



April 2019

Adar II~Nisan 5779

Teruah



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

(ISSN 1177-2352)

Our Board members

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

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Executive

- President Debbie Swiatek (Hebrew School representative) president@bethshalom.org.nz
- Immediate Past President, Sally Natan
- Vice President Alistair Kirk vice_president@bethshalom.org.nz
- Secretary, Sam Dyson, secretary@bethshalom.org.nz
- Treasurer Shane Sampson treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz

Board members and portfolios

- Olga Bernstein, Conversions olga.bernsteinz@gmail.com
- Julie Dick, B&B primroseji@gmail.com
- Darryl Grauman, Security darryl.grauman@gmail.com
- Carol McCracken, Ritual mccrackencarol@gmail.com
- Suzanne Nemeroff, Country Membership and Shabbaton suzannenemeroff@gmail.com
- Ted Ries, tedbries@gmail.com

Hebrew School Educator, Debbie Miller educator@bethshalom.org.nz

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

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

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Coming up in March-April ...

- **Saturday 30 March**, during our service we will honour our members Shirley Horrocks who was appointed Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to documentary film-making and Joan Lardner-Rivlin who was appointed Member of the NZ Order of Merit for services to seniors in the 2019 New Year Honours. Following the service there will be a kiddush to celebrate their significant achievements.
- **Saturday 30 March**, 12.30pm Jewish Rainbow Torah study in library.
- **Sunday 31 March** 6pm **Special General Meeting** followed by **Annual General Meeting** at 7:30pm. Pesach products will be available for sale to **Beth Shalom members only** just prior to the 6pm meeting. Further sale dates will be Sunday 7th April and Sunday 14th April from 1pm just prior to the B&B AGM at 2pm..
- **Friday 5 April**, please come along for our Hebrew school service. Kita Gimmel will lead our service together with Ted Ries and Asher Assaraf. The service will be followed by our usual Erev Shabbat pot luck dinner, so please bring some non-meat food or dessert to share.
- **Saturday 6 April**, Shabbat Kat children's service (with parents), 10-11am.
- **Sunday 7 April, 7:30pm** at Beth Shalom, B'nai B'rith CEO Chris Harris and guest speaker: a fresh approach to combatting anti-Semitism, prejudice and discrimination in NZ.
- **Sunday 14 April, 2pm** Annual General meeting of the Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society at Beth Shalom
- **Friday 19 April**, there will be no service at Beth Shalom as it is first night Pesach.
- **Saturday 20 April** please join us for First day Pesach and Shabbat Morning service at 10am.
- **Sunday 21 April, 6pm**, Third Night Passover Seder. Contact the [office](#) to make your reservation and payment before **Thursday 11 April**. **Click [here](#) for prices etc.**
- **Friday 26 April**, 7th day Pesach morning service including Yizkor at 10am.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE TZEDAKAH BOX.**



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Community Security Group

*Serving the Jewish Community in
New Zealand*

Phone: 0800 AUCK CSG or 0800 2825 274

Post: PO Box 68 728, Auckland

Email: contact@auckcs.org.nz



CSG is looking for more people!

THE COMMUNITY NEEDS US – WE NEED YOU.

**If you are aged between 18 and 80 and would like
to contribute to your community then please
contact the CSG using the details above.**

President's message April 2019

As I sit here trying to think of what to write in my first message of my second year as your president, I am forced, for the second time in less than 6 months, to address an atrocity of horrific magnitude.

While I would like nothing more than to simply thank the amazing group of men and women who make up your Board of Management, I must instead try to make sense of something that is utterly senseless.

While the massacre in Christchurch took place in a Mosque, two to be exact, it had no less of an impact on our community of Beth Shalom than the horrific attacks at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh late last year. This was our backyard. And they were us. Coming together to pray in what should have been a house of peace; a place of worship. And as you are all aware, we were directly affected in that the threat was severe enough to warrant our cancelling our services that same weekend. Yet although we were not together in our temple, I believe that we were together in our prayers. Each and every member of our congregation mourned the needless loss of life and the end of innocence that we so valued in our corner of the world. While we were not together physically, I know that we were together spiritually.

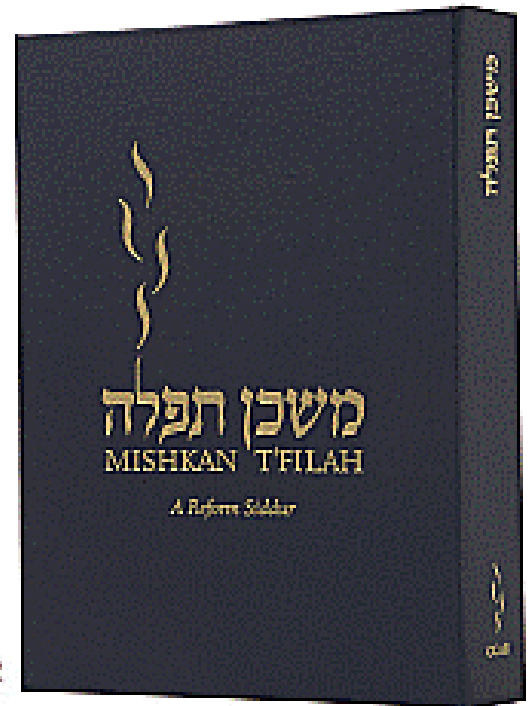
We will not be bullied. We will stand up to racism and nationalism, to anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Sometimes that can't happen at Beth Shalom, but it will always happen. Our voices need to be heard, but they also need to be safe. It is a precarious balance. One that I hadn't believed we would have to face on our shores. But here we are.

Life will settle again. The raw pain of these events will soften with time. We will return to our routines and schedules. But we will not forget. We will not stop being vigilant when we are at Beth Shalom and we will not stop speaking out against what is wrong and unacceptable in our home.

B'shalom,

Debbie

[Click for service roster here](#)



Prayer for Healing Group

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

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

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

Caring for the unwell is part of being a community.

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

If you wish to be part of this group

Or, if you know of someone who is unwell that would appreciate our prayer

Please contact Leon Goldwater or Christine O'Brien at shul office

Leon: ldgoldwater@gmail.com 020 403 88054

Christine: office@bethshalom.org.nz 524 4139

The Buzz

Howard and Barbara Sandler and Eric and Daphne Furman are thrilled to announce the safe arrival on 16 February 2019, of a new grandson and great-grandson, Levi Aaron Guttenberg. Mum, Stacy Guttenberg (nee Sandler) Dad- Izzac (Zac) Guttenberg and very excited and caring Big sister - Samara Guttenberg (4 1/2 years old).



PURIM 20 March 2019

Sunday School: Conversations with our Youth

It is my great privilege to be able to study and learn with our young adults preparing for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. We are attempting to deal with issues that confront them every day. The massacre in Christchurch gave us reason to discuss race, antisemitism, and punishment. We also tried to frame it all in discussion about how we want to the world we live in to look.

Do we want a world without racism?

So how do you respond to a racist, sexist, antisemitic comment made by your peers? We got responses like just tell them they are being stupid, or just ignore them but as we went on to unpack that response we discovered that did not achieve our goals of making the person understand why it was offensive. It did not stop them from repeating it to someone else. They may very well not say it to us again, but our goal was to make sure that they did not repeat it to someone else. It was important for our students to figure out a safe way to respond and inform other students that they were Jews. Relate personally why it was offensive to them. People oftentimes just don't know. Being proud and strong about your identity is often the best offensive. And finally, give the reason that what happens when racism, antisemitism, and sexism are allowed to fester in society it can allow people to take the next step towards that which we thought would not happen. It is a slippery slope towards violence when we do not stop it at its roots.

Another shocking thing I discovered was that our very good kids within minutes of the Christchurch massacre had access to the shooter's video. And in the course of the conversation students offered to tell what platform I could go to see the video. None of them had shared the video but everyone knew it was available and easily accessible. I was thinking, No, No do not share the address with your classmates! I think of myself as a person very much against censorship and yet here I was saying, don't share that address. And they went on to describe what they had seen. On the one hand I felt like I needed to be in a safe space for them to discuss it because clearly it was something that was being viewed and discussed in their world and it is a very toxic video and on the other hand I felt like I did not want to be a platform for sharing more of the shooter's actions and fulfilling his aim.

We decided not to share the location to see it but to discuss how violence and viewing it in movies, games and many frameworks in their lives could make them less sensitive and society less sensitive.



Bar and Bar Mitzvah students hard at work making baked goods for the Volunteering Heart Bake Sale which raised \$456.00 for the Women's Refuge.







Bar Bat Mitzvah kids lead services and Blessing over the Challah reaching for new heights.



Do you know Auckland? Where am I?

Email [Debbie Miller](#) if you think you know.

Sunday 31 March 6pm **Special General Meeting** followed by **Annual General Meeting** at 7:30pm. Pesach products will be available for sale to **Beth Shalom members only** just prior to the 6pm meeting. Further sale dates will be Sunday 7th April and Sunday 14th April from 1pm just prior to the B&B AGM at 2pm..

The Seder Plate and Its Symbolism

There are a number of symbols that occur throughout the seder, but perhaps the focal point of the whole event is the seder plate. It contains a roasted shankbone, symbolizing the [Pesach sacrifice](#) in the Temple, a roasted egg symbolizing either the spring season or mourning (for the destruction of Jerusalem), [maror](#) (bitter herbs) to represent the bitter experience of the Hebrew slaves, [haroset](#) (a mixture of apples, nuts, raisins, spices, wine) symbolizing the mortar the Hebrew slaves used to build for the Egyptians, and [karpas](#) (parsley, celery, or another green vegetable) symbolizing the green of spring. The table must also have three pieces of [matzah](#), sometimes held in a special pouch.

From My Jewish Learning



Seder Meal

A Progressive Seder Plate

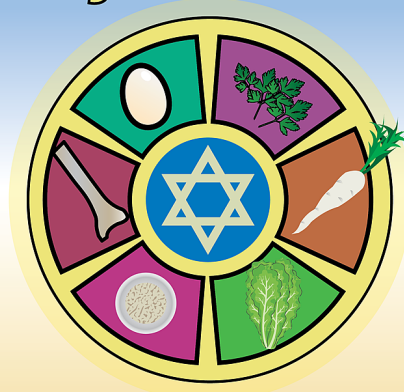
by Chris Milton

The Seder plate is the focal point of the proceedings on the first nights of Pesach. Whether it is an ornate silver dish or a humble napkin, it bears the ceremonial foods around which the Seder is based: matzah, the shankbone, egg, bitter herbs, charoset, and the karpas vegetable. In more progressive homes other items have, in recent years, been added to the Seder plate. The first of these was the orange.

Dr Susannah Heschel tells the story of the genesis of placing an orange on the Seder plate in the 2003 book, *The Women's Passover Companion* (JPL). In the early 1980s she was introduced to an early feminist Haggadah that suggested adding a crust of bread to the Seder plate to convey the idea that there's as much room for lesbians in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the Seder plate. Heschel felt, however, that to do so would be to accept that Jewish lesbians and gay men violate Judaism in the same way as chametz violates Passover. However, liking the general idea Heschel, at her next Seder, chose an orange as a symbol of the inclusion of gays and Lesbians, and others who are marginalized, within the Jewish community. Heschel chose an orange because it intimates the fruitfulness for all Jews when lesbians and gay men are involved members of Jewish life. The symbolism grew to include people who feel marginalized from the Jewish community. The orange was not a navel orange; it had to have seeds to symbolize rebirth, renewal. And spitting out the seeds reminds us to spit out the hatred of those whom we marginalise. The orange is segmented, not fragmented. The Jewish community has discrete segments, but they form a whole. Heschel noted that in its development the legend became distorted: her idea of an orange affirming lesbians and gay men as part of the Jewish community was transformed. A distorted story has circulated that a man said to her that a woman belongs on the bimah as an orange does on the Seder plate. Susannah Heschel's words were attributed to a man, and the reference to lesbians and gay men was erased. This is precisely what has happened to women's ideas over the centuries, and we need now to set that right.

At the Beth Shalom community Seder we now follow the custom of placing an orange on the Seder plate to signal inclusivity in general.

Beth Shalom Community Third Night Passover Seder



Sunday 21st April- 6:00pm
Beth Shalom Community Hall

Pricing:

Adult Members \$34.0

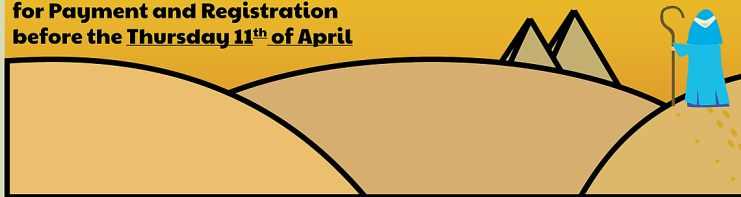
Adult Non-Members \$44.0

Young Adults (6-15) \$22.0

Children (under 6) \$0.0

For specific dietary requirements,
please advise on booking.

**Contact Beth Shalom Office
for Payment and Registration
before the Thursday 11th of April**



**Friday 5 April Kita Gimmel class will
lead the service. Please bring a
non-meat dish or dessert to share.**

**Beth Shalom 6:30pm and all are welcome especially
parents, family and friends.**



B & B BITES

THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE by Ian Morrison

The heart-rending tragedy that unfolded in Christchurch has made a deep impression on almost every New Zealander. Our thoughts have flowed to the families of the deceased and their communities, as they mourn their loved ones and struggle to put their lives together again. We offer them our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy.

Meanwhile, for Jewish New Zealanders, these terrible events have provided a reminder that we too could (God Forbid!) become collective victims of a sudden, savage act of hate. Indeed, the chances of this happening seem disturbingly greater than they were just a few years ago.

We know that both the New Zealand Police and our own Community Security Group will do what they can to keep us safe. And we can be reasonably confident of a timely and efficient response from the emergency services. But the question remains as to how well-equipped we, as a community, would be if we needed to lay a large number of people to rest, whilst providing comfort and support for their bereaved families.

My own belief is that we are very poorly prepared for such an emergency. And my reason for believing this is that the B&B, as the body responsible for such tasks, has, for many years now, experienced recurrent difficulties in recruiting people who are willing to train as funeral lay readers or shammashim or to make themselves available as tahara volunteers. Similarly, we are perpetually short of people who can be at hand to comfort the bereaved or offer time and/or expertise as members of the society's board.

We are ALWAYS "thin on the ground" and although, time after time, we succeed in performing our prescribed roles, this is despite rather than because of the numbers of volunteers we're able to deploy.

So, if doing our job in normal circumstances remains a perpetual challenge, there's room for at least some scepticism over whether we could perform adequately in the aftermath of a communal tragedy, even with assistance from other communities.

Can this situation be turned round so that we're as well-prepared as humanly possible for performing our essential role in the worst conceivable situations? Yes, it can be, but only with your involvement! A good way to explore how to help is to come along to the B&B's AGM at Beth Shalom on Sunday 14th April (commencing at 2.00 pm). Alternatively, you can telephone Diana on 021 217 0963, to discuss volunteering options.

Most of us are reluctant to spend time thinking about potential disasters or even about the inevitable passing of loved ones in sad but normal circumstances. But, as the events of the last few weeks have reminded us, we never know when death will visit our families or our community. It is our joint responsibility to make sure we are prepared.



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**SIX TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN ISRAEL BY THE
PARTICIPANTS OF BETH SHALOM'S TU BE'SHEVAT
SEDER 2019.**

20th January 2019

With thanks from the Jewish National Fund (KKL)

**"The one concerned with days, plants wheat; with years, plants trees;
with generations, educates people."**

By Janusz Korczak.



קרן קיימת לישראל • Jewish National Fund • Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael