



BAT YAM MATTERS

Number 110 March 2020 Adar/Nissan 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

MARCH 2020 *BAT YAM* SHABBAT EVE WORSHIP

All March *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 Abbey Allison.

March 6, 13, 20, 27

IN MEMORIAM: MARTIN POKEDOFF

Long time *Bat Yam* member Martin Pokedoff died on February 18 at Health Park hospital in Fort Myers. Marty served as president of *Bat Yam* from 2014 to 2016 and for many years as an officer and trustee.

He was born on Long Island and grew up there and in Brooklyn. He attended New York University, majoring in English. He was an independent insurance broker in New York.

He and his beloved Esther were married for sixty-one years. After living on Long Island, they came to Sanibel in 2001. Marty enjoyed reading and watching sports. In addition to Esther, he leaves a son and daughter and six grandchildren.

The funeral will be held on March 9 in Paramus, New Jersey. Condolences may be sent to Esther Pokedoff at 8230 Venetian Point Drive, Fort Myers FL 33908.

CELEBRATE *PURIM* MARCH 9

During our *Purim* presentation on Monday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m., Rabbi Dr. Stephen Lewis Fuchs will retell the *Purim* story of the biblical Book of Esther. Tanya Hochschild will introduce the story. Augmenting the story will be familiar songs with special lyrics written and performed by individual cast members, accompanied by Abbey Allison.

The cast includes the Rev. Dr. John H. Danner as King Ahasuerus, Cantor Murray Simon as Haman, Sally Sacks as Queen Vashti, Alan Sacks and Ben Yokel as Bigthan and Teresh, Edina Lessack as Mordecai, and Vickie Fuchs as Queen Esther.

Following the presentation, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall to enjoy treats, including the traditional *hamantaschen* pastries shaped like Haman's three-cornered hat. There is no admission charge, and all are welcome.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

Shabbat morning classes held in Fellowship Hall at the 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 *Haftorah* readings. (*Haftorot* 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 March and April sessions to be led by congregants from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. are:

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 or 860-305-4876 if you want to share ideas for classes for next season or present a future session.

THREE CANTORS AND A PASTOR CONCERT MARCH 1

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

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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 by saxophonist Shawn Allison and drummer Stephen McMullan.

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

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

While there are no admission tickets, there will be a free will offering, during with the Allison Duo of Abbey and Shawn Allison will play.

This concert is a great opportunity enjoy an 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

BAT YAM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 26

The *Bat Yam* annual membership meeting will take place on Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A potluck dinner will precede the meeting. Business will include a treasurer's report and recognition of and thank-you's to our volunteers, as well as election of officers and trustees for next year.

Esta Berger, who is organizing the potluck dinner, asks all members to bring a food item from one of the following categories: chicken, fish, meat, kugels, potatoes, rice, vegetable salad, fruit or fruit salad, and dessert. She is not accepting monetary donations in lieu of a food dish, because if monetary donations are accepted, there may not be enough food for everyone. If you do not wish to make something, please consider buying an item in one of the above categories.

Please make your reservations with Esta (erb1882@aol.com or 239-395-1882) to let her know how many are coming and what you will bring. The committee will set up for the number of reservations received. Please bring your dish no later than 5:45 p.m. so we can begin the meeting on time after dinner is completed.

SAVE THESE DATES

- **Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 10:30 a.m.** – Rabbi Fuchs’ classes on *What’s in It for Me?*
- **Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m.** – Three Cantors and a Pastor concert
- **Monday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.** – *Purim* celebration
- **Thursday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.** – Combined potluck dinner with SCUCC Green Team
- **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 potluck dinner and membership meeting
- **Sunday, March 29, 3:00 p.m.** – Ambassador Peter Galbraith presentation
- **Wednesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m.** – *Bat Yam Seder*

HELP WITH LEAP DAY CAUSEWAY CLEANUP FEBRUARY 29

At Leap Day sunrise, 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 29, five congregations from Sanibel and Captiva will join together to pick up trash on Island One of the Causeway. Bring your own bucket. The congregations sponsoring this project are *Bat Yam*; Captiva Chapel by the Sea; First Church of Christ, Scientist; St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church; and Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Bat Yam Temple of the Islands Invites You to April 8 Bat Yam Community Passover Seder

Beginning 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 his Sanibel Catering by Bailey’s, with the best of our favorite traditional *Seder* dinner foods. You may bring your own *Seder* plate if you wish.

- \$54 per person for *Bat Yam* members and immediate family
- \$65 for non-members and guests
- \$35 for children ages 5-15
- Free for children under age 5

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.

We need volunteers to make *Charoset* and Passover desserts (when making your reservation, please provide information about any foods you’re providing).

RABBI FUCHS TO SPEAK AT FEDERATION EVENT...

Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will speak about his latest book, *And Often the First Jew*, and on Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. The presentation, which will include a Q&A session, is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. The location is 9701 Commerce Center Ct., Fort Myers. A light dairy dinner will be served. There is no admission charge, but reservations are required. RSVP to 239-481-4449 or 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. For many of the worshippers, he has been 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 CONTINUE HIS CLASSES

On Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 10:30-11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, Rabbi Fuchs will offer an opportunity 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 format will resemble a seminar rather than formal lectures. Contact Ellen Feingold at ellenfeingold@gmail.com or 302-345-7187 to indicate your interest.

AMBASSADOR PETER GALBRAITH TO SPEAK MARCH 29

On Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m., author, academician, commentator, politician, policy advisor, and former U.S. Diplomat Peter Galbraith will speak in the SCUCC sanctuary. A light reception will follow the presentation. The program is free and open to the public.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Ambassador Galbraith helped uncover Saddam Hussein's gassing of the Kurds. From 1993 to 1998, he served as the first U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, where he was co-mediator of the 1995 Erdut Agreement that ended the Croatian War of Independence. As an author and commentator, Galbraith has been a longtime advocate of the Kurdish people and Kurdistan independence. Beginning in 2003, he acted as an informal advisor to the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq and helped to influence the drafting process of the Iraqi constitution in 2005. In 2009, he was appointed United Nations' Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan, where he contributed to exposing the fraud that took place in the 2009 presidential election in Afghanistan.

He served as Vermont State Senator from Windham County from 2011 to 2015 and was a candidate for governor of Vermont in 2016. He is on the Board of Directors of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, the research arm of the Council for a Livable World.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WONDERFUL *TU B'SHEVAT* CELEBRATION...

- Paula Raboy – for organizing the February 9 event and for cooking and serving the delicious food – and to her helpers Nancy and Ed Greenberg, Tanya and Michael Hochschild, Edina and Alan Lessack, Enid and Marty Packard, Andrea and Jan Smith, and Judy Wald
- Tanya Hochschild – for explaining the meaning of the ancient festival
- Ellen Feingold – for teaching us about the Seven Species in the Bible
- Vickie Fuchs – for her wonderful reading of Dr. Suess' book *The Lorax*

...AND THANKS TO THE FEBRUARY ONGAI * *SHABBAT HOSTS*

- February 7 – Barbara and Barry Epstein, Bluma Herman, Beth and Garry Weiss
- February 14 – Karen Back and Don Bachman, Sandra and Stuart Berke, Kathy and Michael Raab
- February 21 – Beverly and Bernie Lubetkin, Enid and Marty Packard, Tanya and Michael Hochschild
- February 28 – Adele and Steven Anish, Becky Kon, Andrea and Jan Smith

ONGAI * SHABBAT HOSTS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for March 27 – one host

Contact Myra Klahr at lingosmart@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer for this date.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- **A SCHEDULER** for Friday *Shabbat* Welcome Table greeters
- **A SCHEDULER** for Friday *Shabbat* services (religious items) set-up
- **A WRITER** for Jewish holiday articles/photos/advertising for local newspapers
- **SOMEONE TO REMIND** *Bat Yam* members of *Yahrzeits*
- **SOMEONE TO ACKNOWLEDGE** donations and membership payments

For more information and to volunteer, contact Cheryl Fulmer at fulmer.cheryl@gmail.com or 732-780-2016.

RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS

Hopefully, all of you have Monday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. circled in red on your calendars. And I hope all of you will study the Biblical Book of Esther to win a prize in Hatach's (that is my character) *Purim* quiz.

Our all-star cast is eager to enlighten and entertain you: Tanya Hochschild will introduce the story. We are thrilled that the Rev. Dr. John H. Danner will once again portray the profligate King Ahasueras, and Cantor Murray Simon – against all typecasting – will portray the villain Haman. You do not want to miss Sally Sacks, who will play the heroic Queen Vashti. Alan Sacks and Ben Yokel will play the treacherous Bigthan and Teresh. Edina Lessack will play the heroic Mordecai. And, in her *Purim* debut, Vickie Fuchs will play the beautiful and courageous Queen Esther.



Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Once again, we encourage you to use the Jewish National Fund boxes donated by Norman Minsky as groggers. Fill them with coins that will drown out the name of Haman – the very coins we will donate to our *Tzedakah* Committee for distribution after the event.

But Purim is more than fun and games. The Purim story in the biblical Book of Esther confronts the mature reader with vital issues about sexual abuse, the phenomenon of prejudice, and human destiny.

Vashti

Too seldom do we ponder the courage of Vashti, King Ahasueras' first wife. The world's most powerful man commands her to display her beauty for his drunken friends, but she refuses. She is a worthy role model for our daughters. Vashti refused to simply be a sex object, even if that refusal cost her the throne. Hopefully all of us can learn from her courage.

Prejudice

A vital lesson about prejudice presents itself when Mordecai refuses to bow down before Haman. Haman is angry, but as the Bible records: "...it was not enough for him to punish Mordecai alone... (Esther 3:5). No, because of his anger at one man, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews. Sadly, the prejudice presented in the book of Esther has confronted our people many times throughout history. Many other groups experience it today. The *Purim* story provides a vivid example of this phenomenon.

Destiny

When Mordecai read Haman's decree condemning the Jews of Persia to death, he sent a message to Esther through the servant Hatach to intercede for her people. In it, Mordecai asks Esther: "Who knows if you have not become queen for just such a time as this?" (Esther

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(Rabbi Fuchs Reflects, continued from previous page)

4:14) In other words, who knows if we are where we are at any given moment just for the opportunity the moment offers us to make a difference.

Mordecai's question addresses us as well.

In our lives, all of us, like Esther, have moments when our action or inaction, our willingness or unwillingness to take a risk, can make a vital difference in someone's life. We can seize these moments or turn away from them. Esther answered her call. Will we?

If we study the Book of Esther carefully, we shall discover lessons about sexual harassment, the phenomenon of prejudice and our destiny as human beings that will speak to all of us.

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE *BAT YAM TZEDAKAH* COMMITTEE

The *Tzedakah* Fund needs you! There's still time to send a donation so *Bat Yam* can help those in need. The fund contributes to agencies that address human trafficking, provide shelter for domestic abuse victims, and have special needs in Israel, to name just a few.

We've sent out fifteen applications to mostly small organizations where our relatively modest donations can make a difference. We will review the applications and choose recipients in April.

Please help by sending your check, made out to *Bat Yam*, with *Tzedakah* Fund in the memo line, to: *Bat Yam*, PO Box 84, Sanibel FL 33957. You can also help by buying *Tzedakah* cards (\$54 for five cards), which are available at Friday night services.

Thank you for your generosity.

***BAT YAM* GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Barry Fulmer

When Cheryl and I first attended Temple *Bat Yam* nine years ago, the warmth and friendship that greeted us gave us a synagogue home we had never had before. The beloved late Rabbi Murray Saltzman had just recently died of pancreatic cancer. This year marks the tenth anniversary of his passing. (He died on January 5, 2010.)

Rabbi Saltzman, born in New York City and raised in Brooklyn, was the son of immigrant parents from Russia and Hungary. According to a 1996 profile in *The Jewish Times*, after his family moved to Providence, Rhode Island, neighborhood “toughs” called him a “Christ Killer” and beat him up, leading to his lifelong obsession with intolerance that may have been awakened by those beatings.

He was later ordained as a rabbi at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1956. He was president of the Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism, the Baltimore Black-Jewish Forum, and the Baltimore Board of Rabbis. During the 1960s, he marched across the South with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In June 1964, Rabbi Saltzman, during one of those marches, in St. Augustine, Florida, was arrested along with King and their colleagues – Jews and African-Americans, their lives threatened by the local police. Because of Rabbi Saltzman’s outspoken civil rights activism, President Gerald R. Ford appointed him to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1975. Rabbi Saltzman, who was the senior-ranking member of the Commission, and two other members, were fired in 1983 by President Reagan after they criticized administration policies.

He served many synagogue congregations during his career, including in Milwaukee, Hagerstown, Chappaqua, Indianapolis and the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation for almost twenty years, before becoming our Temple *Bat Yam* rabbi in 1996. He served us for fifteen years, until his death.

Although Cheryl and I never met him, we realized how special a person he must have been because the congregation compiled and published a posthumous collection of his essays and poetry entitled “Between You and Me, The Words and Wisdom of Rabbi Murray Saltzman.”



Rabbi Murray Saltzman

(Continued on next page)

(President's message, continued from previous page)

As the compilers stated, "The book was a labor of love." *Bat Yam* has retained several copies of this collection.

Many *Bat Yam* members helped produce the book. Renee Sugar chaired the project. Her committee included Shirley Boscov, June Patinkin, Esther Saltzman, Carol Scheiber, and Allan Silberman. Rabbi James Rudin wrote the introduction. Marcia Rudin proofread the manuscript, and Arlyn Stein contributed to the cover design. Jack Tanner and Al Kaplan offered technical support. A belated thank you to all.

One of his essays is especially moving and poetic. In "Two Sanibels," he wrote of the island being "a place close to heaven with a degree of solitude, natural beauty,...[but] not so much a place as a condition of the spirit." He also complained, "Our modern world militates against having a Sanibel. Too much noise, too much ambition. Too little solitude, and not enough of nature to remind us of the world outside ourselves." And he wrote, as he put it, of "another Sanibel" that he and his wife, Esther, had found in Vermont.

We looked out from our perch on top of a Vermont mountain. The morning was cool. And breezes whispered through the rhythmically waving leaves in the forest. Colors of green, blue, and puffs of white in the sky formed a verdant landscape, dappled with the soft and flowing clouds. It was Sanibel all over again, but in a different sense.... Though the heights are not nearly as impressive as the Rockies, still the creeks and streams, gurgling as if they were endlessly laughing, give voice to a special music. They sang to me of a wonderfully created universe with awesome beauty and mighty natural power. I was constantly filled with wonder, especially in one particular place. You could look out for tens of miles to the point where green met blue, where earth and heaven connected. The spirit soared in that place, and there was a feeling of absolute freedom.

May Rabbi Saltzman's memory be a blessing.

L'Shalom,

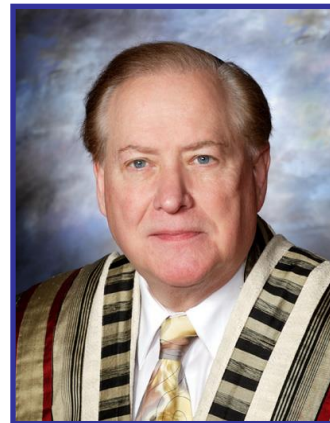
Barry Fulmer

President, *Bat Yam*

CANTOR'S MESSAGE

Purim is the “fun-est” of all Jewish holidays. It is celebrated on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of *Adar*. This year, we will observe *Purim* at *Bat Yam Temple* on **Monday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m.**

Adar is equivalent to our “March Madness.” We celebrate our redemption from the hands of the forces that wanted to destroy us. When the public chanting of the *Megillah* occurs in the synagogue, Haman's name is read aloud fifty-four times (curiously equivalent to three times “*chai*”), and the congregation engages in noisemaking to blot out his name. Noise and mayhem prevail!



Cantor Murray Simon

Mishenichnas Adar marbim be-simcha – “When [the Hebrew month of *Adar* enters, we have a lot of joy” – (*Mishnah Taanith* 4:1). We are also admonished in *Megillat Esther* to “enjoy light and gladness, happiness and honor” (*Esther* 8:16). This quote from the *Megillah* also found its way into the beautiful *Havdalah* service at the conclusion of *Shabbat*.

Who wouldn't want to be joyous and happy as we enter into the springtime month of *Adar* and get our “juices” flowing again?! The best way to do this is to attend our big *Bat Yam Temple* concert:

THREE CANTORS AND A PASTOR
Sunday, March 1, at 4:00 p.m.

See you there with much joy and gladness!

B'shalom,

Cantor Murray E. Simon

YOUR CAN TOPS CAN HELP PRESCHOOL

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 preschool.

SCUCC'S "GREEN TEAM" INVITES *BAT YAM* MEMBERS TO TWO MARCH ACTIVITIES

The SCUCC Green Team plans two March activities. On Sunday, March 8, at noon in Heron Hall, *Bat Yam* members are invited to an intergenerational plarn (plastic yarn) and pizza party to watch and participate in making sleeping mats for a hurricane shelter in the Dunbar neighborhood of Ft. Myers from plastic bags.

On Thursday, March 19, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a joint SCUCC-*Bat Yam* plant-based potluck dinner. After beginning in Heron Hall with drinks and appetizers, the group will move to Fellowship Hall for a main course of vegetable quinoa casserole and other dishes brought by participants. This will be followed by speaker Dee Serage-Century, retired SCCF educator who ran the SCCF Butterfly House for ten years and now oversees the SCCF pollinator garden at the Bailey Homestead. The title of her talk is "Florida Pollinators–Butterflies and Bees."

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall and bring a list of the ingredients in your dish. The price to attend is \$10. For more information, email Jean Chandler at jeanchandler2@gmail.com.

Jean, who chairs the group, invites interested *Bat Yam* members to join the Green Team, which strives to protect animals, plants, and birds on Sanibel. The Green Team meets from January through May at SCUCC. If you wish to join, contact her at jeanchandler2@gmail.com.

BAT YAM MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

The second series of Rabbi James Rudin's BIG ARTS Winter Academy classes at the Strauss Theater will be on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, and 18, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The topic will be "How the American, French, and Russian Revolutions Transformed Our World."

The price for the series of three classes is \$80. Seating is limited and reserved. Call the BIG ARTS box office at 239-395-0900 for tickets.

SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE APRIL *BAT YAM* MATTERS

Send any items for the next issue to
Bat Yam Matters editor Marcia Rudin
before March 15 at marciarudin@aol.com.

IS YOUR CONTACT INFO UP TO DATE?

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

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?

Yes, "there's an app" for that. I have a Countdown App that, as I write this, says I have thirty-five days left until I leave Panama (March 26) and land back in Reno.

But as summer vacation here also comes to close, I have been anything but idly packing my bags. I spent one week at a nearby volunteer friend's site teaching a series of leadership training workshops to a group of high school agriculture students. I taught them a Hebrew lesson as a model of how to put together a workshop. What a hoot!! (Twenty-five Panamanian students running around saying "Shalom!")

Another week, I traveled five hours every day to and from another friend's site where I worked with eleven-year-olds on goal-setting, as well as a bit of English. I've just finished up a week of "Curious George" summer camp with twenty-four of my local elementary school kids.

And now, it's time to finish Peace Corps paperwork, get my little living space clean and ready for the next volunteer, and-yes!-actually start on that packing thing. Unbelievable!

Rabbi Myra Soifer

Editor's Note: This will be Rabbi Soifer's last column regarding her Peace Corps experiences.

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



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

Mel Bleiberg, Paulette Lotstein, Mickie Kaplan, Jeanette Keyser, Howard Mayer, June Patinkin, Esther Pokedoff, June Rosner, Alan Saltz (son of Jocelyn and Peter Saltz), Carol Scheiber, Arlyn and Irwin Stein, Renee and Joel Sugar, Ben Yokel

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.

MARCH YAHRZEITS

March 4 – Dr. Berton M. Rudin, brother of Rabbi James Rudin
March 7 – Lucille Manning, friend of Kathy Zoss
March 9 – Bertha Pokedoff, mother-in-law of Esther Pokedoff
March 14 – William Lubetkin, father of Bernard Lubetkin
March 21 – Dr. Philip G. Rudin, father of Rabbi James Rudin
March 23 – Sam Hollander, friend of Kathy Zoss
March 24 – Karl Zablotsky, father of Morton Zablotsky
March 30 – Lillian Hecht, mother of Helane Smith
March 31 – Tillie Wallitzer, grandmother of Elissa Karasin-Samet

CONTRIBUTIONS TO *BAT YAM*

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

General

Deborah Boehm (non-member)
Evelyn and Herbert Clark (in honor of his birthday)
Sue Feir and Gordon Cutler
Myra and Donald Fisher (in memory of Howard Rohm)
Laurie and Martin Merel (non-members) (in gratitude for *Bat Yam*)
Sue and Ivan Most (non-members)
Rosette

Special Donation from the *Bat Yam* Mahjong Group (In Memory of Lois Lorsch):

Linda Edinburg, Ellen Feingold, Shirley Frank, Louise Freeman, Vickie Fuchs,
Bluma Herman, Roberta Jacobson, Edina Lessack, Paulette Lotstein, Enid Packard,
Lee Rabin (non-member) Paula Raboy, Susan Rosenberg, Marcia Rudin, Peggy Siegel,
Andrea Smith, and Ilene Tucker (non-member)

Tzedakah Fund

Anonymous
Carol and Philip Scheiber
Peggy and Frank Siegel
Irene and Leon Skolnick
Beth and Gary Weiss

Cantor's Concert

Judith Adler and children
Hazel and David Barber (non-members)
Madeline and Rick Baron
Mel Bleiberg
Judith and Barry Bronstein
Julie and Rick Chernok (non-members)
Diana J. Clark (non-member)
Jack B. Cohen
Robyn and David Cook
Melissa and Elly Doff (non-members)
Linda Drasnin
Darlene and Robert Duvin

Betsy C. Foreman (non-member)
Barbara Freeman (non-member)
Amanda and Steven Greenstein
Bluma Herman
Maria and Peter Hochschild
Cynthia and David Jacob
Patty and Stan Levine
Sara and Alan Levine
Beverly and Bernard Lubetkin
Deborah MacKelcan (non-member)
Judith and Howard Mayer
Norman Minsky
Nancy and Billy Morrison
Arly and Charles Paulson (non-members)
Mary Ellen and Eric Pfeifer (non-members)
Paula Raboy
Barry Alan Roth
June Rosner and Russ Bilgore
Marcia and James Rudin
Sallyann Sack and Irwin Pikus (non-members)
Sally and Allan Sacks
Dianne and David Schneider (non-members)
Toby and Cantor Murray Simon
Joyce and Joseph Sirkin (non-members)
Irene and Leon Skolnick
Arlyn and Irwin Stein
Mark Sternheimer (non-member)
Beverly Voorhees
Ronda Seifer Walis
Beth and Gary Weiss
Robyn and Rick Weiss (non-members)
Beverly Yusim (non-member)
Kathy Zoss

In Memory of Lois Lorsch

Judith and Howard Mayer

In honor of the Special Anniversary of Salessa and Marvin Berk

Edina and Alan Lessack

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mel Bleiberg (for the *Yahrzeit* of his mother, Rebecca Bleiberg)

Irene and Leon Skolnick

Yahrzeits

Evelyn and Herbert Clark for the *Yahrzeit* of his father, Benjamin
Linda and Joel Edinburg for the *Yahrzeit* of her mother, Leona Bergstein
Norma and Jack Kohn for the *Yahrzeit* of her father, Abraham Bialy
Edina and Alan Lessack for the *Yahrzeit* of her father, Irving Salus
Dorothy and Morton Zablotsky for the *Yahrzeit* of his mother, Dora Zablotsky

BAT YAM, TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Rabbi: Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Cantor: Murray E. Simon

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First VP: Michael Hochschild - 917-561-7888
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Immediate Past President: Alan Lessack

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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/>