

# TERUAH

## BETH SHALOM



**IYAR-SIVAN 5785**  
**MAY 2025**

The Progressive Jewish Congregation of Auckland, New Zealand

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





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*\*Front page photo courtesy of Naomi Johnson*

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

# ARZENU PUBLIC EVENT

Venue: Beth Shalom, Epsom  
Time: 3pm

## ARZENU: A Vote for Progress in Israel: what comes next

Last month, you heard from Rabbi Dean Shapiro of Beth Shalom, Auckland, who outlined the campaign currently underway to elect a New Zealand representative to the World Zionist Congress, and why this election is so important.

To recap: The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is a gathering through which Diaspora Jews can influence certain policies for Israel and world Jewry. Every five years, the WZC votes on the disbursement of over \$US1.5 billion, and the number of delegates determines the direction of this spending – it's a big deal!

We can help to ensure that this spending goes to Progressive causes by electing a Progressive delegate to the WZC, who will fly to Israel to vote on behalf of New Zealand Jewry.

The Progressive slate for the WZC, 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 delegitimize 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 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; and
- A secure Israel alongside a peaceful Palestinian state being vital for stability.

## MEET THE ARZENU CANDIDATE DR. MICHELLE WISE



SUNDAY 18TH MAY – 3PM  
IN PERSON – BETH SHALOM

WHAT IS ARZENU?

WHAT IS THE WORLD  
ZIONIST CONGRESS?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO VOTE?

DEMOCRACY.  
PLURALISM. EQUITY.  
PEACE. RETURN THE  
HOSTAGES

REGISTER TO VOTE

[HTTPS://NZ.EVENTMAGIX.COM/](https://nz.eventmagix.com/)  
1-30 MAY IS REGISTRATION  
15-30 JUNE IS VOTING



beth  
shalom  
בית שלום

arzenu  
ארצנו

## Our amazing candidate

New Zealand's proposed delegate for ARZENU is Michelle Wise, Past President of Beth Shalom. See this Instagram link to hear Michelle speak about ARZENU and what it stands for: Michelle Wise

Note: You can log in to Instagram using your Facebook account.

What to do to show your support for ARZENU: Vote for Michelle in the upcoming election!

Voting registration is now open here: ARZENU voting registration (details is in the poster above).

Please register now! Once you are registered, you will receive a link to vote when voting opens. A few points:

- If you are an Israeli citizen and voted in the Israeli Parliamentary elections in 2022, you are not eligible to vote (sorry)
- Registration costs \$3, which is a great investment in Israel's future, but please reach out if this is a barrier for you – every vote counts!
- Voting is a two step process:
  - o Register (between 28 April and 30 May 2025); once registered, you'll be sent a link to....
  - o Vote in the election (between 15 June and 30 June 2025).



# A GRATEFUL FAREWELL



As I come to the end of my time in this role, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to the incredible Beth Shalom community that has surrounded me over the past few years.

This has been more than just a job — it has been a journey filled with meaningful connections, memorable moments, and shared purpose.

In the beginning, I wasn't sure how a brown island girl studying part-time would fit into your world — but I quickly realised that this kind of thinking had no place here. That doubt was erased from my mind almost instantly. I feel deeply fortunate to have worked alongside so many passionate and generous leaders, members, and volunteers. Your support, kindness, and commitment have made this experience truly unforgettable.

Whether it was through day-to-day interactions and collaborations, special events like the High Holy Days, or those spontaneous moments of laughter and learning, I've been constantly inspired by the members and friends of Beth Shalom I've had the privilege to meet and work with. It's the community — each of you — that brought life and meaning to my role, and for that, I am profoundly grateful. In the Cook Islands Māori language, we say “Meitaki Maata e Kia Manuia,” which translates as “Thank you immensely, and may you be blessed.”

As I step into a new, uncharted chapter, I take with me the friendships, memories, and learning we've created together. Thank you for entrusting me with the office and administrative support work over the past two years, and for the encouragement and spirit of cooperation that made this role not only rewarding, but full of joy.

Whilst I would love to acknowledge each and everyone of you, there are a few special individuals I'd like to thank for their meaningful support and positive impact throughout my time here.

Thanks Rabbi Dean for your guidance, support, friendship and mentoring during my tenure. I've really enjoyed working in the office with you and I admire who you are and what you do. I am grateful to Chris Shiller, Naomi Johnson, and Christine White for making my job smooth, supported and blessed. Others I am particularly grateful for in terms of leadership, guidance and support are Dr. Michelle Wise, Dr. Roger Reynolds, Tamara Liebman, Leon Chapman, Sue Pezaro, Judith Hunt, David Singer, Paul Wilton, Peter & Claire Bruell, David Robinson, Meir & Jude Alfassi, Kate Bukowski, Jonathan Parsons, Louis Fraysse, Viv Josephs, Daniel Josephs, and Genice Paullay-Beazley.

This is not goodbye, but see you again — somewhere, somehow. I kindly request that the support and love you all have shown and shared with me will be extended to Alexandria 'Alex' Farley who takes on the role of Office Manager after my departure.

L'Shalom to you all and Kia Orana (“Greetings/Goodbye — may you live long”)

**Nukutau 'Nuks' Pokura (Office coordinator April 2023 - May 2025)**

# INTRODUCING THE NEW OFFICE MANAGER



I'm Alexandria, though most find it easier to just call me Alex, and I'm genuinely excited to join Beth Shalom as Office Coordinator. Throughout my career, I've dedicated myself to the art of blending creativity, communication with effective organisation. My experience running my own business has shown me that clear messaging and efficient workflows are key to building trust and fostering teamwork. I'm excited to share these insights and contribute to a supportive, thriving community.

When I'm away from the office, you'll find me enjoying a slower pace—spending quality time with my two boys, Logan (8) and Caden (7), or indulging in my passion for plants by tending to my garden and caring for my delightful collection of indoor greenery. These moments remind me that creativity and structure can beautifully coexist, fueling both personal joy and professional success. I can't wait to embark on this journey with you all!

**Alexandria Farley**

In the spirit of continuity and familiarity for the community, Alex's work days and hours in the office will be **Monday and Tuesday's** from **10am - 2pm**, and **Thursday and Friday's** from **9.30am - 1.30pm**. **Wednesday** is a day off.

Contact Alex via email: [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) or call the office on 09 524 4139 for assistance or to chat.

The Office Manager and the Assistant Administrator are both here to assist you, as staff.

# SHAVUOT

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot  
at Beth Shalom**

**Services: 6:15 PM**  
**Dairy Dessert: 7:00**  
**Learning Sessions: 7:30 - 10**

June



**Mosaics in Israel's Ancient Synagogues:  
"Thou Shall Not Make a Graven Image or Likeness" ?!?**  
with archaeologist Liat Or



**Occupation and Accountability: The Reality in the West Bank  
through a Rabbi's Eyes with Rabbi Maayan Turner**



**Eighteen for Life – Surviving the Holocaust  
with Helen Schamroth, ONZM**



**Antisemitism and the History of the West  
with Ayelet Zoran-Rosen, PhD**



**Arts & Crafts with Faith Kerekere**



**Building Community - Jewish Law on Houses and  
Civic Obligation with Rabbi Dean Shapiro**

For those who cannot attend in-person please join via the online Zoom link below:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864500586?pwd=xFJ0PyUc1yHPVDKqnB9y4jFLDp7s1R.1>

**Meeting ID: 878 6450 0586**

**Passcode: 191327**

The zoom link covers the **service** and the **three sessions**.

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**Monday 2 June** there will be the Shavuot Morning service with Yizkor starting at 10am. For those who cannot attend in-person, here is the link to join the online meeting via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87621113415?pwd=oqR54NhNey811LdSaJggMhnh2vMaOT.1>

**Meeting ID: 876 2111 3415**

**Passcode: 839719**

Please bring a dairy dessert for the Tikkun Leil, a kind reminder no strawberries. There will also be craft for children starting at 6pm as well as throughout the evening.



# AUCKLAND JEWISH BURIAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

*Article by Sue Pezaro (Secretary AJBBS)*

The Burial and Benevolent Society held its Annual General Meeting in person and online on 30 March 2025.

The following members were elected to the management committee unopposed: Jack Wilton (President), David Zussman (Vice-President), David Singer (Treasurer), Sue Pezaro (Secretary) Stephanie Markson, Sonja Karon, Julie Dick and Haim Ainsworth.

Sonja Karon gave a review of training undertaken during the past year and Rabbi Dean spoke to the meeting on the Jewish view of organ donation which is now viewed as a life saving mitzvah. David Zussman then presented his annual report as Vice President and Jack Wilton presented the Treasurer's report.

The meeting unanimously accepted the proposed revised constitution and passed two motions related to membership unanimously. As a result, family membership now includes any child under the age of 21 at no additional charge.

Family members up until age 30 are included in family membership whether or not they are resident in the same home, provided they usually reside in Aotearoa/New Zealand and medically and legally dependent children are included regardless of age. The fee for additional members aged 21-30 is \$20 per person.



From 1 April 2025 all new individual or family memberships will be subject to a one-off administration fee of \$100 on joining and will then be entitled to taharah and the conduct of a funeral service without charge.

The B and B reminds Beth Shalom members that membership of the Auckland Jewish Burial and Benevolent Society is separate from membership of Beth Shalom. Any membership applications or queries about membership may be sent to [secretary@ajbbs.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ajbbs.org.nz)



# ALL TOGETHER NOW!

Term 2 Hebrew language online sessions commenced on Monday 28 April and Jewish Values sessions start on Sunday 18 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 May calendar for Yachad. We're looking forward to an enjoyable and meaningful learning experience together for our children and all in attendance!

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



# IN BRIEF...



*Members and friends of the Crafty Club who met on Saturday in the shul hall [Photo's courtesy of Chris Shiller]*

## Crafty Club Meet 10 May 2025

New and current members of the Crafty Club came together to knit, sew, chat and enjoy each other's company as they created artistic pieces, reports Chris Shiller.

Pictured are members who attended the gathering in the shul hall.

If anyone is interested in participating or supporting any of our future club meetings, please get in touch with Chris Shiller via email - [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz) or contact the office on 09 524 4139 or email - [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)



# NOTICES

**arzenu**  
ארצנו

New Zealand's Delegate to the  
World Zionist Congress 2025

Democracy  
Pluralism  
Return of the Hostages  
Equity  
Path to Peace

.....

**You have the power to shape  
Israel's future.**  
**arzenu.org**

**Date: Sunday 18 May 2025**  
**Time: 3.00pm**  
**Place: Beth Shalom Hall,  
180 Manukau Road, Epsom**

There will also be an online Zoom meeting on this same evening at **7.30pm**. Contact Michelle on [wisemichelle@gmail.com](mailto:wisemichelle@gmail.com) for more information.

**To register:** [Meet the ARZENU candidate](#)



**Date: Sunday 8 June 2025**  
**Time: 7.30pm**  
**Place: Beth Shalom Hall,  
180 Manukau Road, Epsom**

**Registration essential by Wednesday 4  
June: [Talk by Claire Bruell registration](#)**

## **“A Jewish family caught in the Crosshairs of History” - a talk by Claire Bruell**

When Claire's father died in 1979 he left, amongst his documents, a piece of paper with a thin line showing six people. From one of them was a further line to a person called Frank Briess. Frank was her father.

The four books that Claire has written largely deal with her exploration of the questions this drawing raised: Who were these people, where were they and what happened to them? The resulting books are Claire's answers to these questions, exploring the lives of her ancestors in the towns, villages and cities of Moravia and Galicia over the last 250 years. They represent how Claire placed her family's history within the context of its time and place. This is the story of one extended family and how that family intersected with history. At the same time the histories will touch on shared experiences of others in the group.

Claire will share with us how the books came to be, describing her wonderful collaboration with Mike Regan. She will describe some of the stories within the stories.

The books will not be published or sold but were written for her grandchildren. You will have the opportunity to see these books.




## Shlichei Tzibor Training Program

The World Union for Progressive Judaism has invited the New Zealand Jewish community to participate in a "Shlichei Tzibur" training course designed to train laypersons in our community to lead services.

The course will take place from May to September 2025. It will consist of a monthly Zoom meeting of 1.5 hours taught by Rabbi Cody Bahir, who is currently in Taipei. Rabbi Bahir will teach about the prayer book and how to lead prayers. These are the dates:

- May 18
- June 22
- July 20
- August 17
- September 21

If anyone is interested, contact Rabbi Stacey Blank ([education@wupj.org](mailto:education@wupj.org)) as soon as possible.



## SHLICHEI TZIBOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The Shlichei Tzibor training program is designed to teach members of the Progressive movement around the world practical and spiritual skills to take part in leading their communities. Graduates lead prayer, advocacy and community programming.

**Who is this for:** Active community leaders passionate about leading their communities in prayer and strengthening their connection to Judaism.


**Commitment:** Requires dedication from both the participant and their community to ensure the program's success.

**What you gain:**


- A deeper connection to Jewish traditions.
- Opportunities to be a part of a global network.
- Increased confidence in leading prayer and community events.

**PROGRAMS ACTIVE IN OUR FORUM**

Shlichei Tzibor Belarus / Ukraine / Russia  
Shlichei Tzibor South Africa  
Cantor Sheila Nesis, Associate Director of Spiritual Music; The Center For Small Town Jewish Life, Colby College  
Ba'alei Tefillah UK







For more information contact Eileen Awner Cohen at [seminars@wupj.org](mailto:seminars@wupj.org)



Learn more about the WUPJ at [www.wupj.org/](http://www.wupj.org/)  
[/wupjudaism](https://www.instagram.com/wupjudaism)

# HEBREW

in

# NEW ZEALAND

This research needs YOU!

How does Hebrew fit into your life?

Scan here



שלום

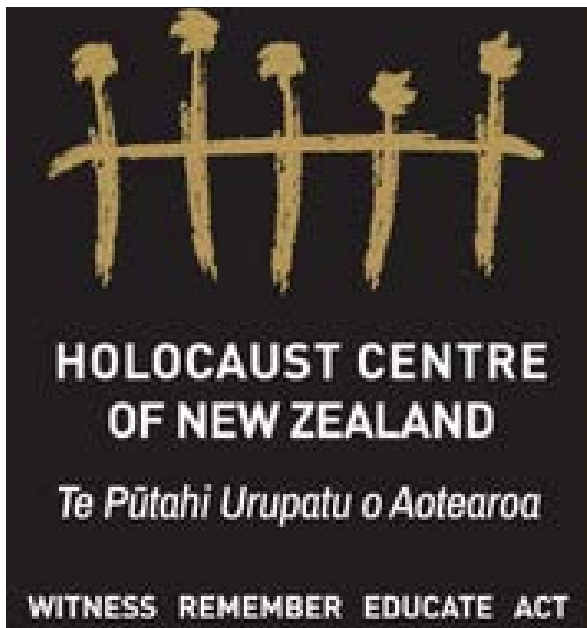
 MONASH University

## Invitation to participate in a PhD Research Study with Annabel Noar

[www.hebrewinnewzealand.com/participate](http://www.hebrewinnewzealand.com/participate)



# NOTICES



Want to see what we are talking about? Click [HERE](#)

There are a few more places left for this opportunity on 18 May.

It costs you nothing except three hours of your time that day. To register, click [HERE](#)

## Join the Legacies Project

The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand proudly presents the Legacies Project, an interactive digital archive that traces the journeys of Holocaust survivors and refugees who rebuilt their lives in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This powerful initiative maps personal histories — honouring those who survived and remembering those who perished. Through detailed biographies, first-hand narratives, and historical context, we illuminate the resilience and contributions of survivors to New Zealand.

The Legacies Project is more than a tribute — it's a lasting resource for education, remembrance, and reflection, ensuring that these stories are preserved for future generations.

Never forget. Always remember.



## 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.



## **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!

# 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.

**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>

### Non-members and visitors

(local or overseas) need to contact the office to assist with security clearance process

Call 09 524 4139  
or email: [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz)

### Items required to assist with security clearance requests:

- A valid photo ID
- Confirmation of Jewish heritage or member standing notification from home Synagogue or Temple (or character references, social media information or referral from a member of Beth Shalom can be provided if the above confirmation is not available)



# 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 - [Vacant] [president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:president@bethshalom.org.nz)

Vice President - Mika Daniels, [vice\\_president@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:vice_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, Stephanie Richling, Hilary Hemmins, Ashley Hingston-Daniels, Meir Alfassi, Michelle Wise (immediate past President) and Rabbi Dean Shapiro (ex-officio)

**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)