



Midreshet B'erot Bat Ayin

Holistic Torah for Women on the Land

Elul 5783 / 2023

Please Help Us Keep Our Students Safe!

When a missile fell in Bat Ayin, a few months ago, we realized that the neighbor's security room was no longer available to our students. Since we are responsible for the lives of our students, we must build our own bomb shelter room to keep our students safe. A security room is a great expense, so we turn to you to help us keep our students safe. We have a generous donor who offers a matching donation of \$3000 to anyone who donates this amount toward the bomb shelter.

Bomb Shelter Fundraiser
Now we really need your help!
Our students' security is vital to us. Since we are responsible for the lives of our students, we must build our own security room to keep our students safe.
Please be generous with us so we can get a bomb shelter ASAP
May Hashem shower you and your family with blessings due to your great kindness and generosity.

- Sponsor the B'erot Bomb Shelter**
- \$10,000 - Bomb Shelter Builder
 - \$7,200 - Bomb Shelter Patron
 - \$5,000 - Bomb Shelter Supporter
 - \$3,000 - Bomb Shelter Cosponsor

- Sponsor B'erot Programs**
- \$3,600 5-week program
 - \$1000 One-week seminar
 - \$360 Torah class for a month
 - \$180 Rosh Chodesh Program
 - \$100 New art materials
 - \$36 Parasha Magazine dedication

- Sponsor B'erot Landscaping**
- \$2,500 Greenhouse remodeling
 - \$1500 Landscape touch up
 - \$ 500 New plants, herbs and bushes
 - \$ 250 Outdoor bench



As the year comes to an end, open your heart & hand, to support Holistic Torah for Women on the Land!

Make a one time or monthly donation! Donations of any amount change lives!

Donations made to **American Friends of MBBA** are tax-deductible in the **U.S.A** (may be paid in installments.)

For a tax-deductible donation in U.S.A.
Please make checks payable to: American Friends of MBBA, c/o Judy Josephs, 98 St. Mark's Place Apt #1C, New York, NY 10009-5803

Donate through our Website (credit card or PayPal)
www.berotbatayin.org/donate/

Israel's 'Hilltops' and the World

Rebbetzin Chana Bracha Siegelbaum

The Rosh Hashana Torah reading teaches us a lesson on the relationship between Israel and the world contrary to the predominant worldview today, wherein strengthening and expanding Jewish communities in Israel is viewed as an impediment to world peace. In the media Jewish settlements are called 'Israeli colonization,' or 'illegal land grab,' while their residents are called 'militant settlers' and 'obstacles to peace in the Middle East.' From biblical times we have been regarded in opposition to the rest of the world. Avraham is called 'Hebrew' (Ivri), which means 'the other side' as, "The entire world was on the one side, and he was on the other" (Bereishit Rabbah 42:2).

When Sarah our mother was blessed with a son the entire world was blessed with her. At her miraculous birth, she joyfully exclaimed: "G-d has made laughter for me so that all that hear will be happy for me" (Bereishit 21:6). Yet, by translating our verse: "G-d has made me a person to be laughed at, all that hear it will laugh at me" the Silberman Chumash emphasizes the alienation between the Jewish people and the rest of the world. This mocking hostile laughter of the

world experienced by Sarah as disbelief in the miraculous birth of her son Yitzchak is reflected throughout Jewish history as disbelief in his descendants' ability to conquer, settle, and build up the Land of Israel. When describing Sarah's emotional state of complete happiness and bliss: "...all that hear will laugh with me" the Jerusalem Bible portrays the world as being

The prosperity of the entire world depends on the welfare of Israel

happy not only for Sarah but together with her. This happiness reflects the deeper aspect of the relationship between the world and Yitzchak's descendants, where Israel's happiness is spilling over to make other people happy as well. "Many barren women were remembered together with her, many sick were healed in that day, many prayers were answered with her and there was a great rejoicing in the world" (Rashi based on Bereishit Rabbah 53). Thus, the prosperity of the entire world is dependent on the welfare of Israel.

The healing and joy emanating into the world, at the birth of Yitzchak, carrier of the Jewish seed, alludes to the universal nature of the Jewish people. "The relationship between Israel and the nations is compared to the relationship of the heart to the rest of the body" (Yehuda Halevi, *The Kuzari* 2:36). Just as the health of the heart affects the



wellbeing of the entire body, so does the welfare of Israel affect the entire world. Therefore, when Sarah became the Matriarch of the Jewish people, the whole world partook in her blessings. "Yitzchak's birth marked the beginning of the Jewish people and set the model for our future relationship with the nations.

There will come a time when the nations will be happy with us and celebrate our successes and victories. They will understand that the flourishing communities of Israel continuously pump fresh blood into the rest of the nations, bringing prosperity and healing to the entire world. Then "It shall be at the end of the days, that the mountain of Hashem's house shall be firmly established at the top of the mountains, and it shall be raised above the hills; and peoples shall stream to it. Many nations shall go and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of Hashem, and to the house of the G-d of Ya'acov; and Let Him teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths,'" for out of Tzion shall the Torah come forth, and the word of Hashem from Jerusalem (Michah 4:1-2). At that time there will no longer be two views of the land.



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Meet Na'ama Miriam Widmonte From Zurich, Switzerland



Na'ama Miriam Picking Cherries in B'erot Garden

For many years, I felt a thirst to understand my purpose in this world and the reasons behind events that seemed to be happening beyond our comprehension. Hashem, the Ruler of the World, decided that it was time to reveal to me the Jewish spark of my soul on a solo trip to Israel four years ago when I made my way to the Kotel, coincidentally on a Friday Night. Looking back, that was certainly by Divine providence! There I found the final missing puzzle piece. Suddenly everything made sense. The reasons for my desire to become Jewish were far beyond any logical explanations, I simply felt that this is who I am. I had no choice but to connect myself to what I know I am at the core of my existence.

After my love and connection to Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael had been ignited on that trip, I knew deep down in my heart that Israel is my home. Therefore I couldn't imagine any other place to embark on my journey to Judaism. And I have found exactly what I thought would only exist in my dreams – a holistic midrasha in the breathtaking nature of the Judean Hills and part of a colorful, spiritual community strongly rooted in Torah!

The Corona period has brought blessings and challenges. Closed borders meant that I couldn't enter Israel to pursue my conversion here, but B'erot started to offer their classes online, which was an enormous blessing. Alongside learning basic Jewish concepts through my conversion program in Zurich, I spent endless hours learning with

B'erot Bat Ayin which quickly became my primary learning source. At first, I didn't understand a word but slowly, slowly I realized that I have been blessed to jump right into the deepest Torah taught by wonderful and knowledgeable teachers. B'erot opened the door to the miraculous and ever-expanding world of Chassidut for me. Chassidic teachings have since brought so much direction, depth, joy and purpose to my Torah learning, my avodat Hashem and my personal growth.

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Throughout the process, not a single day passed where my soul wasn't yearning to get back to Israel in order to immerse myself in additional learning and a true Torah lifestyle as part of a like-minded community. I was at a point where I rationally understood that Hashem is always fully in charge of what happens in my life. But I was yearning to really feel it deeply in my soul, I wanted to fully surrender to Hashem's guidance and let Him lead my path. One month after I emerged from the transforming waters of the mikvah, I got on a plane to Israel with a one-way ticket in my hand. My heart was overflowing with gratitude to HaKadosh Baruch



Hu in boundless excitement and happiness!

Arriving at B'erot, being welcomed into the community, and finally meeting Rebbetzin Chana Bracha Siegelbaum, from whom I received tremendous meaningful guidance, was the most healing experience. I knew I have come home. The following months at the midrasha have had a vast and wholesome impact on the development of my Jewish identity.

It happened when we were dancing with our holy Torah on Simchat Torah outside on the hilltop of Bat Ayin, that I saw my soulmate from afar. A few months later, on the holy day of Lag B'Omer, our souls reunited surrounded by the warm, loving and most supportive community of Bat Ayin. It truly felt like an explosion of light under the wings of the Shechinah.

Until today, B'erot is a part of my life. While I was still a student, I started teaching the Meditative Movement class, and so I am today. It is the most comforting feeling to know that the doors of my first home in Israel will always be open for me, right there around the corner from where I live now.

Mazal Tov!

Weddings

Nechama Liba Becker to Shmuel Fleisher
Na'ama Gertz to Daniel Widmonte
Hallel Tungnung to Efraim Lhungdim
Malky Rodrigue to Yisrael Zunshine
Sharon Nehza Lhungdim to Akiva

Aliyah

Penina Silverman
Naomi Nadeau
Shira Miriam Perles
Rachelli Wolf

Midreshet B'erot Bat Ayin Kitchen Renovation Project

With great pleasure, we announce the completion of a remarkable transformation - the renovation of our campus kitchen. This new modern and comfortable space



Cooking in our old kitchen

truly enhances the educational experience of our students and gives them a sense of community like never before. After all – after the Beit Midrash the communal kitchen is the room most populated and used by our students.



Hamantchen baking in our new kitchen!

As an integral part of our campus, the kitchen has always played a vital role in nourishing both body and soul. We teach our students how to create wholesome, nutritious meals and prepare communal lunches, providing them the opportunity to give of themselves and connect to the food which sustains them. Due to our



growing student body, the extensive renovation project was undertaken with the intention of providing our students with a more expansive space that is clean, neat, and organized, to enhance their learning experience. Our vision was to create a place where culinary exploration meets comfort and where students can come together, connect, and create lasting memories.

The kitchen is the heart of our midrasha, where students gather, create lifelong bonds, and cultivate important life skills including learning about Kashrut, composting, and respect of other's property. With the generous contributions from supporters like yourself, we were able to transform this vital space



into a state-of-the-art facility, equipped with all the amenities necessary for our students' growth and comfort.

Here are some of the highlights of our renovated kitchen:

Modern Appliances: We have installed brand-new stovetops and ovens, stainless steel double sinks, and large refrigerators ensuring that our students have access to top-quality equipment.

Enhanced Storage: With increased cabinet space and storage solutions, our students now have ample room to store ingredients, utensils, and cookware, allowing for a more organized and efficient learning environment.

Ergonomic Design: We have prioritized the comfort of our students by incorporating spacious countertops and exchanging unhealthy fluorescent lights with adequate soft lighting to facilitate a pleasant cooking experience.

Updated Facilities: The kitchen now boasts improved ventilation systems, plumbing, and electrical fixtures, ensuring the highest standards of hygiene and safety for everyone using the space.

This transformation not only enhances the overall ambiance but also provides a conducive environment for our students to develop and deepen their understanding of Jewish traditions and foster a sense of community. Your support has played a significant role in making this dream a reality, and we are



immensely grateful for your continued partnership.

The renovation of our kitchen represents our commitment to providing a transformative educational experience for our students. We are confident that this upgrade will enhance our campus community, empower our students, and ignite a lifelong passion for a commitment to a Torah lifestyle and home.

