

WINNIPEG BAT KOL TRI-DIOCESAN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES REPORT DECEMBER 2018

Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee



*A collaborative effort of:
Archdiocese of Saint Boniface
Archdiocese of Winnipeg
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg
Congregation of Our Lady of Sion*

This Activities Report reflects the events of the Winnipeg Tri-Diocesan Bat Kol Committee from January 2017 to December 2018.

These activities are a collaborative effort of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, Archdiocese of Winnipeg, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy, the local Congregation of Our Lady of Sion, and representatives from St. Paul's College and Bat Kol Jerusalem Alumni.

**BAT KOL: "DAUGHTER OF A VOICE" DESCRIBES WHO WE ARE, HUMANS
"MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD"**

GENESIS 1:27

December 2018

It is a blessing to address you in this report regarding the last two years of work of this committee. The committee members are a joy to work with for all these initiatives. They are knowledgeable, dedicated and enthused this precious work to foster mutual understanding and respect between Christian and Jewish traditions, promoting the study of Nostra Aetate and other Church documents on the history and relationship between Christians and Jews. We continue to promote Christian study of the Torah using Jewish sources and facilitating the integration of these studies into a Christian self-understanding that respects the Jewish people and reveres the integrity of their traditions. Some of the ways that this is achieved are by sponsoring public events with the help of Jewish and Christian scholars, promoting events that foster understanding and appreciation of Judaism among Christians, providing opportunities for church leadership, catechists, and all involved in ministry to engage in these events and learning. We also continue to be in relationship with the local the HaEmet havrutah group as well as promote and encourage attendance to Bat Kol courses in Jerusalem.

We have experienced some changes in our community during this report period with the departure of Rabbi Alan Green. Rabbi Alan retired from Congregation Shaarey Zedek after 26 years! He has certainly been a pillar and strong contributor of our work. We are happy to work with new Rabbis Matthew Leibel (Shaarey Zedek) and Anibal Mass (Shaarey Zedek) and Rabbi Kliel Rose (Etz Chayim). Rabbi Kliel Rose is the son of Rabbi Neal Rose and Carol Rose who were two of our pioneers that strengthened our Jewish Catholic relationship in the late 1990's and early 2000's "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." *Psalms 100:5*

One of the highlights of the work has been the collaboration and relationships that are being made in our city. We have communicated and planned with many when the mission of Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee interconnects with others. Some of our collaborators this past report period were: Manitoba Multifaith Council, Jewish Catholic Dialogue Committee, Congregation Sharey Zedek, and Mary Mother of the Church. We are very thankful to the participants in the events, some for the first time and others that have been part of this work since its early stages in 2003. There are many individuals who generously collaborated this past report period some of which are: Dr. Ruth Ashrafi, Mr. Greg Barrett, Deacon Stepan Bilynskyy, Belle Jarniewski, Rabbi Matthew Leibel, Rabbi Anibal Mass, Rabbi Kliel Rose, and Mrs. Alice Weissmann.

We acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Alice Weissmann, ritual secretary Congregation Sharey Zedek. Alice has been such a precious support and link in the work of our committee, always meeting us with a joyful greeting and openness. We wish her much enjoyment in her retirement in February 2019.

May this activities report be an encouragement to all as a testimony of the strengthening of relationship and understanding of the Jewish roots of Christianity and the deepening of the love of one another.

In peace and service,



Koreen Hrizai

Chairperson, Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee

2018 Committee Members



Vicky Adams, Ukrainian Archeparchy

Representing the Archeparchy of Winnipeg, Vicky has been a member of the Tri-Diocesan Bat Kol Committee from its early beginnings. As a teacher and a former principal (retired) of the Winnipeg School Division, she has been actively involved in educational projects throughout her career. Vicky has been a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Centre since its inception in 1977 where she presents Catechetical training programs providing in-services and resources for catechists and faithful in the Archeparchy. As a member of the National Catechetical Commission for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, she takes part in preparing the facilitation of the newly published “Christ Our Pascha” - a Catechism for the Ukrainian Catholic Church. She is an executive member of the National, Archeparchial and Parish Branch of the Ukrainian Catholic Women’s League of Canada and an active member of Holy Family Parish.



Christine Butterill, St. Paul’s College

Winnipeg Tri-Diocesan Bat Kol Committee member Christine Butterill is an Associate SNJM, CLC (Christian Life Community) member and former administrator at St. Paul’s College and the University of Manitoba. She has taught history at St. Paul’s and U of M since 1978. Her academic interests are in the medieval ecclesiastical field. She is currently working on the contributions of the female religious in the province of Manitoba over the last 150 years. Active on the Bat Kol Committee for many years representing St. Paul’s College, she is a member of the Winnipeg Jesuit Vocation Committee, assists with the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, RCIA, lector and other ministries at St. Ignatius Church, and is a community volunteer.



Koreen Hrizai, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface

Koreen, coordinator of Catechetics for the English sector, has been active in catechesis since 1998. She has been involved in the local Bat Kol committee work from the onset. Koreen is enjoying the recent participation in the Jewish Catholic Dialogue within Winnipeg. She currently serves as the chairperson of the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators and on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Catechetical Advisory Committee. Koreen is an active member of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada (currently Christian Family Life chairperson parish level) and a life-long learner. She coordinates faith formation and outreach on a parish level at Saint Joseph the Worker. As a mother of three, Koreen continues to be an active volunteer in her community of Transcona.



Winn Leslie, Bat Kol Jerusalem alumna

Winn Leslie attended the Bat Kol Institute programs in Jerusalem 2001, 2007 and 2015. She has been a member from the onset, since 2003, of the local Bat Kol HaEmet group which meets bimonthly to study Torah using Jewish sources and texts. Winn is an active member of St. Ignatius Church and involved in the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of St. Ignatius and St. Kateri Churches.



Br. Camille Légaré, c.s.v., Bat Kol Jerusalem alumni

Camille Légaré is a Manitoban who became a Brother with the Clerics of Saint Viator. He is a Bat Kol alumnus (2008). He taught at St. Joseph College in Otterburne and transferred to the public school system when the College closed down in 1967.

Br. Camille's first appointment was as Principal of St-Claude Collegiate and later as teacher at Ste. Anne Collegiate. He then taught at École Pointe-des-Chênes in Ste-Anne and completed his term as Principal for two years. From there Br. Camille transferred in 1985 to the Faculty of Education at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (now called l'Université de Saint-Boniface). With a degree in Catechetics based on Scripture in Lille, France, (obtained earlier in his own formation) he taught Scripture for the Nathanael adult faith formation program since 1997 for both St. Boniface and Winnipeg dioceses. Br. Camille also led ongoing Bible studies in both French and English from 2004 to 2012. The ten-week series were drawn from themes in the Old and New Testaments and alternated languages every second week twice a year (fall and winter). In 2008-2009, as a member of the Nathanael team, he led a five-month session on The Gospels in the Jewish Setting. He enjoyed his time at the Bat Kol Institute in Jerusalem and continues to be a valuable collaborator for local scripture formation components in both French and English.



Sr. Bernadette O'Reilly, NDS, Congregation of Our Lady of Sion

Sister Bernadette, a Sister of Sion since 1973, was born in Toronto and taught in Ottawa and Toronto before moving to Winnipeg in 1979. She taught in Rossbrook's alternative school programs for four years and was Co-Director of Rossbrook House 23 years. Sister Bernadette has served in a variety of roles in her community including Formation in Canada and in Central America and Provincial of the Canada/USA Province. She continues her involvement with Rossbrook House and gives retreats and spiritual direction.



Judith Vasquez, Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Judith Vasquez celebrated the sacrament of marriage to Joy in 1996 and they are blessed with five wonderful children. Judith has completed the Bachelor of Education and worked in the Manitoba Catholic School system. She is an active parishioner and catechist in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. She enjoys serving hand in hand with the Sisters of Missionaries of Charity. Judith and her husband are members of Couples for Christ serving the Young Adults in the Ministry of Singles for Christ.

Judith fell in love with the Good Shepherd and became a member of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada in 2015. On September 1, 2016 Judith was appointed Director of Catechetics & Faith Development in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg as by His Grace Archbishop Richard Gagnon and began serving on the Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee at that time. In 2018 Judith began serving on the executive of the Western Conference for Catholic Religious Educators.

ABOUT US:

The Bat Kol Institute exists to foster Jewish Studies, defined as study of the Word of God (Torah) within its Jewish milieu, using Jewish sources, ancient and modern, with the help of Jewish and Christian scholars. Our reason for these studies is that Christianity is rooted in Judaism as a plant is rooted in the earth; it cannot live apart from the soil in which it is planted.

Our motto is: We will hear and we will do (Deut. 5:27).

The inspiration for its founding, *Nostra Aetate*, is given direction in the subsequent ecclesial documents, and in the encouragement of Pope John Paul II: "In the dialogue with other religions, the church gives pride of place to the Jewish people, 'our elder brothers and sisters'... There is much that Christians and Jews share together, and it is vital now that Christians should learn more of that common heritage" (Rome, April 28, 1999).

Nostra Aetate #4 states, "Since the spiritual patrimony common to Christians and Jews is thus so great, this sacred synod [Vatican II Council] wishes to foster and recommend that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit above all of biblical and theological studies, and of brotherly dialogues."

The most essential concepts in the Christian creed grew at first in Judaic soil. Uprooted from that soil, these basic concepts cannot be perfectly understood (US National Council of Catholic Bishops, 1975). Christian theologians of recent years have increasingly recognized both the historical interdependence of Judaism and Christianity and the continued significance of Judaism for Christian theology.

Bat Kol Jerusalem was founded as an institute where Christians can engage in biblical studies and explore their own historical relationship with the Jewish tradition as a whole. The necessity for Christians to engage in biblical studies and explore their own historical relationship with the Jewish tradition as a whole was given added impetus by the signing of the accord of recognition between the Vatican and the State of Israel on 29 December 1993.

Each July, Bat Kol Institute organizes intense month-long graduate level courses in Jerusalem, accredited by the Gregorian University in Rome, the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, and several other international universities.¹

¹ Purpose Statement from: http://www.batkol.info/?page_id=68

Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee Activities Report

December 2018

May 2017

All members of the committee (Vicky Adams, Christine Butterill, Winn Leslie, Koreen Hrizai, Br. Camille Légaré, csv Sr. Bernadette O'Reilly, n.d.s., Judith Vasquez) attended the Negev Gala honouring Rabbi Alan Green.



Below: Rabbi Green greeting a few committee members (L to R) Koreen Hrizai, Winn Leslie, Brother Camille Légaré, csv



Photo Credits: JNF Winnipeg

September 2017

Partnered with Manitoba Multifaith Council and Mary Mother of the Church for three evening lecture series, "The New Testament from a Jewish Perspective with Dr. Ruth Ashrafi Judaic Studies Advisor at the Gray Academy. Attendance ranged from over 200 on the first evening, to approximately 120 on the second and third evenings.

LECTURE SERIES

THE NEW TESTAMENT FROM A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

SEPTEMBER 12, 19, & 26 AT 7 PM

MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH, 85 KIRKBRIDGE DRIVE
ADMISSION IS FREE DONATIONS (FREEWILL OFFERING) GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.


SEPTEMBER 12
Jesus in the Context of the First Century
Responder:
The Rev. Father Sam Argenziano
Pastor, Holy Rosary Catholic Church


SEPTEMBER 19
An Orthodox Rabbi Reads the New Testament: R. Soloveitchik's Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew
Responder:
The Rev. Dr. Gordon Taylor
Pastor, The United Church in Meadowood


SEPTEMBER 26
Between Jerusalem and Athens: Jewish Theological Concepts in the New Testament
Responder:
The Rev. Mr. Stepan Bilynsky
Director, Mission and Spiritual Health Care Services, Misericordia Health Centre

PRESENTER
Dr. Ruth Ashrafi
Is Judaic Studies Advisor at Gray Academy of Jewish Education in Winnipeg. She has taught Rabbinics, Hebrew Bible, and Jewish history at universities in the Netherlands, Israel and Canada, and is a frequent speaker in synagogues, churches and study groups. She has recently joined the Manitoba Multifaith Council as Chair of the Education Committee.

SPONSORED BY

 **MARY, MOTHER of the CHURCH**

 **Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee**
A collaborative effort of Archdiocese of Saint Boniface Archdiocese of Winnipeg Christian Councils Association of Winnipeg

 **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL**

L to R

Fr. Sam Argenziano, Koreen Hrizai, Winn Leslie, Greg Barrett, Br. Camille Légare, c.s.v., Dr. Ruth Ashrafi, Ray Harris, Belle Jarniewski, Christine Baronins, Sr. Margaret Hughes, n.d.s. Vicky Adams, Deacon Stepan Bilynsky, Dr. Chris Butterill



December 2017

The Congregation of Our Lady of Sion has been instrumental in the work of the Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee. They have been committed to financial support of events, resources and contributed greatly in the visioning of the committee work and on the ground practical planning. In December 2017 a donation of \$1000 from Congregation of Our Lady of Sion was given to support the ongoing work. It was at this time the committee reflected on the strong roles Sr. Bernadette O'Reilly, n.d.s. as an ongoing committee member, and Sr. Margaret Hughes, n.d.s. as an onsite support person at events, have contributed to the work of the local committee. It was decided that the congregation be named in a more official way as collaborators with the Archdioceses of Saint Boniface, Winnipeg, and the Ukrainian Archeparchy. Our logo was updated in December 2017 to reflect this relationship.



Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee is a collaborative effort of:

Archdiocese of Saint Boniface • Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg • Congregation of Our Lady of Sion

about us:

- fosters mutual understanding and respect between Christian and Jewish traditions
- promotes the study of Nostra Aetate and other Church documents on the history and relationship between Christians and Jews
- promotes Christian study of Torah using Jewish sources
- facilitates the integration of these studies into a Christian self-understanding that respects the Jewish people and reveres the integrity of their traditions

Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee



A collaborative effort of:
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Congregation of Our Lady of Sion

what we do:

- sponsor public events with the help of Jewish and Christian scholars
- promote events that foster understanding and appreciation of Judaism among Christians
- provide opportunities for church leadership, catechists and all involved in ministry to engage in these events
- promote and encourage attendance at a Bat Kol course in Jerusalem

Our motto is: We will hear and we will do

Deuteronomy 5:27

email: wpgtri.batkol@gmail.com

February 2018

Call of the Prophets two evening sessions with Rabbi Alan Green had approximately 75 people in attendance both evenings. Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, O.S.B.M of the Ukrainian Archeparchy was present both evenings. Archbishop Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg, attended the second evening. A farewell reception was given for Rabbi Green as he retires and plans to move from Winnipeg.

CALL OF THE PROPHETS

**505 Watt Street
Holy Eucharist
Church Basement**



**Two Tuesdays 7:00 PM
February 13 & 20
\$10/session \$15/series**

Doors open at 6:30 PM
Registration preferred,
walk-ins welcome
wpgtri.batkol@gmail.com
204 594-0273

Join us as we explore the initiatory experiences of the Biblical prophets--
the experiences which kick started their prophetic careers.

God approaches each of us differently,
and this holds true for the Biblical prophets as well.

Session One will examine the experiences of the early prophets.

Session Two will focus on the experiences of the later prophets.

Through music, meditation, and text, we will attempt to recreate and relate
to the possibility of prophetic experience in our lives today.

~We will conclude February 20th with an informal farewell reception for Rabbi Green~

RABBI ALAN GREEN

Rabbi Alan Green was born in Los Angeles, California where he lived for most of his first 39 years.

Rabbi Green has served as Senior Rabbi of Shaarey Zedek Congregation since the fall of 2000.

We are delighted Rabbi Alan Green will lead us in this series!



Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee


*A collaborative effort of:
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Archdiocese of Winnipeg
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg
Congregation of Our Lady of Slon*

L to R Back Most Reverend Lawrence Huculak, O.S.B.M., Vicky Adams, Winn Leslie, Judith Vasquez Br. Camille L gar , csv Front Sr. Bernadette O'Reilly, n.d.s., Rabbi Alan Green, Koreen Hrizai, Christine Butterill



November 2018

On November 27, 2018 an evening session with Rabbi Kliel Rose (Congregation Etz Chayim) Tikkun Olam had approximately 60 people in attendance. We concluded with some refreshments and snacks so people could get to know Rabbi Kliel and one another.

TIKKUN OLAM

**NOVEMBER 27TH
TUESDAY 7:00 PM**

RABBI KLIEL ROSE

**LOCATION: 180 DE LA CATHEDRALE AVENUE
ST. BONIFACE CATHEDRAL LOWER LEVEL HALL**

**Tikkun Olam
expresses
the Jewish idea
that even though
this world is broken,
it is not
beyond repair.**

Pre-Register
by Nov. 22nd
wpgtri.batkol@gmail.com
(204) 594-0273
Freewill Offering

**Winnipeg Bat Kol
Tri-Diocesan
Committee**



*A collaborative effort of:
Archdiocese of Saint Boniface
Archdiocese of Winnipeg
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg
Congregation of Our Lady of Zion*



Upcoming Initiatives and Continued Commitments:

As we look to the future works of the Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee we continue to be rooted within the spirit of the Bat Kol Institute and *Nostra Aetate*. May our self understanding as Catholic Christians be enriched with the respectful relationship of our Jewish brothers and sisters and the integrity of their traditions.

An essential element as a continued commitment, is the HaEmet havrutah group which consists of 14 participants (averages eight per session) that has been in existence since 2003. The group meets bimonthly to study Torah using Jewish sources and texts. The HaEmet havrutah group pauses in the summer months, sharing a Shabbat meal where everyone contributes to the meal just before the summer break and resumes in the fall. Over the years there have been some changes to the group participants with some that have been there from its onset. One participant, of several years now, is a member of the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. She asserts that HaEmet was instrumental in restoring her faith. Eight of the current 14 members of HaEmet have attended one session or more of the Bat Kol Institute Jerusalem summer or Fall sessions. Collectively, Winnipeg alumnae have attended 24 study sessions in Jerusalem. Members are regular participants in the local gatherings and one member serves on the Winnipeg Bat Kol Tri-Diocesan Committee.

The next upcoming initiative is underway, as we have secured our spring session in March 2019 titled “The Spirituality of Music” with Rabbi Matthew Leibl and Rabbi Anibal Mass at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

In the upcoming reporting period there is a continued need to carry out the work in the spirit of the Bat Kol Institute Jerusalem.

Although we do not know the changes that may come in the upcoming days, we can be certain of the words from Rabbi Johnathan Sacks, “We are changed, not by what we receive, but by what we do.”²

Pope Francis reminds us all:

“there are still anti-Semitic attitudes in society today: “As I have often repeated, a Christian cannot be an anti-Semite; we share the same roots. It would be a contradiction of faith and life. Rather, we are called to commit ourselves to ensure anti-Semitism is banned from the human community”. Quoting from the prophet Isaiah, Pope Francis called on all religions to help the world “Turn spears into pruning hooks” so that communities may experience a period of patient reconciliation. He ended his speech with a traditional Hebrew blessing: *Shalom Aleichem!*³

“We will hear and we will do.” Deuteronomy 5:27

Shalom.



² Rabbi Johnathan Sacks To Heal a Fractured World pg. 149

³ <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-11/pope-francis-audience-mountain-jews.html>