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 81 December, 2016 Kislev/Tevet, 5777

# DECEMBER SHABBAT WORSHIP

All *Shabba*t services are at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. They are led by Rabbi Myra Soifer with music by Cantorial Soloist Douglas Renfroe accompanied by pianist Abigail Allison.

December 2, 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi Myra Soifer, Douglas Renfroe - *Simchat Shabbat*, Celebration of December birthdays/anniversaries and June half-birthdays and anniversaries

December 9, 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi Myra Soifer, Douglas Renfroe

December 16, 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi Myra Soifer, Douglas Renfroe - Esther Pokedoff will chant *Torah*

December 23, 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi Myra Soifer, Douglas Renfroe December 30, 7:30 p.m. - Rabbi Myra Soifer, Douglas Renfroe -

*Shabbat/Chanukah* Celebration (7th candle). Bring your personal menorah to light. [First night/candle of *Chanukah* is Sunday, December 24]

We want to thank all of our dear *Bat Yam* friends who have surrounded us with much comfort and support in our recent time of tragedy. The outpouring of love from the *Bat Yam* community expressed through letters, calls, and contributions has consoled us beyond words. We have always known that our *Bat Yam* Community was very special. The kindness and concern that we have received has totally reinforced this feeling. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are so appreciative and grateful.

Patty and Stanley Levine and Family

PLEASE NOTE….

*Bat Yam’s* email address has been changed to [batyamsanibel@gmail.com](mailto:batyamsanibel@gmail.com)

# DECEMBER SATURDAY CLASSES

All classes are In Fellowship Hall, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

Rabbi Soifer’s 2016-2017 presentations focus on the theme “It’s a Mitzvah.” The classes will study different ethical or ritual *Mitzvot* each week. *Bat Yam* members present the second session of discussion. In December, the theme for those sessions will be “Jews in the Diaspora.”

December 3

. 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading from the linear *Chumash/Devorim –* Rabbi Soifer

. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m: *Ahavat Tzion*: Love of Israel $ Rabbi Soifer

. 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m: Anti-semitism– Renee Sugar

. 11:30 to 12:30 – Jewish current events

December 10

. 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading from the linear *Chumash/Devorim –* Rabbi Soifer

. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m: *Bikur Cholim*: Visiting the Sick – Rabbi Soifer

. 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m: History of the Jews in Germany – Peggy and Frank Siegel

. 11:30 to 12:30 – Jewish current events

December 17

. 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Hebrew reading from the linear *Chumash/Devorim –* Rabbi Soifer

. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m: *Chesed shel Emet*: Caring for the Dead - Rabbi Soifer

. 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m: Israel's Latin American Immigrants – Don Herman

. 11:30 to 12:30 – Jewish current events

December 24: No classes – winter break December 31: No classes – winter break

If you wish to organize and lead a Yiddish class, to be included in the Saturday morning class schedule, please contact Esther Pokedoff at [estherpy@embarqmail.com](mailto:estherpy@embarqmail.com) or 239-395-2544.

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT CHANGE OF PROCEDURE

If you wish to make changes to your contact information on the *Bat Yam* membership roster, please email the information to Michael Samet at [michaelsamet@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsamet@gmail.com) .

# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We have just experienced the most nasty, vindictive and bombastic political campaign in our lifetime. It doesn’t matter which side you supported. It is interesting to note that the news announcing the winner occurred on the anniversary of Kristallnacht (The night of Broken Glass, 11/9/1938).

As I compose this message some days after the election, one of the unanswered questions on the minds of many is what will America, the land of the free and the beacon of democracy, look like in four years? So many people are walking around depressed and/or in fear. Race, immigration, anti-Semitism, equal rights, and personal safety were major issues raised during the campaign

The issues of race relations and bigotry have been on my mind, as in the beginning of December Edina and I will be spending several days participating in an Anti- Defamation League trip focused on civil rights in Atlanta, Montgomery and Selma. Our learning experience will take place visiting the significant sites associated with the civil rights movement, including the Ebenezer Church, the Rosa Park Museum and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where we will meet someone who marched on 3/7/65. Our trip will focus also on other significant sites, including a visit to the Names Project/AIDS Quilt and the Equal Justice Initiative. We will hear the story of Leo Frank, his arrest, and lynching by individuals who were clearly anti-Semitic. The outcry over this incident led *B’nai B’rith* to create the Anti-Defamation League in 1913.

No matter who we supported in this election, we must examine the hate and violence that spewed forth in the 1960s and then the rhetoric we have experienced during this campaign. Where would the Jewish community in the US be if it had not been for the millions of our brethren who fled Eastern Europe for freedom and dignity? Most were poor, and truth be told the established Jewish community in America was initially not that accepting. As we reflect and attempt to get past the depression felt by many following the election, we must, I believe, step up to the plate and find ways to help those in our area who are struggling who need our help and our support. We must not only stand up, but speak out whenever and wherever injustice occurs. We are all about *Tikun Olam.*

Alan Lessack President, Bat Yam [allesack@sbcgobal.net,](mailto:allesack@sbcgobal.net) 773-251-8862

SPECIAL THANKS TO…Michael Samet for creating and updating our beautiful new *Bat Yam* website. Go online at [www.batyam.org](http://www.batyam.org/) to check it out. The website is an ongoing project, so please feel free to contact Edina or Alan Lessack for any additions or changes you want to suggest.

# MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI



It’s an Honor . . . Really!

The Hebrew word *kavod* – *koovid*, in Yiddish – means honor. *Kavod* is something important. It’s real *koovid* to be asked to participate in a worship service – by lighting candles, being called to the *Torah* for the blessings before/after the reading, opening the doors of the Ark, leading *Kiddush* and *motzee*, etc.

And yet… Finding those who are willing to accept such honors continues to be a challenge. Those who make the phone calls asking for such participation get worn out trying to regularly find members willing to say, “Yes.” I know we all like to be honored. So, I wonder why the reluctance to accept such *kavod*. And I wonder how I might help.

Maybe you’d like to participate, but are worried that you don’t know what

to do. If that’s the case, please talk to me. It would be my privilege to help you with the *Torah* blessings, if you’re worried about the Hebrew. I can give you advance “coaching” on what you’ll need to do for other honors if you’re just feeling nervous about getting it right. If there is some physical challenge holding you back, just let me know and together we’ll figure out a way to make the honor accessible for you. (I can bring the *Torah* to you, if walking up to the lectern is a problem, for example.) If public speaking makes you nervous, there are honors that don’t require a word (like opening the doors of the Ark for the *Aleinu*). If you’d be honored by an honor, but something’s holding you back, please let me know. I guarantee there’s a way we can make it work.

And to make the task of lining up weekly honors a bit more manageable, we are looking for members who would be willing to do this for just one month of the season. Please contact president Alan Lessack if you can do this. And we thank Stan Zell for doing this honors assigning during the past 5776 season.

Additionally, we’re looking to put together a “back-up team” of those readily willing to accept Sabbath worship honors. You’ll be the bullpen that we call upon if we’re short of volunteers. Please also let Alan know if you’re willing to be on that list.

Finally, we again thank Stan Zell for

*[continued on next page]*

*[continued from previous page]*

finding those to conduct our off- season lay-led Sabbath worship. Stan is retiring from this responsibility. (Not to worry . . . we’ve got lots more synagogue service for him to take on!) And while the season has only begun, it’s not too early to think about fulfilling that role. If you might be willing to do so, please again contact our president.

Whatever the perceived onus, I hope we can bring back a sense of the real honor that it is accept participation in Sabbath worship. If you’ve got any other ideas to help make this so, please do let me know. Because . . . REALLY . . . it is an honor!

Your Rabbi, Myra Soifer

775-721-5508 (cell);

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

# RABBI SOIFER’S THURSDAY DECEMBER CLASSES

In Rabbi Soifer’s 12:30 p.m. Thursday classes, she is focusing on the “off-season” *Torah* portions. All are welcome. Sessions are held in Heron Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. Her schedule for December classes is as follows:

Thursday, December 1: *Bereisheet:* Gen. 1.1-23. Thursday, December 8 -- *Noach:* Gen. 6.9-8.14 Thursday, December 15 -- *Acharei Mot:* Lev. 16.1-17.7 Thursday, December 22 -- *Emor:* Lev. 21.1-22.16 Thursday, December 29 -- No Class; Winter Break Thursday, January 5 -- No Class; Rabbi Away

Would you like to participate in Rabbi Soifer’s classes, but cannot physically attend? If so, please contact her at 775-721-5508 or [myrabbims@gmail.com](mailto:myrabbims@gmail.com) . Depending on the interest, there may be a way to "phone in" and take part. Also, Rabbi Soifer will be posting her class notes from her Saturday morning and Thursday classes on *Bat Yam’s* new website after each class takes place. Texts of *Shabbat* sermons are on the website also.

As the year draws to an end, please consider using your mandatory RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) to make a tax-deductible contribution

to Temple *Bat Yam*

# BAT YAM MEMORIAL SERVICE PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 29th

The seasonal nature of our congregation means that as a community we often miss the opportunity to say a formal, Jewish good-bye to our departed members. Our members’ funerals often take place elsewhere (“up North”) or, if they are buried locally, at a time when most of us are not here in Southwest Florida. The *Yom Kippur Yizkor* service is, of course, a major moment in our Jewish year to remember those who have died. But, again, most of our congregation is not yet back in the area for the Jewish High Holidays.

Hence, we have scheduled a congregational memorial service that we hope will become an annual observance, for the end of the calendar year – a time when many of us have returned. The first such service will take place on Thursday, December 29th at 10:30a.m. in the sanctuary of our worship home, the Sanibel Congregational Church of Christ at 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.

We will memorialize *Bat Yam* members who died in 2016, particularly remembering their place in, and contributions to, our synagogue family. Those who died in 2016 and their dates of death are: Marge Kallman, February 20th; Hal Patinkin, June 17th; Marilyn (Lynn) Zheutlin, June 25th; and Shirley Bleiberg, July 25th. (Please contact me immediately if we missed anyone or have erred on dates of death or any other information.)

All are welcome – from *Bat Yam* and the wider Jewish and non-Jewish community – to join us, as we remember them.

Rabbi Myra Soifer

# SANIBEL/CAPTIVA HEART WALK: TEAM BAT YAM

The Sanibel/Captiva Heart Walk will take place on Sunday afternoon, January 29th. As in previous years, we hope to have a team representing *Bat Yam* taking part in this *mitzvah*. The walk will start at 2 p.m. at the new Doc Ford’s on Island Inn Road across from Baileys. Festivities will begin at 1 p.m. Although the full walk is 5K, each participant can walk whatever distance is comfortable. Pets are welcome to come along. The synagogue will pay for our team’s entry, but individuals are encouraged to make additional donations to support the research, education, and advocacy of the American Heart Association. We’ll be identified as “Team *Bat Yam*.” To join the team, Contact Rabbi Soifer at 775-721-5508 or [myrabbims@gmail.com.](mailto:myrabbims@gmail.com)

# REV. HEIDI NEUMARK IS

SHARED SCHOLAR IN JANUARY

The 2017 Shared Scholar Reverend Heidi Neumark, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan, will present her lecture at 7:00 p.m. on 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.]*

Pastor Neumark's presentation will expand upon the story of her discovery of her Jewish ancestry, detailed in her book “Hidden inheritance: Family Secret, Memory and Faith” in which she traces this search and the death of her grandfather in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

Her journey into her unimagined past has had life-changing repercussions for her future. In her book Reverend Neumark combines personal narrative, social history, theology and Biblical reflection, interweaving them into a story that challenges the author’s identity, her vocation and her theology. The lecture will be followed by a reception with Pastor Neumark.

Reverend Neumark will also conduct a seminar the following day, Tuesday, January 24th beginning at 10:30 a.m. and concluding at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the church. The discussion, “How Faith Communities Engage in Social Action,” will be open to all; interested participants should sign up either before or after the Monday evening lecture. Contributions to help

cover the cost of the luncheon will be welcomed.

She has served as pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan since 2003. Prior to that she served at the 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 and is an Adjunct Professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City in the field of Ministry Formation. Pastor Neumark is also the executive director of a shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth. She holds an honorary doctorate of divinity from Muhlenberg College. She is married, has two adult children, and lives in New York City.

In preparation for the Shared Scholar Lecture, the Rev. Dr. John H. Danner, Senior Pastor of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, will offer a two-session course entitled “Hidden Holocaust: The Story of Theresienstadt” on Wednesdays November 30th and December 7th. with identical sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The classes will feature guest speaker Sanibel resident Steen Metz, a Holocaust survivor interned at Theresienstadt. Reverend Danner will also provide music on DVD performed in the concentration camp.

*[continued on following page]*

*[continued from previous page]*

Reverend Danner’s classes and the Shared Scholar lecture and seminar are open to the public. Discounted copies of Reverend Neumark’s books will be available for purchase.

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.

# OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS PLANNED

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.

# DOUGLAS RENFROE’S FUTURE APPEARANCES…

. December 6: Voices of Naples -- Home for the Holidays, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Naples, 7 p.m.

. December 8: Voices of Naples - Home for the Holidays, Chapel By the Sea in Ft. Myers Beach, 7 p.m.

. January 22, 2017: Doug & Friends (including ‘cellist Susannah Kelly, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 3 p.m.

. January 29: Voices of Naples in Concert, First Presbyterian Church, Naples, 4 p.m.

# BAT YAM MEMBERS INVITED TO SPECIAL PROGRAM ON

DECEMBER 12TH

On Monday, December 12th at 11 a.m., Rabbi Galia Sadan will speak at the Temple *Beth El* library on the topic “The Path to an Israel Grounded in Pluralism and Why it Should Matter to American Jews.” Temple *Beth El* is located at 16225 Winkler Road in Ft. Myers.

An Israeli Reform rabbi, Rabbi Sadan speaks passionately on why and how progressive Jewish values can help shape a democratic Israel -- and why we so desperately need this voice within Israeli society. For thirteen years Rabbi Sadan has led the Daniel Centers Conversion School and *B'nai mitzvah* programs that foster inclusiveness, equality and pluralism in Israel. Under Rabbi Sadan’s leadership, the conversion school is now the second largest after the state- funded Orthodox schools. She was ordained in 2003 by the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. She is a graduate of the departments of Hebrew Literature and Linguistics at Tel Aviv University, and is currently a doctoral student in the Hebrew Literature Department at Tel Aviv University. The Daniel Centers began in 1991 as Tel Aviv's first Reform congregation after successfully battling the Municipality of Tel Aviv- Jaffa all the way to the Israeli Supreme Court for the right to build their first structure: *Beit Daniel* Synagogue. Today, the Daniel

Centers provide spiritual, educational, social justice and community-wide services to thousands of Israelis. As they embark on their quarter century, they are ever more committed

to helping Israelis pursue the promotion of a pluralistic and just society through the core values of progressive Judaism.

# REFUAH SH’LEMA , BEST WISHES FOR HEALING TO …

June Patinkin, David Crown, William Schlackman, Hartley Kleinberg, Barbara Schwartz, Orlene Shimberg, Joy Bowe, Paula Raboy, Jeanette Keyser, Judy Goldbenberg, Roselyn Kraus, Marilyn and Moe Michel, Mike Raab, Michael Derechin, Howard Pachman, Marty Packard, Michael Hochschild, Douglas Renfroe, Mel Bleiberg, Carol Scheiber, Rosamond (Rivvie) Swartz, Judith Mayer, Joel Edinburg

# SCHMOOZE WITH THE RABBI

The December “Schmooze with the Rabbi” sessions will be on Fridays December 9th and 23rd at the Sanibel Deli and Coffee Factory, 2330 Palm Ridge Rd., at 10:30 a.m. If no one has shown up by 11:00 a.m., Rabbi Soifer will head out for the rest of her day. If you want to chat with her but are running late that morning, call her on her cell, 775-721-5508 (and feel free to call for an appointment at any other time, Wednesday through Saturday).

# BAT YAM MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

. Rabbi Jim Rudin will lecture on January 24th at 9:30 a.m. in Schein Hall at BIGArts on the topic “World War I: USA Becoming an International Power”. Contact BIGArts for information about purchasing tickets.

In February, Rabbi Rudin will teach three sessions at BIGArts on “Three Presidential Elections That Permanently Changed the U.S." The sessions are at 9:30 a.m. on February 3rd (The Election of 1800), February 10th (The Election of 1860), and February 17th (The Election of 1932). Contact BIGArts for information about reserving a space and purchasing tickets.

. Myra Klahr will present “What Is Inside Shines Out”, two groups of poetry writing classes at BIGArts on Monday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The first session is a six- week program with a free introduction at BIGArts on Friday, January 6th at 2:00 p.m. The six sessions are January 9th through February 13th. The March series of four begins March 6th and ends March 27th. Myra believes there is poetry in us all and she will help you discover that for yourself. Contact BIGArts for registration procedures or Myra at [lingosmart@gmail.com](mailto:lingosmart@gmail.com) with any questions.

# ETHICAL WILLS CLASS: THE SEQUEL?

An ethical will is a document designed to pass ethical values from one generation to the next. After hearing about our amazing Ethical Wills Class/Writing Workshop that took place two years ago, many have expressed interest in a second such class. If you want to participate in such a class this season, please contact Rabbi Soifer at 775-721-5508 (cell) or at [myrabbims@gmail.com.](mailto:myrabbims@gmail.com) In addition to expressing your interest, please indicate what months you are on Sanibel and any days Wednesday through Saturday and times of the week that you are available. Also contact the rabbi with any questions.

# PLEASE NOTE….

*Tzedakah* cards may be purchased from Renee Sugar for $45.00 for five cards. They can be used for many occasions. Your donations contribute to *Bat Yam’s Tzedakah* funds dispensed in the Spring to worthy organizations in the U.S. and Israel by the *Tzedakah* committee. Contact Renee at [rsugar05@gmail.com](mailto:rsugar05@gmail.com) and she will provide them to you during Friday night *Shabbat* services or Saturday morning classes.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST ONEG SHABBATS

All *Oneg Shabbats* have co-hosts through the end of February. But Kathy Zoss needs volunteers for the following Friday nights. The number of volunteers needed is in parentheses: March 3 (2); March 10 (1); March 17 (2); March 31 (2), April 14 (2) [Passover], and Aprll 21 (1). Please contact Kathy if you can fill one of these spots at 239-362-0539 (home), 239-900-4576 (cell), or 828-369-3018. Or contact her via email at [skzoss21943@gmail.com.](mailto:skzoss21943@gmail.com)

# DECEMBER YAHRTZEITS

December 1 – Seymour Lubetkin, brother of Bernard Lubetkin December 2 – Urbana Escandon, mother-in-law of Kathy Zoss December 3 – Harry Kohn, father of Jack Kohn

December 6 – Henny Karasin, mother of Elissa Karasin Samet December 6 – Marvin Joel Salus, brother of Edina Lessack December 11 – Murray Edinburg, father of Joel Edinburg December 12 – Joe Buckstein, father of Esther Pokedoff December 16 – Zelda Edinburg, mother of Joel Edinburg December 27 – Goldie Bialy, mother of Norma Kohn December 31 – Walter Renfroe, father of Douglas Renfroe December 31 – Francisco Rebon, father-in-law of Kathy Zoss

# MISCELLANEOUS…

. E-mail 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.

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

. Email articles for the January *Bat Yam* bulletin to editor Marcia Rudin at [marciarudin@aol.com](mailto:marciarudin@aol.com) by December 15th.

*. Bat Yam* member Stan Barton will offer a CPR class to members if there is enough interest. He has been teaching First Aid CPR for over thirty years. 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 his presentation. Please contact Stan at [stashabar@aol.com](mailto:stashabar@aol.com) or at 239-466-8801 if you are interested.

# SAVE THE DATE….

…for rabbi and stand-up comic (really!) Bob Alper. Alper will offer his sharp (but clean and kind) humor on Sunday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Full details will follow in subsequent *Bat Yam* newsletters*,* but for now mark your calendars. And tell you friends -- Jewish and non-Jewish alike. Bob's humor is funny and healing for all.

# ALSO SAVE THESE DATES…

. Wednesdays November 30 and December 7, 10 a.m., repeated at 7:30 p.m. - Rev. John Danner class “Hidden Holocaust: The Story of Theresienstadt”,

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ *[see article pp. 7-8]*

. Monday, December 12, 11 a.m. - Rabbi Galia Sadan speaks at the Temple *Beth El* library on the topic “The Path to an Israel Grounded in Pluralism and Why it Should Matter to American Jews” *[see article p. 9]*

. Thursday, December 29, 10:30 a.m. – *Bat Yam* members Memorial Service *[see article p. 6]*

. Wednesdays January 11, 18, and 25, 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. 8 ]*

. Sunday, January 22, 2017, 3 p.m. - Doug & Friends: Concert by Douglas Renfroe - Sanctuary, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ – *[see article p. 8]*

. Monday, January 23, 7:00 p.m. – Shared Scholar Rev. Heidi Neumark lecture, Sanctuary, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ *[see article pp. 7-8]*

. Tuesday, January 24, 10:30 a.m. - Shared Scholar Rev. Heidi Neumark leads an informal workshop in Fellowship Hall, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, followed by luncheon *[see article pp. 7-8]*

. Sunday, January 29, 1 p.m. – Sanibel/Captiva Heart Walk *[see article p. 6]*

. Friday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. - Pulpit exchange: Reverend John Danner speaks at

*Bat Yam Shabbat* services *[see article p. 8]*

. Sunday, February 5, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. – Pulpit exchange: Rabbi Myra Soifer speaks at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ services *[see article p. 8]*

. Thursday, February 23, 10 a.m. - Reverend Danner and Rabbi Soifer present a different perspective on Bible texts often cited as anti-LGBT *[see article p. 8]*

. March 5, 7 p.m. - Rabbi and stand-up comic Bob Alper, Fellowship Hall *[see article above]*

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAT YAM

*Please note: 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.*

General Carla Benninga

Barbara and Barry Epstein Inge and Harvey Golden Tanya and Michael Hochschild Mickie and Al Kaplan

Patty and Stanley Levine Beverly and Bernard Lubetkin Arlyn and Irwin Stein

The Leo Rosner Foundation

Tzedakah Fund Cheryl and Barry Fulmer Carol and Philip Scheiber

The Shalom Group at Shell Point Retirement Community Renee and Joel Sugar

*Oneg Shabbat* Fund Marc Weissbluth

In Honor of Becky Kon’s Birthday Ann Arnoff

In Memory of Charlotte Soifer Linda Drasnin

Jeannette Keyser

In Memory of Hal Patinkin Liz Wolf

In Memory of Shirley Bleiberg Jeannette Keyser

Ann Moran

Phyllis and Howard Pachman Liz Wolf

In Memory of Tetiana and David Levine (daughter-in-law and son of Patty and Stanley Levine)

Linda Drasnin

*Yahrzeits;* Tobi Mackler for *Yahrzeit* of father Louis

BAT YAM, TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Rabbi: Myra Soifer

Cantorial Soloist: Douglas Renfroe

Officers

President: Alan Lessack - 773-251-8862 First VP: Barry Fulmer – 732-780-2016 Second VP: Michael Hochschild Treasurer: Leonard Minsky Corresponding Secretary: Irene Skolnick Recording Secretary: Annette Pacyga

Immediate Past President: Martin Pokedoff Board of Trustees

Stan Zell, Miriam Bailey, Norma Kohn, Barry Epstein, Shirley Frank, Cheryl Fulmer, Kathy Zoss

Past Presidents

Mel Bleiberg, Ann Arnoff, David Crown, Lois Medinets, Steve Greenstein, Marty Packard, Al Kaplan,

Jack Cohen, Bernie Lubetkin, Michael Raab, Allan Silberman, Martin Pokedoff

BAT YAM

Temple of the Islands PO Box 84

Sanibel, FL 33957

[batyamsanibel@gmail.com](mailto:batyamsanibel@gmail.com) <http://www.batyam.org/>