

BAT YAM MATTERS

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 96 September, 2018 Elul/Tishrei

BAT YAM 2018 HIGH HOLIDAY EVENTS SCHEDULE

All High Holiday events except for *Selichot*, *Tashlich*, and *Sukkoth* will take place in Fellowship Hall of the SCUCC and will be led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. Cantor Murray Simon will chant the prayers, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison.

. Saturday, September 1, 7 p.m. - *Selichot* reflection and discussion at home of Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs, 1839 Farm Trail, Sanibel
[Please call Vickie Fuchs at 860-305-4876 to inform her of your attendance.](tel:860-305-4876)

Rosh HaShanah

. Sunday, September 9, 7:30 p.m. - *Erev Rosh HaShanah* service -
Sermon topic: Do We Enthroned God?

. Monday, September 10, 10 a.m. - *Rosh HaShanah* service -
Sermon topic: Abraham's Vital Lesson That We Have Failed to Learn

. Monday, September 10, 1 p.m., immediately following the morning service -
Tashlich service and potluck luncheon hosted by Elissa Karasin Samet and Michael Samet in the party room of their condo at 1605 Middle Gulf Drive (RSVP - see box on next page for details)

. Friday, September 14, 7:30 p.m. - *Shabbat Shuva* service

Yom Kippur

. Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 p.m. - *Kol Nidre* service - Sermon topic:
A Theology for German Pastors After Auschwitz...and for Us

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**In Memoriam to a Great Patriot
Senator John S. McCain 1936-2018**

[2018 High Holiday schedule, continued from previous page]

. Wednesday, September 19, 10 a.m. - *Yom Kippur* morning service – Sermon topic: The Holy Days are About Us, Not the Government – immediately followed by Congregants' Hour Speakers: *Bat Yam* Congregants Mel Bleiberg, Edina Lessack, and Allan Sacks will each speak for approximately ten minutes about their journeys to Judaism, what *Yom Kippur* means to them, and the important influences in their lives.

. 3 p.m.- Service of Music and Meditation featuring 'cellist Susannah Kelly and pianist Abigail Allison

. 4 p.m. - Afternoon service - Discussion of the Book of Jonah, the *Yom Kippur* afternoon *Haftarah*, immediately followed by *Yizkor*/Memorial service – reflection topic: Our Loved Ones Call Out to Us – and *Ne'ilah*/Closing service Immediately followed by Break-the-Fast in Heron Hall at 6 p.m. (Reservations are required; see the box below for details)

. Sunday, September 23, 9 a.m. –*Sukkot* celebration: Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will speak at the SCUCC Sermon Seminar, linking *Sukkot* to our current environmental crisis. Please attend the seminar in the church sanctuary. We will join the SCUCC congregation for their worship service at 10 a.m., then everyone will go to the *Sukkah* on the church grounds, where Rabbi Fuchs will conduct a brief ceremony explaining the *Lulav*, *Etrog*, Myrtle, and Willow, the symbols of *Sukkot*. Refreshments will follow.

. Monday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. – *Simchat Torah* service

Reservations for the Break-the-Fast, chaired by Miriam Bailey and Esta Berger, must be made by September 16th. Your check is your reservation. The price is \$20 per person for members, \$25 per person for non-members. Send your check with a note that it is for the Break-the-Fast to Esta Berger(erb1882@aol.com) at PO Box 1610, Sanibel, FL 33957. While Bailey's Supermarket is catering the meal, your desert contribution will be welcome.

RSVP to Elissa Karasin Samet if you plan to attend the *Tashlich* service and the potluck luncheon following the brief service. Contact her to tell her you will attend and what food you will contribute at 239-239-1250 or elissakarasinsamet@gmail.com.

There will be bins outside of the SCUCC Church at every High Holiday service for donations for the joint *Bat Yam* and SCUCC Paper Goods Drive to benefit F.I S.H. (Friends in Service Here). Please support this paper drive (toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, etc.) for this worthy Sanibel organization.

SEPTEMBER 2018 SHABBAT WORSHIP

All September *Shabbat* services, held in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United of Christ beginning at 7:30 p.m. will be led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs: September 7, September 14 - *Shabbat Shuva*, September 21, September 28

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES FOR UPCOMING SEASON

According to Vickie Fuchs, who is organizing the *Bat Yam Shabbat* morning classes for the 2018-2019 season, planning is underway for sessions and presenters. She is soliciting volunteers for specific presentations and dates. Please contact her at vfuchs@gmail.com if you want to present a session. A tentative schedule is as follows:

- .November 3 – Overview of classes for the year and Anti-Semitism from Ancient Times (beginning in the Roman Empire) to Today
- .November 10 – Jews who Escaped the Nazis
- .November 17 – Righteous Gentiles and How they helped Jews.

The December through mid-January classes will focus on the Bible:

- .December 1 – Love in the Bible
- .December 8 and 15 – Musical Gems inspired by the Bible
- .January – Continuation of Bible theme and also Jewish Women You May Not Have Heard Of
- .January 5 - The Seven Species: The *Torah's* Answer to Good Health

In February, topics will include Jewish ancestry and family trees. In March, topics will be Synagogue Art and Architecture Around the World and Ancient Israel to Modern Israel. In April, possible sessions are Jewish Inventors and Philanthropists.

Watch future issues of *Bat Yam Matters* for additional plans for next season's classes.

ROSH HASHANA HONEY JAR PROJECT.....

According to Susan Arnoff Spohr, the *Bat Yam Rosh HaShanah* honey jar initiative was exceptionally successful. She reports that thirty-seven family units participated and seventy-eight percent of the honey orders were for *Bat Yam* members. The net profit was \$4,218. The honey jars were shipped in mid-August to arrive in time for *Rosh HaShana* greetings and wishes for a sweet New Year.

Our sincere thanks to Sue for her wonderful efforts on *Bat Yam's* behalf and to all *Bat Yam* members who participated in this project by ordering the honey.

RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS



What We Celebrate on Rosh Hashanah

“Hayom harat Olam!” “This is the day of the world’s birth,” we proclaim each time we hear the Shofar’s blast! It is the central message of *Rosh Hashanah*: to celebrate the teachings and ideals of Genesis’ magnificent Creation Story.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” our *Torah* begins. So many ask: How could God have created the world in seven days? What about the dinosaurs and evolution? Don’t we believe in that?

Of course we believe in that! The creation story in Genesis does not offer a scientific account of HOW the world was created. It is rather an exquisite religious poem

offering insight as to WHY we are here.

The biblical authors were not interested in writing science. The truths of the creation story are the religious ideas that it sets forth – ideas upon which all subsequent Jewish thought depends.

The first assumption of the story is that God is behind creation. However the world came to be our story contends that a single, good caring God initiated the process. God acted with purpose and meaning. Therefore, our lives have purpose and meaning.

The story also reminds us that we human beings are in charge of and responsible for the world. Until the text begins to tell of the creation of humanity the method by which God creates is simple: God said, “Let there be...” and the next step in creation unfolds.

With human beings, God’s method changes. “And God said: “Let us create humanity in our image after our likeness. And they shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the air on the cattle and all the earth and everything that creeps on the earth.” And God created us human beings – male and female – in the Divine

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Image.” (Genesis 1:26) That does not mean that we look like God; God has no shape or form. It means that we human beings have God-like powers, and the Almighty puts us in charge of and responsible for the earth. It is an awesome power, and we can use it for good or for ill.

The *Midrash (Bereshit Rabbah 8:11)* teaches that we human beings stand midway between God and the rest of the animals. Like the animals we eat, sleep, drink, procreate, eliminate our waste and die. But in a God-like way we have the power to think, analyze, create and shape the environment in ways that far surpass any other creature.

Only humans can mine ore from a mountain, and turn the ore into iron, the iron into steel and with that steel forge the most delicate of surgical instruments to heal and to save lives. But only humans can mine the same ore to fashion bombs and bullets whose only purpose is to kill and to maim.

Finally, the Creation Story introduces the concept of *Shabbat*, a weekly day to step back from our strivings and contemplate how we can better fulfill God’s charge to us to make a better world.

Genesis’ Creation Story makes no pretense of being scientific. It teaches the core values of our tradition. It teaches that God entrusts the earth to our care, and it warns us, as the *Midrash (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13)* reminds us: This is the only earth we will get.

The message of *Rosh Hashanah* is that we must care for the earth God entrusted to our care and work – each of us in our own way – to create on it, a just, caring and compassionate society.

Your Rabbi, Stephen Fuchs

stephenfuchs@gmail.com

www.rabbifuchs.com

twitter: @rabbifuchs6

Subscribe to my blog at www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com

(Please note: Rabbi Fuchs’ website has a *Bat Yam* tab that leads to a number of wonderful photos of some events that took place during the past season. Also, if you wish to follow his activities in Germany this summer, he will be reporting them on his blog www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we usher in the Jewish New year 5779, I am filled with great trepidation. When I reflect on this past year, starting with the march in Charlottesville, I worry about our future, our children and grandchildren. Some in the political world chose to embolden the extremists, encouraging them to express their hate speech and validating their attacks on various groups in our society.

From 1860 to 1920, America became the melting pot, and millions of immigrants came to this paradise seeking safety and security and to escape religious and political wars and famine. Yet, there were times when America turned its back, and the immigration laws of the 20's were a prime example. This bill restricted the numbers of people, including Asians, Jews and other minorities. The author went further and suggested we need to bring in more people from Nordic countries.

Following the defeat of Hitler and other like-minded despots, most Jews

felt that anti-Semitism had been eradicated, and we began the rebuilding process. The next seven decades saw the growth of our community and the birth of Israel.

Anti-Semitism had not disappeared, and today the divisions in our society have turned our country asunder. Too often we have given up focusing on the root issues and discussing them in a meaningful fashion. The Annual ADL audit of anti-Semitic incidents for 2017 noted that the number reported was up by 60%. Also, their analysts had counted an appalling 4.2 million anti-Semitic tweets.

My plea to all of us, regardless of what side of the political spectrum we are on, is that we **MUST** speak up to change the tone and content of our dialogue.

I leave you with the words of our first president, George Washington, who responded to a letter from the leader of the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, who was worried about similar issues. Washington quoted from the Bible: "Every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid" "For happily the government of the United States gives to **bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance**, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

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If we, and all those we can reach, simply follow Washington's instructions we could together begin the healing process . I wish you and your families a very healthy, happy and safe New Year.

Shalom, Your President, Alan Lessack

*LET US DECLARE THE AWESOMENESS
OF THIS DAY...”
(High Holy Day Prayer Book)*



I am very excited to be joining Rabbi Fuchs and the *Bat Yam* community this year as your cantor for High Holy Days. The liturgy for these services is most complicated and challenging. For example, the *T'filah* for the *Yamin N'ra-im* (“The Days of Awe”) is the longest one of the year. There are many insertions of *piyyutim* or complex medieval poetry in the High Holy Day prayer book that are very obtuse. How can we come together as a praying community at services that are the least familiar to us?

I assert that it is the function of the music and the beautiful musical motifs of the High Holy Days that can bring us together as a praying community. Some of the melodies of the High Holy Days are so venerable that they are called “mi-Sinai” tunes - -which is to say that they seem to have originated at Mt. Sinai with Moses. We know that this is not the case, but the melody for *Kol Nidre*, for example, which dates back to medieval times as well as many other High Holy Day melodic motifs, is certainly centuries old. These musical themes, expressing by turn every mood of the Jewish soul, constitute a veritable symphony in the service. Let us welcome the New Year of 5779 with joyous and inspirational song. May it be one of good health, contentment and fulfillment for you and all your loved ones. Toby joins me in wishing all of you a *Shanah Tovah!*

Cantor Murray E. Simon

Cantor Simon Asks you to Save the Date.....

Sunday, February 24, 2019 – 4 p.m. –

A Sanibel Celebration: Three Cantors and a Pastor

LET'S GO TOGETHER!

Join Rabbi Dr. Stephen Fuchs and Reverend Dr. John H. Danner
for an uplifting interfaith experience in Israel!



April 29-May 10, 2019
Ten days, nine nights

- Be part of a curious, open minded group of Intellectual and spiritual seekers as we:
- . Walk in the footsteps of Hebrew Bible patriarchs, prophets and Jesus of Nazareth
 - Reflect at the Western Wall and visit the *Kotel* Tunnels
 - Visit the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
 - Visit Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered
 - Descend to the Dead Sea and ascend the heights of Masada
 - Cruise on the Sea of Galilee and visit the Jordan River
 - . Learn about life today in Israel–
 - Share *Shabbat* services and a special meal with local host families
 - Worship at Church of the Redeemer and hear about life for Christians in the Holy Land
 - Learn from an Islamic Imam advocating for peace
 - . Learn about the modern history of Israel and visit *Yad Vashem*, the Holocaust Museum
 - . Share many different cuisines reflective of the variety of cultures in Israel
 - . Deepen the unique bond that exists between SCUCC and *Bat Yam*

\$3070 per person, based on double occupancy, excluding airfare, based on a minimum of twenty-five participants–includes hotels, most meals, luxury coach travel, licensed Israeli tour guide, all entrance fees and programming costs, all transfers in Israel, all taxes and fees, gratuities

(A detailed itinerary will be made available at the end of September)

Secure your place by sending a \$250 deposit per person NOW, marked ISRAEL, to:
Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel FL
33957, Attn: Sandy Simmons
(Deposit fully refundable until November 30, 2018)

MAZEL TOV TO JUNE PATINKIN....

...For officially receiving her degree and diploma from the University of Chicago at the graduation ceremony on June 9th. Having transferred from Northwestern University, June attended the university, but never graduated. Her children submitted her transcripts and the university declared that the Northwestern University course work could transfer and she was eligible to receive her degree. June, who celebrated her 90th birthday last December 21st, is the oldest graduate of the school.



June Patinkin and her sons after she officially received her BA degree and diploma from the University of Chicago on June 9th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ONEG HOSTING

The following dates need hosts and co-hosts:

Co-hosts: September 28, October 5, and October 12.

Two hosts: November 2, 16, 23; Please contact Myra Klahr at 917-270-4905 or lingosmart@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer for one of these dates.

THANKS TO all *Bat Yam* members who conducted *Shabbat* services from May through August, to those who solicited the volunteers, and to Becky Kon for organizing the dinners before services.

*SHARED SCHOLAR
CHOSEN FOR NEXT
SEASON*

The Interfaith Shared Scholar Committee is pleased to announce that the 2019 Shared Scholar will be the Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell. He will present the Shared Scholar Lecture on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 7:00 PM at the SCUCC. His topic will be: "Faiths Finding Faith in Each Other." A reception and book signing will follow. [*The Shared Scholar lecture is usually scheduled for Sunday afternoon, so please note the change of day and time for this event.*] Dr. Newell will lead the Shared Scholar Seminar the following morning, Friday, January 25, at 10:00 AM. His topic for the seminar will be: "A Celtic Vision of the Sacred Earth." Lunch will follow.

The Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell is a poet, peacemaker, and scholar, internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality. In 2011 he received the Contemplative Voices Award from the Shalem Institute in Washington DC in

recognition of his commitment to spirituality and peacemaking. John Philip divides his time between Edinburgh, which is where his family home is, and his many speaking engagements throughout the English-speaking world. Formerly Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, he is now Companion Theologian for the American Spirituality Center of Casa del Sol at Ghost Ranch in the high desert of New Mexico. He is co-founder of *Salva Terra: A Vision Towards Earth's Healing*, is an ordained Church of Scotland minister. His PhD is from the University of Edinburgh. He has authored over fifteen books. For more information, visit www.salvaterravision.org.

The Shared Scholar Committee is co-sponsored by *Bat Yam*, Temple of the Islands, Captiva Chapel By the Sea, The Christian Science Church of Sanibel, 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.

*RABBI FUCHS TO SPEAK AT JANUARY "DAY
OF HOPE" PROGRAM*

Rabbi Fuchs will speak at the Jewish Federations' Jewish Community Day of Learning on Sunday, January 20th, 2019. The event's theme is "Day of Hope"; Rabbi Fuchs' topic will be "Prisoners of Hope."

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?

My Panama Peace Corps experience has lately been very busy. In mid-August, I completed my SECNA, a very important presentation of myself and possible projects to the community and to my Peace Corps bosses. That next weekend I moved into the apartment that will be my home for the coming two years. It's concrete and small, but I have made it comfortable, AND it has air conditioning and Wifi!

I continue to teach in the local elementary school, particularly grades

three and six, and I'm also teaching some after-school High School classes and conversational English classes at nearby universities. With a few Peace Corps friends, I traveled to Boquete, a beautiful mountain town in the west of Panama that is fast becoming an ex-pat favorite. I'm maintaining some semblance of Jewish observance by live streaming *Shabbat* worship and with *Sabbath* candles of a very amusing origin.

You can read about that and follow it all on my blog:
WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com.
Rabbi Myra Soifer

BAT YAM MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Marcia Rudin will be the speaker at a *Sabra Hadassah* membership luncheon in Sarasota on November 15th. She will talk about her novels *Hear My Voice* and *Flower Toward the Sun*. She has also been asked to join HBI Conversations, a national book and author program run through the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University that brings Jewish women authors and their books with Jewish and gender themes to speak at book groups throughout the country.

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

June Rosner, Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, June Patinkin, William Schlackman, Orlene Shimberg, Roselyn Kraus, Carol Scheiber, Martin Pokedoff, Frank Siegel, Allan Saltz, Renee Sugar, Arlyn Stein, Irwin Stein, Mel Bleiberg, Edina Lessack, Miriam Bailey, and Sue Spohr

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

September 1 – Emeterio Escandon, father-in-law of Kathy Zoss
September 9 – Meyer Heyman, grandfather of Jack Kohn
September 9 - Joseph Fulmer, father of Barry Fulmer
September 15 – Leonard Clark, brother of Herbert Clark
September 16 – Zalman Zoss, grandfather of Kathy Zoss
September 18 – Hazel Hochschild, mother of Michael Hochschild (Tishrei 9)
September 27 – Jack Berger, father of David Berger

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAT YAM

Please note: Special thanks to participants in the Rosh HaShanah honey jar project, profits from which were donated to Bat Yam.

General

Esta and David Berger (for *Torah* honors)

Yahrtzeits

Linda and Joel Edinburg for *Yahrtzeits* of Linda's aunt and uncle Clara and Hy Bergstein, and her father William Bergstein

Bonnie Kasdan in memory of her parents Reva and Jimmy Kasdan

Barry Litofsky for *Yahrtzeit* of his mother Belle Litofsky

Tanya and Michael Hochschild for *Yahrtzeit* of Michael's brother Simon Hochschild
Esther and Martin Pokedoff for *Yahrtzeits* of Martin's father Leo Pokedoff and his uncle Paul Kline

Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin for *Yahrtzeit* of his mother Beatrice Rudin
Kathy Zoss for *Yahrtzeits* of her father Samuel R. Zoss, her mother Syd Ruth Zoss, her mother-in-law Elena Rebon, and her aunt Margaret Reese

In Honor of Allan Sacks' Birthday

Diane and Henry Green

Janice and Ira Greenberg

In Honor of Esther Pokedoff

Bluma and Don Herman (for the Music Fund)

In Honor of Jeanette Keyser

Renee and Michael Kahn

Joan Trombka

For Speedy Recovery of Mel Bleiberg

Edina and Alan Lessack

For Speedy Recovery of Norma Kohn

Edina and Alan Lessack

***Tzedakah* Fund**

Miriam Kaplan

For Repair of the *Torah*

Becky Kon

In Memory of Warren Eisenberg

Edina and Alan Lessack

In Memory of Maxine Bromberg, Jay Solomon's mother

Edina and Alan Lessack

MISCELLANEOUS...

- . The *Bat Yam* membership committee needs volunteers to help staff the welcome table at the door during next season. If you are able to help, contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016.
- . To make changes in your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership roster, contact Brandon Minsky at Brandon@bitservicesfl.com.
- . 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 if you have any changes to your *Yahrtzeit* list or if you have donated to *Bat Yam* but have not received an acknowledgement.
- . *Tzedakah* cards that can be used for many occasions may be purchased for \$45.00 for five cards. Your donations contribute to *Bat Yam's* *Tzedakah* funds. Contact Rene Sugar at rsugar05@gmail.com.
- . Contact *Bat Yam* Matters editor Marcia Rudin by September 15th at marciarudin@aol.com to provide items you would like included in the October issue.

SAVE THESE DATES

- . Saturday, September 1, 7:00 p.m. – *Selichot* gathering
- . Sunday, September 9, 7:30 p.m. - *Rosh HaShanah* Eve service
- . Monday, September 10, 10 a.m. - *Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 10, 1 p.m. - *Tashlich*
- . Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 p.m. - *Kol Nidre* service
- . Wednesday, September 19, 10 a.m. - *Yom Kippur* daytime services begin
- Sunday, September 23, 9 a.m. – SCUCC Sermon Seminar, followed by SCUCC worship service and *Sukkoth* service
- Monday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. – *Simchat Torah* service
- . Thursday, January 25, 2019, 7 p.m. - Shared Scholar lecture
- . Friday, January 26, 10 a.m. – Shared Scholar luncheon-seminar
- . Sunday, February 24, 2019 , 4 p.m. – A Sanibel Celebration: Three Cantors and a Pastor

BAT YAM, TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Rabbi: Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Cantor: Murray E. Simon

Officers

President: Alan Lessack - 773-251-8862

First VP: Barry Fulmer - 732-780-2016

Second VP: Michael Hochschild

Treasurer: Barry Epstein

Corresponding Secretary: Irene Skolnick

Recording Secretary: Annette Pacyga

Trustees

Miriam Bailey, Shirley Frank, Cheryl Fulmer, Norma Kohn, Barry Roth, Garry Weiss,

Esta Berger, Lois Lorsch

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

BAT YAM

Temple of the Islands

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