

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 79

September/October, 2016

Av/Tishrei, 5776

PLEASE NOTE: This Bat Yam bulletin covers both September and October, 2016. The next bulletin will be the November issue.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER SHABBAT WORSHIP SERVICES

All Shabbat services, in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ at 7 p.m., will be led by Bat Yam congregants. **PLEASE NOTE: OFF-SEASON SHABBAT SERVICES BEGIN AT 7 P.M.** Members often meet for dinner at a local restaurant before services. The location of dinner will be announced at the previous service. Saturday morning *Bat Yam* classes resume in November.

September 2 – Bonnie Kasdan and Jeanette Keyser

September 9 – Esther and Marty Pokedoff

September 16 – Marcia and Joe Goldberg

September 23 – Kathy Zoss and Cantorial Soloist Greg Watson

September 30 – Beth and Gary Weiss

October 7 – Dorothy and Doug Renfroe

October 14 – Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

October 21 – Marcia and Jim Rudin

October 28 – Edina and Alan Lessack

SEE SCHEDULE AND SERMON TOPICS FOR HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES ON P. 2

IN MEMORIAM.....

Harold (Hal) Patinkin, Marilyn (Lynn) Zheutlin, Shirley Bleiberg

See articles p. 6

BAT YAM 2016 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Rabbi Myra Soifer will once again lead Bat Yam's *Rosh HaShana* and *Yom Kippur* services. Cantorial Soloist Douglas Renfroe, accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison, will provide the beautiful music. Services will take place In Fellowship Hall, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. The schedule is as follows: Please note: the evening High Holiday services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh HaShana

Evening Service – October 2 – 7:30 p.m.

Daytime Service – October 3 – 10 a.m.

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre –October 11 – 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur - October 12 – 10 a.m.

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

Abbreviated afternoon service, followed immediately by *Yizkor*/Memorial service

And *Ne'ilah*/Closing service - 4 p.m.

Break-the-Fast in Heron Hall to follow immediately – 6 p.m

HIGH HOLIDAY SERMON TOPICS...

My High Holiday Sermons for 5777 fall under the topic "*Navi or Not To Navi* (with apologies to William Shakespeare) – An overview of the Hebrew prophets." I will pay particular attention to the prophets of our High Holiday *haftarot* and the special lessons they offer us at this sacred season of our Jewish year.

More specifically:

- . *Erev Rosh HaShanah*: "Navi or Not to Navi: Who Are These prophets Anyway?"
- . *Rosh HaShanah* Morning: "The Prophet Samuel: Trouble with Wives and Kings"
- . *Erev Yom Kippur*: "Women Can be Prophets Too (There Are Five in Our Bible)"
- . *Yom Kippur* Morning: "The Many Isaiahs and Their Singular Message"
- . *Yom Kippur* Afternoon: "Jonah: Lessons from a Big Fish"

Rabbi Myra Soifer

SPECIAL THANKS TO... Ann Arnoff and her daughter Susan Spohr for once again heading the *Rosh HaShanah* fund raising honey jar project.....Writes Ann: We want to thank everyone who participated in the honey jar program. This was the most successful year. The net profit to *Bat Yam* was \$2,952.

Ann Arnoff and Susan Spohr

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I view Temple *Bat Yam* as a community, created to serve our members, potential members and visitors to Sanibel, Captiva and Fort Myers. This has been an exciting year for the Congregation as we celebrated twenty-five years.

Our Rabbi and Cantorial Soloist are only with us six months of the year plus High Holidays. Dedicated members continue to lead Friday night services during the other six months. Thanks go to Stan Zell, Friday night coordinator and Becky Kon for arranging dinner prior to services. A special thanks to every member who participated as leaders each Friday night. We are grateful to Miriam Bailey and Kathy Zoss, leaders of our Caring Committee which provides an important lifeline to members who are ill or have experienced the loss of a loved one. Once again, we are indebted to Ann Arnoff and her daughter, Susan Spohr, who are responsible for our Honey Project. This year's results are impressive, netting \$2900.00, a \$900 increase over last year. Unfortunately, this summer has seen the passing of several wonderful people. A special thanks to our wonderful Rabbi Soifer who was in frequent communication with the families to offer consolation and comfort.

Soon you will receive your annual dues statement, which includes additional giving opportunities. As you may know, our expenses have increased due to new contracts with the Church and the renewal of Doug's contract. Dues cover only a portion of our needs. Please consider joining one of our giving levels over and above the dues.

On behalf of Edina and myself *L'Shanah Tova*.

Alan Lessack

President, Bat Yam

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER YAHRTZEITS

September 1 -Sarah Kline, aunt of Martin Pokedoff

September 1 – Emeterio Escandon, father-in-law of Kathy Zoss

September 9 – Meyer Heyman, grandfather of Jack Kohn

September 16 – Zalman Zoss, grandfather of Kathy Zoss

September 27 – Jack Berger, father of David Berger

September 30 – Michael Jay Goldberg, son of Marcia and Joe Goldberg

October 5 – Mary Renfroe, mother of Douglas Renfroe

October 10 – Maurice Schwadron, father of Sandra Berke

October 28 - Hank Edinburg, brother of Joel Edinburg

To update your address, telephone numbers, or e-mail address in the *Bat Yam* membership roster, contact Brandon Minsky at Brandon@bitservicesfl.com. Contact Irene Skolnick at irkul42@gmail.com or 239-472-2217 with any additions or corrections you have to the *Yahrtzeit* list. E-mail articles and suggestions for the November *Bat Yam* bulletin to Marcia Rudin at marciarudin@aol.com by October 15th.

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI



That's One Big Shofar!

After nearly forty years in the rabbinate, I've come to believe that there's a sermon in just about everything. Even so, I had no idea that when I traveled to Namibia this past June, there'd be a "Jewish connection" on the hoof . . .

Most African trips include wonderful time viewing the local game animals. And, indeed, Southern Africa had some awesome creatures that I'd never seen before – kudu, oryx,

springbok, and a most interestingly adapted version of the African elephant. It turns out that horns of that African kudu are the source of the Yemenite shofar. And . . . that kudu horn can tip the scales at 600 pounds! (Imagine the workout for that *ba'al tekiah*, or shofar blower. Oy.) Dang, I should've picked one up . . .

All of which is but introduction to my annual observation that the summer has flown by and the Jewish High Holidays are quickly upon us (even though they are exceedingly "late" this year . . .).

I hope you all had as a lovely a summer as did I. May your spiritual work of introspection, repentance, and forgiveness be challenging yet successful. And if/when you travel back to Sanibel, may you do so safely. 5777 promises to be a busy and exciting year at *Bat Yam*, once again. I can't wait to reconnect with you all and celebrate our Judaism together!

See you in *shul*. Blessings,

Your Rabbi, *Myra Soifer*

775-721-5508 (cell);

myrabbims@gmail.com

(please note my new email address)

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

June Patinkin, David Crown, William Schlackman, Hartley Kleinberg, Barbara Schwartz, Orlene Shimberg, Joy Bowe, Helane Smith, Paula Raboy, Marvin Berke, Jeanette Keyser, Judy Goldbenberg, Roselyn Kraus, Marilyn and Moe Michel, Mike Raab, Michael Derechin, Howard Pachman, Marty Packard, and Michael Hochschild

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

EXCITING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR SEASON

In November and December, in the second session of Bat Yam's Saturday morning from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., the theme will be "Jews in the Diaspora." Members will discuss the Jews of Persia and Jews who settled in Asia, particularly China, and in other parts of the world. In January and February, members will present their own experiences as artists and writers and share insights gathered from their work as Jews living in the Diaspora. The November schedule is:

November 5: Barry Fulmer – Seafaring and Jews in Biblical Times

November 12: Parvis Sadighi – Jews of Persia

November 19: Alan Lessack – The Lemba Tribe of South Africa and Zimbabwe

November 26: no classes (Thanksgiving)

For her 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning segments, Rabbi Soifer plans a series titled "It's a *Mitzvah!*" The class will study different ethical or ritual *mitzvot* each week. Her Saturday morning class schedule for the first month is:

November 5 - Introduction: *It's a Mitzvah. What is Mitzvah?*

November 12 - *Talmud Torah: Study and Learning*

November 19 - *Bal Tashit: Thou Shalt Not Destroy/Waste*

November 26: no classes (Thanksgiving)

December 3 - *Ahavat Zion: Love of Israel*

In Rabbi Soifer's 12:30 p.m. Thursday classes, she will focus on the "off-season" *Torah* portions. Her class schedule for the first month of classes is as follows:

November 10 (first class of the season) - **Introduction: *Torah*, Study, and the Weekly Portion**

November 17 - ***Bereisheet: Gen. 1.1-2.3***

November 26: no classes (Thanksgiving)

December 1 - ***Noach: Gen. 6.9-8.14***

There are other stimulating programs scheduled throughout the 2016-2017 season. On Wednesdays January 11th, 18th, and 25th at 10 a.m. and repeated at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Soifer and Reverend Dr. John Danner, Senior Pastor of *Bat Yam's* host church, will present joint classes in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. They will be joined by Imam Abdul 'Haq Muhammed, Founder and Executive Director of the Quality Life Center in Fort Myers. This series of classes will be Part II of the series from last year, "After Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." The topics this year will be "The Status of Women," "War and Peace", and "The Messiah". The pulpit exchange between Rabbi Soifer and Reverend Danner will take place on Friday, February 3rd during *Bat Yam Shabbat* services and Sunday, February 5th during church services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. On Thursday, February 23rd at 10 a.m., Reverend Danner and Rabbi Soifer will present a different perspective on Bible texts often cited as anti-LGBT.

*ALSO...SAVE THE
DATE...*

...for a special program on Sunday, November 20th, time TBD, at Temple Judea in Ft. Myers jointly sponsored by Temple Judea, *Bat Yam*, and the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. The topic will be "Left vs Right: The Battle for Israel's Soul." Presenters will Jonathan Tobin (on the right), senior online editor and chief political blogger of *Commentary Magazine*, and J.J. Goldberg (on the left), editor-at-large of the "Forward" newspaper and former U.S. Bureau Chief of *The Jerusalem Report* debating critical issues concerning the State of Israel.

The program promises to be timely (so close after our Presidential elections), informative, and challenging. Full details to follow in the November *Bat Yam* bulletin.

IN MEMORIAM....

HAROLD (HAL) PATINKIN...died on June 15th at Hope Hospice in Ft. Myers at age 90. He and his beloved wife of sixty-six years June divided their time between Sanibel and Chicago. A long-time member of *Bat Yam*, he led Jewish Current Events on Saturday mornings and was a founder and leader of Sanibel's Current Events program, an institution on the island. Our condolences to June and their four sons, sixteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

MARILYN (LYNN) ZHEUTLIN...died on June 25, 2016 at age 89 at her home in Hickory Corners, MI. She and

her late physician husband Bert raised their children in Battle Creek, MI and wintered on Sanibel. Our condolences to her four children and twelve grandchildren.

SHIRLEY BLEIBERG...died at age 90 at the hospice unit of Shell Point Retirement Community on July 5th. She and Mel, her husband of sixty-six years, were founding members of *Bat Yam*. Shirley served as the first woman president of their congregation, Temple Emanuel in Pittsburgh, from 1980-1982. They spent winters on Sanibel and many summers at The Chautauqua Institute. Our condolences to Mel, their three children and five grandchildren.

*CONDOLENCES ALSO
TO....*

Bat Yam member Renee Minsky, whose mother Goldie Michelson died on July 9th at her home a month before her 114th birthday. Mrs. Michelson was listed as the oldest living American. Still residing at her home in Worcester, MA where she lived since emigrating from Russia with her family at the age of two, Goldie attended Brown University and earned an MA in Sociology from Clark University, her thesis titled "A Citizenship Survey of Worcester Jewry." She worked with many women's organizations such as *Hadassah* and the National Council of Jewish Women. According to magazine articles, she credited her long life to taking walks every day.

*REVEREND HEIDI
NEUMARK TO BE
2017 SHARED
SCHOLAR*

The Shared Scholar committee has chosen The Reverend Heidi Neumark, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan, as the 2017 Shared Scholar. Reverend Neumark will present her main program on the evening of Monday, January 23rd in the sanctuary of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. [Please note: in the past the Shared Scholar programs have taken place on Sunday afternoons.] She may also conduct an additional workshop. Topics for the lecture and workshop are yet to be finalized. The time of the program is TBD.

Reverend Neumark has served as pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan since 2003. Prior to that she served as pastor of Transfiguration Lutheran Church in the South Bronx. She completed her undergraduate studies at Brown University and received her Masters in Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She spent a year at an ecumenical seminary in Argentina where she also worked with *Servicio Paz y Justicia*, a human rights organization. She is a founding member of South Bronx Churches, an ecumenical community organizing group. She lectures throughout the country. Reverend Neumark is the author of *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx* and *Hidden Inheritance*, in which she traces the search culminating in the discovery of her Jewish identity and the death of her grandfather in the

Terezin concentration camp. She is an Adjunct Professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City in the field of Ministry Formation.

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.

*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
TO HOST ONEG
SHABBATS*

Kathy Zoss requests that you sign up with her to head or assist in planning specific *Oneg Shabbats* throughout the 2016-2017 season. She needs volunteers for the following Friday nights. The number of volunteers needed is in parentheses. .

Nov. 25 (2); Dec. 2 (1); Dec. 30 (2) [*Chanukah*]; Jan. 6 (1); Feb. 24 (2); Mar. 3 (2); Mar. 10 (2); Mar.17 (2); Mar. 31 (2), Apr. 14 (2); Apr. 21 (2); Apr. 28 (2)

Please contact Kathy at 239-362-0539 (home), 239-900-4576 (cell), or 828-369-3018 (Or contact her via email at skzoss21943@gmail.com. She is most concerned about the November 25th and Dec. 2nd dates, but needs people for the other open dates also.

DO YOU WISH TO TAKE A CLASS IN CPR?

Bat Yam member Stan Barton will offer a CPR class in the 2016-17 season to members if there is enough interest. Barton has been teaching First Aid CPR for over thirty years and recently issued his 711th certification to members of Lexington Country Club in Ft. Myers, resulting in the savings of three lives by certified participants. He has conducted this Emergency Response Program in churches and schools and to police and firefighters. His program would also include the proper usage of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), which is on the wall in our Bat Yam storage room.

There is no charge for Barton's presentation. The program is approximately two hours and includes attendees' participation if they are willing. Please contact Stan at stashabar@aol.com or at 239-466-8801 if you are interested.

SAVE THESE DATES...

- . Sunday, October 2, 7:30 p.m. – *Rosh HaShana* evening service [see schedule p. 2]
- . Monday, October 3, 10 a.m., *Rosh HaShana* service [see schedule p. 2]
- . Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m. – *Kol Nidre* service [see schedule p. 2]
- . Wednesday, October 12, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. – Yom Kippur services [see schedule p. 2]
- . Sunday, January 20th, time TBD - Left vs. Right – Jonathan Tobin and J.J. Goldberg at Temple Judea, Ft. Myers [see article p. 6]
- . Wednesdays January 11th, 18th, and 25th, 2017, 10 a.m. and repeated at 7:30 p.m., joint Rabbi Soifer, Reverend John Danner, and Imam Abdul 'Haq Muhammed classes [see article p. 5]
- . Monday, January 23rd, evening – Shared Scholar Reverend Heidi Neumark presentation [see article p. 7]
- . Friday, February 3rd - Pulpit exchange: Reverend John Danner speaks at *Bat Yam Shabbat* services [see article p. 5]
- . Thursday, February 5th – Pulpit exchange: Rabbi Myra Soifer speaks at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. [see article p. 5]
- . Thursday, February 23rd, 10 a.m. - Reverend Danner and Rabbi Soifer will present a different perspective on Bible texts often cited as anti-LGBT [see article p. 5]

MISCELLANEOUS...

. E-mail 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.

. The *Bat Yam* Mahjong group welcomes new members. Contact

Linda Edinburg at wedodit@comcast.net or Shirley Frank at sfrank1523@gmail.com. The games are played on Fridays from 1 pm to 4 pm, alternating at group members' homes.

. Adele Anish reminds us to save metal snap tops from cans to help support Ronald McDonald Houses and the families they assist. 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 Sanibel public school.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAT YAM

PLEASE NOTE... *Apologies to Cheryl and Barry Fulmer for omitting their names from the Special Bat Yam Financial Report listing new categories of donors that appeared in the May-August 2016 bulletin. They should have been listed under the Boneh category*

General Donations

Barry Roth

Jack Ward

Irene and Leon Skolnick

In Honor of Martin Pokedoff

Evelyn and Herbert Clark

***Tzedakah* Fund**

Enid and Marty Packard

In Honor of Peter Danford's Birthday

Patricia and Stanley Levine

In Honor of Jeanette Keyser's 90th Birthday

Evelyn and Herbert Clark

Esther and Martin Pokedoff

Ann Arnoff

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In Honor of Shirley Boscov's 90th Birthday
Edina and Alan Lessack

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College Art Association
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Enid and Marty Packard

In Memory of Marilyn Zheutlin

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In Memory of Goldie Michelson

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer
Edina and Alan Lessack

In Memory of James Marks and Roz Marks

Shirley Boscov

Yahrzeits

Evelyn and Herbert Clark, in memory of his mother Anna Clark
Linda and Joel Edinburg, for *Yahrzeits* of Clara and Hy Bergstein and Will Bergstein
Norma and Jack Kohn for *Yahrzeits* of his grandmother Emma Heyman, his mother
Lillian Kohn, and his grandfather Meyer Heyman
Esther and Martin Pokedoff for *Yahrzeits* of his father Leo Pokedoff and his uncle
Paul Kline
Kathy Zoss, for *Yahrzeits* of Helen Rebon, Margaret Reese, Syd Ruth Zoss, Bogdane
Zoss, Gerrit Vossen, Samuel R. Zoss, Alberto G. Escandon, Anna Hoffman, and
Emeterio Escandon
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer in memory of Tobias Weisman and Frances Weisman,
Cheryl's mother and father
Marcia and Jim Rudin for *Yahrzeits* of Dr. Max Kaplan, Marcia's father, and Beatrice
Rosenbloom Rudin, Jim's mother
Mary Ellen Ellis, for *Yahrtzeit* of Howard Ellis

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Marilyn and Ruth Weissman, Cindy Jones, and Selma Ringelheim (in honor of
Shirley Bleiberg's 90th Birthday)

BAT YAM, TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

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Cantorial Soloist: Douglas Renfroe

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BAT YAM

Temple of the Islands

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