

beth shalom  
auckland new zealand  
בית שלום



**Av~Elul 5782**

**August 2022**

**TERUAH**

**HEAR THE CALL OF THE SHOFAR**

High Holy Days  
AT BETH SHALOM



Rosh Hashanah 25/26 September Yom Kippur 4/5 October  
In Person & Online

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

(ISSN 1177-2352)

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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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## Executive

- President, Michelle Wise, [president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:president@bethshalom.org.nz)
- Immediate past president, Olga Bernstein, [olga.bernsteinz@gmail.com](mailto:olga.bernsteinz@gmail.com)
- Vice President, Ted Ries, [vice\\_president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:vice_president@bethshalom.org.nz)
- Secretary, Rachel Zussman, [secretary@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:secretary@bethshalom.org.nz)
- Treasurer, David Singer, [treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz), (Finance Committee)

## Board members and portfolios

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

\*\*\*\*\*

- Educator, [educator@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:educator@bethshalom.org.nz)
- Community Care, Lita Summerfield, [serendipitylita40@gmail.com](mailto:serendipitylita40@gmail.com)
- Senior Outreach, Chris Shiller, [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz)
- Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society, Sue Berman ... 022 051 3589, [ajbbs@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto: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 August ...

- **Kabbalat Shabbat 5 August with Temple Sinai on Zoom.**
- **14-21 August, Adult Education Opportunity with Rabbi Esther Jilovsky, Temple Sinai, Wellington.**
- **15 August: Continuing Dialogue Interfaith Event at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell.**
- **27-28 August 2022 - Limmud NZ** in Wellington.
- **28 August, North Shore event for families, Browns Bay.**
- **Paul Seideman Scholarship - Holocaust Centre of New Zealand.**
- **29 October, Harper Bacal Bat Mitzvah.**
- **17-20 November 2022 - UPJ Biennial, Sydney,**



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# From the President

## Community meeting about the Auckland Jewish Community Centre (JCC) 28 July

The attendance of almost 100 people attests to the importance of this issue for our congregation. We heard from Michael Fisher, representing the Sir Woolf Fisher Trust, about the overall vision for the JCC. I presented the Jewish Auckland Vision Statement, provided a brief overview of progress to date, and stated the purpose of the consultation process of 'a healthy community making a shared decision together.' We then broke into small groups (in person and on Zoom) to discuss our thoughts, share our opinions, and compose questions for the panel. After a short break, we gathered the panel of Beth Shalom Trustees, members of our JCC team and the AHC Trust Board, chairs of Kadimah School and Goldwater Trust Boards, and lead for Jewish Auckland, who answered the group's top 10 questions.







### **Process from here**

A formal report on the meeting will be presented at the Board Retreat on 7 August and then circulated to all members. The JCC team will be hosting several informal get togethers in August and September to further discuss this opportunity. The Team includes myself, Ted Ries (Board rep), David Kranz, Rabbi Dean, Judith Marks (Trustee) and Kate Bukowski (Board member). The first two will be 14 August at 1pm at Beth Shalom and 21 August at 2pm on Zoom; remaining dates and neighbourhoods will be publicised soon.

We will hold another community meeting in September to present information about the finances and governance structure of the JCC. We will then notify the congregation at least 14 days in advance of a Special General Meeting, along with the proposal on which to vote. We are aiming for 30 October but it may need to be deferred to November if we don't yet have all of what we need to make an informed decision. At the Meeting, as per our Constitution, the motion will require a two-thirds majority of present members in order to pass.

## **The value of membership**

I cannot emphasise enough the value of being a member of Beth Shalom. Your annual membership contributions are so much appreciated – they keep our services and programs running, our staff working, and the lights on. Not only do you receive the membership benefit of Teruah, you also get access to all Shabbat and High Holy Day services; non-members are asked to contact the Office to arrange High Holy Day tickets. Members also access lifecycle events with our Volunteers helping you prepare and Rabbi Dean Shapiro officiating, including Brit Milah, baby naming, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, weddings and funerals. And members can request pastoral care and individual support from Rabbi Dean and our Community Care group. Finally, only members are entitled to vote at Special and Annual General Meetings. We want you to become a member and have your voice heard as we make important decisions for our community.

## **Infoodle**

If you are receiving Teruah, it means we have your correct email address. However, if you know people who are not, please ask them to get in touch with the Office to update their contact details. We are launching a new membership management system called Infoodle and it will work for us only as well as the data entered.

Michelle Wise

**President**

# GARDEN CLUB



## **Interested in gardening? We're interested in you!**

Come and join us in early September when we will be doing some planting and tidying up before the High Holy Days. Lunch will be provided. Call Meir on 021 221 0155 or email [meiralfassinz@gmail.com](mailto:meiralfassinz@gmail.com)

We'll be meeting once every quarter to check out the garden, do a bit of maintenance and talk about plants while getting to know each other.

## **Tzedakah**

Our ongoing donations of non-perishable food and toiletries to the Women's Refuge are continuing and their need for supplies is greater than ever so please, if you are able, continue to donate items to the tzedakah box.

Also, there is the Safe Night appeal with the added Safe Night In option, for \$20 you can pay for a room for a woman in need and also enjoy something for yourself:

<https://safenight.nz/pages/great-night-in>



# Kabbalat Shabbat 5 August with Temple Sinai

Kabbalat Shabbat  
Friday night - 5 August - 6:30pm

Rabbi Esther Jilovsky and Rabbi Dean Shapiro will lead a combined service to welcome Shabbat and to honour our Czech Torah scrolls remembering the lost Jewish communities of Humpolec and Heřmanův Městec.

Join us online. A Zoom link will be provided the week of the service.



## PAUL SEIDEMAN SCHOLARSHIP - HOLOCAUST CENTRE OF NZ

Calling all Years 7 - 13 students in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**TOPIC: While the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising ultimately failed to stop the Nazis and their collaborators from deporting the last remaining Jews, it has inspired generations since to honour the humanity of the victims. Examine the way in which the memory of the ghetto uprising can be shown through poetry, art, music, dramatisation, or personal memoirs.**

Your entry should show how you honour their humanity and their memories, and how it will continue to shape future generations.

All details of entry requirements, prize, and more can be found on the link below.

**EXTENSION TO SEPTEMBER 15th, 5PM [CLICK HERE](#)**

# What is the Tree of Life (Etz Chaim)?



## What is the Tree of Life (Etz Chaim)?

The term has its origins in the biblical story of the Garden of Eden and has come to be used frequently in Jewish life. BY MY JEWISH LEARNING

The Hebrew term *etz chaim* (literally “tree of life”) is a common one in Jewish life, often used to refer to the Torah. It is a popular name for synagogues and Jewish schools as well as the title of one of the major works of Jewish mysticism.

The first reference to the tree of life in Jewish texts comes from the biblical story of the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:9 relates that God filled the garden with beautiful and tasty trees, and in the middle Genesis 2:9

planted two in particular – the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the latter of which he forbade Adam and Eve to eat.

The tree of life as a metaphor for the Torah comes from the Book of Proverbs, which uses the term three times, the most famous of which is the saying in Proverbs 3:18 : *Etz chaim hee l'machazikim bah* (“She is a tree of life to those who grasp her”). This line, referring to the Torah, is commonly sung in Ashkenazi congregations as the Torah is returned to the ark after public readings.

Proverbs also likens the “fruit of the righteous” (11:30) and a “healing tongue” (15:4) to a tree of life. And the term is the title of a major work of Jewish mysticism by Rabbi Hayim Vital. In the Jewish mystical tradition, the tree of life refers to the well-known diagram illustrating the ten divine emanations.

# Travels with Debbie Swiatek

When Christine asked me to write a column for Teruah, my first instinct was defensive - there is a lot of political chaos happening over here, as I am sure you all know. But then I realised that this was a chance for me to share the amazing parts of the United States: the beauty, the diversity, the unique things that make this country what it is.

As all of you in Aotearoa settle into the long slog that is the end of Winter, I have the good fortune of enjoying what will be the dog days of Summer. While Covid is once again rearing its newly-mutated head, it appears to be a much less severe strain, especially for those double vaxxed and boosted. Since Mike and I fall into that category, we felt comfortable doing a bit of travel over the last few months. While that travel did include multiple trips to Colombia (we are living in the US while Mike's job is still with Avianca in Bogota), it was the road trips rediscovering the US that I'd like to share with you all.

The first stop was in late May to the Washington, DC, area to celebrate my nephew becoming a Bar Mitzvah. It was the first time my whole side of the family had been together in way too long and it was a fantastic weekend. It was special to be in shul again and Aidan did a great job with his Torah portion and haftarah. And while Aidan personalised his part of the service by playing the guitar, it was the other young man who was sharing the day with Aidan who did something I had never seen in temple before - he played the trombone to accompany the singing of Hallelujah! Of course, the very best part of the weekend was having all three of my children together in one place. That hasn't happened since 2017!

**Kierstyn (Jake's girlfriend), Jake, Emily, Matt, me and Mike in DC**



Three weeks later, we found ourselves in Santa Cruz, California, at the wedding of my niece and her partner. The daughter of Mike's brother, Sage had a beautiful outdoor wedding among the Redwood trees. Sage is a fabulous young woman who is finishing her masters in Social Work and has a job with the University of California Santa Cruz working with students who have experienced sexual trauma. Her wedding ceremony was a celebration of everybody's uniqueness and diversity and the love in the grove was palpable.

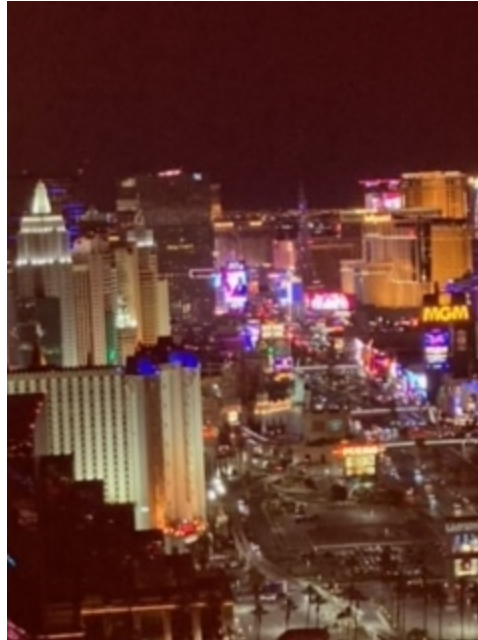
**Godwits near Santa Cruz, CA, on their way to New Zealand as part of their global migration.**

**There were thousands of them!**



Following on to the wedding, we drove to Las Vegas to catch up with Matt who lives there now. Talk about diversity! The drive from the beautiful Redwood mountains through Death Valley into the oasis that is Vegas was surreal.

## The lights of Las Vegas



We went to see the Hoover Dam (one of the 7 wonders of the Industrial World) and Lake Mead which is only at 26% capacity due to a record drought in the western US. I have to admit, I questioned the existence of Vegas in the middle of the desert, but I was amazed to learn that Las Vegas has been incredibly proactive in their water conservation. There has been a 47% reduction in water usage in Las Vegas since 2002 in spite of an increase of 800,000 residents. The city has banned lawns in favour of more friendly rock and cactus gardens and of the water taken from Lake Mead for indoor use, 99% is treated and returned to Lake Mead. I'm not saying that fixes the problems there, but it certainly is an environmental goal other cities can look to emulate.

The last road trip of the Summer (to date) was from Miami to Michigan. Our first day started at 7am. It was already 31°C and 75% humidity (in case you wondered why we were leaving Miami Beach!). After 6 hours of driving we got out of Florida and entered Georgia where at one point the thermometer in the car registered 40.5°C! We continued north through the beautiful Appalachian mountains and spent the night in Chattanooga, Tennessee. We stayed at a B&B that was built in 1889 and had been the home of the Mayor of Chattanooga for many years.

After a quick stop in Kentucky to pick up some bourbon, our final stop was Cincinnati, Ohio. We went to a baseball game in Great American Stadium which is right along the Ohio River. The home team Reds beat the Miami Marlins soundly.

## Great American Stadium in Cincinnati

I had never spent time in Cincinnati before and was impressed by the way they had revived the downtown by taking advantage of the river. There was a lovely park that ran all along the river overlooking Kentucky on the other side. As I mentioned, the baseball stadium was on the water just down the street from the football stadium. The two were connected by a pedestrian street lined with restaurants and bars. And excellent case of urban renewal.

And that brings me to today. I am back at our Michigan home. It is sunny and 27°C with a lovely breeze. I am sitting outside by the lake typing this travel log and listening to Taylor Swift, realising how very blessed I really am.

As the pandemic allowed many of you to rediscover New Zealand, I have had the pleasure of rediscovering parts of the United States. In spite of the political decisions being made, I am still very happy to be here and lucky to know so many beautiful people and places.

Sending much love to all of the beautiful people and places in New Zealand,

**Debbie Swiatek**



# Limmud in Wellington

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**



**August 27-28**

LIMMUD NZ is back for 2022 - this year in Wellington!

The coolest little capital is home to the highlight of your Jewish year with a weekend of learning and schmoozing! For the first time in three years, international speakers will be with us in person to present alongside local talent.



## **Saturday 27th**

@Hackett's Bar

Join us post-Shabbat for a gala evening in the city!

Schmooze over a drink while listening to music, poetry reading, and true stories told live from fabulous presenters.



## **Sunday 28th**

@Wgtn East Girls College

Choose from a diverse range of speakers every hour, all day long: art, history, culture, text, food, politics - you name it.

Meanwhile, our Children's Program runs concurrently to inspire and entertain the young ones!



**REGISTER AT LIMMUD.ORG.NZ**



Concession rates and discounts for out-of-towners available. Book at Trinity Hotel, 166 Willis St, and quote 'LIMMUD' to secure your discounted room from August 25th-29th!



# Interfaith Continuing Dialogue



Holy Trinity  
Cathedral  
AUCKLAND

beth shalom  
auckland new zealand  
בית שלום

## CONTINUING DIALOGUE

INTERFAITH EVENT 2022

**6PM MONDAY 15 AUGUST**

Holy Trinity Cathedral expresses manaakitanga to our friends from Auckland's multifaith community by hosting this annual interfaith meal. This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities to learn from each other and witness to our common humanity as we work together for mutual understanding and a deepening dialogue.

### THE JEWISH HIGH HOLIDAYS

This year we are sharing in the celebration of the upcoming Jewish holidays.

We welcome our Jewish friends as well as our partners from diverse faith backgrounds to share a meal and learn about the rich traditions of the High Holy Days.

These include Rosh Hashanah, the marking of the New Year; and Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement.

We will also hear about the week of Sukkot, the Festival of Booths, during which meals and rituals take place in the sukkah, a makeshift structure with a tree-branch roof. The festival ends with Simchat Torah, the celebration when the Torah has been read to its conclusion and a new cycle begins.

**All are welcome to share in this annual community event.**

### LOCATION

Holy Trinity Cathedral  
446 Parnell Road  
Parnell  
Auckland

### CONTACT

The Reverend Ivica Gregurec for further information at:

[ivica@holy-trinity.org.nz](mailto:ivica@holy-trinity.org.nz)

### RSVP before 8 August\*

[ivica@holy-trinity.org.nz](mailto:ivica@holy-trinity.org.nz)  
(09) 303 9500

*\*please RSVP as spaces are limited.  
We ask that you include any dietary requirements when you RSVP.*

### WEBSITE

[www.holy-trinity.org.nz](http://www.holy-trinity.org.nz)

# The Inclusive Faith Project

Attended by Leonard Bloksberg on behalf of Beth Shalom

The Inclusive Faith Project is being run by The NZ Human Rights Commission, Inclusive Aotearoa Collective, Yes Disability, Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People, Religious Diversity Centre and others. See [www.yesdisability.org.nz/inclusivefaith/](http://www.yesdisability.org.nz/inclusivefaith/) for more info. The project aims to move the inclusive discussion beyond wheelchair ramps (now considered minimally required "hygiene" measures) and on to a meaningful discussion of addressing systemic bias, micro-aggression etc., to create truly welcoming communities.

The Auckland meeting, held 21 July 2022 at The Fickling Centre, was attended by the parliamentary chair of the Disabilities Commission and member of The Human Rights Commission as well as about 30 faith leaders (only Christian, Muslim and Jewish were represented) and representatives of disability sectors. Most people in the room wore several hats, as clergy, disability sector workers, parents/caregivers of disabled people and disabled people themselves.

Every religion has teachings to support the disadvantaged. This is a basic assumption for why this discussion was put together and this is not a forum to re-share your religions teachings on this.

Wheelchair ramps and accessible toilets should be part of your building and maintenance discussion. If your inclusive discussion is still spending time on this, then you are not an inclusive community. Inclusiveness needs to move beyond infrastructure to how we treat people. Inclusiveness needs to include un-seen disabilities including intellectual disabilities and neurodiverse individuals.

Faith Communities need to have board level discussions about inclusion. According to Statistics NZ, 24% of New Zealanders identify as disabled. This means that if we have a minion of 10 people and there are not 2-3 disabled people in Schule, we need to be asking what we are doing wrong. We need to be looking at how people feel, sense of belonging, systemic bias, micro-aggressions, them and us mentality, subtle bias in our wording and the ways we interact. Are disabled people being made to feel they have to hide their disability? Are disabled people feeling that they just don't want to ask because they don't want to be a burden? We need to look at the real systemic fear of disability and why able bodied people feel uncomfortable conversing with disabled people, and we don't need pity, we need real conversation.

Congregation boards need to look at training greeters to make people feel welcome and this needs to include training for how to deal with disabled people. At Beth Shalom, we have Shamashim and board reps already assigned as greeters and we need to include this training for these people. Since people rotate in and out of these roles and since our understanding grows over time, this training needs to be an ongoing, possibly annual process. We also have a Community Care group and we need to be training Community Care members (who visit disabled members in their homes) to make them feel welcome to come to services. Rabbi Posner used to run Chavurah groups to meet with small groups of people in the community who shared a common interest. This was a powerful tool for building attendance and involvement and perhaps we need to look at creating Chavurah groups for disabled members. Disabled people need to be included in service roles to feel welcome. This is hard if they don't come but, as covered above, 24% of New Zealanders are disabled so if they aren't coming, this clearly shows how much work we need to do.

One of the attendees, Vicki Terrell, is an ordained Anglican minister and is disabled; she has written a book: *Creating Welcoming Churches: A disability resource for faith communities*". The book was recommended as a good place to start. While it is written from an Anglican perspective, it is equally applicable to all faiths. <https://dsfn.org.nz/product/creating-welcoming-churches-downloadable-kindle-version/>

# Harper Bacal Bat Mitzvah

Hi, my name is Harper Bacal and on October 29th I will be celebrating becoming a Bat Mitzvah at Beth Shalom.



Harper and Karin Yock at the last Crafty group. Karin knitted all those items you see in the picture and has been amazing at supporting Harper.

I am in year 7 at Albany Junior High School and my favourite subjects are the sciences, P.E. and studying Torah with Chris! In my spare time I enjoy baking at home, my dancing classes and doing circus which includes acrobatics, gymnastics and all sorts of other fun activities.

I have enjoyed my Bat Mitzvah journey - learning how to lead the service, learning to chant Torah, and also getting to know members of the community when I come to shul.



For my tzedakah project I have chosen to support the NICU (Neo-natal intensive care unit) in Auckland Hospital by knitting or crocheting tiny clothes for the premature babies in the unit. I've chosen this project because my twin brothers were very premature when they were born and they spent many weeks in the NICU. I can remember how tiny they were.



Bacal mishpochah - Elias, Rowen, Karen and Malachi,  
all learning how to crochet to make blankets for the NICU babies.

If you would like to support this project by knitting beanies or booties - we have wool and knitting needles available and patterns which are very easy to follow - please contact either me at [bacalsisters@gmail.com](mailto:bacalsisters@gmail.com) or Chris at [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz).

Thank you and my family and I look forward to seeing you at my Bat Mitzvah.

Harper

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](mailto:ldgoldwater@gmail.com) 020 403 88054
- Christine: [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) 524 4139

# Community Care ...

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are managing to keep warm and dry. We know there have been some cases of Covid in the community, and if you are one of them, please make sure that you or someone in your family let us know about it so we can help you if needed. This of course applies to any other winter ills you may succumb to as well.

With the weather being mostly unpleasant, we need to be careful for ourselves and mindful of others too. The good news is that we are halfway through Winter and can start looking forward to Spring as we are already seeing Erlicheer and Daffodils.

Community Care is looking for volunteers to join our telephone tree. If you have a couple of hours a month you could spare, we would like to hear from you. We would really appreciate some more members who could help us stay connected with some of the members of our community who for various reasons might appreciate a call. Please contact Chris Shiller (details at the end of this message). A reminder of how we can help you and who to contact.

## 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 I 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. As 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.**

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](mailto:shiller@orcon.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)

**Lita (Chairperson) and the Community Care Team.**

# North Shore Families event for Beth Shalom members



## NORTH SHORE FAMILIES GET TOGETHER

**SUNDAY 28 AUGUST 1-3PM  
BROWNS BAY BEACH PLAYGROUND**

**R S V P [OFFICE@BETHSHALOM.ORG.NZ](mailto:OFFICE@BETHSHALOM.ORG.NZ)**



# Andrea Robinson at the BSA Gallery INSIDE OUT



inside  
out

Andrea Robinson

Opening Tuesday 26 July 5 - 7pm

Daily 27 Jul - 13 Aug 2022, 10am - 4pm

**BSA GALLERY.**

BRISTOL SOCIETY OF ARTISTS, 100, THE CROWN, BRISTOL BS1 1JH

**BROWNE** 187225

**2022** www.bsa-gallery.co.uk



Andrea Robinson

originals **Tellus**  
print photograph



# Pray it Forward



## Pray It Forward: God, Gratitude, and Gathering Together Rabbi Fred Morgan



**Prayer provides a means to express our gratitude and deepest needs. Explore the development and concepts of prayer, and the power of meditation, as we link our past, present, and future, to the immediate and the transcendent. This is a journey of the soul.**

**Rabbi Fred Morgan has served congregations in the UK and in Australia, where he was Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne for 16 years. He has taught Melton courses for 20 years, known for his charisma, energy and charm.**

August 9 - September 13 (6 weeks)  
Tuesdays 19:00-20:30 AET  
Live on Zoom and recorded  
\$180

Email Rabbi Noam Hayman  
[nhayman@meltonschool.org](mailto:nhayman@meltonschool.org)  
for information and to register

# Burial & Benevolent Society

We really are in the heart of Winter now, although the skies are already lighter at the end of the day, and there are early signs of Spring [possibly too early - flowering Kowhai!?!]

This last month we supported the Simms family in Hamilton on the passing of Norman Simms. An obituary featured in the Waikato times [CLICK HERE](#)

The high holy days are fast approaching. This period is an opportunity to consider the role and importance of yizkor - remembrance and the role of tzedakah in support of the community.

Committee member Barbara Sandler found this article in an online subscription to Kveller - a magazine connected to My Jewish Learning and thought others might find it interesting as well. We have bought a copy of the book being reviewed for the Beth Shalom library.

Intergenerational conversations are so important for understanding continuity and change. Some conversations are never easy to have but nevertheless so important.

## Kids Are Curious About Death – As Jewish Parents, It's Our Job to Teach Them

By [Joanne Levy](#) July 20, 2022

As an author of books for tweens, I don't use four-letter words in my writing. But I've never shied away from tough topics that kids face. I've written about gender stereotypes, toxic masculinity, social anxiety and yes, death.

Death could be a four-letter word with how fraught and taboo a topic it can be. So many of us avoid it like a plague (too soon?). We don't discuss it in mixed company until it's absolutely necessary. And then, only in hushed whispers.

Grief can be so complicated. Of course, there's deep sadness over losing a loved one and those five steps we often hear about: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and, finally, acceptance. But [grief is rarely one thing at a time](#) and it's almost never linear and predictable.

Losing someone causes us to [face our own mortality](#), the randomness and inherent unfairness of life. At the same time, we may feel relief that someone is no longer suffering. Then there's guilt over that relief. And that's just for adults. Imagine what thinking about death is like for children. Kids who may have fears and trouble even recognizing their own complicated feelings, let alone expressing them.

How am I supposed to feel? What am I supposed to [say and do](#)? What happens if I get it wrong?

When I was about 9 or 10, my parents sent me over to a neighbor's house with a dish of [ptcha](#) after a funeral. I was told to say, "I'm sorry for your loss." I went off-script and instead said, "It's too bad about your mother."

When I returned and relayed this to my parents, they cringed and told me I'd gotten it wrong. I'd said the wrong thing. As an adult, I can look back on the moment with the benefit of perspective and realize the person receiving my awkward condolences likely didn't think much of my gaffe. But as a kid, I felt ashamed and embarrassed. I've never forgotten that, these many years later, and wish I had been better prepared.\*

What about kids' curiosity around the physical side of dying? The world can be a cruel place, meaning kids learn fairly young that living things die. From [goldfish](#) to grandparents – if it has lived, one day it will cease to.

What happens now? What is a funeral? What does a dead body look like? What will happen to my body when I die?

Pretty scary stuff for tweens (and adults, if we're being honest).

This is precisely why I wrote "[Sorry For Your Loss](#)." The book, set in a Jewish funeral home much like the one my dad manages, came out of my own experience with grief.

When we lost my mom after a brief illness in 2013, Dad took my brothers and I "behind the scenes" at the funeral home into the tahara room – the private room where bodies are ritually prepared for burial by members of the [chevra kadisha](#), which people normally don't get to see. This was where we would have a chance to be with Mom one last time. In that moment I realized that, while it was the worst day, I felt oddly comforted knowing what would happen to my mother. I knew it was built right into the rituals of preparing a body for burial that she would be treated with great respect. I knew how she would be ritually washed and dressed. I knew she would be watched over. And in knowing all of that, it was a little easier to let her go into someone else's care.

But not everyone has that access. Especially not kids. So often we whisper around kids when we talk of death. We don't let them attend funerals, instead sweeping death under the rug when we try to protect them from it.

Truth time: We can't protect our kids from death. What we can, and should, do is be honest with them about what happens after we die. Kids are curious and deserve to know the truth about death and burials and what comes between and after. They deserve to understand (in an age-appropriate way) what will happen to them someday.

We need to talk to kids about feelings and show them that grief is normal, messy and can be complicated. That it's one of the things that makes us human. We can model what it means to comfort someone who is grieving and what it looks like. We can show them that asking for help is OK. That they don't have to go through it alone. So many of our beautiful, meaningful [Jewish traditions and rituals around death and mourning](#) exist to honor the deceased and help the living left behind. Let's embrace them, not hide from them.

And what better way to share with kids than in the safe and accessible space of a novel? Kids can learn while being entertained. If it gets too intense, the reader can put the book down. They can take time to process and turn to an adult and ask questions, or simply reflect about what they've read. Books are great thought provokers and conversation starters.

Handing kids books about tough topics before they really need them (i.e. the morning of Bubbe's funeral) is a wonderfully proactive way to get ahead of those questions and feelings so that they can be better prepared when the time comes.

These are the things I had on my mind when writing "Sorry For Your Loss." I wanted to portray a funeral home in a non-scary, almost clinical way through the eyes of a tween who has grown up there. To her, it's just the family business, one she hopes to run someday. Until then, she works there part-time, stocking the bathroom, dusting caskets and handing out tissues to mourners.

Until she meets a boy who has just lost both of his parents in a horrific accident – one that he was injured in as well. She is desperate to help but it's through her well-meaning, cringeworthy failures that we can see where she could have done better. That the boy's grief is not hers to solve but that being there for him is what he really needs.

This is the kind of information kids need and are desperate for. They want to know. They deserve to know. It's our job to prepare them for the world, including, and maybe especially, the hard stuff. It is my sincerest hope that the knowing is of comfort to them, the way it was to me.

\*Yes, it was probably unfair of my parents to send me on my own to do their duty, but that's a topic for discussion with my therapist. As is the fact that my mother made and distributed ptcha.

AdditionalResources:

A group supporting interfaith families:

<https://18doors.org/talking-to-young-children-about-death-a-jewish-perspective/>

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# Early-bird registration for UPJ Biennial now open: save \$100!

The Beatles sang "8 Days a Week", Shakespeare wrote "forever and a day" and today we say "24/7" - the UPJ Biennial titled "Progressing Judaism: 8 Days a Week", to be held on 17-20 November, will explore how we can expand our Jewish values beyond our one-day observance of Shabbat, incorporating our Jewish identity into myriad interactions with the world around us.

Jews from around Australia, New Zealand, Asia and worldwide are expected attend the Biennial, which will be held in person at the Novotel Brighton Beach in Sydney.

Rabbi Bergman, our featured guest speaker, served as Argentina's Minister for the Environment and Sustainability from 2015-19, and in 2017 headed the Argentine delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Summit, overseeing the G20 Sustainability Working Group tasked with building climate change policies for developing nations.

**Enquiries:** [upj@upj.org.au](mailto:upj@upj.org.au)

**To register go to:** <https://upj.org.au/2022-biennial>



A poster for the UPJ Biennial Conference. The top half has a dark blue background with the text "EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPEN!" in white. Below this, the text "PROGRESSING JUDAISM" is in a smaller font, followed by "8 DAYS A WEEK" in large, stylized, black letters with white outlines. At the bottom of the poster, on a light blue background, it says "UPJ BIENNIAL • NOVEMBER 17-20, 2022". Below this, it says "We hope you will join us at the UPJ Biennial Conference, featuring:" followed by "Creative and uplifting services, engaging music presentations, International and local speakers featuring Rabbi Sergio Bergman, President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism". At the bottom, it says "Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney". On the left, under "ENQUIRIES:", it lists "upj@upj.org.au and 0416 700 613" and "Register: https://upj.org.au/2022-biennial". On the right, there is a logo for the "UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM" featuring a stylized menorah.

# UPJ Biennial to feature world leader on climate change



"We are Jewish in what we do. We don't just read Torah, we are Torah. We write on the scroll of our days as practitioners of vibrant, diverse, and meaningful Progressive lives. We lead Jewish lives rooted in our millennia-old tradition, while cherishing our contemporary, egalitarian, and inclusive approach." This is the essence of Progressive Judaism shared by Rabbi Sergio Bergman, President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), in advance of the UPJ's Biennial Conference to be held on 17-20 November in Sydney.

Rabbi Bergman, who will be the featured guest speaker at the Biennial, served as Argentina's Minister for the Environment and Sustainability from 2015-19, and in 2017 headed the Argentine delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Summit, overseeing the G20 Sustainability Working Group tasked with building climate change for developing nations. In March 2019, he was named one of the 100 most influential public figures on global climate policy.

As WUPJ President, Rabbi Bergman leads the international network of the Reform, Liberal, Progressive, and Reconstructionist Jewish movements, serving 1.2 million members worldwide in more than 1,250 congregations in over 50 countries.

The enthusiastic response to the Rabbi Bergman's two-week visit to Australia in March, when he spoke on behalf of the UIA Progressive Appeal, prompted the UPJ to ask him to return for the November conference, providing an even wider reach for his inspiring messages.

Progressive Jews from around Australia, New Zealand, Asia and worldwide are expected attend the UPJ Biennial, which will be held in person at the Novotel Brighton Beach in Sydney in November.

Biennial co-chairs Susan Kadar and Dorothy Graff OAM said: "We are thrilled that Rabbi Bergman has agreed to return to Australia as our guest speaker, and we are certain his message of incorporating Progressive Jewish values in our daily lives, and promoting environmental sustainability, will attract attendees from around the UPJ region and beyond."

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Early-bird registration open at the end of June. Enquiries: [upj@upj.org.au](mailto:upj@upj.org.au), and to register go to: <https://upj.org.au/2022-biennial>.

Rabbi Bergman chatting with Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky (Beit Shalom Synagogue, Adelaide): <https://youtu.be/ig81QCpRDOK>

**Rabbi Bergman chatting with Rabbi Dean Shapiro (Beth Shalom, Auckland):**<https://youtu.be/fVxSrbPMn7c>