



# BAT YAM MATTERS

Number 109    February 2020    Sh'vat/Adar 5780

## 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*

---

### FEBRUARY 2020 *BAT YAM* *SHABBAT EVE WORSHIP*

All February *Shabbat* services will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the SCUCC Sanctuary. They will be led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, with Cantor Murray Simon chanting the prayers, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison.

**February 7, 14\*, 21, 28**

\*During the February 14 *Shabbat* service, Drs. Don Bachman and Michael Raab, who have been diligently studying with Rabbi Fuchs for several months, will read the Ten Commandments from the *Torah*. Then, in lieu of a formal sermon, they will interact with Rabbi Fuchs about the meaning and implication for our lives today about these central teachings of our tradition.

### CELEBRATE *TU B'SHEVAT* FEBRUARY 9

On Sunday, February 9, at 6:00 p.m., come to a special celebration of the traditional Jewish new year for trees, *Tu B'Shevat*. The event will feature an overview of the festival and its significance for today by our ritual chairperson, Tanya Hochschild. Ellen Feingold will offer a brief explanation of the seven biblical flora species that the festival celebrates. We shall enjoy sampling the foods derived from them, thanks to Paula Raboy. In addition, Rabbi Fuchs will share stories, blessings, and explanations pertinent to the festival.

More than anything else, *Tu B'Shevat* celebrates our responsibility to maintain and replenish the earth that God has entrusted to our care. Its significance and message have never been more relevant than they are today. If you plan to join us at this special celebration, please RSVP to Tanya Hochschild at [tutsie@centurylink.net](mailto:tutsie@centurylink.net).

### ***IN MEMORIAM: RUSSELL BILGORE***

*Bat Yam* member Russell Bilgore died at age 89 on December 30 after a long illness. A resident of Sanibel and East Hampton, he was born in Binghamton, New York. A former investment broker in New York, he was for many years the beloved companion of *Bat Yam* member June Rosner. A memorial service in his honor will take place on Saturday, March 14, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Carlyle Hotel in New York City. RSVP to [mwachtel@katskykorins.com](mailto:mwachtel@katskykorins.com).

## ***SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES***

*Shabbat* morning classes held in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC begin with Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. They continue with Bible Conversations with Rabbi Fuchs from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Fuchs' focus this season is on the weekly *Torah* and *Haftarah* readings. (*Haftarot* are portions taken from the Hebrew prophets that connect in some way to the weekly *Torah* reading.) These classes are followed by sessions presented by congregants from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and Jewish Current Events at 11:30 a.m., led by Len Minsky.

The February, March, and April sessions led by congregants from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. are:

### **February 1**

What DNA Tells Us About Ancient Migrations and Interactions - Kay Sadighi

### **February 8**

In Search of the Bassanos: Part I – Debbie Gurman and Don Breiter

### **February 15**

No classes - Presidents' Day weekend

### **February 22**

In Search of the Bassanos: Part II – Debbie Gurman and Don Breiter

### **February 29**

Some of the Most Beautiful Synagogues in the World – Irene Skolnick

### **March 7**

How Jews Invented Hollywood: An Empire of Their Own - Rabbi James Rudin

### **March 14**

Lesser Women in the Bible – Ellen Feingold

### **March 21**

The Breiters of Krakow – Don Breiter

### **March 28**

The 1970s, When Litigation Changed Everything for Women - Jane Picker

### **April 4**

Psycholinguistics – Herb Rubin

### **April 11**

No classes – Passover break

### **April 18**

*Siyyum* and Planning for Next Season

Thanks to Vickie Fuchs for organizing these classes. Contact her at [vfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:vfuchs@gmail.com) or 860-305-4876 if you want to share ideas for classes or present a future session.

## ***SAVE THIS DATE***

The Bat Yam annual membership meeting will take place on Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, preceded by a potluck dinner. Business will include voting on candidates for officers and trustees of Bat Yam (with required prior notice given to the congregation), as well as discussion of the budget for the upcoming year. Watch for additional information.

## ***MORE DATES TO SAVE***

- Sunday, February 2, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Pulpit Exchange with SCUCC – Rabbi Fuchs delivers sermon at SCUCC worship services!
- Thursdays, February 6 to March 26 – Rabbi Fuchs' classes on his book *What's in It for Me?*
- Sunday, February 9, 6:00 p.m. – Tu B'Shevat celebration
- Sunday, February 23, 2:00 p.m. – film "My Polish Honeymoon" (Jewish Film Festival) in Fellowship Hall, SCUCC
- Monday, February 24, 10:00 a.m. – Rabbi Fuchs' book talk at Sanibel Library on *And Often the First Jew*
- Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m. – Three Cantors and a Pastor concert in the SCUCC sanctuary
- Monday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. – Purim celebration
- Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m. – Rabbi Fuchs' book discussion at Federation about *And Often the First Jew*
- Thursday, March 26, 6:00 p.m. – Bat Yam annual membership meeting
- Wednesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. – Bat Yam Seder

## ***PULPIT EXCHANGE WEEKEND***

After Pastor John H. Danner delivers the sermon at *Shabbat* services on January 31 as part of the SCUCC/Bat Yam pulpit exchange (sermon topic "Out of Darkness"), Rabbi Fuchs will deliver the sermon at SCUCC's 9:00 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, February 2. His topic will be "The Violent World of the Sport We Love Most."

***WELCOME*** to two new *Bat Yam* trustees: Howard Lorsch, who will serve as Recording Secretary, and Stan Levine. They will fill two vacant seats until the March 26 annual membership meeting when the congregation will vote on nominees for extended terms.

# THREE CANTORS AND A PASTOR CONCERT COMING SOON!!

A major interfaith community event is back by popular demand! On Sunday, March 1, at 4:00 p.m., *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands will present another memorable musical program that will include liturgical music, light classics, pop songs, Broadway hits, and sing-a-longs. This free concert will be held in the SCUCC sanctuary.

The performers will be led by *Bat Yam* Cantor Murray Simon, who will once again be joined by Pastor John H. Danner of SCUCC and Cantor Elizabeth Shammash of *Tiferet Bet Israel* in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. Performing for the first time will be Cantor Rachel Brook of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City.

As they perform solos, duets and in ensembles, the three cantors and the pastor will be accompanied by two pianists, Abbey Allison and Toby Simon, as well as other musicians.

A reception following the concert will give concertgoers an opportunity to socialize with each other and the performers.

Last year, Three Cantors and a Pastor played to a packed house, so plan to arrive early.

While there are no admission tickets, there will be a music appreciation offering. There are also sponsorship opportunities, which include priority seating at the event and acknowledgment in the program booklet. Sponsorship levels are Bronze (\$50-\$99), Silver (\$100-\$249), Gold (\$250-\$499), Platinum (\$500-\$999), and Premier Platinum (\$1,000 and above.) Sponsorship checks can be mailed to *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands, P.O. Box 84, Sanibel FL 33957. For further information, email co-chair Judith Adler at [jfadler@aol.com](mailto:jfadler@aol.com).

Mark your calendar for March 1 and save the date for a wonderful afternoon of fabulous music and interfaith fellowship!



*Bat Yam*  
*Temple of the Islands*

a Reform Jewish Congregation

presents the return of

## THREE CANTORS AND A PASTOR

*A memorable musical program of light classics,  
Broadway and pop tunes...and much more!*

Followed by a reception to meet the soloists and enjoy refreshments



Cantor Murray E. Simon  
*Bat Yam*  
Sanibel



Cantor Rachel Brook  
Park Avenue Synagogue  
New York, NY



Cantor Elizabeth Shammash  
*Tiferet Bet Israel*  
Blue Bell, PA



Rev. Dr. John H. Danner  
Sanibel Congregational  
UCC

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1 – 4 p.m.

at

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ  
2050 Periwinkle Way

For more information, visit [BATYAM.ORG](http://BATYAM.ORG).

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## **BAT YAM TO HOST FEDERATION JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL SELECTION IN FEBRUARY**

On Sunday, February 23, at 2:00 p.m., an entry in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida will be shown in Fellowship Hall of SCUCC.

In “My Polish Honeymoon,” Anna and Adam, a young Parisian Jewish couple, are about to travel to Poland for the first time. They are just married, and this will be their honeymoon. They will attend a ceremony in memory of the Jewish community in the village of Adam’s grandfather, destroyed seventy-five years ago. Adam is not enthusiastic, but Anna is both anxious and excited about the trip to Poland, which is also her grandmother’s country, hoping to reconnect with her roots and discover more about her own family’s history. This comedy/drama is in French with English subtitles.

Tickets at \$10 each will be available at the door one hour before screening time. Please attend to show support for the Federation Film Festival and to ensure that *Bat Yam* will be able to host Jewish Film Festival events in the future.

## **PURIM CELEBRATION MARCH 9**

Our *Purim* presentation, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison, will take place on Monday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will retell the *Purim* story of the biblical Book of Esther, augmented by familiar songs with special lyrics written by individual cast members. Tanya Hochschild will introduce the story.

In addition to those pictured below, the cast will feature Pastor John H. Danner, reprising his history-making role as King Ahasuerus, and Cantor Murray Simon as Haman.



At a rehearsal of the *Purim* presentation are (from left) Rabbi Fuchs; Vickie Fuchs, who will portray Esther; Ben Yokel as Bigthan; Edina Lessack as Mordecai; Sally Sacks as Vashti; and Alan Sacks as Teresh.

## RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR THE APRIL 8 *BAT YAM* SEDER

At 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and Cantor Murray Simon will lead the annual *Bat Yam* Seder at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way. The evening will feature new catering by Chef Karl Hamme and Baileys, with the best of our favorite traditional Seder dinner foods.

The prices are \$54 per person for *Bat Yam* members and their guests who are immediate family, \$65 for members' guests who are not immediate family, \$65 for non-members and their guests, and \$35 for children ages five to fifteen. There is no charge for children under the age of five.

Bring your own Seder plate if you wish.

Please reserve no later than Thursday, March 26, by mailing your check and guest information to Annette Pacyga, 3722 Coquina Drive, Sanibel FL 33957. For additional information, contact Annette at 941-740-1650 or [Annette.pacyga@gmail.com](mailto:Annette.pacyga@gmail.com).

## TORAH ARK DEDICATED JANUARY 17

During the *Shabbat* Eve service of January 17, Rabbi Fuchs dedicated the new ark in which the *Torah* will be housed when services are held during season in the sanctuary of SCUCC.

Thanks to the generosity of *Bat Yam* members Peter and Jocelyn Saltz, the ark was designed and constructed by artisan Kym Nader. Built of cherry wood, it includes a stained glass window designed and donated by Ken Casola of Casola Stained Glass Studio in Fort Myers.



At the dedication of the *Torah* ark on January 17, left to right: Rabbi Fuchs, Peter Saltz, Kym Nader, and Jocelyn Saltz

## **RABBI FUCHS TO SPEAK ABOUT HIS LATEST BOOK IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH PROGRAMS**

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will speak about his newest book, *And Often the First Jew*, at the Sanibel Public Library on Monday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. He will also appear at a Meet the Author event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties on Wednesday, March 25, at 6 p.m. The Federation session, during which a light dairy dinner will be served, will be at 9701 Commerce Center Court in Fort Myers. The event is free and open to the community. RSVP for this event at 239-481-4449 or via email at [debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org](mailto:debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org).

In *And Often the First Jew*, Rabbi Fuchs discusses his speaking engagements over the past five years in more than two dozen German churches, during which he has been for many worshippers the first Jew they have ever seen. His aim in those sermons and lectures is to help Germans come to grips with the enormity of the Holocaust with an eye toward creating a better future. His father, Leo, was arrested in his native city of Leipzig on *Kristallnacht*, November 9, 1938. He was released from Dachau not long thereafter and came to the United States. Although his father never spoke of that horrible night, his experience has had a profound effect on Rabbi Fuchs' life and career.

## **AND WILL PRESENT CLASSES ABOUT ONE OF HIS OTHER BOOKS, *WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME***

Join Rabbi Fuchs on Thursday mornings from February 6 through March 26, from 10:30-11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, to study in depth his book, *What's in It for Me: Finding Ourselves in Biblical Narratives*. The book is available from Amazon in either paperback or Kindle editions. There are also some copies available from Rabbi Fuchs.

Participants should read the relevant chapter before each class and come with questions and comments. The sessions will resemble a seminar format rather than formal lectures. SCUCC members are also welcome. To indicate your interest, please contact Ellen Feingold at [ellenfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfeingold@gmail.com) or 302-345-7187.

---

## **BAT YAM WILL HAVE A TABLE AT ANNUAL SCUCC BAZAAR**

Adele Anish announced that *Bat Yam* will be given a table at the SCUCC Annual "Almost Spring" Sale/Bazaar on Saturday, February 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first and second floor of SCUCC. She will sell used and new golf balls, golf clubs, and other golf collectibles. Profits, split with the church, will be donated to *Bat Yam*.

If you wish to contribute items or help Adele that day, contact her at 239-472-9097.

## RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS

With all the horrible things going on in our world, especially the sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents in recent months, it is time for Jews to show the world we are proud of who we are.

All of my life I have been grateful that our American constitution guarantees freedom of religion. But I also embraced the fact that it guarantees “freedom from religion.”

While Jewish religious thought and ritual mean everything to me, I have always understood that there are many Jews who are not religiously observant and have no desire to become so.



Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Many Jews purposely choose to come to this part of Florida precisely because it is easier to blend in to the mainstream of life here without overtly practicing their heritage. I always felt their choice to be non-observant was as valid for them as my choice to be observant is for me ... until now. In these perilous times, I find myself putting the question to my non-observant acquaintances that I never felt the need to ask before. It is the same question that Mordecai, through the courtier Hatach, put to Queen Esther: Who knows if you have not come to be where you are for just such a time as this. (Esther 4:14)

At first Mordecai – as we will reenact in our *Purim* presentation on Monday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. – encourages Esther not to reveal her heritage when she becomes the King’s bride. In the face of Haman’s anti-Semitic threat to destroy us, though, he tells her, now is the time to reveal yourself and stand with your people against the existential threat to our freedom that has arisen.

Now is such a time for all of us.

So, if you know Jews who have not yet affiliated with *Bat Yam* and who do not come to either services or our classes, I encourage you: now is the time to invite and encourage them.

We Jews cannot control the actions of misguided or deranged people who perpetrate anti-Jewish hate. But we can control our response. Now is not the time for Jews to remain in the closet. It is the time to stand proudly as Jews.

Throughout history, beginning with Pharaoh in Egypt through Hitler a generation ago, many tyrants have risen to try to destroy us. Many have been the threats to our lives and comfort level in society. None of them have succeeded. But the biggest ally of anti-Semitism is our own indifference to the precious heritage that is ours. Now is the time to stand up and be counted with pride as a Jew.

*Stephen Fuchs*

[stephenlfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:stephenlfuchs@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 some events that took place during the past season, including my summer activities in Germany.)



## **PITCHING IN**

As we enter the new secular year, many of the issues facing our society continue to challenge us. This, of course, in the Jewish community as it is in the larger world around us. Many issues are, by their nature, difficult and not easy to resolve. We have a wonderful temple community composed of many individuals from various backgrounds and experiences, with many different points of view on a wide range of subjects. We discuss. We question. We debate. We even argue, sometimes heatedly. The problems of society and the smaller community may not all be solved, but the discussion, respectful and civil, can strengthen the ties that bind us.



President Barry Fulmer

But putting present and future discussions of issues aside, we as a congregational community are faced day after day with the need to ensure that the temple continues to function and the congregation's needs are met.

The role of volunteers cannot be overemphasized in making this all happen. Certain events like the upcoming Cantors/Pastor Concert require a large contingent of volunteers who have worked very hard to organize it. Other events may not draw the same level of attention to the volunteers who make them happen, like our annual *Taschlich* luncheon during *Rosh HaShanah*, *Yom Kippur* break-the-fast, *Chanukah* party, *Tu B'Shevat* celebration and the community-wide Passover Seder, just to name a few.

We need congregants to help prepare Fellowship Hall (or the Sanctuary in the height of the season) for Friday *Shabbat* services. If you can write and/or want to help publicize Temple *Bat Yam* in the local papers, we welcome your skills. We can always use help at the Welcome Table at Friday *Shabbat* services to warmly greet visitors, as well as existing and new members, and to encourage them to become active participants in our community. And to make new friends. All of this is what makes *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands so special. So please ask us about pitching in.

*L'Shalom,*

*Barry Fulmer*

President, *Bat Yam*

## FROM THE CANTOR

Dear Friends,

I would like to introduce you to some of the composers who have created the musical selections we will be performing in the March 1 concert at *Bat Yam*, **THREE CANTORS AND A PASTOR**. Can you find a thread among the composers? (Hint: it's in **bold** in the descriptions.)



Cantor Murray Simon

**HAROLD ARLEN** – born Hyman Arluck (February 15, 1905 - April 23, 1986) was an American composer of popular music who composed over 500 songs, a number of which have become known worldwide. In addition to composing the songs for the 1939 film “The Wizard of Oz” (lyrics by Yip Harburg), including “Over the Rainbow,” Arlen is a highly regarded contributor to the Great American Songbook. Harold Arlen’s father was a **cantor**.

**IRVING BERLIN** – born Israel Isadore Beillin (May 11, 1888 - September 22, 1989) was an American composer and lyricist, widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history. His music forms a great part of the Great American Songbook. Born in Imperial Russia, Berlin arrived in the United States at the age of five. He published his first major international hit, “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” in 1911. It is commonly believed that Berlin could not read sheet music and was such a limited piano player that he could only play in the key of F-sharp using his custom piano equipped with a transposing lever. Irving Berlin’s father was a **cantor**.

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN** – (August 25, 1918 - October 14, 1990) was an American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist. He was among the first conductors born and educated in the U.S. to receive worldwide acclaim. According to music critic Donal Henahan, he was “one of the most prodigiously talented and successful musicians in American history.”

**AARON COPLAND** – originally “Kaplan” (November 14, 1900 - December 2, 1990) was an American composer, composition teacher, writer, and later a conductor of his own and other American music. Copland was referred to by his peers and critics as “the Dean of American Composers.”

**MEIR FINKELSTEIN** – (born 1951) is a cantor and composer of contemporary Jewish liturgical music. He has composed more than 200 settings for the liturgy, as well as scored numerous television programs, made-for-TV movies, and documentary films. His tunes are sung in many congregations. He is considered one of the most popular contemporary Jewish liturgical composers in the United States. **Cantor Meir Finkelstein’s father was a cantor.**

**GEORGE GERSHWIN** – born Jacob Bruskin Gershowitz (September 26, 1898 - July 11, 1937) was an American composer and pianist whose compositions spanned both popular and classical genres. Among his best-known works are the orchestral composition “Rhapsody in

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Blue" (1924) and "An American in Paris" (1928); the songs "Sewanee" (1919) and "Fascinating Rhythm" (1924); the jazz standard "I Got Rhythm" (1930); and the opera "Porgy and Bess" (1935), which spawned the hit "Summertime".

**JACQUES OFFENBACH** – (June 20, 1819 - October 5, 1880) was a German-French composer, cellist and impresario of the romantic period. He is remembered for his nearly 100 operettas of the 1850s-1870s and his uncompleted opera "The Tales of Hoffman." His best-known works were continually revived during the 20th century, and many of his operettas continue to be staged in the 21st. Jacques Offenbach's father was a **cantor**.

**SHOLOM SECUNDA** – (September 4, 1894 - June 13, 1974) was an American composer of Ukrainian-Jewish descent. In January 1908, the family emigrated to New York where young Sholom became a noted child **cantor**. Secunda was one of the "big four" composers of his era in New York City's Second Avenue National Theater (Yiddish theater) scene. In 1932 he wrote the melody for the popular song "Bei Mir Bist du Sheyn," which later became a major hit for the Andrews Sisters.

**KURT WEILL** – (March 2, 1900 - April 3, 1950) was a German-Jewish composer, active from the 1920s in his native country, and in his later years in the United States. He was a leading composer for the stage, best known for his fruitful collaborations with Bertolt Brecht. With Brecht, he developed productions such as his best-known work, "The Threepenny Opera." Weill held the ideal of writing music that served a socially useful purpose. He also wrote several works for the concert hall. Kurt Weill's father was a **cantor**.

Did you find this interesting? I am so looking forward to seeing you at the concert on March 1. I hope you will enjoy it.

*B'shalom,  
Cantor Murray E. Simon*

---

## **THANKS TO JANUARY ONGAI \* SHABBAT HOSTS...**

- January 3 – Sue and Peter Danford, Linda and Joel Edinburg, Ellen and Michael Feingold, Myra Klahr
- January 10 – Judith Adler, Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock, Myra and Don Fisher
- January 17 – Joan and Howard Charlson, Debbie and Gil Mann, Edina and Alan Lesack
- January 24 – Cheryl and Barry Fulmer, Myra Klahr, Tobi Mackler and Steven Fischer
- January 31 - Patty and Stan Levine, Howard Lorsch, Renee and Len Minsky, Irene and Leon Skolnick

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

## ...AND THANK YOU FROM THE *TZEDAKAH* COMMITTEE

We'd like to thank the many people who have contributed so far this year to the *Tzedakah* fund, and encourage those of you who have not yet done so to please contribute. Every little bit helps the committee make donations from *Bat Yam*. In the past, our Temple has donated to *Yad LaKashish*, which enables elderly in Israel (the majority of whom are over eighty years old) to have meaningful and productive lives. When they enter, they are no longer poor and vulnerable, but are artists, learning and creating. They no longer suffer from scarcity but feel secure knowing they will daily receive a hot lunch, transportation, and financial support. They can age with dignity and self-respect.

Our synagogue has also donated to Jewish War Veterans of Southwest Florida; Planned Parenthood; Quality of Life Center of Florida, which supports at risk youth' Land Mine *Olim* Fund for the absorption of Russian and Ethiopian immigrants; and Jewish Agency for Lone Soldier Wings. We are looking into sending additional funds to Americans for Immigrant Justice, as well as organizations that help local people with addiction, with domestic abuse, and those fighting anti-Semitism in Florida.

We hope our synagogue will be able to send funds to many of these places, and we are grateful to our wonderful congregants who donate money, enabling our congregation to be generous as a whole.

*Vickie Fuchs* – 860-305-4876, [vfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:vfuchs@gmail.com)  
*Ellen Feingold* – 302-345-7187, [ellenfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfeingold@gmail.com)  
Co-chairs, *Tzedakah* Committee

---

## SCUCC INVITES BAT YAM MEMBERS TO JOIN THE GREEN TEAM

Bat Yam's host church, SCUCC, invites interested *Bat Yam* members to join its Green Team, which strives to protect the environment and animals, plants, and birds on Sanibel. The group has sponsored activities such as annual electronic recycling pickups, a joint potluck with *Bat Yam* with a program on food waste, making mats for hurricane or homeless shelters out of plastic bags, showing films about food choices and bottled water, an energy audit of the SCUCC building, and certification of the SCUCC garden as a National Wildlife Habitat. The Green Team meets from January through May at SCUCC.

For more information or to join, please email the group's chair, Jean Chandler, at [jeanchandler2@gmail.com](mailto:jeanchandler2@gmail.com).

Adele Anish reminds us to save metal snap tops from cans to help support Ronald McDonald Houses and the families they assist. Watch especially for items from General Mills, Ziploc, Kleenex, Lysol, and Finish. Put these items in baggies and give them to Adele. Also save 1" x 1" box tops and give them to her. These help purchase school supplies for the Gladiolus pre-school.

## BAT YAM MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Rabbi James Rudin will deliver the first BIG ARTS Talking Points lecture on February 4 at 4:00 p.m. at the Strauss Theater. The topic will be "1968: A Momentous and Defining Year in American History That Marked the Beginning of a Pivotal Change in American Politics."

He will also teach two series of BIG ARTS Winter Academy classes. The first series, on Wednesdays, February 5, 12, and 19, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Strauss Theater, will be "Three Women Who Permanently Changed America: Susan B. Anthony, Emma Goldman, and Margaret Sanger." The topic for the second series on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, and 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., also at the Strauss Theater, will be "How the American, French, and Russian Revolutions Transformed Our World."

The price for the Talking Points lecture is \$20. The price for the series of three classes is \$80. Telephone BIG ARTS at 239-395-0900 for tickets.

### WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?

December was a long, but tranquil, month. The first week of the month was our last week before summer vacation. It was more party than class, including the Panamanian celebration of Mother's Day on December 8. That same day, our "biggest Christmas tree in all of Central America" was lit, joyously brightening my little town.

I spent most of the rest of the month reading, planning my vacation school camp (in February - four days of Curious George in English and Spanish), and visiting Panama City a few times - first to do some of the "touristy" site-seeing that I've not yet done and then to celebrate New Year's with some of my young colleagues. Mid-January was our two-day conference to get all the details for our Close of Service. My official head-home date is March 26!

I left the Conference and headed for a week on Curacao, an island off the Venezuelan coast (and site of the oldest continuously used synagogue in the Americas!). I met Sue and Barb, my two best buddy older Peace Corps gal pals from last year, there. Great fun! Now it's on to helping some other volunteers with their vacation camps, doing my Curious George days, and then - before we know it - I'll be homeward bound! Unbelievable . . .

*Rabbi Myra Soifer*

You can follow Rabbi Soifer's Peace Corps activities in Panama on her blog:  
[WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com](http://WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com).]





---

## **BAT YAM GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS**

The *Bat Yam* Grief Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Sessions take place in the library of SCUCC from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Rabbi Fuchs facilitates the discussions. Everyone is welcome. Please encourage those you feel could benefit to attend. If you have questions, contact Ellen Feingold at [ellenfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfeingold@gmail.com).

---

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

Mel Bleiberg, Mickie Kaplan, Jeanette Keyser, Howard Mayer, Dan Pacyga, Michael Jacobson, June Patinkin, Esther and Martin Pokedoff, June Rosner, Alan Saltz (son of Jocelyn and Peter Saltz), Carol Scheiber, Frank Siegel, Arlyn and Irwin Stein, Renee and Joel Sugar, and Ben Yokel

---

## **THE BAT YAM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...**

... asks *Bat Yam* members to bring names and contact information of Jewish neighbors and friends who are not presently members of *Bat Yam*. Email the information to Ellen Feingold at [ellenfeingold@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfeingold@gmail.com) or telephone her at 302-345-7187.

... 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).

---

## **ONGAI\* SHABBAT HOSTS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

February 7 – one host

March 6 – two hosts

March 27 – three hosts

Contact Myra Klahr at [lingosmart@gmail.com](mailto:lingosmart@gmail.com) to let her know your preferred dates.

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

## **AND**

## **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; 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.

---

## **SUBMIT ITEMS FOR MARCH *BAT YAM* MATTERS...**

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

Please check your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership list, including your mailing address if you have moved, to make sure it's up to date. To access the list, go to the *Bat Yam* website (<http://www.batyam.org>) and click on the "Members List" in the menu. To make changes, or for a password reminder, contact Brandon Minsky at [Brandon@bitservicesfl.com](mailto:Brandon@bitservicesfl.com).

### **FEBRUARY *Yahrzeits***

February 3 – Ethel Berke, mother of Stuart Berke  
February 5 – Dora Zablotsky, mother of Morton Zablotsky  
February 9 – Leona Bergstein, mother of Linda Edinburg  
February 10 – Ruth Golden, mother of Beverly Lubetkin  
February 15 – Rosalie Goldstein-Smith, mother of Alan Smith  
February 15 – Rebecca Bleiberg, mother of Mel Bleiberg  
February 19 – Rose Salus, mother of Edina Lessack  
February 23 – Abraham Bialy, father of Norma Kohn  
February 26 – Frieda Leaf, mother of Evelyn Clark  
February 27 – Benjamin Clark, father of Herb Clark  
February 27 – Bess Minsky, mother of Leonard and Norman Minsky  
February 29 – Irving Salus, father of Edina Lessack

---

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO *BAT YAM***

*Please note: Any recent contributions that are not included here will be listed in the next issue of Bat Yam Matters.*

#### **General**

Fran and Dave Bayer (non-members) (in honor of Debbie and Gil Mann)

Shirley Boscov

Evelyn and Herbert Clark

Darlene and Robert Duvin

Barbara and Barry Epstein

Myra and Don Fisher

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer (In appreciation of Ellen and Michael Feingold)

Bluma Herman

Norma and Jack Kohn (in honor of the baby naming of their great-granddaughter,  
Juniper Grossi)

Edina and Alan Lessack (in thankfulness of Ben Yokel's "cancerversary" and in honor  
of his reading *Torah* at services)

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Patricia and Stanley Levine  
Barbara and Ronald Lipman  
Beverly and Bernard Lubetkin  
Enid and Marty Packard  
Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson  
Joan Schlackman  
Josephine and Lewis Schneider  
Helane and Alan Smith

***Tzedakah Fund***

Gay Adelson and Mickey Nathanson  
Nessa Adelson and Michael Derechin  
Judith Adler (in memory of Byron Pollack)  
Anonymous  
Madeline and Richard Baron  
Salessa and Marvin Berk  
Mel Bleiberg  
Shirley Boscov  
Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock (in memory of Lois Lorsch)  
Robyn and David Cook  
Sue and Peter Danford  
Deborah Gurman and Don Breiter  
Ellen and Michael Feingold (in memory of Barbara Schnur)  
Myra and Don Fisher  
Vickie and Rabbi Stephen Fuchs  
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer  
Shirley and Byron Frank  
Nancy and Ed Greenberg  
Mandy and Steve Greenstein  
Bluma Herman  
Tanya and Michael Hochschild  
Joyce Jacobs  
Myra Klahr  
Norma and Jack Kohn  
Becky Kon (in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tanya and Michael Hochschild)  
Roberta and Michael Jacobson (in memory of Don Herman)  
Edina and Alan Lessack  
Judith and Howard Mayer  
Renee and Leonard Minsky  
Enid and Marty Packard

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Annette Pacyga (in memory of Clare and Samuel Gorelick)

Paula Raboy

Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin

Mary Kay and Parvis Sadighi

Jocelyn and Peter Saltz

Caren and Bob Schoen (in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tanya and Michael Hochschild)

Barbara and Roy Silvers

Sheila Sklar

Andrea and Jan Smith

Helane and Alan Smith

Jay and Barry Solomon

Arlyn and Irving Stein

Barbara and Harold Stevelman

Renee and Joel Sugar

Arnee and Walter Winshall

Dorothy and Morton Zablotsky (in memory of Roger Satin)

Brenda and Arnold Zaltas

### **Cantor's Concert**

Judith Adler

Adele and Steven Anish

Esta and David Berger

Shirley Boscov

Ginny Bowen (non-member)

Mary Buck (non-member)

Evelyn and Herbert Clark

Deborah Gurman and Don Breiter

Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock

Sue and Peter Danford

Maggie and James Davis (non-members)

Barbara and Barry Epstein

Myra and Donald Fisher

Shirley and Byron Frank

Vickie and Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

Nancy Garfein (non-member)

Anne Golden

Nancy and Ed Greenberg

Tanya and Michael Hochschild

Roberta and Michael Jacobson

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Myra Klahr  
Norma and Jack Kohn  
Rebecca Kon  
Ann and Alan Levinsohn  
Edina and Alan Lessack  
Howard Lorsch  
Janice McNeal (non-member)  
Renee and Leonard Minsky  
Enid and Martin Packard  
Annette Pacyga  
Peggy and Chet Pardee (non-members)  
Susan and Richard Payne (non-members)  
Carol and Ron Periard (non-members)  
Sue and Tom Pick  
Jocelyn and Peter Saltz  
Elissa Karasin-Samet and Michael Samet  
Caren and Bob Schoen  
Lee and Gene Seidler  
Peggy and Frank Siegel  
Barbara and Roy Silvers  
Sheila Sklar  
Andrea and Jan Smith  
Jay and Barry Solomon  
Renee and Joel Sugar  
Betty and Morton Tavel  
Sandy Teger and David Waks  
Arnee and Walter Winshall  
Brenda and Arnold Zaltas

### **In Memory of Lois Lorsch**

Judith and Howard Mayer

### **In Memory of Donald Herman**

Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock  
Lee and Al Rabin (non-members)

### **In Memory of Russ Bilgore**

Judith Adler  
Esta and David Berger  
Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock

(continued on next page)



(continued from previous page)

Edina and Alan Lessack  
Rabbi Myra Soifer  
Jay and Barry Solomon

### **In Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Tanya and Michael Hochschild**

Judith Adler  
Esta and David Berger  
Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock  
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer  
Edina and Alan Lessack  
Gail and Gianni Migliorini (non-members)  
Jocelyn and Peter Saltz  
Barbara and Harold Stevelman

### **In Honor of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Jay and Barry Solomon**

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer  
Edina and Alan Lessack

### **In Honor of the Special Anniversary of Esta and David Berger**

Edina and Alan Lessack

### **In Honor of the Special Anniversary of Salessa and Marvin Berk**

Edina and Alan Lessack

### **In Honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Beverly Lubetkin**

Sue and Peter Danford

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Renee and Bill Andrews (non-members)  
Stephanie Calvo (non-member)

### **Cantor's Music Fund**

Edina and Alan Lessack

### ***Yahrzeits***

Linda and Joel Edinburg for *Yahrzeits* of his parents Zelda and Murray Edinburg  
Myra and Don Fisher for *Yahrzeit* of her father Leo Michaels  
Norma and Jack Kohn for *Yahrzeit* of his father Harry Kohn and her mother Goldie Bialy  
Edina and Alan Lessack for *Yahrzeit* of her brother Marvin Joel Salus

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Gail and Gianni Migliorini in memory of Jordan Lessack (non-members)  
Josephine and Lewis Schneider for *Yahrzeit* of her mother Janet Printz Kaplan  
Kathy Zoss for *Yahrzeits* of her mother-in-law Urbana Escandon and father-in-law  
Francisco Rebon

---

## MISCELLANEOUS...

- 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 acknowledgment.
  - If you wish to purchase *Tzedakah* cards (\$54 for five) that can be sent to family and friends for many occasions, contact Sally Sacks at [asacks118@gmail.com](mailto:asacks118@gmail.com). Donations from purchasing the cards contribute to *Bat Yam's Tzedakah* funds.
-

**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: Howard Lorsch**

**Immediate Past President: Alan Lessack**

**Trustees**

**Esta Berger, Janice Block Chaddock, Shirley Frank, Tanya Hochschild,  
Norma Kohn, Stan Levine, 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**

**PO Box 84**

**Sanibel, FL 33957**

**batyamsanibel@gmail.com**

**<http://www.batyam.org/>**