



BAT YAM MATTERS

Number 105

September, 2019

Elul/Tishrei

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

BAT YAM 2019 HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

- Saturday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. - *Selichot* reflection and discussion at the home of Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs, 1839 Farm Trail, Sanibel

Rosh HaShanah

- Sunday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. - *Erev Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. - *Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 1:00 p.m. - *Tashlich* service - hosted by Elissa Karasin Samet and Michael Samet in the party room of their condo at 1605 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel
- Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. - *Shabbat Shuva* service

Yom Kippur

- Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. - *Kol Nidre* service
- Wednesday, October 9
 - 10:00 a.m. - *Yom Kippur* morning service, immediately followed by Congregant's Hour. Three congregants - Alan Lessack, Nancy Morrison, and June Rosner - 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.
 - 3:00 p.m. - Service of Music and Meditation featuring cellist Susannah Kelly and pianist Abigail Allison
 - 4:00 p.m. - *Yom Kippur* afternoon service - Discussion of the Book of Jonah, the *Yom Kippur* afternoon *Haftarah*, immediately followed by *Yizkor*/memorial service and *Ne'ilah*/closing service, immediately followed by Break-the-Fast in Heron Hall at 6:00 p.m. (**Reservations are required; see article on the next page.**)
- Sunday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. - *Erev Sukkot* in *Sukkah*
- Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. - *Simchat Torah* service

See next page for a list of Rabbi Fuchs' sermon topics.

RABBI FUCHS' HIGH HOLIDAY SERMON TOPICS

- *Rosh HaShana* Eve: Requiem for a Prayerbook (bidding a thankful and loving goodbye to Gates of Repentance)
- *Rosh HaShana* Morning: What is Rosh Hashanah REALLY About?
- *Shabbat Shuvah*: Finding Ourselves in Hosea's Immortal Message for this Shabbat
- *Kol Nidre*: I Want to Start All Over (the awesome power of this day of days)
- *Yom Kippur* morning: A Fragile But Vital Connection Between Israel and Liberal Jews
- *Yizkor*: Feeling the Presence of Those We Have Lost
- *Neilah*: The Compelling Metaphor of this Sacred Hour

NEW PRAYER BOOKS TO BE USED FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS

Bat Yam has acquired eighty new High Holiday prayer books to replace the Gates of Repentance *Siddur* published more than forty years ago. The new books, entitled *Mishkan HaNefesh*, are a two-volume set, one book for use on *Rosh HaShanah* and the other for *Kol Nidre* and *Yom Kippur*. The new books feature fully transliterated liturgy, expanded options for *Torah* readings, study texts that provide background and context, contemporary poetry, alternative readings, and rich commentary drawing from Jewish tradition and essays by the leading Reform Movement thinkers. They are also more gender inclusive and LGBTQ friendly.

Bat Yam members and friends of the congregation may purchase honor and/or memorial bookplates to be permanently placed in the new prayer books. The cost is \$36 (two times *Chai*) per book. All proceeds benefit *Bat Yam*. Contact Lois Lorsch (516-385-0190) or Cheryl Fulmer (732-780-2016) to purchase books or obtain an order form. Our thanks to The Rosner Foundation (in honor of June Rosner) for funding the purchase of these new prayer books.

RESERVE NOW FOR *YOM KIPPUR* BREAK-THE-FAST

The *Bat Yam* annual Break-the-Fast will be held in Heron Hall at 6:00 p.m., immediately following afternoon services on Wednesday, October 9. Bailey's will once again cater the meal, but desserts and veggie salads are needed. The cost is \$21 for members and \$25 for non-members. If members bring family or friends, we ask that they pay for them in advance.

The deadline for reservations is Friday, October 4. To reserve, please contact Esta Berger at erb1882@aol.com or 239-395-1882. Your check is your reservation.

SEPTEMBER 2019 *BAT YAM* SHABBAT EVE WORSHIP

All September *Shabbat* services will be in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC. Beginning on September 20, Rabbi Fuchs will conduct services at 7:30 p.m.; until then, they will be at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by congregants.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

There are no *Shabbat* morning classes in September and October. Classes will begin in November.

Shabbat morning classes, held in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC, begin with Hebrew reading instruction taught by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. (except for November 1, when Rabbi Fuchs will be away). 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 to 11:15 a.m. and Jewish Current Events at 11:30 a.m., led by Len Minsky.

The November and December sessions led by congregants from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. are:

November 2

A film, TBA, introduced by Barry Fulmer
(Rabbi Fuchs will be away, so the time for this is 9:30 to 11:15 a.m.)

November 9

What DNA Tells Us About Ancient Migrations and Interactions – Kay Sadighi

November 16

Two Old Cases and One New Case of Infertility – Ellen Feingold

November 23

Emma Lazarus – Barry Fulmer

November 30

No classes – Thanksgiving break

December 7

Origins of the Muslim Religion – Parvis Sadighi

December 14

Russian Perspectives on Russia-US relations – Sid Picker

December 21 and December 28

No classes – winter break

Thanks to Vickie Fuchs for organizing these classes. Contact her at vfuchs@gmail.com or 860-305-4876 if you want to share ideas for classes or present a future session.

RABBI FUCHS REFLECTS

A Trip to Savor

Our congregation's joint trip to Israel with Sanibel Congregational UCC exceeded my fondest expectations!

The only previous interfaith journey to Israel I had undertaken was one that I co-led with an anti-Israel Arab professor from the Hartford Seminary twenty year ago. It was not a joyful experience. While I tried to present and model an open-minded, "let's listen to both sides of the conflict," perspective, the professor took us to a Palestinian village where his selected panelists heaped venomous attacks on the very existence of the Jewish State as we sat in the beautiful auditorium of a community center built for that Arab village by the Government of Israel. When the Professor begged off our visit to the Holocaust Memorial at *Yad Va-Shem*, claiming he did not feel well (he was absolutely fine that evening), I truly regretted having agreed to co-lead this "journey of understanding."



Rabbi Dr. Stephen Lewis Fuchs

By contrast, our joint trip this summer was an absolute joy. There were forty-two in our group, almost equally divided between Christians and Jews. My UCC counterpart, Rev. Dr. John Danner, was a model of sensitivity, open mindedness, wisdom and pastoral concern.

For me, one of the true highlights was accepting the invitation of Rabbi Ada Zavidov to deliver the *D'var Torah* at *Kabbalat Shabbat* services at *Kehilat Har El* in Jerusalem, the oldest Reform synagogue in Israel. On this visit to *Har El*, I spoke in English for the benefit of my wonderful group of fellow travelers about the vital principles of human conduct found in the Holiness Code, Leviticus, Chapter 19. It warmed my heart to know that every idea I expressed was an ideal that Dr. Danner and his congregants could wholeheartedly affirm. Our religious differences are real, but we share common moral values and a fervent desire to use our respective faiths as springboards to help repair our broken world.

It was the second time in 5779 that I had the privilege of preaching at *Har El*. The first time, in October, I spoke in Hebrew about the lessons of the stories of Noah and the Tower of Babel. Then I was visiting my son Leo, who at forty-two years old made the decision to begin rabbinical studies and spend his first year of the five-year graduate program at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. His address to our group this spring was a genuine highlight of our trip.

Leo has an extensive Jewish background, but he knows well there is no shortcut to becoming a genuinely credentialed rabbi. The day-in, day-out interactions with professors and other students are absolutely essential to a rabbi's legitimacy.

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Rabbi Fuchs and Pastor Danner at the Gaza border comparing stones they painted expressing their hopes for peace in Gaza and the Middle East as a whole.

See Page 9 for a list of the Israel tour's highlights.

A shortcut course and a bit of flair and charisma may help one become an effective leader of worship, but to become a rabbi, worthy of that venerable title, takes years and years of full-time concentrated study. Anything less is akin to calling an EMT a physician.

On our recent trip, it was just as important to me and my fellow Jews as it was to the Christians in our group to visit the holy places of their religion. Worship at the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem on Sunday morning, visits to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, and the opportunity for our Christian friends to re-experience baptism in the Jordan River were moving experiences for us Jews to better understand Christian roots and practices. While scrupulously respecting boundaries, Pastor Danner offered loving and Jewishly affirming explanations that enhanced all of our understanding. I'd go with him again, to Israel or any other place of mutual interest.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was going to start this column with a warm welcome to fellow congregants, guests and friends as we enter the High Holy Day season after a long and climate-warming summer. But as I began to write, terrible news reports started coming through about yet another mass shooting, this time at a Walmart in Texas, by another avowed gun-toting white racist nationalist (soon to be followed by a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, motive not clear at the time I'm writing). Another, another, another...and it became impossible not to first reflect on this increasing threat to America, which is to say, of course, a threat to us as Jews.



President Barry Fulmer

Rabbi James Rudin was kind enough to lend me a recently published book entitled *Behold America, The Entangled History of "America First" and "The American Dream"* by Sarah Churchwell, an American professor of literature and public understanding of the humanities at the University of London, UK. Churchwell covers in great detail the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, lynchings, white nationalist supremacists, American fascist black shirts (who, according to Churchwell, carried a banner in an Atlanta march, proclaiming, "Back to the cotton patch—nigger—it needs you; we don't") and the German American Bund, all spreading their hate and xenophobia during the end of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. At the height of its power, with millions of members and supporters nationally, the Klan dominated local governments in five states and targeted at least six other states for political control while many politicians remained silent in the face of the Klan's onslaught.

Churchwell warns that "the enemy of democracy is authoritarianism in the many guises Americans had been discussing for the previous thirty years [meaning 1900-30]: tyranny, yes, but also special interests, corruption, plutocracy and oligarchy, crony capitalism and corporatism, and the various forms of rising totalitarianism, as tyranny went corporate." She affirms that "Every generation would have to fight the battle anew; every generation would find ordinary Americans called upon to resist the impact of authoritarianism, to reclaim the democratic dream of liberty, equality and justice."

Of course, none of the conflicting struggles about which she writes is new, especially after white nationalists have committed mass murders in this country and abroad. According to FBI statistics, there have been eight mass shootings in the United States since 2017 in

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which the shooters espoused white supremacist views. Yet, the president has said that he does not see white nationalism as a rising global threat.

So, whether we soon come together for our High Holy Days for meditation and introspection on Sanibel or elsewhere, and pray for a better year in our personal lives and our society at large, the traumas and lessons of the past are ever present with us. The old challenges remain, only dressed, if at all, in slightly different clothing. Sadly, Faulkner's often quoted statement, "The past is never dead. It's not even past," is as true today as when he wrote it in 1951.

Cheryl and I wish you all a meaningful and contemplative High Holy Days, full of the awareness, courage, health and strength needed to face personal and societal challenges in the coming year.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Barry Fulmer
President, *Bat Yam*

RABBI FUCHS AND VICKIE TO CELEBRATE FIFTY YEARS OF TEMPLE ISAIAH IN COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

Rabbi Fuchs will be the first speaker at Temple Isaiah in Columbia, Maryland, on Friday, November 1, at its celebration of fifty years as a congregation. Rabbi Fuchs was Temple Isaiah's first full-time rabbi. During his thirteen-year tenure there, the congregation's membership grew from fifty-eight families to nearly four hundred families.

THANKS TO SUSAN ARNOFF SPOHR . . .

. . . who once again organized the *Rosh HaShana* Honey Jar Project. According to Sue, "The honey jar program was another great success. The total profit to *Bat Yam* was \$3,800."

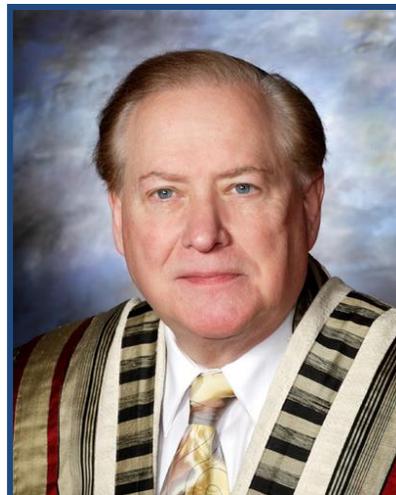
The honey jars were shipped in mid-August to arrive in time for *Rosh HaShana* greetings and wishes for a sweet New Year.

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.

FROM OUR CANTOR

Dear Friends,

The summer is drawing to a close and we turn our focus to the approaching High Holy Days – or “Days of Awe” or *Yamim Nora-im* as it is referred to in Hebrew. It is interesting to note that the nomenclature, *Rosh HaShanah*, is not mentioned in the *Torah*. Rather, this observance is known by other names in the Bible. The observance of the New Year is called by various scriptural names: *Yom Teru-ah*, the Day of the Sounding of the *Shofar*, *Yom HaDin*, the Day of Judgement, *Yom HaZikaron*, the Day of Remembrance and, finally, *Yom Harat Olam*, the Day of the Birthday of the World. In the *Torah*, *Yom Kippur* is called *Yom HaKippurim*, the Day of the Atonement/s – or as one clever observer called it, “the Day of At One ment” and is also known as *Shabbat Shabbatot*, the Sabbath of Sabbaths.



Cantor Murray Simon

Whatever these “Days of Awe” are called, we are reminded that this is a special period of serious personal reflection and introspection. This year at *Bat Yam*, we will be using a new *machzor* or High Holy Day prayer book entitled *Mishkan HaNefesh*, or Dwelling Place of the Soul. May it inspire us to approach these days of introspection with humility and meaning so that we will be more attuned to the very best of our instincts to do good for the New Year.

Let us welcome the New Year of 5780 with joy, hope and wonder. 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 *Shannah Tovah*!

Cantor Murray Simon

DONATIONS TO *BAT YAM*

If you have an IRA and are 70 1/2 years or older and have not already taken your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for 2019, please consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to Temple *Bat Yam* before the year ends. A QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, whereas income tax must be paid on the amount of any Required Minimum Distribution paid directly to you.

If you would like to take advantage of a QCD; i.e., making a charitable contribution and saving on your income taxes, we suggest you talk to your broker first. A QCD for *Bat Yam* should be directed to *Bat Yam* Temple of the Islands, PO Box 84, Sanibel FL 33957.

Questions may be directed to Barry Epstein, *Bat Yam* Treasurer, at 216-509-2245 or Barry1@eppco.net.



In May, a group from *Bat Yam* and SCUCC enjoyed a trip to Israel led by Rabbi Fuchs and Pastor Danner. This photo was taken at Caesarea.

GROUP TRIP TO ISRAEL JOINS TWO CONGREGATIONS IN FRIENDSHIP AND ADVENTURE

Last spring, forty-two adventurous travelers headed to Israel for a tour presented jointly by *Bat Yam Temple of the Islands* and SCUCC. As it turned out, the group was divided nearly equally between the congregations.

The tour, which offered unparalleled experiences in legendary locales, was the result of many months of collaborative effort. Barry Roth and then-president Alan Lessack were instrumental in planning and organization. *Bat Yam's* Rabbi Dr. Stephen Fuchs and the Rev. Dr. John H. Danner, Senior Pastor of SCUCC helped to create the ambitious tour itinerary and traveled with the group. Throughout their time in Israel, they offered insights and provided opportunities for discussion.

Tour Highlights

- May 1 – Visit to excavations of Jerusalem dating back to the time of King David. The group entered the Old City at Zion Gate and explored the ancient Jewish Quarter and the Western Wall Tunnels.
- May 2 – Tour of Bethlehem, with the Church of the Nativity. Back in Jerusalem, Mount of Olives holy sites including the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. On Mount Zion, David's Tomb and the Last Supper Room. The "Tower of David Night Spectacular" show in the Old City.

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- May 3 – Tour of the *Yad VaShem* World Holocaust Remembrance Center and a geo-political tour of Jerusalem. The colorful open-air marketplace. *Kabbalat Shabbat* worship at Congregation *Har-El*, where Rabbi Fuchs preached and Pastor Danner offered greetings to the congregation. Following the service, a home hospitality “*Shabbat of a Lifetime*” dinner.

“This trip accomplished several goals, among them a deeper understanding of Judaism and Christianity, a successful accomplishment of an itinerary packed with events from morning through evening, and a wonderful result of making many new friends, which I cherish.” ~ Barry Roth

- May 4 – Outdoor adventures: a trip to the Judean Desert, with cable cars to the summit of Masada for a tour of Herod’s desert mountaintop fortress. Then an opportunity to float effortlessly in the ultra-salty Dead Sea and relax at a beachfront spa.
- May 5 – Sunday service at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem’s Old City. Viewing the Dead Sea Scrolls and more at the Israel Museum. Trip to Galilee, stopping on the way at the site of Jesus’ baptism and the location where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River after their forty-year journey from Egypt. Traveling along the Jordan River Valley, viewed the Sea of Galilee and the Mount of Beatitudes. A cruise on the Sea of Galilee concluded with dinner at a waterfront restaurant in Tiberias.
- May 6 – At the historic center of Jewish mysticism in the Galilean highlands, met with a Kabbalistic artist. Explored the Golan Heights in an off-road jeep tour and viewed Israel’s neighbors from the summit of Mt. *Ben-Tal*.
- May 7 – Walking tour of Nazareth and the Church of the Annunciation and a spice farm in Bethlehem. Visited a restored Templar Colony village. Saw Caesarea, Herod’s Roman amphitheater and grand palace on the beach, and Herzliya, Israel’s innovation hub on the Mediterranean Sea.
- May 8 – Israeli Memorial Day: saw a secret underground munitions facility where pioneers who helped establish modern Israel are honored. A cross-cultural encounter with Israel’s Ethiopian community included a cooking workshop and a traditional Ethiopian-style lunch. At *Netiv HaAsara* on the frontier with Gaza, visited with a woman who, as a ceramic artist, has created an interactive peace project on the border wall where rocket attacks regularly occur.
- May 9 – Israeli Independence Day: In Tel Aviv, explored the ancient port city of Jaffa. Before a Yemeni-style closing dinner, saw an inspiring model for coexistence organized by an Islamic cleric, peace activist, and educator and his Jewish wife.

“Based on the feedback from the tour participants, we achieved the goal of maximizing coverage of both Jewish and Christian sites.” ~ Alan Lessack

Excerpted from an article by Barbara Hill Freeman

Thanks to Barry Roth and Alan Lessack for their efforts in planning the trip and to Rabbi Fuchs and Pastor Danner for their guidance and inspiration.



IN MEMORIAM...

William Schlackman, a longtime *Bat Yam* member, died on May 31 at age 88 at Shell Point Retirement Community. He grew up in Brooklyn. He and his wife, Joan, retired to Sanibel after living in London since 1960, where he was considered the father of qualitative market research in the UK after he set up the Schlackman Research Organization. They also spent many summers at their residence at Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York. Condolences may be sent to Joan Schlackman, 10108 Rosemont, Ft. Myers FL 33908.

Orlene Shimberg, 79, a former member of *Bat Yam*, lost her long battle with cancer on July 4. She leaves her husband Steve, two children, and four grandchildren. She grew up in Great Neck, New York, and lived for fifty years in Columbus, Ohio. She was a teacher. In her twenty years on Sanibel she served as president of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva and volunteered for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, "Ding" Darling, the Sanibel Chamber of Commerce, and BIG ARTS. Condolences can be sent to the Shimberg Family at 3848 Bickley Place, Columbus OH 43220.

Dr. Ron Golden, 81, a member of *Bat Yam*, died on July 10. A periodontist for forty-five years, he and his wife Anne lived in Toronto, Canada, but enjoyed winters on Sanibel. He leaves his wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Anne Golden, 150 Heath Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 2Y4.



**BAT YAM GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
RESUMES MEETING IN NOVEMBER**

The *Bat Yam* Grief Support Group will resume meeting on the first Wednesday of every month beginning November 6. Rabbi Fuchs facilitates the discussions. Everyone is welcome. Please encourage those you feel could benefit from the group to attend. For more information, contact Ellen Feingold at 302- 345-7187 or ellenfeingold@gmail.com.

DURING RECENT VISIT, RABBI MYRA SOIFER SPEAKS ABOUT HER PEACE CORPS SERVICE



Rabbi Myra Soifer describes her challenging life in Panama as a Peace Corps Volunteer during her recent program at SCUCC.

On July 25, Rabbi Myra Soifer, former rabbi of *Bat Yam Temple of the Islands*, was in Fellowship Hall at SCUCC to present a fascinating program about her experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama. Her presentation was titled “What’s an Old Jewish Gal Doing in a Place Like This? Myra, Maira, or Mayra Goes to Peace Corps.” (She explained that the title of the presentation reflects the fact that her name is spelled three different ways in Spanish.)

Rabbi Soifer, who was visiting Fort Myers and Sanibel on a brief leave from duty, has been with the Peace Corps in Panama since February 2018. Her term will end in March of 2020. She serves in a small town in the province of Cocle in the Teaching English, Leadership, and Life Skills program. See below for a recent blog post by Rabbi Soifer and a link to other posts.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RABBI SOIFER?

Your summer months (It’s winter – i.e. rainy season – here in Panama) have been a roller coaster of ups, downs, and all points in between. My best Peace Corps friends headed home, as their service was over; so, it’s been lonely. But work – from ongoing support to the English teachers in my primary school to teaching an Eight-Week High School After School Program, to judging English Spelling Bees/Picture Bees/Comic Book and Video contests, to helping a group of University students learning to teach English – continues apace. I went home to Reno for Passover and also celebrated, with many of you, Marcia and Jim Rudin’s 50th anniversary in Southwest Florida. It’s hard to believe that my Close of Service is only 8 months away.

Rabbi Myra Soifer

[You can follow Rabbi Soifer’s Peace Corps activities in Panama on her blog: WhereintheWorldisMyra.wordpress.com.]

UPDATE ON SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The *Bat Yam* Social Action Committee is continuing its focus on asylum-seeking immigrants in our midst. We had a bus trip scheduled with other immigrant activist groups to go to the Florida Child Detention Facility in Homestead, but Homeland Security mysteriously evacuated the facility a few days before we were scheduled to go. We do not know where they took the children.

We continue to work with Lee County Legal Aid, Lee County Hispanics, and Catholic Charities of Immokalee to support Immigrant Know Your Rights sessions. We are also involved in a task force led by Adonia Simpson of Americans for Immigrant Justice (she led our Know Your Rights training session last April) to plan an Immigration Summit for Fort Myers.

If you are an attorney or know any attorneys, here is a link from ACLU for providing legal help (including opportunities to help remotely) for the victims of the ICE raids in Mississippi: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmL9Uwg8j8GvuSUr3HvKUKjIT7ZgQuHhLCDmoqeuUkhXPpg/viewform>.

If you are a Florida registered voter, please note: A group, Ban Assault Weapons NOW, affiliated with the Parkland students in association with Americans For Gun Safety Now, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Florida American Academy of Pediatrics, Florida PTA, Florida Veterans for Common Sense, League of Women Voters, March For Our Lives, and Newtown Action Alliance is gathering signatures for a proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment for the November 2020 ballot to ban assault weapons. This is how Florida got medical marijuana and the vote for former felons. They have so far gathered 100,000 out of approximately 767,000 Florida registered voter signatures needed. Please print the petition from the link below and mail in the form. Match your signature to your driver's license/voter registration. Please share with other Florida registered voters via <https://bawnfl.org/amendment.html>.

Garry Weiss, Chair, Social Action Committee

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONDUCTED OFF-SEASON *SHABBAT* SERVICES

Mel Bleiberg, Evelyn and Herb Clark, Ellen and Michael Feingold, Cheryl and Barry Fulmer, Tanya and Michael Hochschild, Myra Klahr, Becky Kon, Lois and Howard Lorsch, Ying Przybyszewski and Barry Roth, Marcia and Jim Rudin, Elissa and Michael Samet, Cantor Murray Simon, Jay and Barry Solomon, and Ben Yokel

And special thanks to Rabbi Myra Soifer, who conducted
Shabbat services during her visit in July.

AND THANKS TO . . .

. . . Tanya Hochschild for scheduling leaders for off-season *Shabbat* services
and to Becky Kon for arranging dinners before the services.

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

. . . Adele Anish, Russ Bilgore, Don Herman, Jeanette Keyser, Lois Lorsch, Dan Pacyga, June Patinkin, Martin Pokedoff, Alan Saltz (son of Jocelyn and Peter Saltz), Carol Scheiber, Frank Siegel, Arlyn Stein, Irwin Stein, and Joel Sugar.

CELEBRATE THE LIGHT

A POEM BY MYRA KLAHR

Editor's note: Poet Myra Klahr presented this poem she wrote for the *Shabbat* services she led on Friday, June 21, the longest day of the year (summer solstice). It is a commentary on a verse in the *Torah* portion for that week, Numbers 8:1-2: The Eternal One spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and say to him, 'When you mount the lamps let the seven lamps give light at the front of the lampstand.'"

The summer solstice
A celebration of
The return to light
Reminding us
Of the light within
Our unique selves

Light the seven lamps
Light the menorah
Cleanse yourself
Of all dark thoughts
Your golden light
shall cast off darkness
I command you
To light the world and bathe it
With your goodness

Seek not my blessing
But be a blessing
Let your deeds
Speak for you
So that
When you enter my tent
I will behold
Your goodness

SAVE THESE DATES . . .

. . . for the Shared Scholar Lecture on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. and Shared Scholar Seminar on Monday January 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Shared Scholar will be Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker. Dr. Tucker is Senior Lecturer and Research Scholar at Yale University, where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, as well as the Divinity School and the Department of Religious Studies. Watch for more details in future issues of *Bat Yam Matters*.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP SHABBAT SERVICES

Please contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016 or Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.com if you wish to take a turn setting up Friday night *Shabbat* services. The housekeeping tasks include turning on and off the lights; preparing the wine, *kiddush* cup, and *Shabbat* candles; and carrying the *Torahs* into the church sanctuary when services are held there. A brief period of cleanup after services concludes the duties.

ONGAI* SHABBAT HOSTS NEEDED

The first *Oneg Shabbat* of the season will be after *Shabbat* services on September 20. Please consider hosting during the upcoming season.

Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

Co-hosts are needed for September 20, October 4, and October 11.

Two hosts are needed for November 8, November 22, and November 29.

Contact Myra Klahr at Lingosmart@gmail.com to let her know your preferred dates.

**Editor's note: "Ongai Shabbat" is the proper way to say the plural of Oneg Shabbat.*

WOULD YOU LIKE RIDES TO AND FROM SHABBAT SERVICES?

I am trying to organize transportation from Fort Myers to SCUCC for *Bat Yam Shabbat* Friday evening services beginning with *Rosh Hashanah* of 2019. We need to gather information in order to explore our options. This service may or may not be underwritten by *Bat Yam*, but without your input, nothing can happen. We're examining the possibility of transporting people from Shell Point, Cypress Cove, Lexington, Heritage Pointe, and anywhere else a congregant needs to be picked up. Please respond to the following:

1. I am interested and need to be picked up at _____.
2. I enjoy going to services:
 - Every week
 - In the season
 - Once or twice a month
 - Year round

If I have omitted any questions, please let me know. You can contact me with questions or responses at Lingosmart@gmail.com or 917-270-4905.

Thank you, *Myra Klahr*

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

Please check that your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership list, including your mailing address if you have moved, is up to date. To access the list, go to the *Bat Yam* website (<http://www.batyam.org/>) and click on the membership list. To make changes, contact Brandon Minsky at Brandon@bitservicesfl.com.

SUBMIT ANY ITEMS YOU WANT IN THE OCTOBER *BAT YAM* MATTERS . . .

. . . to *Bat Yam* Matters editor Marcia Rudin before September 15
(marciarudin@aol.com).

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
September 24 – Ann Arnoff, mother of Susan Spohr
September 27 – Jack Berger, father of David Berger

SAVE THESE DATES

- Saturday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. – *Selichot* reflection and discussion
- Sunday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. – *Erev Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. – *Rosh HaShanah* service
- Monday, September 30, 1:00 p.m. – *Tashlich* service
- Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. – *Shabbat Shuva* service
- Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. – *Kol Nidre* service
- Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. – *Yom Kippur* services
- Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 p.m. – Break-the-Fast
- Sunday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. – *Erev Sukkot*
- Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. – *Simchat Torah* service
- Wednesdays, January 8, January 15, and January 22, 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. – Joint classes taught by Rabbi Fuchs and Pastor Danner
- Sunday, January 26, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – Shared Scholar Lecture
- Monday, January 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Shared Scholar Seminar
- Friday, January 31 – Pulpit Exchange with SCUCC
- Sunday, February 2 - Pulpit Exchange with SCUCC

CONTRIBUTIONS TO *BAT YAM*

General

Barry Roth

Niza and Mark Uslan (as thank you for *Bat Yam* hosting their son Ben's *Bar Mitzvah*)

***Bat Yam* Annual Fund Drive**

Joan Schlackman

In Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin

Marsha Addis (non-member)

Arline and Rabbi Solomon Agin (non-members)

Barbara and Richard Atlas (non-members)

Mary Lynne and Thomas Bird (non-members)

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer

Marcia and Joe Goldberg (non-members)

Bluma and Don Herman

Roberta and Michael Jacobson

Norma and Jack Kohn

Edina and Alan Lessack

Renee and Len Minsky

Natalie Rosenbloom (non-member)

Susan and Ivan Most (non-members)

Jay and Barry Solomon

Susan and Andrew Spohr

In Honor of Cantor Murray Simon's 50th Anniversary of Ordination from Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music

Judith and Howard Mayer

In Honor of the Birth of Charles Simon Lorsch, Grandson of Lois and Howard Lorsch

Edina and Alan Lessack

In Hopes of Speedy Recovery to Stephen Anish

Adele Anish

In Hopes of Speedy Recovery to Dan Pacyga

Edina and Alan Lessack

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In Memory of Jordan Lessack
(Brother of Alan Lessack and Brother-in-Law of Edina Lessack)

Cheryl and Barry Fulmer
Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson

In Memory of Phyllis Pachman

Evelyn and Herb Clark
Pat and Jim Fingeroth (non-members)
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer
Tanya and Michael Hochschild
Miriam Kaplan
Becky Kon
Edina and Alan Lessack
Gay Adelstein and Mickey Nathanson
Cathy and Michael Raab
Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson
Marcia and James Rudin
Carol and Philip Scheiber
Jay and Barry Solomon

In Memory of William Schlackman

Tanya and Michael Hochschild
Judith and Howard Mayer
Jay and Barry Solomon

In Memory of Ron Golden

Jay and Barry Solomon

In Memory of Orlene Shimberg

Judith and Howard Mayer

In Memory of Ann Arnoff

Susan Rosenberg and Ken Gerson

Tzedakah Fund

Shirley Frank
Myra Klahr
Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin
Sally and Allan Sacks (in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of Ben Uslan)

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Prayer Book Fund

Becky Kon

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara and Jack Blechner (in honor of Rabbi Fuchs' new book) (non-members)
Janice Block Chaddock and Ron Chaddock

Yahrzeits

Linda and Joel Edinburgh for the *Yahrzeits* of her aunt and uncle Clara Bergstein and Hy Bergstein and her father Will Bergstein

Tanya and Michael Hochschild for the *Yahrzeit* of his brother Simon John Hochschild
Cheryl and Barry Fulmer in memory of their parents and other family members
Bonnie Kasdan in memory of her parents, Reva and Jimmy Kasdan

Myra Klahr for the *Yahrzeit* of Ken Karasin

Edina and Alan Lessack for *Yahrzeits* of his mother, Anne Fisher; stepfather, Albert Fisher; and father, Leon Lessack

Marcia and Rabbi James Rudin for the *Yahrzeits* of his mother Beatrice Rudin and her father Dr. Max Kaplan

MISCELLANEOUS

- The *Bat Yam* membership committee needs volunteers to help staff the welcome table at the door during the season. If you are able to help, contact Cheryl Fulmer at 732-780-2016 or Fulmer.Cheryl@gmail.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 for changes to your *Yahrzeit* list or if you have donated to *Bat Yam* but have not received an acknowledgement.
- If you wish to purchase *Tzedakah* cards (\$45 for five) that can be sent to family and friends for many occasions, contact Sally Sacks at asacks118@gmail.com. Donations from purchasing the cards contribute to *Bat Yam's Tzedakah* funds.

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Rabbi: Stephen Lewis Fuchs

Cantor: Murray E. Simon

Officers

President: Barry Fulmer – 732-780-2016

First VP: Michael Hochschild – 917-561-7888

Second VP: Cheryl Fulmer

Treasurer: Barry Epstein

Corresponding Secretary: Irene Skolnick

Recording Secretary: Lois Lorsch

Trustees

Esta Berger, Janice Block Chaddock, Shirley Frank, Tanya Hochschild,
Norma Kohn, Annette Pacyga, Barry Roth, Garry Weiss

Past Presidents

Mel Bleiberg, Ann Arnoff*, Jack Cohen, David Crown*, Lois Medinets*,
Steve Greenstein, Marty Packard, Al Kaplan, Alan Lessack,
Bernard Lubetkin, Michael Raab, Allan Silberman, Martin Pokedoff

* deceased

BAT YAM

Temple of the Islands

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