



TERUAH

JUNE 2012 / SIVAN 5772

● FIND YOUR 3-MONTH CALENDAR of events enclosed.

Dates to Note:

LIMMUD Launch: 12 June
Marshall Voit: 6-7 July
HABO Camp: 8-15 July
ARZA Launch: 22 July
Meditation Retreat: 10-12 August
LIMMUD Weekend: 18-19 August

● **WANTED:** BS Programme Director, part-time paid position
See Pg 2 for details

● **6 & 7 JULY:** Marshall Voit from the Centre for Living Judaism will lead Shabbat Services. Including special TOTs Shabbat morning service (see PG 8 for details); Musical Shabbat Morning Service & shared 'finger food' Pot Luck Lunch. Workshop for service leaders & singers from 1.00pm.

● NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Teruah will be published in September, 2012.
The deadline for copy is August 10.

Letter from the President

Dear Community

I am delighted to tell you we are now in discussion with a young Rabbi in Jerusalem who we hope will join us for the High Holy Days – we will keep you informed as we progress with our discussions. And I can report that the Rabbinic Search Committee is on the brink of distributing the job description for our permanent Rabbi. We look forward to receiving applications in the coming months.

May I remind you, that if we want a permanent Rabbi, we will all need to support this aspiration financially; to this end I will be looking to ways of ensuring we have the community's commitment to fund the Rabbi's position. Sharing this commitment makes a much lighter load for each of us.

I am excited that our new sanctuary will be ready for the High Holy Days. The refurbishment specifications are completed, and the contractors will be submitting tenders shortly. This has been a long, complex process with hundreds

of hours committed by your volunteer team. I would like to acknowledge here the dedication of Helen Schamroth, chair of the Interiors Committee along with John Pezaro who has drawn all the architectural plans, Danny Gelb, Alison Dyson and Judith Marks. The community is also grateful to Virginia Fisher who has met with us several times in an advisory capacity.

Beth Shalom is a very busy place and we are thriving. The Ma'ariv dinners are booked out each month, the Hebrew School, under the leadership of Udi Dvorkin and a team of skilled and dedicated teachers, is going from strength to strength – an active and happy place on a Sunday morning (see Udi's report on page 9)

My thanks to the very many people whose time and energy make Beth Shalom a place we are all proud of. A special thank you to the Ritual Committee who are the glue that bind us together.

B'shalom

Judith Hunt, President

ALERT - New early start to Friday Night Shabbat Services over winter, commencing in July

Following discussions at the AGM in March, we will trial an earlier start to Friday services over the winter months. Doors will be open from 6.00pm, come and relax with a glass of wine, schmooze and snack over cheese and biscuits before services begin at 6.30pm. This will take effect from the first Friday in JULY and will be reviewed following the HHDs.

Warm up this winter over a delicious Shabbat meal with friends! Pot



Luck dinners are hosted on the first Friday of the month. Bring a warm and nourishing plate to contribute to our buffet – or a yummy dessert! Remember to bring plenty to satisfy our winter appetites. Share a fun evening together and enjoy a great start to your weekend.



Source: Pinterest images



THANKYOU

Na'or Alfassi Berman and family would like to thank the Beth Shalom Community for sharing in such a wonderful and joyful bar mitzvah day. Your support is so amazing; Chris Shiller's extraordinary teaching, the shamashim and the congregation. Todah raba.

Someone kindly gifted Na'or a Magen David necklace which became separated from its card. He would like to thank you in person so please let us know if this gift came from you.

Jude Berman



MAZEL TOV to Howard Sandler who has been appointed by Bowls NZ as the National Coach for the 18 & Under Division for the "Trans Tasman" Test

series in Australia in March next year. Howard will also be in Adelaide with the Israeli National team at World Bowls from late November.

Editor's Note

Dear Teruah Readers

Teruah has greatly evolved over the past year or two. You must have noticed we have changed the layout, our publication is quarterly, and the content has developed, all under the careful guidance of Ruth Thomas. She has steered us steadily toward a more professional publication. Now, with renewed confidence, we are off on another blast of changes!

Thank you to Ruth for getting the foundations in place for a new, revived Teruah. Thanks also to Jenny Gottschalk for her considerable support in doing the layout.

I hope you will enjoy the fresh content

we are excited to bring you in this edition along with old favourites. I would like to highlight the addition of a Hebrew School section with special content for families. There are other new pages too – we intend to add to these over time, so keep your eye out! I invite you to be active partners in the process, please send me your content ideas.

Thanks to a generous donor we are able to bring you this 'bumper issue'!

So, read on and and enjoy!

From Alison Dyson on behalf of the Teruah Team.

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

Beth Shalom Buzz

As I write this, there is a cold rain falling: I am reminded that the summer is finally gone and I'd better prepare for winter! I am not complaining, though. Winter is a wonderful time as well, as I can curl up by the fireplace, cook lots of soups and stews and open a nice bottle of red with friends!

I'll use that as a transition to welcome new friends to the Beth Shalom family this month. Mia Silverman and her family have become our newest members. Some of you may remember Mia when she was an active member in Habo NZ. She spent the next while living in the UK where her first son, Monty was born. She then decided to return to beautiful Aotearoa with her childhood sweetheart and their family continued to

grow with the arrival of Francis in January of this year. Welcome home, Mia, and back to the Beth Shalom family! We also welcome Edwina Myers back to her Beth Shalom home (see her article about Bees in this edition!) and a hearty welcome to Carolyn and Greg Wilder and their son Avi.

On a sadder note, our deepest sympathies go out to Mike and Shirley Roland on the passing of Mike's father Theo Roland. Our thoughts are with you.

Congratulations to Bianca Kraitzeck who will be leaving shortly to attend the ARZENU conference in Jerusalem as the NZ young adult representative. Her trip is sponsored by ARZENU in recognition of the start of ARZA in NZ (see PG 10).

Continued on page 3

Wanted: Beth Shalom Programme Director

For Beth Shalom to be a buzzing centre for Jewish culture, education and social interaction, we must provide a variety of fun and stimulating programmes and activities for our members and the wider Jewish community.

Traditionally, we have relied on volunteers from amongst our members and Habonim to help manage our programmes. We have achieved a lot, but wish to do more and are now looking to recruit a part-time Programme

Director to help us identify, organize and facilitate events.

This is a paid position, reporting to the Beth Shalom Board of Management (the Board).

at the role will entail an average of 6-8 hours per week. Candidates must be extremely flexible with hours to ensure that events are well-resourced and run smoothly.

If you believe you are suitably qualified and wish to apply for the position, please contact Christine at the office for a full job description.

Thank you to the generous donor who has made this appointment possible. This gift provides funds for the position and some additional money for costs associated with running programmes.

Buzz from page 2

We also wish Rachel Korpus, ZFNZ President and Alison Dyson a great trip to Israel to attend the President's Conference (organised by Shimon Perez's office). Rachel is honoured to have been invited to speak at this prestigious conference; her topics include the challenges for Diaspora communities and advancements in the way ahead for women.

Our younger members have been busy over the past months excelling in sport. Assaf Berman represented North Harbour at touch rugby in the U13boys grade. They played at the Inter-Provincial Tournament in Rotorua, winning all their games to then beat Counties in the final 5-4 to win gold. In total the team scored 45 tries and only conceded 14. Well Done Assaf!

Matt Swiatek also had a great season rowing. He represented St Kentigern College at Maadi, the National Secondary Schools Rowing Championships in Twizel. All of three of his under 15 crews made A finals. Although he didn't medal, he can be hugely proud to say he is in the top eight rowers in New Zealand in each of those divisions!

A huge Mazel Tov to Na'or Alfassi Ber-

man who became Bar Mitzvah in March. It was a beautiful ceremony and Na'or did his parents (and the whole community) proud!

To Doris and Malcolm Fiddell a hearty Mazel Tov on your recently celebrated 60th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful milestone!

Best of luck to the Cukier family, David, Deena and their three daughters, who are leaving our shores permanently. You will always have a home here when your travels bring you back to Auckland. Please keep in touch.

The Albom family has set off for a nine month journey around the world. They have visited China, Dubai, Oman and Russia and have now arrived in London. If you would like to follow their adventures, Rhonda is blogging about the trip at www.laugh-quotes.com. She posts regularly with fabulous pictures!

Finally, we send healing thoughts out to Lorna Orbell. We hope you are on the mend as we miss your beautiful smile around Beth Shalom.

Keep warm and dry until next time. ☺

Contact Debbie Swiatek at swiatek@xtra.co.nz with items for the Buzz

Adding Sweetness to My Garden

By Edwina Myers

"How doth the little busy Bee
Improve each shining Hour
And gather Honey all the day
From every opening Flower"
(Isaac Watts, 1715)



Photo: Eric & me wearing the safety gear

I now have a beehive in the garden behind my house, owned by Eric who looks after it, and tells me I'll eventually get some honey. Eric says there is enough food stored in the hive for the winter, but the bees will still be foraging, although there's not much to gather until spring, "But there's more food in the city than the countryside," he says. The hive has come in from Kumeu. Eric will come to check them out every few weeks.

Bees need a 'flyway' out and have a range of 5 miles. Mine fly out over the top of my house and over Remuera. If you live within that range and see bees in your garden they may not be mine, as I am told there are a number of beehives in this suburb; the law allows one hive per property in Auckland.

One can walk around the garden without wearing safety gear as long as one doesn't hang around in front of the hive

Meditation Weekend



10-12 August, Waiheke Island:
Weekend of Contemplative Retreat & Jewish Mindfulness Teaching
Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, a key LIMMUD presenter.

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, a founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), poet, educator, pioneer in Jewish contemplative practice and extensive author. She has contributed commentaries to Kol HaNeshama, the new Reconstructionist prayerbook. Rabbi Weinberg was a congregational rabbi, and now teaches mindfulness meditation.

Beginning with Shabbat evening service and meal. On Saturday, Rabbi Sheila will lead us in Jewish meditation, yoga, contemplative prayer, Torah study and Jewish learning, ending with a shared meal and Havdallah. Sunday morning meditation and learning concludes at 11.30am.

Limited to 25 people. Non-residential retreat, some billeted accommodation will be available, or you may choose to stay at motel accommodation, or commute from Auckland.

Cost: \$125 (includes Shabbat dinner, lunch and Saturday evening meal, Sunday morning tea). Saturday only attendance: \$85. (NB: No Sunday only attendance)

For inquiries & registration phone Linda Kaye on: (09) 405 5785 or email her: lrkaye@no8wireless.co.nz
NOTE: this is not a LIMMUD event.

too long. See the slit at base of the hive, this is their only entrance and there are always bees around it to guard the hive.

Note the females do all the work! The males (drones) wait around in case the queen needs to mate again.

Opening the Doors of Prayer “Mah Tovu” (מה טובו)



Photo Source: FrankRoberts, *Doorways of the Universe* (used with permission)

By Linda Kaye

If we are fortunate enough to get through the city traffic, we will arrive at shul in time to join the congregation in the singing of Mah Tovu (מה טובו), our opening prayer in the service.

When I grew up, it was traditional to read this prayer silently, whatever time we arrived. Now there are many beautiful melodies to accompany the words.

It's not hard to see the immediate logic of declaring our entry into worship space – arriving in the “goodly tent” from the outside world, being welcomed into our community of Jacob/Israel. Many other cultures and faith traditions share and give expression to this idea of the special nature of doorways and entrances. Think of the carved lintels on a wharenui, and the rituals of entry into marae enclosure, or the vestibule of churches and mosques, often accompanied by rites involving water.

But this collection of verses offers us more for reflection.

The opening verse quotes directly from Torah: Bamidbar 24:5 Balaam the prophet opens his mouth to curse Israel, and out pours instead this beautiful blessing.

These words remind us that for us too, the door into the

synagogue and communal worship is potentially a threshold for transformation. Whatever is outside, and whoever we are outside, we stand now at the portal of a different kind of space. A place of blessing and awe. A door we can open to unexpected grace and wonder.

As Balaam stood apart, looking over the encampment of the Israelites, we too, can hover there a moment, touch the mezuzah, draw breath and exhale “Ah, how good”, is the shelter of our own place of reverent congregation.

Following these opening words of Torah, are verses from Tehillim – the book of Psalms. Tehillim are also part of our written Torah, in the Ketuvim section of the Tanach. And yet, they differ from other books of Torah. They are not narrative, nor “historical” nor legal nor - for the most part – instructive or didactic. Mostly, they are prayer, in poetry and song. Commentators speak of Tehillim as the bridge between Torah, the book of law, and Siddur, the book of prayer service.

So, this sequence leads us from formality and public declaration of Torah text, through the Psalmist's personal declaration of devotional intent (kavanah), to the text of the prayer book itself

One feature of the Mah Tovu (טבו)

מה) that always captivates me, is its inclusion of many different terms for the enclosed space of worship:

Your tents “ohalecha”. (אהליך)

Your dwelling places
“mishk'notecha (משכנותיך)”

Your house “beitecha” (ביתך)

Your holy temple
“heychal kodsh'cha” (היכל קדשך)

Your temple abode
“m'on beitecha” (מעון ביתך)

the dwelling place of Your glory
“m'kom mishkan k'vodecha” (מקום משכן כבודך)

Each of these expressions of the place/space of Divine Presence has its own subtle resonance, of the various layers of meaning in each term.

We might see their variety as an acknowledgement that each one of us experiences synagogue and community in our own uniquely personal and individual way.

And we can observe, as the service unfolds and progresses, what changes we ourselves experience in our interior sense of location, the shifting shades and qualities of our presence and devotion, sometimes drawing closer to community and Divinity, sometimes drawing back.

Continued on page 5

Prayer from page 4

It is not only space that finds different forms of expression in the Mah Tovu (מה טובו). The following two verses also offer us four different terms for prayer:

I bow down low (lit: prostrate myself)

“eshtachaveh” (הִשְׁתַּחֲוֵה)

I bow

“echraah” (אֶכְרָעָה)

I kneel (or bless)

“evr’chah” (אֶבְרַחָה)

my prayer

“t’filati” (תְּפִלָּתִי)

The first three of these describe through physical stance and movement the quality of humility that we are called on to cultivate in prayer. This is the place to set aside any notions of our own worldly status, and to surrender to the Presence of an infinitely Higher Power. This too, is an element of our Jewish ritual that we share with other faith traditions.

There are rabbinic commentaries on fine distinctions between each of these terms. But we can understand their totality as articulating the diverse ways in which each of us, through actions, words, song or silence, expresses our own heart longings.

Paradoxically, through this personal experience of each individual’s relationship with Divinity we enable and encourage others to enter into shared sacred space. To join the community of the House of Jacob/Israel is itself to participate in and sustain the creation and re-creation of that community.

With the phrase “eit ratzon” (עֵת רָצוֹן), our prayer expands from sacred space into the realm of sacred time.

There is no really adequate translation of this phrase. “Eit (עֵת)” signifies the right time, which might be a season, or a moment. “Ratzon” (רָצוֹן) is sometimes translated as willingness, will, or inclination (as in “kein y’hi ratzon”; may this be the Divine will). But “eit

ratzon” (עֵת רָצוֹן) usually denotes “a time of yearning”. Talmudic rabbis debate whether this is a yearning of humans toward the Divine, or the Divine toward humans. Or, they suggest, perhaps it is both. If we read the words as mutual yearning of the human and the Divine, we become aware of echoes in the repetition of the words “b’rov chasd’cha” (בְּרֹב חַסְדְּךָ) - in Your abundant loving-kindness.

And so, through the brief paragraphs of Mah Tovu (מה טובו), we cross the threshold from our exterior lives to enter into that dimension of space and time where we can reach beyond self - to the ultimate Source.

We ask that our worship, individually and collectively, be offered and accepted with Divine responsiveness, love and the saving grace of truth: “aneini be’emet yishecha” (אֲנִינִי בְּאֵמֶת יִשְׁעֶךָ). And, entering the place of prayer, we pray that the space within ourselves will open, like Balaam, to receive and pour out words of blessing, wonder and Divine inspiration.

Looking forward to meeting Marshall in July!

“We are really delighted Marshall is able to extend his busy time in Australia to spend a Shabbat with us here in Auckland” says Leon Goldwater.

Marshall Voit is a graduate of University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and has been working and teaching within the Jewish community for nearly a decade. He has served as a Cantorial Soloist and Songleader, actively introducing contemporary Jewish music to services, while respecting and maintaining cultural and liturgical traditions.

Friday 6 July promises to be a joyful musical erev Shabbat! Stay for a

warming Pot Luck dinner and a torah study session with Marshall.

On Saturday 7 July Marshall will run a Tot’s service (9.15am), followed by a musical Shabbat morning service (at 10.00am). Bring finger food for a Pot Luck Lunch.

Workshop

From 1pm to 3pm on Shabbat afternoon Marshall will run a combined workshop for service leaders and members of the singing group – focussing on engaging congregants in prayer through communal singing - members of the congregation who are interested are encouraged to join this workshop.

Marshall’s visit is made possible through the support of the UPJ, he will also visit Wellington and Dunedin.



Becoming Karl

Take one very determined woman and give her some of life's biggest challenges, and this is the result:

Norma Delgarno explores the world of parenting a child with a brain injury.

By Alison Dyson

Norma Delgarno, best known to many of us for her wonderful voice, particularly her beautiful rendition of the Ne'ila Service; and as past teacher to many of our bar and bat mitzvah students, took to writing some years ago. The result is her recently published book, 'Becoming Karl: A Brain Injured Baby's Journey to Recovery', the tale of her son and their family as they battled to overcome the results of toxoplasmosis during pregnancy, which left newborn Karl with severe impairment to his eyes, hydrocephalus, and significant brain injury. "I felt it was important to share this story from my perspective, and thought it probably held a lot of value for midwives, mums to be and women dealing with similar challenges" says Norma.

Despite the enormity of the challenges and the limited knowledge at the time in the medical world, Norma fought on, eventually succeeding in preparing Karl for kindergarten education and normal schooling, from which he graduated with School Certificate. Karl went on



6. Family photo: from left Natasha, Karl, Norma 1977

to work in New World; today he lives independently as an artist in Rotorua.

Norma self published the book: she said this process was a minefield, and a steep learning curve. With some outstanding editorial support, she is proud of the accurate production; indeed, an excellent book has resulted. She is receiving many very positive responses from Hydrocephalus Associations, Toxoplasmosis researchers worldwide, and the Paediatric Neurosurgery and Brain Wave Trusts, amongst many others.

It will be no surprise to Beth Shalom members to learn that Norma, a skilled musician, believes in the importance of developing brain function through music and language. Her own experience illustrates just how powerful that can be – with a lot of love and determination thrown in! To find out more about her book go to www.normadelgarno.com or www.karlrothko.com. Or check out our Library: a copy of the book has kindly been donated by the Burial and Benevolent Society.

Lamm Library - the envy of any Jewish community

"...next time you are planning a few days in Melbourne – take time out to visit the Lamm Library. You won't be disappointed" Says **Claire Bruell** in her review of the new facility in Melbourne...

Book Review

Rather than a book review I am going to write about a library which has recently opened its doors to a collection of over 50,000 books. The new Lamm Jewish Library of Australia opened earlier this year in Melbourne, the largest Jewish Library in the Southern Hemisphere that is open to the public.

Makor Library

The new library began life as the Makor library about 30 years ago and it was their early long-standing director,

Ros Collins, who suggested Australia needed a national repository to care for its literature. The concept of a Jewish Australian Library was born. The successor to Collins as director is Leonie Fleiszig. The two women still lunch weekly and their energy and passion for the library is obvious. (disclosure – Leonie is mother-in-law of my older son Ezra)

New Lamm Library

Several years ago the property next to The Beth Wietzmann Centre in Hawthorne Rd became available to purchase, it was a run down rabbit warren of rooms. A group began working together and the plan for a new community centre and much larger library took shape. Now renamed the Lamm Australian Jewish Library, it was officially opened on 18

March 2012, and would be the envy of any Jewish community.

Opening day

Dr Lamm in his opening address said he looked forward to the library becoming the cornerstone of Jewish communal life. A congratulatory letter from Prime Minister Julia Gillard to the Zionist Council of Victoria noted that the Library holds the largest collection of Jewish heritage books in the southern hemisphere that is open to the public. The Australian Jewish News reported that opening day celebrations included conversations with local authors, zumba and krav maga, cooking demonstrations, Hebrew and English storytimes, live music, an art exhibition and tree planting – examples of the varied programmes the new centre

Continued on page 7

Library from page 6



Orange and lime green furniture lift the subdued grey colours of the library and provide an attractive, welcoming atmosphere.

hoped to provide on a continuing basis.

Funding

A generous benefactor and community supporter Dr Danny Lamm and his family donated substantial funds for the property. Dr Lamm, is from a Holocaust survivor family and is Chairman of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. The State Government provided matching funding, recognizing the importance of the Jewish community in the development of the city of Melbourne. State Premier Ted Baillieu officially opened the \$7 million dollar facility. The centre still needs more funding to complete the dream. The library has already become the beneficiary of two grants from the Glen Eira Council.

Lamm Library Holdings

These include works on a diversity of Jewish subjects, and special collections dealing with:

Israel and the Middle East: Covering all aspects of this region – history, politics, culture and society

Anti-Semitism: Resources aimed at heightening awareness of bigotry in society in all its forms

The Holocaust: Covering all aspects of this seminal part of Jewish history

Halacha: Resources regarding Jewish religious law

Jewish Art: Books on Jewish art

Hebrew Language & literature: Hebrew language fiction and nonfiction

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society's collection

Cataloguing is in English, Hebrew and

Yiddish, the collection now numbers more than 50,000 books. The libraries of several community organisations – those of Kadimah, the Jewish Holocaust Centre, the Jewish Museum, the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society Victoria branch and the Australian Jewish Historical Society are all merged here.

The online catalogue can be searched by anyone with an internet connection. The complex has complimentary Wi-Fi.

Facilities

When director Leonie Fleiszig took Peter and me on a tour of the library she commented that the library would be ideal as a venue for conferences and seminars as there are still many empty rooms. It

was great to see how organisations like the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society had already moved in and made spaces their own. Maps of our ancestral cities, towns and villages lined the walls, filling cabinets of research material stood at the ready surrounded by tables and chairs. I wanted to begin right away. In fact that was how I felt walking into the facility – wanting to get involved and use what was on offer. So next time you are planning a few days in Melbourne – take time out to plan a visit to the Lamm Library. You won't be disappointed. In fact why not sign up for their newsletter, search the online catalogue or Website: <http://www.makorlibrary.com/>

Claire Bruell

MACHANE MASA YEHUDI
8TH - 15TH JULY

8th-15th July 2012, Hahonim Dror Winter Camp 2012!
Discover your Jewish Identity with us!

Camp will be held at Houghtons Bush Camp, Muriwai Beach

Price is \$450 per happy campers aged between years 10-13

Rosh
Camp is Eve
Mackenzie-Boock!

For any enquiries do not hesitate to
contact Eve (022-125-7667)/eve-
mb@live.com or Osnat (027-496-
7762)/shlicha@zfnz.org.nz



Kids Kitchen



Traditional Chicken soup and Matzo balls

Now that we are coming into our winter months there is nothing better than a pot of chicken soup on the stove. Do you know that chicken soup is often called the Jewish Penicillin? That means it helps to make us feel better when we are not so well and these days research seems to back this up! I think it's a great idea to be one step ahead of winter colds and make a big pot of chicken soup (you can always freeze it in containers). Chicken soup is also an all time favourite for Shabbat and holiday meals.

Most families have a chicken soup recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation. You can learn your family recipe by helping to make the soup. Talk with your parents or grandparents about their chicken soup recipe and start by offering to peel the vegetables. Watch and listen carefully. This is how tradition is carried on from grandparents to parents to children. If your family hasn't got time to make traditional chicken soup then you can always get some good chicken stock from the supermarket and use that as a base.

To make chicken soup even more fun you can prepare Knaidlach or Matzo Balls. Usually we eat these at Pesach but they are great to eat all year round and so easy for you to make. Knaidl is a Yiddish word from the German word Knodel which means dumpling. Here is our family recipe which is so simple and quick to prepare:

Matzo Balls recipe:

2 eggs beaten
2 Tablespoons margarine
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ cup matzo meal*
tablespoons water or chicken stock

The first 4 steps you can do by yourself.

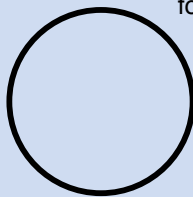
1. Whisk together eggs and margarine.
2. Add salt, cinnamon and matzo meal. Mix together with a fork



3. Add the water or stock to the mixture and make sure it is moist. If needed add a little more water.

4. Cover the bowl with a plate and put in fridge for at least 15 minutes (you can leave it for a few hours).

5. Get an adult to help you boil some salted water in a pot. Roll the matzo into balls about this size: - they will swell in the boiling water. Drop the balls into the water. Reduce the heat slightly but keep the water boiling gently. Cook for about 30 minutes and then serve in your soup. YUMMY!



You can double or triple this recipe and still make great matzo balls. Have a healthy winter ☺

Send us a picture of you and your soup with matzo balls for our Beth Shalom website. office@bethshalom.org.nz

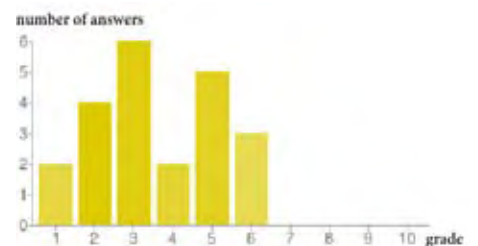


*you can buy matzo meal from the Beth Shalom shop, the shop at Greys avenue, Mama shop in Glen Innes or New World, Freemans Bay.

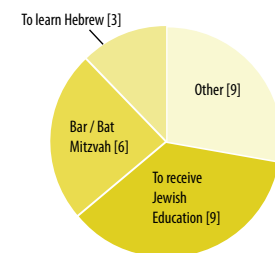
Hebrew School Survey

Survey shows most parents happy with the Hebrew School but some changes are needed.

The recent survey that was done by the Hebrew School to understand the needs of our school reveal some interesting matters. First of all the good news: the majority of parents surveyed are happy with the current way we function. The following chart shows the rating of parents' satisfaction with the Sunday school as a whole. (1 being the best and 10 the lowest).



It is clear that not all parents gave the Hebrew school an astonishing 1. However, while most respondents rated us between 4 to 1, a significant number put us at upper midrange indicating some room for improvement. With a total of 70 questions, the survey was a comprehensive review of the Sunday school components. The results show that in most aspects the parents value the Hebrew school as a positive place, whilst seeking change in a few areas.



If we take a look at what the primary reason is that parents send their children to Hebrew school we see that the majority want their children

to receive Jewish Education (36%), followed by preparing for the Bar/Bat

Continued on page 9



image from childrensbooksandmusic.com

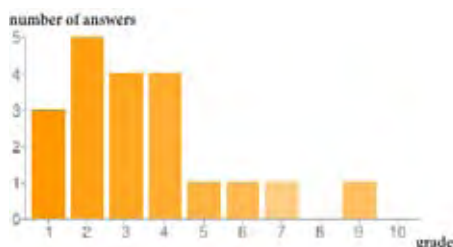
Tot Shabbat, 7 July, 9.15 – 9.45 am with Marshall Voit

Enjoy an amazing and dynamic service with your TOT's!, led by Marshall, visiting singer and educationalist. Treat your family to a fun filled Shabbat of learning, music and inspiration. Bring food to share for a delicious 'finger food' Pot Luck lunch to follow services.

Survey from page 8

Mitzvah (24%) and learning Hebrew (12%). 28% replied 'other', in examining this it seems that many of these seek their children to socialize with other Jewish children.

A specific look into the Jewish Studies and Hebrew topics reveal that the current Hebrew class receives a very good rating. Looking at other answers we see that most people seek decoding of Hebrew words, as a tool for Bar Mitzvah and not for learning the Hebrew language: speaking, writing and understanding. However, there is a small group who do want to learn Hebrew as a living language, and we will try to offer this for those who want it.



The Jewish Studies component is more complicated with a more mixed reply. It seems that while the Chai program we are using is well received and valued, there are still other areas of knowledge we need to cover in the Sunday school, that we are not currently doing. The most frequently raised concern was material dealing with the Festivals. No doubt we will work towards providing



those needed aspects.

We are very grateful that the grant from the Pincus Foundation will allow us to create and adapt more parts of the Jewish studies curriculum for the specific needs of New Zealand.

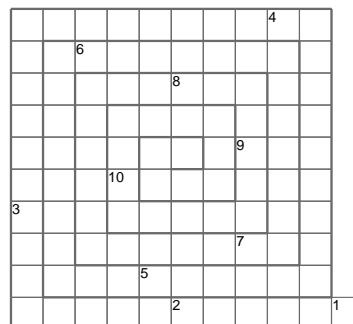
Udi Dvorkin



Hebrew School: Class Aleph Bet hard at work

Word Spiral

Numbered clues appear below the spiral grid. Determine the word that matches the clue, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. The word does not overlap with the next word (marked by the next number) and it must be written in the correct direction (from a lower numbered space to a higher numbered space).



Finished? Answers are on page 14

1. The month we celebrate Shavuot
2. On which mountain did Moses receive the tablets
3. The three pilgrimage festivals: Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot are called _____
4. The ten commandments
5. The scrolls we read on Shavuot
6. The seven species of the land of Israel
7. Hebrew name of the festival of the first fruit
8. For 49 days we count the _____
9. What festival is being celebrated 49 days after Pesach
10. Hebrew name of the festival of the harvest

SHIVAT HANINIM
OMER
CHAG HABIKURIM

ASERET HADIBROT
MEGILAT RUTH
SIVAN

SHALOSH REGALIM
CHAG HAKATZIR

HAR SINAI
SHAVUOT



Destined to live- a true story of a child in the holocaust

By Ruth Gruener

Reviewed by Bella Berman

Theme- survival

Recommended age group- mature 9 year old to early teen

Summary- Aurelia Gamzer had a sweet life, literally. Her parents owned a lolly shop in Poland and she was happy carefree child. But when war reaches her home town,

suddenly she cannot trust anyone at any time. This is the true story of a girl's struggle for survival and her recollection of hiding for years and moving on to better things.

I found it a really touching story and I recommend it especially for those just starting to read about the holocaust and who it affected.

The book has pictures of Ruth which make it so much more real to read. I did say that this was appropriate for young teens but adults would probably enjoy it too. "Destined to Live" is only one of many amazing books that touch on the children of the holocaust and I highly recommend reading as many as possible.

Let's talk about Israel

The political change and upheaval in Israel over recent weeks has been of seismic proportions for the nation. Below are excerpts from an article written by David Singer which explore some of the background to this and implications for the peace process. At the end of the article you will see a variety of website links with other perspectives for you to consider.

Palestine – Israel Has Had Enough (source: www.jwire.com.au) **David Singer is a Sydney Lawyer and Foundation Member of the International Analysts Network**

The Palestinian Authority's decision to unilaterally seek Palestinian statehood at the United Nations and UNESCO – in breach of its obligations under the Oslo Accords and the Roadmap – has propelled Benjamin Netanyahu and Shaul Mofaz into forming Israel's government of national unity. This was made abundantly clear when one of the four priorities announced by both leaders was: "to move forward responsibly in the peace process" With the new Government now controlling 78% of the votes in the Knesset – a new offer is set to be made by Israel to the Palestinian Authority in a final endeavour to resolve the allocation of sovereignty



Bibi Netanyahu

in the West Bank and Gaza between Jews and Arabs.

President Obama's attempt to counsel the Palestinian Authority against taking such action was made very clear when addressing world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly:

"Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the U.N. If it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now."

Palestinian Authority then sought international recognition of Palestinian statehood at UNESCO – where it succeeded – despite Israel and America's strong opposition. This state of Palestine is not required to be demilitarized nor recognize Israel as the Jewish State – as Israel had been demanding as conditions for its recognition of a Palestinian State.

So where is Israel going to go from here in "moving forward responsibly in the peace process"?

A clue can be found in the following views expressed by Mofaz ...

"Today in Gaza, 100% of the territory and 100% of the population is under Hamas control.

In the West Bank, there are three types of areas; Area A, B, and C.

Palestinians have security and civilian responsibility in Area A.

In Area B, Israel has security responsibility, the Palestinians have civilian sovereignty.

Security and civilian issues are controlled by Israel in Area C

Today, Areas A and B represent 40% of the West Bank territory and 99.2% of the Palestinian population. But there is no continuity between the Palestinians in Areas A and B.

I am suggesting adding 20% of Area C to give full continuity to the

Palestinian state, with 60% of the territory in the West Bank and 99% of the population."

On Jerusalem – Mofaz was very definite:

"The issue of Jerusalem should be discussed in a very sensitive way. There is no chance to divide Jerusalem. It will remain united as the capital of the state of Israel and we have to find a way to handle the daily life of the Jewish and Palestinian people in Jerusalem.

On the vexed issue of building in Jewish settlements in the West Bank during negotiations – Mofaz was clear:

"We will not freeze the life or building in Ma'ale Adumim, Gush Etzion, Efrat, Ariel and some others, all of which are known as the settlement blocs.

Regarding the areas that will be the future Palestinian state, I believe that we should consider the continuation of the life of the people, but we should not build in this area because it will be under the sovereignty and responsibility of the Palestinian state. This makes it very clear which areas we will continue to build in and which we should allow daily life to continue but without any building. "...

Israel's national unity Government clearly signals that it is not in a mood to play the Palestinian Authority's game any more.

To read the full article go to: <http://www.jwire.com.au/featured-articles/palestine-israel-has-had-enough/24942/email/>



Shaul Mofaz

Here are some other interesting articles representing different points of view, they can be found on line – have a look at them when you have time:

A very leftist point of view: <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/peace-partners-a-question-for-the-pragmatic-right/>

A political analysis of the situation from the Centre-right - <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/netanyahus-big-bang-a-preliminary-analysis/>

A Reform Rabbi from the Galilee writes about current Israeli-Arab relations: <http://blogs.rj.org/blog/2012/05/16/galilee-diary-neighbors/>

blogs.rj.org/blog/2012/05/16/galilee-diary-neighbors/

ADL about Palestinian state prematurely as an obstacle for peace: <http://www.adl.org/peace-process/peace-process-faq.asp>



Michal Bruck



Jeffrey Masson



Anna Funder



Robbie Gringras



Sheila Weinberg

Limmud 2012 - Lifelong Jewish Learning

LIMMUD Launch event - Tuesday 12 June at 7.00pm, venue: Beth Shalom

LIMMUD 2012 - 18 – 19 August at Kadimah School

By Alison Dyson

If you have not yet experienced LIMMUD I can assure you you will not be disappointed in the 2012 line-up. For those of us who are already addicted to this happening, brace ourselves for another shot of challenging, stimulating, reflective, funny and sad LIMMUD moments.

This is a time when I can re-engage with what it means to be Jewish in ways I never dreamt of. It provides me with an opportunity to think about things differently – such as how to tackle some of today's biggest world challenges of poverty and war from a Jewish perspective? What do I know of unlocking the Talmudic page and understanding the Jewish hypertext? Or understanding more about the clash of Liberalism & Zionism or using "Music as a Cultural Bridge for Peace in the Middle East"? These are but a few of the myriad of topics to be under the microscope of LIMMUD this year.

The depth of programme that has materialised over the last few months is incredible, congratulations to everyone who has been working so hard on it! I can already see I simply will not be able to attend all the sessions I would like to – difficult choices will have to be made!

I recently read Anna Funder's brilliant latest novel, "All That I Am", if you haven't read it yet you might like to put it on your list. She will be discussing

this, her previous novel "Stasiland" and the role of writers as dissidents and catalysers in political change. Anna is not only a novelist, but a Human Rights lawyer and brings this particular nuance to her work. She will talk 'on-line' from New York; join me for this great skype chat session.

What else will be covered? Ethics, metaphysics, theatre, art, writing, music, cinema, the Holocaust, Torah, Halachah and faith. Meet a few of the international guests for a starter:

- Sam Lebens, philosopher, political commentator, playwright
- Carol Millner, award-winning freelance writer, poet and theatre specialist
- Adinah Brown, Jewish philosopher
- Ittay Flescher, educationalist
- Robbie Gringras, UK-born (now Israeli), Comedian and theatre artist.
- Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, a founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.
- Jeffrey Masson, psychologist, writer, former Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Studies and Director of The Freud Institute.

An absolutely brilliant line-up of NZ speakers awaits us also – check out the full speaker list on the website www.limmud.org.nz

LIMMUD has grown from fewer than a hundred Jews in the UK 32 years ago, into a wildly successful global movement for informal Jewish education. Around the world it draws more than 40,000 people annually to learn, laugh and schmooze together. So, warm up your winter days - join us for the third LIMMUD NZ!

The LIMMUD Launch will feature cellist Eliah Sakakushev and his string quartet, Clive Lawton, Israeli movies and much more (see poster): **Tuesday 12 June at 7.00pm, venue: Beth Shalom.**

18 – 19 August at Kadimah School, 108 Greys Avenue. Starting with Shabbat lunch, running right through until Sunday evening. I hope I will see you there!

To find out more or to volunteer, contact the LIMMUD Steering Group: Viv Josephs: pvjosephs@orcon.net.nz or go to the LIMMUD website on www.limmud.org.nz. Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/LimmudNZ.



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Festival of Jewish Learning and Culture

Taste of Limmud
12 June 2012 - 7:00-9:30

Beth Shalom
180 Manukau Road, Epsom

Learn more at limmud.org.nz

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How My Grandparents Changed My Life

by Rebekah Wadsworth



Rebekah Wadsworth carries the New Zealand sign on **The March**

Thanks to my grandparents, David and Helen Levin, I was given the amazing opportunity to participate in The March of The Living. It was a very full programme with many extraordinary memories for me.

As I stepped out of the airport in Warsaw, I couldn't believe I was really there. During the week in Poland we visited many places relating to the Holocaust. Going to Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau were some of the most eye-opening experiences of my life. The extent of what was there and the displays in the museum at Auschwitz were unbelievable - seeing all the hair, shoes and luggage, which were found after the war. It was a surreal experience. Birkenau was like something out of another world too. Standing at the end of the train tracks looking back toward the entrance; I couldn't believe that I was there, seeing horrors but knowing I could walk out unlike so many others. After this emotional day I e-mailed my Grandparents to thank them again for this experience.

The literal *March* of the Living was from Auschwitz to Birkenau. The starting point was in Auschwitz 1; it was crowded with people from all over the world. I was privileged to be asked to wear the New Zealand flag and carry the sign. Arriving at Birkenau everyone became

solemn as the ceremony began. The sun shone through the clouds as we joined arms and sang Hatikvah.

Hearing the Liberators of the camps tell their stories about what they had seen was very special. We came together in front of the Jewish ghetto in Cracow and listened to how they had risked their lives to save others. Another of so many memorable moments for me, once again I had to e-mail my Grandparents to tell them how much this meant to me.

Our last day in Poland was going to Majdanek. Many of the emotions that we had experienced throughout the week came spilling out, for all of us at once. All the times that I was sad, yet couldn't express my feelings, came out that day. One of the survivors travelling with us, Max, said Kaddish in the crematorium after telling us of his mother and brother who perished there. There were tears all around. After Majdanek we went straight to the airport. I was finally going to Israel!

This was my first time travelling to Israel and I was extremely excited as I had been told many things about it. I was so happy to be there. I was no longer cold and sad, I felt like I was home. There is something about the atmosphere in Israel that makes you feel like you really are 'home'.

The most memorable part for me was heading straight to Caesarea from the airport. The sun was shining, there was good food and I was with people that I had become great friends with.

This experience is something that I will always carry with me and I have my wonderful Grandparents to thank for it. When I was younger I went to Hebrew School every Sunday, and after my Bat Mitzvah stopped going to Shul. Going on this trip has brought me back closer to who I am. I have always identified as being Jewish but now even more so.

Everybody that is given the opportunity to do this should; thanks to Nana and Poppa, I have.

SOS Quiz Thanks

"...Raising money AND having a really great time while you're doing it, well that's a real plus!" says SOS chairperson, Freda Narev.

It has become an (almost) annual fixture, so much so that when the Senior Outreach Service committee lets it be known that another Quiz Night is approaching, the competing teams start to form up "almost like magic", says Freda "Of course, the cause- an outreach service specifically aimed at helping the elderly in the community - is one that everyone is happy to support."

Almost as one quiz ends, committee member Helen Heppner begins sourcing curly questions to challenge next year's competitors. With 5 rounds each of 10 questions, it pays to start early.

MC this year was Barry Travis, whose wit and good humour kept the proceedings moving at a sparkling pace...not easy with some 90 very lively participants, all eager to win.

A delicious supper, prepared by the SOS committee, followed by presentation of prizes, rounded off a really enjoyable evening.

The SOS committee would like to thank all those who supported the 2012 fundraiser. See you next year!



March of the Living welcomes all Year 12 and 13 children. Dates for 2013 tour: 3rd / 4th April until 17th / 18th April (NB: final dates yet to be set).

An information afternoon will be arranged in August. For more information, please contact Esther Haver on esther@defsec.co.nz or phone 09 585 1956.



March of the Living 2012

Lawrence Nathan led 6 young NZers, religious and secular; Zionists and those who had never been to Israel before; descendants of survivors and those without a familial connection; on a life-changing journey to Poland and Israel. Here are two accounts of highlights from the perspectives of Gary and Astra.

Gary Hofman: In Warsaw, we travelled to the Radagast train station near Lodz. Here we prayed Minchah in one of the carts used to transport prisoners. I felt this was a real gesture of defiance to the Nazis, and an act of respect to the millions of Jews who were not as fortunate as us.

Days later we explored a museum in Schindler's factory, which was extremely interesting and informative. Following this, we went to a square in the old Jewish centre of Cracow, where we spoke to U.S., British and Russian liberators of camps. This year the March was dedicated to the brave soldiers who liberated the camps. It was easily one of the most special moments of the entire trip.

The next day was the 'Big Day'. The day of the actual March of the Living. Auschwitz was crowded with people of all different nationalities: the kiwis seemed to be very popular as it was obvious we were an exotic minority. The atmosphere of the March was incredible. Throughout the procession of 11,000 people the excitement never dropped, but as we arrived at our finish at Birkenau the mood became solemn for the ceremony. This featured a lot of prominent figures including Chaim Topol, Dudu Fisher and the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, Rabbi Lau.

Going to Poland was an incredible experience that I will never forget. The moments we shared as a group, and individually, will be with us forever. I am so glad I had the honour of participating on the March of the Living.

Astra Druker-Michaels: The transition from Poland to Israel was unbelievably dramatic, as after walking through grounds where once hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered, and bat-



The New Zealand contingent in front of the kotel (Madrach Lawrence Nathan, Isaiah Katz, Gary Hofman, Alon Kruger, Annette Levine, Astra Druker-Michaels and Rebekah Wadsworth)

ting indescribable emotions all week, we were set for the home of the Jewish people, Israel! We could not wait to get to Ben Gurion Airport.

I had many highlights in Israel but one day that stood out to me was the day of the Jerusalem March where we marched as one through the streets of Jerusalem (Kikar Safra to the Kotel). There was an invigorating atmosphere as you look ahead, and behind you at a mass of blue jackets and know that you really aren't alone at all. As we marched both in Poland and Israel there was a huge sense of unity and uplifting spirit as everyone was proud as can be to be there. Getting to march through one of the most beautiful cities in the world evoked a feeling I will never forget. That night we continued on to the March of the Living mega-event at Latrun: one of the most amazing nights of my life, dancing and singing for hours and hours into the night.

Another highlight in Israel was the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration following Yom Hazikaron. There was a huge difference in culture and spirit between the two days. We got the chance to experience Yom Hazikaron in a small city called Kiryat Yam, where we stayed with a family and attended the memorial service that evening. We even had the

special opportunity to sit down with the Mayor, as he matched each of us up with our same-aged billet and familiarised us with the city. The family I stayed with was SO lovely and welcoming. The celebrations for Yom Ha'atzmaut were so much fun the following night, with everyone dancing to live music, and foam everywhere in the street.

Being my first time in Israel, I had no idea what to expect. Everywhere we went I was amazed by what I saw and how I felt just being there. Before I went on the trip I hadn't connected with my Judaism much at all. But while on the trip, with the opportunity to be around Jewish people my age who are truly proud to be Jewish, really made an impact on me. However I definitely feel a positive difference coming back home and I feel so much more proud to be Jewish as I have seen, first-hand, the destruction endured by our people, and yet more importantly, how we rose out of that and built such a strong nation. I owe it all to the trip.

Courses of Jewish Study?

Applications to the Educational Bequest Fund close on 30th June 2012. Contact Jude Berman, judeberman@orcon.net.nz or the office.

Silver Club Has Taken Off!



By Andrea Robinson

"I'm really delighted with the way the club has taken off", says Silver Club organiser, Tali Mozessohn.

In the two and a half years since the Silver Club was established, Tali has seen membership expand to some thirty people. And the age range it caters for? "Oh, anywhere from sixties on", she says.

Open to any Senior in the Jewish community, the Silver Club meets at 10.30am at Beth Shalom on the second Tuesday of the month. The programme begins with a book review given by avid readers in the community, the subject matter of the books reflecting the wide range of interests of the reviewers.

A committed group of fantastic volunteers provide the delicious home-baked morning tea. "I've only had to resort to a packet of store-bought biscuits twice so far!" says Tali. Tea break allows members time to catch up with old friends. "It's great that we're also seeing new friendships being struck up through the club", Tali adds.

After morning tea there is a guest speaker. Upcoming speakers: June, noted cellist Eliah Sakakushev; July, Ezra Karon, 'Does Archaeology Agree With the Bible?'; August, 'Getting Legal Affairs in Order' with Lorraine Lippman.

Between meetings, Tali phones round, "It's a good opportunity for me to remind members about the next meeting, and check if they need transport. I can also enquire if members need any help through our SOS service."

Meantime, with membership growing like topsy, it seems the Silver Club is offering a welcome service to Seniors in our community. See you next time!

For further information about the Silver Club or SOS: Phone 524 5255 or check SOS online at:
www.outreachworker.org.nz

Film Review: A Dangerous Method

Reviewed by Chris Milton

Directed by David Cronenberg, traces the changing relationship between young psychiatrist Carl Gustav ("CG") Jung (Michael Fassbender), his patient Sabina Spielrein (Keira Knightley) and the founder of psycho-analysis Sigmund Freud (Viggo Mortensen).

In 1904 young Russian Jewish student Sabina, who had been treated at several private clinics, proved so difficult that she was admitted to the Burghölzli Hospital. She was successfully treated by Jung. Sabina suffered from hysteria, involving symptoms of sexual arousal provoked by being humiliated or punished. Once discharged, she continued to meet with Jung, and they developed a non-therapeutic relationship. The exact details of this relationship remain unknown. It seems it was romantic in nature, although in reality Sabina fostered rumours, provoking envy from Jung's many admirers. The situation was grounds for trouble in Jung's relationship with his wife Emma, with Freud, and in his treatment of Sabina, becoming a catalyst for Freud and Jung's lengthy correspondence.

Sabina herself went on to become a psycho-analyst active in the nascent movement, later returning to Rostov where she was murdered by the Nazis.

The film's characterisation is likely inaccurate. In reality Freud was *gemütlich*, warm and congenial, whilst Jung was an ebullient, charismatic, even arrogant character. None of this is quite captured in the film's rather flat portrayal. Emma, in reality a demure young wife of her era, was intellectually able and down to earth (with corresponding features which aren't represented by Sarah Gadon's prettiness).

The dialogue is interesting as much of Freud, Jung and Spielrein's speech is generated from their correspondence or reported conversations, thereby giving

an accurate account. However, the sexual encounters depicted in the film are complete conjecture. Sabina only described their intimate activities as "poetry".

What would I most *get* from this film? French psycho-analyst Jacques Lacan described a number of different "discourses", two of which stand in opposition to each other and another proffering a solution. In the master discourse, our desire is brought under control. In the early 20thC this was apparent in European women's lives in particular; the only way they could find to struggle against the master discourse was through hysterical discourse – symptoms literally embodying resistance to master discourse, allowing desire to live albeit in a distorted form. It was Freud's genius to create another discourse, the analytic discourse, which subverted the master discourse and freed desire for healthy expression. In the film, Sabina and Jung's lives paradoxically combined and hybridised both master discourse and hysterical discourse. This is staged in the scenes in which Sabina releases her desire by being beaten by Jung: she was free only when she was literally mastered. Perhaps this was inevitable, as Jung wrote years later: "the higher psychotherapy is a most exacting business and sometimes it sets tasks which challenge not only our understanding or our sympathy but the whole man".





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Shavuot Quiz Answers

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S	H	S	H	I	V	A	T	H	E
O	T	R	I	M	O	M	E	A	R
L	U	U	A	G	H	A	R	M	E
A	R	K	H	I	R	K	S	I	T
H	T	I	C	Z	T	A	H	N	H
S	A	B	T	O	U	V	A	I	A
I	L	A	H	G	A	H	C	M	D
A	I	G	E	M	T	O	R	B	I
N	I	S	R	A	H	N	A	V	I

Tibi Ram's story, a gift for many New Zealanders

by Osnat Dvorkin and Alison Dyson

From the ashes of the Holocaust a nation is born - this is Zeev (Tibi) Ram's story.

Tibi's story is one story out of millions of Holocaust stories, but Tibi came from Israel to share his story to over 1,200 New Zealanders: Jewish and non-Jewish alike.

For the second year in a row, the Zionist Federation of NZ has brought a Holocaust survivor from Israel. This year the programme was called, "I Survived Auschwitz"

"This is a ground breaking, dynamic programme pioneered in NZ," says Rachel Korpus, President of ZFNZ, "We are very proud of getting this national programme established, albeit with minimal support."

It has been an extraordinary success, with 12 schools around the country participating this year, "I did not need to call one school this year for bookings – they called me," says Osnat Dvorkin, Shaliach, "You can see how powerful it is when you are in the school hall watching the faces of the young people. There is nothing like a 'first-hand' story told with words alone: no pictures, no PowerPoint, no maps – just a survivor and their story."

Other audiences fortunate to hear Tibi speak included a group at the University of Auckland, 400 members of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem in Auckland, and numerous Yom HaShoah commemorations around the country.

At 81 years, Tibi has the air of a vital man, proud of his kibbutz community (Kibbutz Afikim) and his passion for Israel; his home since he left Europe at 17 after losing his family in the Holocaust. He is one of only two men who have served in all seven of Israel's wars; finally leaving his combat unit at the end of the second Lebanon war aged 76. He transferred regiments to join an education unit (where he continues to work to this day!) His dedication to Israel is reflected in his long military service; which Tibi described to students everywhere as a "privilege".

On several occasions I listened to Tibi tell his remarkable and shocking story, always through the simple interpretation of what happened to him as a mere boy. Tibi was born on December 3, 1930 in the town of Munkatch Czechoslovakia, annexed to Hungary in 1940. His family were patriotic Hungarians, but in May 1944, when his father and mother were 45 years old, and he and his brother were 13 and 18 years respectively, they were sent to Auschwitz Birkenau. From there the stronger boys and men were sent to a work camp in Silesia – Furstenstein Wistegiesdorf.

In January 1945, as the Russians approached, they were taken on a "death march" to Bergen Belsen; they arrived to a desperate situation with 40,000 people in a camp designed to house 2,000. His entire family perished – his father at Bergen Belsen, April 14, 1945 (the eve of liberation). His brother died one day after. He met his mother briefly at Bergen Belsen, but lost contact when they were admitted to separate



hospitals. He never saw her again. Tibi shared a surprising thought with the school audience at Macleans College, "I think children are always frightened of their parents dying. I knew I had nothing to be scared of after my parents had died."

After a long recovery in Sweden, Tibi went to Israel in 1948. He immediately joined the IDF serving during the War of Independence. From there began a life shared between farming on kibbutz, the army and his family. In 1967 he reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

He is emotional when he recounts the moment of returning to Auschwitz for the first time as the educational tour leader for a large group of IDF officers. As he recounts it, he wore his full uniform and medals, "I stood there, on the platform where I had stood as a poor little boy, I remembered it – exactly as it was. But now I was a strong man, surrounded by 180 military men. I felt so proud, it was a very emotional moment for me".

Rachel Korpus says the Zionist Federation is extremely grateful for the support of the Embassy of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Department of Diaspora activities, the commitment of our shaliach Osnat Dvorkin, and of course, for the ongoing support of the Jewish community in New Zealand; without which this programme could not happen.



Mr. Ram talking at Epsom Girls Grammar

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A Taste of LIMMUD

Clive Lawton

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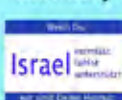
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Holland



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and many other
countries

World wide



New Zealand



22 July 2012

5:30-7:30 pm. Beth Shalom.

New Zealand is joining the
game for Israel. Come and
be a part of our right to
influence Israel.

Join us for Pizzas & Beer, Wine & Cheese and Politics