

# TERUAH

BETH SHALOM



**NISSAN  
5785**

**APRIL 2025**

**The Progressive Jewish Congregation  
of Auckland-New Zealand**

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

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# FROM THE RABBI

Life is a Hillel Sandwich – bitter and sweet at the same time. Raised on some inexplicable mix of pessimism and optimism, we Jews know trouble but always expect it to get better. That's why I'm a Progressive Zionist.

Even from half a world away, I see what a painful time this is in Israel now – war, hostages, protests, rampant militarism, the erosion of Civil Rights and Democracy. This isn't the nation my grandparents yearned for. Instead, I see a nation divided, and a right wing chomping at the bit for more war, more land, more division, more exclusion.

Despite this, I hold a vision of Israel as a place of kindness, culture, and inclusion. I believe that holy land can yet be.

As a Jew in the Diaspora, I recognise that I have little say in how Israel conducts itself. But as a Jew in the Diaspora, I do indeed have a little say in how Israel conducts itself. I can give it the slightest nudge towards a better day for all. Indeed, I have a moral obligation to do so.

How? The World Zionist Congress, a gathering through which Diaspora Jews influence certain policies for Israel and world Jewry. The Jews of New Zealand will collectively elect one delegate, who will fly to Israel in November and sit in coalition – either voting for the entrenched policies of the Right, or for a vision of Progress. I'm voting for Progress, and I hope you'll join me.

The Progressive slate, ARZENU, believes in:

- A strong, secure, democratic and Jewish Israel, as envisioned in its Declaration of Independence.
- Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and defend its people from terror. ARZENU opposes efforts to delegitimise this right.

- Religious equality where all Jewish traditions and forms of observance are respected, with full recognition of liberal Movements and an end to the ultra-Orthodox monopoly as the sole recognised religious authority.
- Regional security through peace and stability for Israel, Palestinians, and neighbours.
- Full equality under the law for all Israelis, including minorities, women, and LGBTQ+ people.
- A secure Israel alongside a peaceful Palestinian state is vital for stability.

The World Zionist Congress authorises spending of approximately \$1.5 BILLION US annually. You read that right: 1.5 BILLION US DOLLARS. That money can either go to promoting gender equality in Israel or to building new settlements in the West Bank. It can fund Progressive Shlichut around the world, or it can pay Orthodox rabbis' salaries. We have a say; the results matter for world Jewry, for ourselves, and for our kids.

You'll hear more about the World Zionist Congress in coming weeks, including ARZENU's candidate in New Zealand, and both how and when to vote (voting registration will be in April/May and online, secure voting will be in June 2025). For now, I ask you to put the elections on your radar, visit the ARZENU Worldwide website to familiarise yourself with the issues ([www.arzenu.org](http://www.arzenu.org)), and be sure fellow Zionist Jews are aware of the election – and how much is at stake...**[continues on page 4]**



*Rabbi Dean Shapiro*

**[From the Rabbi, continued]...**

This election happens every five years, but the ramifications reverberate for a long time thereafter. Two Jews three opinions? I can go one better. I'm a pessimist in that I despair for the people of Israel and the region without a change in leadership. I'm an optimist in that I believe in the vision of Israel as a bastion of Jewish culture and vitality. And I'm a realist. The only meaningful way I can move the needle towards a better future for all is by voting for a Progressive representative to the World Zionist Congress.

ARZENU: A Vote for Progress in Israel.



# IN BRIEF



## **Election results from AGM for positions on the Board of Management**

At the March 2025 AGM, members gathered together to consider the business of the shul amongst other matters, a key part of the meeting was the election of its new BoM members. The results of the election include:

**President** (Vacant),

**Vice-President** - Mika Daniels,

**Honorary Secretary** - Dr. Roger Reynolds,

**Honorary Treasurer** - Tamara Liebman,

**Board members** - Hilary Hemmins, Stephanie Richling, Michael Robinson, Ashley Hingston-Daniels, Michelle Wise (immediate past-President) and Meir Alfassi

**Ex-officio member:** Rabbi Dean Shapiro





*Habonim & B'nei Akiva members, Pamela Miller, Naomi Johnson, Oliver Hoffmann and Paul Wilton (photographer)*

## Bedikat HaMayim Beach Clean Up

On Sunday 6 April Beth Shalom took part in the first ever Bedikat HaMayim – International Jewish Waterfront Clean-up as a pre-Pesach event. The goal was to remove the schmutz from the foreshore and reserve area just like we remove the chametz from our homes.

We chose the Kiwi Esplanade Reserve in Mangere as our scene of action. There was a keen group including welcome participation from Habonim and B'nei Akiva. Paul Wilton explained at the start just how important it was to remove the very small bits of rubbish, many of which contain plastics and are so dangerous for the fish and the birds.

In just under two hours we had made a big difference to the area and had filled four large rubbish bags. After the clean-up the group picnicked together, eating up chametz as an added benefit.

Thank you Pam Miller and Paul Wilton for making this event happen and thank you to those who participated. We also thank the Auckland Council for supporting us as well.

## Bat Mitzvah - Freya Whitfield

Some of you may know me and my family from around Beth Shalom. We have been a part of this community for around six years and now its my turn to have a Bat Mitzvah.

I started off my schooling at Point Chevalier School, went on to a short and sweet two years at Pasadena Intermediate and now I am at Western Springs College. I enjoy playing football and cricket as well as hanging out with my friends and family.

For my Bat Mitzvah project (which I will talk more about on the day) I have been making toys and blankets for the animals at the SPCA, helping our all the volunteers and staff there. I hope you will come along on **(Saturday) April 26** to the Shabbat morning service and kiddush to share this very special day with friends and family from all over the globe.

See you there!



*Bat Mitzvah candidate - Freya Whitfield*



## Call to Beth Shalom Community to help the Paullay-Beazley family

We are all still in disbelief over the tragic loss of Dasan Paullay-Beazley, a well-loved young member of our community.

Beth Shalom Community Care has been supporting the family and has received queries on the best way that people can help the family.

The best way our community can support Genice and family is financially so we suggest that anyone wishing to help at this very difficult time can make donations to Beth Shalom account number (call the office 09 524 4139 or email-office@bethshalom.org.nz for details) and use the reference "Genice".

Thank you for helping us support Dasan's family.



## Community Care distributes Pesach care packages

Community Care's Chris Shiller and her small army of helpers and AHC friends got together on Sunday 6 April to pack over 60 Pesach care packages.

The team of volunteers eagerly distributed these to Beth Shalom members and AHC families mostly to the elderly. On behalf of the CC team, they wish one and all - Chag Sameach Pesach!

For more information or to inquire as to ways you can help out with the Community Care programs or events, please contact Chris Shiller - shiller@orcon.net.nz or care@bethshalom.org.nz



## Save the date for our next Beth Shalom Crafty Club Meeting:

When: **Saturday May 3rd**

Time: **12:30 – 2pm**

Do you knit, crochet, paint, draw, sew, embroider or even just do colouring in? All ages and skills very welcome, come and share your crafty talents with the group and maybe learn new skills as well as enjoying good conversation and refreshments.



# AUCKLAND PROGRESSIVE JEWISH BURIAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

The Burial and Benevolent Society is an incorporated society and registered charity that relies on its membership to support its work. The interest and support of members is important and especially valued at this time when we reflect on the past year and report on our work on your behalf.

The Burial and Benevolent Society, like all other Chevra Kadisha, is a holy society of Jewish people who care for the deceased and prepare them for burial. The services we provide to members and families are to assist them to prepare for end of life and the events related to Jewish rites of passage at death.

We provide these services through tahara, funeral and shiva minyan services, Kever Doroteinu, and stone settings. We also manage our burial area at Waikumete cemetery by authorising pre purchase of plots and working with Waikumete to ensure this area is well maintained.

We thank all those who make up the Chevra Kadisha in the service of tahara – the ritual care and preparation of the body for burial. It is a sacred task, chesed shel emet (a true act of kindness) and we thank you for your generosity of time in fulfilling this ritual as well as those who help to provide a minyan for services.

We remember those who have passed away since the last AGM and extend our ongoing love and support to their families. May their memories be for a blessing.

David Levin, Valerie Bermel, Annmay Rose, Richard Collier, Miriam Kauders, Avi Modlin, and Dasan Paullay-Beazley.

## **Benevolence**

The name of our chevra specifically incorporates the benevolence aspect of our work and we appreciate the donations made throughout the year which allow us to offer financial relief and support to families and individuals when required.

We work closely with the Senior Outreach Services, the Ritual Committee and the Beth Shalom Community Care group whose work has enabled many in our community to stay connected and receive the help and advice they need. Thank you to these groups and the workers and volunteers who provide that care and support. We work with Community Care to provide practical support to bereaved families and we are very grateful to Chris Shiller for her co-ordination of this work and for her ongoing liaison with us about members who may need our assistance.

In 2023 we purchased 3 burial plots in our area at Waikumete for benevolence purposes. We are deeply grateful to Carol Wilson, daughter of John and Eunice Defries, for donating a further plot, one of the two purchased by her parents. The plot was not required by the family as Eunice was buried with John.

Carol's decision to donate the plot to the B and B, rather than sell it back to Waikumete, is an extremely generous gesture, in keeping with all this family has given to our community. It significantly enhances our ability to offer assistance to members.

Thank you also to those that have taken the time to update your records with us for your wishes.

It is a useful reference and often a relief to family to have a record of this when conversations have not otherwise established a burial or funeral plan.

### **Management committee**

Our management committee membership has changed during the past year and we have a bigger committee with 8 dedicated members who are willing to work on the various projects we have undertaken.

At the last AGM we elected Julie Dick to the management committee; Julie previously represented Beth Shalom as the Board representative to our committee and we have benefited from her experience. In June, we welcomed Stephanie Richling as the new Beth Shalom board representative and in July we co-opted Haim Ainsworth to the committee.

At the last AGM, we did not fill the huge gap left by Sue Berman who resigned as President. In May Linda Kaye was co-opted to the committee and took the role of Acting President in July. We are extremely grateful for the contribution she made and sorry that her scribing work meant she was unable to continue on the committee beyond the end of November. We are also very appreciative of the time and energy Roger Reynolds gave to our committee, representing Beth Shalom until the Board nominated a permanent representative to our committee.

### **Project work**

The past year has been particularly busy with project work. A significant part of this work was undertaken at a planning day held in February which was an effective way to address issues that cannot be considered in depth at monthly meetings.

Last year we reported that Jann Singer had been developing suitable patterns for tachrichim and options for supplying our own. A special thank you to Jann and Sonja Karon and all who attended the sewing bee they organised to make tachrichim.

We are revising our guidelines for funerals and burials, and the information we provide to care homes and hospice (works in progress), we have reviewed our membership structure to ensure that it meets the needs of our community, and revised our constitution in response to legislative requirements. This work has resulted in the motions to be put to this AGM.

We particularly appreciate the work of Rabbi Dean this past year in providing training to build the capacity to lead shiva minyan services and for the way in which he works with us to support families. The work of any voluntary organisation is made manageable by the many hands that contribute to the work.

Our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed as lay readers and advisors on funerals, unveilings, read psalms for people at times of need, and made a minyan. We thank you for your service to the community.

A special thank you also to Nuks in the office whose support in issuing timely notices and passing on important information is deeply appreciated.

Finally, to the membership for your support through your ongoing membership and generous donations which allow us to support the community at times of need, we thank you.

*David Zussman*  
**Vice-President, AJBBS**



# ALL TOGETHER NOW



Term 2 Hebrew language online sessions will commence on Monday 28 April and Jewish Values sessions will begin on Sunday 4 May. We warmly invite Parents and caregivers of children registered for Yachad to bring your child/ren along to our Sunday classes.

Below is the April/May calendar for Yachad. We're looking forward to an enjoyable and meaningful learning experience together for our children and all in attendance!

April					2025	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31	01 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	02 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	03	04	05	06 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
07 Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	08 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	09 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	10	11 Term 1 ends	12 School Holidays start Pesach (Sedar)	13 Seder in the Park TBC
14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19 Pesach (7th day)	20
21 Easter Monday	22	23	24	25 ANZAC Day	26	27 School Holidays end
28 Term 2 starts Betselem Elohim Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	29 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	30 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	01	02	03	04

May				2025		
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28	29	30	01	02	03	04 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
05 Hebrew online Gimel A 5.30 - 7.30pm	06 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	07 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	08	09	10	11
12 Hebrew online Gimel A 5.30 - 7.30pm	13 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	14 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	15	16 Lag b'Omer	17	18 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
19 Hebrew online Gimel A 5.30 - 7.30pm	20 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	21 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	22	23	24	25 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
26 Hebrew online Gimel A 5.30 - 7.30pm	27 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	28 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	29	30	31	01



# Trees for Israel



כִּי הָיִיתָ אֶל הָאָרֶץ וְנָטַעְתָּ עֵצִים

"When you shall come to the land you shall plant trees." - Leviticus 19:23

**5 TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN ISRAEL  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE MEMBERS OF BETH SHALOM  
TO CELEBRATE TU B'SHEVAT 5785**



Trees cost \$20.00 each. E Certificates available, If certificate is being posted please add on \$10.00. To purchase trees you can email Liz Gianoutsos, [Gianoutsos@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Gianoutsos@xtra.co.nz) or Phone 0221659149

# NOTICES



## Community Seder in the Park

Let's celebrate FREEDOM together with a full but informal seder in a local park on Sunday 13 April instead of our usual indoor community seder. Everyone's welcome to this RSVP essential event. The location will be advised to those who register a few days before the event. Special activities for kids!

To register [Click to RSVP for Passover Seder in the Park](#) **Registrations close noon on Friday 11 April.**

If you would like to assist us with park hire expenses that would be appreciated, contact the office for assistance.



## Shavuot Tzedakah Project

Shavuot is the Festival of the First Fruits. Please join us in Tzedakah by donating **canned and dried fruit** from April 20<sup>th</sup> - June 3rd.

Please place your fruit donations in the basket on the table in the foyer as you enter the building. All contributions will go to the Auckland City Mission.



## Jewish Book Club (update)

The Jewish Book Club will not be meeting in April because Monday 21 April is a public holiday (Easter Monday), so please save the date for our next meeting on Monday 19 May at 11.00am.

We will be discussing 'Days of Wonder' by Caroline Leavitt'. We meet both at a member's home and via Zoom. New members are welcome! Contact Sharon Morris – [sp@canada.kiwi.nz](mailto:sp@canada.kiwi.nz)



# NOTICES CONTINUED...



## Sharing our Faiths

The women from the Auckland Jewish Community warmly welcome the women of Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association to join us for a morning of friendship and shared learning about Judaism and Islam.

Sunday 18th May 2025, 10 am - 12 noon  
Beth Shalom Progressive Jewish Synagogue,  
180 Manukau Road, Epsom

Registration is essential by 9 May 2025 ([Click here to RSVP](#))



## Tzedakah - Auckland Women's Refuge (Winter 2025 appeal)

Despite the fact that we have been enjoying this beautiful autumn weather, winter is just around the corner and it's that time of year to launch our Women's Refuge Winter Appeal. They are in need of new or "clean, near new" clothing especially once again: winter pyjamas, track pants and tops, warm socks, slippers and rain wear. All sizes needed from toddlers to teens.

There is an ongoing need for non-perishable food and especially at the moment: Porridge and cereals  
Spreads such as jam, honey, peanut butter, Vegemite – or Marmite! Soups and soup mixes. Tea, coffee, long life milk. As always toiletries are needed – toilet paper, soap, deodorant, hand cream, sanitary products, shampoo, conditioner etc for the women.

If you are unable to deliver the goods to shul, please contact Chris Shiller (mob 0211774934, email [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz)) and a plan will be made to collect your items. Thank you!

# NOTICES CONTINUED...

## NZ Holocaust Centre's April events - Yom HaShoah & L'Dor V'Dor


The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand invites you to

# Yom HaShoah

## 80 Years, We Remember

Wednesday, 23 April  
Doors open 6:30 PM, Service begins 7 PM

Wellington: Beth El Synagogue, WJCC  
Auckland: Kadimah School Hall, Remuera



 HOLOCAUST CENTRE OF NEW ZEALAND PRESENTS

L'Dor V'Dor speaker

# PAUL SPOONLEY FRSNZ

30 April 2025, 12pm - 1.30pm

This event will be held exclusively on Zoom



**Contemporary Antisemitism Enters a New Stage**

The anxieties of the COVID years combined with a vitriolic online environment and the events in Israel/Gaza have intensified but also changed aspects of contemporary antisemitism, I would argue. There is an emotional and conspiratorial tone to much of the commentary, with a significant rise in hostility and hate online. There is, what Jonathan Boyd writing for the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (UK) calls "ambient antisemitism, Jews experiencing antisemitism which is not directed at them personally. And the politics and possibilities of responding have become more challenging and, at times, ineffective. It feels as though those who want to understand and oppose contemporary antisemitism are largely talking to those who are sympathetic with little chance to influence other bubbles. I will try to unpack this as I see it but also to raise some questions which I am struggling to answer.



# SECURITY NOTICES

## BETH SHALOM SECURITY PROTOCOL



### Swift entry and exit

Please enter and exit the gates swiftly, ensure they are fully closed.



### No entry without clearance

Please do not admit entry to anyone you do not know. Please do not linger on the street in front.



### Large bag entry restrictions

Please refrain from bringing big bags to the synagogue. They will be checked, and you might be refused entry.



### Be alert at all times

Please have a heightened level of awareness and vigilance at all events and services, be aware of threats, and report any suspicious activity.



### Report unusual activity

If you see something unusual, report it to the security guard, service leader or to the office.

## New Leadership at helm of Security Working Group (SWG)

Since the war broke out in Israel in October 2023, we have worked together, under the guidance of the Board of Management, a team of experts, leaders and external assistance to advise and promote safety and security in all events, services and activities at the shul.

Up until early this year, the SWG was led by Jonathan Parsons, who brought his expertise and passion for security and safety of the community to the volunteer role. We were assisted throughout the whole process of establishment until this day by the CSG Office, through National Security Officer (NSO) - Mark Day, and regional security officer (RSO) - Lee Savage. We thank Jonathan for all his hard work and passion in this space.

The team who is made up of leaders of the Ritual committee and community care; office staff, Beth Shalom CSG volunteers and CSG office staff (with the occasional support of the Rabbi) and the BoM representative for Security.

We welcome Louis Fraysse to the team, who leads the advisory tasks of the working group as well as the rostering of Beth Shalom CSG volunteers.

**In case of emergency, contact the Police first on 111 and then call CSG on 0800 282 527**

**File incident reports with CSG at** <https://csg.org.nz/report-an-incident/>  
**File police reports with NZ Police at** <https://webforms.police.govt.nz/en/form/hurt-damaged-stolen>



# CONTACTS

## **Prayers for Healing**

If you would like our home prayer group to pray for healing for you or for someone close to you, please advise the office. Email: [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)

## **Kvetch and Kvell: Feedback at Beth Shalom**

To give constructive feedback - whether positive or negative - please email: [feedback@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:feedback@bethshalom.org.nz)

## **Tzedakah - Auckland Women's Refuge**

We are collecting donations for the Auckland Women's Refuge - non-perishable food supplies, warm or practical clothes for children aged 13-19yrs old and general household or personal grooming supplies. For more information on how you can help contact Chris Shiller ([shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz)).

## **Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)**

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

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

**Telephone:** 09 524 4139

**Email:** [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) (Office Coordinator)

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

**Communications:** [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) or [communications@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:communications@bethshalom.org.nz)

**Assistant Administrator:** [administrator@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:administrator@bethshalom.org.nz)

## **Board of Management**

President - Michelle Wise, [president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:president@bethshalom.org.nz)

Treasurer - Tamara Liebman, [treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz)

Secretary - Roger Reynolds, [secretary@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:secretary@bethshalom.org.nz)

**Board of Management members** - Michael Robinson, Trudi Sawyer, Stephanie Richling, Hilary Hemmins, Daniel Josephs, Arie Rosen, and Mika Daniels

**Board of Trustees** - David Kranz, Judith Marks, Peter Bruell

**Board of Management Ex-Officio & Rabbi** - Rabbi Dean Shapiro, [rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz)

**Membership** - [membership@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:membership@bethshalom.org.nz)

**Community Care** [including Senior Outreach]

Email: [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz) or [care@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:care@bethshalom.org.nz)

## **Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society**

Email: [secretary@ajbbs.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ajbbs.org.nz) or [treasurer@ajbbs.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@ajbbs.org.nz)

## **Security - Board Representative & Security Working-Group**

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

## **Education - Yachad & Hebrew School**

Email: [educator@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:educator@bethshalom.org.nz) or [learning@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:learning@bethshalom.org.nz)

## **Ritual**

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