



Elul~Tishrei 5782-5783

September 2022

TERUAH

A Sweet Start to the New Year

High Holy Days at Beth Shalom



Rosh Hashana 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.*

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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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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.

Board members at the Retreat in August



Rear: Michelle Wise (President), Rabbi Dean Shapiro, Shane Sampson.

Front: David Singer (Treasurer), Kate Bukowski, Arie Rosen, Rachel Zussman, Ted Ries.

Jewish Auckland Update

Earlier this month, the steering committee for Jewish Auckland held its first meeting. Much like the vision for Jewish Auckland itself, the committee is comprised of members of both Beth Shalom and AHC, as well as unaffiliated Jews. Our shared goal is to facilitate fun and interesting classes, activities and events in an environment that is welcoming to all.



Jewish Auckland is already bringing Jews together... This week the launch committee (Reuben, Hannah, Ted, Simone, Shari, Miri and Avi) gathered 'round the table to eat, drink and get down to business.

There is a great deal of work of many kinds to be done, and so we've assembled a diverse group with talent in areas like branding and marketing, event management, finance, administration and fundraising to help out. At our meeting we got to know each other a bit better, and worked through a list of priorities to get up and running. We're all firm believers in the core goal of Jewish Auckland: to bring all parts of the Auckland Jewish community closer together, and to foster enduring and enriching relationships.

Please keep an eye out for periodic updates on our progress, and some of our initial events and programming. For those of you who were unable to attend the Remuera campus tour in July, below are some questions and answers about Jewish Auckland that we passed along to visitors.

Jewish Auckland Info

What is Jewish Auckland? Jewish Auckland is the thriving heart of Jewish life and culture in Tāmaki Makaurau. We offer a place to socialise, unwind, and take part in sports, recreation and cultural activities. A place to meet, learn and share. We aspire to be a "home away from home" for all those who make up Auckland's diverse Jewish community.

Jewish Auckland is not here to replace our wonderful shuls, clubs or organisations where you currently gather. We want to be a place to express our shared interests and passions, whatever they may be. We want to be a place where all of us feel at ease, and where we can enjoy each other's company.

Who is it for? We welcome all those who identify as Jews and their families. It doesn't matter whether you belong to an existing Jewish organisation or not.

Why should you come? Our goal is to bring people together. We are aiming to offer a range of activities: swimming, sports, cooking, cultural events, music and more. We want to offer a place to pursue shared interests, where everyone feels that they belong.

We encourage our wide Jewish community, families and friends to use our resources in ways that excite and connect them. Do you want a place to hold a cooking class, poker night or wine tasting? For your band to rehearse? To run a holiday programme for kids? We'd love to hear from you.

Where is it? Jewish Auckland is based in the beautiful historic Villa known as Corran House, on the site of the former St Kentigern's Girls School Campus at 514 Remuera Road. We are steps away from open spaces, sports courts and a swimming pool. We have everything from elegant sitting rooms to read and catch up with friends to art and music rooms.

We want to hear from you... Register your interest here!

Contact us at <https://jewishauckland.co.nz/>

Jewish Auckland...For All of Us!

Ted Ries

Vice President

From Rabbi Dean

Shanah Tovah! I wish you and your family a good new year. May it be a year of love and learning. May it be healthier than the year now ending.

“Shanah” means “year” in Hebrew, but its linguistic root links it to something deeper. “Shinui” means “change.” When we wish someone “Shanah Tovah,” we’re also wishing them a “good change.”

Rosh HaShanah reminds us that change is inevitable, whether we’re eager for something new or we’d rather stop the clock. As we live and grow, our bodies are marked by Time’s footprints. Our hearts bear Time’s wounds. Our best-laid plans provoke Time’s laughter. The people in our lives come and go. The buildings around us rise and fall. The natural world dances to the rhythm of life, and we have one choice: dance along with it or get devoured by it.

Most of us look in the mirror each morning. Under the harsh light, we notice how our faces have changed. Every few months, we mark our children’s height against the wall and check their progress in school. At work, we give and receive employee reviews. We get physicals at the GP’s. Each of these allows us to measure the ways we change.

The High Holy Days – Yamim Noraim/Days of Awe – are a spiritual and emotional check in, a chance to look into the mirror of our lives. How have we changed this past year? What experiences have marked us? What did we yearn for last year – and did it come about? What are our goals for the year ahead? Are we in a place to embrace change, or to dread it?

We can only really experience our lives when we slow down long enough to notice them.

With some exception (especially thanks to our dynamic new machzor, Mishkan HaNefesh), the prayers don’t really change from year to year. Rather, we see ourselves differently as the same ideas and images wash over us once more, highlighting the ways we’ve changed.

Just as we people change, so does our religious practice. It evolves to stay relevant, to help us connect in fresh and meaningful ways. This year, you’ll see some new elements added to our High Holy Day observances, in addition to our cherished favourites.

On 2 October, our “Reverse Tashlich” is an opportunity to clean up Auckland’s beautiful beaches. Created by Beth Shalom’s own Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, “Reverse Tashlich” helps us atone for the all too human sin of treating the natural world with disrespect.

On Yom Kippur, we’ll hear the Book of Jonah read in English, accompanied by the airy sound of the flute. We’ll sit outside in our own Biblical Garden, weather permitting. It will be a restive time, a fresh way to hear an ancient tale.

In the afternoon of Yom Kippur, His Honour Antony Mahon, family court judge and a member of the Beth Shalom community, will speak on Tshuvah and Criminal Justice.

Roger Reynolds will lead traditional Hebrew davening for Musaf. The Yom Kippur Afternoon service, led by Naomi Johnson and me, will create space for creative introspection.

By offering a range of experiences, we hope to engage with the process of tshuvah (reflection, repair, renewal) in new ways, so that each of us can grow.

Shanah Tovah, my friends. Here's to change.

Rabbi Dean Shapiro



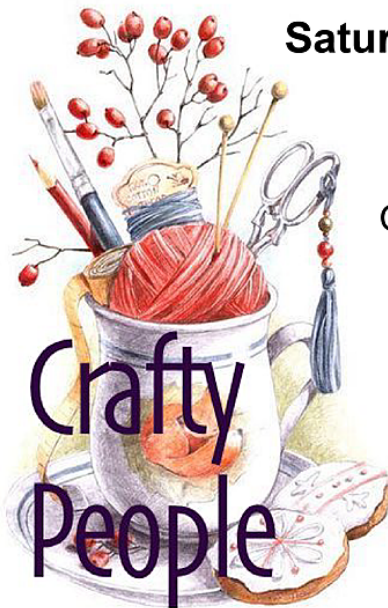
Buzzing around our community

Beth Shalom member and past President, David Barnston.

David is our longest living ex-President of Beth Shalom, serving on the Board of Management from 1975 to 1976. He was present at the first ever meeting held at Beth Shalom. He tells the story that he just put up his hand to make a suggestion and found himself on the committee!

David and his late wife, Dorothy z"l - who incidentally taught at the Hebrew School - have three sons, all of whom became Bar Mitzvah at Beth Shalom.

David will be 99 next year.



Crafty People meet-up Saturday 17th September 1-2:30pm at Beth Shalom

Come along to another Crafty People meet-up to do some crafting and chat with other crafters!

This month we will continue to support Harper Bacal's tzedakah project. She is collecting knitted clothes for premature babies. If you'd like to donate materials to help us, please contact Chris Shiller (shiller@orcon.net.nz).

Masks are required, as per Beth Shalom policy.

Slichot

Slichot סליחות

An Evening of Forgiveness and Introspection

**AT BETH SHALOM:
THE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH
COMMUNITY OF AUCKLAND**

**17 SEPTEMBER
SATURDAY
7 PM**

**We'd love to welcome you:
In Person & Online**

We gather for Slichot on 17 September, beginning the Days of Awe and the process of Tshuvah - reflection repair, renewal. During our service, we dress our Torah scrolls in white. Following, Rabbi Dean leads us in study and exploration of Tshuvah. Please bring something chocolate for our dessert celebration!

High Holy Days services at Beth Shalom

ROSH HASHANAH: THE NEW YEAR BEGINS

**Celebration.
Connection.
Encounter.**

We'd love to welcome you:
BethShalom.org.nz
Office@BethShalom.org.nz

JOIN US
IN PERSON &
ONLINE

Erev Rosh Hashanah Sunday 25 September at 6pm

Rosh Hashanah morn Monday 26 Sept at 10am (family service at 9am)

Kol Nidrei Tuesday 4 October at 7.30pm

Yom Kippur Wednesday 5 October, services, and activities all day starting with the Family service at 10am and the day concluding around 8pm.

Noam Lazarus and Adi Einhar

Noam Lazarus:

During my shnat programme in Israel, I have delved into many styles of Israeli culture through study of the history, status quo, and language.

I have vastly appreciated the different perspectives and chances to explore and create in my gap year and I can't wait for the next 4-5 months. Thankfully, I have been exposed to several seminars included AZYC - a conference and culture exchange of various gap year programmes in Israel this year - World Habo Sem - a congregation whereby Brazilian, Uruguayan, British, Netherland, Australian and New Zealand shnatties from Habonim Dror came together to share movement cultures, traditions and experiences in their respective countries - and Habo World Day - where we were able to share our time on shnat with 16 year old Americans and South Africans on their year 11 Habo Israel trip and find out what life in Habo looks like around the world.

Though the cultural and social aspects of these gatherings were and are fascinating, I found myself most intrigued towards the genuine spark of conversation and essence of the will to dive into the act of educating individuals from other gap year programmes on opinions and perspectives surrounding Judaism, Zionism, Socialism etc. It is easy to become attached to our opinions on matters, therefore this moment was a perfect opportunity for me to expand my ability to look at the bigger picture of things. Among others, the entire idea of Jews from such different backgrounds and lifestyles (e.g. bnei akiva, habonim dror, hashomer hatzair) concouring with a common centre - of learning from each other and expressing ourselves and our Judaism, is one which I vastly benefited from and I will strive to integrate into my community in Auckland, as it is integral that, especially in the diaspora, we Jews must remain rich in our bonds and collective expression and co-operation.

I am super excited for my return to my community having gained an amount of knowledge about other Jewish streams and organisations adequate enough to share with young Jews who have interest in attending gap years in Israel such as mine. For anyone that might have interest in my Habo shnat programme or simply would want to chat, you can contact me through noamlazarus@gmail.com



Adi Einhar:

In the last two months of the Habonim Shnat Hachshara program, I have been doing messimah in the north of Israel. Messimah (mission) can be compared to volunteering. However this definition is almost too simplified. Messimah is truly intentional in the way that it requires the individuals involved to genuinely care about making change in the world.

My messimah was to provide informal education for the chanichim in my ken and to be a madricha for them. Quite quickly, my tsevet and I discovered that little to no education was being provided at this ken. There was a great disparity between the chinuch they received from their movement and the chinuch we receive from ours. Even the madrichim themselves didn't truly understand the objectives of Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed. It seemed that the ken had become a social club rather than a movement that strives to educate and empower the youth.

This understanding made me all the more excited for messimah. I saw this as an opportunity to set a new standard for the ken and implement change. Twice a week, we would run either an English program for years four to six, or a program for years ranging from five to twelve. During pride week we ran a program discussing the discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community in Israel and challenged the Chanichim to consider their responsibility over this issue. One of the other educational programs we ran discussed gender inequality and reflected on the sexism that exists in their own lives.

Apart from weekly peulot, the Misgav tsevet lead on four camps. The first one, Mini Madatzim, took place in the forest. Being a part of tsevet techni our role was to ensure that the camp is running smoothly. We were in charge of delivering all the meals throughout the day and keeping the camp clean. The second camp, Rosh Gadol, I started out being a part of tsevet sipur misgaret (in charge of the theme of the camp). However, halfway through the camp, one of the madrichot left and I was asked to take her place. I led year nines and ran them a program on marginalisation and inequality in Israel. The third camp was a kaietzet (day camp) where I led year fives and then led them again on a six-day camp the week later.

Messimah gave me an insight to the hardships of hadracha and relating to dugma as a stream rather than a tap. The controversies that strongly exist within the social spheres of Israeli society, and the repercussion of being a claliut movement (inclusive to all) . Most of all, I learned that I have lots to bring back to my community. That I have the knowledge and experience now, to better shape my movement. That I have a responsibility over the Jews in the diaspora. That is, truly, what messimah is all about.

See you in the garden ...



Come and join us on Sunday 11 September around 10am 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

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.

Next JCC community meeting



SUNDAY
11 SEPTEMBER 2022
4-6PM

beth
shalom
auckland new zealand
בית שלום

COMMUNITY MEETING ABOUT THE AUCKLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE (JCC)

*FACILITATED BY THE
BETH SHALOM JCC TEAM
AT BETH SHALOM*



Hello, I'm a Jew

BY HANNAH MORITZ as published in MODE Magazine.

May 1, 2022

I suppose I always have been, but to be honest, up until recently I didn't think about it much. I certainly didn't rate it high on the list of my defining characteristics.

I was living in LA's west side, where despite being less than one-quarter of one percent of the world's population, Jews were everywhere (and I do mean everywhere - Beverly Hills is 70% Jewish!). There were so many Jews, that no matter what "Jewishness" meant to you personally, you could easily fall in with others who felt the same way.

Some Jews, like the Ultra-Orthodox defined themselves by dissociating from the world at large. The rest of us lived very much in the world, integrated (or assimilated if you prefer) into the larger community of Los Angeles. So much so that children in public school would learn and perform Hanukkah songs along with Christmas classics at the annual Holiday Pageant.

So there I was, living in LA: A non-religious (atheist in fact) culturally Jewish person, participating in some of the rituals, enjoying the food and the inside-jokes but leaving the heavy-lifting of maintaining, representing and defining Jewish culture to others.

Then in December 2014 I moved to Auckland, New Zealand. A cosmopolitan city to be sure. All the kiwis I met seemed to have spent significant time traveling overseas and not unlike myself, many people I encountered had started their lives elsewhere. It's a great place full of interesting people - I loved it here from the start!

Hold up, where are the Jews?

Fast forward a few months to March 2015. We're coming up on the Jewish holiday week of Passover. It's a big one. Not unlike Easter for Christians, even non-religious Jews will usually mark it in some way. Passover has some dietary requirements, several special foods to eat and others to avoid. In LA that meant popping into any decent sized market and grabbing what I needed, no planning required. Auckland was a whole other story. People had never even heard of Matzot – the unleavened bread we eat at Passover – and they certainly didn't know where to get it. I found myself thinking for the first time "Hold up, where are the Jews?"

I had moved from one of the most densely Jewish places in the world, right into a veritable Jew desert. I found my Matzot (I asked a guy who asked another guy and eventually I found the source). But I got the message: I couldn't take Jewish culture for granted anymore, if I wanted to participate I was going to have to make an effort.

I won't bore you with the details, but over the next several years I found myself doing things I would have never remotely entertained in Los Angeles. Not only did I join the only reform temple in Auckland – a scrappy place run by a passionate group of volunteers – but I sat on several committees, organized events and taught at the Sunday school. I never became what I would call "religious" but I ended up understanding the value of Jewish culture in my life.

It's a lot of pressure to be someone's first real-life touchpoint for an entire culture.

One of the most unexpected aspects of moving to New Zealand was occasionally (and not on purpose) becoming the face or representative for the entirety of Judaism. This would happen randomly and without warning when in conversation someone would say "Wow, you're the first Jew I've ever met".

In those moments, Judaism grew from just a small part of what makes me "me" into my entire identity. It's a lot of pressure to be someone's first real-life touchpoint for an entire culture. I considered myself deeply unqualified, but I took it seriously and I got pretty good at answering questions in a way that was balanced and non-threatening. I never fault someone for asking questions. I'm genuinely interested to learn about people's perceptions, preconceptions and how they developed them.

Other than the ultra-orthodox, we don't generally wear long beards, ankle-length dresses or funny hats.



Most of these well-meaning people held at least some image of a Jew in their mind, a composite, cobbled together from sources ranging from the news and pop-culture to history class. Jerry Seinfeld, Fiddler on the Roof, Krusty the Clown, Unorthodox, WWII Newsreels, The Boy In The Striped Pajamas, Larry David, Shtisel, Ross from Friends and (my personal favorite) Dirty Dancing. None of these references are wrong per se, but none of them tells the whole story. If you live in a country like New Zealand with, at last count, only about 5,000 Jews, it's understandable that your picture of us might be a bit patchy. Despite our tiny numbers, you probably have met a few of us without realizing it - we blend in. We don't all go around wearing long beards, heckling the butcher about the price of brisket and peppering our speech with "Oy Vey!".

So...from my totally non-scientific, completely anecdotal experience, I've rounded up some of the FAQs and my answers. I hope this will be a helpful primer and give you all a fuller picture of an absolutely ancient, loosely-organized, utterly non-homogenized culture: The Jews.

Wait, you're Jewish? You don't look/sound/act Jewish!

Here's the thing. For thousands of years, the Jews had no homeland. They wandered. They settled

everywhere from Northern Europe to Africa to The Middle East and parts of Asia. Despite intermarriage being largely frowned upon, they somehow, over time began to resemble the surrounding populations. There is no Jewish set of physical attributes. As for the rest of it - Other than the ultra-orthodox, we don't generally wear long beards, ankle-length dresses or funny hats. We don't all have New York accents, crippling anxiety or ambitions to marry a doctor. We're literally just like everyone else...with a slightly higher affinity for hummus.

How are you Jewish but you're not religious?

This is actually a great question. Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people. So you can be of Jewish ethnicity with or without observing the religion. Traditionally all the Jews practiced the religion, but in modern times many of us have moved away from the religious side while still identifying as Jewish. You might hear someone describe themselves as a "Secular Jew" or "Culturally Jewish". That means they consider themselves as ethnically Jewish without identifying as religious. Of course, all of this varies from person to person. Me? I'm an atheist - I don't believe in the Jewish god or any other, still I enjoy many of the traditions, rituals and values of Jewish culture.



Do you support the actions of the Israeli government?

Sigh...ok, this is where I truly cannot and should not speak for the Jews. I could tell you my own views, but that's not the point. What you need to know is that there is absolutely no consensus on this topic among Jews. Many of us have little to no direct relationship to Israel. We have never lived there and we don't vote in the elections. Jews don't recognize any central authority, certainly not the Israeli government. You may hear the term "Zionist" thrown around. Many assume it implies total support for the actions of the Israeli government. What it actually means is support for the state of Israel to exist (which it did not until 1948). My advice...make no assumptions and feel free to ask.

Do you have sex through a hole in a sheet?

To be honest, I've never been asked this directly. But I thought I'd take this opportunity to clear the air. The answer is no.

Where can I get a decent bagel in Auckland?

(With apologies to Al Brown) You can't!

You can find more of Hannah's work [here](#)

Interfaith visit to the Hamilton Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

On Wednesday 24 August Naomi Johnson and Paul Wilton, together with Beate Matthies who is known to many members of Beth Shalom, accepted an invitation to visit the recently remodelled Hamilton Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Temple can be seen from some distance away and is floodlit at night.



We were invited in our capacity as members of the Auckland Interfaith Council. Normally there is no opportunity for outsiders to enter this Holy Temple – even members of the Church can only enter if they have a recommendation – but in this case the Temple has just completed a major refurbishment and earthquake strengthening so there is a window of opportunity for others to visit during a 3-week open house period prior to the reconsecration on 16th October. Our guide for the visit was Muriel Samuela who is the Mormon Rep on the Auckland Interfaith Council. Muriel explained the various rooms to us as we walked through the Temple. First, we saw the Baptism Font with 12 oxen surrounding the base of the pool, the Sealing Room where marriages take place, then the dressing area so that people entering the prayer area are modestly dressed in white.



Left: Naomi Johnson and Paul Wilton



Right: Beate Matthies, Naomi Johnson, Paul Wilton and Muriel Samuela

We sat in the instruction room “where devout Latter-day Saints learn about God’s creation, the purpose of life, and how to become more like Him and His Son, Jesus Christ”. Finally, we entered the holiest of rooms, the Celestial Room which is a sacred place that symbolises the ultimate progression one can proceed toward heaven. Muriel responded well to our many questions and as a result we gained a much better understanding of the belief system of this faith. One of the beautiful features of the Temple was how much of the artwork reflected New Zealand landscape, scenery and plant life. This particular Temple is the only Latter-Day Saints Temple in NZ although there are plans to build a second temple in Auckland in the near future. We could only take photos from the outside, but the link below shows what it looks like inside.

<https://www.thechurchnews.com/temples/2022/8/22/23317403/see-inside-renovated-hamilton-new-zealand-temple>

Ellie Richling, Bat Mitzvah

Hi, I'm Ellie and I am having my Bat Mitzvah on October 22nd. I'm from Seattle, Washington in the U.S. and currently live in Ngunguru, a small town just north of Whangarei.



Me with my parents, Bob and Stephanie, my younger brother Julian and my dog, Milo.

I am a year 9 student at Huanui College. My favourite subjects are the humanities and Spanish. Outside of school, I love to bake, play tennis and sing, and have recently started playing hockey.

I have been learning Hebrew since I was nine years old, and through the process, I've come to appreciate the privilege of having a Bat Mitzvah.

For my tzedakah project, I'm doing three things. The theme follows into my torah portion, about caring for our world.

I'm organising a local beach cleanup for my community, a food donation drive for my school and on my Bat Mitzvah day, I will be collecting donations for the SPCA.

If you are able to come to my Bat Mitzvah service, it would be greatly appreciated if you could bring donations for the animals at SPCA (they are needing anything from training treats to a chew toy).

I hope to see you at my Bat Mitzvah!

Ellie

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. 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.



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 or Chris at shiller@orcon.net.nz

A special thank you to the members of the community who have already donated wool and knitted mini

beanies, booties and vests for my tzedakah project. I am very grateful for your support.

My great aunt Melanie and Uncle Jay in Florida are not able to celebrate with us in person on the day so have generously offered to sponsor a special Kiddush following the service so please stay and share this exciting time with us.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Kira on 021 023 90691

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

Community Care ...

SOME OF OUR TEAM AT WORK IN AUGUST



Left to right, Bill Merrill, Sandra Brickman, Lita Summerfield and Chris Shiller.

Hi Everyone,

It looks like Spring is on its way, with the weather being milder, but that doesn't mean we must lessen our vigilance on keeping ourselves safe and well.

Covid has been and is still in our community, so if you have it please let us know, so we can offer some help, be it for you yourself or someone you know. Covid and/or 'flu, are no respecter of persons and we all need to take care.

The High Holy Days are not too far away, and this year we are able to attend services if we wish. There will still be the Zoom option though.

If you wish to attend any of the services but have a problem getting there. Let Christine in the office know or Chris Shiller know, and we will do our best to help you get to the Shule.

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 below).



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.

Wishing you all a Happy and most importantly a Healthy New year, with an extra wish for Peace around the World.

Shana Tova and Well over the Fast from the Community Care team.

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

Lita (Chairperson) and the Community Care Team

Burial & Benevolent Society

The coming month will be busy as we prepare for the High Holy days and remembrance services. Please note the stone setting this month for lifelong member **Gordon Stern**.

The Burial and Benevolent Society will not be conducting a formal annual appeal this year. Having said that, we would like to remind and thank the community for donations made beyond the annual membership fee; these donations enable the Society to re-distribute tzedakah, invest in new minyan prayer books, and offer support to community tzedakah through the Beth Shalom Community Care group.

Donations in honour of a yahrzeit can be a meaningful honouring. Linda Kaye has kindly written a short piece grounded in Torah that explores our understanding and approach to tzedakah and yizkor [remembering].

As the month of Elul begins and the High Holy days approach, we receive reminders about giving tzedakah.

Often, the tzedakah request is for donation in memory of a loved one who is no longer with us in this world. That is quite a paradox, when the Torah says that Tzedakah "saves from death" (Mishlei/Proverbs 10:12), and "in the path of Tzedakah there is life" (Mishlei/Proverbs 12:28).

If we try to understand these teachings in a strictly literal way, it's easy enough to accept that through "giving", the recipient's life might well be saved if they are in dire need.

But our tradition teaches that the ripples of tzedakah spread much wider. Tzedakah is very different from "charity", (though it is often translated that way). The teachings view it more broadly as "righteousness" or (re-)distributive "justice".

Torah mandates tzedakah as a foundational component of our obligation to *tikun olam*, the worlds' repair. We are commanded to share the resources that have accrued to us as individuals, for the benefit of our fellow beings and our community.

The language that Torah uses for this obligation is so urgent and emphatic, that it appears in doubled phrases: "tzedek tzedek" "patoach tiftach" (open you shall open your hand - twice in this week's parsha), "naton titeyn" (give, you shall give). The Torah doesn't hold back here! It commands us to soften our hearts and open our hands. (Devarim 15:7)

In earlier days, the Rabbinic courts could even force a person to contribute against their will, by confiscation of property if they considered that appropriate.*

*"Like this case of Rava, who coerced Rav Natan bar Ami, who was a wealthy man, to donate to [tzedakah], and collected from him four hundred dinars for [tzedakah]. This shows that even in the absence of a particular obligation, the court will compel a person to give [tzedakah] if he can afford it. KeTUBoT . Perek IV . 49b

Ref: Steinsaltz-center.org.nz

So, what is this about? The principle of the mitzvah, according to the sources, is that not only the immediate recipient, but also the donor, the community and all the worlds - both physical and spiritual - live and thrive when we commit to the practice of re-distributive justice. The Hebrew word "NaTaN" - give - is a palindrome, as if to say, we get back what we give, a visual articulation of: "what goes around comes around." And the Rabbis pun on the term for tithing and the word for wealth, which have the same letters - *ayin, shin/sin, reish* - עשר to teach that by sustaining others we enrich ourselves.

IMPORTANT DATES Please join Madeline, Jennifer, and Ethan for the consecration of the memorial stone in the memory of Beth Shalom founding member **Gordon Stern**.

Sunday 18 September at 2:30pm Beth Shalom section of Waikumete Cemetery.

The service will be led by Rabbi Dean Shapiro.

Kver Avot v' Imaat is on the **2nd October at 3pm** at Waikumete Cemetery.

This memorial service honours the memory of those who have passed at this time and in years passed. The service will be led by Rabbi Dean Shapiro.



Sue Berman ph: +64 220513589

End of line sale on organic cotton/hemp hoodies

A percentage of the sale price will go to Beth Shalom funds.

Prices are 1 for \$30.00 or 2 for \$50.00 (RRP was \$80.00)

Sizes available are L and XL in pink and white

To see more, please check the link: <https://www.outofsightattire.com>

To purchase, contact Meir Alfassi on meiralfassinz@gmail.com



UPJ Biennial 17-20 November in Sydney

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

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

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