



BAT YAM MATTERS

Number 108 December 2019 – January 2020 Kislev/Sh'vat 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

Editor's note: Because of the travel schedule of Bat Yam Matters editor Marcia Rudin, the December 2019 and January 2020 issues of the newsletter are combined.

DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020 BAT YAM SHABBAT EVE WORSHIP

All December and January *Shabbat* services will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, with Cantor Murray Simon chanting the prayers accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison. December services will be in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC, but check *Bat Yam* email communications to see if January services will be in Fellowship Hall or in the SCUCC sanctuary.

December 6, 13 (*Tzedakah Shabbat*)*, 20, 27
January 3, 10, 17 (sermon by guest Rabbi Paul Citrin), 24, 31


*Rabbi Fuchs will share the special *Tzedakah* song he wrote (not to be missed) and will speak about *Tzedakah* in his sermon. The women of the *Tzedakah* Committee will participate in the service and provide the *Oneg Shabbat*.

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH ON DECEMBER 22

On December 22 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, we will celebrate the lighting of the candle for the first night of *Chanukah*. Members of SCUCC will join us. Please bring your own *Chanukiah* to create a "symphony of light" to brighten the darkest time of the year. Rabbi Fuchs will share "The Real Story of *Chanukah*," which, he says, will be surprisingly different from the one most of us learned as children. Then latkes and other treats will be served.



The following items are needed (enough to feed twenty people): latkes, trimmings, salad, *Chanukah* jelly donuts (*soufganiot*), *Chanukah* paper goods, non-alcoholic drinks, and desserts. Contact Ellen Feingold or Paula Raboy to indicate what you will bring. Ellen can be reached at (302) 345-7187 or ellenfeingold@gmail.com. Paula can be reached at (239) 472-8957 or gaggyp@aol.com.



SAVE THE DATE:
***Bat Yam's* Annual Membership Meeting**
Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC

RABBI FUCHS' LAST CLASS OF GENESIS SERIES
DECEMBER 5

Rabbi Fuchs' last of his series of three classes titled "Genesis' Earliest Stories" will be on Thursday, December 5, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The topic of this session is "Cain and Abel: The Symbol Story of the Human Soul." Rabbi Fuchs suggests you bring whatever Bible translation you have to the class. The program is open to the community,

RABBI FUCHS AND PASTOR DANNER TO
CO-TEACH THREE CLASSES IN JANUARY

On Wednesdays, January 8, 15, and 22, at 10:00 a.m. and repeated at 7:00 p.m., Rabbi Dr. Stephen Lewis Fuchs and the Rev. Dr. John H. Danner will teach classes together in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC. Building on the success of Pastor Danner's participation in our *Purim* celebration last year and in eager anticipation of his joining us again this year, these classes will focus on important issues the Book of Esther raises.

Some of the topics will be the status and treatment of women, the pernicious phenomenon of prejudice, the absence of God in the story (Esther is the only biblical book that makes no mention of the Creator), and the question of our destiny as human beings. The classes are open to all. Rabbi Fuchs and Pastor Danner hope you will join them at these sessions.

RABBI PAUL CITRIN RETURNS TO *BAT YAM*

A dear friend of Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Simon, Rabbi Paul Citrin, who inspired all of us when he installed our clergy team two years ago, will return to *Bat Yam*. At our *Erev Shabbat* service on January 17, he will deliver a sermon titled "Why I am Giving Up Whispering: Thoughts on Speaking Out and Dissent in Jewish Tradition."

On the following *Shabbat* morning, Rabbi Citrin will teach us from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., during the hour when Rabbi Fuchs normally teaches.

We eagerly look forward to Rabbi Citrin's return.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

Shabbat morning classes, held in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC, begin with Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi 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., except for January 18, when guest Rabbi Paul Citrin will teach that session.

Rabbi Fuchs' focus this season will be on both the weekly *Torah* and *Haftarah* readings. (*Haftarot* are portions taken from the Hebrew prophets that connect in some way to the weekly *Torah* reading.) Rabbi Fuchs' 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 December and January sessions led by congregants from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. are:

December 7

My First Fifty Years as a Cantor – Cantor Murray Simon

December 14

Russian Perspectives on Russia/U.S. Relations – Sid Picker

December 21 and December 28

No classes – Winter Break

January 4

Ethiopian Jews: Fulfilling their Dream of Becoming Israelis – Alan Lessack

January 11

Topic TBD – Gil Mann

January 18

Death, Immortality and Resurrection in Judaism – Lewis Schneider

January 25

The Conductor and the Orchestra Musicians – Maestro Nir Caberetti

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

“THREE CANTORS AND A PASTOR” CONCERT RETURNS TO SANIBEL MARCH 1

Please join us again for a few hours of outstanding and joyous musical variety featuring exhilarating vocal performances by our own local clergy and their world-renowned guests!

Joining our own **Cantor Murray E. Simon** will be the **Rev. Dr. John H. Danner**, Senior Pastor of our sister church SCUCC, and, back by popular demand, **Cantor Elizabeth Shammash** of *Teferet Bet Israel* in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

Cantor Rachel Brook, Assistant Cantor of the *Park Avenue Synagogue* in New York City, will be joining us for the first time. Cantor Brook, a former student of Cantor Simon, has sung at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, and has sung opera and concert roles throughout the U.S., Italy, and Bulgaria.



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

			
<small>Cantor Murray E. Simon Bat Yam Sanibel</small>	<small>Cantor Rachel Brook Park Avenue Synagogue New York, NY</small>	<small>Cantor Elizabeth Shammash Tiferet Bet Israel Blue Bell, PA</small>	<small>Rev. Dr. John H. Danner Sanibel Congregational UCC</small>

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 – 4 p.m.
at
Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
2050 Periwinkle Way

For more information, visit BATYAM.ORG.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Last year’s concert proved to be a resounding success as both a significant fundraiser for *Bat Yam* and a memorable musical event that played to a capacity audience. As this is *Bat Yam*’s premier fundraising event of the year, sponsorships and preferred seating will be available as we again expect a capacity turnout with standing room only! Be on the lookout for further details and sponsorship opportunities, which will follow in the February issue of *Bat Yam Matters*, and via our special mailer.

So, mark your calendars for the return of “Three Cantors and a Pastor,” on Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of SCUCC.

Be sure to attend this exciting event! You’ll be glad you did!

Judith Adler and *Howard Lorsch*
Concert Co-Chairs

A LASTING IMPACT

Our caring and erudite president Barry Fulmer sent a wonderful E-blast to the congregation regarding our service for the *Shabbat* during *Sukkot*, which was based on the book of Ecclesiastes. In his letter, Barry included a quotation from Thomas Wolfe's posthumously published novel *You Can't Go Home Again*. I had never read this American classic, and since I was soon to "go home again" to the first congregation I served, Temple Isaiah in Columbia, Maryland, I decided I should.



Rabbi Dr. Stephen Lewis Fuchs

We left Columbia for Nashville in 1986. I served the congregation for thirteen years as its first full-time rabbi. Since they were beginning to celebrate their fiftieth year, they had invited Vickie and me back for a weekend to begin a yearlong series of celebratory events.

I didn't realize how long the Wolfe book was, but in the beginning of chapter six, I found the perfect quotation to use as the introduction for my Friday night sermon. When after traveling the world, Wolfe's protagonist, George Webber, returned to his boyhood home of Libya Falls (Asheville in disguise), North Carolina, for the funeral of the aunt who had raised him, he felt as I felt returning to speak at Temple Isaiah after thirty-three years: "Something far, near, strange, and so familiar, and it seemed to him as though he had never left ... and all that had passed in the years was like a dream."

When the invitation from Temple Isaiah came well over a year ago, I was delighted to accept, but I wondered, who would remember us? Who will care and who will come? To our delight, the place was packed, and many of those in attendance were students from years ago with whom I had studied for *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* and Confirmation. Some had traveled from as far as Rochester, NY, Boston, New York City and North Carolina to be there. It was a joy to see them and have some share the lessons from their *B'nai Mitzvah* portions as they fit into my teaching session on *Shabbat* morning.

Then on Saturday evening, the present and past presidents of the synagogue hosted Vickie and me for dinner in a private room of a lovely restaurant. After the meal, the presidents took turns sharing nice memories they had of us. With one exception, they did not speak about High Holy Day sermons or other "public acts" that stood out in their minds. The rest spoke of specific things I did for them that made a lasting impact on their lives. To be honest, I could barely recall some of the instances they recounted.

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But the lesson of the evening is one I shall always remember. People will forget what you say, but they will never forget how you made them feel. I am glad we could “go home again” to re-learn that vital lesson.

Stephen Fuchs

stephenfuchs@gmail.com

www.rabbifuchs.com

twitter: @rabbifuchs6

I invite you to follow my blog at www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com

(Please note: my website (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.)

Editor's note: Below is a letter Rabbi Fuchs received thanking him for his participation as guest speaker at the November 17 Kristallnacht Commemoration:

November 23, 2019

Dear Rabbi Fuchs,

My name is Ginny Segaloff and I am the chair of the 2019 Kristallnacht Commemoration held Sunday, November 17, 2019, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Naples. On behalf of the sponsors of this event, the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County, I wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your participation as our Guest Speaker. It was our great honor to have you present your deeply personal and moving account of your story to the over 700 attendees. Your address to the administrators, teacher, students and their families of the Collier County Public Schools as to the importance of their work, particularly resonated with me, because it is my belief that education is the salvation of mankind.

On a more personal level, I was struck by your journey to and capacity for forgiveness. I could feel your anger and rage and your excruciating pain, as you narrated your journey in confronting the horrific past of your father's history and somehow finding the grace to open your heart and let go of the bitterness and vengefulness that anger and pain festers and truly forgive. Your story gave me great hope, comfort and peace. And as one who struggles with letting go and coming to forgive, I am indebted to you for helping me along my journey....

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently, I attended a community-wide commemorative program on *Kristallnacht* at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in North Naples. Our rabbi, Stephen Fuchs, was the keynote speaker. He gave a very eloquent and moving presentation, highlighting the brutalizing treatment suffered by his father that night, after which he was sent to *Dachau*, released and eventually arrived in the United States. I was also proud that fourteen members of *Bat Yam* travelled to the church to bear witness to the very somber ceremony.



President Barry Fulmer

But *Kristallnacht* is not just about the attacks on Jews on that terrible night. Some historians have called it the beginning of the Holocaust. It also tragically symbolizes the failure of most of the world, especially the United States, to take in asylum-seeking refugees who faced clear persecution and death by being forced to remain in Europe. Only six months after *Kristallnacht*, the MS *St. Louis* with its hundreds of Jewish refugees was refused entry into the United States and forced to return to Europe, in spite of the words welcoming refugees that grace the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.

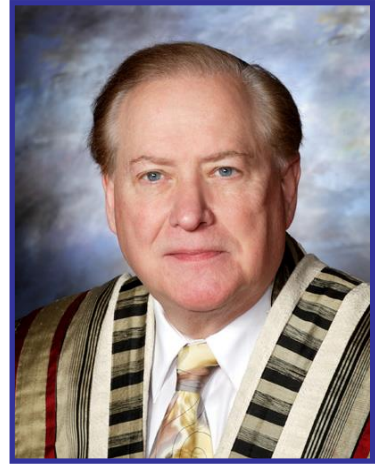
It is well worth remembering the woman who penned those words with which she has become so well identified and about whom I recently spoke at a Temple *Bat Yam* morning class. Emma Lazarus, the descendent of many generations of Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews, wrote her famous sonnet after being asked to do so for a fundraiser for the construction of the Statue of Liberty in New York City in 1882.

“...Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me...” are probably the most famous lines in the sonnet. Although her words were in a real sense a call to America to welcome all refugees, she was greatly influenced by the pogroms in Russia that exploded after the assassination of Czar Alexander II in March of 1881. These horrendous attacks resulted in a large number of Russian Jews fleeing to escape to America, arriving in New York City at the rate of 2,000 every month (but severely limited when Congress later imposed quotas aimed at Jews and other immigrants, beginning with the passage of the Emergency Quota Act in 1921). For the rest of her short life (she died in 1887 at the age of 38), Emma Lazarus spoke out for many of those refugees, trying to get them better living conditions in the temporary refugee shelters housing them in New York and fighting for job training and education for them so they could become contributing citizens. The peak year of European immigration was in 1907, when 1,285,349 persons entered the country.

At Temple *Bat Yam*, it is fitting that our Social Action Committee is engaging with agencies in Lee County to help provide support to new refugees. Emma Lazarus' words live on, despite the current attacks in the United States on those, “the homeless tempest-tost,” fleeing danger and persecution, “yearning to breathe free.” And as our rabbi constantly reminds us, it is a Jewish imperative to welcome the stranger.

L'Shalom,
Barry Fulmer
President, *Bat Yam*

Chanukah: **A Moveable Feast (of Lights)**



Cantor Murray Simon

Dear Friends,

Do you remember a few years ago when the first night of *Chanukah* fell on Thanksgiving? I believe that was probably a once-in-the-century occurrence. This year, *Chanukah* comes during the Christmas holiday time (Sunday evening, December 22, to Monday evening, December 30). How come *Chanukah* moves around so much? Well, it doesn't. It always comes on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of *Kislev* on the lunar calendar. What is interesting to me is that this very minor Jewish holiday is not mentioned in our Bible since it occurred in the second century pre-Christian era around 167 B.C.E. The story is preserved in the books of the First and Second Maccabees, which describe in detail the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem (*Chanukat HaBayit*) and the lighting of the menorah.

When *Chanukah* falls around Christmas time, as it does this year, somehow it gains more importance, "competing" with the very major (and commercial) "season of giving." Both holidays celebrate lights because they come at the darkest time of the year around the winter solstice. Both holidays feature gift giving as part of their celebration, and both holidays have their own special music heard and enjoyed only at that time. While *Chanukah* could never compete with the very large body of Christmas church music, cantatas, oratorios and carols, it does have its special happy tunes that bring a smile to us as we sing them. How fun to sing "I Have a Little Dreydle" or "Sivon, Sov, Sov, Sov" or "O *Chanukah*, O *Chanukah*." It's interesting to note that the tune most associated with the holiday, "*Ma-oz Tzur*" ("Rock of Ages"), is probably taken from a German folk song (first part) and a German battle song ("*Benzenauer*" – second part). Still, that tune has been known to Ashkenazi Jews since the mid-fifteenth century.

Most of all, *Chanukah*, like its Christian counterpart, is a family celebration done in the home. The lighting of the *Chanukiah* and the singing of songs, the exchange of gifts, and special foods are woven into the fabric of our collective Jewish memories! *Chag Chanukah Sameyach* – may your *Chanukah* holiday be melodious and joyous!

B'shalom,
Cantor Murray E. Simon

Our Sincere Thanks to...

- Ellen Feingold and Paula Raboy for organizing the *Chanukah* party dinner;
- Edina Lessack for filling in for Cantor Simon at the November 22 *Shabbat* service; and
- Al Kaplan for re-ordering the name badges listing to include new *Bat Yam* members.

And Thanks to November and December Ongai Shabbat Hosts...*

- November 1 – Ellen and Michael Feingold, Paula Raboy
- November 8 – Debbie Gurman and Don Breiter, Marge and Mark Peppercorn
- November 15 – Karen Back and Donald Bachman, Sandra and Stuart Berke
- November 22 – Cheryl and Barry Fulmer, Beth and Garry Weiss
- November 29 – Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson, Marcia and James Rudin

- December 6 – Norma and Jack Kohn, Sandy Teger and Dave Waks
- December 13 – The *Tzedakah* Committee
- December 20 – Esta and David Berger, Jay and Barry Solomon
- December 27 – Nancy and Ed Greenberg, Helene and Alan Smith

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

FEDERATION BREAKFAST DECEMBER 8

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties invites you to attend its annual Community Breakfast on Sunday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club, 10420 Washingtonia Palm Way, Ft. Myers. *(Please note the change of location from past Federation breakfasts.)*

The theme of the event is Space Florida. The guest speaker will be Tony Gannon, Vice President of Research and Innovation for Space Florida (projects including The Florida-Israel Innovation Partnership).

The price is \$25 per person. For further information and to register, contact Debbie Sanford at 239-481-4449, ext. 4, or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org. Ask to be seated at the reserved *Bat Yam* tables.

JANUARY SHARED SCHOLAR DR. MARY EVELYN TUCKER

The 2020 Shared Scholar Lecture will be on Sunday, January 26, at 4:00 p.m.; and the Shared Scholar Seminar will follow on Monday January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Shared Scholar will be Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker. Her presentation will focus on the interface between environmental concerns and spirituality.



Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker

Dr. Tucker is a 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. She teaches in the joint MA program in religion and ecology and directs the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale with her husband, John Grim. Her special area of study is Asian religions. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in Japanese Confucianism. Since 1997, she has been a research associate at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard.

Dr. Tucker's concern for the growing environmental crisis, especially in Asia, led her to organize with John Grim a series of ten conferences on World Religions and Ecology at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard (1995-1998). Together they are series editors for the ten volumes from the conferences distributed by Harvard University Press.

All programs are open to the public free of charge. A freewill offering will be taken at the January 26 event.

The Shared Scholar events are sponsored by *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands, 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.

PASTOR DANNER TO TEACH INTRODUCTORY CLASSES ABOUT 2020 SHARED SCHOLAR

The Reverend Dr. John H. Danner, pastor of SCUCC, will present two classes in preparation for Dr. Tucker's lecture and seminar. The classes, "Journey of the Universe: An Introduction to Mary Evelyn Tucker," will be on Wednesdays December 4 and 11, at 10:00 a.m., repeated at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Danner will utilize Dr. Tucker's book, written with Brian Swimme, "Journey of the Universe," and a film by the same name. Copies of the book will be available for purchase in advance.

BAT YAM MEMBERS ATTEND IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

On November 18, more than eighty-five immigration professionals and immigration advocates gathered at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation's "Collaboratory" in Fort Myers for the first-of-its-kind Southwest Florida Immigration Summit.



Janice Block Chaddock of *Bat Yam's* Social Action Committee was a member of the Task Force that put this Summit together, along with leaders from Americans for Immigrant Justice, Florida Rural Legal Services, Legal Aid Service of Collier County, and Catholic Legal Services of Miami. In addition to Janice, Rabbi Fuchs, *Bat Yam's* Social Action Chair Garry Weiss, President Barry Fulmer, Barry Roth, and Howard Lorsch attended.

The Summit began with an overview of how the complex U.S. immigration process works, including who does what among the immigration courts and these three agencies of the Department of Homeland Security: (1) Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), which is in charge of granting visas and other immigration benefits; (2) Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE), which is in charge of enforcing immigration laws by various means; and (3) Custom and Border Protection (CBP), which controls the flux of persons and goods through U.S. borders. The Summit provided attendees with a deeper understanding of each of the "immigration statuses" beyond being a U.S. citizen, including Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) seekers, and Undocumented Immigrants including Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Minors.

A recent study shows that there are eleven million people in the U.S. who are "undocumented," meaning they do not have lawful immigration status or proof of lawful status. Recent trends show that only 16% of the undocumented immigration population may have a path to permanency to remain in this country. One path to permanency is to apply for Asylum, in which an immigrant must prove a "well-founded fear of persecution" in their home country on account of their race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion or national origin. A key take-away from the Southwest Florida Immigration Summit is that Unaccompanied Minors under age eighteen have the highest chance of successfully applying for and being granted Asylum. Another key take-away is that immigrants may now be deemed ineligible to apply for admission to, or to remain in, this country if they are found likely to become a "public charge" - meaning they could become dependent on the U.S. government for public cash assistance or long-term care at the government's expense.

Bat Yam's Social Action Committee is focused on providing support to Asylum seekers in Southwest Florida. During the time undocumented immigrants are in the U.S., they do have important constitutional rights, which include the right to refuse searches of homes without a valid warrant signed by a judge, the right to remain silent, the right to public education, and the right to due process and equal protection, among others. Stay tuned for more information about *Bat Yam's* Social Action Committee's work to offer "Know Your Rights" presentations to immigrants in our area.

WATCH FOR *TZEDAKAH* APPEAL

The *Bat Yam Tzedakah* Committee will send out letters on December 3 soliciting donations to the *Tzedakah* Fund. The mission of the *Tzedakah* committee is the same as the mission of all Jewish people: *Tikum Olam* – to repair the world. We collect money from congregation members to donate to organizations that demonstrate need.

Organizations we have donated to in the past include, in Southwest Florida, the Jewish War Veterans and NPOs that help at-risk children, such as Quality of Life Center in Ft. Myers, and in Israel, *Yad LaKashish* – Lifeline for the Old. This year, in addition to these organizations, we are looking into how to help previously trafficked women and young girls.

This excerpt from a thank you letter the committee received from *Yad LaKashish* illustrates the importance of our work: “For nearly 60 years...we have been effective at meeting the ever changing needs of our elderly artisans. We are grateful for your partnership and continued input...Thank you for your significant part in helping to improve the quality of life for Jerusalem’s low-income elderly. Together we will continue to create positive change in their lives.”

If you have questions, or if you would like to recommend an organization for consideration, please contact us. Other committee members are Gay Adelstein, Nancy Greenberg, Debbie Gurman, Shirley Frank, and Sally Saks.

Thank you for helping *Bat Yam* repair small parts of our world!

Vickie Fuchs – 860-305-4876, vfuchs@gmail.com

Ellen Feingold – 302-345-7187, ellenfeingold@gmail.com

Co-chairs, *Tzedakah* Committee

***ONGAI** SHABBAT HOSTS NEEDED**

Please consider hosting this season. Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

January 3 – two hosts

January 17 – one host

February 7 – two hosts

February 21 – two hosts

Contact Myra Klahr at 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*.

TO FANS OF *BAT YAM* ACCOMPANIST ABIGAIL ALLISON...



Shawn Allison (left), Abbey Allison, and David Dust will perform on December 15.

Abbey Allison on piano, her husband Shawn Allison on saxophone and vocals, and guitarist David Dust will present “Jazz Lessons and Carols” on Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 p.m. in the SCUCC sanctuary. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Fellowship Hall.

The holiday readings, which focus on social-justice, will be from poetry by Maya Anjelou and Langston Hughes; sermons by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Ramirez; and works by other poets, orators, and theologians. The trio will play wonderful jazz arrangements of holiday music: ballads, gospel, folk, pop, and classical. There will also be carol singing. Pastors John Danner and Deb Kunkel will participate.

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 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.

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 Theatre, 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 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 three-part series is \$80. Call the BIG ARTS box office at 239-395-0900 for tickets.

INTERESTED IN TRACING YOUR FAMILY GENEALOGY?

Bat Yam member Debbie Mann will offer a complimentary Jewish genealogy workshop if there is enough interest. The workshop would provide hands-on opportunities to create or expand your family tree, find long-lost or unknown relatives, and research DNA. Contact her at Debbiemann123@gmail.com to receive a sign-up sheet and to give her your meeting day and time preferences.

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 at 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. For questions, contact Ellen Feingold at ellenfeingold@gmail.com or 302-345-7187.

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 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.

BAT YAM MAHJONG GROUP



The *Bat Yam* Mahjong group now plays on Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., hosted at members' homes. If you wish to join this friendly game, contact Linda Edinburg at WEDODIT@comcast.net or 239-395-9426.

Mahjong lessons are available. The date(s) and time will be decided according to the needs of the group. If interested, contact Ellen Feingold via email at ellenfeingold@gmail.com or call 302-345-7187.

DONATIONS TO BAT YAM

If you have an IRA and are 70 1/2 years of age or older and have not already taken your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2019, 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 talk to your broker 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 Barry Epstein, *Bat Yam* Treasurer, at 216-509-2245 or Barry1@eppco.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP *SHABBAT* SERVICES

Please contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016 or 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.

SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY *BAT YAM* MATTERS...

to *Bat Yam* Matters editor Marcia Rudin before January 15 (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.

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

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

DECEMBER AND JANUARY *Yahrzeits*

- 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 – Max Amdur, father of Judy Adler and grandfather of Janice Block Chaddock
- December 6 – Henny Karasin, mother of Elissa Karasin Samet
- December 11 – Murray Edinburg, father of Joel Edinburg
- December 16 – Zelda Edinburg, mother of Joel Edinburg
- December 18 – Joe Buckstein, father of Esther Pokedoff
- December 20 – Marvin Joel Salus, brother of Edina Lessack
- December 27 – Goldie Bialy, mother of Norma Kohn
- December 31 – Francisco Rebon, father-in-law of Kathy Zoss

- January 5 – Rabbi Murray Saltzman, husband of Esther Saltzman
- January 6 – Elisabeth Abrams, mother of Marcia Rudin
- January 15 – William Smith, father of Alan Smith
- January 19 – Morris Hoffman, grandfather of Kathy Zoss
- January 20 – Leon Michaels, father of Myra Michaels Fisher
- January 26 – Sidney Abraham Hecht, father of Helene Smith
- January 26 – Janet Printz Kaplan, mother of Josephine Schneider
- January 30 – Bella Buckstein, mother of Esther Pokedoff

SAVE THESE DATES

- Wednesdays, December 4 and 11, 10:00 a.m., repeated at 7:00 p.m. – Pastor John Danner’s classes, “Journey of the Universe: An Introduction to Mary Evelyn Tucker” (January shared scholar)
- Thursday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. – Rabbi Fuchs’ class, “Genesis’ Earliest Stories”
- Sunday, December 8, 10:00 a.m. – Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties Community Breakfast
- Sunday, December 22, 5:00 p.m. – *Chanukah* celebration
- Wednesdays, January 8, 15, and 22, 10:00 a.m., repeated at 7:00 p.m. – classes co-taught by Rabbi Fuchs and Reverend Danner
- Sunday, January 26, 4:00 p.m. – Shared Scholar Lecture
- Monday, January 27, 9:00 a.m. – Shared Scholar Seminar
- Friday, January 31, 7:30 p.m. – Pulpit Exchange with SCUCC
- Sunday, February 2, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. – Pulpit Exchange with SCUCC
- Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m. – “Three Cantors and a Pastor” concert
- Thursday, March 26, 6:00 p.m. – Bat Yam annual membership meeting

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.

Correction to last month’s donation listings: Rabbi Myra Soifer’s contribution listed as a general donation was instead donated in memory of Don Herman, as listed below.

General

Judith Adler

Adele and Steve Anish

Flemington Car and Truck Country (non-member) (in honor of John and Beverly Voorhees)

Tanya and Michael Hochschild

Jeanette Keyser

Judith and Howard Mayer

Susan Pick

David Sulman (non-member)

Arnee and Walter Winshall

(Continued on next page)

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In Memory of Lois Lorsch

*Please note: All donations in memory of Lois will be put towards
the purchase of Mishkan HaNefesh bookplates*

Diana Chong Schultz and Andrew Schultz (non-members)

In Memory of Donald Herman

Norma and Jack Kohn

Judith and Howard Mayer

Norman Minsky

Carol and Philip Scheiber

Rabbi Myra Soifer

Renee and Joel Sugar (for *Tzedakah* Fund)

For Complete Recovery of Jeanette Keyser

Edina and Alan Lessack

For Complete Recovery of Mel Bleiberg

Edina and Alan Lessack

Tzedakah Fund

Anonymous

Yahrzeits

Edina and Alan Lessack in memory of Edina's brother Howard Salus and in
memory of Fred Nathanson, brother of Mickey Nathanson

MISCELLANEOUS

- 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.
- Contact Irene Skolnick at irkul42@gmail.com or 239-472-2217 for changes to your *Yahrzeit* list or if you have donated to *Bat Yam* but have not received an acknowledgement.
- If you wish to purchase *Tzedakah* cards (\$45 for five) that can be sent to family and friends for many occasions, contact Sally Sacks at 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: Lois Lorsch*

Immediate Past President: Alan Lessack

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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