



KI MI TZION TETZEH TORAH UD'VAR ADONAI MI YERUSHALAIM

A Special Celebration in Jerusalem:

2nd February 2017 marked not only the Feast Day of the Purification of Mary in the Temple (Candlemas Day) but also the day was a celebration of two very significant anniversaries of first vows for Sisters Maureena Fritz and Rose Theresa Sant.

Maureena celebrated her Platinum Anniversary, 70 years, and for Rose Theresa it was her Diamond Anniversary, 60 years. Mass in the NDS Chapel at Ein Kerem was presided at by Fr John Landy, OCD, a friend of Rose Theresa's for many years. Both Maureena and Rose Theresa spoke of their life journeys and the many blessings they had each received throughout their vocation. The Mass was attended by Sisters and Brothers of Sion as well as friends, both Jews and Christians, before whom Rose Theresa and Maureena renewed their commitment to Sion.

The liturgy was a beautiful blend of English, Hebrew, French and Portuguese with an eclectic mix of music, religious and secular. One of the songs 'Or oleh baboker, al agam rachok (socheret)' 'Light rises in the morning on a distant lake (I remember)' led by Rabbi Levy Weiman-Kelman, was especially inspirational, and after the Blessing Maureena and Rose Theresa took lights from the Pascal Candle and went through the chapel lighting brightly colored candles which had been given to each person and which were then processed into the dining room and placed on the tables.

Then followed a festive dinner with pauses for speeches, blessings, and more singing 'Travellin' Through' by Dolly Parton, 'Let the river run' by Carly Simon, and more. The meal ended with a superb celebration cake specially baked at Ein Kerem.



Candle Lighting



Rabbi Dow Marmur, Rabbi Emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, remembers his long association with Maureena and Bat Kol, and adds his blessing.

A wonderful day and a great celebration! I know you will all join in congratulating Maureena and Rose Theresa and sending warm blessings for all that is to come.

Reflections from Maureena and Rose Theresa are on the following pages.

Maureena Fritz' reflection on her 70 year vocation:

Sisters of Zion, Brothers of Zion and friends,

Feb. 2nd in honor of the purification of Mary is a very special day for me to honor my 70 years in Zion—the gospel reading we heard today is about Jesus and his family who are Jews and observe Jewish ritual.

On such a day I wanted to say a few words to you. I wrote a speech and when I reread it, it was very boring and too long—more like a history lesson on how Zion moved from praying for the conversion of the Jews to dialogue. I tore that up and decided to share with you 7 special moments in my life that I call blessings, all within 5 minutes while I stand on one foot.

Blessing I: I entered the Zion novitiate during WWII in Prince Albert, a military base, in 1944 and made first vows after the war in 1947. Why do I call it a blessing? It led me to studies of the Shoah and the history of the Church with the Jewish people.

Blessing II: An MA in Religious Studies at Fordham University in New York. My first notion of religion was that it was a package deal: truths to be believed, rites to be performed, and laws to be obeyed. I knew it all and had nothing more to learn. That all fell apart for me. At the end of the MA I had so many questions I could not return to teach classes in religion to high school students. But that proved to be a blessing.

Blessing III. By circuitous routes I was able to register for a PhD degree in Religious Studies at the U. of Ottawa in Canada. I did my doctoral thesis on Revelation, and I came to a new awareness of the abiding presence of God in our lives and of how God speaks to us in the daily events of our lives. I was changed by my studies. I was hired as a professor on the faculty of theology, USMC, U of Toronto.

Blessing IV. Before long I was plagued by another question: Who is Jesus? After 7 years of teaching at U of T I was given a research leave to search out the answer. But where to go? Bro Pierre Lenhardt convinced me that I should go to Israel to do Jewish studies. I spent two years at Hebrew U and the Ratisbonne center studying Talmud, Midrash, Hebrew, Rashi, the Sefat Emet, Urbach and others. I was deeply moved by my studies and changed by my encounters with Jews who had survived the Shoah. When I left Israel I had more questions about Jesus than when I arrived--- which turned out to be a blessing. Insecure as it is, I learned that it was better to live with questions than have all the answers.

Blessing V. I returned to the Faculty of Theology in Toronto, a different person. I told the Dean that we should not ordain any of the seminarians unless they had an experience in Israel. He replied, set up a program. So I set up yearly intercession programs. Each year I came with some 30 students to study Torah with Jewish masters and visit the land.

Blessing VI. Pierre Lenhardt and other brothers of Zion wanted to set up a Pontifical graduate program of Jewish studies for Christians at the Ratisbonne center—where University credit would be given by universities in Germany, France and Canada. They knew me at Ratisbonne and asked me to set up the connections between Ratisbonne and the University of Toronto, which I did. I was asked to head the international English language sector at the Ratisbonne center. I resigned from the university and moved to Israel. After a number of years, the Brothers of Zion, for lack of funds gave Ratisbonne to the Vatican to continue their work of Jewish studies for Christians. The Vatican took it over --- and today it is a seminary for the Salesians fathers.

Blessing VII. The move out of Ratisbonne was the beginning of the Bat Kol Institute, with its mission defined as Christians studying the Torah within its Jewish milieu. using Jewish sources. It has been in existence for 34 years...with more than 700 alums worldwide with whom we keep in contact. The Sisters of Zion are being approached to take it over and relieve me of my involvement in it.

These seven blessings have led me to this moment. I want to thank God, the Sisters and Brothers of Zion and all of you here who have been part of my journey. Without you I wouldn't be here today.

I still have a few tasks I want to finish, such as, complete a book on Jesus that has been in gestation for 40 some years. I want to continue to deal with problematic texts in the New Testament regarding the Jews. And I also want to take more time to enjoy the world and the people in it. To that end, this is my prayer (read in Hebrew but written below in English), a prayer written by Lea Goldberg, poet, writer and university professor:

Teach me O God, a blessing, a prayer
on the mystery of a withered leaf
on ripened fruit so fair
on the freedom to see, to sense,
to breathe, to know, to hope, to despair.

Teach my lips a blessing, a hymn of praise
as each morning and night
You renew Your days
lest my days be today as the one before
lest routine see my ways. (Lea Goldberg)

Rose Theresa Sant's reflection on her 60 year vocation:

We have just sung,

“Every person has a name that God gave him,
that his father and mother gave him.”

I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have loved you and you are mine,
I have carved you on the palm of my hands”

Today, I am in deep gratitude to God's unfailing love, that has accompanied me during these 60 years of different ministries, here in Jerusalem. You might be wondering what did I do during these 60 years.

I am deeply grateful to all the people that were like the little candles we will be holding in our hands today, who enlightened my way in religious life. I would mention particularly Sr. Edward who helped me to discern my vocation, specifically for the Charism of Sion, and to Sr. Katherine Christopher, my formation mistress, who gave me a solid foundation in religious life.

In 1959, a young sister, being sent on my 1st Mission to Jerusalem was challenging on all levels. It was frightening, demanding, felt insecure, but thanks to the love and kindness of the community, I lived through it. During 8 years of initiation in the Arabic language and culture, I went through a deep conversion of heart, (like St. Paul on his way to Damascus) I learnt Arabic and to appreciate and love the Arab people and their culture. This was the springboard for my next ministry – to become a bridge-builder after the unification of Jerusalem. Two great visionaries, Sr. Aline, who was the superior of Ecce H. then, and Kalman Yaron, the director of Martin Buber Centre of the Hebrew University, took the risk and started the Hebrew/Arabic Ulpan immediately after the 6 Day War. They both believed that man is liable to change, and that we could do something for the sake of peace in Jerusalem. This gave me the possibility to start learning Hebrew and to know the Jewish culture and tradition. For 30 years I was given the responsibility of running the Ulpan at the Hebrew University. There, both Palestinians - Christians and Moslems - and Israelis, learnt to look at each other's eyes and to accept the “otherness of the other”, compassionately, helping each other, discovering and appreciating the beauty of this country. We didn't teach or preach Peace; we lived it!!!

While running the Ulpan, I was able to start my studies and completed my M.A. in Jewish History, Judaism and the Jewish/Christian relations at the Hebrew University.

Another aspect of my ministry in Jerusalem was, teaching in a Government school. After closing our own school in 1968, my deep desire was to integrate in the local government educational system. And teaching for 20 years in a State High School for Palestinian girls was another challenging but enriching ministry, a rather privileged place for a sister of Sion to be, especially during the troubled periods.

My last enriching experience was my 5 years ministry running the Biblical Program at the EH, where I had to enlarge and extend my bearings and horizons, beyond this country. Encountering committed and enthusiastic missionaries from all over the world, who took time out at a certain moment in their lives, to reflect and discover God's call in the Scriptures, was an eye-opening, an enriching element in my life, that made me grow in love to work for God's kingdom. As Martin Buber said, “All real life is encounter”.

A few days ago, in his morning homily, Pope Francis exhorted us to live our Christian life with three points of reference; the past, the present and the future.

Recalling the past – the good and the bad - my days of enthusiasm of going forward in faith and my failings, bring back to mind God's presence in my life.

As Pope Francis said, “just as one cannot live a Christian life without memory of the steps taken, we cannot live a Christian life without looking to the future and going forward with hope.

And so, let us continue that encounter especially tonight, in our real life, in joy and thanksgiving for all that we have received.

Overleaf you will find reports of incentives going on around the world to sustain and develop the essence of Bat Kol. We believe these are great responses to Nostra Aetate and the ecclesial documents and hope that you will be inspired to make similar approaches in your own communities. Please share this News Bulletin and any other documents from the Bat Kol website www.batkol.info with those around you. Also contact Gill gill@batkol.info if you would like any further material or information to promote Bat Kol.



RABBI DR AHARON ZINGER

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Rabbi Dr Aharon Zinger, who had been part of Bat Kol for 33 years, as a Board Member and as a greatly respected Professor who was very popular with Bat Kol students. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Miriam, who often attended Aharon's lectures at Bat Kol.

BAT KOL NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

FROM THE PHILIPPINES:

A new Bat Kol Center relives Bat Kol spirit!

It is a joy to welcome the new Shelach Lekha Bat Kol Center in Quezon City, and we send blessings for their future. Miner Generalao writes the following:

Founding members of Shelach Lekha Bat Kol Center in Quezon City, Philippines have vowed to work together to relive and spread the Bat Kol spirit.

Present at the organizational meeting last February 26 were Maricel 'Cel' Ibita (Bat Kol 2006), Margaret 'Garet' Cabrera (Bat Kol 2010 and 2014), Restituto 'Resty' Adoremus (Bat Kol 2014) and Minerva 'Miner' Generalao (Bat Kol 2014).

After their studies in Bat Kol, the new center's founding members have been on separate paths to sustain and share what they have learned at Bat Kol Institute in Jerusalem.

A daughter of Nostra Aetate, Bat Kol teaches Christians to study the Bible within its Jewish milieu, using Jewish sources. Garet, said that she been sharing with the members of the Living Hope Catholic Charismatic Community, where she has been the Presiding Servant, the havrutah method of Torah study which she learned at Bat Kol.

Resty said that he has also used the havrutah in the 14-week seminars to study the Torah that he has been conducting for members of his parish community.

After taking the Bat Kol summer program on Genesis, Cel went to the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium to finish her masteral degree and Ph D in Theology. Her publications among others include the use of the Torah in the New Testament, women in the Bible, and the use of Jewish sources in deepening Christian understanding of the Scriptures. Cel is now back in the Philippines teaching biblical courses in three universities. She said that with what she has learned at Bat Kol, she has often included Jewish-Christian relations in her lectures, even if it is not a stated part of a course.

Miner has likewise written a number of stories on Jewish-Christian relations and Jewish festivals published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and a number of parashat and Gospel commentaries for the Bat Kol webpage.

The Shelach Lekha Bat Kol Center aims to synchronize efforts to relive and spread the Bat Kol spirit among the members themselves and in their communities, universities and places of work.

The members have agreed to be Torah study partners (Cel and Miner; Garet and Resty), to get in touch with other Bat Kol alumni in the Philippines and with the local Jewish community and to encourage more participants for the July 2017 Bat Kol program in Exodus.

A number of interested participants to the Bat Kol study programs have hesitated because of perceived difficulty in studying Hebrew. A forthcoming program of the Center is to provide orientation and a bridge to the program and particularly to teach Hebrew 'made easy' for interested participants (The Hebrew course is to be taught by Resty and Garet).

To date, there have been over 20 Filipino Bat Kol alumni. Nati Pagadut (Bat Kol 2006, 2008 and 2010) has suggested the formation of a national organization of Bat Kol alumni in the Philippines. In time, Shelach Lekha Bat Kol first steps towards this.



Happy faces at the organizational meeting of Shelach Lekha. In the groupie are Garet Cabrera (Bat Kol 2010 and 2014), Miner Generalao (Bat Kol 2014), Resty Adoremus (Bat Kol 2014) and Cel Ibita (Bat Kol 2006).

FROM AUSTRALIA:

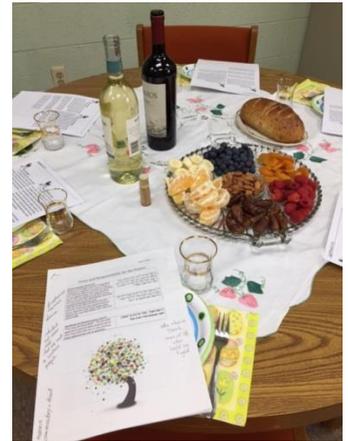
Mary Ann Payne, Bat Kol 2007, '11 and '15, has been working hard on some innovative ways of promoting Bat Kol and we hope that by sharing these, others may be inspired to do similar. Mary Ann's ideas are quite diverse as she explains below:

1. A Word of the Month: I started to produce this recently as Word of the Week, but it proves so intensive that it will now be approximately monthly. It offers an exploration of origins, derivatives, etc. of one Hebrew word each time. If you would like to receive these by email, please let Gill gill@batkol.info know and we will forward them to you.
2. To bring Australia alumni together, I have taken to writing personally to select people with whom I have studied at Bat Kol. Past students who appreciate just how enriching study at Bat Kol is, are often tempted to engage in another Torah book. Sometimes a gentle encouraging nudge from a friend will be enough to start the ball rolling. At the very least they will be pleased to hear from an old friend! In making this contact, I open the door to ask them to copy and distribute the flyer on the July program. Each Bat Kol graduate should be able to offer an enthusiastic endorsement and also mention the 10% discount. I also stress that we need a generous number of applicants in 2017 when Bat Kol is at a crossroads. This is a good place to ask for their prayers for the best resolution for the future of Bat Kol. My final sales pitch includes sharing a couple of the Hebrew Word reflections which may inspire them to engage in the beautiful ancient language of Scripture.
3. I have also been exploring the Bat Kol website and making some suggestions for change.

FROM U.S.A:

From Marjan Saenon, Bat Kol 1999-2000, 2002, '10, '15, '16

I attended my first Tu B'Shvat Seder at Congregation Beth Israel in Flint, MI. Prior to the Seder we had a Torah study on Deut 20:19-20 "Trees and Responsibility for the Future" that set the stage for total enjoyment and inspiration. The attendees at the Seder took turns reading text sections that explained the symbolisms of the fruits, the seasons, the combinations of red and white wine and the blessing that accompanied each stage of the Seder. The gathering was very joyful and inspired me to invite a circle of friends a few days later and we celebrated Tu B'Shevat again! One of those friends was equally inspired and set a date with her circle of friends to repeat this meaningful celebration of spring, fruits and trees, and the wonders of creation. Tu B'Shevat may be a minor Jewish holiday, but it has a big social impact.



FROM SOUTH AFRICA:

Sr Marie Andre Mitchell, Bat Kol 2001-02, '04, '06, '08, '09, '10, '11, '15, continues to lead the Bat Kol HaSimchah group which meets every Thursday at the Catholic Bible Foundation offices in Johannesburg

In addition there is also a monthly four hour seminar which this year is on the Book of Deuteronomy which Marie Andre now leads on her own since her co-leader, Bernadette Chellew (Bat Kol 2008) has left Johannesburg. Marie Andre attended Deuteronomy at Bat Kol in 2015, the highlight of which was a visit to Mount Nebo in Jordan and this experience makes teaching the Book come alive.

Marie Andre is a member of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference's (SACBC) Department of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue. As the SACBC does not have a Department for Religious Relations with the Jews this is Marie Andre's portfolio. She keeps the Bishops' Conference aware of Jewish festivals so that messages of goodwill can be sent to the Jewish Board of Deputies. The Board has invited Marie Andre once again to the annual Day of Remembrance Ceremony for the six million martyrs who perished during the Shoah, The ceremony will take place on Sunday 23 April.

Following Bat Kol's planned initiative to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Seelisberg Conference held on 5th August, 2017, Marie Andre will make the Bishops' Conference aware of the anniversary. The conference (officially the International Emergency Conference on Anti-Semitism) was the Second Conference of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ). Its agenda included finding reasons for the anti-Semitism which existed even after World War II and developing measures to combat it and they produced 10 points calculated to contribute to bringing about change. To see the Ten Points, please [click here](#) .

The South African Rand being so low against the USD and the prohibitively high airfares, means that attending a Bat Kol program can only be a dream for most who long to come. There is a huge need for funding for Bat Kol in order for scholarships to be awarded. If you are alum, you know the Bat Kol experience can be life changing – **CAN YOU FIND A DONER, OR EVEN OFFER SUPPORT YOURSELF SO THAT OTHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE ABLE TO STUDY AT BAT KOL?**

FROM INDIA:

Roy da Silva has secured very good complimentary publicity for Bat Kol through the newsletter of his diocese. First in December last year they published the Exodus flyer, this was followed in the next edition by a two page article on Bat Kol particularly in relation to *Nostra Aetate* and the ecclesial documents, and during the remainder of 2017 we will send them another five articles on such subjects as Pesach and Easter, The Archaeology of the Word, Jewish High Holy Days, etc. This is a major opportunity for outreach. If you would like to receive any of the articles for your own use please contact Gill, gill@batkol.info.

FROM IRELAND:

From Anne Kelleher a glimpse of festivals intertwining as she describes how her family celebrated Epiphany, Nollaig na mBan PLUS Shabbat! Anne writes:

January 6th (Feast of the Epiphany) is a really significant date for us in Ireland, in particular for the women who hail from the South west of the country where I come from, i.e. Cork & Kerry. We honour a time-old tradition where the 6th of January was assigned to the women of the house, to gather together with their mothers, grandmothers, sisters, girlfriends & female relations & cook a full Christmas dinner, sing songs, tell stories & celebrate the joy of being together, free of all the work & preparations gone in to making Christmas a success for family. (Google Nollaig na mBan for more!).

This evening in our home, my sisters & nieces, Andrea & I & our girlfriends gathered to celebrate both Nollaig na mBan plus Shabbat!!! It's just after midnight as I write & I've crept into the study to share this email with you.

As part of our Table Fellowship, we reflected upon & discussed the previous week's Sunday Gospel Commentary by Minerva Generalao from the Philippines. It has been SUCH a joy to consider answering the questions posed by Minerva.

FROM CANADA:

Julien Fradette, a Bat Kol alum, and member of the Bat kol group in Winnipeg, wrote, on March 5, 2017: This week the tri-diocesan group is offering the first of three sessions with Rabbi Allan Green on the topic 'Jesus, the faithful Jew.' As usual, we expect a good attendance. This will be the last session with our favourite rabbi as he is retiring and moving south.

I pray all is well with you and that peace may reign in Israel and the entire Middle East, beginning with peace in our own hearts. Shalom, Julien

FROM THE BAT KOL OFFICE:

EXODUS: MOSES, PROPHET AND SERVANT - The Revelation and the Covenant

06-27 JULY 2017

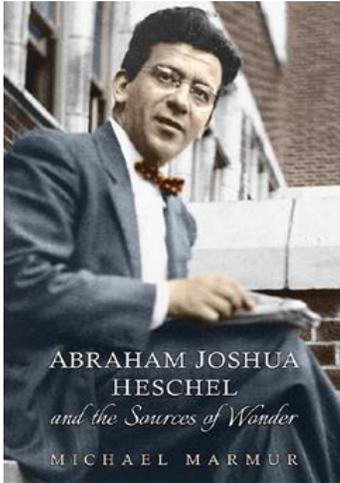
DESCRIPTION: Who is this man, Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face and called to lead a people from “ignominy to glory”? Generations of creative writers and artists have presented awesome portraits of him, i.e., Philo, Life of Moses; frescoes in the ancient synagogues; the medieval Jewish “Chronicles of Moses our teacher”, the ‘Midrash on Moses’ death, etc., and, more recently, the “horned Moses of Michelangelo”; Schoenberg’s opera, *Moses and Aaron*; Sigmund Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*; Martin Buber, *Moses*, and the negro spirituals, etc. Of particular interest to Christians is the gospel according to Matthew where the writer presents Jesus as a new Moses. All of these creative works take inspiration from the Book of Exodus, a book to be approached in this course through ancient, medieval and modern methods of interpretation.

BAT KOL’S INVITATION TO YOU: To find some answers to ‘Who is this man, Moses’ we invite you to take the first step and book your place now. More details and application form can be found at www.batkol.info.

A SPECIAL GIFT OF 10% REDUCTION IS OFFERED TO THOSE WHO BOOK AND PAY IN FULL BEFORE 31ST MARCH – YOU WILL PAY 3,555 usd, SAVING OF 395 usd.

If you have any queries, please contact maureena@batkol.info or gill@batkol.info

From Rabbi Dr Michael Marmur

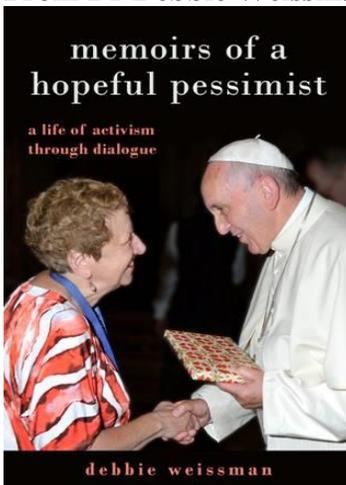


“Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder yields an array of insights not just into Heschel’s ideas but also into the ways he constructed and presented them – and perhaps even into the ways he arrived at them.”

(Shai Held, *Chair in Jewish Thought*, *Mechon Hadar*, and author of 'Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence')

[Click here for further information](#)

From Dr Debbie Weissman



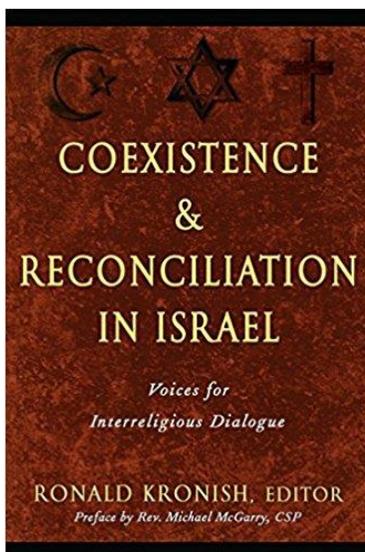
“Both idealistic and pragmatic, her memoir is a fitting testimony to a life of commitment and achievement.’

(Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, author *The Beginning of Desire*.)

[Click here for further information](#)

Available from Urim Publications, Amazon, Book Depository, Barnes & Noble

From Rabbi Dr Ron Kronish (Includes ‘*An Ecclesial Copernican Revolution* & *The Bat Kol Institute in Jerusalem*’ by *Maureena*)



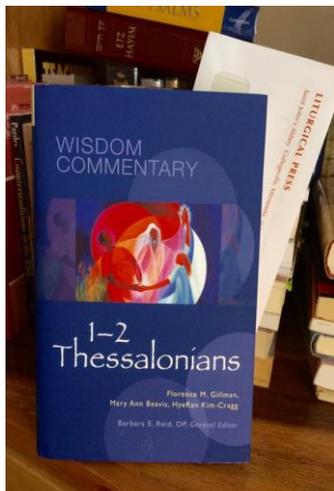
“Rabbi Kronish has been involved in dialogue and education in Israel for more than two decades. He gathers reflections from twenty-two Muslims, Christians, and Jews who are actively engaged in peacebuilding, which he distinguishes from peacemaking.”

(Eugene J. Fisher, *Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, FL*)

[Click here for further information](#)

SOME RESOURCES FROM BAT KOL ALUMS:

From Dr Mary Ann Beavis (Bat Kol 2004, '06, '12) with contribution from Pia Sison, MA, (Bat Kol 2012, '15, '16)



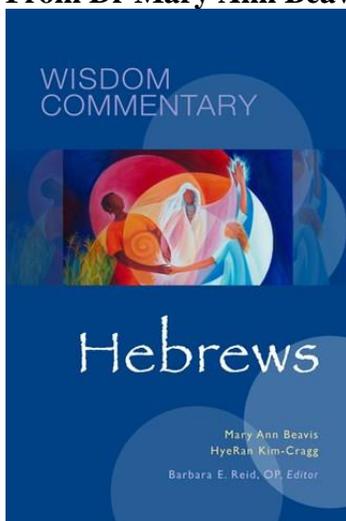
Florence Morgan Gillman, Mary Ann Beavis, & HyeRan Kim-Cragg with contributions from Pia Sison,

‘In both its content and its method, this series offers a fresh, innovative and rewarding approach to biblical interpretation.’

(Donald Senior, CP, Catholic Theological Union.)

[Click here for further information](#)

From Dr Mary Ann Beavis with contribution from Dr Maricel Ibita (Bat Kol 2006)



Mary Ann Beavis and HyeRan Kim-Cragg

‘In the wake of this fine commentary, it is clear that the Epistle to the Hebrews-in the context of Philo and the Wisdom of Solomon-is widely welcoming and open to the articulation of the feminine in all things theological. That, however, was not nearly so clear prior to this commentary. That is the important gain of this compelling volume: we now can read the letter afresh with eyes open and alert to its sapiential, gender-challenging dimension that is voiced in a literary--historical context and that insists on being taken with theological seriousness.’

(Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary)

[Click here for further information](#)

RICH SOURCES OF JEWISH WORSHIP TEXTS:

Mark David Walsh has sent in the following link to the Mishkan-Tfilah as an e-book

https://www.amazon.com.au/d/Mishkan-Tfilah-World-Elyse-Frishman-ebook/B01MSPJOB7/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485314901&sr=8-1&keywords=mishkan+t%27filah

Also on the same link you will find:

Mishkan HaNefesh: Yom Kippur: Machzor for the Days of Awe

Rosh HaShanah: Machzor for the Days of Awe

ENJOY!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THIS IS YOUR NEWS BULLETIN, SO SEND YOUR NEWS ITEMS TO GILL AT ANY TIME. gll@batkol.info

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