall at 6 p.m. (**Reservations are required.**)
- Friday, October 11, 7:30 p.m. – *Shabbat* service
- Sunday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. – *Erev Sukkot* in *Sukkah*
- Friday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. – *Shabbat* service
- Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. – *Simchat Torah* service

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## *IN MEMORIAM*

Long-time *Bat Yam* member Phyllis Pachman died on April 26 at Shell Point Retirement Community. She and her late husband Howard, an attorney, lived in Commack, New York. Phyllis was an accomplished teacher, a lively conversationalist, and an avid reader. Funeral arrangements are to be announced. Condolences may be sent to her daughter, Ruth Pachman, at 23 Mayhew Avenue, Larchmont NY 10538. Ruth has designated that donations in Phyllis' memory may be sent to *Bat Yam*.

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### **MAY-AUGUST 2019 BAT YAM WORSHIP**

All May-August *Shabbat* services will be in Fellowship Hall of Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. They will begin at **7:00 p.m.**, except for Friday, July 26, when the service will begin at 7:30 p.m.

*(Please note the change in time from services in season.)*

The services will be led by congregants, except for Friday, July 26, when the former rabbi of *Bat Yam*, Rabbi Myra Soifer, will officiate as our special guest.

Ritual Committee Chair Tanya Hochschild is scheduling people to conduct *Shabbat* services during this time period. Please contact her at [tutsie@centurylink.net](mailto:tutsie@centurylink.net) or 239-482-5346 if you wish to conduct a service, and let her know which dates are best for you.

### **OUR THANKS TO THE APRIL ONGAI\* SHABBAT HOSTS...**

April 5: Vickie and Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Ying Przybyszewski and Barry Roth

April 12: Debbie Gurman and Don Breiter

April 26. Cheryl and Barry Fulmer, Myra Klahr, and Barbara Posner Ward (guest)

*\*Editor's note: "Ongai Shabbat" is the proper way to say the plural of Oneg Shabbat.*

### **SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES**

**There are no *Shabbat* morning classes from May through the end of October.**

Coordinator Vickie Fuchs thanks everyone who presented a class this season,

and we thank Vickie for organizing these sessions. Please contact her at

[vfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:vfuchs@gmail.com) or 860-305-4876 if you want to share ideas for

next season's classes or present a future session.

### **A LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

Dear members of the *Bat Yam* congregation:

On behalf of Edina and myself I want to express our deepest appreciation for all of the calls, emails, and contributions made in memory of my brother Jordan Lessack.

They helped immeasurably during this difficult period of healing.

*Alan Lessack*

## ELIJAH COMES TO *BAT YAM'S* APRIL 19 *SEDER*!

Thank you, Elijah, for stopping by; and thanks to Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Simon for conducting the wonderful event. Also, our deepest thanks to Annette Pacyga and Lois Lorsch for organizing the *Seder*. And to Sally Sacks, Beth Weiss, Cheryl Fulmer, Barry Fulmer, Howard Lorsch, Bob Schoen, and Garry Weiss, who assisted, and to all others who contributed desserts and *charoseth*.



Clockwise from top right:  
Young *Bat Yam Seder* guests open the door for Elijah the Prophet; Rabbi Fuchs explains the significance of matzoh; *Bat Yam* members and guests enjoy the *Seder*. Pastor John H. Danner speaks; Cantor Murray Simon welcomes Elijah the Prophet.



## RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS

As you read this column, Pastor Danner and I are leading the long-planned joint journey of *Bat Yam* and SCUCC to Israel. As we prepared for our journey, the vivid memory of one of my previous trips comes to mind.

At 8:10 one morning in Israel, I boarded the 8:10 bus to Jerusalem at the Tiberias Terminal. There were only a few people on the bus, so I had two seats to myself – one for me and one for my carry-on, which was a bit heavy.

After about an hour we arrived in Afula, where many passengers boarded the bus, so my luxury two-seats-to-myself-ride ended when a young man about twice as tall and twice as wide as I am claimed the seat next to me. Now I was scrunched next to the window with my carry-on on my lap. He looked like a typical young Israeli and we chatted a bit in Hebrew about the kind of innocuous things strangers on a bus talk about. When he received a call and began talking rapidly on his cell phone, I could not understand a word he was saying. Frustrated, I said to myself, “I thought my Hebrew was better than that.” Then I realized with a shudder that the man was speaking Arabic and that it was clearly his native tongue.

His name is Sameer, and he is a Muslim from Nazareth. He told me he was not subjected to any discriminatory examinations or questions when he boarded the bus. I took a cab from the Jerusalem bus terminal to my hotel. My driver was a Muslim named Nael. He was pursuing his livelihood just like anyone else. The man who checked me into my hotel is named Muhammad. Same goes for him.

Yet, if you believe the anti-Israel propaganda in the media, you would think that the Arabs in Israel walk about in chains. Of course Israel must be very conscious of security, and for some Arabs and Palestinians in some parts of the country life is very difficult because of horrible the acts of terror that have been perpetrated against the Jewish State.

My experiences in Israel convince me that in order to have credibility everyone should visit Israel to see with his or her own eyes what it is like here before commenting about its political situation. It is complicated to be sure, and Israel is far from perfect, but putting the bulk of the blame on Israel for the current situation hardly reflects reality.

Pastor John Danner and I are thrilled to lead a group of Jews and Christians on a joint trip to Israel. We are happy to help our travelers see Israel with their own eyes!

*Your Rabbi, Stephen Fuchs*

[stephenfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:stephenfuchs@gmail.com)

[www.rabbifuchs.com](http://www.rabbifuchs.com)

twitter: @rabbifuchs6

I invite you to follow my blog at [www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com](http://www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com).

(Please note: my website ([www.rabbifuchs.com](http://www.rabbifuchs.com)) has a *Bat Yam* tab that leads to a number of wonderful photos of events that took place during the past season, including my summer activities in Germany.)



Rabbi Dr. Stephen L. Fuchs



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the seasons' change, life in southwest Florida slows down. It is beneficial to look back at some of the highlights that brought much happiness and inspiration, but also the events that reminded us of sadness, loss and the dark side of human nature.

Saturday morning classes had presentations that enlivened our spiritual and intellectual interests, some about famous and not so famous Jewish women, Jewish poets and poetry, medicine in the Bible and in Iran, researching Jewish ancestry, the history of Jews in Florida and Albany, New York, and yes, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.



Barry Fulmer

We also had for the first time a film presented at Temple *Bat Yam* by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Collier Counties as part of the Federation's annual Jewish Film Festival. Attendees filled Fellowship Hall with a much higher attendance than organizers anticipated.

Undoubtedly, a major highlight of the year was the "Sanibel Celebration: Three Cantors and a Pastor" concert which filled the sanctuary to standing room only, with outstanding singers and musicians performing to rave reviews. As a fundraiser, it was also a success.

Also on the bright side was the celebration of the *Bar Mitzvah* of Ben Uslan, the grandson of two of our congregants with instruction and encouragement by Rabbi Fuchs. While the *Bar Mitzvah* was a rare event for Temple *Bat Yam*, it demonstrated the warmth and welcoming nature of the congregation and the willingness of the Temple to expand its services.

But not all was smiles and *Simchas*. We lost five long-time members – Miriam Bailey, Roselyn Kraus, Barry Litofsky, Phyllis Pachman, and Linda Weissbluth. And most disturbing this past year was the terrible tragedy in Pittsburgh in October 2018. As a consequence, for the first time, Temple *Bat Yam* decided to use the Sanibel Police Department to provide ongoing security for our services, programs and events.

There was also compassion and hope. Temple congregants began a grief support group to share in the grieving process for those suffering a personal loss, but also for those wishing to offer support. The Temple's Social Action Committee leaders, ever hopeful of making the world a better place, decided to focus on how to help improve immigrants' lives. In view of the United States government's harsher actions making it harder for this nation to welcome the stranger, the committee began to organize an effort to help educate refugee and asylum-seeking immigrants about their legal rights.

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The United States is certainly not alone in experiencing ignorance, intolerance and hateful acts. Almost daily reports in reputable news sources speak of the horrific attacks against mosques in New Zealand by a far-right extremist; Islamic extremist attacks against Christian churches in Sri Lanka; Hindu government targeting of Muslim and Christian groups; Buddhists persecuting Muslims in Myanmar; and the reports go on and on. Tribalistic extremism and hate of the other know no boundaries.

Yet despite the ignorance and intolerance in the world, it is a hopeful sign when people of different religions and ethnic backgrounds can journey together with respect and the desire to increase their understanding of each other's heritage. *Bat Yam* and Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ exemplify that joint journey, both in the programs we share and work on during the year and the Israel trip our congregations will experience together in the coming days as I write.

We look forward to a year of renewed hope and inspiration. Cheryl and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer.

*L'Shalom, Barry Fulmer*

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## **RABBI FUCHS' LATEST BOOK NOW AVAILABLE**

*...And Often the First Jew*, Rabbi Stephen Fuchs' latest book, was published in early April. The book chronicles the accomplishments, adventures, and "firsts" in Germany for Rabbi and Vickie Fuchs, both children of Holocaust survivors. Rabbi Fuchs tells of the arrest and brutal treatment that his father, Leo Fuchs, received at the onset of *Kristallnacht* and how he was able to survive. In the chapters she penned, Vickie discusses the events of her parents' plight and subsequent new life in the United States. Rabbi Fuchs writes about their opportunities to speak and teach about the horrors of the Holocaust in the very place where the Nazi era began, pointing out that often their listeners have little knowledge of this tragic period in their history.

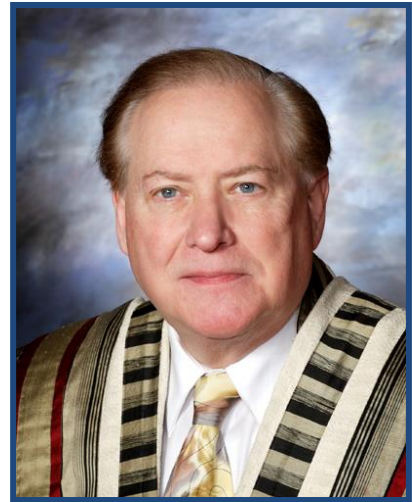
*...And Often the First Jew* encapsulates the Fuchs' straightforward message they leave with Germany's post-Holocaust generation: "We cannot undo the past, but the future is ours to shape." The book, with a forward by German Rabbi Walter Homalka, can be purchased on Amazon.com in both paperback and kindle format.

[See the review of the book written by *Bat Yam* member Rabbi James Rudin on page 9.]

## FROM OUR CANTOR

Dear Friends,

The *Shabbat* service on Friday, May 3, completes my second year serving as your cantor of *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands. And a wonderful year it has been for me, thanks to our wonderful Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, and my musically supportive accompanist, Abbey Allison, not to mention my beautiful wife, Toby, who filled in as accompanist for several *Shabbat* services as well serving as Music Director for our successful February concert, "Three Cantors and a Pastor."



Cantor Murray Simon

In addition, I am grateful for the support of our past president, Alan Lessack, and his officers over these past two years. Thank you also to Judy Adler, chair, and her exceptional Concert Committee for all that you did to make our February concert a resounding success!

And now, I go back to my retirement until I see you again in the fall for the High Holy Days. But not really! This month has me traveling to California to officiate at a wedding ceremony of a former *Bar Mitzvah* student from my congregation in Princeton, New Jersey. Then the following *Shabbat* to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for the *B'not Mitzvah* of the twin daughters of our god-daughter. Followed immediately by my trip to Louisville, Kentucky, where I will be attending the Annual Cantors Assembly Convention, where our own Judith and Howard Mayer's son, Cantor Brian Mayer, will be honored with the prestigious Hazzan Samuel Rosenbaum Award for Scholarship and Creativity.

At that same convention, the Cantors Assembly will be offering a special tribute to Rabbi/Cantor Jeffrey Myers (a personal friend of mine) for his outstanding leadership as spiritual leader of the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, through our national tragedy there.

Finally, I wish to state that on June 8, 2019, I will celebrate the 50th anniversary of my graduation and ordination as a cantor from the Hebrew Union College - School of Sacred Music. So much for "retirement"!

To all my friends at *Bat Yam*, I wish you a healthy, refreshing and peaceful summer.

*L'hitraot* - until we see each other again,

*Cantor Murray Simon*

## THANK YOU FROM THE *BAT YAM TZEDAKAH* COMMITTEE

Our committee is pleased to thank *Bat Yam* congregants for their contributions to this year's *Tzedakah* Fund. With a total of \$5,632 collected, we were able to issue grants to the following agencies according to their specific needs:

- Quality Life Center of SWFL – a Fort Myers pre-school and after-school extended education program;
- Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 Jewish War Veterans (Southwest Florida);
- *Yad LaKashish, Israel* – to provide bus passes to low-income elderly to enable them to attend artisan workshops;
- Planned Parenthood (SW FL) – to provide monthly prevention-education programs; and
- Jewish Agency for Israel – for Lone Soldier Wings, a program providing care of lone soldier immigrants.

Earlier in the year, we granted funds to the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles to help in the relief for California wildfire victims. In the fall, new ideas will be initiated which will enable us to extend a larger number of grants.

Sadly, some members are leaving the *Tzedakah* committee. My thanks to the following women who have contributed their knowledge and ideas for many years: Renee Sugar, Judith Mayer, Jeannette Keyser, and Shirley Boscov. They will be missed. My personal appreciation goes to each of you for your efforts toward reaching the goals of *Tzedakah*. My thanks to those presently serving on the committee – Arlyn Stein, Vickie Fuchs, Shirley Frank, Sally Sacks, and Ellen Feingold. If you are interested in joining this important committee, please contact Vickie Fuchs ([vfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:vfuchs@gmail.com)) or Ellen Feingold([el-lenfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:el-lenfeingold@gmail.com)).

*Salessa Berk*, Chair

## REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

On March 29, the *Bat Yam* Social Action Committee along with Americans for Immigrant Justice ([www.aijustice.org](http://www.aijustice.org)) sponsored a workshop on how to conduct Know Your Rights sessions for immigrants in our midst who are woefully unaware of their rights, needs for qualified legal representation, and how to prepare their families in the event they are detained or deported. Approximately forty people from *Bat Yam* and other Southwest Florida community organizations attended.

We hope to follow the “welcome the stranger” teachings from throughout the *Torah* and work with the community organizations that attended the workshop over the next few months to plan our next steps. We expect to be involved in initiating and participating in immigrant Know Your Rights and Legal Screening sessions in our community over the next year.

*Garry Weiss*, Chair, Social Action Committee



## JOIN THE *BAT YAM* GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The last *Bat Yam* Grief Support Group meeting of the season will be on Wednesday, May 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the library at SCUCC. Sessions will resume next season, hopefully in October, with Rabbi Fuchs facilitating the discussions. Please watch the September issue of *Bat Yam* matters for further details. Everyone is welcome. Please encourage those you feel could benefit to attend. For questions, contact Ellen Feingold at 302- 345-7187 or by email at [ellenfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfeingold@gmail.com).

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### REVIEW OF *...AND OFTEN THE FIRST JEW* by Rabbi James Rudin

*[This review of Rabbi Fuchs' new book appeared in the April 22 edition of ReformJudaism.org. It is still posted.]*

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and his wife, Victoria, had a choice to make, a choice that would transform their lives. Should they cut all ties with Germany, where their parents were born and survived the Holocaust, or should they begin a positive dialogue with Germans? They opted for the latter, devoting themselves to a simple yet profound message of reconciliation and hope:

*Wir können die Vergangenheit nicht ungeschehen machen, aber wir können gemeinsam an einer besseren Zukunft arbeiten.*

*We cannot undo the past, but the future is ours to shape.*

The couple's bittersweet mission is laid bare in *...And Often The First Jew* (Mazo, Jerusalem), a 136-page collection of diary-like essays. The title represents the sad fact they are the first Jews many people living in postwar Germany had ever met.

Every time Victoria visits Germany, she can't help wondering what German men and women "of a certain age" were doing while Jews were being persecuted and murdered by their countrymen during the years between 1933 and 1945.

Interestingly, although the husband and wife team returned to Leipzig (where Stephen's father was arrested in November 1938 on *Kristallnacht* and later imprisoned in Dachau), and although Victoria's mother, Stefanie Steinberg, was born in Breslau (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) and her father in Essen (home of the Krupp armaments factories), the Fuchs' concentrated on medium sized cities and towns that were "off the beaten path."

Having established positive interreligious relationships with a host of Lutheran and Roman Catholic clergy and laypeople, the American couple has been able to examine aspects of the Holocaust with thousands of Germans, many of them born after the war, through sermons and educational programs. Rabbi Fuchs has spoken in more than twenty churches where no rabbi had ever spoken before.

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Perhaps one of Rabbi Fuchs' most poignant public sermons took place on October 26, 2014, in Kaltenkirchen, a picturesque village where 700 prisoners had died during the war in a nearby concentration camp and where the local pastor had shed his ecclesiastical robes for the uniform of an SS officer. (After the war he was tried and convicted of war crimes for the murder of 2,000-3,000 Jews.)

After visiting the camp, Rabbi Fuchs preached in the local church. He recalls the experience:

*During the church service people looked back and realized the horror of the era with genuine regret. There was visible emotion, [because] ...most of those in the congregation had lived most of their lives [during the Holocaust]...[in addition]... some 80 students listened with rapt attention – some had tears in their eyes – as Vickie spoke about her mother and I spoke about my father. We emphasized how her mother and my father were among the truly lucky ones to escape the inferno before it engulfed Europe's Jews. Still both Vickie's mother and my father suffered, and it is important for students to understand their history...*

Victoria's artistic mother, who lives in San Francisco and still paints, emerges in the book as a true heroine. Three years ago, at age 94, she traveled with her daughter and rabbinic son-in-law to Germany, where she spoke to youngsters about her terrifying personal experiences during the Nazi regime before she found safety in the United States. In America she started a new life as a wife and mother and developed into an acclaimed artist.

Rabbi Fuchs, who is currently the rabbi of Congregation *Bat Yam* on Sanibel and Captiva Islands in Florida and is a past president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, tells us that his beloved father Leo had never spoken to him in detail about his horrific ordeal in Nazi Germany. He writes:

*I am so thankful, my father, that you made it out of Kristallnacht – and out of Germany – alive...and I hope you are proud that I am standing here today. (in a Leipzig church) But I cannot be sure.*

*I cannot be sure because you never, ever spoke to me of the night I have come to this place to commemorate.*

*You spared me the trauma that – as I now know – scarred you. But I thank you, for though you were scarred, you persevered...*

*To this land of those who perpetrated the greatest horror that I can imagine, I come to say: Remember!*

*And indeed, I shall remember.*

Much has changed in Germany since Rabbi Fuchs first visited Leipzig in 1982. At the time only 67 Jews lived in the city. Today, the number has expanded to about 1,300, and it is estimated that Germany's Jewish population now numbers 130,000.

This extraordinary demographic growth rate increases the odds that, going forward, Stephen and Victoria Fuchs will not be "the first Jews" Germans meet.

## SAVE THESE DATES...

...for the Shared Scholar Lecture on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. and Shared Scholar Seminar on Monday, January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Shared Scholar will be Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker.

Dr. Tucker is Senior Lecturer and Research Scholar at Yale University, where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies as well as the Divinity School and the Department of Religious Studies. Watch for more details in future issues of *Bat Yam Matters*.

The Shared Scholar events are sponsored by *Bat Yam*; Captiva Chapel By the Sea; First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sanibel-Captiva; Saint Michael and All Angels; and Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. *Bat Yam's* sponsorship is provided by the Leo Rosner Foundation in honor of June Rosner.

## WOULD YOU LIKE RIDES TO AND FROM SHABBAT SERVICES?

I am trying to organize transportation from Ft. Myers to SCUCC for *Bat Yam Shabbat* Friday evening services beginning from *Rosh Hashanah* of 2019. We need to gather information in order to explore our options. This service may or may not be underwritten by *Bat Yam*, but without your input, nothing can happen.

We're examining the possibility of transporting people from Shell Point, Cypress Cove, Lexington, Heritage Pointe, and anywhere else a congregant needs to be picked up. Please respond to the following questions:

1. I am interested and need to be picked up at...
2. I enjoy going to services
  - Every week...
  - Once or twice a month...
  - In the season...
  - Year round ...

If there are other questions I have omitted, please let me know. Please contact me with questions and responses at [Lingosmart@gmail.com](mailto:Lingosmart@gmail.com), or 917-270-4905

Thank you, *Myra Klahr*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP SHABBAT SERVICES

Please contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016 or [Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com) if you wish to take a turn setting up Friday night *Shabbat* services. The housekeeping tasks include turning on and off the lights, preparing the wine, *kiddush* cup, and *Shabbat* candles, and carrying the *Torahs* into the church sanctuary when services are held there. A brief period of cleanup after services concludes the duties.

## ONGAI\* SHABBAT HOSTS NEEDED FOR NEXT SEASON

The first *Oneg Shabbat* of next season will be after *Shabbat* services on September 20. Please consider hosting next season. Contact me to let me know your preferred dates. Thank you. *Myra Klahr* ([lingosmart@gmail.com](mailto:lingosmart@gmail.com) )

*\*Editor's note: "Ongai Shabbat" is the proper way to say the plural of Oneg Shabbat.*

## GREETINGS FROM ISRAEL

As you read this, we are on our joint *Bat Yam*-SCUCC journey to Israel. We return on May 10. We wish all *Bat Yam* friends a happy and healthy summer, and look forward to sharing our experiences with you when we return. *Barry Roth*

## THANK YOU TO RENEE SUGAR...

...for selling *Tzedakah* cards for many years. And our thanks to Sally Sacks for taking over this task. These cards can be sent to family and friends for many occasions, and your donations for their purchase contribute to *Bat Yam's Tzedakah* funds. If you want to purchase them (\$45 for five), contact Sally Sacks at [asacks118@gmail.com](mailto:asacks118@gmail.com).

## AND A NOTE FROM RENEE...

I want to thank all *Bat Yam* members for all of the support through visits, emails, telephone calls and prayers, which sustained us through Joel's long ordeal.

*Renee Sugar*

## SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER BAT YAM MATTERS...

...to *Bat Yam* Matters editor Marcia Rudin before August 15 ([marciarudin@aol.com](mailto:marciarudin@aol.com)).

## HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

Please check that your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership list, including your mailing address if you have moved, is up to date. To access the list, go to the *Bat Yam* website (<http://www.batyam.org/>) and click on the membership list. To make changes, contact Brandon Minsky at [Brandon@bitservicesfl.com](mailto:Brandon@bitservicesfl.com).



## **MAY-AUGUST YAHRZEITS**

### **MAY**

- May 1 - Anne Fisher, mother of Alan Lessack**
- May 4 - Helen Rebon, mother-in-law of Kathy Zoss**
- May 5 - Albert Fisher, stepfather of Alan Lessack**
- May 7 - Hy Bergstein, uncle of Linda Edinburg**
- May 13 - Clara Bergstein, aunt of Linda Edinburg**
- May 13 - James Kasdan, father of Bonnie Kasdan**
- May 18 - Alan Berke, father of Stuart Berke**
- May 24 - Margaret Reese, aunt of Kathy Zoss**
- May 29 - Tillie Berger, mother of David Berger**

### **JUNE**

- June 8 - Oscar Hoffman, uncle of Kathy Zoss**
- June 9 - Syd Ruth Zoss, mother of Kathy Zoss**
- June 11 - Bogdana Zoss, grandmother of Kathy Zoss**
- June 17 - Gerrit Vossen, friend of Kathy Zoss**
- June 17 - Helen Kramer, wife of Ron Kramer**
- June 19 - William Wallitzer, Uncle of Elissa Karasin Samet**
- June 24 - Margaret Lloyd Davis, friend of Kathy Zoss**
- June 27 - Frances Weisman, mother of Cheryl Fulmer**

### **JULY**

- July 5 - Will Bergstein, father of Linda Edinburg**
- July 12 - Emma Heyman, grandmother of Jack Kohn**
- July 12 - Samuel Zoss, father of Kathy Zoss**
- July 13 - Leo Pokedoff, father of Martin Pokedoff**
- July 22 - Paul Kline, uncle of Martin Pokedoff**
- July 28 - Simon Hochschild, brother of Michael Hochschild**
- July 31 - Beatrice Rudin, mother of Rabbi James Rudin**

### **AUGUST**

- August 4 - Dr. Max Kaplan, father of Marcia Rudin**
- August 10 - Anna Hoffman, grandmother of Kathy Zoss**
- August 12 - Lewis Edinburg, brother of Joel Edinburg**
- August 24 - Solomon Wallitzer, grandfather of Elissa Karasin Samet**
- August 27 - Lillian Kohn, mother of Jack Kohn**
- August 28 - Dorothy Lubetkin, mother of Bernard Lubetkin**
- August 29 - Sara Kline, aunt of Martin Pokedoff**

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?

Feeling a real need for a Jewish Passover community, I headed back to Reno for a whirlwind six-day visit. In addition to my synagogue's community Seder, I gave a presentation to interfaith attendees on my Peace Corps experience. And I had endless breakfasts, lunches, and dinners with wonderful friends. (I was worried that the airline might charge me for all that added "personal" weight . . .!) I returned to Panama slightly exhausted, with a souvenir cold, but also mightily re-energized for this next year-of-service to come!!

Before I left for Reno, I finished up a wonderful English Conversation class with first year students at the nearby University, just in time to start the new semester at my community primary school. My "permanent" counterpart English teacher, Edwin, is back. But my other counterpart, Rebecca, is new. She's lovely and anxious for any English support I can offer. I'm spending lots of time in a variety of classroom grades - which means very long school days, but that's good! I'm planning to coordinate a workshop called "He for She" (El por Ella), for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, on issues of gender stereotyping and ways we can nourish gender equality. When our next vacation rolls 'round - the first week of June - I plan to offer a Basic English class to parents who want to be able to help their kids with English homework. Here's hoping there's interest . . .

Meantime, the sad news is that my two best friends, older volunteer gal pals will be finishing their Peace Corps service in the middle of April. I am going to miss them terribly! I'm looking forward to joining in the celebration of the Rudins' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the end of July in Sanibel and Ft. Myers and hope to see any of you who are still in the area during the summertime.

*Rabbi Myra Soifer*

*[You can follow Rabbi Soifer's Peace Corps activities in Panama on her blog, which can be reached by going to [WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com](http://WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com).]*

**NOTE:** Rabbi Soifer, a former rabbi of *Bat Yam*, will officiate as a special guest at our services on Friday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m.

## SAVE THESE DATES

- Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m. – Grief Group meeting
- Saturday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. – *Selichot* reflection and discussion
- Sunday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. – *Erev Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. – *Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 1:00 p.m. – *Tashlich* service
- Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. – *Shabbat Shuva* service
- Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. – *Kol Nidre* service
- Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 a.m. – 6 p.m. – *Yom Kippur* services
- Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 p.m. – Break-the-Fast
- Sunday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. – *Erev Sukkot*
- Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. – *Simchat Torah* service
- Sunday, January 26, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – Shared Scholar Lecture
- Monday, January 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Shared Scholar Seminar

## REFUAH SH'LEMA, BEST WISHES FOR HEALING TO...

Adele Anish, Russ Bilgore, Ron Golden, Don Herman, Jeanette Keyser, Edina Lessack, Lois Lorsch, Martin Pokedoff, June Patinkin, Alan Saltz (son of Jocelyn and Peter Saltz), Carol Scheiber, William Schlackman, Orlene Shimberg, Frank Siegel, Arlyn Stein, Irwin Stein, and Joel Sugar

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO *BAT YAM*

### General

Evelyn and Herb Clark (in honor of their wedding anniversary)  
Harriet and David Hutzler (guests)  
Ellen and Richard Kaplan (guests)  
Mark Sternheimer Sr.

### Cantor Simon's Sanibel Celebration: Three Cantors and a Pastor

Janice and Michael Danzig (guests)  
Marsha and Eliot Freeman (guests)  
Neil Klar (guest)

[continued on next page]

[CONTRIBUTIONS – continued from previous page]

**In Honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of Ben Uslan  
(Grandson of Debbie Gurman and Don Breiter)**

Judy Adler

Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock

Edina and Alan Lessack

Renee and Len Minsky

**In Honor of Edina and Alan Lessack**

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

**In Honor of the New *Bat Yam* Board of Trustees**

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

**In Honor of the Publication of Rabbi Fuchs' New Book**

Judy Adler

**In Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin**

Judy Adler

Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock

**In Memory of Jordan Lessack**

**(Brother of Alan Lessack and Brother-in-Law of Edina Lessack)**

Judith Adler

Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock

Darlene and Bob Duvin

Barbara and Barry Epstein

Vickie and Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

Bluma and Don Herman

Myra Klahr

Norma and Jack Kohn

Edina and Alan Lessack

Patty and Stan Levine

Lois and Howard Lorsch

Renee and Len Minsky

Jocelyn and Peter Saltz

Carol and Philip Scheiber

Elaine and Donald Sherman (guests)

Jay and Barry Solomon

Rose and Vincent Verdile (non-members)

[continued on next page]



[CONTRIBUTIONS – continued from previous page]

**In Memory of Miriam Bailey**  
Rebecca Kon

**In Memory of Ann Arnoff**  
Rebecca Kon

**Tzedakah Fund**  
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**  
Judy Adler  
Evelyn and Herb Clark (for Rabbi Fuchs' Passover celebration at Shell Point)  
Marsha and Eliot Freeman (guests)

**Yahrzeits**  
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer for the *Yahrzeit* of Cheryl's father, Meyer Weisman  
Edina and Alan Lessack for the *Yahrzeits* of Alan's mother, Anne S. Fisher,  
and his stepfather Albert Fisher

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## MISCELLANEOUS...

- The *Bat Yam* membership committee needs volunteers to help staff the welcome table at the door during the season. If you are able to help, contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016 or [Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com).
- Email Cheryl Fulmer at [Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com) with any *Bat Yam* news you wish to have published in *L'Chayim*, the Federation newsletter, and/or local Sanibel newspapers. The *L'Chayim* deadline for any month's issue is midweek of the first week of the previous month. *The Island Reporter* deadline is the beginning of the week before the desired issue.
- Contact Irene Skolnick at [irkul42@gmail.com](mailto:irkul42@gmail.com) or 239-472-2217 for changes to your *Yahrtzeit* list or if you have donated to *Bat Yam* but have not received an acknowledgement.

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**

Rabbi: Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Cantor: Murray E. Simon

**Officers**

President: Barry Fulmer - 732-780-2016

First VP: Michael Hochschild - 917-561-7888

Second VP: Cheryl Fulmer

Treasurer: Barry Epstein

Corresponding Secretary: Irene Skolnick

Recording Secretary: Lois Lorsch

**Trustees**

Esta Berger, Janice Block Chaddock, Shirley Frank, Tanya Hochschild,  
Norma Kohn, Annette Pacyga, Barry Roth, Garry Weiss

**Past Presidents**

Mel Bleiberg, Ann Arnoff\*, David Crown\*, Lois Medinets\*,  
Steve Greenstein, Marty Packard, Al Kaplan, Jack Cohen, Bernard Lubetkin,  
Michael Raab, Allan Silberman, Martin Pokedoff, Alan Lessack

\* deceased

BAT YAM

Temple of the Islands

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