

beth shalom  
auckland new zealand  
בית שלום



**September 2019**

Elul~Tishrei 5779~5780

**Teruah**



הצלם המתין לתמונה הזו 62 יום  
התמונה הזו תחזור שוב בשנת 3035  
שימו לב השמש והירח בתמונה

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(ISSN 1177-2352)

# Our Board members

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

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**Educator, Debbie Miller** [educator@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:educator@bethshalom.org.nz)

**Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society,**

**Sue Berman 022 051 3589**

**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 September ...

- **High holy days singing practices have commenced and take place** after the morning service. Practice continues weekly for 6 weeks until 21 September. We would like to expand this group of high holy day singers so please come along.
- **Friday 6 September**, Potluck dinner following the service which will be led by the Kita Bet class from the Hebrew School. Please bring enough vegetarian food or dessert for your family and to share.
- **Saturday 7 September, 10-11am** Shabbat Kat will take place in the library for preschool age children while the main service is running.
- Please join our High Holy day singing practices after the morning service on 7, 14 and 21 September.
- **Friday 20 September**, we welcome our High Holy Day Rabbi, Miri Gold to Beth Shalom. Rabbi Miri will give a personal introduction at the Friday service.
- **Saturday 21 September, 7pm** Rabbi Miri will lead our Selichot observance. Following Havdalah and the Selichot service, we will have our chocolate reception and this year will hold a special study session entitled: "Brother can you spare a dime?" – Tzedakah (Just Giving) and Gmilot Hasadim (acts of Loving Kindness) in our times. This study discussion will be very relevant in light of the distressing sights we see in Auckland of homeless people on the streets.
- **Sunday 29 September, 6pm** Erev Rosh Hashanah service.
- **Monday 30 September 10am**, Rosh Hashanah morning service followed by Tashlich at 4pm on Queens Wharf behind the Cloud. Once again, our Tashlich observance is combined with the Auckland Hebrew Congregation. Remember to bring along bread to throw in the sea as we cast away our sins.
- **Save the Date Beth Shalom Shabbaton March 27-28, 2020**



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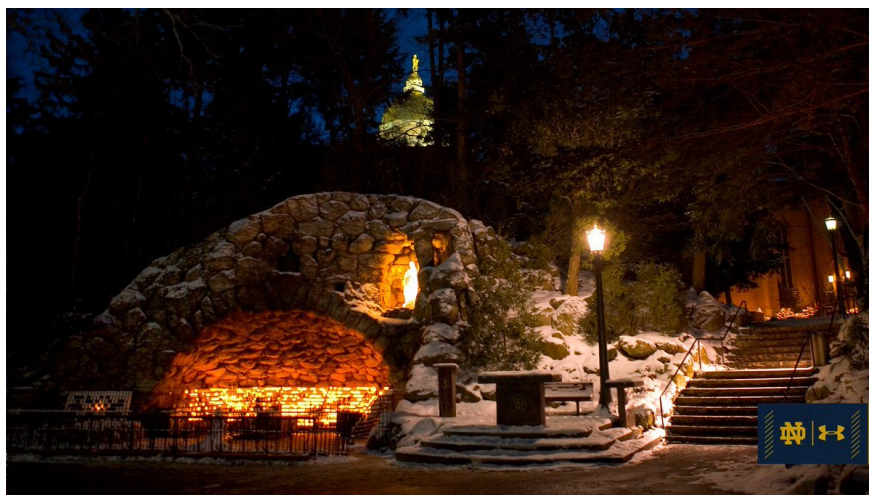
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# President's message, September 2019

My daughter, Emily, is officially a freshman (first year student) at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. She started classes today. Her father and I could not be more proud.

For those who haven't been within a kilometre of me in the last few months, you may not know that Notre Dame is consistently ranked in the top 25 universities and colleges in the US. It also has a sports program that would make many professional athletes jealous – the football stadium holds 88,000 people and is full to capacity at every home game even though there are only 10,000 students at the school!

The University of Notre Dame is also a Catholic School. While most universities in the States are non-denominational, Notre Dame is deeply committed to the values of the Catholic Church. And while for a moment, as a Jewish mother, this gave me pause, after spending a week getting Emily settled into school and attending welcome weekend talks and events, I could not be more convinced that it is the right place for her.



There is a lot of tradition at Notre Dame that has to do with the Catholic faith. There is a basilica on campus and a grotto that is a reproduction of the one in Lourdes, France. While we didn't go into the church, Mike and I did say a prayer for Emily in the grotto. Mike was sure I was not the first to recite the shehekienu while lighting a candle there!

There is also a huge mosaic mural on the side of the library of Jesus with his arms outstretched. It is referred to as "touchdown Jesus" as the mural can be seen between the goalposts from the stadium and looks like he's signalling a score!



Similarly, there are other religious statues around campus that have been given football-related nicknames. First Down Moses is located near the side entrance to the library.

And then there is the Catholic Mass. The entire first year class and their parents attended as the culmination of welcome weekend. I have to admit, I felt out of place at first. I've been to a Catholic mass before and since all three of my kids attended St Kents College, I am very familiar with the Presbyterian service. But this was a whole new level. Pomp and ceremony. And since the student body is 80% Catholic, they knew all the responses and minhag. But then the priest, Father Pete, said a few words. He thanked everyone for coming, especially those who weren't Catholic. He gave a quick overview and said to do what felt right and comfortable, but the fact that we were there was the important part. He then went on to talk about inclusion and acceptance and to say that those values, along with kindness, respect, discipline, charity and honour were what made the Notre Dame experience so unique. They were an intricate part of a Notre Dame education. He concluded by reiterating that we are all part of the Notre Dame family no matter what religion we practice.

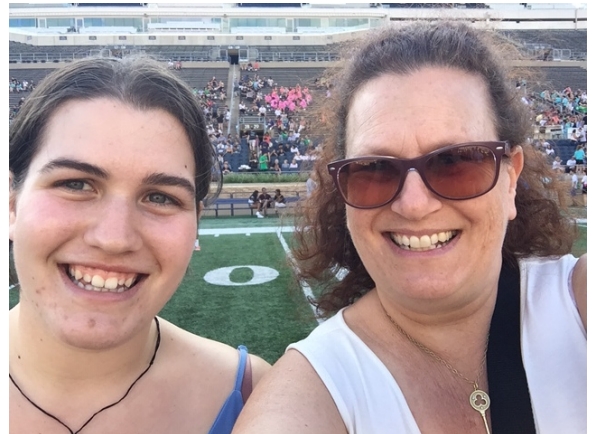


When Emily packed up the things she wanted to take to school, she included her Mishkan T'filah and her tallit. She is Jewish and she is secure in her faith. I take great pride in that. And I credit the Beth Shalom community for that as well.

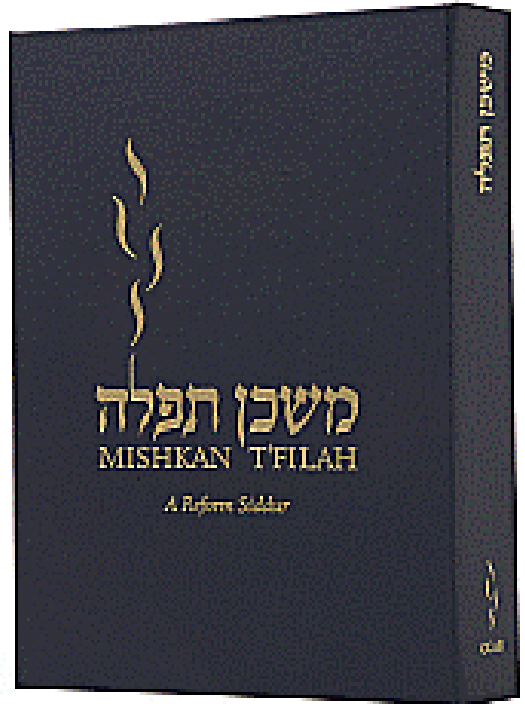
Being Jewish is just as much a part of who Emily is as the Catholic traditions are a part of what makes Notre Dame the school it is. Yet they are not mutually exclusive. While she is new to the football and the Catholic iconography, the most important things – faith, family, friends, charity – are things that she has embraced through t'fillah, tzedakah, and tikkun olam. She has found her new home.

B'shalom and Go Irish!

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](mailto:ldgoldwater@gmail.com) 020 403 88054

Christine: [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) 524 4139

# Rabbi Miri Gold - an introduction

I'd like to tell you a little about myself, as I look forward to being part of your congregation for the High Holy Day period.

I was born in Detroit, with roots through my grandparents to White Russia and a strong Jewish and Zionist connection. I visited Israel five times, as a tourist, university student and post-Yom Kippur volunteer before moving to Israel in 1977, to Kibbutz Gezer, half-way between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

I graduated with a BA in Philosophy from The University of Michigan. On the kibbutz, I worked primarily in the kitchen. I also baked dozens of oatmeal chocolate chip cookies to sell in an ice cream shop in Jerusalem.

When our first kibbutz children reached bar and bat mitzvah age, I took on a "pararabbinic" role in order to prepare them and lead their Aliyah l'Torah services. Eventually I went to rabbinic school at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. In 1999, I was the third woman to be ordained in the Reform Movement in Israel. Rabbis Naamah Kelman and Levi Weiman-Kelman were and still are my beloved mentors.

Both my husband, David Leichman, a veteran Jewish educator, and I have always believed in a strong connection between Israel and the communities of the Diaspora. Over the years we have adopted many of the first-year HUC American rabbinic students, and one of them was Dean Shapiro, who worked at Beth Shalom.

We set up the first regional Reform congregation at Gezer, drawing people from the surrounding area, and called it Kehilat Birkat Shalom, the community of the blessing for peace. In 2005, I was approached by the Israel Religious Action Center to be a plaintiff to the government of Israel, demanding that I receive a salary, just as the Orthodox rabbis who serve rural communities like Gezer get paid by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In 2012 a landmark historic decision was made, that rabbis of non-Orthodox communities in rural areas receive salaries. The Ministry of Culture and Sport has paid my salary since 2014, and now another fifteen liberal rabbis as well.

David and I are the parents of three wonderful children, and we are blessed to have four grandchildren, who live a minute's walk from us on the kibbutz.

David and I look forward to meeting you over the course of the holidays, and learning more about the Jewish community in Auckland and New Zealand.

# David Leichman

**David Leichman** made Aliyah in 1976 to Kibbutz Gezer, where he lives today with his wife Rabbi Miri Gold and their three children and grandchildren. David has extensive experience and an in-depth understanding of the American Jewish community and the varied array of religious and ethnic communities in Israel. David taught courses about kibbutz and Israeli society at Tel Aviv University from 1984-2000. He has also taught at both Tufts University and the University of Massachusetts. In addition, David has had the honor of teaching in and learning from Jewish communities in nineteen countries around the world.

David was the founding director of **Pinat Shorashim-Center for Pluralistic Jewish Education** and was the driving force in developing and teaching a curriculum based on learning and respecting the “other” while celebrating differences, with other Jews around the world and Israelis of different backgrounds.

David served as a shaliach (emissary) of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) to the Union of Reform Judaism in New England and he worked extensively with university students as well as a wide range of people of all ages and backgrounds. His articles on issues relating to Israel-Diaspora relations, kibbutz and Zionism have appeared in various journals including [The Reconstructionist](#) magazine. He also edited the book *Kibbutz: an Alternative Lifestyle*.

David has played an active role for over thirty years in helping build bridges of understanding between the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel. His extensive volunteer work in this field reflects his lifelong commitment to making Israel a society based on fairness and shared citizenship among all peoples.

David is a founding member and past Secretary General of the Israel Softball League and served for many years on the board of the Israel Association of Baseball. His true passion in life is making ice cream.



# Selichot

"Selichot", which means forgiveness, is the name of the special prayers leading up to Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The custom is to have a special service on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. Because "Erev hag" begins on Sunday, September 29th, Selichot will be observed the week before, on Saturday evening, September 21st. Just as Saturday night marks the beginning of a new week, so too does Selichot herald the New Year, with all of its promise.

At the year's turn, in the days between,  
We step away from what we know  
Into the spaces we cannot yet name.  
Slowly the edges begin to yield,  
The hard places soften,  
The gate to forgiveness opens. (from *The Days Between*, 2014)

The shofar is blown during Selichot as a spiritual wake-up call. Maimonides (The Rambam) wrote: "It is as if (the shofar's call) is saying: Wake up you sleepy ones from your sleep and you who slumber, arise. Inspect your deeds, repent, remember your Creator... Look to your souls. Improve your ways and your deeds and let every one of you abandon evil path and thoughts." (Hilchot Teshuva 3:4)

Actually, every morning throughout the year in the Amida prayer, there is a blessing of petition, in which we ask God to forgive us for actions we regret. "Slicha" in Modern Hebrew means "I'm sorry", or the polite "Pardon Me" or the sarcastic "EXCUSE me"! We always have the opportunity to ask for others' forgiveness, but human nature often needs a push, a reminder.

The word "Shofar" comes from the Hebrew root meaning to improve, and our desire is to improve our deeds, to strengthen our good personal attributes and to avoid our "evil" inclinations. When we gather together to hear the Shofar, we feel the power of the community and give one another the moral support to find the courage to make changes, to ask for forgiveness from people we've wronged, and to have an open heart to forgive those who ask us to forgive them. It also takes courage to admit our shortcomings, to vow not to repeat undesirable behavior, and to work actively to make positive changes in our lives.

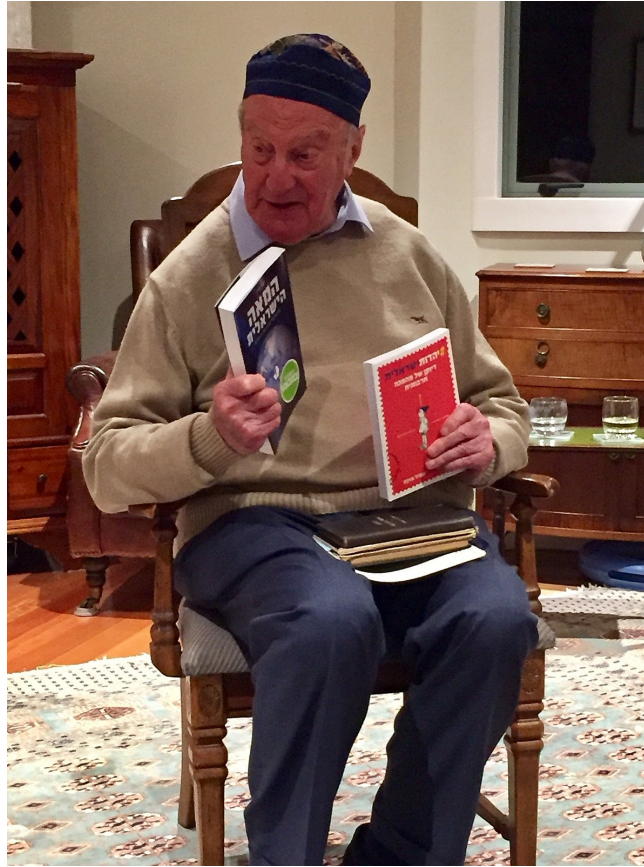
It is a time to combat the baseless hatred that led to the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem and to look for ways to spread boundless love. This is a challenging time, in a good way, as we look forward to a better future for ourselves, our families, our community, and even for all of humanity. We recite the thirteen attributes with which our merciful God is said to govern the world. In many ways we can strengthen our desire to imitate these positive characteristics: if God can be merciful and just, so must we strive for this. The prophet Micah taught that God's primary demand of human beings is to act righteously: "And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

As Rabbi Jared H. Saks wrote in ReformJudaism.org last year, Selichot is a spiritual warm-up for the High Holy Days. Rabbi Paul Kipnes stressed the idea of "spiritual calisthenics". We have to mindfully prepare ourselves for a meaningful experience during the High Holy Days.

At Beth Shalom, we also enjoy a chocolate treat, to remind us of the sweetness of the New Year approaching. Together and individually, we will assess who we are, think of what we aspire to be, and begin to move forward, in anticipation of our potential to live life fully and ethically, with kindness and joy.

**Rabbi Miri Gold, 2019**

# THE BUZZ



Rabbi John Levi visited Beth Shalom in August - Havdallah at the Wilton family home.

## Mishkan T'Shuvah

Many of you will now have your copies of the new machzor, Mishkan T'Shuvah and we hope you are as excited as we are with the standard of the content and the printing.

One of the aims of the 'Mishkan T'Shuvah project' for Beth Shalom was to ensure that everyone who comes to High Holy Day services can participate and be involved. So, in addition to making copies available for people to purchase, we wanted to ensure that we had a good supply of community copies as well.

We would like to acknowledge all the donations that made it possible for Beth Shalom to purchase community copies. We are very grateful for the generosity of all our members who donated copies to the community, the B&B's very generous donation, Bnei Brith's donation, and some other private donations . We are really looking forward to using our new machzorim for the High Holy Days - And to everyone being able to follow the services.

If you ordered a Mishkan T'Shuvah but haven't yet received it, please contact Christine O'Brien to arrange collection.



BETH SHALOM

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

בית שלום

# CHOCOLATE SELICHOT

7PM 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER

Selichot begins our High Holiday season in earnest.

We start with Havdallah and an inspirational service.

Followed by a Potluck Chocolate Dessert.

Then to conclude an insightful study session titled 'Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?'



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# EDUCATION

## Sunday School

Beth Shalom Sunday School is such a vibrant place to learn about Judaism. We have a rocking good time with Ted and Stav playing the guitar and getting us charged with Ruach.



We also have tons of fun with Asher and Stav teaching our kids to speak Hebrew. All our kids are very enthusiastic about their Hebrew studies and they love their Hebrew teachers. It is really extraordinary how much the kids are engaged in their studies.

Next is our hopping and bopping morning tea which we have radically overhauled in an effort to give the kids something to do instead of checking in on their mobile phones. We make challah with honey, we made gingerbread men and women, we made falafel and we are making Rosh Hashanah cards. It is so much fun to cook as a group in our spacious lovely new kitchen. It is so activity friendly.

Jewish Studies with our wonderful bar and bat mitzvah students this week involved a mix and match question and answer session with the students having to get the help of their classmates to find out what the question and answer was written on their forehead and back.



### Pot Luck dinner Friday September 6th

Kita Bet will be enthusiastically leading services on Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>. Please come to the family friendly service starting at 6.30pm and followed by a pot luck vegetarian (kosher fish) shared meal. It makes such a difference when we have a good crowd at services. Please come and support our students.

### Yoga

Yoga night was super relaxing and invigorating with Edna Levy. She is so talented and willing to keep doing the sessions on a monthly basis. We hope you will all come to the next one. It would be in September but it conflicts with Selichot services in September so we'll have to postpone it till October.



### **Kabbalat Shabbat Friday August 30th, 6:30pm**

In the meantime we are all busy getting ready for Limmud. Shannyn and Max will be leading Friday night services on August 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 6.30 for their very special brand of ruach ( spirit). Come be inspired and energize.

### **Limmud**

Saturday night is Limmud in your Lounge. Please make sure you sign up for an inspiring discussion and Havdalah. And we are busy cooking up a storm in our newly koshered Beth Shalom kitchen to feed the minions 220+ and still counting.

Thanks to Adina and Aimee and the cooking team, we will all have yummy kosher food to eat on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> at Dio in Margot St, Epsom. You can still sign up. Check out the amazing program ([www.limmud.org.nz](http://www.limmud.org.nz)) .



**Shabbat Kat in the Library 10am** Don't forget Shabbat Kat. First Shabbat in each month unless there is a conflict with some other program like Limmud on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> so it is moved to Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am. It is soooo much fun and all the parents and kids have a wonderful time singing, playing instruments and praying our very special torah service and shema followed by blessings and yummy challah.



### **Parshat Ekev Project**

PLANT IN - We want to encourage students and Beth Shalom congregation to plant trees.

We are looking for teachers for Hebrew, Jewish studies, as well as people who know how to play instruments and lead singing,. We also want people who are willing to do baking with the kids as well as creative activities during morning tea time. All the materials to lead class are provided and I am keen to sit with you to help plan out the year and lessons.

Sunday School at Beth Shalom is fun and vibrant. Please come and help make it another great year.



Debbie Miller, Education Coordinator at Beth Shalom

027 765 3677 or 09 579 7715 or 09-524-4139

# Beth Shalom Community Care 2019

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all keeping well, warm and dry.

Just a reminder about who and what we are.

Our focus is to offer help and support to all congregants and their families in times of illness and/or difficulty. We do this in the form of visits at home or in hospital or rest homes, and helping with whatever is needed. Where we cannot help you ourselves, we can give you assistance in accessing the community service who can, or by putting them in touch with you.

We also like to recognize your simcha's and lifestyle events,

The High Holy days are at the end of September, and during October, so please remember that we can help with transport when needed for attending these services. If needed, please contact :-

Lorna Orbell 022 026 2897

Christine at Beth Shalom Office 09 524 4139

We can also help with transport for funerals, or getting to Beth Shalom for other services or events.

We urge you not to hesitate to contact us when we can either help you, or share in your happy times.

In this respect and all other aspects, we assure you, we are very mindful of your privacy.

Take Care.

Lita and the Community Care Team



**Contacts** Chris Shiller 021 177 4934 Email: [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz) Lorna Orbell 022 026 2899  
Email: [chaim@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:chaim@slingshot.co.nz) or contact the office 09 524 4139

# Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society Inc.

Following up from last month, we would like to thank you all for your generosity in responding to the B&B Annual Appeal. There is always a time when support is required across our community and your donations allow us to meet these needs. Thank you.

In the New Year we plan to provide more information and guidance to our community in the considerations one might need to make in preparing for our own and for our loved ones in death and dying. I would say that it is a subject in New Zealand society that we often avoid discussing, despite there being much value in talking about the inevitable reality we all must face.

Sonja Karon is a B&B committee member whose nursing work includes senior support services with Auckland's DHB. She has recommended, regardless of age and stage, that people take a look at Advanced Care Planning.

Advanced care planning (ACP) is a process of discussion and shared planning for future health care. It is focused on the individual and involves both the person and the health care professionals responsible for their care. It may also involve the person's family/whanau and/or carers if that is the person's wish. The planning process assists the individual to identify their personal beliefs and values and incorporate them into plans for their future health care.

We will provide more information about Advanced Care Planning in future bulletins - meantime you may like to explore the website: [click here](#)

**High Holy Days - we will be printing a yahrzeit remembrance list of names for the Yom Kippur Yizkor service - if you have someone you would like added to this list please email the office this month.**

As we head into our High Holiday period of renewal and reflection, the Burial and Benevolent committee would like to wish you all *shana tova u'metukah* (שנה טובה ומתוקה) a good and sweet year.

# High Holy Days Message from the Union for Progressive Judaism

The Union for Progressive Judaism is proud to share some of its highlights for 2019-5779:



- In November, the UPJ hosted its **Biennial Conference** in Melbourne, with more than 200 attendees from the UPJ region and beyond joining with our guest speaker Rabbi Larry Hoffman for inspiring sessions on creating synagogues that are relevant and meaningful for the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- The UPJ Executive Committee held its annual **Planning Day** in February in Melbourne, continuing its work on strategic planning and promoting Progressive Judaism;
- We were privileged to host **Orly Erez-Likhovski** (head of IRAC's legal department) in March, who shared inspirational messages from Israel as our guest speaker for the UIA Progressive Appeal;
- **Shir Chadash**, the UPJ's Jewish music conference held every other year, took place in July, again as a residential conference at the Geelong Conference Centre. This important conference provides training and inspiration for the individuals who bring music to our congregations throughout the region.

We are proud of the role the UPJ has played in assisting congregations with:

- **Placements** for professional leadership for chagim;
- Continued growth of our UPJ **Ambassadors** program. We are harnessing the skills of many past leaders in helping to support communities;
- Support for our region's **rabbinic students**;
- Providing **commentary in the media** about current issues and the crucial role of Progressive Judaism in today's world and working with the Moetzah to promote Progressive Judaism across the region. We have established the Public Affairs Group to handle this function.

The UPJ was grateful for the service provided by **Rabbi Fred Morgan**, who served as Movement Rabbi from April 2016 and stepped down in April 2019. Rabbi Morgan provided exceptional leadership in supporting UPJ congregations and growth in our region, and assisted with future planning and development.

**Rabbi David Kunin**, as chair of the Moetzah, has taken on a much-needed leadership role, especially in preparing statements to the press. His writings and wise counsel have been insightful and impactful.

Our relationship with the Moetzah is one of mutual respect and we work closely with them.

The UPJ Executive is an active, hands-on committee, and it has established a number of **special committees**, such as Outreach, Placements, Public Affairs, made up of committed volunteers from around the region that are providing support to its constituents.

We congratulate the **UIA Progressive Appeal Committee** - led by co-chairs Philip Bliss and Brian Samuel (VIC) and David Knoll and Alan Obrart (NSW) - which has achieved a significantly higher total than in previous years, helping to make Israel and the Jewish world more egalitarian and inclusive.

As we write this message, we are excited to share the news that ships have arrived to Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, carrying the precious cargo of our region's long-awaited **new machzor, Mishkan T'shuvah**. The UPJ is grateful to Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black and Rabbi Dr John Levi AM, who co-led the editorial team, Rabbi Kim Ettlinger, Cantor Michel Laloum, Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio and Dr Linda Stern, as well as expert advice provided by Neil Samuel, who again assisted with shipping and logistics.

We are thankful to the many members of our region who support the work of the UPJ to promote Progressive Judaism, both in our communities and in Israel.

As always, we strive to make our organisation the best that it can be. In keeping with the tradition of the High Holy Days, if we have inadvertently upset or offended anyone, we sincerely ask for forgiveness.

May the new year 5780 bring blessing to you, your families and congregations, and may the continued growth of Progressive Judaism in our region help bring about a lasting peace for Israel.

L'shana tova tikatevu: may our communities be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life,

Roger Mendelson  
President

Jocelyn Robuck  
Executive Officer

Rabbi David Kunin  
Chair, Moetzah

# ARZA Reflections and Elections

The Yamim Nora'im (Days of Awe) provide us with the opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and to consider what challenges and opportunities that the New Year offers. With regard to the work of ARZA Australia the main focus of the past year has been to prepare for two major events. The first is the succession of leadership within the organisation and the second has been to ensure that the incoming leadership is well equipped to run an incredibly successful campaign in the forthcoming elections for the World Zionist Congress.

With regard to the first goal, and with thanks to the UPJ, we have succeeded in recruiting some outstanding people who will take on key leadership roles commencing at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Adelaide in November 2019. Consequently, the achievement of the second goal has now become a most positive and achievable project.

Almost as soon as the incoming Executive Committee is elected the first steps in the protracted election process will commence. Fortunately, this campaign will be given a massive launch boost in the form of a visit by Andrew Keen, a young man who has tremendous vision and experience in the work of both ARZENU and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. In addition to addressing the meeting of UPJ Rabbis and Presidents in Adelaide, Andrew will also visit Melbourne and Sydney to visit congregations and meet the leaders of the Australian Zionist Movement.

This campaign is vital for Progressive Zionists to retain our strong presence within the World Zionist Congress (WZC), particularly at this time when Israeli politics are again lurching to the right and the possibility of equality for different religious groups, as well as women and minority groups is once again being challenged.

For anyone who cares about the democratic future of 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 time of reflection and commitment, 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.

Shana Tova u' Chatima Tova

Steve Denenberg

