



TERUAH

Tammuz 5783

June 2023

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

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From Rabbi Dean

It's been fifteen years since I stood on the magnificent bimah of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, beneath a hand-embroidered chuppah, wearing a white ceremonial robe. Rabbi David Ellenson, Chancellor of Hebrew Union College, laid his hands on my shoulders, whispered in my ear, blessed me, and pronounced me "Rabbi of Israel."

These fifteen years followed five years of training. I've now been on this path longer than I worked in the film business, longer than all my years as a student combined. Of all the pillars of my life, only my relationship with Haim has lasted longer! I've met so many people through this sacred work. I've met hundreds of children. Some are full of giggles and stories, while others are shy and quiet or afraid. All have ideas and insights and feelings; each is precious.

I've met teachers who delight in their time with those children, for whom the hours spent in the classroom and on the playground make the rest of the week worthwhile. I've known teenagers in the midst of creating themselves, whether by achieving or by getting by. There is no greater honour than to stand before the open ark with someone who just became bar or bat mitzvah, hearing them share their private truth. Most of those teenagers find themselves, but some lose themselves.

I've stood with couples of all ages brimming with love, and individuals of all ages with hearts broken and torn. I've sat with people hungry for another day of life, for another smile from a loved one or lick of ice cream, and people wracked with pain, exhausted and ready to rest. I've held people as they face excruciating decisions and as they embrace delicious opportunities.

I've seen people who know their cups runneth over, regardless of circumstance, who share that sweetness with others. I've seen people, regardless of circumstance, who believe their cup holds only bitterness, and who spill that into the world. All these have welcomed me into their lives in profound and intimate ways, and I've grown from each encounter.

This sacred work has carried me to board rooms - usually beige and air conditioned - and summer camp, messy and rowdy. As a rabbi, I've visited the parliaments of New Zealand and Australia, the Knesset of Israel, and the US Capitol, speaking with Ministers and Members, Senators and Ambassadors.

It's introduced me to activists in the mountains of Guatemala and the Apache lands of the Arizonan desert, in church meeting rooms and Union halls and city streets. It's taken me to grand homes and humble ones, and I've been welcomed in all of them with equally open hearts.

Each of these - each of you - has left your mark on my heart. Being a rabbi is great, but it isn't easy. Each day brings a challenge, a squeeze, a conflict. People want the rabbi's time and attention. They sometimes believe the rabbi is the only one who can solve a certain problem.

It's a challenge to say "no," or "not now," especially to people I care about, people who are working on worthy projects. I am learning the limits of my capacity. If I'm all "Rabbi" and no "Dean," I'm no good to anyone, including myself.

You learn a lot about life when you're a frequent visitor to the cemetery. You're reminded that time is limited, that relationships that count most, and that love lasts forever. Funerals enable us to grieve for the deceased. They also allow us to contemplate mortality. The

passages we read at funerals and at Yizkor seek to stimulate feelings within us. They also impart the wisdom of what's most important in our lives. One particular passage sticks a bit in my throat whenever I read it. That's because I hope it can be read honestly when my own time comes.

Help us, then, to fulfill the promise that is in each of us, and so to conduct ourselves that, generations hence, it will be true to say of us: the world is better because, for a brief space, they lived in it. For fifteen years, that has been my quest as a rabbi.”

Rabbi Dean's Ordination

At Rabbi Dean's ordination on 18 May, 2008/13 Iyar 5768, each member of his class published their Rabbinic Vision. As they entered the grand sanctuary of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, they each carried a Torah scroll rolled to a verse that inspired them. On the fifteenth anniversary of Rabbi Dean's smicha/ordination, we share his statement with you. You may notice this sentence in his biographical notes: "Following ordination, Dean will serve Beth Shalom, the Progressive Jewish Community of Auckland, New Zealand."

DEAN EDWARD SHAPIRO

Dean has rolled his Torah scroll to Genesis 37:15-16



וַיִּמְצְאוּ אִישׁ וְהָנָה תַּעֲה בְּשָׂדֶה וַיִּשְׁאַלְהוּ הָאִישׁ לְאִמֹּר מַה־תִּבְקֶשׁ : (ויאמר את־אחי אֲנִי מְבַקֵּשׁ הַגִּידָה נָא לִי אֵיפֹה הֵם רְעִים :

Soon after he leaves home on the journey that will last a lifetime, Joseph meets a man in the fields around Shechem. "Ma i'vakesh," the unnamed man asks the wandering youth. "What do you seek?" This is the paradigmatic question for all who set out on a quest, at once powerful and poignant. The quests we pursue make us who we are, and if we don't know what we seek, we are unlikely ever to find it.

This is the question we all long to be asked: What is your quest? What do you need? What makes you come alive?

Many great figures have answered the question, "What do you seek?" Their answers reveal their natures, for a quest is always suited to the one making it. Joseph's answer tells us not just about him, but also about the Jewish mission. "Er achai anochi m'vakesh." Joseph seeks his brothers, pasturing the flocks in the Judean hills. His quest is not for himself alone, but rather for the wider community of which he is part. Joseph recognizes the obligation he bears for his brothers despite their animosity to him. He is responsible for their well-being, their *shalom*. This is the corrective to Cain's self-serving question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). For Joseph and for us all, the answer is certainly "yes."

Judaism promotes communities of shared obligation, oases of compassion in a world that too often celebrates unbridled individualism. Judaism encourages relationships based on shared humanity rather than momentary utility. As Hillel asks, "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" (Pirkei Avot, 1:14). We are obliged to help the lost, to aid the needy, to stand with the oppressed, to care for others in their pain. We can expect support when we know difficulty. We are our fellows' keeper.

As I stand poised to become a rabbi of Israel, I ask myself what I seek, and pray that it may always be for the good of my family and my community: to accompany others on their Jewish journeys, to celebrate joy and mark sorrow, to teach, learn and listen, to ask good questions, to deepen the conversation, to challenge and to be challenged, and to amplify justice in the world. I pray always to be worthy of this privilege.

What do you seek?

Dean Shapiro is a native of Los Angeles and a graduate of Harvard College. He comes to the rabbinate after a career in international film distribution and is married to Haim Ainsworth. Dean will receive a Certificate in Jewish Communal Service from HUC tomorrow. Following ordination, Dean will serve Beth Shalom, the Progressive Jewish Community of Auckland, New Zealand.

Dean will be presented for Ordination by Rabbi Denise L. Eger of Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, California.

In Celebration of Rabbi Dean's Anniversary, Beth Shalom has multiple events planned in June.

Celebrating RABBI DEAN

Marking the 15th Anniversary of his ordination,
Rabbi Dean returns to Beth Shalom as our first on-going rabbi.
We honour him and learn from him - and engage in Tikkun Olam together.

Honouring Rabbi Dean

Shabbat Service, 17 June 10 AM
Oneg with Light Lunch to follow

Tree Planting with Rabbi Dean

Sunday, 18 June at 10 AM
Ambury Park - RSVP Required
All welcome - See separate graphic

Celebrating with Rabbi Dean

Wine Tasting & Havdalah
Saturday, 10 June at 4 PM
Vic Road Kitchen, Devonport
Adults only
RSVP appreciated to office@BethShalom.org.nz

Shalom, Rabbi Dean

Sunday School, 25 June at 2 PM

Learning with Rabbi Dean

10 June – Rabbi's Tisch at 11:30,
following Shabbat services
21 June – Webinar: NZ 2050 & Beyond
See separate graphic for more



בית שalom
בית שלום



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

We can support Rabbi Dean's work by contributing to his Discretionary Fund. These monies are used to assist congregants in times of need and to support important causes.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/celebrating-rabbi-dean-shapiro>

Saturday, June 10th Wine Tasting & Havdalah

Meet us there, or join us on the 3:30 Ferry from the CBD!



Let's Celebrate
with **RABBI DEAN & HAIM**

Join us for Wine Tasting & Havdalah
Saturday, 10 June at 4 PM
Vic Road Kitchen, Devonport - vicroadkitchen.co.nz
Ferry from CBD at 3:30 / Adults only
RSVP appreciated to office@BethShalom.org.nz

Marking the 15th Anniversary of his ordination, Rabbi Dean returns to Beth Shalom as our first on-going rabbi.

BETH SHALOM
בית שלום

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

Climate Hope Webinar Series

Many of us feel the call to care for Creation. We know the changing climate puts us - and many species - at risk. The Religious Diversity Centre of Aotearoa/New Zealand invites you to a series of webinars called "Building a Climate of Hope." We'll hear from world leaders and NZ climate scientists about what to expect in coming decades, and what we can do to protect this beautiful, vibrant planet. All are welcome.

Rabbi Dean hosts the 21 June event, a chance to hear from climate scientists about the future of New Zealand - including Beth Shalom's own Jim Salinger.

Register today at <https://rdc.org.nz/rdc-webinar-series-2023/>



**14 June - 5 July 2023**
7.30 - 8.30pm NZDT

REGISTER

E TŌ TE MANA O TE AO

BUILDING A CLIMATE OF HOPE



CARING FOR OUR WORLD - TOGETHER

WEBINAR SERIES

MODERATED BY



Rod Oram
Business Journalist

14 June



Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE
Founder - the Jane Goodall Institute & UN
Messenger of Peace
Hope for an Endangered Planet

28 June



Mary Moeana-Kolio
Climate Activist, Pacific Climate Warriors
Hope for our Pacific Region

21 June



Rabbi Dean Shapiro
Hope for Aotearoa New
Zealand's Future

5 July



Rt Hon Helen Clark
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand
and Former Administrator of UNDP
Hope for our World

ATTENTION BETH SHALOM PARENTS!

Do you want your children to have Jewish friends,
have a strong Jewish identity,
know about Jewish culture and history
and become a Bat or Bar Mitzvah?

BRING THEM ALONG FOR A TASTE OF JEWISH LEARNING!

Who: 7-11 year olds
When: Every 2nd Sunday, 2-4pm
Next: Sunday 11th June
Where: Beth Shalom

If you haven't already, email us now....

...to let us know who's coming and how old they are

...for more info

Learning@BethShalom.org.nz



Remaining Term 2 Dates:

11 June

25 June

Sounds of the Sacred

Lenny Bloksberg presented an item on Jewish music for the recent “Sounds of the Sacred” concert organised by the Sri Chinmoy Centre.

Lenny says he chose to take people on a 10 minute tour of Jewish music, using only music from our regular prayer book Mishkan Tefillah and only tunes that are part of our regular service, creating a selection with different melodies, and with little or no explanation.

The idea was to let the music speak to the heart instead of letting words take people into the head. Lenny started with the Shofar, followed by an ancient, pre-biblical shepherding tune, then chanting Torah (v'ahavta) and finally a selection of Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Yemenite tunes for a selection of our regular prayers.

Thank you, Lenny, for such a well presented selection of Jewish liturgical music. The audience really appreciated your contribution.

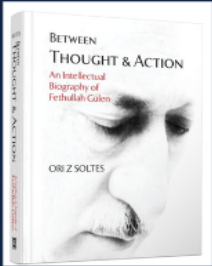


Wednesday 14th June Interfaith Event

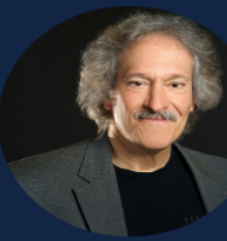
Beth Shalom has partnered with the Pearl of the Islands who are hosting Professor Ori Soltes, a Jewish academic, who will be discussing his latest book "Between Thought and



BOOK LAUNCH & DISCUSSION



Prof Soltes discusses why he wrote this book whilst laying out a broad & concise overview of Fethullah Gülen, his fascinating spiritual and intellectual journey, and his idea of civic Islam to serve the community



DATE: WEDNESDAY 14TH OF JUNE 2023
TIME: 6:00 PM FOR 6:30 PM START
**VENUE: ST COLUMBA CENTRE,
40 VERMONT ST,
PONSONBY, AUCKLAND**
RSVP: VIA HUMANITIX [LINK](#) OR SCAN QR CODE



Prof Ori Soltes teaches at Georgetown University across a range of disciplines, from art history and theology to philosophy and political history. He has spent a lifetime wrestling with questions that resonate through the history of the human experience. His dynamic teaching, lecturing, curating and writing reflect a broad series of interests and a unique ability to combine them in unusual ways that are thought-provoking and both challenging and intellectually exciting.

PROMOTED BY:



Action - An

Intellectual Biography of Fethullah Gülen."

To RSVP please [Click Here](#) There is no charge to attend.

Sunday, June 18th - Ambury Park Tree Planting



For more information on the tree planting event including a map [Click Here](#)

The council requires attendees to pre-book for this free event: [Click here](#)

****Please note we will have a Hebrew School families group at the tree planting. Please bring your own picnic and picnic blanket as well as raincoats.**

Text Mira on 02257485 to be added to Hebrew school social what's app group



Jewish Book Club (JBC) Monday June 19th

1:30 -2:00 pm coffee

2:00-3:30pm discussion

Where:

At Valerie Levy's home, 2/12 Lonsdale Street, Ellerslie 1050

Or Via Zoom

Please RSVP your choice - Valerie's home OR Zoom

To email:

sp@canada.kiwi.nz

June Winter Clothes Appeal

Children at the **Women's Refuge** are in need of pyjamas and warm clothing. If you have any new or near new pyjamas or warm clothing for children - from babies to teenage - or are able to purchase a new pair of pyjamas - please donate!

The collection boxes are in the beth shalom foyer - thank you.

**WARM WINTER WEAR AND PYJAMAS
FOR CHILDREN NEEDED AT THE
WOMEN'S REFUGE CENTER**



Community Care

"Community Care - Keeping in Touch With the Community"

Caringconnectingcelebrating....

So what is the Community Care Committee all about?

We are a group of volunteers, from all walks of life, who offer help and support to **all** members of the community. We do this in both the good times - welcoming new members, helping to celebrate life cycle events - and also, the not so good times such as personal loss or family illness.

This can take the form of hospital, home or rest home visits; provide meals, assist with shopping, transport to events and services or maybe just a friendly phone call.

If we are unable to help you ourselves, we can assist you in accessing a community service that can help with your specific needs.

Please note that in every aspect of our work in the community, we are very mindful of your privacy.

Does helping in the community and getting to know members of the congregation appeal to you? We are always happy to welcome volunteers onto the committee. It is not a demanding position and any

extra help means that we can support our community even more. Some of the activities you could be involved with are:

- Being part of our telephone tree, a wonderful way to keep in touch with our members.
- Delivering meals
- Assisting with organising shul events such as pot luck dinners, lunches or other events.

We also welcome any ideas that you may have that will enable us to provide better service to our community.

Please contact Chris Shiller email shiller@orcon.net.nz or contact Beth Shalom office on 09 524 4139, email office@bethshalom.org.nz to be put in touch with one of our team.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Debbie Miller's Pottery and Judaica

I make pottery and more specifically I make Judaica which can be made to order for special occasions such as a bar/bat mitzva, or a wedding with your child's Hebrew and/English name on it, as well as their parsha and the date on say a Kiddush cup or candlesticks. I also make mezuzot, havdalah sets, seder plates and other keepsakes. I make pots which are all food safe, as well as safe to use in the microwave, oven or dishwasher.

Contact: eadvertising@extra.co.nz or 0277653677



Beth Shalom Walking Group – Join us!



Please contact us if you would like to join our next walk. You can contact us through the Beth Shalom Walkers' WhatsApp group or by emailing Tanya Thomson on tanyathomsonnz@gmail.com

Prayers for Healing

If you would like our home prayer group to pray for healing for you or for someone close to you, please advise the office.

Kvetch and Kvell: Feedback at Beth Shalom

To give constructive feedback - whether positive or negative - please email feedback@bethshalom.org.nz.

Contact Us

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

Email: office@bethshalom.org.nz

Website: www.bethshalom.org.nz

Our Board Members

Executives

President, Michelle Wise, president@bethshalom.org.nz

Vice President, Kate Bukowski, kate.bukowski@gmail.com Small Groups and JCC

Secretary, secretary@bethshalom.org.nz

Board members

Leon Chapman, chap@talk.co.nz

Jonathan Parsons, jonathan.parsons@sharenz.com

Roger Reynolds, rreynolds@xtra.co.nz

Arie Rosen, rosenari@gmail.com - Ritual and Education

Trudi Sawyer, trudi.sawyer@yahoo.com - Shammashim

Viv Josephs, philvivjosephs@gmail.com

Daniel Josephs, danielcjosephs@gmail.com

Community Care, including Senior Outreach,

Lita Summerfield - serendipitylms40@gmail.com

Chris Shiller - shiller@orcon.net.nz

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society

Sue Berman ... Phone: 022 051 3589, Email:

secretary@ajbbs.org.nz

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