

# BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

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

Number 89

November 2017

Cheshvan/Kislev, 5778

## *NOVEMBER BAT YAM SHABBAT WORSHIP* *Bat Yam welcomes Cantor Murray Simon*

All Shabbat services will be held in Fellowship Hall at the Sanibel Congregational United of Christ, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will lead all services. Cantor Murray Simon will provide the music, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison, except for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> service, when he will be accompanied by his wife Toby Simon.

November 3 – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon – 7:30 p.m.  
November 10 – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon – 7:30 p.m.  
November 17 – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon – 7:30 p.m.  
November 24 - Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon– 7:30 p.m.

### *MAZEL TOV...*

...to our *Bat Yam* accompanist Abigail Allison, her husband Shaun, and their son Simon on the birth of eight-pound Taran Benjamin Allison at 12:11 p.m. on Monday, October 16th. It is reported that all are doing well, but could use a bit more sleep.

### *IN MEMORIAM*

Long-time *Bat Yam* member Hartley Kleinberg died on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he and his beloved wife Adair lived in New Jersey until they retired on Sanibel. They were both avid nature and exercise enthusiasts, until a few years ago skiing every winter in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Debbie Kleinberg and his granddaughter Katy, 43 Rogers Lane, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598.

## *NOVEMBER 2017 BAT YAM SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES*

The *Shabbat* morning classes will begin with a half hour of Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi Fuchs. Then they will continue with Rabbi Fuchs' presentations, this year focusing on that week's *Torah* portion. Congregants will present the second class session.

The general theme for the congregant-led classes in November, organized by Peggy and Frank Siegel, is Judaism and the Fine Arts. The November schedule is as follows:

### **November 4**

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Catching Up I- "The Biblical Narratives before Abraham" (Genesis 1-11) - Rabbi Fuchs  
10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. - General Introduction to Judaism and the Fine Arts - Peggy Siegel

### **November 11**

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Catching Up II - "Abraham and Sarah: Spiritual Parents of Us All" (Genesis 12-25) - Rabbi Fuchs  
10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. - Judaism and Art - volunteer congregant presenter needed (If you wish to present this session, please telephone the Siegels at 239-472-2807 or 608-334-2807.)

### **November 18**

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: - "Jacob Leaves Home" (Toldot, Genesis 25:19 - 28:9) - Rabbi Fuchs  
10:30 to 11:15 a.m.: Judaism and Music - Norma Kohn

### **November 25**

No class - Thanksgiving break

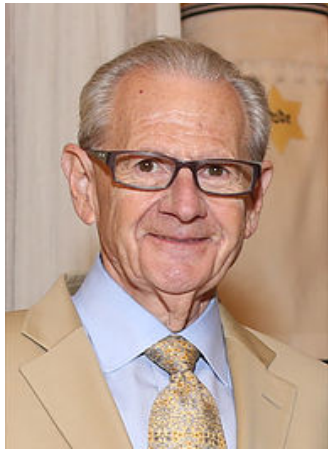
Looking ahead: In his Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> session Rabbi Fuchs' topic will be Catching Up III - "Jacob Reforms" (Genesis 28:3 - 36:43).

## *CONTEST TO NAME BAT YAM BULLETIN*

Rabbi Fuchs wishes to hold a contest to name the *Bat Yam* bulletin. Please submit your ideas to him via his email address [stephenfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:stephenfuchs@gmail.com). Entries already submitted are

1. The *Mishpocha* (submitted by Esther Pokedoff)
2. Sanibel Source for Sechel (sample entry from Rabbi Fuchs)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I noted in my column last month we started the new year with deeply moving and inspiring services led by Rabbi Fuchs.

In October, we participated in a very moving *Simchat Torah* service. For those not in attendance, try to visualize five long tables lined up end to end measuring forty feet in length. Members and guests sat on either side facing the tables. The Ark was opened, and everyone who wished to had an opportunity to walk the *Torahs* around the room.

Rabbi Fuchs then took the Holocaust *Torah* and laid it on the table. Tanya and Mike Hochschild at one end and David Berger and Miriam Bailey on the other began to unroll the sacred scroll. Using the *Yad* (pointer), Rabbi Fuchs walked alongside the scroll, recreating the various bible stories and events in each of the five books culminating

with the actual reading of the last portion in Deuteronomy followed by the first portion in Genesis. The beauty of this holiday recognizes that life is a continuum – thus, as we complete the last words of the scroll, we begin again. That image of the circle of life is symbolized in the design of the wedding band as well.

Mel Bleiberg, our founding president, reminded us when this Holocaust *Torah* was brought to Sanibel. There was a joint celebration held in the main sanctuary with members of *Bat Yam* and the Congregational Church in attendance. The *Torah* was unrolled down the length of the aisle with members of both congregations holding the edges. That ceremony speaks of the unbroken relationship we have shared with the SCUCC for over twenty-six years.

Looking ahead, beginning with our service on Friday, November 3rd, we will welcome our new Cantor, Murray Simon. The awesome power of his music along with the outstanding insights we experience each week with Rabbi Fuchs will add depth and beauty to our worship experience.

I would be remiss if I did not express my personal thanks, along with our board, to all the volunteers who ran services from May to September. We can truly say we serve our Jewish community on Sanibel, Captiva and Fort Myers year round.

*Shalom.*

*Alan Lessack, President*

## *RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS*



### **To Seek the Blessing**

In November we celebrate Thanksgiving. In November also our *Torah* readings take up the story of Jacob. In my mind these two seemingly different topics dovetail beautifully.

Life can often be very difficult. In 1936, at the height of the Great Depression, Governor Wilbur Cross of Connecticut appealed to the indomitable human spirit in his Thanksgiving proclamation: "It has seemed good to our people to join together in praising the Creator... for the blessings that have been our common lot ... for honor held above price; for steadfast courage and zeal in the long search after truth; for liberty and for justice... that we may humbly take heart of these blessings as we gather once again with solemn and festive rites to keep our harvest Home." With these mighty words Governor Cross looked beyond the ravages of the Great Depression that affected every citizen and

inspired the people of our state to seek and find the blessings in their lives.

It was the same quality exhibited by our patriarch Jacob who also overcame trial and tribulation to seek and find a blessing from God.

But, you might ask, "A blessing! What right and what hope should Jacob have had to seek a blessing from God?" Had he not taken advantage of his older brother Esau to extort the lion's share of the family inheritance from him? Had he not stood before his blind father swearing he was Esau in order to steal his father's blessing? People often ask, "Why does an unsavory character like Jacob become Israel, the namesake of the Jewish people? Why do you take your name from a trickster and a thief?"

It is a good question, and it has good answers. First of all, Jacob paid and paid for his evil deeds. We would not be wrong if we counted the years after he left home as twenty years of hard time in the Laban Penitentiary in Haran. Laban tricked him time and again, and "often," Jacob exclaimed, "scorching heat ravaged me by day and frost by night. Sleep fled from my eyes."

Second, he honestly and eagerly sought Esau's forgiveness, and he did not merely attempt to placate his brother with empty words. The size of the gift Jacob insisted Esau accept –and to his credit Esau was reluctant to do so– more than compensated his brother for the loss of the birthright inheritance.

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And last and most important, Jacob is our role model and our namesake because despite every reason for doing so, he refused to give up hope. He stumbled and fell, as we all do. He paid for his misdeeds many times over. And when it seemed that all was lost, he wrestled with everything he had been and everything that he had done. He proclaimed to the

Eternal One in the midst of his struggle, "I will not let You go until You bless me." (Genesis 32:27)

Though the encounter left him wounded, he wrenched genuine blessing from the depths of his anguish and found the ability to face the future with courage and hope. In that, I submit, he is a wonderful role model for all of us!

*Your Rabbi, Stephen Fuchs*  
stephenlfuchs@gmail.com  
[www.rabbifuchs.com](http://www.rabbifuchs.com)  
twitter: @rabbifuchs6

## *RABBI FUCHS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD*

At a dinner in Nashville, TN on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Emilie Townes, Dean of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, presented the 2017 Vanderbilt Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion Distinguished Alumni/ae Award to Rabbi Stephen Fuchs.

The Divinity School award is given "to someone who has demonstrated excellence and distinction in justice-making through their work in congregational ministry, religious institutions, ecumenical organizations, community-based organizations, government or other social institutions." The Graduate Department of Religion award is given "to someone whose scholarship, teaching, or research has advanced the understanding of religion and its formative impact in the world."

Rabbi Fuchs earned his doctor of ministry in biblical interpretation from the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University in 1992. Upon accepting the award, Rabbi Fuchs said, "I am most grateful for the opportunity Vanderbilt gave me to deepen my ability to understand and interpret biblical stories."

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| <p>The <i>Bat Yam</i> membership committee needs volunteers to help staff the welcome table at the door during next season. If you are able to help, contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016.</p> |
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*REVEREND JOHN  
DANNER OFFERS  
CLASSES TO  
PREPARE FOR  
JANUARY SHARED  
SCHOLAR LECTURE*

The Reverend John Danner, Senior Pastor of *Bat Yam's* host church, will present a two-part introductory course to the work of the January, 2018 shared scholar Dr. J. Clinton McCann. Danner's course is titled "God's Claim Upon the World: An Introduction to the Psalms and the Work of J. Clinton McCann." Reverend Danner will teach the classes on Wednesdays November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. (the 7 p.m. session is a repeat of the 10:00 a.m. class) at Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ.

Dr. McCann will present his program focusing on Psalms as a bridge to interfaith cooperation at the church on the afternoon of Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. A reception will follow. He will also offer a workshop on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> dealing with music in the life of religious congregations.

Dr. McCann is Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned a Ph.D. from Duke University in 1985 and joined the Eden Seminary faculty in 1987. His research and writing focuses on the Psalms. A noted biblical scholar, his publications on the Psalms include *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter*; *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms*; *The Psalms as Torah*; *The Psalms commentary in The New Interpreter's Bible* (Vol. 4, 1996); *Preaching the Psalms*; and *Great Psalms of the Bible*. He is active with CROP/Church World Service, Bread for the World, Heifer International, and International Partners in Mission and especially interested in the intersection of religion and culture. Committed to the importance of multicultural education, he has led groups of students to Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador.

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

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

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



## UCC CHURCH MEMBERS ENJOY BAT YAM SUKKOTH CELEBRATION



*Bat Yam members and UCC church members gathered under the Sukkah with Rabbi Fuchs*

In the late afternoon of Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, approximately thirty *Bat Yam* and UCC members met under the *Sukkah* decorated in front of the church to hear Rabbi Fuchs' explanation of the harvest festival and the *lulav* and *etrog*. Reverend John Danner, the senior pastor of the church, also spoke at the event. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall with food contributed by members of both congregations.

On Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>, Rabbi Fuchs explained the fall harvest holiday to seven children and two teachers from the UCC's church school as they stood under the *Sukkah*. According to Rabbi Fuchs, the children asked many excellent questions and participated actively in the celebration.

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI MYRA SOIFER?

Rabbi Myra Soifer flew to Cuenca, Ecuador on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> to begin her month of learning Spanish in the morning and volunteer activities in the afternoon. She reports she is really enjoying the Spanish classes and her afternoon teaching of young children. She is also enjoying the food and has discovered a good local orchestra, a jazz club, and a dance studio where she is taking dance lessons.

And she has made contact with the Jewish community there.

According to Rabbi Soifer's recent blog, "I had a long and lovely brunch this morning with four members of the Jewish community of Cuenca...All were North American. Their stories are fairly characteristic...of many of the ex-pats here..."

"The Jewish community of Cuenca is small. Its major gathering is for the Passover Seder, when they have thirty to forty in attendance (their Matzah comes by way of the Chabad rabbi in Guayaquil). They are mostly North American, but there are a few Ecuadoran Jews, and an occasional Jew from elsewhere in South America among them. Most are in the retirement age range, but there are a few families with kids. Aside from Passover, they gather for *Rosh*

*HaShanah* dinner and, from time to time, for general social get-togethers...

"In the national cemetery here in Cuenca there is a distinctly identified Jewish section with approximately twenty-five graves. The biggest influx of Jews into Ecuador, in general, was composed of refugees fleeing Hitler. There was apparently an Ecuadoran 'Schindler' who granted Jews visas for a period of about six months before the government fired him. Don't know his name or many firm details...Once the war was over, most of those Jews left Ecuador for Israel or the U.S."

You can follow Rabbi Soifer's adventures on her blog. You can reach it by going to [WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com](http://WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com). According to Rabbi Soifer, when you get there, you'll find a "follow" button at the bottom right-hand corner of the page. If you click on that, you'll be prompted to enter your email address, with a final prompting to "confirm". Once you do, you will automatically be sent a link to any new postings. Click on that link to read the latest blog post.

I am interested in gathering together current or former players of string or other orchestral instruments just to play for our own enjoyment. Anyone interested please Email me at [norjak51@aol.com](mailto:norjak51@aol.com).

*Norma Kohn*



## *ONEG SHABBAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*

Kathy Zoss reports that the following dates are open for *Oneg Shabbat* volunteers for the upcoming season:

Dates needing two co-hosts are March 9, March 16, March 30, April 6 (during Passover), April 13, April 20, and April 27.

Please Email Kathy at [skzoss21943@gmail.com](mailto:skzoss21943@gmail.com), telephone her at 239-362-0539, or see her at services to reserve your evening.

## *ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION FROM SHELL POINT FOR SHABBAT SERVICES?*

Island Taxi has offered to provide a limo for Friday night *Shabbat* services from Shell Point to the Congregational Church on Sanibel. It will hold five people and will cost \$50.00 round trip. That is \$10.00 per person round trip. If interested, please telephone Mel Bleiberg at (239) 693 3016.

## *BAT YAM MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY...*

**Rabbi James Rudin** will be the featured speaker at two Christian-Jewish *Kristallnacht* commemoration events in November. On Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> he will speak at 2:30 p.m. at St. William Catholic Church, 601 Seagate Drive in Naples. On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> he will be the featured speaker at a similar program in Sarasota.

On Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> he will speak in Tampa on the topic "From Silence to Protest: Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant Responses During the Holocaust." For additional information about these events, contact Rabbi Rudin at [jamesrudin@aol.com](mailto:jamesrudin@aol.com).

**Marcia Rudin's** second novel, *Flower Toward the Sun*, is now available on Amazon.com. Order through Amazon.com (type in "Marcia R. Rudin" and the title) or via her website [www.marciarudin.com](http://www.marciarudin.com).

## *MISCELLANEOUS...*

. To make changes in your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership roster, contact Brandon Minsky at [Brandon@bitservicesfl.com](mailto:Brandon@bitservicesfl.com). Please keep your information current.

. 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 with additions or corrections you have to the *Yahrtzeit* list.

. Email articles for the December *Bat Yam* bulletin to editor Marcia Rudin at [marciarudin@aol.com](mailto:marciarudin@aol.com) by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

. In addition to contributions for general *Bat Yam* operations, congregants can now donate to four special funds – The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, The Music Fund, The President's Discretionary Fund, and the Social Action Fund.

. 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 Harlem Heights nursery/day school.

. *Tzedakah* cards that can be used for many occasions may be purchased from Renee Sugar for \$45.00 for five cards. Your donations contribute to *Bat Yam's* *Tzedakah* funds dispensed in the Spring to worthy organizations in the U.S. and Israel by the *Tzedakah* committee. Contact Renee at [rsugar05@gmail.com](mailto:rsugar05@gmail.com).

## *DONATIONS TO BAT YAM*

### **General**

Carla Benninga (guest)  
Mel Bleiberg  
Evelyn and Herbert Clark  
Linda and Joel Edinburg  
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer  
Maria and Peter Hochschild  
Tanya and Michael Hochschild  
Cindy and David Jacob  
Barry Litofsky  
Elissa Karasin Samet and Michael Samet  
Caren and Robert Schoen  
Beth and Garry Weiss  
Tobi Mackler and Steven Fischer  
Mickie and Al Kaplan  
Freda Pollack (guest)  
Rosamund Swartz  
Alice Walzer (in celebration of the new year)  
Barbara and Barry Epstein  
Linda and Stuart Garland (guests)  
Patricia and Stan Levine  
June Patinkin  
Paula Raboy  
Susan Arnoff Spohr (for honey jar fundraiser)  
Stan Zell

### **In Memory of Ann Arnoff**

Salessa Berk  
Evelyn and Herbert Clark  
Jean Helen Kramer  
Edina and Alan Lessack  
Liz Wolf  
Linda and Joel Edinburg  
Amanda and Steven Greenstein (guests)  
Bluma and Donald Herman  
Miriam Kaplan  
Jeanette Keyser  
Ruth and Douglas Mayers (guests)  
Renee and Leonard Minsky  
Ilene and David Ness (guests)

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Phyllis Pachman  
Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson  
Carol and Philip Scheiber  
Helane Smith  
Shirley Boscov  
Barbara McClure (guest)  
Paula Raboy  
Lori and James Reidel (guests)

**In Memory of Ryan David Mayer**

Evelyn and Herbert Clark  
Joyce Jacobs – to the *Tzedakah* Fund  
Mickie and Al Kaplan  
Phyllis Pachman  
Enid and Martin Packard  
Lewis Schwartz  
Marcia Wagner (guest)  
Adele Anish  
Shirley Boscov  
Norman Minsky  
Phyllis Pachman  
Rabbi Myra Soifer

**In Memory of Hartley Kleinberg**

Miriam Kaplan

**In Memory of Chip Drueding**

Adele Anish

**Yahrtzeits**

Tanya and Michael Hochschild in memory of his mother Hazel Hochschild  
Esther and Martin Pokedoff in memory of his aunt Sarah Kline  
Barry Litofsky in memory of his wife Francine Litofsky

**In Honor of Becky Kon**

Esther and Martin Pokedoff

**In Honor of Irene Skolnick**

Marion and Jack Gruver Fund

**For a Speedy Recovery for Peter Danford**

Myra and Donald Fisher

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**For a Speedy Recovery for Jeannette Keyser**  
Edina and Alan Lessack

**For a Speedy Recovery for Miriam Bailey**  
Edina and Alan Lessack

**For a Speedy Recovery for Michael Hochschild**  
Edina and Alan Lessack

**Oneg Shabbat Fund**  
Ken Gerson  
Jeannette Keyser

**Rabbi Discretionary Fund**  
Joel Gorelick (guest)  
Esther and Martin Pokedoff  
Barbara and Barry Epstein

Lois and Howard Lorch (in honor of Rabbi Fuchs and in memory of Lore Lorsch)

### *NOVEMBER YAHRTZEITS*

November 3 - Howard Salus, brother of Edina Lessack  
November 13 - Francine Litofsky, wife of Barry Litofsky  
November 16 - Jennie Karasin, grandmother of Elissa Karasin Samet  
November 23 - Susan Lubetkin, daughter of Bernard Lubetkin  
November 23 - Joseph Kanner, father of Beverly Lubetkin  
November 25 - Morris Goldberg, father of Joseph Goldberg  
November 30 - Morris Karasin, grandfather of Elissa Karasin Samet

### *SAVE THESE DATES*

- . Wednesday, November 29, 10 a.m., repeated at 7 p.m. – course taught by Reverend John Danner, “God’s Claim Upon the World: An Introduction to the Psalms and the Work of J. Clinton McCann.”
- . Wednesday, December 6 – same as above
- . Sunday, January 14, 2018, afternoon – Interfaith Shared Scholar program and reception featuring speaker Dr. J. Clinton McCann – time TBD
- . Tuesday, January 16 - workshop dealing with music in the life of religious congregations given by Dr. J. Clinton McCann – time TBD
- . Sunday, January 28 - Sanibel-Captiva Heart Walk

**BAT YAM, TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**

**Rabbi: Stephen Lewis Fuchs**

**Cantor: Murray E. Simon**

**Officers**

**President: Alan Lessack - 773-251-8862**

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**Second VP: Michael Hochschild**

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**BAT YAM**

**Temple of the Islands**

**PO Box 84**

**Sanibel, FL 33957**

**batyamsanibel@gmail.com**

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