



**November 2021**  
**Cheshvan~Kislev 5782**  
**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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- Treasurer, David Singer, [treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz), (Finance Committee)

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- Terry Haffern, [haffernt@outlook.com](mailto:haffernt@outlook.com), Ritual, Garden
- Ted Ries, [tedbries@gmail.com](mailto:tedbries@gmail.com), Security, JCC
- Shane Sampson, [shane@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:shane@bethshalom.org.nz), Finance Committee
- Michelle Wise, [wisemichelle@gmail.com](mailto:wisemichelle@gmail.com) Membership
- Co-opted to the Board, Arie Rosen, [rosenari@gmail.com](mailto:rosenari@gmail.com)

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

Our services are currently on Zoom. That's the best way to ensure everyone's safety AND to be as inclusive as possible. Until further notice, we will continue to use this platform for any gathering that would usually occur in the building. We will remain careful: our communal use of Zoom may or may not align with government alert levels for Auckland. In so doing, we are prioritising the Jewish value of PIKUAH NEFESH - Saving Lives and Valuing Health. This is central to Jewish thought and practice. We will keep you updated.

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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 November ...

- **Sunday 7 November, 5pm,** Join B'nai B'rith NZ on Zoom for their 60th anniversary and AGM. Comedienne Deb Filler will be the MC for this event. See poster on the Beth Shalom website.
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm: Children of Abraham Annual Conversation.** Paul Wilton will represent Judaism at this Abrahamic Interfaith Event entitled "How we Read our Scriptures". [Click here](#) for the flyer.
- **Sunday 28 November, 5.30pm Launch of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks Memorial Libraries** to be held at the Auckland Hebrew Congregation, 108 Greys Ave and at the Wellington Jewish Community Centre. If in-person attendance is not possible, zoom links will be provided. The Hon Michael Wood will be the keynote speaker. The Programme will include the finalists from the Lord Rabbi Sacks NZ Speech Competition. Please RSVP by 12th November to attend the Auckland session [RSVP@AHC.ORG.NZ](mailto:RSVP@AHC.ORG.NZ) Click [here](#) for the flyer.



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# From the President

I know that you will, like me, be heartbroken about the death of David Miller and the impact on the Miller family – Debbie, Ofer, Adele, Zach and Daniel. We are all with the family in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. This loss is a tragedy for the family, friends, and our community.

When I think about our younger people in the community, I always think of them as just that - 'our children'. We have seen each other's children grow up. We have joined in their birthday parties and celebrated their bnei mitzvot. We have seen the special bonds that are formed in each cohort going through their bnei mitzvot. Our young people are at the heart of much of what we do. They are the 'new leaves on the tree' of Beth Shalom.

And in that wonderful, energetic mix of young people running around at Beth Shalom, the Miller children have, for as long as I can remember, been an essential part.

Talking to people about David, we all remember his quiet intelligence, how mischievous he and Daniel were, his achievements in taekwondo, his desire to understand the reason for things and question the status quo. He is, and will always be, one of 'our children'.

The Millers are a treasured part of our Beth Shalom family. What I have seen, and I pray the Miller family are experiencing, is the huge outpouring of love and support from our community. The practical support given to the family has been truly heartwarming. What is less obvious is the tireless work of a group of people who have come together to enable the community response. The number of people who need to be thanked is large – this has been a community effort, done with love, caring and huge compassion. You know who you are, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your part in supporting the Millers and the community.

As we comfort the family, our role is to stay close, to listen, to remember David for the wonderful young person that he was, to offer practical help. To remind each member of the family how important they are to us, individually and as a family. They need our compassion, empathy, acknowledgement of what has happened and validation of how they are feeling. They need to know that we are there for them, listening with love and without judgement. And to know that we will be there over the days, weeks and months ahead. It will not lessen their grief, but I pray it makes a difference to their capacity to manage.

B'shalom, Olga



# How Shabbat observance evolved over time

Although the commandment to keep Shabbat comes from the Torah, few details on how to practically observe the day were included. Who decided Shabbat's prohibitions and celebrations? How did today's Shabbat practices develop? We acknowledge My Jewish Learning for this interesting article.

*The rabbis of antiquity deduced that all labors necessary for constructing a sanctuary and its appurtenances should serve as the blueprint for Shabbat prohibitions.*

Despite the importance of Shabbat in Jewish life, the Torah provides few details as to its observance. Apart from the oft repeated injunction to “do no work” on (see Exodus 20:10 , 35:2, and Deuteronomy 5:14 , among others), the only other specifics mentioned are a few prohibitions such as those against kindling a fire, gathering wood, and plowing.

After 70 CE, when the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, the ancient rabbis worked intensively to adapt biblical traditions and teachings to the reality: of Jewish religious life in the absence of a sacred center. In the process, they created the foundation of rabbinic Judaism, which serves as the basis of modern Jewish life. One of the major thrusts of the rabbinic enterprise was establishing rules for observance of the Shabbat, putting their own stamp on existing popular tradition.

Based on a seemingly random interpolation of the law to cease working on Shabbat in the midst of a description of how the Israelites were to build the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary ( Exodus 31:13 ), the rabbis of antiquity deduced that all labors necessary for constructing such a sanctuary and its appurtenances should serve as the blueprint for Shabbat prohibitions. Identifying 39 basic categories of labor, the rabbis determined that these activities, and any that were similar or related to them formed the basis of future Shabbat restrictions. Their choices thus focused Shabbat prohibitions on activities involving creating and destroying, and they added to this list other activities not specifically banned, in their view, but nevertheless inappropriate to the Sabbath.

Shabbat 10/26/21, 9:30 AM

The rabbis also translated into concrete liturgical acts the 's positive admonitions to “remember” and “keep” the Sabbath “[in order] to sanctify it.” Thus the rabbis created the ritual of kiddush or “sanctification” (a special blessing usually said over wine) and an elaborate Shabbat liturgy as the required active content of Shabbat observance to go along with the prohibition of labor.

Some scholars have suggested, on the basis of references to Sabbath observance in the works of non-Jewish authors in Greek and Latin, that the talmudic rabbis were deliberately reforming an earlier, more somber Sabbath observance among Jews in the Hellenistic world, reinterpreting Torah in new ways in order to shape a joyous, active Shabbat experience.

Among Jews in the Middle Ages, authorities in Jewish law adapted (and often extended) Shabbat prohibitions to meet changing social realities and technologies, while the poets among their contemporaries created elaborate, decorative additions to the liturgy of Shabbat and table-songs (zemirot) to be sung at Shabbat meals. The mystics of those centuries Torah offered a new understanding of Shabbat, portrayed as queen and as bride to be welcomed, feted, and escorted away at her departure.

Shabbat observance, then, has taken on different forms according to evolving customs and varied ideological outlooks. From ancient to modern times, observance of the Shabbat has served as a touchstone for individual Jews to identify with a particular community within the Jewish people. Today, for example, traditional Jews refrain from lighting or tending to a fire of any sort. Some abstain, then, not only from driving a car to synagogue on Shabbat but even from operating electric lights. However, Jews whose approach to tradition is more liberal will use electricity on Shabbat, eschewing the interpretation of electricity as fire.

Undoubtedly, some of the specifics of Shabbat observance have long served as a bone of internal contention for the Jewish community precisely because of the essential role that Shabbat plays in the life of the Jewish people. As Ahad Ha-Am, one of the most important early Jewish writers of the last century, wrote, "More than the Jewish people has preserved the Shabbat, the Shabbat has preserved the Jewish people."



**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@auckcsg.org.nz](mailto: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.**

The logo for the Community Security Group (CSG), featuring a white six-pointed star with the letters 'CSG' in the center, all enclosed within a blue circular border.



# LAUNCH OF RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS MEMORIAL LIBRARIES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

## THE LAUNCH OF RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS MEMORIAL LIBRARIES



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: HON MICHAEL WOOD

WHEN: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28TH AT 5.30PM

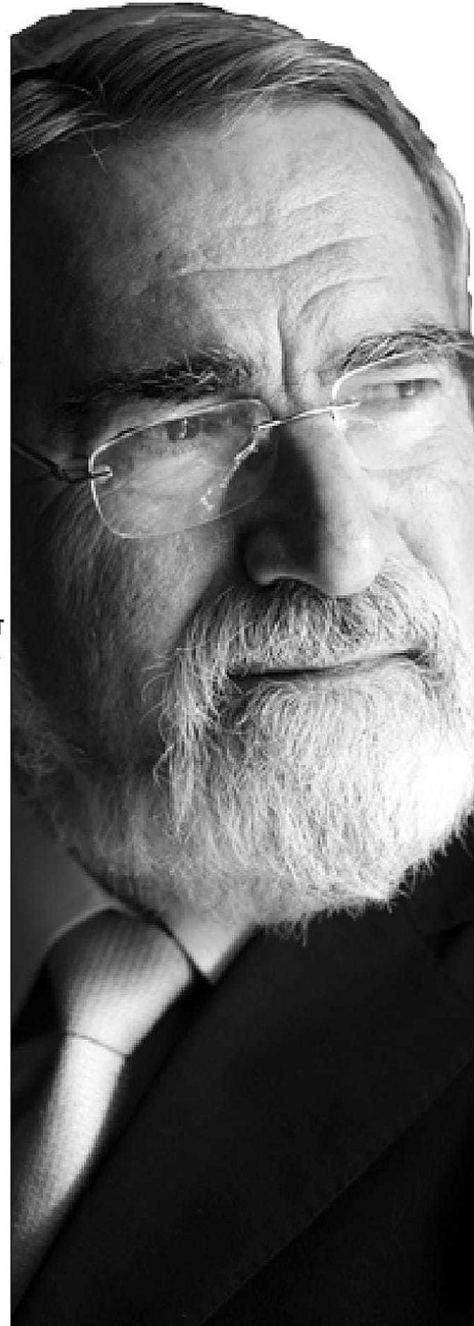
WHERE: AUCKLAND HEBREW CONGREGATION 108 GREYS  
AVE, ASTOR HALL

WHERE: WELLINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY 80 WEBB STREET

PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 12TH TO [RSVP@AHC.ORG.NZ](mailto:RSVP@AHC.ORG.NZ)  
FOR AUCKLAND  
OR  
[OFFICE@WJCC.ORG.NZ](mailto:OFFICE@WJCC.ORG.NZ) FOR WELLINGTON

*PLEASE NOTE: IN THE EVENT THAT AUCKLAND IS AT LEVEL 2  
ATTENDANCE WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE  
REGISTERED.*

OUR PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE THE FINALISTS FROM THE  
LORD RABBI SACKS NEW ZEALAND SPEECH COMPETITION





Please see weekly email newsletter for service leader information and Zoom links through November, as they become available.



## 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 prayers.
- 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

# Community Care ...

Unfortunately as hoped, we didn't go to Level 2 at the beginning of October, and as at Labour weekend when I am writing this, we still don't know when that will happen. The good news is that (hopefully) by the time you are reading this we are there, or at least we are getting closer!

We hope you are all continuing to cope with this lengthy process, but please remember if you are not, in any way, then to make us aware so we can see how we can help you

## HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY CARE TEAM HELP?

As usual, we are here to help and support you. Please feel comfortable to ask us

- After a fall or feeling unwell
- Finding it a challenge to do things for yourself,
- Need a helping hand short term,
- Perhaps need to just talk to someone,
- Need help with filling forms,
- Need someone to be with you when visiting a doctor,
- Or need support getting X-rays done.

We know some of these suggestions may not be possible at the moment, but we can still help you put things into place, for when they are. Like always though, we need to know if you want help of some kind before we can give it.

Do **you** know of someone who is unwell, that would benefit from

- **a phone call?** MOST important at this time. People on their own, even if they are well, can feel very isolated during lockdown and a friendly voice can be very comforting, OR
- a get well card,
- some flowers to cheer,
- receive a frozen meal.

Get a family member to call us if you cannot.

## INDEPENDENCE IS WONDERFUL

Consider how a helping hand can support you in achieving this.

Especially, when it is offered willingly by members of our team.

# LET US KNOW

We also want to know and share your good things, so tell us if there is a special Anniversary, or a new baby, or any other happy event on the horizon.

**Please, continue to take care and stay safe.**

Cheers

Lita (Chairperson) and the Community Care Team.

**Contact:**

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

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

Lorna Orbell 022 026 2897 [chaim@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:chaim@slingshot.co.nz)

Left to right,  
Ora Lefebvre.  
Chris Shiller,  
Barbara  
Sandler, Lita  
Summerfield,  
Sandra van  
Eden, Bill  
Merrill, Lorna  
Orbell and  
Sandra  
Brickman.

