



March 2019

Adar I - Adar II 5779

Teruah



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

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Our Board members

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

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- Darryl Grauman, Security darryl.grauman@gmail.com
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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 ...

- **Saturday 2 March**, Bar Mitzvah Reuben Nemeroff, please join the Nemeroff family as they celebrate this simcha.
- **Friday 8 March**, (no pot luck on 1 March) pot luck dinner after service, Bar/Bat Mitzvah class will be leading.
- **Saturday 9 March**, Shabbat Kat. Early childhood service 10-11am meeting in the Library.
- **Wednesday 20 March**, 6.30 pm with family craft activities from 6pm in the library. Come along for our Purim service and megillah reading. Adult cast will present a Purim Spiel then we will party. Costumes or masks with prizes all part of the Purim fun. Please remember to bring some finger food for a pot luck finger food meal.
- **Sunday 24 March**, Community Purim Carnival, 2-4pm. Venue TBA.
- **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 pot luck in library.
- **Sunday 31 March** 6pm **Special General Meeting** followed by **Annual General Meeting** at 7:30pm.
- **Sunday 21 April, 6pm**, Third Night Passover Seder.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE TZEDAKAH BOX.**



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Email: contact@auckcsg.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 March 2019

"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

As you probably know by now, the Beth Shalom AGM will be held on **Sunday, 31 March**. At that time, elections will be held for 5 board member positions. The Beth Shalom Board of Management is responsible for guiding the direction of the temple and overseeing the day to day management of the shul.

It does not require a huge time commitment - we meet once a month for approximately 2 hours in the temple library. You may be asked to attend services from time to time and there may be an additional meeting or two if you decide to get involved with a specific committee. Committees include membership, ritual, Hebrew school and conversion, among others.

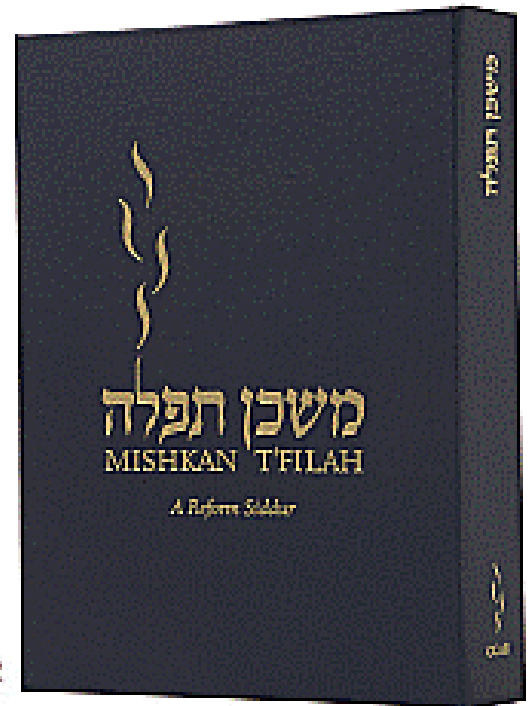
The only requirements are that you have been a member of Beth Shalom for one year and that you are interested in helping to shape the future of our congregation. If you have considered serving on the board, even just had a fleeting thought about it, please get in touch with me or any other current board member to discuss it further. We need your help. (Click [here](#) for nominaton form)

Martin Luther King, Jr. said anyone can be great and Aristotle said the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Just think how truly amazing we could be with you on board.

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

Iggy Rose-Yon, Bar Mitzvah 15 December 2018



Dear *Beth shalom*

I would like to thank you for coming to my Bar Mitzvah. It has been a long journey for me. I made the decision to have my Bar Mitzvah a year ago. In that year I learnt Hebrew from scratch, prayers and songs off by heart.

Thank you for being there to support me and for the gift you gave me!

I am grateful for the helmets I was donated for Ohaeawai Primary (they'll be delivered to them in the next couple of weeks) and for being able to get a new (strong) bike.

Regards IGGY



Beth Shalom long time member **Joan Lardner-Rivlin** has been named a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2019 New Year Honours list. Joan worked in the Volunteer Community Co-ordinators programme with the Office for Senior citizens 2005-2014 and has been an active member for Auckland Council's Senior Advisory Panel and also received the Queen's Service Medal in 2007.

Joan has been presenting **Radio Shalom**, a weekly radio programme for the Jewish community, since 1998.



Another Beth Shalom member, **Shirley Horrocks** was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to documentary film making.

Shirley's documentaries have received widespread use in schools, universities, public libraries, art galleries and festivals, and New Zealand embassies to raise awareness of their subject artists and writers and serve as records of New Zealand's culture and history.

Blessings: Common Sense is Not Always Halachic Sense

by Chris Milton

At the Tu B'Sh'vat Seder one is called to make different brochos/blessings over various fruits. Often, at least during the seder that we at Beth Shalom host, this includes making blessings on such as melon and grapes. The brocha/blessing, as we all know, which we say over wine or grape juice is familiar from Kiddush and is:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam borei pri ha-gafen

This translates as: "Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine." This blessing makes common sense as grapes, from which wine and grape juice are made, are indeed, in every-day terms, **fruit of the vine**. Grapes grow on vines and we describe the area in which they grow as "vineyards" and the name "wine" derives from vine. Common sense, then, also suggests that, if this is the **specific blessing** which we make over wine, then it might also be the **general blessing** which we would say over the general class of fruits that grow on a vine, such as melons, passionfruit, kiwi fruit, and grapes. The actual halachic situation is as follows:

- Wine and grape juice attract the blessing that ends in: who created the fruit of the vine/borei pri ha-gafen.
- Grapes themselves attract the blessing that ends in: who created the fruit of the tree/borei pri ha-eitz.
- Kiwi fruit attract the blessing that ends in: who created the fruit of the tree/borei pri ha-eitz.
- Melons attract the blessing that ends in: who created the fruit of the earth/borei pri ha-adamah.
- With passionfruit some people say the blessing that ends in: who created the fruit of the tree/borei pri ha-eitz and some people say the blessing that ends in: who created the fruit of the earth/borei pri ha-adamah[i].
- The blessing on all beverages (except wine, grape juice and raisin wine[ii]) ends in shehakol nih'ye bidvaro (through whose word everything comes into being[iii]).

Common sense is not helpful when it comes to halachah! How then do we understand this, that grapes attract the blessing pri ha-eitz but wine and grape juice attract the blessing pri ha-gafen, especially as, according to common sense, a grape vine is not at all a tree and ha-gafen means the vine?

Firstly, in terms of halachah a grape vine is a “tree.” The halachah by which plants are regarded as trees is complex and debated. However, in the simplest terms, according to the Babylonian Talmud Tractate Berachot 40a, a tree (eitz) is a plant from which when you pick the fruit, the branch remains and again produces fruit[iv]. The definition does not depend on the height of the tree or the woodiness of its stem. (That said, the minhag is to make the pri ha-adamah blessing on fruit that grows on plants which are less than about 24 cm tall even though the plants fulfil all the requirements of being trees[v].)

This means that the grape vine, although in terms of common sense a vine, fulfils the halachic criteria for being a tree and therefore grapes are regarded as fruit of the tree. This is why the blessing associated with grapes is pri ha-eitz but with melons it is pri ha-adamah even though they both grow on a vine – that fact that they grow on vines has nothing to do with the form of the blessing.

Secondly, where does the pri ha-gafen blessing, that we say over wine, come from?

According to a Mishnah found in the Babylonian Talmud Tractate Berachot 35a we say the pri ha-eitz blessing over different fruits that grow on a tree but wine is an exception. Wine is not itself a fruit of the tree but a product of the fruit of the tree. Furthermore, the blessing said over wine differs from that said over other fruits of the tree because wine is special. The Mishnah goes on to say that the blessing for wine is pri ha-gafen[vi].

The justification for this special blessing for wine (and grape juice) is part of a complexly interwoven argument which is found in the Gemara in Berachot 35b. In this discussion the rabbis conclude that wine is special because it makes people both satisfied and happy and that it therefore deserves a special blessing of its very own. (Grape juice is essentially treated as wine because, even though it contains no alcohol, it possesses the potential to become alcoholic – see for part of this argument Talmud Bavli Gemara Bava Basra 97b[vii] and the Rashbam’s[viii] commentary on this).

In summary, in terms of common sense a grape vine is a vine but halachically it is a tree. Consequently the blessing for grapes is actually pri ha-eitz, i.e. fruit of the tree. The blessing for wine and grape juice is pri ha-gafen (fruit of the vine) but this is not, as common sense dictates because grapes grow on a vine, instead it is because there is a special blessing for wine (and grape juice) because wine is itself regarded as special. Although melons grow on a vine their blessing is not, as common sense might dictate, pri ha-gafen but pri ha-adamah (fruit of the earth) because melons are fruit of the earth and there is nothing noteworthy or distinctive about them with regard to Jewish life. Likewise with other fruits such as kiwifruit and passionfruit.

Common sense is often not halachically reliable as a guide. Common sense can be very misleading. Halachah calls for familiarity with halachic texts and halachic thinking. In terms of halachah, common sense is not always sense.

[i] http://berachot.org/foods/letter_p.htm

[ii] The halachah on raisin wine is rather complex but bottom line is that the borei pri ha-gafen brocha is appropriate.

[iii] <https://oukosher.org/guide-to-blessings/>

[iv] Talmud Bavli Berachot 40a: Where does one recite: Who creates fruit of the tree? Only in a case where, when you take the fruit, the branch remains and again produces fruit.

[v] <https://www.yeshiva.co/midrash/shiur.asp?id=6863>

[vi] <https://www.sefaria.org/Berakhot.35a.1?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en>

[vii] https://www.sefaria.org/Bava_Batra.97b?lang=bi

[viii] *Rashbam, Bava Basra 97b*

See http://www.crcweb.org/kosher_articles/grape_juice_concentrate.php#_ftn3

Sunday School and Pre-school

SHABBAT KAT **Children's services (monthly)** **March 9th, (with parents) 10-11am**



Singing



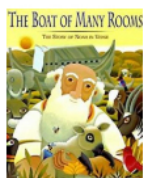
Puppets



Dancing



Torah



Stories



Hebrew



Challah and juice



Musical instruments

Bring all your spirit and energy.

Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Rd, Epsom. Contact: educator@bethshalom.org.nz

PosterMyWall.com

We have just had some amazing singing, and learning going on at Beth Shalom these last two weeks.

Ted Ries on Guitar and Stav Rogel our shlichah (professional trained singer) have joined together to bring some spirit to our Sunday morning tefillot. We clapped and sang our way through Debbie Friedman's "Not By Might" and used our groggers to make some Rash in the song Hag Purim. Lots of smiles and lively energy was felt by everyone. We find our kids definitely are enjoying services a bit more with the more lively participation. And a special thanks to our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students who are also helping to lead.

Classes are filled with a lot of new faces both among the teachers and the students. It is good to see that our community is reaching out to incorporate new members and their families. It has a really friendly feel when parents stay around and socialise like Beth Shalom is the place to be.

In two weeks March 8th the Bar/Bat Mitzvah class will be leading services. Pam Miller has been busy working with the students getting them ready to lead. We are also looking forward to sharing our thoughts with you on the weekly portion *Pekudei*. Please come and support our students and make for a lively shared pot luck meal at 6.30pm at Beth Shalom.

On March 9th Ayelet Zoren- Rosen and Debbie Miller will lead a Shabbat Kat morning service from 10-11am. It is going to be fun with puppets, Hebrew songs, dancing and food. We already have a list of kids who are pre-school age and are planning to bring their parents. If you have a child or grandchild who are in the pre-school age group please don't hesitate to bring them. If you want to be on our

mailing list email: office@bethshalom.org.nz. Also brothers and sisters and parents and caregivers of any age are welcome and encouraged to come along.

Sam Dyson and Debbie Miller are planning a weekend in the Coromandel before Pesach. Sam just went away this week to check out the location. We want to learn, and grow together on Shabbat. The plan is that it will be on the weekend of the 12-14th on a farm in the Coromandel. Please let us know if you are interested. samdysonz@gmail.com or educator@bethshalom.org.nz. The dates are not confirmed so it may happen later this year so stay tuned for more information.

Help!



The Sunday school laptop needs to be replaced. We are looking for a second-hand laptop to search online or show videos.

If you have one and are willing to donate it to the shul please let the office know.

Email: office@bethshalom.org.nz

B & B BITES

Why Should I Belong? by Ian Morrison

People in our community sometimes ask us what the B&B does and why they should become members.

To answer the first of these questions; our role is quite neatly summarised by our official name, viz. the Auckland Jewish Burial and Benevolent Society Inc.

Our core activities include organising and providing funeral and memorial services, as well as taharah (ritual cleaning of the body) and minyanim (prayers) in the homes of bereaved families, whilst also proffering comfort and support to those who mourn. In addition, we look after Auckland's only Progressive Jewish burial ground (at Waikumete in the city's west) whilst also providing grants to needy people within our community and to a range of charities, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

As to the question of why you should become a member, one simple and straight-forward answer is that, eventually, we all pass away and none of us knows for sure when that might be.

Those who have been B&B members in good standing for five years, can expect their funeral service and associated rituals to be provided free, whilst a mere \$200 is currently charged for the interment of those who have been members in good standing for a lesser period.

In contrast, the family or estate of a non-member would be required to pay \$1,200 for our involvement and a further fee for the services of Beth Shalom's rabbi, should there be one available. As with most things, the price of such services can be expected to rise rapidly in the years ahead. So it makes good financial sense to become a B&B member.

Our annual membership contributions currently stand at \$40 a year for individuals and at \$50 for Family Membership, which would cover you, your partner and any children living at home and under the age of eighteen.

Unfortunately, your membership fee can't be stretched to cover all the costs involved in funerals and burial. Your family or estate might still need to fund items such as hiring a funeral director, purchasing a plot, paying for it to be dug and hiring an acceptable venue for a funeral service. In our view, this makes it all the more sensible to ensure that they're not faced with a bill for the service itself.

But, above and beyond these financial considerations is the significance of B&B membership to the ongoing provision of essential services to our community and to the charitable work performed on its behalf by the B&B. By paying your membership contribution, you are meeting an ethical obligation to that community and performing an undoubted mitzvah.



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Welcome to the year of elections...

As 2019 starts to unfold one of the key themes seems to be elections. In March voters in New South Wales go to the Polls and in May we will all be casting our votes in the federal elections. In addition, in Israel, voting for the 21st Knesset will take place on April 9th.

It may seem that the build-up to each of these elections is a long and drawn out process that consumes immense amounts of time, energy and money. However, the protracted nature of these elections somehow pale when we consider the planning that has already commenced in the lead-up to the next World Zionist Congress (WZC) that will take place in October 2020.

Given the lack of detail it may well appear to the reader that there is little point in discussing the WZC elections at this time, particularly as the voting date is yet to be decided (although it will most probably be late 2019 or early 2020). However, the crucial point is that when the election does take place only people who are registered financial members of one of the recognised Zionist groups will be eligible to vote.

For anyone interested in Israel it is important to note that the WZC is really the Parliament of the Jewish People and is the only significant forum where Diaspora Jews can directly engage in issues such as funding for Settlements; Gender equality in the public forum; gender segregation; marriage equality; religious freedom and equality - including the provision of an egalitarian prayer space at the Kotel; the funding of Rabbis; the allocation of funds to religious educational institutions - and many other issues that genuinely influence the nature of democracy and the social fabric of the Jewish State.

These issues, including the recognition of Progressive and Conservative Judaism as legitimate expressions of Judaism, and determining who has responsibility for matters such as conversion, marriage, Bar and Bat-mitzvahs, and funerals, are crucial to Israel, and also vitally important in determining the current and future relationship between Israel and the Jews in the Diaspora.

These are issues that do, and will, affect you, your children, grandchildren and those who follow for, if the current exclusion of non-Orthodox Judaism continues, increasing numbers of Conservative and Progressive Jews will cease to see Israel and their spiritual home and their priority for support.

Accordingly, as we approach this era of elections, please make sure that you, and everyone in your family over the age of 18, are registered as members of ARZA and that you make the payment as part of your congregational subscription. Happy voting.

Steve Denenberg

Eulogy for Sylvia Watson

Sylvia was born on the 17th of September 1926 in Melbourne, Australia. The first and oldest child of Joseph James and Jennie Morris.

Sylvia's younger sibling was her brother Lewis who, like Sylvia, was a long standing member of Beth Shalom.

After a few years the family moved to Brisbane where her father was a successful businessman and her mother a seamstress and milliner.

In 1954 Sylvia moved to Auckland where she met the love of her life Murray, an Accountant and they married in 1957.

Murray and Sylvia made their home and started a family in Mt Albert. First, a daughter Jennie in 1959, and then a son Robert in 1961.

There was a happy and successful marriage which lasted 52 years. They formed a family business in 1956, in partnership with Sylvia's brother. This is still in operation by some members of the next generation.

Sylvia was involved with the operations from the beginning, even down to physically building Morris and Watson's first site, by removing rocks from the site. She continued in close involvement with the business, mostly stepping away only to concentrate on her children.

Sylvia was a well respected and valuable member of Beth Shalom, particularly her work with the Sisterhood, the community's social and benevolent women's group, where she was The Treasurer for 25 years. During this period Murray volunteered his services as Auditor of the Sisterhood Accounts.

She was a gregarious, bubbly and kind woman, who made friends easily. My wife and I can vouch for this, as after we arrived in Auckland in 1978, she and Murray befriended us, and invited us on occasions to their lovely house in Mt Albert and to stay with them in their holiday home at Pauanui.

Robert tells me that she had a quick and mathematical mind and this allowed her to be an accomplished Bridge player. Jennie adds that Sylvia played competition Bridge and won many tournaments and cups.

We would like to wish Long Life to Jennie and Bill, Robert and Kerrie-Ann, her grandchildren Nicola, Tiffany, Samantha and Genevieve, and two great grandchildren Lochlan and Daisy and their families.

Our condolences to you all.

Arthur Berman, 20 February 2019