

beth shalom  
auckland new zealand  
בית שלום



**Nissan~Iyar 5783**

**April 2023**

**TERUAH**



*A strong, vibrant community with a spiritual heart  
embracing Jewish life and its diversity.*

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# Contents

Opinions expressed in Teruah do not necessarily represent the views of Beth Shalom Board of Management.

1. April 2023 Nissan~Iyar 5783
2. ToC - Box
3. From the President
4. From Rabbi Dean
5. The Buzz
6. Pesach Seder
7. Passover Picnic in Cornwall Park
8. Shabbat B'Yachad
9. Rabbi's Tisch
10. Prayers for healing ...
11. Community Care
12. Burial & Benevolent Society
13. Kvetch and Kvell
14. Our Board members



# From the President

If you missed the AGM this past weekend, I am thrilled to introduce to you the new Board.

The Exec includes myself for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of my term, Kate Bukowski who has stepped up into the Vice President role, and David Singer who will continue on as Treasurer for a few more months.

Members at large include Arie Rosen, Viv Josephs, Trudi Sawyer, Daniel Josephs, Jonathan Parsons, Leon Chapman and Roger Reynolds. Hopefully someone will take on the Secretary role, or if you would consider joining the Board, get in touch. I would like to personally invite you to the Board Induction on 12 May.

If you want to contribute in other ways, we are looking for volunteers to join the working groups to

- (1) review our Membership policy,
- (2) develop a fundraising strategy, and
- (3) refresh the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to join the new Finance Committee and the working group to evaluate options for our Margot St property.

We are also looking for a progressive Jewish voice on the Goldwater Trust Board and the Kadimah School Board, and more Beth Shalom representatives to Jewish Auckland.

B'Shalom

Michelle Wise

President of the Board of Management, Beth Shalom synagogue

[president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:president@bethshalom.org.nz)



# From Rabbi Dean

Although it's not spring, this feels like a season of reawakening at Beth Shalom. As Covid has receded, our numbers are increasing. It's now typical for us to have two dozen or more people in the sanctuary on Shabbat, plus those at home. That feels much better than just a handful! Last month's Shabbat B'Yachad and Rabbi's Tisch had great energy, as did our AGM on 26 March. Introduction to Judaism has re-started with a great group of learners.

I feel myself reawakening to the role of ongoing rabbi. That's been especially true at Torah Study! It's deeply fulfilling to sit around a table discussing Jewish wisdom, and feels much more rabbinic than staring at a laptop.

As a rabbi, I see myself working on three levels simultaneously:

**Personal** – one on one and with families, especially providing pastoral counselling. That is to say, being there for you when you have challenges, and especially at pinnacle moments in the life cycle.

**Programmatic** – crafting events, experiences and classes that allow us to lead richer Jewish lives together.

**Systems and Governance** – updating and improving the ways Beth Shalom operates.

I am committed to each of these – they are all important and necessary.

There are other layers of Rabbinic work, too – like our region and Progressive Judaism as a movement, like Israel and scholarship. I engage with these, especially through my professional associations, but they are not my primary focus at this time.

Of the Personal, Programmatic, and Systems/Governance Layers, it's most fitting in this forum that I address the Programmatic layer of our communal life, as I did at the AGM.

Some of the events I've been most proud of this past year:



- Passover in the Park. Over 50 people came for a fresh, out-of-the-box exploration of the seder. It was creative and joyful!
- Small Groups. How great to connect in meaningful ways! We go hiking and do crafts together. We've gathered on Waiheke and for a celebration of Pride. You are very welcome to join a group - or to launch one of your own.
- Sundays with Rabbi Dean. This past year, when Sunday School wasn't meeting, families and I met for activities, learning, games, and laughter. What good fun!
- Shirei Shabbat, Rabbi's Tisch, Shabbat b'Yachad. In each of these, we've been more intentional about our experience of Jewish prayer. I've been so pleased that our Ritual Committee and synagogue membership has been willing to experiment, and that these services have been well received.
- Introduction to Judaism and the Conversion Process. This is so important at Beth Shalom, and has been a substantial focus for me.

In spite of the reawakening, it's also a time of sorrow for me. I've known Christine O'Brien for over fifteen years, working closely with her for about five of these. We've shared Beth Shalom's offices on days no one else was even in the building, working on projects, sharing materials and laughs, and kibbitzing with one another. I am grateful to her for the support she offered me as a brand new rabbi, and for the many ways she's supported Beth Shalom - both the organisation and the people - through these many years.

Thank you, Christine. May you be blessed, my friend, with health, friendship, and joy.





# The Buzz



Helen and David Levin with their great-grandson Ruranna (Mum is Rebekah, their granddaughter).



# Passover Seder

## BETH SHALOM COMMUNITY **SECOND NIGHT PASSOVER SEDER**

THURSDAY 6TH APRIL - 6PM

### **PRICING**

ADULT MEMBER | \$30.00

ADULT NON-MEMBER | \$40.00

CHILDREN (6-12) | \$15.00

CHILDREN UNDER 6 | FREE



For dietary restrictions (e.g allergies, gluten free, vegan etc)  
Please advise on booking.

Contact Beth Shalom Office for  
payment and registration by  
Thursday the 23rd of March

[office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)





# Passover Picnic in Cornwall Park



## WHY IS THIS SEDER DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER SEDERS?

### Let us count the ways:

**We'll be outdoors. Please dress the weather, and also in clothes that allow you to move around. (Appropriate shoes, too.)**

**This is a "bring your own" seder. That means you'll provide your own seder plate and foods, as well as vegetarian, *pesadich* picnic lunch.**

**This will be a playful, interactive seder. Be ready to read aloud, to act out scenes from the story, to create art, to sing, to get silly.**

**It's on Shabbat. Our seder will follow a brief Shabbat service.**

### WHERE TO PARK/WHERE WE'LL BE

**From the attached map you can see our picnic spot. It is best to enter from Manukau Road. At the fork beside Sorrento, take the road that runs to the right of One Tree Hill and head to the Archery Club. There is parking there as well as a toilet block. We will be picnicking opposite the carpark under the trees across the road. More information on the Park is attached.**

\*Bring Your Own Seder





# Beth Shalom's B.Y.O.S.\* Passover In the Park

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO BRING

**A Seder plate with as many symbolic foods as you wish, but at a minimum horseradish or chrein, charoset, matzah, wine or juice.**

**We will be bringing some chrein and charoset if you don't have your own.**

**Bring your own vegetarian picnic dinner. (No bread or pasta either.)  
Plates and Cutlery (let's reduce waste by avoiding disposable, please)**

**Picnic Blanket**

**Cushions**

**Beverage of your choice. Wine is permitted.**

**Some tzedakah for the Auckland City Mission.**

**An umbrella ... just in case**

**In the unlikely event the weather is really bad, we will shift our location to the synagogue hall. However if it is just light showers, we will proceed and rely on protection up above from the trees.**

**Chag Pesach Sameach!**

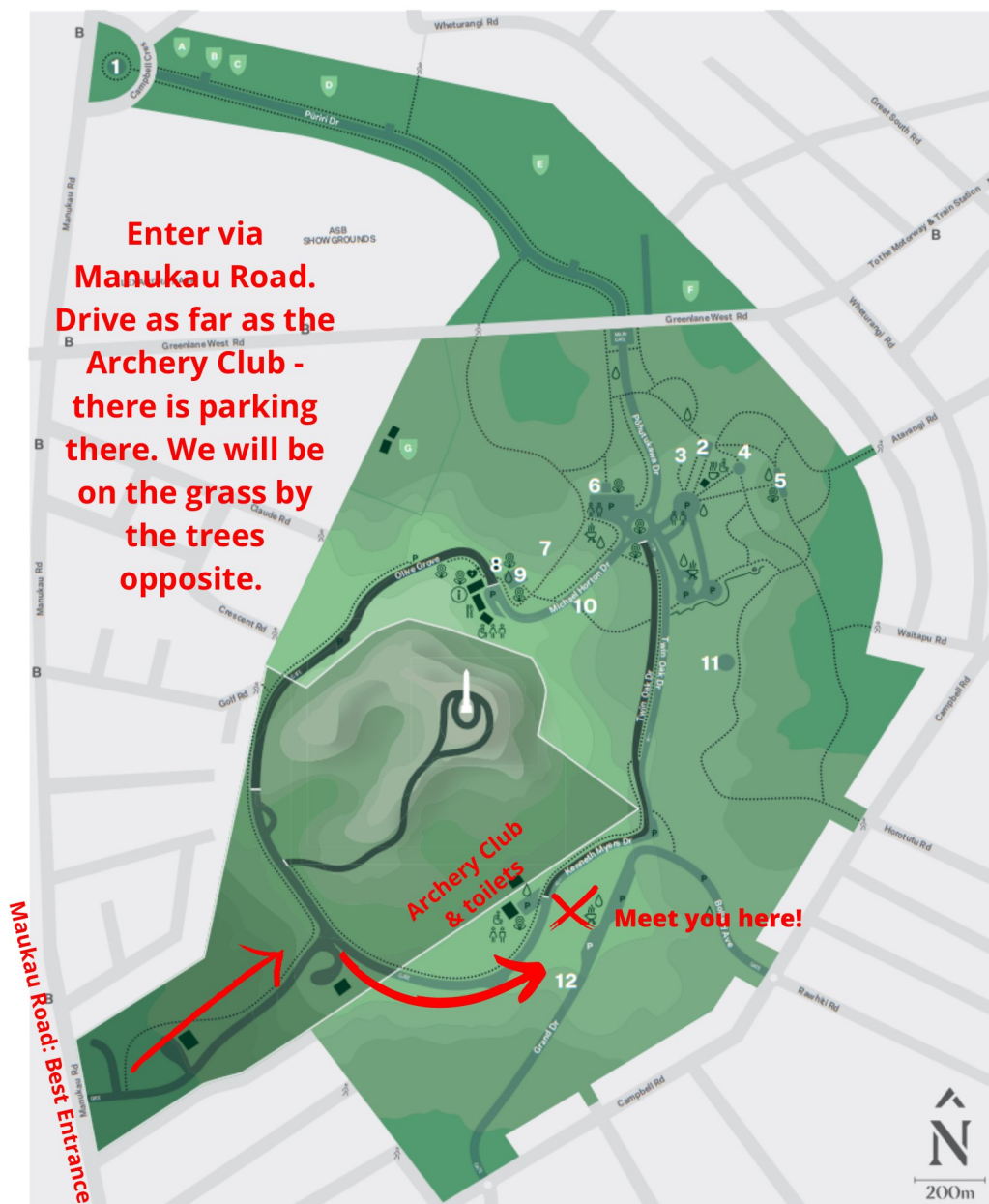
**We look forward to seeing you at our Al Fresco Seder.**

**If you have any questions please email [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)**

\*Bring Your Own Seder



















- 1 Campbell Statue/Fountain
- 2 Rangitoto Steps
- 3 Exercise Equipment
- 4 Band Rotunda
- 5 Belvedere & Pergola
- 6 Poplar Steps

- 9 Memorial Steps
- 10 Kauri Steps
- 11 Folly
- 12 Grotto
-  Sir John's Burial Site 'Obelisk'
-  Discovery Hub 'Huia Lodge'

-  Gardens
-  Public Toilets
-  Disabled Access
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Drinking Fountains
-  BBQ Areas

-  Defibrillator
-  Carlton Cornwall Bowls
-  Cornwall Park Sports Assn.
-  Auckland Joggers Club
-  Grammar Carlton Rugby Football Club
-  Auckland Rugby League



# Shabbat B'Yachad Saturday 22 April

Shabbat B'Yachad – Sharing Shabbat. Join us as we pray the Shabbat morning service with Kavanah– that is, intention. When we pause and explore the siddur, we understand it better and pray more deeply. Whether you're an experienced davener or new to Jewish Prayer, share Shabbat with us on 22 April – our next Shabbat B'Yachad. Torah Study to follow kiddush.





# Rabbi's Tisch, Saturday 29 April

Rabbi's Tisch – an informal opportunity for Jewish learning and meeting new people. Following Shabbat morning services, we shift to the hall to explore meaningful Jewish ideas with Rabbi Dean.

After that, it's time for lunch and Torah study. All are welcome to join; please RSVP for lunch.





Service leaders roster will be published progressively in the weekly email newsletter.



## Prayers for Healing Group

A group of Beth Shalom members has commenced, to think of and pray for individuals in our community, who are in need of healing.

The idea is that this group is not an organised group or minyan. Simply, caring people who, when made aware of the need, help healing with the power of prayer.

And that families in distress might receive comfort from the knowledge that this is taking place.

Caring for the unwell is part of being a community.

For those interested, I can supply articles: "The Jewish Way in Healing", and some scientific research on the positive power of prayer in healing.

- If you wish to be part of this group or if you know of someone who is unwell that would appreciate our prayers.
- Please contact Leon Goldwater or the shul office
- Leon: [ldgoldwater@gmail.com](mailto:ldgoldwater@gmail.com) 020 403 88054
- [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) 524 4139



# Community Care ...

Hi Everyone,

At the time of writing this, we have our lovely weather in Auckland back again. Great for most of us, as we slip back into 'normal' life. Unfortunately, though, for many people their lives will never be the same again, and we must remember how lucky we are, be grateful for it and help wherever we can.

Community Care has been busy with happy events.

Our last pre-Shabbat Schmooze lunch held on February 24th was well attended once again and it's always good to see friends catching up with each other. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, the food provided by Aimee and Barbara Sandler from Cuisine d'Aimee was delicious as always and having Rabbi Dean attend was extra special. We are planning on having our next pre-Shabbat Schmooze lunch in April, after Pesach, watch the weekly emails for the date and time!

Special thanks to Bill and Gary who stayed and helped with washing the dishes afterwards.





The Community Care Market, together with the excellent Purim spiel held on March 5th was great fun and very well attended. Special thanks to members of the community who donated prizes for the raffle – Barbara Sandler, Lita Summerfield, Alana and Asher Assaraf and Rachel Zussman. Thanks also to the stall holders who made donations to Community Care, special thanks to Kate Slabbert for the beautiful, crocheted blanket and the homemade soap that she made for us to sell and also to everyone who donated their time in helping to set up the hall, sell the raffle tickets, helped on the stalls and then stayed behind to clear up afterwards. Let's do it all again next year, bigger and better!



By the time you are reading this, the AGMs for the community will have been held, with quite a few changes.

Rachel Zussman who was the Board secretary, was also the Board Rep for Community Care. She was a very valuable asset to our team, lots of good ideas, and we will miss her input a lot.

She is in the UK at present having landed a prestigious job for which we send her a Hearty Mazel Tov and wish for Good Luck in this new role. Her parents must be very proud (Kvell, Kvell!!) Thank you so much Rachel for being part of our team.

We would also like to thank the Board for its continued support of Community Care, and hope that the new Board will see fit to continue doing so.

And, last but not least, a HUGE thank you to Christine O' Brien for all the help she has given us over the years. In so many little ways which amount to big results she has redirected enquiries to us to the appropriate person, supplied us with info we have needed and helped in so many ways. We wish her lots of Good Luck for her new future.



Back to Community Care itself, we are still looking for volunteers to join our Telephone Tree. If you have a couple of hours a month you could spare, we would like to hear from you. We would really appreciate some more members who could help us stay connected with some of the members of our community who for various reasons might appreciate a call. Please contact Chris Shiller (details below).

In previous communications we have mentioned that we have a very generous and anonymous donor who gives us a weekly stipend that is essentially used to provide a Shabbat meal to anyone in our community who is in need. This has been going for some time now and has been very successful.

We are looking for more people who may be inclined to provide further assistance in this form of Tzedakah. Please be in touch with us and we can explain in more detail how this works, or feel free to provide a lump sum donation towards this very worthy cause. Thank you.

### **SO? HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY CARE TEAM HELP?**

As usual, we are here to help and support you and want you to feel comfortable to ask us for help: -

- After a fall or feeling unwell
- Finding it a challenge to do things for yourself,
- Need a helping hand short term,
- Perhaps need to just talk to someone,
- Need help with filling forms,
- Need someone to be with you when visiting a doctor,
- Or need support getting X-rays done.

We know some of these suggestions may not always be possible, but we can still help you put things into place for when they are. As always though, we need to know if you want help of some kind before we can give it.

Do **you** know of someone who is unwell, that would benefit from: -

- a phone call

MOST important at any time. People on their own, even if they are well, can feel very isolated and lonely, and a friendly voice can be very comforting OR

- a 'Get Well' card

- some flowers to cheer

- receive a frozen meal

Please get a family member to call us if you cannot.



# INDEPENDENCE IS WONDERFUL

But do think about how a helping hand can support you in achieving this.

Especially, when it is offered willingly by members of our team.

## LET US KNOW

We also want to know and share your good things and can only do so if we know about them, so please tell us if there is a special anniversary, or a new baby, or any other happy event on the horizon.

Please, continue to take care and stay safe.

Cheers

Lita (Chairperson) and the Community Care Team.

### **Contact:**

Chris Shiller 021 177 4934 [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz)

Lita Summerfield 021 297 9462 (TEXT ONLY) [serendipitylins40@gmail.com](mailto:serendipitylins40@gmail.com)

Lorna Orbell 022 026 2897 [chaim@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:chaim@slingshot.co.nz)

Or contact the office 09 524 4139



# Burial & Benevolent Society

## President Report

March 2023

Nga mihi nui kia koutou – shalom b'shalom and warm greetings.

Thank you for your support in attending this AGM. These meetings are important moments of reflection, an opportunity for us to look back on our collective work and be accountable to members.

Reading over my last year's report the first thing that struck me was the references to providing our services to the community through ongoing lockdowns, and the grief and challenges we experienced in not being able to be together at times of loss. Thankfully, this last year has been free of those constraints, and with all care, we have provided tahara, in person funeral services, shiva minyan services, K'vah Avot v'Imaot [new name pending], and stone settings.

We remember members who have passed away since the last AGM and extend our ongoing love and support to their families. May their memories be for a blessing.

### **Irene Levy, Claire and Laurie Reynolds, Janet Allen, Betty Barbalet, Norman Simms**

We add our condolences also to those members who have had a bereavement this year with family members overseas. We wish you a long life and may their memories be for a blessing.

As well as providing advice and immediate care to the bereaved, the committee helps navigate arrangements in partnership with Davis Funeral Services. We arrange tahara, attend to coordination and facilitation of the funeral service, and shiva minyan prayers. We make provision of a shiva food parcel and 7-day yahrzeit candle to families.

Thank you to those members who make up the Chevra Kaddisha in the service of tahara – the ritual care and preparation of the body for burial. It is a sacred task, chesed shel emet (a true act of kindness).

We have been pleased and relieved to be able to call on the spiritual guidance and leadership of Rabbi Dean Shapiro this last year for the work of funeral leading and minyan services.

This year Sue Pezaro and I have spent some considerable amount of time in correspondence and in meeting with office staff at Waikumete Cemetery about the management of the cemetery and burial plots. Thank you to members who have provided information about repurchased plots to help clarify the records. We have approx. 10 plots in the mixed burial area, 84 ash plots, and 65 burial plots. This will give us approx. a decade of burial space at Waikumete. There are Council plans for a new cemetery as many of the allocated sections of Waikumete are full. We will be consulted about the nature of a new cemetery section for our future and how we would like to manage that section.



Further to that, we have recently been in consultation with Auckland Council about their Cemeteries and Crematoria Code of Practice review and through this process raised issues particular to our community's section of Waikumete. Alongside the Rabbi we are information gathering and learning more about possible options for future burial practices including natural burial and alternative options for grave markings.

As for the benevolence side of our work, we are pleased to be able to offer financial relief and support to families and individuals when required. We work closely with the Senior Outreach Services and the Beth Shalom Community Care group whose work has enabled many in our community to stay connected and receive the help and advice they need. Thank you to both those groups and the workers and volunteers who provide that care and support. The work of any voluntary organisation is made manageable by the many hands that contribute to the work.

Our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed as lay readers and advisors on funerals, unveilings, minyan prayers and read psalms for people at times of need. The community thanks you for your service, your skilled lay reading and leadership. Thank you also to Naomi Johnson for her communication and services through the Ritual Committee of Beth Shalom.

Thank you to the elected committee for the past year Stephanie Markson, David Singer, and Barbara Sandler. We are particularly sad to be farewelling Barbara who has played a critical role connecting the work of Community Care with the B&B and whose thoughtful kindness and care by way of food parcels and visits has warmed many hearts. You are a treasure Barbara, and we thank you very much for your service on the committee and wish you well in your new adventures in Australia.

To the executive – Vice President David Zussman – thank you for your reliable thoughtful contributions. Jack Wilton, your commitment to the role of treasurer is 100% and so ably executed – thank you so much for your patience and care on the committee. Anyone who has been on a Board or committee knows that it is the Secretary who really does the work, and this committee is no exception. Thank you to Sue Pezaro for her tireless and reliable work at all levels of this committee but especially in her elected role as Secretary.

A special thanks to Christine O'Brien from 'the office' who knows where all the files are and reliably responds to short notice requests and calls and emails. Your 'know how' will be truly missed. We wish you well in your retirement.

Finally, to the membership for the support you give through your ongoing membership and often generous donations which allow us to support the community at times of need, we thank you.

**Sue Berman, President**



# Kvetch and Kvell

## **Kvetch and Kvell**

Feedback at Beth Shalom

Is there a positive experience you've had at Beth Shalom that you would like us and the community to know about or, oy vey, something that hasn't gone so well and needs some improvement?

Please get in touch and let us know. The contact for all feedback, the kvetch and the kvell, is [feedback@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:feedback@bethshalom.org.nz)

A member of the Board will endeavour to get back to you within one week.

Keep the channels of communication open – looking forward to hearing from you!



# Our Board members

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

PO Box 26 052, Epsom, Auckland 1344, New Zealand

Tel: 09 524 4139 Fax: 0282 552 3027

Office: [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)

Website: [www.bethshalom.org.nz](http://www.bethshalom.org.nz)

## Executive

Executive President, Michelle Wise, [president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:president@bethshalom.org.nz)

Vice President, Kate Bukowski, [kate.bukowski@gmail.com](mailto:kate.bukowski@gmail.com), Small Groups and JCC

Secretary, [secretary@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:secretary@bethshalom.org.nz)

Treasurer, David Singer, [treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz)

## Board members and portfolios

Leon Chapman, [chap@talk.co.nz](mailto:chap@talk.co.nz)

Jonathan Parsons, [jonathan.parsons@sharenz.com](mailto:jonathan.parsons@sharenz.com)

Roger Reynolds, [rreynolds@extra.co.nz](mailto:rreynolds@extra.co.nz)

Arie Rosen, [rosenari@gmail.com](mailto:rosenari@gmail.com), Ritual and Education

Trudi Sawyer, [trudi.sawyer@yahoo.com](mailto:trudi.sawyer@yahoo.com), Shammashim

Viv Josephs, [philvivjosephs@gmail.com](mailto:philvivjosephs@gmail.com)

Daniel Josephs, [danielcjosephs@gmail.com](mailto:danielcjosephs@gmail.com)

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Community Care, including Senior Outreach,

- Lita Summerfield, [serendipitylins40@gmail.com](mailto:serendipitylins40@gmail.com)
- Chris Shiller, [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz)

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society, Sue Berman ... Phone: 022 051 3589, Email: [secretary@ajbbs.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ajbbs.org.nz)

**Service times are Fridays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 10am.**

**Our Covid policy has changed.**

We encourage you to wear a mask at Beth Shalom, but this is no longer a requirement.