

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.

Number 90 December 2017 Kislev/Tevet, 5778

DECEMBER BAT YAM SHABBAT WORSHIP

All Shabbat services will be held in Fellowship Hall at the Sanibel Congregational United of Christ, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will lead all services. Cantor Murray Simon will chant the prayers, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison.

**December 1 – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon – 7:30 p.m.
December 8 – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, guest preacher Rabbi Myra Soifer, Cantor Murray Simon – 7:30 p.m.
December 15 – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon – 7:30 p.m.
December 22 - Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon- 7:30 p.m.
December 29 - Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon- 7:30 p.m.**

*THANKS TO THE ONEG SHABBAT VOLUNTEERS FOR
DECEMBER...*

December 1 – Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson, Norma and Jack Kohn
December 8 – Esther and Marty Pokedoff, Renee and Len Minsky
December 15 – Irene and Leon Skolnick, Bluma and Don Herman
December 22 – Salessa and Marvin Berk, Esta and David Berger
December 29 – Cheryl and Barry Fulmer, Sandra and Stuart Berke

**RABBI MYRA SOIFER TO SPEAK AT
DECEMBER 8TH SHABBAT SERVICE**

Bat Yam will welcome Rabbi Myra Soifer back to the pulpit as guest preacher on Friday, December 8th. She plans to visit the Sanibel/Ft. Myers area from December 6th to December 11th.

*MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ANN ARNOFF ON
DECEMBER 16TH*

Bat Yam member Susan Spohr invites you to attend a memorial service to celebrate the life of her mother Ann Arnoff, former president of **Bat Yam** and Sanibel visionary and dedicated community leader. It will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 16th at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Rabbi Fuchs will speak at the service.

DECEMBER 2017 BAT YAM SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

The *Shabbat* morning classes begin with a half hour of Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi Fuchs. They continue with Rabbi Fuchs' presentations according to the topic "Beginning with Creation in Genesis and Getting As Far As We Get as the Year Unfolds." Bat Yam congregants present the second session. Renee Sugar heads the December congregant-led sessions with the topic of ghettos in Europe, focusing on their patterns of political resistance.

The December Saturday morning class schedule is as follows:

December 2

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Conversations Starting with Genesis - Rabbi Fuchs
10:30 to 11:15 a.m. – Introduction to the topic of Jewish ghettos in Europe – Renee Sugar

December 9

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Conversations Starting with Genesis - Rabbi Fuchs
10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Theresienstadt – Judy Rubin

December 16

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: - Conversations Starting with Genesis - Rabbi Fuchs
10:30 to 11:15 a.m.: The Warsaw Ghetto – Andrea Smith

December 22 and December 29

No classes – winter vacation

PREVIEW OF JANUARY 2018 CLASSES

In the January 6th 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. session, guest rabbi Paul Citrin will present a *Torah* study based on *Parashat Shemot*: "Exodus & Jewish Identity".

Congregant-Led sessions

- . January 6 – Introduction to the topic Jews in Entertainment (composers, comedians movie producers, etc.) – Edina Lessack
- . January 13 – Maestro Nir Kaberetti, Artistic Director of the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra
- . January 20 – Aaron Copland – Barry Fulmer
- . January 27 – Cantors – Cantor Murray Simon

JOINT INSTALLATION SERVICE IS SET FOR JANUARY 5th

Rabbi Paul J. Citrin will officiate at the joint *Bat Yam* installation service of Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Simon on Friday, January 5th at 7:30 pm. His sermon topic will be "The Keys to A Flourishing Congregation". Other Sanibel clergy and officials will also take part in the special *Shabbat* service.

Rabbis Citrin and Fuchs were classmates in rabbinical school, and Rabbi Citrin shared a pulpit with Cantor Simon in Boston. A native of Los Angeles, Rabbi Citrin was ordained by the Hebrew Union College in 1973. Now retired, he currently serves as the rabbi of the Taos, NM Jewish Center on a monthly basis. He co-founded the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue of Albuquerque, which now includes Protestants and Moslems. He was also on the board of the Martin Luther King Multicultural Council, which provides college scholarships to minority students. He served as president of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis and as a board member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He is the author of a children's novel *Joseph's Wardrobe*, and co-author and editor of several other books.

Rabbi Citrin will also present the rabbi's portion of the *Shabbat* morning class the following morning, January 6th, *Torah* study based on Parashat *Shemot*: "Exodus and Jewish Identity".

"SEASON OF LIGHTS" CELEBRATION PLANNED

Rabbi Fuchs and Reverend John Danner, Senior Pastor of the Sanibel Congregational UCC, are planning a joint celebration on Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall of the church. Come to enjoy a festive evening. Additional information to follow.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSELYN KRAUS, WINNER OF THE BAT YAM BULLETIN- NAMING CONTEST

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and *Bat Yam* bulletin editor Marcia Rudin announce that the future name of the bulletin will be "Bat Yam Matters." Long-time *Bat Yam* member Roselyn Kraus submitted this winning title to Rabbi Fuchs. The rabbi wishes to thank others who submitted entries into the naming contest. The new title will go into effect with the January 2018 issue of the bulletin.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am writing this article with the visual image of Thanksgiving and its message very much on my mind. The first Thanksgiving, held by the Pilgrims who left England seeking religious liberty started an important tradition.

As a people who have experienced the evils of discrimination, evictions from their homes, separations from their families and mass killings, the message of this day resonates. It is a day when we need to think of the 64 million individuals around the world who are searching for a safe place to live, bring up their families, and worship freely. Unfortunately, we have experienced a year in which hate has become fashionable and used in the political process, not only here in the U.S. but in many other places around the world. The Jewish community, perhaps more than any other group understands the dangers posed by extremists.

In early November, Edina and I attended a Road Scholar trip in Santa Fe and Taos, NM which focused on the Conversos and Crypto Jews. Two of the presenters were Conversos, and their stories were fascinating. In 1492, the Jews of Spain were ordered to leave the Country or convert to Catholicism. Many left and others did convert; some did, but practiced their Judaism in secret. If exposed, they were taken to the Inquisition Courts and tortured. If they recanted they were forced to wear dunce caps and a special tunic for three years. If they did not recant, they were burned at the stake - all in the name of religion.

This experience reinforced for us that as a people we must speak out, because we know, from history and experience what our failure to do so means. You need only to look at areas of Fort Myers and Immokalee, where over 20,000 Haitians live and work. They play an important role in our economy, and many of their children were born here. They will be forced to return to their country, which has over 80% unemployment and is still not rebuilt. Hospitals and schools are gone. Should we be silent?

Shalom. Alan Lessack, President

RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS



Chanukah: Beyond the Cruse of Oil

Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs

For all my years as a rabbi I have tried to teach in every venue at my disposal – pulpit, classroom, office, anywhere I can – that the Festival of Chanukah is not really about a cruse of oil that lasted for eight days. That wonderful legend is about as central to the real meaning of Chanukah as Santa Claus is the reason our Christian neighbors celebrate Christmas.

The real story of Chanukah is long and complex, but here is its essence, and the vital lesson it can teach us today. Long ago in Judaea (about 165 BCE), it was a time of peace and prosperity. The Assyrian Greeks and their King Antiochus ruled over Judea, but they were content to leave the Jews alone as long as they paid their taxes and there was peace in the streets.

At this time there were basically two types of Jews living in Judaea. There were Jews who were loyal to their religion and to our Covenant with God. They understood that God had called Abraham and Sarah and their descendants (who included them and us today) to

1. Be a blessing
2. Follow God's teachings and live worthy lives
3. Use their talents to create a society built on justice and righteousness.

These Jews believed that if they did these things, then in return, God would:

1. Protect them
2. Give them children
3. Make them a permanent people
4. Keep them safe in their ancient land, the land then known as Judaea

There was another group of Jews at that time as well. Most of them were wealthy and thought it would be to their advantage if they were more like the Greeks. They thought their Jewish customs and religious celebrations made it harder to have good relationships and make profitable business relationships with wealthy Greek businessmen.

In order to accomplish this goal, this second group of Jew stopped practicing their religion. They wanted to see Judaea become a Greek city-state. If that happened Judaea could coin its own money, which would be a great advantage in business. So instead of studying Torah, observing Holy Days and Festivals, and living Jewish lives, they hung out

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in the Greek gymnasia where they could make lots of good business contacts.

Well, to make a long story short, there was so much tension between these two groups of Jews that soon they started fighting with each other. Only when he saw that there was violence in the streets of Judaea, did Antiochus send in his troops. He outlawed all Jewish practice and polluted the Temple with idols of Greek gods, and offered sacrifice of pigs (a forbidden animal for Jews) to them.

The Maccabees fought against the Assyrian-Greeks for three years and

finally drove the foreign troops out of Judaea. They fought for the first time in history for the cause of religious liberty. And they won!

The lesson, though, is an important one for today. When we take our Judaism for granted, when we neglect to study and practice it, we endanger its survival. That is the real lesson of Chanukah. May we celebrate the Festival of Lights with joy and pride in our precious heritage!

Your Rabbi, Stephen Fuchs
stephenlfuchs@gmail.com
www.rabbifuchs.com
twitter: @rabbifuchs6

RABBI FUCHS IN THE COMMUNITY

. Monday, December 4th - Rabbi Fuchs will appear on a panel of speakers at a special Moral Monday Meetup sponsored by the SWFL Justice4All Coalition in partnership with the SWFL Interfaith Action Group at 6:30 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 20601 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero. The discussion will include how faith leaders can use their moral standing to model mutual understanding, respect and acceptance; how they can draw on the teachings of their faith to build interfaith collaboration; and how faith leaders, institutions and individuals can serve the community by working with religious and secular social justice groups.

. Sunday, December 10th – Rabbi Fuchs will speak on the topic “Why I Go to Germany” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at Temple Shaarei Shalom in Boynton Beach, Florida. The program will begin at 1 p.m.

For further information about these events, contact Rabbi Fuchs at
stephenlfuchs@gmail.com.

PLEASE WATCH FOR A LETTER COMING SOON FROM THE BAT YAM TZEDAKAH COMMITTEE ENCOURAGING YOU TO DONATE TO THE TZEDAKAH FUND. THESE FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THE SPRING TO WORTHY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

**SHARED SCHOLAR
LECTURE AND
LUNCHEON
SEMINAR ON
JANUARY 14 AND 16**

The Reverend Dr. J. Clinton McCann, Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Seminary in St. Louis, is the Shared Scholar Program 2018 speaker. His topic will be “The Psalms as Doorway to Interfaith Dialogue.” The lecture is scheduled for January 14th at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Sanibel Congregational UCC. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow. The program is open to the public.

Dr. McCann will also offer a luncheon seminar in the UCC Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16th. He will be joined by composer and musician Richard Bruxvoort Colligan in an exploration of the ways peace and justice concerns are reflected in the Psalms and in other songs. Mr. Colligan is a 21st-century psalmist, composing community songs around the psalms as he teaches and workshops congregational singing focused on lifelong spiritual formation. He holds an MA in Theology and the Arts from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and is currently working toward a Doctor of Ministry from Eden Theological Seminary. This luncheon seminar is also open to the public with no admission fee, but you must sign up if you wish to attend.

In preparation for the Shared Scholar’s visit, The Reverend John Danner, Senior Pastor of the Sanibel

Congregational UCC, will present the second session of his two-part introductory course to the work of the Dr. McCann on December 6th, at 10:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. (the 7 p.m. session is a repeat of the 10:00 a.m. class). The class will be held at the church’s Fellowship Hall. The course is titled “God’s Claim Upon the World: An Introduction to the Psalms and the Work of J. Clinton McCann.”

Dr. McCann is Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned a Ph.D. from Duke University in 1985 and joined the Eden Seminary faculty in 1987. His research and writing focuses on the Psalms. A noted biblical scholar, his publications on the Psalms include *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter* and *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Torah*.

The Shared Scholar program is co-sponsored annually by *Bat Yam*, the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, First Church of Christ Scientist, and Captiva Chapel by the Sea. *Bat Yam*’s sponsorship is provided by the Leo Rosner Foundation in honor of June Rosner.

Adele Anish and Marcia Rudin are co-chairing the reception following the January 14th program. Volunteers from *Bat Yam* are needed to provide food and to help set up the reception in Fellowship Hall of the UCC. If you wish to contribute food and/or your assistance please contact Marcia at 917-678-5456 or marciarudin@aol.com.

SIGN UP FOR TEAM BAT YAM FOR THE SANIBEL/CAPTIVA HEART WALK

The fifth annual Heart Walk for Sanibel and Captiva will take place on Sunday afternoon, January 28th. Participants will gather at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, beginning at 2 p.m. for entertainment, speeches, and refreshments. This year's featured speaker will be our own Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. The walk will begin at 3 p.m. According to *Bat Yam* member

Sandy Teger, "Walkers will enjoy a safe, closed loop, and may do as many laps as they wish to complete a 3.2-mile 5K or optional one-mile course. Well-behaved pets are welcome."

In the four years since the walk began, over \$100,000 has been raised to enable the American Heart Association to continue its education, advocacy and life-saving research. To sign up or become a sponsor visit www.SanibelCaptiveHeartWalk.org or contact Lee Heart Walk Director Kelly Glewa at 239-340-2407 or Sandy Teger at 973-420-3233.

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

June Patinkin, William Schlackman, Orlene Shimberg, Jeanette Keyser, Roselyn Kraus, Carol Scheiber, Rosamond (Riv) Swartz, Anne Joffe, Mort Levy, Sue Spohr, Corinne Siegel, Esta Berger, Martin Pokedoff, Jack Kohn, Michael Hochschild, and Miriam Bailey, Frank Siegel

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?

Rabbi Myra Soifer has returned to Reno, Nevada after completing her month-long stay in Cuenca, Ecuador, where she learned Spanish and volunteered to work with children. She reports she had a wonderful time there and was sad to leave. Next step in her life? Now that she has improved her Spanish, The Peace Corps has offered her a stint in Panama beginning in February. However she is negotiating with them as to how much tedious paperwork she will have to re-do that she already completed for her earlier assignment. She says, "Stay Tuned." You can follow Rabbi Soifer's adventures on her blog. You can reach it by going to WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com. According to Rabbi Soifer, when you get there, you'll find a "follow" button at the bottom right-hand corner of the page. If you click on that, you'll be prompted to enter your email address, with a final prompting to "confirm". Once you do, you will automatically be sent a link to any new postings. Click on that link to read the latest blog post.

UPDATE ON SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Bat Yam Social Action Committee is gathering a group of volunteers to pack and sort food for Hurricane Irma relief and other initiatives once a month at the Harry Chapin Food Bank at 3760 Fowler Street in Ft. Myers. The committee will arrange carpooling. According to Social Action Committee chair Garry Weiss, "We are planning to volunteer the third Wednesday of each month for the 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. shift, probably starting in December." If you are interested in participating (it is understood that volunteers may well miss individual shifts), please contact Garry at gsw211@gmail.com or telephone 410-336-2612. The Committee also works with FISH, the food pantry on Sanibel, to sponsor a

once-a-month Paper Drive for the organization during the first weekend of *Shabbat* services and *Shabbat* morning classes for each month beginning December 1st. Please bring paper product donations to services and classes during the first weekend of each month. There will be clearly marked FISH bins each month into which you can deposit your donations.

The committee is planning another visit (it made its first visit last April) to the Coalition of Immokalee/Fair Food Alliance in Immokalee for a tour, educational presentation, discussion of the group's needs, its history, and a discussion about how the social action committee and *Bat Yam* members can help local migrant farm workers. For more information about the Social Action Committee, contact Garry at gsw211@gmail.com.

DECEMBER YAHRTZEITS

December 1 – Seymour Lubetkin, brother of Bernard Lubetkin
December 2 – Urbana Escandon, mother-in-law of Kathy Zoss
December 3 – Harry Kohn, father of Jack Kohn
December 6 – Henny Karasin, mother of Elissa Karasin Samet
December 8 – Joe Buckstein, father of Esther Pokedoff
December 11 – Murray Edinburg, father of Joel Edinburg
December 12 - Marvin Joel Salus, brother of Edina Lessack
December 16 – Zelda Edinburg, mother of Joel Edinburg
December 20 –December 27 – Goldie Bialy, mother of Norma Kohn
December 31 – Francisco Rebon, father-in-law of Kathy Zoss

Kathy Zoss reports that the following dates are open for *Oneg Shabbat* volunteers for the upcoming season: Dates needing one co-host are March 2, April 20, and April 27; Date needing two co-hosts is March 30.

Please Email Kathy at skzoss21943@gmail.com, telephone her at 239-362-0539, or see her at services to reserve your date.

MISCELLANEOUS...

- . The *Bat Yam* membership committee needs volunteers to help staff the welcome table at the door during next season. If you are able to help, contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016.
- . To make changes in your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership roster, contact Brandon Minsky at Brandon@bitservicesfl.com. Please keep your information current.
- . Email Cheryl Fulmer at 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.
- . All *Bat Yam* authors, please bring in copies of your books to *Shabbat* services to be displayed at a table so members and guests can see the wealth of creativity in our community.
- . Contact Irene Skolnick at irkul42@gmail.com or 239-472-2217 with additions or corrections you have to the *Yahrtzeit* list.
- . Email articles for the January 2018 *Bat Yam* bulletin to editor Marcia Rudin at marciarudin@aol.com by December 15th.
- . *Tzedakah* cards that can be used for many occasions may be purchased from Renee Sugar for \$45.00 for five cards. Your donations contribute to *Bat Yam*'s *Tzedakah* funds dispensed in the Spring to worthy organizations in the U.S. and Israel by the *Tzedakah* committee. Contact Renee at rsugar05@gmail.com.
- . Norma Kohn wants to gather together current or former players of string or other orchestral instruments just to play for their own enjoyment. Anyone interested email her at norjak51@aol.com.
- . Island Taxi has offered to provide a limo for Friday night *Shabbat* services from Shell Point to the Congregational Church on Sanibel. It will hold five people and will cost \$50.00 round trip. (\$10.00 per person round trip.) If interested, telephone Mel Bleiberg at (239) 693 3016.
- . Mickey Kaplan reports she recently had a lengthy telephone conversation with former *Bat Yam* member Marilyn Michel. She and her husband Mo, a former *Bat Yam* treasurer, now live in an assisted living facility near Tempe, Arizona, close to their daughter. Marilyn reports they miss Sanibel and everyone at *Bat Yam* and want to be remembered to all.

DONATIONS TO BAT YAM

If you have an IRA and are 70 1/2 years or older and have not already taken your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2017, please consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to Temple Bat Yam before the year ends. A QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, whereas income tax must be paid on the amount of any Required Minimum Distribution paid directly to you.

If you would like to take advantage of a QCD, i.e., making a charitable contribution and saving on your income taxes, we suggest you always talk to your accountant or financial advisor first. A QCD for Bat Yam should be directed to Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, PO Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957

Questions may be directed to Stuart Berke, Bat Yam Treasurer, at 239-395-3231 or stuartberke16@gmail.com.

General Donations

Shirley Boscov

The Herman Foundation

Roselyn Kraus

Judith and Herb Rubin

Beverly and John Voorhees

In Memory of Ann Arnoff

Rebecca Kon

Jay and Barry Solomon

In Memory of Howard Pachman

Rebecca Kon

In Memory of Ryan David Mayer

Jay and Barry Solomon

In Memory of Hartley Kleinberg

Jay and Barry Solomon

Yahrtzeits

Edina and Alan Lessack in memory of Edina's brother Howard Salus

Beverly and Bernie Lubetkin in memory of Bernie's daughter Susan Lubetkin and

Beverly's father Joseph Kanner

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Music Fund
The Herman Foundation

Tzedakah Fund
Esther and Martin Pokedoff
Renee and Joel Sugar

Scholarship and Programming Fund
The Rosner Foundation

SAVE THESE DATES

- . Monday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. – Rabbi Fuchs speaks at Moral Monday Meetup sponsored by the SWFL Justice4All Coalition and SWFL Interfaith Action Group
- . Wednesday, December 6, 10 a.m., repeated at 7 p.m. – Course taught by Reverend John Danner, “God’s Claim Upon the World: An Introduction to the Psalms and the Work of J. Clinton McCann”
- . Friday, December 8 – Rabbi Myra Soifer is guest preacher at *Shabbat* services
- . Sunday, December 10, 1 p.m. – Rabbi Fuchs speaks at Temple *Shaarei Shalom* in Boynton Beach, Florida
- . Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. – Joint “Season of Lights” celebration with the Sanibel Congregational UCC
- . Saturday, December 16th, 2 p.m. – Memorial service for Ann Arnoff at the Community House
- . Friday, January 5, 2018 – Installation of Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Simon
- . Saturday, January 6 – Rabbi Paul Citrin teaching Torah portion at *Shabbat* morning class
- . Sunday, January 14, 3 p.m. – Interfaith Shared Scholar program and reception featuring speaker Dr. J. Clinton McCann and reception to follow in Fellowship Hall
- . Tuesday, January 16, 10 a.m. - Luncheon workshop presented by Dr. J. Clinton McCann and Richard Broxoort Colligan
- . Sunday, January 28 - 2 p.m. Sanibel-Captiva Heart Walk

BAT YAM, TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Rabbi: Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Cantor: Murray E. Simon

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