

*'In the JOY of the Lord is your stronghold' ( Nehemiah 8:10)*



## Friends of the Little Sisters of Joy

*A community of prayer, peace and reconciliation.*

Newsletter No 7  
Autumn 2006

My dear Friends

It seems a long time since I have written to you, so much has happened.

***The Moving Swan.*** On May 8<sup>th</sup> this year my autobiography, *The Moving Swan*, was launched in the context of a Presentation of my life so far, in words and music, in the Impington Church Hall, near Cambridge. Hosting the event was the Impington Mothers' Union. About 50 people were present and many joined in the Hebrew music. The Mothers' Union laid on beautiful refreshments and afterwards I signed copies of the book.

The book was published by the foundation of *The Little Sisters of Joy*, and is being sold in Cambridge bookshops and from my flat. If you would like a copy posted to you, please write a cheque to '*The Little Sisters of Joy*' or send a sterling bank draft. The cost of the book is £10 and the postage is as follows:

UK	+ £1.00
EUROPE	+ £2.00
REST of WORLD	+ £3.50

***Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.*** At the end of July, I was invited to Little Gidding, near Huntingdon, to participate in a weekend's reflecting on the troubled events in Israel/Palestine. Little Gidding was a religious community in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for about 25 years, and then again as an ecumenical community more recently in our day, for 25 years again. The landscape, depicted by T.S. Eliot in his 'Four Quartets' has a timeless feel, and the church is radiant with the presence of Christ. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem is inscribed above the sanctuary.

A small but diverse group, we shared our experiences of Israel/Palestine, some of them from better times. One lady spoke movingly of the 'Accompaniment' programme of Israelis and Palestinians of all ages in which she participated, often in rather painful circumstances. I had the privilege of singing in Hebrew with my guitar in the services in the chapel; afterwards four of us danced a 'horah' on the grass outside in a spontaneous gesture of JOY.





**Dorothea.** There was another, sadder, milestone this year: the death of my mother, who reached the grand old age of 97 years. I always like to say that my mother gave me my faith, my music and my openness to people. Dorothea came from the distinguished Jewish family Bergson, from which Henri Bergson, the French philosopher and Jonathan Miller, the opera producer, spring. I had no idea when I was writing the book that the memories of my mother would be a small legacy of my relationship with her.



My mother would say: '*Man proposes, and God disposes.*'

On 21st August 2006, due to an unforeseen accident and resulting block in the road to Gatwick, I missed my planned flight to Toronto. A hectic schedule has yielded to five weeks of much needed peace in Cambridge before a busy autumn. I hope to make a trip to Canada, inshallah (God willing, as the Arabs say) next spring

The 23rd of September is **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year. It is a time of renewal and turning to the Creator. Let us pray, at this troubled time in the Middle East and in the world, for a change of heart in the whole of humanity, and a spirit of universal Peace.

**Shan tovah umetukah**, A happy and sweet New Year,

Gila

Tel.: + 44 (0)7906 074947  
E-mail: [sistergila@hotmail.com](mailto:sistergila@hotmail.com)



Sister Gila Margolin  
The Haven  
61 Edgecombe  
Cambridge  
CB4 2LW  
England, UK