

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 97 October, 2018 Tishrei/Cheshvan

OCTOBER 2018 BAT YAM WORSHIP

All October services, held in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 1 - *Simchat Torah* service – Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

October 5, *Erev Shabbat* – Rabbi Fuchs

October 12 – *Erev Shabbat* - Vickie Fuchs (Rabbi Fuchs is away)

October 19 – *Erev Shabbat* - Rabbi James Rudin (Rabbi Fuchs is away)

October 26 – *Erev Shabbat* - Rabbi Fuchs

Our Thanks to the September *Oneg Shabbat* hosts:

September 7 – Marcia and Jim Rudin

September 14 - Tanya and Michael Hochschild

September 21 - Lois and Howard Lorsch, Beth and Garry Weiss

September 28 - Edina and Alan Lessack

Our Sincere Thanks To....

- . Vickie and Rabbi Fuchs for hosting the *Selichot* gathering on September 1st
- . Elissa Karasin Samet and Michael Samet for hosting the luncheon following the *Tashlich* ceremony in the party room of their condominium and thanks to those who contributed food and helped to set up and clean up the room
- . Miriam Bailey and Esta Berger for organizing the Break-the-Fast following *Yom Kippur* services and to those who contributed desserts
- . Suzy Kelley and Abbey Allison for their beautiful 'cello and piano musical interlude on *Yom Kippur* afternoon
 - . Cantor Simon for his wonderful high holiday singing
 - . All congregants who participated in the High Holiday services
- . Susan Arnoff Spohr for her wonderful efforts on *Bat Yam's* behalf by organizing the *Rosh HaShana* honey jar project and to all *Bat Yam* members who participated in it

NOVEMBER SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

The *Shabbat* morning classes, beginning in November, will be held in Fellowship Hall at the SCUCC. They start with Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. They continue with Bible Conversations with Rabbi Fuchs from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., followed by sessions presented by congregants from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

The November congregant presentations schedule is as follows:

November 3

Overview of 2018-2019 season's classes, Different Ways People Survived the Holocaust – Vickie Fuchs

November 10

Roots of Anti-Semitism – Alan Lessack

November 17

Growing Up with Holocaust Survivor Parents – Cheryl Fulmer

November 24

No classes – Thanksgiving Break

Please contact Vickie Fuchs at vfuchs@gmail.com if you want to present a future session. Watch future issues of *Bat Yam Matters* for additional plans for this season's classes.

There will be bins outside of the SCUCC Church at the first *Shabbat* service of the month for donations for the joint *Bat Yam* and SCUCC Paper Goods Drive. Please donate toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, diapers, etc. to F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service Here).

Rabbi Fuchs will present the invocation at Sanibel's annual Veterans' Day Commemoration at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 11th, at Sanibel City Hall. This year's event marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Rabbi Fuchs will also note that this year marks the 80th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, an event we will commemorate at our *Shabbat* service on November 9th.

RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS



Sukkot

On Sunday September 23rd, as the Jewish Festival of *Sukkot* was about to begin, our congregation, *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands joined our host congregation, Sanibel Congregational UCC, so ably pastored by Dr. John Danner, for an extraordinary morning of sharing and solidarity.

Sukkot is the Jewish Harvest festival. In its celebration lie the roots of our American Thanksgiving. On *Sukkot* we celebrate that the earth has yielded food for us to eat in the Jewish year just begun. But this year we desecrate how we have abused the earth God has entrusted to our care.

When Vickie and I came to Sanibel for the first time in the spring of 2017, the waters were beautiful. Fish jumped, dolphins swam, and the docile manatees plodded along beneath the surface. Birds of every size and color decorated the air.

When we arrived this year in late August, there were no dolphins, fish or manatees to be seen. No pelicans dive-bombed into the Gulf for their daily sustenance.

We are shocked the by devastation pollution, red tide and green algae have wrought on Sanibel and the surrounding area. We want the earth to continue to yield food. We want our SW Florida home to be a place of beauty and abundant land and sea creatures once again. We want those who depend on tourism to earn their livelihoods.

A famous *Midrash* teaches when God finished creating the world, the Almighty addressed humanity, saying, "You are in charge of and responsible for this earth. But it is the only one you will get. So preserve and enhance it. Do not pollute or destroy it" (*Kohelet Rabbah*, 7:13).

Do we hope to pass on a beautiful and healthful environment to our children and grandchildren? Then we must do a much better job than we are now of taking care of our planet.

I am not a scientist, so I don't have the formula to clean up the mess we have made. But I know restoring the beauty of our SW Florida home requires the effort of all people of whatever faith and of no religious faith. We must join forces to demand

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that our government pass the laws and spend the money to do what must be done to save this island we have made our home. We must do it now, before it is too late.

Your Rabbi, Stephen Fuchs

stephenfuchs@gmail.com

www.rabbifuchs.com

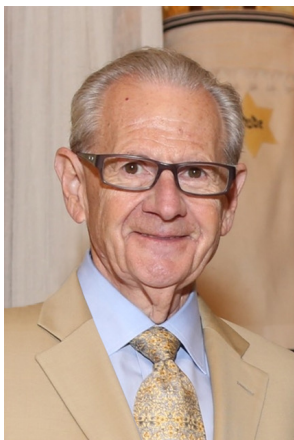
twitter: @rabbifuchs6

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.)



**THANKS TO BAT
YAM MEMBERS WHO DECORATED THE SUKKAH IN THE
SCUCC COURTYARD, COORDINATED BY JAY AND BARRY
SOLOMON**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



During the month of September we celebrated the Jewish New Year of 5779. Once again Rabbi and Vickie Fuchs opened their home for *Selichot*, where there was an intensive discussion of one of the most difficult prayers, the *Unetana Tokef*.

Following a meaningful *Rosh HaShanah* service, over fifty people joined in *Tashlich* and a potluck meal hosted by Elissa and Michael Samet in their party room at Gulfside Place. Many thanks to them for organizing the afternoon and for decorating the room and creating that special feeling we so appreciate as part of the *Bat Yam* experience.

Ten days later we began observance of the completion of the Days of Awe starting with the stirring *Kol Nidre* service. The next morning a full day of prayer helped us to search our innermost selves. The sermons delivered (without notes) by Rabbi Fuchs were not only uplifting but

provocative and challenging. Cantor Simon's rendition of many of the stirring prayers made our time spent together magical. We are so blessed to have both of them share their passion and depth of learning here. Helping us to reflect was the beautiful and haunting music provided by Susannah Kelly and Abbie Allison.

Last year Rabbi Fuchs requested three of our members to share their respective paths and feelings about being Jewish. The response was very positive and repeated this year; the speakers were Mel Bleiberg, Edina Lessack, and Allan Sacks. Each presentation was meaningful and memorable. This practice will now become a regular segment of our *Yom Kippur* experience.

Barely catching their breaths, a group of volunteers led by Jay and Barry Solomon built our *Sukkah*. A special thanks to everyone who participated. An explanation of *Sukkot* was shared by Rabbi Fuchs at Sunday's SCUCC church services.

On October 1st we will celebrate *Simchat Torah*. The significance of completing the last verse and then the reading of the first verse is a stirring and concrete reminder that there is no beginning or end.

I want to pay special tribute to our dedicated members who participate in leading and attending our services during the summer months. It is their commitment that enables us to fulfill one of our most important missions – to provide that Jewish presence on the island year-round.

Shalom, Alan Lessack



*CANTOR SIMON ANNOUNCES BAT YAM'S
FUN(D)RAISING EVENT IN FEBRUARY*

On February 24, 2019 at 4 p.m. we will be treated to a musical afternoon titled Sanibel Celebration: Three Cantors and a Pastor. The singers will be Rev. Dr. John H. Danner, pastor of the SCUCC, *Bat Yam's* host church; Cantor Randy Herman, *Bet Torah*, Mt. Kisco, New York; Cantor Elizabeth Shammash, *Tiferet Bet Israel*, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, and Cantor Murray Simon. Toby Simon will be the piano accompanist.

Don't Miss this Extraordinary Event!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ONEG HOSTING

The following dates need hosts and co-hosts:

Co-hosts: 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.

IN MEMORIAM.....

Long-time *Bat Yam* member Seymour (Si) Levin, a resident of Deerfield, IL, died in May. A founding partner of Lipschultz, Levin & Gray Certified Public Accountants, he was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-one years, Barbara. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, father of two, and grandfather of six.

LET'S GO TOGETHER!

Join Rabbi Dr. Stephen Fuchs and Reverend Dr. John H. Danner
for an uplifting interfaith experience in Israel! **Sign up soon, as the trip is half
sold-out! RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW.**



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 in October)

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 October 31, 2018)

*SHARED SCHOLAR
CHOSEN FOR
JANUARY*

The Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell 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*, 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.

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

Howard Mayer, Renee Sugar, Joel Sugar, Stuart Berke, June Rosner, William Schlackman, Orlene Shimberg, Roselyn Kraus, Carol Scheiber, Martin Pokedoff, Frank Siegel, Arlyn Stein, Irwin Stein, Miriam Bailey, Jeannette Keyser, Russ Bilgore and Sue Spohr

*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?

You can follow *Bat Yam's* former rabbi Myra Soifer's Peace Corps adventures in Panama on her blog, which can be reached by going to 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 her latest blog post.

OCTOBER JAHRZEITS

- . October 5 - Hazel Hochschild, mother of Michael Hochschild
- . October 10 - Maurice Schwadron, father of Sandra Berke
- . October 12 - Mildred Fulmer, mother of Barry Fulmer
- . October 23 - Howard Salus, brother of Edina Lessack
- . October 28 - Hank Edinburg, brother of Joel Edinburg

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAT YAM

General

Adele and Stephen Anish
Esta and David Berger
Mel Bleiberg
Joan Charlson
Sue and Peter Danford
Linda and Joel Edinburg
Louise Freeman
Maria and Peter Hochschild
Tanya and Michael Hochschild
Jeannette Keyser
Ann and Alan Levinsohn
Enid and Martin Packard
Sue and Tom Pick
Stephen Pilzer
June Rosner
Jocelyn and Peter Saltz
Elissa and Michael Samet
Lee Seidler and Gene Harrison
Peggy and Frank Siegel
Arlyn and Irwin Stein

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Betty and Morton Tavel
Arnee and Walter Winshall
Brenda and Arnold Zaltas
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer
Bluma and Donald Herman
Lonni Howington and the Howington family for *Rosh HaShanah* services (guests)
Cindy and David Jacob
Patricia and Stanley Levine
Norman Minsky
Annette Pacyga
Aimee and Jon Rubinstein for *Rosh HaShanah* (guests)
Laura and Rick Waks for the High Holy Days (guests)

For Speedy Recovery of Martin Pokedoff

Joyce Jacobs
Edina and Alan Lessack
Judith and Howard Mayer
Susan Rosenberg and Kenneth Gerson

For Speedy Recovery of Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

Edina and Alan Lessack
Jocelyn and Peter Saltz

For Speedy Recovery of June Rosner

Edina and Alan Lessack

For Speedy Recovery of Stuart Berke

Edina and Alan Lessack

In Honor of Linda Weissbluth

Linda and Marc Weissbluth

Yahrtzeits

Tanya and Michael Hochschild for *Yahrzeits* of Michael's parents Len and Hazel
Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin for *Yahrtzeit* of Marcia's father Dr. Max Kaplan
Lois and Howard Lorsch for *Yahrzeits* of Howard's parents Gerald and Lore Lorsch
Kathy Zoss for *Yahrzeits* of Anna Hoffman, Zalman Zoss, and Emeterio Escandon

In Honor of the 60th Anniversary of Martin and Esther Pokedoff

Barbara and Sidney Tudor (non-members)
Annette and Michael Lester (non-members)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Judith and Howard Mayer
Jeffrey Kagan (guest)

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 or Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com.
- . 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 October 15th at marciarudin@aol.com to provide items you would like included in the November issue.

SAVE THESE DATES

- . Monday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. – *Simchat Torah* services
- . Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7 p.m. - Shared Scholar lecture
- . Friday, January 25, 10 a.m. – Shared Scholar luncheon-seminar
- . Sunday, February 24, 2019 , 4 p.m. – A Sanibel Celebration: Three Cantors and a Pastor
- . April 29 to May 10 - Joint *Bat Yam* and SCUCC trip to Israel

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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