



TERU[▲]AH

DECEMBER 2011 / KISLEV 5772

● CELEBRATE CHANUKAH

The fourth night of Chanukah, Friday December 23, will be a night for celebration at Beth Shalom. Bring your chanukiah and candles, latkes, donuts, finger-food and dessert to share.

● SKIPPING FOR CHRISTMAS

South Auckland children at Wymondley School will enjoy skipping with new skipping ropes through a Beth Shalom tikun olam project. Stephanie Markson has raised \$800 to buy new ropes to be given to the children this Christmas.

The decile 1 school, situated in Otara has been supported by various projects from Beth Shalom, including profits from Roger Reynolds' 60th- birthday concert, Habitat housing, and Sophie Kranz is collecting sports gear for her tikun olam bat mitzvah project.

● NEW TEACHERS NEEDED

The Beth Shalom Hebrew School is seeking two new teachers for next year. Most urgent is a teacher for the b'nei mitzvah class. An updated Hebrew School application form will be ready when the students return in February, enabling information to be entered into the computer, for communication and emergencies.

● SHABBATON A GREAT SUCCESS

More than 90 people took part in Beth Shalom's Shabbaton last weekend.

They enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of Carey Park and the many activities on offer, including talks from Rabbi Peter Knobel and Rabbi Adi Cohen from Wellington, Jewish yoga, a Shabbat quiz and great meals.

Toda raba Rabbi Peter and Elaine Knobel

BETH SHALOM have been enjoying the visit of Rabbi Peter Knobel and his wife Elaine to Auckland. Some of the children are shown with Rabbi Knobel in the photo at right taking part in the Rosh Hashanah family service.

The Knobels were in Auckland for three months over the High Holydays.

A leader in the American Reform movement, Rabbi Knobel is past-president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and co-chaired the committee responsible for Mishkan T'filah, the first Reform prayer book for 30 years. While he was here, he gave a series of adult education classes, played a major role in a board retreat and took part in the weekend family camp in December.

"The visit of Rabbi Peter



Ilan Wittenberg 2011

and Elaine Knobel has been an outstanding success," said Beth Shalom president Rob Bernstein.

"The depth of his knowledge, humour and understanding of complex issues, and his ability to communicate this with simplicity and elegance, has been highly beneficial for this community," he said.

"His guidance in envision-

ing a future has been of great benefit to the board. Everyone who attended the Shabbaton, his classes, his services and met him personally found him not only very knowledgeable but easy to approach.

"We are deeply grateful to the Knobels, and their presence will be long remembered."

Ner Tamid award to Goldwaters

Leon and Sue Goldwater (pictured) have been jointly awarded the prestigious UPJ Ner Tamid award.

"The calibre of the nominations received for this award has been outstanding," said president of the Union of Progressive Judaism, David Robinson.



"Leon and Sue richly deserve to be among this year's winners."

Since the Goldwaters joined Beth Shalom in

1993, Leon has served as treasurer, secretary and two terms as vice president, has helped tutor b'nei mitzvah students, chaired the Constitution committee, the Policy committee and is the current chair of the Ritual committee.

Sue has been an active member of the Community Care committee, and was its chair in 2006- 2007, works on Beth Shalom's much admired gardens, and is an active member of the Burial and Benevolent Society.

The Beth Shalom Buzz

THERE IS a wonderful Buzz around Beth Shalom these past weeks – all happy news, I am glad to report.

FIRST, OUR family is growing! A hearty mazel tov to Roni and Ron Neeley on the arrival of their daughter, Mika. We have missed Roni's smiling face as a teacher around the Hebrew School, but are pleased to know that she is providing students instead.

WE ALSO wish a warm welcome to the newest edition to the Bruell family. Peter and Claire are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Lily Alice Bruell, to Ezra and Yvette in Melbourne. Little Lily may be a first for Peter and Claire, but she has 20 cousins on the Fleiszig side of the family.

THE BRUELL family are also celebrating an engagement – that of their son Anton to Vanessa Newton-Wade. The young couple share an interest in music and tramping. Vanessa plays the oboe while Anton, is not only well-known for his superb shofar playing at Beth Shalom but also plays the flute and the saxophone.

LEON AND Reeva Chapman are proud



LEARNING TO COOK A ROSH HASHANAH MEAL

Twelve fortunate Beth Shalom men and women learnt how to cook a traditional meal for the Rosh Hashanah – and then enjoyed eating it. Tutor Shelly Tenenbaum, pictured standing, taught the group how to cook challah, fish soup, gefilte fish, and honey cake and how to make chrein (horse radish sauce) using handed-down Romanian recipes.

grandparents of daughter Sianne Olphert's beautiful new daughter. Mazel tov to all on these happy events.

BOWLING WHIZ

Howard Sandler (pictured) is the 2010 – 2011 Coach of the Year. Howard gained the award through his knowledge, expertise and professional manner. He has done much for the sport, serving in many different roles both on a voluntary and a professional basis, including Bowls NZ coach, the Auckland Bowls coaching co-ordinator and is also the coach of the Israel National bowls team. He works closely with youth bowls being the National Secondary Schools coach for Region 1. Congratulations, Howard. That's some achievement.



DEVORAH BLOCK and her husband Danielle Angelloto who were married in Italy last year by John Pezaro will be visiting from

Florence at the end of this month. They will be at Beth Shalom on the last Shabbat of the year, December 30 and Devorah would love to introduce Danielle to her Auckland whanau. Devorah is the daughter of Kathy and Jonathan Block who were active members in the 1990s.

THEA DICKSON'S mum Julie recently shared the news that Thea had managed to gain the highest score in the country for the year 6 ICAS English exams. These tests are standardised exams administered throughout Australasia in a selection of subjects. Thea will receive a New South Wales Education Medal for her outstanding effort. Just for the record, this is the second medal Thea has received. Wow!

THE KEYNOTE speaker at symposium discussing the survival of Maori and Pasifika language at Victoria University this month was Professor Bernard Spolsky, visiting from Jerusalem. Over the last 40 years, he has written and edited many books and articles and taught at Bar Ilan university on language testing, policy, attitudes and identity. In between speaking at an Auckland University conference and the Wellington one, he visited with his sister Ruth Thomas.

AS THE school year draws to a close, we want to congratulate all of the students who are graduating from secondary school this year. In particular we would like to do a shout out to Matan Aharon, Daniel and Jacob Jensen, Adele Miller, Billie Pedersen, Jarryd Peterson, and Elena Cukier. Forgive us if we have forgotten anyone. We wish you all the very biggest mazel tov on whatever your futures hold!

WE WISH the very best to Paul and Wendy Wilton who recently shared the wonderful milestone of 25 years of marriage! May the next 25 be as special!

● AGM FOR MARCH

The Beth Shalom annual general meeting will be held on March 18, 2012, the board agreed at its last meeting.

"There is an opening for new members to join the board. Please consider standing," president Rob Bernstein said.

● CHILDREN'S CLOTHES NEEDED

There will be a collection of clothing at Beth Shalom, from Sukkot to Pesach, for children of the Women's Refuge. Clothing for boys and girls of all ages is needed.

The collection box is located in the Beth Shalom community hall. Enquiries to Pam, Ph. 6302051.

BIRTH NOTICE

BRUELL (FLEISZIG)
Melbourne

Ezra and Yvette

are thrilled to announce the arrival of

LILY ALICE
Shoshana

on Wednesday 21st September, 2011

Granddaughter for
Peter and Claire Bruell

Leonie and Luis Fleiszig (Melbourne)

Great granddaughter for
Kato Fleiszig

Alice and Frank Briess (deceased)
Lilly and Fred Bruell (deceased)
Rosa and Harry Pinch (deceased)
Laci Fleiszig (deceased)



UDI DVORKIN

\$27,800 Pincus Fund grant for Beth Shalom Hebrew School

An exciting project to design and pilot a new curriculum will start coinciding with the beginning of the Hebrew School year on February 12, 2012.

The project costing more than \$55,000 over the next two years will benefit both Beth Shalom's children and teachers and provide teacher training and new resources.

The project will be fronted by Beth Shalom educational director Udi Dvorkin and has been made possible by a \$27,800 grant from the L. A. Pincus Fund for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, with 50% from Beth Shalom including a smaller amount from the Auckland Zionist Society.

At present, Beth Shalom employs Udi for only 10 hours a week. The generous support of the Pincus Fund will allow him to increase his present hours to 25 hours a week and to administer the project.

"We are delighted with this support for

Udi's project which will greatly improve Jewish education and benefit the children at the Hebrew School and Beth Shalom," said Beth Shalom president Rob Bernstein.

"Congratulations on all the work Udi has done to bring the Pincus vFund grant to fruition."

In 2012, teachers at the Hebrew School will map the current Jewish studies curriculum, as well as areas needing change, with guidance from an outside educational consultant experienced with working with small Jewish communities. Teachers will receive teacher training and a survey of parents and school graduates will also be conducted. Udi will also visit other Progressive Sunday schools in Sydney and Melbourne to gain more information.

The new curriculum based on Jewish studies and the Jewish year will be piloted in 2013 providing 90 minutes of instruction for each class session. The support of the Pincus Fund will allow new resources including workbooks, dvds and cds for the children to be purchased.

The final day of Hebrew School for this year is December 11 and will be a Hanukah party.

Noah's pudding after Shabbat service

If you want to share a taste of Noah's pudding, Friday December 9 will be the night at Beth Shalom.

Noah's pudding is said to be the meal cooked when the ark beached on Mt Ararat, made up of the leftover ingredients from his pantry. Today it contains everything from spices, to beans, to dried fruit.

The pudding is a traditional Muslim desert, prepared in large quantities to be shared with others during the Festival of Ashure.



It will be brought to Beth Shalom to be eaten for the Kabbalat Shabbat service by Turkish friends, from the Pearl of the Islands Foundation (PIF), a foundation set up to contribute to the cultural mosaic of New Zealand. Pictured are members of the PIF with Beth Shalom's Naomi Johnson.

The evening will also be a celebration for the year's end at the Hebrew School and will be their prize giving. Please bring food to share.

Rabbi Peter Knobel contributes: Assisted suicide and euthanasia – a Jewish view

Interest in suicide, assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia has been highlighted recently by the Dunedin court case of micro-biologist Sean Davison, who helped his mother, terminally ill with cancer and on a hunger strike, to die. After his trial, Davison, asked that the issues should be discussed. Rabbi Peter Knobel contributes this column and presents his view, using Talmudic texts.



he makes arrangements in advance to avoid that, and that others show more respect for his life if they avoid it for him. We cannot sensibly argue that he must sacrifice his own interests out of respect for the inviolability of human life. (3)

I have concluded that one can make a Jewish case for assisted suicide and active euthanasia through the reading of a number of classic Talmudic texts. I have used the concept of the terefah, the terminally ill patient who if one takes that person's life it is not considered a crime punishable by a human court, and also the story of the martyrdom of Rabbi Haninah ben Teradion and the death of Rabbi Judah the Prince, as well as others. (See Suicide, Assisted Suicide, Active Euthanasia: An Halakhic Inquiry on the Beth Shalom website <http://www.bethshalom.org.nz/suicide-assisted-suicide-active-euthanasia-an-halakhic-inquiry> for full details.)

Death is part of the meaning of life. How one dies ought to be consistent with how one lived one's life. In most cases, we do not have a choice about the way we die. Judaism values the pursuit of health and the preservation of life as very important mitzvot. Arguments against capital punishment in Judaism exhibit an extreme theological resistance to even the termination of the life of one who has committed a capital offense. Therefore, extreme caution must be taken that permission given in "hard cases" does not become a slippery slope in which people will be encouraged to "do the right thing" and terminate their lives or ask others to do it for them.

However, it is also clear in Judaism that biological life, while an important value, is not a supreme value which overrides all other considerations. Therefore, in extreme situations the termination of human life is not considered a sin but is praiseworthy. The determining factor is whether the termination of life is consistent with the preservation of the person as being created *btzelem elohim*. In other words, does the continuation of biological life violate the sacred character of the individual's life?

Therefore, the aggadah, the sacred narrative of a person's life becomes part of the halakhic decision making process.

Ideally the person, family, physician and rabbi⁴ will be involved in the initial decision. The decision would be reviewed by impartial medical and rabbinic experts.

While this seems cumbersome, it is necessary to avoid conflict of interest and rash decisions. This is a permissible limitation on autonomy.

To conclude, for a terminally person in unrelenting pain:

1. Suicide would be seen as a morally permissible act when undertaken to preserve the sacred quality of a person's life, i.e., consistent with a person's biography. Care must be taken to prevent suicide which is the result of temporary depression.
2. Assisted suicide is permitted when the decision is a rational one which can be demonstrated to be consistent with the person's own biography.
3. Active voluntary euthanasia is permitted when the person has waived his/her right not to be killed and is consistent with the person's biography.

It is an excruciatingly difficult moral problem – the circumstances under which killing is permitted and who may terminate a human life. (1) Framed slightly differently, we have the following issues: in the case of a terminally ill person or one who is suffering severe and unrelenting pain, would suicide, assisted suicide or voluntary active euthanasia be morally permissible? If so, under what circumstances?

The question has more than theoretical interest. Our acts and attitudes will help shape the social matrix of ethical decision making. Our goal is to give advice to Jewish ethicists, health care professionals, patients and their loved ones. In matters of life and death we must exhibit care that we do not undermine precisely the values we hope to support, namely, the dignity and sanctity of human life. (2)

Most Jewish ethicists who have written on the subject oppose assisted suicide and active euthanasia on halakhic grounds. I argue that under limited circumstances and for certain individuals, suicide is an appropriate Jewish ethical option.

The legal theorist Ronald Dworkin writes:

Someone who thinks his own life would go worse if he lingered near death on a dozen machines for weeks or stayed biologically alive for years as a vegetable believes that he is showing more respect for the human contribution to the sanctity of his life if

1. The use of the term "killing" is deliberate. Avoiding euphemisms makes the moral seriousness of the issue clear.nd

2. Arguments against sanctioning suicide, assisted suicide and active voluntary euthanasia invoke the concept of the "slippery slope" or the "wedge." Ethically one must always attempt to deal with unintended consequences. How does our desire to help an individual in a particular situation create circumstances that will harm others, e.g. if we sanction suicide for a severely handicapped person who finds life intolerable, do we inadvertently pressure other handicapped persons to "do the right thing" and take their own lives? Do we not encourage society to consider them a burden rather than an ethical responsibility?³ Ibid.

pp.215-. Similarly Dan W. Brock identifies self determination as a significant criterion for making mortal decisions. He defines self determination as "people's interest in making important decisions about their lives for themselves, according to their own values or conception of a good life, and being left free to act on those decisions. Self-determination is valuable because it permits people to form and live in accordance with their own conception of a good life at least within the bounds of justice and consistent with others doing so as well. Life and Death Philosophical Essays in Biomedical Ethics. Cambridge, England ,1993. pp.205-206.4. David Sinclair, Tradition and the Biological Revolution Edinburgh,1989, p.81.

Jewish education helped by Beth Shalom legacies

\$40,000 has been donated for educational purposes from the Educational Bequest Fund in the last 16 years, says retiring committee co-ordinator Claire Bruell.

"By combining two relatively small amounts we have been able to ensure many Beth Shalom people have benefited over the years," she said. The Educational Bequest committee was established to administer funds given to Beth Shalom for the Hebrew School and Jewish education generally. It sponsors courses of study, teaching materials, educational projects and youth activities within the scope of the requirements of the fund.

In 1994, Beth Shalom received \$35,000 as a result of two legacies, \$20,000 from Alice Erman and \$15,000 from Rudi Bytiner, both Holocaust survivors. Rudi Bytiner arrived in New Zealand from Austria in 1933. He worked in Farmers in the men's wear department and was a regular attendee at Shabbat services at

Beth Shalom. Alice Erman came to New Zealand via Kenya in 1972. She left the bulk of her large estate to the Auckland Zionist Society, now established as the Erman Trust. She also left \$20,000 to Beth Shalom and money to various other charities.

The following year a community meeting was held to gain Beth Shalom input on how to handle the two legacies.

The first committee of seven people was set up after that, with Claire Bruell as co-ordinator.

"The number of people proved too cumbersome for the task and the committee was reduced to four," Claire said.

This year Claire will retire from the committee after 16 years, and David Robinson will also retire. John Pezaro will continue on the committee as will Jude Berman who will take over as co-ordinator.

"We need new people for the committee who know the Beth Shalom community well and also have an eye to managing money. It is not a big job with three cut-off points for applications each year," Claire said.

She is proud of the fund's achievements.

"At present Sarah Livschitz and Tali Josephs are on their way back from their time in Israel, helped in part by our funding.

"It feels really worthwhile to be able to

● INVALUABLE SUPPORT FROM SERVICE TO BETH SHALOM

"The Beth Shalom board would like to acknowledge Claire Bruell's effort and commitment to the Educational Bequest Fund.

"For 16 years she has worked quietly co-ordinating the committee. It not only takes time but energy to sustain a commitment of this length," president Rob Bernstein said.

"David Robinson is also retiring from the committee and we thank him for his services".

support young people who travel to Israel for a year on various courses and then return to give back their energy, time and expertise to the community."

At present low interest rates make the managing of funds somewhat difficult, she said.

But over the years, with higher rates of interest, it has been possible to fund visiting speakers, fund air fares for Hebrew School teachers to Limmud in Australia before it was established here and also buy such resources as an overhead projector for the rabbi.

The Beth Shalom board have also contributed money from time to time, such as the interest from the Julian Nathan bequest.

Night of Jewish humour for Auckland

If you want to learn what is so distinctive about Jewish humour, and have lots of laughs too, keep the date December 15. Leonard Wise, a huge success at Limmud Toronto will be presenting an amusing and analytical discussion on Jewish humour, illustrated by jokes that disclose the unique nature of the Jewish psyche. Leonard Wise built a highly successful

second career while working as a lawyer through his talent for writing. He first contributed comedy sketches to a college show, then later wrote and acted in Canadian television shows. In 2010, he wrote and presented his talk, "What makes comedy Jewish" for Limmud Toronto. "I'm excited to share my expertise with the Auckland Jewish community," he said.

● FUND RAISING FOR SANCTUARY NEXT YEAR

The fund raising appeal for the Beth Shalom sanctuary refurbishment will be launched at the community seder in April next year, the Beth Shalom board decided at its November meeting.

The committee is hard at work and a full list of what the sanctuary refurbishment will entail was presented to the board, including the relocation of the ark and bimah to a temporary sanctuary in the hall, seats to be re-made, the floor to be stripped and a new ark, bimah and stone shelves to be made.

● HABO CAMP IN WELLINGTON IN JANUARY

Habonim Dror summer camp will be held in Tangi-Moana, an hour and a half's drive from Wellington from 3-13 January, 2012.

"It is great that our rosh machine Gil Preston has been able to find a location down south after a long run of camping near Auckland," said shlicha Osnat Dvorkin. "Habo camp is the largest Jewish and Zionist informal education programme for youth.

"It is also one of the only summer camps that is still hard core, complete with tents, river and the wonderful 'beites'(toilets)," she said.

In lieu of a donation to the summer camp brochure the Beth Shalom board agreed at its last meeting to donate \$100 towards the costs of the summer camp.

Hectic but awesome life for young dancer

Debbie Swiatek managed to squeeze in some time with Perry Wilton for a chat about his dancing. He had just finished his year 12 exams, but had gone back to college to teach a younger class about acceptance of those who are different as part of his work as a school prefect and volunteer with the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind. And then he was off for a dance practice.

Many of you have already seen the award-winning portrait taken by Ilan Wittenberg of the dancer with his back gracefully arched as he leaps into the air – that is Perry Wilton. The 17-year-old has been dancing since he was five. He started learning jazz, then moved into ballet and contemporary dance, first with Auckland West Dancing and then the Auckland Academy of Dance.

He dances for 12 hours a week and is passionate about his dancing. He has been taking dance exams for years as well and is now at a point where he is one of only two young male dancers at his level. His best friends are dancers too. He believes that the other dancers have seen him at his worst (sweaty and exhausted!) and his best, and that bonds them together. He also appreciates his teachers. The older teachers have so much experience and knowledge to pass on and the younger teachers are inspirational in that they can show Perry exactly how to move and what to strive for. He would gladly follow a career in dancing should the opportunity arise. He has just finished his year 12 exams at ACG Parnell College and is planning another year at school. Perry would also consider studying dance at university as he especially enjoyed his most recent contemporary dance exams which included sections on theory and cho-



reography.

In the meantime, he's busy. He's a volunteer with the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind and is helping rebuild their garden. And as for the summer, he'll spend it keeping fit running, swimming and getting in some extra dance practices with friends. "My life is hectic but awesome," Perry said, before heading off to prepare for a dance performance in Glen Eden that evening.



Women's International Zionist Organization
for an Improved Israeli Society

WIZO CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

Dear Chaverot

Wizo is celebrating it's 90th Anniversary. What a great achievement, and monumental milestone!

Wizo continually strives to reduce the learning and social gaps, giving opportunities to children, youth, women, new immigrants and the elderly in Israel.

Yes, times are hard, and it is hard to get through tough times, and as a community we have the opportunity to give what we are able to those in need. Your donation will be thankfully received and applied to Wizo's worthy cause. Join us by becoming a member.

Annual subscription is only \$20.

A weekly, monthly, or annual pledge to the Wizo Coffee Club will also help the Day Care New Zealand supports in Acco, Israel. Wizo is the link that provides Jewish women in the Diaspora with an opportunity to feel attached to their Jewish roots. It helps to preserve in our children a love of the Jewish people and Israel, strengthen Jewish identity, and keep in the folds of the Jewish communities.

Postal address for subscriptions and donations:

The Treasurer
Wizo
PO Box 100991
North Shore Mail Centre
Auckland

Receipts will be forwarded by the Treasurer.

B'hatzlacha
Lorna Orbell
National President
Wizo New Zealand Federation

FOOD FOR MISSION

Eight large trolleys full of food were delivered to the Auckland City Mission as a result of the High Holyday appeal.

"On behalf of the thousands of people who come to the mission for help, thank you for caring," the Auckland City Mission responded.

NEW MEMBERSHIP FOR STUDENTS

The Beth Shalom board discussed student drop off in interest and attendance after completing the two years after b'nei mitzvah at its last meeting. It was agreed to look into the possibility of creating a separate student category, with membership free to students, after clarification with the UPJ.

● TO THE EDITOR

Inspiring High Holy Days

I would like to offer my thanks to all the wonderful people who made our High Holy days so memorable and special. I know the huge effort involved in preparation and delivery of the services – from service leaders to shammashim to sanctuary decorators to polishers of silver to potluck lunch and break fast coordinators, to shofar blowers, to everyone else who helped in one way or another and not least of all to my Ritual committee who work tirelessly day-in day-out.

And of course the professionalism and spiritual guidance of Rabbi Peter Knobel was a special treat for us. Thank you, Board of Management for your efforts and wisdom in bringing us Peter Knobel to lead and inspire us at this time. It was much appreciated Kol hakavod everyone, and thank you

Leon Goldwater

● THANK YOU

The Berman-Ketko family would like to thank the Beth Shalom community for their wonderful support leading up to Bella's bat mitzvah. We would especially like to acknowledge the teaching of the wonderful Chris Shiller. Thank you to all who were able to attend and share in our family simcha.

Someone very kindly gifted Bella a photography book on a Day in the Life of Israel and a Jerusalem stone mezuzah – both these gifts became separated from their cards. Bella would very much like to thank you in person. Please let us know if either of these gifts came from you. Contact paulsue@hyper.net.nz or call 8333421.

Sue Berman

Courses of Jewish Study?

Applications to the Educational Bequest Fund close on February 28, 2012. Contact Jude Berman, meirjude@orcon.net.nz, Claire Bruell, Claire@bruell.co.nz, or the office.

BETH SHALOM—AUCKLAND

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Burial & Benevolent Society

President, Stuart Reuben, email: s.k.reuben@paradise.net.nz

Vice President, Stephanie Markson, email: stephanie@markson.co.nz

Secretary, Leonie Ariel, email: leonieariel@hotmail.com

Treasurer, Stephen Cohen, email: narste@xtra.co.nz

For burial or benevolent emergencies, please call -

Stephanie Markson (524 5647 or 021 106 5302) or Stuart Reuben (372 4110, 021 067 4576).

Most NZ Jews are over 55 years of age, survey finds

New Zealand Jewry as a whole is aging, with almost half being over the age of 55, reflecting a trend also detected earlier.

This was one finding of the 2008 survey conducted in New Zealand and Australia by B'nai B'rith Auckland, in collaboration with the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization at Monash University. Earlier surveys have been conducted in Wellington in 1983 and the upper North Island in 1996.

The 2008 results have been released recently.

The aging population is in line with the

population of the Jewish community in the Diaspora.

"The population of the Diaspora Jewish community is aging, raising the issue of aged care as a present and future priority," Paul Morris, Professor of Religious Studies, commented in the survey's report.

Almost half the respondents in New Zealand were over the age of 55, 13.4% were aged 18-34 and 39.8% were 35-54. Three-quarters of those responding had two or three children which reflect the

normal pattern of other New Zealanders. However the Jewish community are significantly older than the general population.

The B'nai B'rith project was supported by the boards of all the Jewish congregations throughout New Zealand and in addition most Jewish organisations contributed. Almost 400 people answered the questionnaire.

The total New Zealand Jewish population is estimated to be about 7000, most living in Auckland and Wellington.