

# ***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 94

April, 2018

Nisan/Iyyar

### ***APRIL 2018 BAT YAM SHABBAT WORSHIP***

All April *Shabbat* services will be at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the SCUCC. They will be led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. Cantor Murray Simon will chant the prayers, with musical accompaniment by pianist Abigail Allison.

**April 6** -Honoring Kathy Zoss

**April 13** - *Yom HaShoah* commemoration

**April 20** - In lieu of a sermon, Rabbi Fuchs will open the floor to "Questions You Want to Ask the Rabbi But Never Had The Chance" (bring your questions to the service)

**April 27** - Bid farewell for the season to Rabbi Fuchs, Cantor Simon, and Abbey Allison

### ***THANKS TO APRIL ONEG SHABBAT VOLUNTEERS ...***

**April 6** - Paula Raboy (Passover)

**April 13** - Esther and Marty Pokedoff, Kay and Parvis Sadighi

**April 20** - Sharon and Stan Barton, Linda Drasnin, Sue and Peter Danford

**April 27** - Cheryl and Barry Fulmer, Irene and Leon Skolnick

### ***OUR SINCERE THANKS TO....***

- . Kathy Zoss, Ben Yokel, Tanya Hochschild, and Edina Lessack for writing and participating in the special Purim celebration on March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- . Paula Raboy and Paulette Lotstein for organizing the Pot Luck dinner that preceded *Bat Yam's* annual meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> and to all who contributed food and their efforts
- . Chairs Annette Pacyga and Sue Danford, assisted by Norma Kohn, Patty Levine, and Myra Fisher, for organizing and executing the *Bat Yam Seder* on March 30<sup>th</sup> and to all who contributed food and their efforts
- . Esther Pokedoff for her many years of organizing the *Shabbat* morning classes
- . Kathy Zoss for organizing the *Oneg Shabbat* volunteers

## *APRIL 2018 BAT YAM SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES*

The *Shabbat* morning classes begin with a half hour of Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi Fuchs. They continue with Rabbi Fuchs' presentations according to the topic "Beginning with Creation in Genesis and Getting As Far As We Get as the Year Unfolds". *Bat Yam* congregants present the second session.

### **April 7**

- . 9 to 9:30: Hebrew reading – Rabbi Fuchs
- . 9:30 to 10:30: Conversations Starting with Genesis – Rabbi Fuchs
- . 10:30 to 11:15: Ann Arnoff's Legacy: *Bat Yam's* Czech Torah; Boskovice Jews and the Synagogues of Boskovice – Barry Fulmer
- . 11:30 TO 12:15: Jewish Current Events

### **April 14**

- .9 to 9:30: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs
- .9:30 to 10:30: Conversations Starting with Genesis – Rabbi Fuchs
- . 10:30 to 11:15: Why We Go to Germany and What We Do There – Rabbi Fuchs
- . 11:30 TO 12:15: Jewish Current Events

### **April 21**

- No Hebrew Class – Rabbi Fuchs is away
- . 9:30 to 11:15: (DOUBLE CONGREGANT-LED SESSION) DVD - "Shanghai Ghetto", a ninety-five minute docudrama about the thousands of Jews who escaped from the Nazis to China, narrated by Martin Landau – Cheryl and Barry Fulmer
  - . 11:30 TO 12:15: Jewish Current Events

### **April 28**

- .9 to 9:30: Hebrew reading - Rabbi Fuchs
- .9:30 to 10:30: Conversations Starting with Genesis - Rabbi Fuchs
- .10:30 to 11:15: *Siyyum* – Planning for next season's congregant-led classes and end of season party
- . 11:30 TO 12:15: Jewish Current Events

**Note:** There will be no *Shabbat* morning classes from May to November. Watch future *Bat Yam Matters* for plans for next season's classes.

Vickie Fuchs has graciously agreed to take over from Esther Pokedoff the job of planning and organizing the Saturday morning classes. <b>We thank Esther for her many years of hard work to enrich our intellectual lives at <i>Bat Yam</i>.</b>
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## *BAT YAM OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES ELECTED AT MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING*

The following slate presented by the nominating committee was accepted and voted in at the March 15<sup>th</sup> annual congregational meeting. The numbers in parentheses indicate the expiration date of the terms and the stars indicate the length of the renewal or whether new to the position.

### **OFFICERS**

President: Alan Lessack (2019)\*  
First Vice President: Barry Fulmer (2019)\*  
Second Vice President: Michael Hochschild (2019)\*  
Treasurer: Barry Epstein (2020)\*\*\*  
Corresponding Secretary: Irene Skolnick (2019)  
Recording Secretary: Annette Pacyga (2019)

### **TRUSTEES**

Miriam Bailey (2020)\*\*  
Shirley Frank (2020)\*\*  
Cheryl Fulmer (2020)\*\*  
Norma Kohn (2020)\*\*  
Barry Roth (2019)  
Garry Weiss (2019)  
Esta Berger (2020)\*\*\*  
Lois Lorsch (2020)\*\*\*

\*Renew for one-year term; \*\* Renew for two-year term, \*\*\* New to position

Our thanks to the nominating committee, chaired by Howard Lorsch, and to other members Marcia Rudin, Annette Pacyga, David Berger, and Bob Schoen. Rabbi Fuchs installed the new board. Newly-elected treasurer Barry Epstein presented a financial report, and president Alan Lessack reviewed *Bat Yam's* season's events and plans for the future.



**Newly elected officers and trustees**

## *RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS*



**It is hard to believe that this is the last column for my first season as rabbi of *Bat Yam Temple of the Islands*.**

The months seem to have flown by at warp speed. It feels like just last week Vickie and I arrived to find the island uninhabitable due to Hurricane Irma. Our trip to Florida had already been postponed twice.

We shared our first *Shabbat* celebration with our Fort Myers neighbors, Temple Beth El and Temple Judea in Fort Myers at the Federation building because none of our sanctuaries were usable. Rabbis Nicole Luna and Marc Sack were most gracious in welcoming me and the *Bat Yam* members present to participate in the service. **My lasting memory of that service was of the size of our delegation.**

Both Temple Judea and Beth El had to cancel their traditional *Selichot* services because their buildings could not be used, but even though Vickie and I had settled into our Sanibel home only that day, we welcomed

more than twenty congregants who came to join us there for our *Selichot* reflections and discussion.

Our High Holy Day services were special due to the music provided by our soloist Greg Watson and the exquisite *Yom Kippur* Congregants' Hour reflections of Tanya Hochschild, Lois Lorsch and Marcia Rudin. **Consensus was unanimous that Congregants' Hour should be an annual part of *Yom Kippur* at *Bat Yam*.**

For *Sukkot* we welcomed our hosts from Sanibel Congregational UCC, and Simchat Torah allowed us to journey the length of the *Torah* together.

**In November, we welcomed the congregation's first ordained Cantor, Murray Simon. Working with a cantor of his talent, spirituality and reputation has been a great honor.**

For our official installation we welcomed Rabbi Paul Citrin, a dear friend of both Cantor Simon and me for what proved to be a very special evening.

**December brought a welcome return visit from *Bat Yam's* wonderful previous rabbi, Myra Soifer, who effectively connected her frustrations with Peace Corps red tape to the story of Joseph in Genesis. We are all thrilled that Rabbi Soifer at last has successfully launched this new chapter in her life.**

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*Chanukah* featured a joint evening of learning with Sanibel UCC in which we taught about *Chanukah* and we learned about advent and Christmas.

Rev. Dr. John Danner and I co-taught a well-received three-part series open to the public on “Tricksters and Troublemakers in the Bible.”

Thanks to Dr. Ellen Feingold, February featured a guest sermon by Rabbi Ronald Kronish, whom I met many years ago when we were among the first campers at Camp Eisner in 1958. Rabbi Kronish has spent his rabbinic career as an influential voice for interreligious understanding among Jews, Christians and Muslims in Israel.

***Purim* at Bat Yam struck a wonderful balance between frivolity and seriousness aided by the sparkling performances of Ben Yokel, Tanya Hochschild, Kathy Zoss, Edina Lessack and Cantor Pamela Siskin.**

March featured a magnificent “Great Cantors” program of music, learning and nostalgia presented by Cantor Simon. Later in the month, the renowned newscaster, Marvin Kalb,

thanks to his friendship with Herb Rubin, treated our community to a riveting address and the chance to purchase signed copies of his latest book.

**Our community Seder, because of the efforts of Annette Pacyga, Sue Danford and their amazing committee, was a *tour-de-force* attended by 176 people!**

Beyond the one-time events, though, every *Shabbat* at Bat Yam was special. I am moved by the warmth, graciousness and numbers of members who, with all that there is to do on this island, choose to come to services and classes.

Vickie and I bless the day you invited us to join you as part of the *Bat Yam* community, and we eagerly anticipate what next year will bring.

*Your Rabbi, Stephen Fuchs*

[stephenfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:stephenfuchs@gmail.com)

[www.rabbifuchs.com](http://www.rabbifuchs.com)

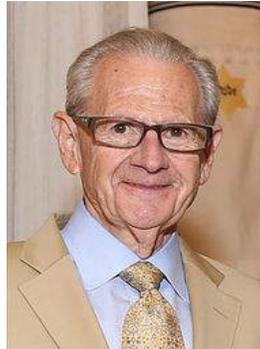
twitter: @rabbifuchs6

Subscribe to my blog at

[www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com](http://www.findingourselvesinbiblicalnarratives.com)

The Social Action Committee's last paper drive of the season to benefit FISH will be April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Leave your paper goods in bins in front of the SCUCC.

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*



**WHAT A YEAR!** In a few short weeks our “official” season ends. Rabbi Fuchs and Cantor Simon depart until the High Holidays, but our activities will continue. A dedicated set of volunteers insure that we have services every Friday night.

As we end our season, I want to express my personal thanks to the officers and board, the committee chairs and so many of you who support the congregation. What makes *Bat Yam* special is your commitment to assist in the weekly services or classes and/or your willingness to take one of the honors at the services. My thanks extend also to those who say “Yes” when asked to sponsor one of our *Onegs* and/or to bring something to our potluck functions. You help to make *Bat Yam* a very *Hamish* place.

Part of the strength of this congregation is the outstanding programming, which has expanded significantly this past year. In March we were treated to a rare experience as Cantor Simon shared with us the lives and voices of the great cantors of early decades in America. Two weeks

later Marvin Kalb, whose unique insights into the psyche of the Russian leaders captivated the 160 people in attendance with his lecture. We ended the month with our Annual Passover Seder, which had 176 people in attendance — a new high.

During services on April 6, we will recognize Kathy Zoss, one of our most dedicated members, who is moving to North Carolina. Kathy was involved in so many activities that she will be sorely missed.

Moving ahead, your input is critical to our future success. Your thoughts, opinions and constructive ideas are welcome. Please call or email them to my attention.

I wish all of you, including those who are not full time residents a safe and healthy summer and look forward to your return in the fall.

Shalom, *Your President, Alan Lessack*

*RABBI FUCHS' NEW  
BOOK TO BE  
LAUNCHED ON  
APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>*

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs' new book *Who Created God? And Other Essays* will be officially launched at the Sanibel Congregational UCC and *Bat Yam* joint pot-luck dinner on April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30p.m. Bring an appetizer, salad, or side dish. There is a \$10.00 donation to cover the cost of the main course. Contact Janet Hurley at 917-535-0209 to tell her what you will bring. For additional information and reservations, contact the SCUCC office at 239-472-0497.

In *Who Created God? And Other Essays*, Rabbi Fuchs also discusses how Israel has evolved since its establishment in 1948, the intricacies and symbolism of the Jewish wedding ceremony, terrorism, and his reaction to encountering a swastika in an unlikely setting. According to Rabbi Fuchs, "God is a central focus and central force in my life, which is why so many of the essays in this book relate to the idea of God."

The book is available for purchase through Amazon.com and the Bibnar Store on Rabbi Fuchs' website: <http://www.rabbifuchs.com/bibnarstore.html>.

*FIRST ANNUAL BAT YAM FOUNDATION  
MEETING HELD*

The first annual meeting of the Bat Yam Foundation, (formerly the *Bat Yam* Endowment Associates) was held on March 21st. Fifty-six individuals stepped forward to become Charter Stockholders, and current assets total \$20,000.00. These stockholders will be formally recognized at a later date. The by-laws of the organization were approved, and the following members were elected to the board and officers were elected by the board:  
Chair - Leonard Minsky, Treasurer - Martin Packard, Secretary - Evelyn Clark. Other board members are Allan Sacks, Leon Skolnick, and Esta Berger and Barry Epstein, who represent the *Bat Yam* board of trustees.

The board is now initiating a process to incorporate the Foundation and subsequently apply for IRS 501(C) 3 approval.

*JEWISH FEDERATION HOLDS ISRAEL@70FEST*

The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties will celebrate Israel's seventieth birthday on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. at the Heights Center, 15570 Hagie Drive, Ft. Myers (off of Gladiolis). For more information, contact Leni Sack at 239-481-4448, ext. 3 or at [lenissack@jfedlcc.org](mailto:lenissack@jfedlcc.org).

*YOM HaSHOAH  
EVENTS IN APRIL*

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs will participate in a Holocaust Memorial Service at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. The synagogue is located at 702 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Cheryl and Barry Fulmer will

assist in reading the names of Holocaust victims.

Rabbi Fuchs will also appear on a panel commemorating the Holocaust in Ft. Myers on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. It will take place at 1634 Woodford Avenue. Contact Rabbi Fuchs for additional details.

*2018 TZEDAKAH COMMITTEE REPORT*

Thank you to our *Bat Yam* congregants for your outstanding commitment to the Tzedakah Fund. Your contributions this year totaling \$7,200 have enabled us to assist ten agencies in their efforts to bring a more meaningful life to those in need.

The agencies receiving grants in 2018 are:

- . SalusCare (behavioral health care services)
- . Quality of Life Center of SW Florida –pre-school education for pre-school children whose families need this safe environment for their children and continuing education after school in Ft. Myers)
- . *Yad LaKashish*-established for the impoverished elderly in Israel who need a place for creativity and friendship
- . Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties
- . Jewish War Veterans Post 400 of Lee County
- . RCMA [Redlands Christian Migrant Association] - social and motional learning program for Immokalee school children -
- . Jewish Agency for Israel- Wings
- . Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- . Art Reach - human trafficking education directed to young people
- . Planned Parenthood

Each member of the *Tzedakah* committee has contributed time to make these decisions. Our thanks to each of them: Shirley Boscov, Salessa Berk, Shirley Franks, Vickie Fuchs, Jeannette Keyser, Judith Mayer, Arlyn Stein, Renee Sugar, and Peggy Siegel. Special thanks for their appreciated input to some members who are leaving the committee.

Please consider becoming a member of this committee. We look forward to welcoming you to this significant function of *Bat Yam*.

*Salessa Berk, Chair*

## *WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?*

Rabbi Myra Soifer is still in her training program at a small city outside of Panama City for her Peace Corps service in Panama. She recently completed a three-day visit with a year-in volunteer in Veraguas and a week long Practicum in the province of Cocolé where she taught two sets of classes. She made contact with the Rabbi in Panama City and attended a Passover Seder and *Shabbat* services there.

She has a new email address: [RabbiMyra@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiMyra@gmail.com) but she reports that internet service is spotty. You can follow *Bat Yam's* former rabbi's adventures on her blog, which can be reached by going to [WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com](http://WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com).

## *SIGN UP NOW TO VOLUNTEER TO HOST AN ONEG SHABBAT NEXT SEASON*

Myra Klahr has agreed to take over Kathy Zoss' job of signing up and scheduling volunteers to host *Oneg Shabbats* for next season. She is recruiting volunteers now.

Please contact Myra to choose your date(s) at 917-270-4905, [lingosmart@gmail.com](mailto:lingosmart@gmail.com). Thankyou to Myra for taking over this important task.

Volunteers are needed to perform "honors" at *Shabbat* services. These duties include lighting the *Shabbat* candles, singing the *Kiddush*, reciting blessings before and after the *Torah* reading, carrying and dressing the *Torah*, opening and closing the Ark, and reciting the blessing over the challah. Please contact Alan Lessack if you wish to volunteer.

## *FAREWELL TO BAT YAM*

I am so grateful to have been a part of the *Bat Yam* family for the past several years. This congregation has become so important to me. Words cannot express the depth of my attachment. I am glad that I was able to serve on the Board of Trustees. While I am beginning a new chapter in my life, closing this one leaves a hole in my heart. I already look forward to returning here on vacation and reuniting With my *Bat Yam* family. So this is not "good-bye," but instead "Au Revoir" or "Auf Wiedersehen."  
*Kathy Zoss*

*HAMAN DEFEATED ONCE AGAIN AT BAT  
YAM PURIM CELEBRATION*



The wonderful writers and cast: Kathy Zoss, Ben Yokel, Tanya Hochschild, Cantor Pamela Siskin, Rabbi Fuchs, and Edina Lessack

*BAT YAM MEMBERS ENJOYED SPRING  
TRAINING GAME ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>*



The Bat Yam gang enjoying the game between the Boston Red Sox and the Tampa Bay Rays, which ended in a tie

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

June Patinkin, William Schlackman, Orlene Shimberg, Roselyn Kraus, Carol Scheiber, Martin Pokedoff, Miriam Bailey, Frank Siegel, Allan Saltz, Renee Sugar, June Rosner, and Mel Bleiberg

*APRIL YAHRZEITS*

April 2 – Reva Kasdan, mother of Bonnie Kasdan  
April 7 – Lillian Schwadron, mother of Sandra Berke  
April 10 - Joseph Raboy, husband of Paula Raboy  
April 11 - Anne Fisher, mother of Alan Lessack  
April 13 – Esther Agtas, aunt of Marty Pokedoff  
April 15 - Albert Fisher, step-father of Alan Lessack  
April 18 – Lillian Levine Hecht, mother of Helane Smith  
April 25 - Esther Agtas, aunt of Martin Pokedoff  
April 29 – Mayer Weisman, father of Cheryl Fulmer

*SAVE THESE DATES*

- . Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m. – *Yom HaShoah* service [See article page 8]
- . Thursday, April 12, 5:30 p.m.– Launch of Rabbi Fuchs' new book at joint SCUCC and *Bat Yam* pot-luck dinner [see article page 7]
- . Sunday, April 15, 1-4 p.m. – Israel@70 Fest – Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties [see article page 7]
- . Thursday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.– panel commemorating the Holocaust [see article page 8]

*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](mailto:Brandon@bitservicesfl.com).
- . 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.

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. Contact Irene Skolnick at [irkul42@gmail.com](mailto:irkul42@gmail.com) or 239-472-2217 with additions or corrections you have to the *Yahrzeit* 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](mailto:rsugar05@gmail.com).

. Norma Kohn wants to gather together current or former players of string or other orchestral instruments just to play for their own enjoyment. Anyone interested email her at [norjak51@aol.com](mailto:norjak51@aol.com).

## *DONATIONS TO BAT YAM*

### **General Donations**

Judy Adler

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

Tanya and Michael Hochschild

Josephine and Lewis Schneider

Karen and Robert Schoen

Arlyn and Irwin Stein

Ellen and Richard Kaplan (guests) – for the enjoyment of the Purim celebration

Sheila and Hy Kempner

Ellen and Craig Mandel (guests)

Laurie and Martin Merel (guests)

Margie and Mark Peppercorn

Mark Sternheimer (guest)

Brenda and Arnold Zaltas

### ***Tzedakah* Fund**

Jay and Barry Solomon, Carol and Phillip Scheiber

### **In Honor of Sally Sacks' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Patty and Stanley Levine

### **In Memory of Skip Richard**

Susan and Andrew Spohr

### ***Yahrzeits***

Barry Litofsky for the *Yahrzeit* of his father Benjamin Litofsky

Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin for the *Yahrzeits* of his brother Dr. Berton Rudin and his father Dr. Philip Rudin

**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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