



TERUAH

MARCH 2012 / ADAR 5772

● SEARCH BEGINS FOR PERMANENT RABBI

A search committee has been established to start the process of appointing a permanent rabbi for Beth Shalom. This followed a full-day meeting between the Beth Shalom board and Rabbi Peter Knobel before he left New Zealand where the pattern of having a three-year gap between the employment of a rabbi was discussed, as were the needs of the Auckland community. It was decided that a permanent part-time rabbi would be sustainable in the long term and a committee would be appointed to investigate if this would be appropriate.

Committee members are Roger Reynolds, Naomi Johnson and Charles Fishman with Terry Hafner representing the Beth Shalom board.

● CELEBRATE PURIM & PESACH

Purim will be celebrated in fancy dress at Beth Shalom on Friday, March 10 this year, while a community seder is being planned for second night Pesach, Saturday, April 7. See the ads on page 7 for more details.

● \$10,000 FOR NEW POST

\$10,000 has been received from a congregant to go towards the appointment of a programme director to organise social events for Beth Shalom, the board heard at its February meeting.

A committee has been set up to define the role and seek a suitable candidate.

● NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Teruah will be published in June, 2012. The deadline for copy is May 16.

Celebrating a coming of age

Ella Jaspers is pictured reading from the *Torah* at her bat mitzvah late last year. She read *parashat Toldat* – about Jacob stealing Esau's birthright. Ella attends Howick College and loves animals. She is looking forward to her tzedakah project, which will be helping out at the weka colony at Kawakawa Bay near where she lives. She will raise money for possum traps and also will help count the weka – the cheeky, North Island bird known for its curiosity. Photo: [Ilan Wittenberg](#)



And a Diamond Wedding plus



This year in March, Claire and Laurence Reynolds will celebrate 61 years of marriage. Laurence, aged 96, and Claire, a mere 85, are long-time members of Beth Shalom as are their family. Laurence says they moved from

the Auckland Hebrew Congregation to join Beth Shalom because two of their children, Roger and Stephanie, persuaded them. Both Roger and Stephanie later served as presidents of the congregation. Their other

children Alison and Linda are also active members.

Laurence and Claire (nee van Staveren) were born in Auckland, grew up there and were married at the AHC and were very much involved in that community..

"Beth Shalom was a remarkable change from the very Orthodox form of service we were used to," he recalls.

"It took me a long time to settle down but now we are very much at home.

"It is a very good congregation."

Photo: [Ilan Wittenberg](#)

The Beth Shalom Buzz

HAPPY NEW year, everyone, and welcome to another issue of the Buzz. Hope you were all able to find one of the summer-like days we have had and enjoy it to the fullest. Although summer is far from over, things are shifting back into work/study mode for most of us.

WELCOME TO new members, the Amir family and Raoul and Ruth Ketko, and a welcome back to Linda Skala already well-known to many of us. Doron and Shimrit Amir, from Israel, are living in Mission Bay. Doron, who lived in the States as a child works in IT, while Shimrit is studying to improve her English. Nadav, aged seven, is at Hebrew School while two-year-old Ron makes up the family.

SOMEHOW WE failed to welcome the Ketkos who moved from Wellington to be nearer to their family, Paul, Sue and Bella and daughter Sharon in Whangarei. Very active at Temple Sinai in Wellington, Raoul and Ruth are enjoying life in a retirement village in the Waitakeres and say they have also settled happily at Beth Shalom.

A HUGE *mazel tov* to Sarah Sinai who has just become our first *bat mitzvah* of the year. As special as these occasions are for our young adults, they are just as moving and meaningful for our adult members. Well done, Sarah.

WE ALSO send congratulations to Perry Wilton. As you may remember, Perry was profiled for his outstanding commitment to dance in the last issue of *Teruah*. Since that time, Perry has been named head boy at ACG Parnell College. *Mazel tov* to both Perry and his parents, Paul and Wendy.

OUR BETH Shalom family is again growing, this time with the arrival of Rowan Huia (Ruth Hadara) Bacal on January 14. Congratulations to mum, Kira, and big sister, Harper, on this wonderful occasion.



Ruth and Raoul Ketko : Photo by [Ilan Wittenberg](#)

AS MOST of you know already, the *Ner Tamid* award was presented to our own Leon and Sue Goldwater recently by the UPJ. But what wasn't as widely known was that the presentation of the award was made the day after Leon and Sue's 30th wedding anniversary. Two wonderful achievements in two days – nice work, you two.

RABBI PETER Knobel and Elaine might have just returned home to Everston after three months in Auckland but it hasn't stopped his travels. He reports he is off on a trip to Indonesia, Jordan, Palestine and Israel while Elaine takes it easy in Florida to keep away from the winter cold. Then for 16 months he will be interim rabbi at one of the large congregations in Chicago. The Knobels made a big impact here so it's a lucky Chicago community where he will be next.

AND JUST as we send our love on the special occasions, we also send out love along with healing thoughts to Irene Levy, Joan Lardner, Sylvia Watson and David Apple who are all on the mend as well as Barbara Hill's son. Barbara is just back from the States where she has been supporting her son.

LENNY BLOKSBERG has been busy getting his hands dirty. He recently found a piece of petrified dinosaur poo (yes,

you read that correctly). The dropping left, by a mososaur, was so unique that the Geosciences Society of New Zealand awarded Lenny the *Harold Wellman Prize* for the most significant geological discovery in New Zealand in 2011. Who knew poo could be so cool? Well done, Lenny.

THIS ISSUE of *Teruah* might be too late to order hamantachsens for Purim but no doubt many of you enjoyed Aimee Sandler's baking. Twenty-two year old Aimee has just set up a catering business but baking is her special love. She learnt it from her grandmother Daphne and she says she loves it – it makes her happy. Good luck, Aimee.

AND OUR final congratulations for the month go to Norma Delgarno on the publication of the book *Becoming Karl: A Brain-injured Baby's Journey to Recovery*. Norma was responsible for the design, formatting, and final production of the book and will make a donation to Beth Shalom for every book sold to a member. The book can be bought from www.normadelgarno.com Thank you for that, Norma.

And that's a wrap on this month's Buzz. Please keep the info coming. Nothing better than sharing your simcha with the community! ☺

More than just a service for the elderly

Marjorie Isaacs will be celebrating her 90th birthday in April. She is lucky, she says. Her memory is better than most at her age, she lives by herself in a pleasant Remuera apartment, cooks her own meals and can get around with some difficulty even though she has arthritis in her hands and feet. Her husband's first cousin, Claire Reynolds lives close by and is very kind to her.

One of her worries is going to the doctor or the dentist. It's getting there that's the problem, she says. "I live by a very steep hill. I can walk down it, but not up again."

Marjorie no longer drives and husband, Henry, died three years ago. Active for many years at Beth Shalom, she has few relatives living close by. One son lives in the United States and another in Wellington and of her three grandchildren only one is in Auckland studying for his masters at Auckland University.

"They are very good to me, and visit often. Robin who lives in the United States comes several times a year and Nigel is in touch all the time," Marjorie says.

And that's where Senior Outreach Service comes in. Set up nine years ago, it provides support for the Jewish elderly living alone in the Greater Auckland area. Outreach workers Stephanie Markson and Tali Mozessohn assisted by a number of volunteers provide practical, social, emotional and spiritual help for Auckland's elderly.

Marjorie loves the help she receives.

"Stephanie put Barbara Jolson in touch with me. She is lovely to me. She takes me to the doctor and the dentist, when I need to go." Barbara keeps in touch with Marjorie, phoning her often to make sure she is all right.

More than 70 elderly are supported by Senior Outreach in various ways each year. Senior Outreach also runs a popular lunch club where the elderly can meet and listen to a speaker or hear a book review. However the service costs money to run – the budget for this year is \$40,000. It is funded by donations, applications to various trusts and one fundraiser a year, a trivial pursuits evening, this year to be held on April 1.



Marjorie Isaacs finds Senior Outreach a great help.

Senior Outreach is more than just a social service. As Marjorie says: "I really enjoy going out with Barbara. She doesn't just provide transport to appointments. It's like a social occasion – she is so nice and she makes me feel young."

Annual Meeting in March as Well as B & B Society

The Beth Shalom annual general meeting will be held on March 18 with nominations closing on February 26. The agm of the Burial and Benevolent Society will be held preceding this at 6.00 followed by a wine and cheese and a discussion, "The Cost of Death".

Last year, an amendment to the Beth Shalom constitution was passed to facilitate continuity on

the Beth Shalom board, meaning that half of the board were to be appointed for one year and half for two years.

At this year's annual general meeting, as Rob Bernstein is retiring after two years, nominations are being sought for president. However, the terms of vice president Debbie Swiatek, secretary Judith Marks, and treasurer Neil Rothbart, and board

members, Shane Sampson and Paul Wilton, will end in 2013. The one-year term of five current board members, David Cukier, Danny Gelb, Terry Haf-fen, Jenny Livschitz and Ruth Thomas will come to an end this year. Nominations are sought for these and one vacant position, a total of six positions.

From Israeli business analyst to Auckland photographer

"Nudnik" is a Yiddish word that has entered modern Hebrew. It describes a common and even respected means of operating in Israeli society.

A *nudnik* is someone who is constantly asking you for something or otherwise taking up your time.

Israeli-born photographer Ilan Wittenberg admits he is a nudnik. He's mindful of the perception, realising people can think he is rude. He's working on smoothing his rough edges and living in a different culture.

When you think about it he is not alone – it's a trait that is shared by many who need to be persistent to get the perfect shot.

And that's his aim. He wants to, as photography icon Ansel Adams says, not just take pictures but create them.

"I love taking pictures of people and watching their expression when they get to see their images.

"My talent lies in capturing the spirit of the moment in people's lives," Ilan says.

Ilan, then a business analyst in IT, and his wife, Hadas, a major in the Israeli airforce with their two children Ofek and Noa first came to New Zealand and Australia for a four-week holiday from Herzlya in 1999.

"New Zealand was so clean and green, the people so hospitable. We didn't feel like foreigners, there were no barriers.

"And we wanted a different future for the kids, a future that wasn't focused on survival. We wanted economic, social and financial security as well as security from terrorist attacks."

In 2001 they immigrated to live on the North Shore.

Ilan had always liked taking photographs from the time he was given his first plastic camera when he was seven. As a child, his



Ilan Wittenberg's portrait of the Livschitz family – Harvey, Sarah, Meira and Jenny – in black and white captures a happy family group in a moment of time. Photo by Ilan Wittenberg

family had travelled widely and when he was at school in Bangkok, he was made the photo editor of the year book which gave him considerable experience. In Auckland he continued working in IT but in 2010 decided to make the big change and converted the downstairs of his house to set up his photography business, specialising in portrait photography. Like many other Israelis, he was not a shul goer. However his daughter Noa was at school with the Bernstein triplets, and through them he met Beth Shalom president Rob Bernstein and started taking photos for Beth Shalom's website and its newsletter *Teruah*.

He became an active member of the North Shore Photographic Society and presents his images regularly. For the last two

years he has won a number of awards – a bronze medal in 2010, followed by a silver medal in 2011. Last year he also joined the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photography, and won five bronze medals in the Iris Professional Photography Awards. Black and white photography is his specialty.

"It's out of the ordinary and timeless, and all about the quality of expression," he says.

As well, he believes he has the gift of being able to see beauty in the microcosm and the macrocosm of landscapes and nature, using unconventional and unique angles.

"And I love capturing details of man-made artifacts, producing clean and outstanding images for commercial purposes."

Ark and bimah, carpet and seating plans for new sanctuary

Tenders will be called soon for several aspects of the design for the sanctuary refurbishment. The working drawings are in the final stages.

Late last year a carpet was sourced to define the space and complement the colour scheme. Prices have been obtained for laying this.

A quote for refurbishing the seating has

been obtained. The seats will meet contemporary comfort standards with ergonomically-moulded bases and backs and a place for the Mishkan T'filah to rest.

Refurbishing the existing seating has been a major focus as this was the top priority requested during community consultations. Comfort, functionality and aesthetics have driven the process. The seating layout will be based on the

existing one but will be slightly modified to provide flexibility and easier access between seats.

A soft sandy stone for the ark and bimah surround has been purchased and is waiting to be delivered to site. Every small detail is being checked to ensure a cohesive scheme, another important consideration requested by the community.

Israeli dance group provides fun, exercise and much more

When Gillian was forced to move from Christchurch to Auckland, she joined the Maayan Israeli dance group. She had suffered multiple earthquakes, a badly damaged house and the stress of moving away from her home. However Israeli dancing remains important to her.

"The happiness and joy of dance is still there. I've again become part of a welcoming, inclusive circle of friends. 'I count myself lucky to be a member of the NZ Israeli dance family,' Gillian says.

She describes "happiness" as the heart and soul of Israeli dancing. "It is the joy of abandoning yourself to music and movement and feeling the stresses of the working day slipping away," she says.

The Maayan Israeli dance group meets weekly in the Beth Shalom hall on a Wednesday evening. Started in 2003, by Erica Gertel, it was co-run by Pamela Schwartz. Now living in Melbourne, Pamela has returned to teach very successful dance camps and will be back in Auckland on March 11 for a short, three-hour workshop. Dance camp (Machol Pacifica) is the highlight of the Israeli dance calendar. It happens once a year, usually on Labour weekend and is hosted by various groups around the



Photo: The group performing at the Auckland Multicultural Festival

country. Usually the host group invites a teacher or choreographer and the weekend is spent learning new dances and socialising. You can learn more about Machol Pacifica by visiting the website (<http://www.macholpacifica.org.nz>).

The Auckland group is now co-ordinated by Jennifer Gottschalk. Each week between six and 12 dancers mainly female, meet to dance. In New Zealand, most Israeli dancers are

non-Jewish with many folk dancers joining Israeli dance classes as well. Some dancers in the group have been dancing since their childhood with one of the group first experiencing dancing as part of Habonim

"Everyone in the group agrees that the music, exercise and the social aspect of Israeli dance are what keep us coming back week after week," Jennifer says.

Jewish Studies Course Coming

Educational director Udi Dvorkin has prepared a very comprehensive Jewish studies programme to run this year at Beth Shalom during the school year.

The course covers 31 weeks and topics and almost 4000 years of Jewish history from 1900 BCE to 1900 CE and will be delivered by Udi, who has a masters in Jewish history and contemporary Judaism from the Hebrew University.

The first week will discuss "Between history and tradition – How do we treat our ancient past?" It will cover the time between 1900 BCE and 1500 BCE, examine some of the known historical documents from that time and discuss its relevance for our time.

Each week will cover a different topic in this way. Other topics from the course include "Israel in war and peace – Has anything changed?" and also "How popular was intermarriage? Ezra and

Nechemiah versus Ruth."

Week 12's topic will be "Was Jesus a Jewish leader?" while in the sixteenth week the subject will be "Why Jews and Muslims did not co-exist." The last topic will cover the Jewish world at the dawn of the twentieth century.

All lectures will be free but a donation would be appreciated. The Beth Shalom board congratulated Udi on the varied lecture topics at its February meeting.

Maccabi Carnival a special experience



Maccabi Junior Carnival is a special experience every year. This year was even more unique as it was the first time Queensland was hosting in 25 years. Moreover, it was the 30th anniversary for Maccabi Junior Carnival, with around 170 kids taking part.

Pictured above, Melissa Albarn from Beth Shalom holds the New Zealand flag. She had a wonderful time.

Tears flowed at the closing ceremony as the kids had to say goodbye to one another and fly back to their homes. Comments from New Zealand's team included "I don't want to leave", "I had the best time" and a particular favourite "I am definitely coming back to Sydney next year, can't wait!"

Next year Sydney promises to be a large carnival with a twist. There will be activities like rock-climbing, horse-riding and river-rafting. Night events include a chartered boat party and night-club raves. So sign your kids up as this is one week of their lives they won't forget.

Dates are 16 to 23 January 2013 and contact Esther Haver (NZ Maccabi President) on esther@defsec.co.nz for more information. - **Daniella Haver**

Beth Shalom looks for a part-time music director

A group of service leaders and singers met to talk, after Judy Campbell's visit during the Shabbaton in December.

How could we lift the collective musical experience at Beth Shalom? We had come away inspired by Judy's visit, funded jointly by New Zealand liberal congregations and the UPJ, to assist us but now we needed to find our own way. One of the strengths of Beth Shalom is that we are a singing congregation. With no permanent rabbi or cantor we are in the habit of making our own music. But the downside to this is certain predictability. We sing what we know and stick to it tenaciously.

Service leaders and singers did not want to form a choir that rehearses and performs every week. For one thing, nobody has that kind of time. For another, we want to bring the congregation along with us, not be separate from them. And service leaders wanted more musical training to improve their confidence.

A unique solution began to crystallize: we needed to find a part time music director who would take one three-hour workshop each quarter to teach the basics of reading music, singing

and choral technique. Workshops would be open to anyone and would be a good time to learn new music or harmonies.

We also proposed to meet once a month, alternating before a Friday and Saturday service, to rehearse together with our music director and polish our singing before we entered the sanctuary for Shabbat.

We will be looking for our director using choral singing networks, including the NZ Choral Federation.

The position is a paid one and the music director will also aid in building a music library as well as working with us to put on a family concert later in the year, organised by Dane Giraud. Dane is seeking interested soloists, instrumentalists and children/young people. Contact Dane to help out or perform, dane.giraud@gmail.com. The leader of the AHC choir, Vicki Ross, applauded our decision and hopes to contribute although she was not able to take up the position.

Anyone interested in offering a suggestion for a music director, or in being part of the Beth Shalom singing email list should contact Michelanne Forster, forster-dunlop@xtra.co.nz.

- **Michelanne Forster.**

Sanctuary Etiquette

We would like to send a reminder to the community of how we best conduct ourselves when in shul. This is meant to encourage consideration of others to ensure an enjoyable experience for all.

- We dress with respect in honour of Shabbat and festivals.
- These days are special, so dressing in special clothes does honour to the day
- When participating in a shul service, whether from the Bimah or in front of the open ark, we dress in an appropriate and modest fashion. Out of respect to God and other service participants, we cover our shoulders, our feet, and our legs at least down to the knees.
- We avoid entering the shul while the congregation is standing for a prayer.
- We respect the dignity of the service by ensuring mobile telephones are switched off before entering the sanctuary.
- We do not talk during services.
- We avoid eating and drinking in the sanctuary. We recognise that children, in particular, may require food or beverage during a service. Should this be necessary we encourage attendees to leave the sanctuary before consuming food or beverage.
- When we come late to a service we walk behind the Bimah to avoid walking disturbing those at prayer.
- We welcome children into our services. We recognise that at times children have needs that are not met within the sanctuary and that they may become restless or noisy at such times. When that happens, we settle the children down outside the sanctuary before returning, once again to avoid disturbing those who are praying.
- We respect each other for each other's contributions, their uniqueness, their differing approaches when participating in/ attending a service.
- When participating in a service, or in any way involved, we aim to be present 10 minutes before the service to reassure other participants and congregants that we will be present. This will also allow time for liaison between participants.
- We regard it as disrespectful to place a Siddur or Chummash on the floor. To this end, we pass the Chummash to the end of the aisle for collection by shammashim after Torah service.
- During Torah service Torah bearers and service leaders should never stand with their backs to the open Ark, rather stand side on.
- Photography and video filming are not acceptable during regular services of worship including the chagim and bat/bar mitzvah services. This can be done in the sanctuary if required, either before or after the service.

PESACH AT BETH SHALOM



First day service: Saturday 7 April, 2012 at 10 am.
Community Seder: Second night, Saturday 7 April, 2012 at 6pm at Beth Shalom.
Pesach Yizkor service: Saturday 14 April, 2012 at 10am.

Please note that there will be no service erev Shabbat on Friday 6 April.

Those people wishing to join a family for first night seder should contact Christine at the office, and we shall attempt to make sure everyone has somewhere to go. Concerning the communal seder on second night Pesach, ticket prices and sales will commence soon – watch for the flier. Get your tickets early, as invariably we sell out.. The seder will be led by our good friend, Paul Wilton. Those people wishing to sit in groups with friends or family should be sure to arrive early in order to get seats together. Traditionally, special charitable collections are made immediately before Pesach – *maot chittim*, literally “money for wheat”, wheat being needed to bake *matzah*. Since we don’t eat bread or products that ferment, money is given to the poor so that they can purchase Pesach necessities. As the Talmud tells us, “Those who have enough give, and those who don’t have enough take.” If you are able to do so, purchasing extra tickets or part tickets so that those less fortunate can attend the seder, is one form of *maot chittim*.

BETH SHALOM—AUCKLAND

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Office

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Burial & Benevolent Society

President	Stuart Reuben	s.k.reuben@paradise.net.nz
Vice President	Stephanie Markson	stephanie@markson.co.nz
Secretary	Leonie Ariel	leonieariel@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Stephen Cohen	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).



ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP WITH PAMELA



We will dance lots of “old stuff” and Pamela will teach us some “new stuff”. Please email your dance requests and we will try and accommodate you.

Sunday, 11th March @ Beth Shalom 2.00 - 5.00pm

\$20.00, light refreshments provided. Please bring a USB memory stick (music will be available for transferring)

Jenni: (09) 480-4330

Email: jennygo@complus.co.nz



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Saturday 10th April 2012

Spiel at 6:00 PM

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