



**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. 2 - JUNE 2015
Editor: Bat Kol Co-ordinator, Revd Gill Putnam, gill@batkol.info



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps 119.105).

A Message from the President of Bat Kol Institute

Dear Bat Kol Alums and Friends,

I had a sense that the Kingdom of God had arrived in Jerusalem on three different occasions recently.

Sunday, May 17, 2015. Hundreds of inhabitants from Jerusalem, met at the old train station to celebrate **Jerusalem Day**. On the stage with a big screen for distant viewers were Jews, Muslims and Christians praying for the peace of Jerusalem in different languages. Following the prayers, Jewish, Muslim and Christian artists led the mixed crowd in song and dance. I saw no security checks, all gates were open, as crowds gathered. As I listened and participated in the festivities, I had a sense that the Kingdom of God had arrived.



Sunday, May 24, **Shavuoth** (seven weeks), the Jewish festival of Pentecost and the Christian festival of Pentecost fell on the same day this year. On the eve of Shavuoth until the early morning, multiple synagogues were open to the public for lectures on the Torah. I went to three different places during the night, and drank in the wisdom of the sages. At four in the morning, streams of humanity met at the Kotel (the Western Wall). On the morning of this same day, thousands of Christian pilgrims gathered on Mt. Zion to remember and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit: "When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, all were in one place" (Acts.2.1). As Jews, Christians and Muslims mingled in the streets, I again had that feeling that the Kingdom of God had arrived.

On the evening of June 6, Gill and I wandered with crowds of people, through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem, viewing the **Festival of Lights**. Again it felt like the Kingdom of God had arrived. Jews and Muslims and pilgrims rubbed shoulders enjoying the different displays of light in different forms and colors (to the right is Damascus gate with one of its passing scenes captured on camera).



The unifying theme of these three festivals was **light**:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps 119.105)

Shortly we will be welcoming our incoming group for the Telling and Retelling of the Book of Deuteronomy. Year after year I look forward to the richness of this time, meeting former students, meeting new ones, and participating in ever-fresh interpretations of an ancient text.

The picture below is

Maureena

Prof. Maureena Fritz, NDS. B.A., B.Ed. M.A., Ph.D.
Bat Kol Institute for Jewish Studies
Jerusalem, Israel



AWARD CEREMONY IN WARSAW, POLAND

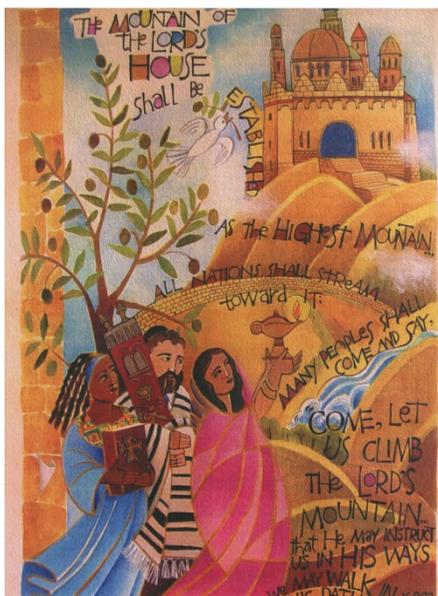
Sr. Mary O’Sullivan rsm, was presented with a special award in Nozyk Synagogue, Warsaw, from the Polish Council of Christians and Jews. The retired Primate of Poland, Archbishop Musynski participated in the celebrations.

Sr. Mary, from Ireland, participated in several of the Bat kol sessions in Jerusalem and for a number of years was a member of the Bat Kol staff, made possible through the generosity of her congregation.

For the last several years she has been working at the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer in Oswiecim (a former Nazi extermination camp), in Poland.



IFRS CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS OF *NOSTRA AETATE*



The Institute of Formation and Religious Studies (IFRS) planned a celebration of the past fifty years since *Nostra Aetate* was promulgated. We are deeply grateful to the Sisters of Sion (Australia-Philippines) who made it possible for Rabbi Fred Morgan, from Melbourne, to come to the Philippines for a series of talks to IFRS (April 29, 30); the Carmelites in Quezon City (May 2); the University of Sto Tomas (April 30), and at St. Louis University, Baguio (May 6).

Ordained as rabbi in 1984, Rabbi Morgan served the North West Surrey Synagogue in England for 13 years before taking up the position as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne. He has also held a number of other positions in the Jewish and wider communities, including Hon Associate Rabbi of Sim Shalom Congregation in Budapest, Hon President of the Council of Christians and Jews (Victoria), and Hon Fellow in the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University.

At IFRS Rabbi Morgan delivered a lecture: “Whither Jewish-Christian Dialogue: A Jewish perspective on 50 years of *Nostra Aetate*” and a more informal talk on “General Themes in Judaism,” which was more of a testimony of what it means to him to be a Jew. In line with Carmelite spirituality, Rabbi Morgan took the group through a close reading of two texts from the Books of Kings, on Elijah and Elisha. And at the oldest university in Asia, the University of Sto Tomas, he again gave his perspective on the past fifty years of dialogue since the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*.

While his topic in Baguio (Northern Philippines) was 'Living Judaism', he also touched on the progress and challenges of dialogue. Those who attended were 40 faculty members of St Louis University as well as representatives of around 24 parishes and organizations in Cordilleras; one man had traveled 8 hours to be present! Most had never had the opportunity to encounter a Jewish person so it was a very special occasion for all present. Rabbi Fred was surrounded by people at every opportunity and he was also asked to respond to some very perceptive questions.

A small representative group of Bat Kol alums and Sion Sisters were privileged to be able to celebrate two Shabbat meals and parashah conversations with Rabbi Fred before he left on May 10.

Helen R. Graham, M.M. Institute of Formation and Religious Studies

ILLUSTRATIONS

Page 1 *Painting by Yoram Raanan.*

Photographs by Prof. Maureena Fritz, NDS

Page 2 *This painting, by Michael O’Neill McGrath, OSFS, was jointly commissioned by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College and the Archdiocese of Boston to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate. The image depicts the symbolic figure of Wisdom guiding the pilgrim people of the*

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY – TELLING AND RE-TELLING- 7-30 JULY 2015

Finally, it's almost time for participants to come to Jerusalem and walk the road to Mt Nebo!



Every participant will have already entered into much preparation – pre-reading, Hebrew study, all the personal documentation which is needed. Here at Bat Kol work will continue right up until the first arrival, and even beyond. Why? So that this whole program can be an experience of the The Book, The Land and The People in a unique way. Just imagine the excursions – walking in

NEW EXPLORATIONS OF TEXTS:



RABBI MICHAEL MARMUR, Ph.D

“New Interpretations” - Micha Goodman's re-reading of Deuteronomy.

“The Tribes of Israel Together” - building on a metaphor from Deuteronomy

MARCIE LENK, Ph.D

“Obedience or Rebellion” - Two different versions. Why?

“Two voices or two authors?” (*in Deuteronomy and Exodus*) – Two versions for a reason.

RUHAMA WEISS, Ph.D.

Deut. 25, 19: - The interpretation of the Sages.

AHARON ZINGER, Ph.D

“Moshe and the Promised Land” – Excluded at the end! Why?

“The Possibility of Return” – An analysis of human transformation.

MAUREENA FRITZ, Ph. D

“The Sabbath” – A Taste of Eternity.

“Nostra Aetate” - An Ecclesial Copernican Revolution

JUDY KLITSNER

“The Spies, Joseph's Money and Job's Justice” – Retelling from varying perspectives.

VIEWING LIFE IN ISRAEL TODAY

RABBI DOW MARMUR,

“The Star of Return” - The centrality of Israel in post-Holocaust Judaism.

“My Father Was a Fugitive Aramean” - A exploration of Deuteronomy chapter 26.

SARAH BERNSTEIN, Ph.D

“Healing Hatred” – How?

RON KRONISH, Ph.D

“Interreligious Dialogue” - continuing conversations.

UPCOMING PLANS

TESHUVA

Turning, Repentance, Response

8-18 November 2015

The concept of Teshuvah has been a central aspect of Jewish theology for two millennia. We will explore different aspects of this pivotal notion with reference to modern treatments of the theme.

Partial Bibliography

Newman, *The meaning and practice of Teshuvah*, (Vermont, 2010).

The classical works of Maimonides, Soloveitchik and others.

The course will offer 36 hours of in-class time and 3 days for guided study tours in Jerusalem and the surrounding area

Method of evaluation for those taking the course for university credit: prestudy, book report, participation, research paper, oral or written evaluation (to be adapted according to the norms set by the home university).

MEETING OF THE BAT KOL INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUP IN JERUSALEM

February 2016 (Date and membership not finalized)

THE BOOK OF GENESIS, A BOOK OF ENCOUNTERS

July 4-24, 2016

The theme of the Bible (a book composed of many books) has one basic theme that unites all the stories and songs, sayings and prophecies contained within it. The theme is the encounter between God and a group of people. The focus of this course are the I-Thou encounters in the Book of Genesis and how these biblical characters, such as Adam and Eve, Cain, Abraham, Hagar and Tamar heard and responded to the Voice of God. Lectures are combined with a number of guided study tours in and around Jerusalem and the Negev desert.

Partial Bibliography:

Alter, *The Five Books of Moses* (New York, 2004)

Fox, *The Five Books of Moses: a new translation with introduction, commentary and notes* (London, 1995).

Kugel, *How to Read the Bible: a Guide to Scripture, Then and Now* (New York, 2007).

Goldstein, ed., *The Women's Torah Commentary: new insights from women rabbis on the 54 weekly portions* (Vermont, 2000)

Buber: *I and Thou*, trans., W. Kaufmann (New York, 1970).

On the Bible, eighteen studies, ed by Glatzer (New York, 1982)

Method of evaluation for those taking the course for university credit: prestudy, book report, participation, research paper, oral or written evaluation (to be adapted according to the norms of the home university).

A Bonus for each session:

If enough registrants are interested we will add a three-day excursion (at extra cost) to Galilee and visit the sites around the Sea of Galilee, such as, Capernaum, Tabgha, the Mt. of Beatitudes and Migdal. Accommodation will be sought at the Ein Gev Resort on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

For application form, please visit Study Programs at www.batkol.info



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www.batkol.info. 972(0)54-7342227 gill@batkol.info**



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the Bat Kol Institute. Thank you.**
