

beth shalom
auckland new zealand
בית שלום



Iyar~Sivan 5782

June 2022

TERUAH



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

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

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Our Board members

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

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Board members and portfolios

- Kate Bukowski, kate.bukowski@gmail.com
- Suzanne Murek, susanne.murek@gmail.com
- Shane Sampson, shane@bethshalom.org.nz, Finance Committee
- Arie Rosen, rosenari@gmail.com, Ritual Committee, Education Committee

- Educator, Debbie Miller educator@bethshalom.org.nz
- Community Care, Lita Summerfield, serendipitylita40@gmail.com
- Senior Outreach, Chris Shiller, shiller@orcon.net.nz
- Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society, Sue Berman ... 022 051 3589, ajbbs@bethshalom.org.nz

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

We are now at the Orange level of New Zealand's Covid response. At Beth Shalom, we are no longer using vaccine passes but will **continue to require masks to be worn inside at Beth Shalom events/gatherings, including services and Hebrew School.** We made this decision because masks are an effective way to limit the spread of Covid which is particularly important when singing and it is important that we continue to protect each other when we choose to gather together on-site. Smaller, private meetings or gatherings run by other organisations at Beth Shalom may choose not to require masks, so for all events/gatherings we will advertise clearly whether or not masks are required. However, we strongly encourage masks to be worn at meetings on-site at all times

Coming up in June ...

- **Saturday 4 June at 5.30pm, Shavuot - A Night of Jewish Learning**
- **Sunday 5 June at 10am, Shavuot Morning service** including Yizkor at 10am at Beth Shalom.
- **Wednesday 8 June, 11am** memorial service for Laurie Reynolds will be conducted by Rabbi Dean Shapiro at Davis Funeral Home, Central Park Drive, Henderson. The family invite you to join them in honouring his memory at this service.
- **Saturday 11 June, 1-2:30pm** we're having our second Crafty People meeting in the hall. Come along to chat, work on a project, and have some tea and biscuits with other crafters. All ages and levels of expertise welcome.



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From the President

I held an open house on 23 May to invite members to share any concerns or ask any questions. It was a very positive meeting, with 10 people at Shul and another 18 on Zoom, including three other Board members. I offered my personal priorities for my term.

The first was for our community to make a decision, before the end of this year, about whether or not to move to the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) site in Remuera. We reviewed the five 'bottom line' issues that were raised at the last community meeting in 2019; the first four have been sorted:

- Beth Shalom will have meaningful representation in the decision-making and operational processes for the shared spaces on the JCC site.
- Beth Shalom will have autonomy over its religious and social practices in our own space.
- Beth Shalom has been warmly welcomed to the JCC site.
- The nature of Beth Shalom's tenure is freehold and secured in perpetuity.
- The financial toll to be manageable.

I commit to doing the best I can to explore the final one, but at some point we may have to take a leap of faith (within reason). Estimates of the finances still to be determined include: selling our Epsom sites, buying the property at 314A Remuera Rd, building a Shul on the new site, and contributing to the ongoing annual fees for the shared spaces of the JCC. Our internal JCC team is planning another community meeting in July, with representatives from AHC Trust Board, the JCC Steering Committee, and Jewish Auckland (recreational and cultural hub). We will also request another site visit. We are looking for volunteers to join the Jewish Auckland team if you are passionate about a 'thriving and enduring Jewish community.'

My other priorities include securing long-term Rabbinical presence (i.e., for Rabbi Dean to sign on for the next four years), engagement and connection within the community, and governance training for Board members. I view our challenges as opportunities. Please do not hesitate to get in touch anytime. And contact the Office if you want a link to the recording of the meeting.

Michelle Wise Szecket



From Rabbi Dean

Something's changed. Lately, I've received requests from several families after a loved-one's death. "We want a Celebration of Life, rabbi," they tell me. "Not a funeral. We don't want to be sad."

That didn't used to happen.

As Jews, we treasure life and respect the Source of Life in all we do. But "Celebrations of Life" are not Jewish.

I understand the desire. We want to honour the deceased and what they mean to us. We want to distract ourselves from the complex feelings of grief. We see "Celebrations of Life" going on in the dominant Gentile world around us. These seem like a much better option than a funeral.

But that's not the Jewish way. Nor, do I believe, is it psychologically sound.

When someone who matters to us dies, it feels like we're dropped into a whirlpool. There's so much to do! So many decisions to make! So many layered emotions, plenty of them unsettled or painful or stinging. "Celebrations of Life" help us avoid all that darkness and uncertainty by giving us something cheerful to focus on. After all, there's plenty to be thankful for about a life well lived.

But gratitude is not the primary work of a funeral. At a funeral, we mark the separation of the soul from the body. The soul is released to the Source; the body is shed and returned to the earth. At the same time, we who remain behind say goodbye to someone who meant the world to us. That's why we tear our clothes and drop a clod of earth into the grave - so that we will understand, deep down, that something important has changed and can't return. Our lives will never be the same.

At funerals, we confront the finality of death. The mood is one of awe, not celebration.

There is certainly a time to focus on the goodness of a life, and to recall happy memories. That's called shiva, the seven-day period of mourning that begins after a funeral. That's the perfect time to look through photos and videos, to swap stories, and to laugh. That's the time to appreciate the good times, to be grateful for our loved one's impact on our lives. Some people feel relief that the pain has ended or that a burden of care has been lifted. These are fully human feelings.

Forced celebration can be emotionally harmful, because it sends the message that we have to be happy - even when that's not how we're actually feeling. Usually, when I tell families that I won't be leading a "Celebration of Life," they sigh with relief. Thank goodness they don't have to pretend to be happy! Denial of grief, in all its many flavours, comes at a psychological cost.

It's no wonder that Christians place flowers on the grave. After all, their central story is that Life Conquers Death. That's not the Jewish belief. We acknowledge the finality of death. That's why we place stones on the grave, not blossoms. Stones sit heavy. They don't fade and they don't bring joy. They don't hide the truth.

"To everything there is a season," the Book of Kohelet/Ecclesiastes teaches. "A time for every experience under heaven." Those include a time for weeping and a time for laughing, a time for wailing and a time for dancing.

The key, as I see it, is to know which time is which.

Rabbi Dean Shapiro



Service leaders roster will be published progressively in the weekly email newsletter.



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 020 403 88054
- Christine: office@bethshalom.org.nz 524 4139

MY THOUGHTS

by Debbie Miller

Our community came together to support my family and we thought, wow I have never been so supported as when my son, David z'l died by suicide. Beth Shalom came together to support us in so many ways. Each and every one of you reached out to us and offered us help.

It was something which we will be forever grateful, and we will not forget. We all move on with our lives and think that is behind us, but no I will never forget that at that moment of the greatest tragedy of our lives our community did everything in their power to support us.

At Beth Shalom we are in a special place, we have each other's back and we need to not forget it. We need to reach out to each other and help each other, but more than that we need to ask for help. It is only when we ask can we create a relationship that is solid and strong. We often feel uncomfortable asking for help, needing help because it makes us feel weak and needy. What we don't realize is that it binds us this helping each other, this needing each other.

Reb Shlomi who visited Beth Shalom years ago said, that if you do not ask God for help for what you need God cannot answer your prayers, your needs. This asking needs to be up close and personal not grandiose like world peace but what I need. Asking and receiving creates a relationship and it strengthens the bond. This is also true for human relationships.

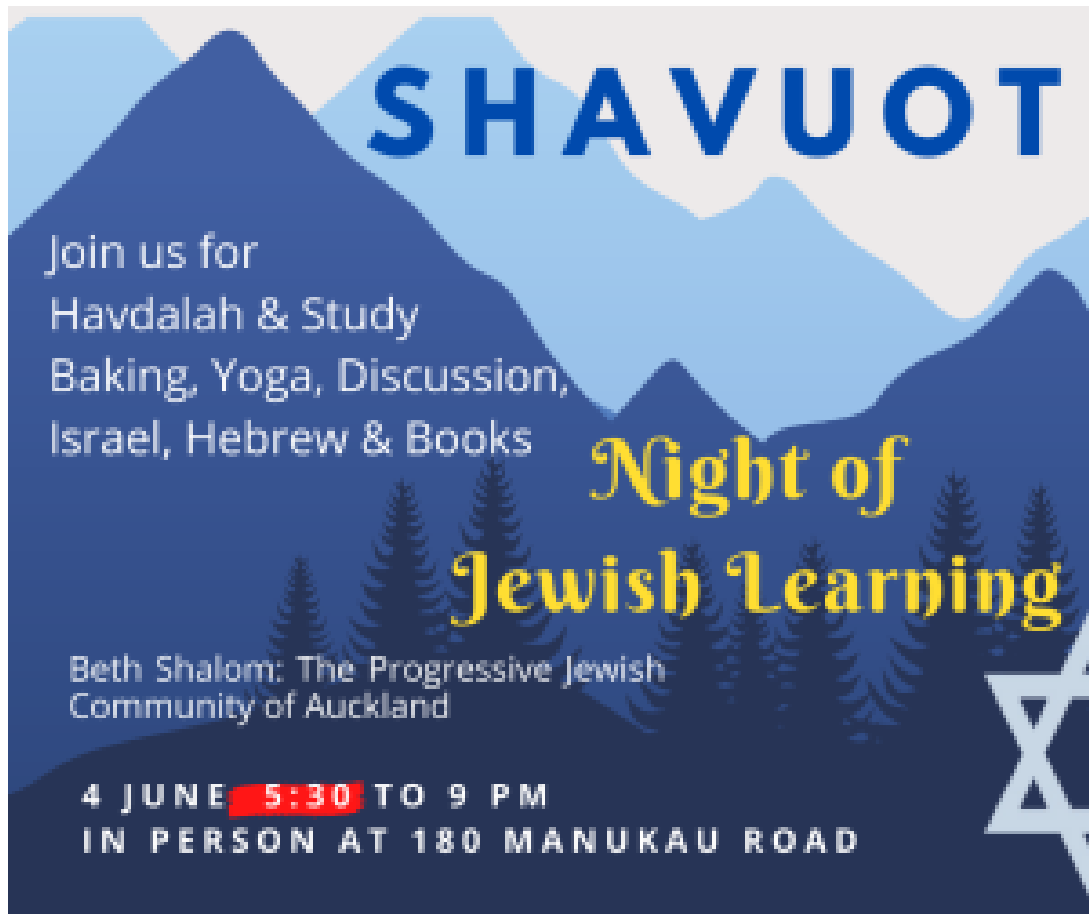
In our society we feel uncomfortable needing money, medical help, mental health help and friendship, but it is what makes us connected, and connectedness is one of the keys to community.

The Beth Shalom community as a result of covid has caused us to be a part either online or alone in our homes for over a year now. It has broken some of our unity. We are coming back in person, and we need you. We need you in person to rebuild this amazing loving community which showed up to our home en masse when David z'l died. We need you because if not now when?

We need you at tefillot to make a vibrant service cause numbers matter, we need you to be shamashim, we need you to lead services, we need you to volunteer to organize potluck dinners, we need you to come to Sunday school, we need you to meet for study groups, we need you to invite Introduction to Judaism students to your home for shabbat dinner, we need you to invite new members to your home for shabbat dinner after services.

We need you.

Shavuot: Night of Jewish Learning



Shavuot - A Night of Jewish Learning Saturday 4 June at 5.30pm

Tucked between Passover and Rosh HaShanah, the Festival of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah – the sacred Truth that embraces our people.

You are invited for an evening of learning and doing Jewish, held at Beth Shalom on 4 June.

At 5:30, we'll make havdalah and honour the Torah that lives in our hearts. Then, we'll have three rounds of choices. These include Torah study, cooking, yoga & meditation, the history of Modern Hebrew, book group, and a discussion of property rights in the Book of Genesis. Session leaders: Rabbi Dean, Edna Levy, Ayelet Zoran-Rosen, Olga Bernstein, Sharon Almog and a firm-full of attorneys! You decide which sessions to attend; there's something for everyone.

Please bring a cheesecake or other delicious dairy dessert to share. We finish at 9pm, and look forward to sharing the evening with you.

Shavuot Morning Service Sunday 5 June at 10am including Yizkor.

Passover in the Park thank you

“Let all who are hungry come and eat,” we say each year during seder. At “Passover in the Park,” we passed the hat and raised \$170 to turn our invitation into reality. The money has been donated to Auckland City Mission.

In response, Beth Shalom received the following letter from the Mission:

“We can feel that life seems to have just begun, and that everything is full of hope.”

Thank you for giving the gift of hope. By donating to the Mission you have chosen to truly make a difference to care for those who are struggling and in need – thank you.

Your support ensures the Mission can continue to assist those in our community who are experiencing homelessness and living in poverty. Those who perhaps have nowhere else to turn – like [Sam and Irene*](#).

After weeks of living on the streets and in their car, refugees Sam and Irene found hope for a brighter future after arriving at the Mission’s doors. Because of your generosity, the team at the Mission surrounded them with care and support – providing much needed immediate help like kai and clothing, as well as helping them on their journey to get housing, healthcare and employment.

“In our past catastrophic life, the Mission’s appearance is one of the few lucky things we have encountered,” Sam says.

Your kindness helps provide essential services every day for thousands of Aucklanders like [Sam and Irene](#) in desperate need – thank you.

He waka eke noa.

With my greatest thanks,

Helen Robinson

Auckland City Missioner – Manutaki

Auckland City Mission – Te Tāpui Atawhai

Thanks to all who attended Passover in the Park, and who donated.

Public Service award to Naomi Johnson

Naomi Johnson was presented with the Pearl of the Islands (PIF) Foundation 2022 Public Service Award 2022 at the annual Iftar Dinner hosted by PIF on 28 May. The wording on the award says:

“The exceptional recipient of this award has supported, promoted or initiated intercultural and/or interfaith dialogue in the public domain to help build a cohesive society through engagement, policies and/or political action.”

Naomi says that she really enjoys the interfaith work she is doing, particularly the work which helps to improve relations between Jews and Muslims. “The two Iftar dinners which I organised at Beth Shalom, co-hosted by the Pearl of the Islands Foundation, were very rewarding and it was wonderful to see our Beth Shalom members mixing so well with members of the Pearl of the Islands Foundation. I look forward to when we can co-host another Iftar dinner.”

Naomi was appointed to the PIF Advisory Board in 2017 and has also been assisting Little Pearls Childcare (2 centres) with some voluntary HR work drawing on her former career as an HR Manager.

Naomi says that her involvement with PIF over the past 12 years has made her life all the richer.

Outside of her involvement with PIF, she is also “job sharing” with Paul Wilton as the Jewish Representative on the Auckland Interfaith Council and has been involved with a number of other successful interfaith initiatives.



Jewish oral history interviews

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, 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.

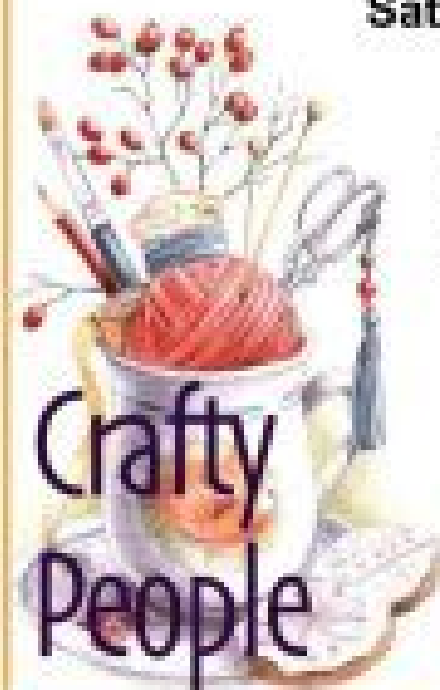
The interviewers have been many but include the following:

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, Judy Gluckman

Coordinators Auckland Jewish Oral History Group

Crafty People



Crafty People meet-up Saturday 11th June 1-2:30pm at Beth Shalom

We're finally having our second Crafty People meet-up!

Come along to work on a project, chat, and have some tea and biscuits with other crafters. All ages and levels of expertise are welcome.

Masks are required, as per Beth Shalom policy, and we will be meeting in the hall so we have plenty of space.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Jessamie Milton at djmhippy@gmail.com or
Rachel Zussman at rzussman1@gmail.com

Women's Refuge Winter Appeal



It's that time of year again to launch our Women's Refuge Winter Appeal.

They are in need of new or "clean, near new" clothing such as winter pajamas - for children of all ages and women - blankets, socks, jerseys and track suits, hats and scarves, outdoor wear - rain jackets, boots and umbrellas.

Because of Covid and the several lockdowns over the last two years there is an ongoing need for non-perishable food and especially at the moment, they are asking for pasta sauces, tuna or tinned fish, long life milk, tea and coffee.

As always toiletries are needed - soap, deodorant, hand cream, sanitary products, shampoo, conditioner etc., for the women and for the children and babies - toothpaste, toothbrushes, nappies, bottles and baby food.

Also, on the list this time is toilet paper - I was told that it is the one item that runs out the quickest as the safe houses have to be kept well stocked.

We will continue this special appeal for the next couple of months - Winter is just a few weeks away.

If you are unable to deliver the goods to shul, please contact:

Chris Shiller, mobile 021 177 4934, Email shiller@orcon.net.nz

and a plan will be made to collect your items.

The Women's Refuge has asked me to pass on their grateful thanks for the continued support by the Beth Shalom community over many years, Your donations are always very much appreciated.

Community Care ...

Hi Everyone,

Still in Orange, let's hope that with the borders opening we can at least stay in that, although Green would be nice (wishful thinking?) The weather has been so mild it's easy to forget that Winter starts this month, until it gets dark early, and turns cool. We must all be mindful of the fact that as well as all the usual Winter ills we try to avoid, Covid is still around as well and may flare up again if people are welcoming overseas visitors. We must not only look out for ourselves but we urge you to look out for others too, and if you think they could benefit from our help in any way, please contact us and make us aware so we can take action.

Volunteers needed for Shalom Court

New Zealanders from all walks of life are deservedly renowned for volunteering where help is needed. It is something to be proud of and Shalom Court really needs a helping hand from volunteers. They need volunteers from all ages and backgrounds for the following:

- Spend some time talking with the residents and listening to their stories.
- Play board games or puzzles.
- Help by reading to residents.
- Drivers to and from community-based events.
- Shabbat services - become a Kiddush volunteer by leading one or two Friday night services each year.
- Bring your musical talents to the residents.
- Be part of Happy Hour once a month.

Adults, families, and students are welcome to become volunteers. If you have some spare time, please do contact Shalom Court - phone 09 512 7325 or email office@shalomcourt.co.nz

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 out 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 SHARE YOUR GOOD THINGS AND 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.

Lita (Chairperson) and the Community Care Team.

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



Contact:

Chris Shiller 021 177 4934 shiller@orcon.net.nz

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

Lorna Orbell 022 026 2897 chaim@slingshot.co.nz

Burial & Benevolent Society

During the last month of May we provided our services and support to the families of Eunice Defries [stone setting]; funeral and minyan for Laurie Reynolds (z'll) who passed away after an incredible 107 years; and to long-time member of Beth Shalom Betty Barbalet (z'll). May those that mourn find comfort in community and may the memories of their loved ones be for a blessing.

A memorial service for Laurie Reynolds will be conducted by Rabbi Dean Shapiro on Wednesday 8 June at 11am at Davis Funeral Home, Central Park Drive, Henderson. The family invite you to join them in honouring his memory at this service.

Please note that Shavuot is one of the festivals in addition to Yom Kippur that we hold a Yizkor [memorial] service. This will be on Sunday 5th June at Beth Shalom. Yizkor is traditionally a time of remembrance and often has a number of components; remembrance at a community level; remembrance at a personal level and the offering of tzedakah. Sometimes tzedakah [donations; gifts to charities] are given in the name of a loved one in honour of their memory. You can learn more here - <https://www.shiva.com/learning-center/commemorate/jewish-holidays/shavuot/>

June marks the official beginning of Winter. Please don't be cold this season. If you find yourself needing additional support with heating bills or with rising expenses for food, we are able to support these related expenses. All tzedakah decisions are confidential to the committee and we are always open to a direct approach through community care and outreach.

Thank you to all members who have paid their annual fees which helps cover our operating costs; additional donations enable our ability to offer support to families and those in need as well as contribute to community events and outreach. You should have received a tax-deductible end of year receipt for your donations. Please let the office know if for any reason this is still outstanding. Thank you to Jack Wilton our newly elected treasurer who has picked up the financial work of the committee so ably.

We have a place for a secondment onto the committee and welcome a conversation with anyone who feels they may be interested in the work of the B&B.

Wishing everyone chag shavuot sameach

Sue Berman

ph: +64 220513589

Limmud in Wellington

LIMMUD  NZ

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27 - 28.8.2022

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UPJ Biennial Conference 17-20 November

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November 17-20

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