



**BAT KOL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES,  
POB 8030, JERUSALEM, 9108001, ISRAEL**

Amutah 580211746

*KI MI TZION TETZEH TORAH UD'VAR ADONAI MI YERUSHALAIM*

**NEWS BULLETIN No. 1 - MAY 2015**

*Editor: Bat Kol Co-ordinator, Revd Gill Putnam, [gill@batkol.info](mailto:gill@batkol.info)*

Dear Alums and Friends,

We want to strengthen the bonds among members of our worldwide Bat Kol community and strengthen and encourage each other in fulfillment of Bat Kol's mission statement. We hope our new style News Bulletin will aid us in this endeavor. Please send us personal news of yourself, of Bat Kol activities, and even news clips in your country that you think would be interesting to alums living in other countries. We will give you news and updates of Bat Kol activities in Israel and tidbits of news of the country. Please keep in contact.

With loving regards to each one,  
Maureena

---

Prof. Maureena Fritz, NDS, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.  
Academic & Administrative Director

**MOSES' VIEW OF THE HOLY LAND FROM  
MOUNT NEBO**

The photo below was taken by Maureena and Gill on 24 April in preparation for the July program. According to tradition Moses gave a long speech, known as the Book of Deuteronomy, from this mountain, a projected site for participants in the July program.



**'TELLING AND RETELLING IN THE BOOK OF  
DEUTERONOMY' from 7 to 30 July.**

Already we have participants from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, South Africa, and Uganda.

**COULD 2015 BE YOUR YEAR TO COME FOR THE  
FIRST TIME OR TO RETURN AGAIN?  
DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!**

There is still time for you to apply. Please do so as soon as you can. **For more details and to apply online, go to the website [www.batkol.info](http://www.batkol.info) or contact [gill@batkol.info](mailto:gill@batkol.info)**

**WEEKLY COMMENTARIES**

Each week almost 700 emails shoot around the world on Bat Kol's behalf, fired by Madmimi, an amazing international emarketing service. The commentaries are written by Bat Kol's own alums who have studied here in Jerusalem and who continue their studies in their own countries.

One of the exciting aspects of Madmimi is that we can see how many have accessed the email, we know who has opened it and even who has forwarded it to a friend. As you read the commentaries each week, why not try to send a word of encouragement to the writers or share a discussion point with them. These quality commentaries involve a commitment of love and time, and so it's nice to know yours has been read. If you would like to offer to write commentaries from time to time, please let me know at [gill@batkol.info](mailto:gill@batkol.info)

**SISTERS OF SION NOVICES**

It was a joy for Maureena and Gill to share Erev Shabbat with the six Novice Sisters who have been at Ein Karem for the past year and have now reached a landmark in their journeys. We met at Kol HaNeshama Synagogue for Kaballat Shabbat followed by supper at Maureena's home. Sr Ivone also joined us for the evening during which we shared a lovely meal accompanied by the Shabbat Table Liturgy and Shabbat Table Talk discussing the parashah commentary for the week which had been written by Sr Marie André Mitchell. It was a great privilege to share the evening with younger Sisters of Sion so early in their journeys in the religious life. A good time was had by all, as the picture shows below.



## FLOWERS FOR SHABBAT



Every Friday, flower sellers line the streets as Israelis spend thousands of shekels on flowers for Shabbat.

Gorgeous arrays of beautiful blooms, a riot of color, all ready to dress the home in preparation to welcome Shabbat. This particular lily is *Lilium candidum*, known as the Madonna Lily. Some equate this name with “I am the rose of Sharon, the wild lily of the valleys” (Song of Songs 2.1).

## CELEBRATION AT EIN KAREM

On 2 May there was a beautiful celebration Mass followed by supper in honor of Sr Regine Canetti who will be 94 on 21st May, the day on which she will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of her Profession. The celebration was held early in order also to say a sad farewell to Sr Maria Aparecida Aquino Dias (Cida) who is returning to Brazil after being in Jerusalem for almost a year.

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Sr Marie André Mitchell, is well known and much loved among the Bat Kol community. It is Marie André who manages the Parashat commentaries, scheduling the writers to the appropriate week in the Jewish Liturgical Calendar and ensuring everything arrives in Jerusalem in time to be sent throughout the world for Erev Shabbat.

Marie André does much more also and describes some of her other Bat Kol related activities as follows:

“Bat Kol HaSimchah continues to meet every Thursday morning at the Catholic Bible Foundation offices in La Rochelle, Johannesburg. A very dedicated group has been meeting for years. Besides studying the weekly parashah and the Sunday gospel, I remind the members of the various Jewish festivals and how they are celebrated. Once a month Bernadette Chellew (Bat Kol alum 2008) and I run a four-hour seminar. This year we are studying the Book of Leviticus in ten sessions. I do all the research that is quite a challenge, as Bernadette has been running a Bible Correspondence course at St Augustine’s College. Bernadette then formats the material into a booklet, which each participant receives.

This year we were invited to hold our sessions at Holy Family College in Parktown and this has proved a good move as the College is directly opposite the Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue. Rabbi Sa’ar Shake, a father of four boys, is a good friend of the College. I went to visit him; he has only been here 18 months. I have attended several services at the synagogue, Rabbi Sa’ar is very creative. I asked him to show the monthly Bat Kol group over the synagogue and that he did and spoke to the group who were very impressed with his ideas.

Augustine College invited Rabbi Shake to give their monthly talk which took place on Wednesday of Holy Week; despite being a long week-end they had one of the biggest crowds ever. The topic he chose was: Pesach-Easter: The Paschal Lamb of God. The rabbi answered the questions he had set: ‘How did the competition between early Christianity and early Rabbinic Judaism shape our rituals? What was the method that each faith offered to deal with a festivity of redemption in a time of distraction? How did the liturgy respond to that tension?’ He discussed the Jewish Pesach and the Christian Easter and how the two traditions mutually influenced one another throughout the ages. He brought a handout of Jewish and Christian sources that he asked me to read at the appropriate times so that there would be a different voice and as English was not his first language. It was a most informative evening.



*Bernadette Chellew, Marie Teresa Healey and Marie André (looking towards the speaker) at the Seder which the Union of Jewish Women organised for an interfaith group*

Yom HaShoah is commemorated each year in the Jewish cemetery. This year Bishop Graham Rose, the Chair of the SACBC Department of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue of which I am a member will be coming with me. The special guest speaker this year is Hugo Marom, born Meisl, now 86, was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia. He and his brother Ruby were amongst the Jewish children saved by Sir Nicolas Winton. He was transported on the Kindertransport to London. His parents died in a concentration camp. Marsha Schaimberg, a Polish survivor from Auschwitz, living in South Africa will also be relating, with her daughter, her story and experience of going back to Auschwitz in Feb 2015.

The Southern African Bishops’ Conference Department of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue is working on a program to celebrate 50 years of *Nostra Aetate*. I head a small committee to work out what is possible. There are only three main Jewish Centers in South Africa though there are smaller groups in many cities.”

## FUNDING

Each year Bat Kol needs funding of 50,000US\$ to give scholarship help to needy students, especially those in third world countries and to cover salaries for professors and the cost of administration.

In order to raise funds Bat Kol is now on Israel Gives, which is the world's main website for supporting amutah, non-profit, organizations in Israel and is used by over 30,000 Israeli charities to receive funds. It enables people to donate from anywhere in the world and in all the major currencies. Each donor receives a tax deductible receipt as well as a thank you letter from Bat Kol. Since we started on Israel Gives in November 2014, total donations received have amounted to 5,766 US\$ -a very welcome amount but we've a long way to go to reach our target!

TARGET 50,000US\$



RECEIVED  
5,766 US\$

All donations large or small will be gratefully received. It's also possible to give regular monthly or quarterly donations.

PLEASE GIVE WHATEVER YOU CAN AFFORD  
NOW BY CLICKING ON THIS LINK

<http://www.israelgives.org/amuta/580211746>

If you have difficulty putting a donation through because of the technicalities of the site, please let me know and I will help, [gill@batkol.info](mailto:gill@batkol.info)

Don't forget there is still another great program planned for 2105.

## TESHUVA

8-18 NOVEMBER 2015

This program is a study of the meaning of Teshuva (Repentance and Response) which has been a central aspect of Jewish theology for two millennia.

If you are personally unable to come, then why not seek funds to help another person of your choice and find others who will do the same? Donations through Israel Gives are a way of receiving a tax deductible receipt, and it gives us direct information on your donation.

To help meet the cost, we encourage participants to raise support through their church, their family, and their friends.

### REMEMBER OUR FORMER OFFER OF FINANCIAL HELP STILL HOLDS

*If through you, three register for the program you will receive a full scholarship for your course of choice.*

*If you find five, you will be given a full scholarship with airfare included.*



### FOCUS ON YOU

We'd love to hear about **you**. Please send your news and that of your Bat Kol group if you belong to one. Gill is waiting to hear from you: this is **your** News Bulletin. We'll tell you what we're doing in Jerusalem but it will be great for all of us to hear stories of what Bat Kol is doing internationally. If you or your group need any study support materials, resources or publicity items from the Bat Kol Office please email [gill@batkol.info](mailto:gill@batkol.info) and we will do our best to provide for your needs.



BAT KOL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES,  
POB 8030 JERUSALEM, 9108001, ISRAEL  
[www.batkol.info](http://www.batkol.info). 972(0)54-7342227 [gill@batkol.info](mailto:gill@batkol.info)