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shalom  
auckland new zealand  
בית שלום



**December 2020**

*Kislev~Tevet 5781*

**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

PO Box 26 052, Epsom, Auckland 1344, New Zealand

Tel: 09 524 4139 Fax: 0282 552 3027

Office: Christine O'Brien [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)

Website: [www.bethshalom.org.nz](http://www.bethshalom.org.nz)

## Executive

- President, Olga Bernstein, [president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:president@bethshalom.org.nz)
- Immediate Past President, Debbie Swiatek, [debswiatek@gmail.com](mailto:debswiatek@gmail.com)
- Acting Vice President, Alistair Kirk, [vice\\_president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:vice_president@bethshalom.org.nz)
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- Treasurer, Shane Sampson [treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz)

## Board members and portfolios

- Julie Dick, [primroseji@gmail.com](mailto:primroseji@gmail.com), Burial & Benevolent Society
- Terry Haffern, [haffernt@outlook.com](mailto:haffernt@outlook.com), Ritual, Garden
- Alistair Kirk, [alikir09@gmail.com](mailto:alikir09@gmail.com), Vision Project
- Ted Ries, [tedbries@gmail.com](mailto:tedbries@gmail.com), Security, JCC
- Sandra van Eden, [waiatamanu1@gmail.com](mailto:waiatamanu1@gmail.com), Membership
- Michelle Wise, [wisemichelle@gmail.com](mailto:wisemichelle@gmail.com)

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

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society, Sue Berman 022 051 3589

Email: [ajbbs@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:ajbbs@bethshalom.org.nz)

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

**During COVID-19 Level 1, all services**

**will be in the Sanctuary and livestreamed on OneRoom unless otherwise advised.**

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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 December

- Saturday 5 December Bat Mitzvah of Aurora Liebman-McGrath, please join Aurora's family to celebrate this simcha.
- Sunday 6 December, Beth Shalom Tiyl Series - First Walk 10am Sunday 6 December, Mairangi Bay - Rothesay Bay Path. [Click here for more details.](#)
- Sunday 6 December, 4pm at Waikumete, stone setting for Steve Daniels.
- Friday 11 December, 6:30pm Beth Shalom Chanukah Party.
- Saturday 12 December, 10-11am Shabbat Kat in the Library.
- Sunday 13 December the Auckland public Hanukkah celebration will take place from 4:30pm until 8:30pm at the Orakei Domain, Okahu Bay, next to the playground.
- Sunday 13 December, US time WUPJ Chanukah celebration, [click here to register.](#)
- Beth Shalom has kindly been given a significant supply of the recently published book "Identity and Involvement Volume 3" edited by Ann Gluckman, Deb Levy Friedler and Lindy Davis to sell with all proceeds to go to Beth Shalom. Only \$25 per copy. A wonderful book about Auckland Jewry into the 21st Century with chapters written about Beth Shalom and a number of chapters written by Beth Shalom members. Available through Christine in the office.
- Let's continue the tradition of **tzedakah** by donating to a foodbank or supermarket collection box.
- A reminder about our prayers for healing; if you would like our home prayer group to pray for healing for you or for someone close to you please advise the office.

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**M** +64 21 449 096  
[john.barnfield@rothbury.co.nz](mailto:john.barnfield@rothbury.co.nz)



**Peter Palmer**  
Senior Commercial Broker  
**P** +64 9 914 3471  
**M** +64 21 445 608  
[peter.palmer@rothbury.co.nz](mailto:peter.palmer@rothbury.co.nz)

# From the President ...

I've been reflecting what 'spins my wheels' in my role and I realised that I get joy from people feeling valued and seeing Beth Shalom as their tūrangawaewae – a place where they feel empowered and connected.

Sitting in shul when Lucas read from the parsha Vayeira, I was struck by the story of Abraham greeting the three strangers that approached his tent:

Looking up, he saw: lo—three men standing opposite him! Seeing [them], he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and, bowing down to the ground, he said, "My lords, if I have found favour in your sight, please do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought; then wash your feet and recline under a tree, and let me bring a bit of bread and you can restore yourselves. Then you can go on – now that you have come across your servant."

It made me think about why people 'come into our tent'. From my observations there are two main reasons - Most people join Beth Shalom because they want a sense of connection to Judaism and /or to a community. It also made me think about the experience of being welcomed to the Beth Shalom family.

This year, with its long periods of needing to physically isolate from others, has made it harder to create community and friendships. We have not had as many opportunities to bump into people at services or events and strike up conversations and friendships.

Creating community is work for us all. In this Teruah you'll find a call to volunteer for our new initiative - to 'buddy' with a new member. I ask you please to respond to this call and to be part of the 'glue' that binds this community together.

'Glue' comes in many forms, and I'd also like to take this opportunity to offer sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave so generously to our High Holy Day appeal. Thanks to you, we now have \$9.5k to support our community to come together: socially, spiritually and joyfully.

Another essential part of our 'glue' are all our volunteers, who work tirelessly. Without you, we would have no services, no money, no community care, no burials, no Hebrew school. The Beth Shalom that we see, experience, and enjoy is because of all of you. "Thank you" is inadequate to express how much you are valued and appreciated.

If you are new to the community and want to be more involved, please let me know. There is always lots to do and we welcome more heads and hands.

Olga Bernstein

# FROM THE BOARD

.....what is happening within our community and what we have been working on recently.

Not a large amount has been happening with the Board this month.

- Vision Project - we met with Rabbi George for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Vision Project meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November.
- Look out for the L'Chaim Committee activities - Beth Shalom's new team dedicated to bringing our community together with new activities to form new connections between us! The first activity is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December - details are in your email inbox and in this Teruah.

We have 2 final meetings this year with Rabbi George before engagement within the community starts early next year.

## **We would like to welcome the following people who have joined the Beth Shalom family in 2019 and this year.**

We are delighted that you have chosen Beth Shalom as a place to express your Judaism. We look forward to meeting you in person and seeing you involved in the community.

We urge 'old members' to please reach out to these people and welcome them into our community. (We're including suburbs where people live so that you know who is in your area)

- Tamara Leibman, who has joined with her children, Aurora and Ruby (Mt Eden)
- Arie and Ayelet Rosen and their daughters, Danielle and Yasmine (Glendowie)
- Susanne Murek (Beach Haven)
- Trudi Sawyer (Warkworth)
- Zarina Fiala (St John's)
- Jen Proctor (Titirangi)
- Johny and Selena Volodzkis, and their children, Lucas and Orli (Glendowie)
- Alan and Rachel Besser (Stonefields)
- Kira Bacal and her children Harper, Rowan, Elias and Malachi (Greenhithe)
- Cass Power (Pt Chev)
- Phillip Gordon (Wellsford)
- Mira Taitz and her son, Joel Hurdle (Mt Eden)
- Wendy Cohen (Arkles Bay)
- Asher and Alana Assaraf and Lior (Manurewa)
- Jillian and Gabriella Weiss- Bercovich (Waiheke)
- Suzannah Asher and Eli Malcolm

A very warm welcome to you all!

(If any information is incorrect, incomplete or omitted, sincere apologies and please let us know)

# Rabbi JoEllen Duckor at Beth Shalom

I am very happy to have the opportunity to spend time with the Beth Shalom family.

For those of you who don't know me: I have been the Mashpiah or Spiritual director of Temple Sinai for the past 15 years.

I created the position of Mashpiah after completing the Spiritual Director Formation programme with Spiritual Growth Ministries in New Zealand and the Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training Programme with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

In 2017 I was offered private rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Jeff Roth and we had a joyous celebration at Temple Sinai. Some Beth Shalom members were with me to share the celebration.

I have recently retired from my position of Mashpiah at Temple Sinai and continue to study and teach and lead services as well as create retreat days of immersion in the Sabbath.

I look forward spending sacred time with you.

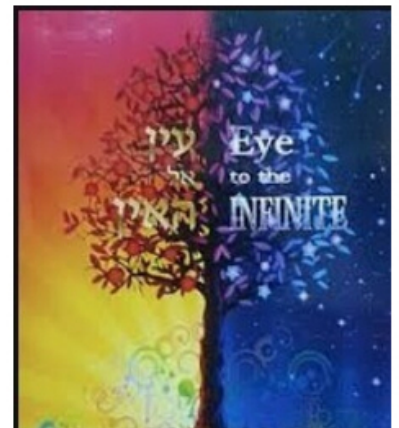
**Saturday 23rd January, 10am-12noon service.  
12noon-2pm lunch to welcome new members.**

**Contemplative Shabbat at Beth Shalom 2-8pm  
with Rabbi JoEllen Duckor**



Immerse fully in Shabbat afternoon with text study, prayer and meditation.

After spending the afternoon in deepening awareness, We will end this sacred day with Havdallah.



Please sign up via email [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) (for catering purposes).

# New Member Buddies ...

Are you interested in becoming a buddy for a new member?

Shalom, my name's Sandra van Eden, this is my second year on the board and I have recently taken on the new member portfolio. We are pleased to hear that some new members report feeling warmly welcomed and have easily made friends within the community, but some newcomers I have spoken to recently are finding it harder. Some are not just new to our synagogue but are also new to Auckland and/or New Zealand and some are new to Judaism so there can be multiple steep learning curves, and this year, Covid-19 has made it even more challenging.

In parashat *Vayera* (*Genesis 18.1 to 22.24*) Abraham and Sarah welcome three strangers into their tent and feed them, and they tell Sarah that at the age of 80 she will bear a child. This story highlights the importance hospitality plays in Jewish communities and some say welcoming the stranger is our first mitzvah.

I am interested in finding ways to help all new members experience a warm, hospitable welcome and developing a sense of connection to our community from the beginning. To enable this, I am interested in trialling partnering new members with a 'Beth Shalom Buddy'. A buddy could be someone who lives near the new member, they might come from the same country and/or speak the same language/s, be similar in age, have children of similar ages or be completely different!

What does being a Beth Shalom Buddy entail? The answer will be different for every new member and buddy combination. For a start, it might be an invitation to a shabbat dinner, a playdate for children or answering the questions that newcomers to Auckland or Judaism will have. As a buddy it will be up to you to decide how you could welcome a stranger into our community in a way that works both for you and the new member.

If you are interested in giving some time to help a new member settle into our community, our city, our country or our faith, I would love to hear from you. If you click on the link below you can either sign up to become a Beth Shalom Buddy, or you can email me with any questions or suggestions you might have about this new initiative. I look forward to hearing from you!

**[Contact me by email here](#)**



# The Buzz ...

## **Beth Shalom Tiyl Series - First Walk 10am Sunday 6 December,**

### **Mairangi Bay - Rothesay Bay Path.**

We are introducing the Beth Shalom Tiyl Series. Over summer we will be planning a series of short hikes (and maybe some longer ones if people are keen). To ease into it we are starting with a beautiful, accessible and easy walk - the Mairangi Bay to Rothesay Bay Path and back.

We will meet at **10am at the beach by the Mairangi Bay Surf Club** (This is at the beach end of Sidmouth St - there's lots of parking nearby). We will take the cliff path to Rothesay Bay via Murrays Bay. it's about 45 mins one way, so 1.5 hours both ways. If you only want to do one way, you can Uber back to your car from Rothesay Bay to Mairangi Bay.

- Dogs can come too but must be on-leash.
- We plan to have a coffee together at the end.
- Please bring water, sunscreen and a hat.

This activity is brought to you by the L'Chaim Committee - Beth Shalom's new team dedicated to bringing our community together with new activities to form new connections between us!



# CHANUKAH PARTY

beth shalom 

**FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**Celebrate second night at  
Beth Shalom!**

**Come at 5.30pm to make  
your own Latkes and Doughnuts !**

**Service at 6.30pm.**

**Bring your Chanukiah and Candles  
and practise your spinning for  
the Dreidel Derby**

**Bring some Salads or  
Chanukah food to share.**



© Beth Shalom 2020  
Design by Terry Gelbart

# Hanukkah in the Bays ...



The poster features a large, stylized menorah with nine lit candles in various colors (red, green, yellow, blue, orange). The background is dark blue with many white and yellow stars of different sizes. At the top left, the Hebrew letters 'ב"ה' (B'Ha) are visible. In the center, there is a logo for the Zionist Federation of New Zealand, which includes a green Star of David and the text 'Zionist Federation of New Zealand' and 'הפדרציה הציונית של ניו זילנד'.

**Auckland Celebrates Hanukkah in the Bays**

Orakei Domain, Okahu Bay  
(next to the playground)  
Sunday 13th December  
4:30pm to 8.30pm

The lighting of the Hanukkah  
(candle lighting) will take place  
around 7:30pm

**Family Event**  
with lots of food,  
raffle, entertainment,  
and fun

**Live bands**  
Entry: Gold coin donation

\* Please come prepared for  
all weather conditions.

Alcohol and Smoke Free Event  
Zero Waste Event

Main sponsors:

Anonymous





# Bat Mitzvah Aurora Liebman-McGrath

As part of her Bat Mitzvah Aurora is running a tzedakah (charity project) and would appreciate your support with this.

Aurora is collecting new personal care items for Women's Refuge. Personal care items include sanitary products, bath and shower products, toothpaste and toothbrushes and so on. As you can imagine, these items are much needed by the women and children Women's Refuge cares for.

For the month leading up to the Bat Mitzvah and on the day there will be a display and collection basket in the Beth Shalom foyer and we invite you to drop your donations in the basket whenever you can.





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## Prayers 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

# Ritcom Reports .. The Surprising Origin of the Dreidel

One of the features of our annual Chanukah party is our dreidel derby. Ever wondered the origin of the dreidel? Have a read below, with thanks to My Jewish Learning. It is a little surprising.

The well-known Hanukkah symbol has Christmastime roots.

BY RABBI DAVID GOLINKIN



The dreidel or *sevivon* is perhaps the most famous custom associated with Hanukkah. Indeed, various rabbis have tried to find an integral connection between the dreidel and the [Hanukkah story](#); the standard explanation is that the letters *nun, gimmel, hey, shin*, which appear on the dreidel in the Diaspora, stand for *nes gadol haya sham*—“a great miracle happened **there**,” while in Israel the dreidel says *nun, gimmel, hey, pey*, which means “a great miracle happened **here**.”

One 19th-century rabbi maintained that Jews played with the dreidel in order to fool the Greeks if they were caught studying Torah, which had been outlawed. Others figured out elaborate [gematriot](#) [numerological explanations based on the fact that every Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent] and word plays for the letters *nun, gimmel, hey, shin*. For example, *nun, gimmel, hey, shin* in *gematria* equals 358, which is also the numerical equivalent of *mashiach* or [Messiah](#)!

Finally, the letters *nun, gimmel, hey, shin* are supposed to represent the four kingdoms that tried to destroy us [in ancient times]: N = Nebuchadnezzar = Babylon; H = Haman = Persia = Madai; G = Gog = Greece; and S = Seir = Rome.



As a matter of fact, all of these elaborate explanations were invented after the fact.

The dreidel game originally had nothing to do with Hanukkah; it has been played by various people in various languages for many centuries.

In England and Ireland there is a game called *totum* or *teetotum* that is especially popular at Christmastime. In English, this game is first mentioned as "*totum*" ca. 1500-1520. The name comes from the Latin "*totum*," which means "all." By 1720, the game was called *T-totum* or *teetotum*, and by 1801 the four letters already represented four words in English: T = Take all; H = Half; P = Put down; and N = Nothing.

Our Eastern European game of dreidel (including the letters *nun*, *gimmel*, *hey*, *shin*) is directly based on the German equivalent of the *totum* game: N = Nichts = nothing; G = Ganz = all; H = Halb = half; and S = Stell ein = put in. In German, the spinning top was called a "torrel" or "trundl," and in [Yiddish](#) it was called a "dreidel," a "fargl," a "varfl" [= something thrown], "shtel ein" [= put in], and "gor, gorin" [= all].

When Hebrew was revived as a spoken language, the dreidel was called, among other names, a *sevivon*, which is the one that caught on.

Thus the dreidel game represents an irony of Jewish history. In order to celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah, which celebrates our victory over cultural assimilation, we play the dreidel game, which is an excellent example of cultural assimilation! Of course, there is a world of difference between imitating non-Jewish games and worshiping idols, but the irony remains nonetheless.

Reprinted with permission of the author from [A Different Light: The Hanukkah Book of Celebration](#) published by the Shalom Hartman Institute and Devora Publishing.

# Interfaith event at Beth Shalom Monday 9 November

The 'Children of Abraham' organised this year's panel discussion on 'Preserving the Environment: Abrahamic Faiths in Dialogue' in which sustainability was explored. Dr Emily Colgan (Christianity), Senior Lecturer at Trinity College, Amr Saleh (Islam), Auckland City Hospital Imam and Debbie Miller (Judaism), Beth Shalom Educator shared insights and referenced relevant scriptures on the topic.

The panel discussion took place at Beth Shalom. Our President, Olga Bernstein, delivered the official welcome on behalf of all three organisations behind this event. What became clear from all three talks was how the Abrahamic Faith Groups are well positioned to play a leading role in stimulating action to preserve our environment. We have a Biblical duty to be guardians who protect our planet. While each speaker took a slightly different approach to presenting their talks, there was significant commonality across them. After a Q and A with all three speakers Paul Wilton wrapped up the event with the vote of thanks. On behalf of the three speakers, and Yasir who will be leaving his role at the Pearl of the Islands Foundation, native trees were planted in recognition of their contribution. The event concluded with some light refreshments with the opportunity for attendees to mix and mingle.

'Children of Abraham' - an Abrahamic religions interfaith initiative - was formed by the Pearl of the Islands Foundation, Holy Trinity Cathedral, and the Beth Shalom, in order to promote mutual understanding, co-operation, and pro-active inclusion of all who stand in the Abrahamic tradition.

Watch It again or to catch it if you missed it:

<https://youtu.be/ADHmrKN3Bqg>





# Education

Sunday school Tefillot Friday night 30th October.



## SHABBAT KAT Children's service

Saturday 12th December, 2020, 10-11am

Beth Shalom Hebrew/Sunday  
School, Contact:  
[educator@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:educator@bethshalom.org.nz)

Ph: 027 765 3677. Your place to  
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Dancing



Torah



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Hebrew



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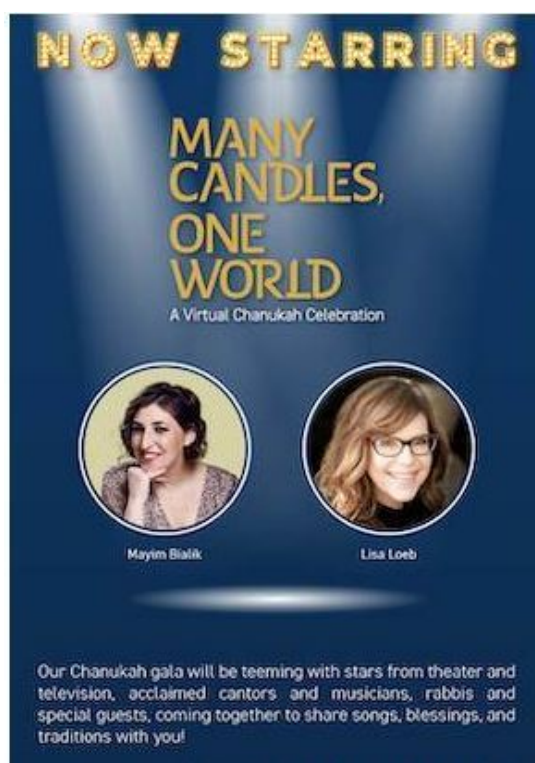
# Join us to celebrate Chanukah and Support the World Union!



Announcing the World Union for Progressive Judaism's inaugural world's first virtual channukah gala.

Called **MANY CANDLES, ONE WORLD** this 1 hour gala on Sunday 13 December at 8pm NY time (**Monday 2pm New Zealand time**) will bring together international stars from theatre and television, acclaimed cantors and musicians, rabbis and special guests in an international musical extravaganza interspersed with inspirational teachings from a wide variety of rabbis from across the world.

Log on to [www.wupj.org/chanukah](http://www.wupj.org/chanukah) to register to be part of this amazing event or go to the WUPJ or Beth Shalom websites and Facebook pages. While registration is free, any donations from the event will go towards the WUPJ's "Education Fund for the Future".



# Collection of over 60 Jewish community oral history interviews given to Auckland Public Libraries

In 1994 a group interested in interviewing people in the Auckland Jewish community met to set up a formal group as a subcommittee of the Auckland Jewish Council. The initial focus at that time was to interview Holocaust survivors living in Auckland, however, concurrently, another group of interviews was being done, of people who were and are prominent in the community.

Early interviews were initiated by the late Shirley Ross in the 1980s and are ongoing. The Shirley Ross interviews, as well as a number of taped interviews, speeches and other material held by the Auckland Jewish community were brought together and grouped under the heading of "Community Identities". As with all the interviews held by the Auckland Jewish Oral History Group these have been digitized. The collection is made up of interviews for the main part, but there are also folders of papers, speeches and documents or other material collected.

Included in the collection are interviews with such people as Percy Bookman, David Pezaro, Hetty Moss, David Ross, Dian Ross, Rena Ross, David Stern, Olive Manning, David Nathan, Wendy Ross, Ada Cohen, Barbara Goodman, David Levene, Arnold Treister to name a few. Numbering approximately 60, copies of these interviews have now been given to the Auckland Public Libraries so that they will be publicly available. This has been possible with a generous grant from a community member and the interviews have now been formatted so that the collection can be accessioned into the Libraries' system.

The interviewers have been many but include the following:

Edwina Myers, Suzanne Szusterman, Anthony Hart, Claire Bruell, Freda Narev, Ilse Stein, Shirley Ross and many others. The Community Identity interviews will be named in the library catalogue and the interviews will be available by visiting the library, once accessioned by library staff. Each will be accompanied by a Consent form governing access, signed by the interviewee at the time of the interview. We are confident that the collection will provide valuable material for the community and others going forward, when researching the history of the Auckland Jewish community.

Claire Bruell and Judy Gluckman

Co-ordinators Auckland Jewish Oral History Group

# Community Care ...

Hi everyone, This is the last message for this year, a year that will go down in history, and be in our memories as VERY unusual. We hope you are all enjoying being 'almost' back to normal, as we are so much luckier than so many other countries.

We are also hoping you are keeping well, and as we are not hearing otherwise, hope this is actually the case.

This is also the end of the first full year that I have been heading up Community care, if this year could be called 'full' with all the gaps, but I have enjoyed being an active part of the Beth Shalom community.

We are looking to raise our profile next year, as we have become aware that we are seen to be mainly representing the older members of the community, which is actually NOT correct. We are COMMUNITY CARE, and represent the whole community. There is the Senior Outreach Service which caters for the older members, and while we obviously include the older members, we are here for everyone young and old.

We are on the lookout for new members to join our team. The work is very part time, and not onerous, and we only hold a few meetings a year. The more people we have the less work there is individually, and more members will cover more areas. To this end, we have decided that instead of holding an end of year meeting, we would make it a social Afternoon Tea whereby any of you that think you would like to join us, could come along and meet us, and ask any questions you may have. This may appeal to any newer members to our congregation, who feel they would like to get involved with the shule, in a small way to start with, and get to know some more people in the community.

The Afternoon Tea will be at Beth Shalom, on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm**. If you would like to come please let us know for catering purposes. You are welcome to bring with you, your spouse/partner/BBF, but let us know if you are.

Have a lovely Chanukah, and enjoy the rest of 2020 in good health. We look forward to working with you again next year.

Lita Summerfield (Chairperson) and the Community Care Team

**Contact:** Chris Shiller 021 177 4934 [shiller@iorcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@iorcon.net.nz)

Lorna Orbell 022 026 2899 [chaim@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:chaim@slingshot.co.nz)

Lita Summerfield 021 297 9462 (TEXT ONLY) [serendipitylins40@gmail.com](mailto:serendipitylins40@gmail.com)

or contact the office 09 524 4139.



# The UAE, Israel and Peace

**ZF AND WZO UK  
PRESENT:**

## BRINGING ISRAEL CLOSER TO HOME

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our next one featuring  
Omar Al-Busaidy -  
entrepreneur, author  
and global speaker.**



By registering for this webinar, you agree to your data being used by the ZF and WZO UK only.

## THE UAE, ISRAEL AND PEACE: WHAT IT MEANS ON THE GROUND

The Abraham Accords have brought about a sea change in the Middle East and arguably represents a far warmer peace than exists between Israel, Egypt and Jordan. But beyond embassies, flight routes and the myriad of other forms of national collaborations, what exactly does this mean for Emiratis on the ground? What is in it for them? And conversely, what do they see is in it for Israelis?

Join us to hear all about this third ever peace deal between Israel and an Arab state from **Omar Al-Busaidy**, a very proud Emirati, global shaper, speaker for the World Economic Forum, member of the US and UAE Public Affairs Committee and member of The Arab Youth Pioneers Program.

**Date 06/12/2020 Time 6pm GMT / 1pm EST**  
**Register [www.tinyurl.com/uae-israel-peace](http://www.tinyurl.com/uae-israel-peace)**

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