



BAT KOL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES
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AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWS BULLETIN No. 4

Ki mi Tzion tetzeh Torah Ud'var Adonai mi Yerushalaim

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Bat Kol Alums and Friends,

September has just arrived! A new spirit and new winds are spreading across Israel. It all began with the first day of the Jewish month of Elul (August 10th), a month that ends on the first day of the new month of Tishri (13th of September), the festival of Rosh Hashanah (New Year's Day). The acrostic (aleph, lamed, vav, lamed) for the month of Elul reads "I to my beloved and my beloved to me" (see Song of Songs in Hebrew, 6.3).

During the month of Elul, Psalm 27 is recited together with the blowing of the shofar. The psalm opens with, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom shall I be afraid." On the tenth of Tishri (23 September) is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the most solemn day of the Jewish year.

Soloveitchik, on "Your sins have separated between you and your God (Is.59.2) taught, *"In the absence of sin, God's presence would be evident in every natural encounter. The whisper of the Master of the Universe would be heard in the bubbling of every crystal spring, His immanence perceived in every sunrise and sunset."*

Hence, during this holy season, Repentance, Good deeds and Prayer are the themes of the day.

How quickly the month of September arrived. It seems like yesterday since we welcomed women and men from across the globe to Israel for a study of the Book of Deuteronomy in July, the contents of which are traditionally thought to be the last sermon Moses gave as he stood on Mt. Nebo overlooking the Promised Land. Our month ended with the reading of the last chapter of Deuteronomy on Mt. Nebo in Jordan where we too saw the Holy Land spread out before us.

Now we are preparing for our next session on teshuva (Nov. 08-19), which will cover major themes connected with repentance, purification and forgiveness.

In the Northern hemisphere, September means back to work after the holidays. In the southern hemisphere, holidays and spring are approaching. Greetings and blessings to all our Bat Kol alums and friends. Please keep us in your prayers as we do you.

Maureen

Prof. Maureen Fritz, NDS, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.

TELLING AND RETELLING IN DEUTERONOMY

A good program?

These words from participants say
it all!

"It was a wonderful gift to be enriched by capable and astute professors who brought their diverse gifts to the table."

"Havrutah has been a wonderful experience. I am going to borrow the same idea when I go back to Uganda to have effective learning"

"I always recommend Bat Kol when given an opening. In future I will MAKE openings."

"I feel that I have enjoyed a banquet of gourmet meals; I will need to process, digest and own the experience."

"The Book of Deuteronomy, with a visit to Mount Nebo to read the final chapter, was indescribable."

"I am richer for the Bat Kol experience!

"Accommodation great!"

"I really, really enjoyed the Deuteronomy course - it was more than I could have hoped for. Mt. Nebo was the perfect icing on a fabulous cake and so well timed in terms of the course content."



GRADUATION CEREMONY

**IF YOU MISSED DEUTERONOMY, DON'T DESPAIR!
MORE UNIQUE PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED, STARTING WITH
'Teshuvah: Repentance and Forgiveness'**

(FROM SUPPER ON SUNDAY, 08.11.2015 UNTIL AFTER BREAKFAST ON THURSDAY, 19.11.2015)

Come, Learn and Discuss what the great Jewish masters say on repentance and forgiveness.

Topics include:

- ❖ the ritual of Yom Kippur during the Second Temple period, the liturgy at the time of Jesus;
- ❖ visit the Temple Mount to walk, see and experience where it all took place;
- ❖ the liturgy of repentance after the destruction of the Temple;
- ❖ repentance and forgiveness in the thought of Soloveitchik and Maimonides which includes such topics as: acquittal and purification, the relationship between repentance and free choice, blotting out sin or elevating it, turning from the exile of sin.

“The home of the Holy One, Blessed be He, is in man, in his heart, in his soul, and He does not depart from there even when man has sinned and defiled the holy sanctuary within him ‘He who dwells with them in their defilement’.”

(Soloveitchik).

**EXPECT A BLESSING!
APPLY ON LINE NOW**

www.batkol.info

**SEND 100USD DEPOSIT BY 30 SEPTEMBER TO SECURE 10%
DISCOUNT**

**HOLD THE DATE ALSO FOR THE JULY 2016 PROGRAM
GENESIS – A BOOK OF ENCOUNTERS
4-24 JULY 2016**

SEND 100USD DEPOSIT BY 30 APRIL TO SECURE 10% DISCOUNT

Accommodation for each program will be single, en suite rooms in the beautiful St Charles Hospice in the German Colony of Jerusalem.

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE



***Br Jack Driscoll - 21 September 2010
There hath passed away a glory from the earth.***



BAT KOL NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

INDIA:

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SR. DR. JOAN CHUNKAPURA, MMS

Sr. Dr. Joan Chunkapura, MMS celebrated her Golden Jubilee on 1st of August 2015 and it is a delight to publish her brief reflection on her ministry



Golden Jubilee Celebration of
Sr. Therese Cheruvallath, Sr. Louise Marie & Sr. Joan Chunkapura

I joined the Society of Catholic Medical Mission Sisters at the age of 17 after 12 years of school. It was an international community I was attracted to Mission work and the healing charism of the Foundress, Mother Anna Dengel, inspired me with her slogan "Women for Women". Mother Anna was working in Rawalpindi, among Muslim women and children assisting in child birth as a medical doctor. I trained as a Nurse midwife, going to East Africa for three years before returning to India to take charge of a Nursing school. But by that time, the Society's healing charism made an evolution under the exhortation of II

Vatican Council allowing us to take up studies in different areas of healing mission including body, mind and religion. My ministry shifted to Counselling and Psychotherapy and after getting my Masters and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Delhi, I trained in Family therapy and Addiction management from US Minnesota and Florida and pioneered treatment, temperance movement and rehabilitation in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse. I wrote several books, addressed conferences, established five rehabilitation centers and started the College of Health & Social Sciences together with TRADA Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for addicts (Total Response to Alcohol and Drug Abuse). TRADA is supported by five Christian Churches and was made a National award winner in 2014 as the best Integrated Rehabilitation Centre.

I upgraded myself specially by learning the Word of God and alternative program of Violence, Zen, Vipasana type of meditation etc. and am part of the World Christian meditation group and a Bat Kol Alumn.

I thank God and my co-journeys for allowing me to be a healing presence among the addicts and their families.

We send warm congratulations to Sr Joan from all at Bat Kol.

CANADA:

NEWS FROM EMILY VANBERKUM, Bat Kol Alumn 2013, who writes:



Even in a struggling world, it is an incredible blessing to stay connected and share memories of our gathering in Israel.

I have now completed my Master of Divinity at St. Michael's College and am employed full time at one of the busiest parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto as a Pastoral Associate! It is demanding but rewarding work - especially my involvement in family ministry and the Rite of Christian Initiation program, where I meet those looking to convert to Catholicism or those seeking full initiation.

In the catechism process, I certainly reflect on the Siddur and the lessons learned from Bat Kol. I also work (part time) for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as a dialogue secretary for the Roman Catholic-Lutheran Church Canada delegate. Ecumenical dialogue has always been a keen interest of mine.

I've gotten involved in a concilliary of feminine theology at St. Basil's Parish known as "Magdala." This group will begin meeting in October and will run for the year. In April, I'll be attending a conference in Rome, partly sponsored by our parish Magdala.

Don't forget this is YOUR News Bulletin. Please send your news items to Gill: gill@batkol.info. If you send photographs please ensure they are JPG format and that text is in Word so that it can be edited if necessary. In Emily's words above: 'It is a blessing to stay connected...'

JOSHUA SMITH, Bat Kol Alumn 2014, also sends exciting news of change in his life:



I am embarking on an incredible journey, which will find me in the heart of Toronto. For the next eleven months, I will be part of the Jesuit Volunteers Canada program. I am so excited to start this new chapter in my life. These next eleven months will be life changing and will provide me with many opportunities to learn and grow.

As I depart from Saskatoon, I am thankful for having met so many wonderful people along the way. Each person that I have encountered has touched me in a different way, both broadening my horizons and providing me with a different perspective on life. I have become the person that I am today because of the impact that each and every person that I have met has made on me.

The JVC program emphasizes the importance living simply. This includes an "uncluttering" of my life so that I can focus on being present with myself and with those in my community.

If you want to learn more about JVC, feel free to check out their website: <http://jesuitvolunteers.ca>

I thank you all for your support, kind words, prayers, and love.

We send prayers and blessings to Emily and Josh from all at Bat Kol.

IMPORTANT MISSION IN TORONTO:

Scarboro Missions, Toronto, of which Sr Lucy Thorson, NDS, and Prof. Murray Watson are both part, produce many inter religious dialogue resources. One of the latest is Milestones in Modern Catholic-Jewish Relations which gives a comprehensive overview of many of the documents and events which illustrate the growth and development of the dialogue between our two ancient faiths. Whilst most are official documents, all represent hours and even years of consultations, often with our Jewish Dialogue partners and represent a sea change in the way in which Roman Catholics approach their Jewish sisters and brothers. As the document mentions, the journey has only just begun. Indeed, Pope Francis is taking giant steps in this regard. Sister Lucy hopes that the paper will be widely distributed.

For more information visit www.scarboromissions.ca

SOUTH AFRICA:

REUNION OF ALUMNI IN JOHANNESBURG:

Sr Marie André Mitchell sends this lovely picture of a Bat Kol reunion in a restaurant in Johannesburg where they had a wonderful time reminiscing. Left to right are: Elina Kearns BK 2011 and 2012, Marie Andre Mitchell, Mariusz Drabowski 2011 and 2012; Bernadette Chellew 2008. Mariusz was visiting South Africa from Poland.



A 'THANK YOU' FROM GILL:

Recently it was necessary for me to make an urgent request for some weekly commentary writers to fill unexpected and unavoidable gaps in the schedule. **My sincere thanks to all who responded so willingly.** Knowing how busy everyone is I was reluctant even to ask but the commentaries are such an important part of Bat Kol's mission. Your response was marvelous! Thanks a million!

It will soon be time to create the schedule of writers for 2016. If you are a Bat Kol alumn and do not already write commentaries but would like to do so, please get in touch with Marie Andre Mitchell marieandre@batkol.info to be added to the list to write Parashat Commentaries and gill@batkol.info for writing the Sunday Reading commentaries. It is a privilege to offer this ministry which inspires many on our weekly mailing list and others who randomly visit our website

Finally, please remember that Bat Kol needs funding for scholarships, teaching and administrative costs, etc. All donations, small or large will be most gratefully received.



Please click here to donate to the work of the Bat Kol Institute. Thank you.

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