

# TERUAH

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THE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF AUCKLAND

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KISLEV  
5785

BETH  
SHALOM



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May strength be granted to God's people;  
may God bless our people with peace.

Psalms 29:11

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# PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL



In late November, our President Dr Michelle Wise attended the WUPJ Global Leadership Fellowship in Israel. She was nominated to represent New Zealand's progressive Jewish community.

The Seminar was shared in more details with Beth Shalom members recently. Here is a pictorial summary of various aspects of this program, the people or leaders on the same journey, and general landmarks in Israel. Michelle's participation was supported by Beth Shalom, and the Erman Trust.

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*“The seminar was intense, fast-paced, emotional, challenging, overwhelming at times, and incredibly inspiring. Each person who spoke with our group started by genuinely thanking us for being in Israel at this difficult time.”*  
(Michelle Wise, President, Beth Shalom)

# CHRIS MILTON HONoured WITH 2024 NER TAMID AWARD

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It is with absolute pleasure that we announce one of the Ner Tamid recipients for 2024 is our own Chris Milton.

The Ner Tamid award is presented by the Union for Progressive Judaism specifically to those special people, the “unsung heroes” who are defined as members who perform exceptional service to our congregation and to the wider community.

Chris, along with his wife Laura and 8 year old daughter Jessamie, arrived in Auckland in 2008. The family signed up to join Beth Shalom and within a few weeks Chris was already volunteering to take on shammos duties for Friday and Saturday services.

This practice of volunteering by Chris, fortunately for us at Beth Shalom, continues to this day and in many forms and in many areas. Chris continues as one of our most regular shammashim, both in person and on-line, often together with Jessamie.

Chris joined the Ritual committee and was a member from 2008 until 2022 – a very valued and learned member who took great delight in research and sharing knowledge. For many years Chris was also a valued member of the Conversion Committee, organising seminars and lectures for our candidates.

Jessamie joined our Hebrew school in 2009 and at the same time, Chris also volunteered as a teacher – one of his great passions – and taught at every level including 3 years post bar/bat mitzvah students. The attendance from our older students during that time was second to none.

With Chris’s help and supervision, our students presented advanced programmes on Halacha from all perspectives at the Limmud conferences for four years in a row. He is a regular speaker at Limmud, Shabbatons and Shavuot Tikkun Leil events.

Since becoming bar mitzvah in 2010, Chris has now become one of our most regular service leaders for both Friday night and Saturday morning services, often chanting Torah and always presenting thought provoking drashot.

Beth Shalom has often been without regular rabbinic leadership and during those times he has made (and continues to do so) trips to smaller communities to lead High Holy Days services, lead Pesach seders and conduct Friday night or a Saturday morning services.

He is, and continues to be, an unsung hero and lives his Judaism by example and we all think he is a very deserving candidate for a Ner Tamid award for 2024.

Mazel tov Chris!

## BAT MITZVAH - ROWAN BACAL

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*I hope you will all join my family and me on **Shabbat on 14 December [10am]** when my sister, my grandmother, and I will chant the Vayishlach Torah portion.*

Shalom,

Many of you know me and my family from Beth Shalom, and it is now my turn to become bat mitzvah!

For those of you who don't know me, my family and I have been members of Beth Shalom for many years. Chris Schiller did my naming ceremony here!

After completing 6 years at Kadimah, I started Albany Junior High School in 2023 and am just finishing Year 8 there in a few weeks. I enjoy dancing, diving, and being on the trampoline with Harper and my twin brothers.

For my mitzvah project, I am making "no sew" fleece blankets for Starship Hospital and the Special Care Baby Unit, in honour of the nurses and doctors who cared for my brothers when they were born premature.

I'm looking forward to the 14th, when we will be joined remotely by family from the USA and Israel, as well as by friends and family here in the shul. Hope to see you there!



## BETH SHALOM COMMUNITY CARE TEAM

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*Beth Shalom's  
Community Care  
team is committed to  
supporting members  
of all ages and stages  
during times of both  
challenge and  
celebration.*

Our activities include ( but not limited to!):

- delivering welcome packs to new members
- supporting new parents
- visiting the sick
- phoning and visiting senior members
- transportation and support at hospital appointments
- delivering meals
- assisting with the organisation of transport to shul and activities
- providing and running Beth Shalom lunches with speakers for all members – young and old- who may be at home during the day and enjoy a good schmoose and some nosh! etc

These activities all require time and commitment and we are always looking for new people to join our team and share the mitzvah.

If you would like to be involved in any way in Community Care, please contact Chris Shiller on email: [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz)



### Might you be a Yachad teacher?

We are looking for teachers for our Yachad Jewish Values sessions in 2025.

Yachad is Beth Shalom's Jewish education programme for young people aged 7 - 12.

At Yachad, we enable our children to:

- Feel proud, connected (longitudinally and spiritually), informed, confident, wonder.
- Know key sources, how to "do" Jewish, tradition, one another, key words in Hebrew, the Aleph Bet, the structure of the Hebrew language.

- Do socialise, Jewish time in their week, Shabbat, blessings.
- Be A+ human beings (moral, responsible, knowing and doing what's right, the ethics of being human), informed.

Are these things important to you? If they are, maybe you could help!

Our Jewish Values sessions happen from 2-4pm every second Sunday during term time at Beth Shalom – that's about 20 sessions per year.

We have a ready-made curriculum of interactive lesson plans and materials, which our teachers use to lead each session.

To be a Yachad teacher you don't need to be a qualified teacher, though some experience of teaching or leading informal learning (eg. in a youth group) would help!

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Christine [administrator@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:administrator@bethshalom.org.nz).

A promotional poster for the 2025 Yachad program. It features the Yachad logo at the top left, followed by the year '2025' in large blue letters. Below this, the text reads: 'Jewish values 2 - 4pm every second Sunday at Beth Shalom. Hebrew online - week nights during school term. Ages 7 - 12 years'. A QR code is positioned to the left of the word 'Registration', which is written in a large, stylized, light green script. The background of the poster shows a group of children sitting on a wooden floor in a circle, engaged in an activity. In the bottom left corner, there are two circular inset photos: one showing a teacher interacting with a student, and another showing a student working on a project. At the bottom right, the text 'Enquiries: administrator@bethshalom.org.nz' is displayed.

To register for the Beth Shalom 2025 Yachad Programme please click on the link [2025 Yachad registration](#) or scan the QR code.

# FAREWELL VALERIE & DAN COHEN

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Dan and Valerie Cohen moved to Auckland from Palmerston North in 1993 where they became active, supportive and generous members of our community at Beth Shalom.

Valerie, a professional librarian who established and headed the Auckland Massey University library when she arrived in Auckland, undertook the large task of categorising our Beth Shalom library after we received a large donation of books together with book shelves.

She continued to be active in this space for many years keeping our Library well organised. Valerie also kept our archives updated for a number of years. She is an amazing cook and any food contributions she made to communal occasions were always devoured!

Dan was part of the Auckland and the NZ Jewish Council Board for many years. He ensured Beth Shalom representation and voice was heard and a part of the bigger NZ Jewish community picture. He also stepped into this role for Beth Shalom on the Goldwater Trust which is the governing Board of Kadimah School.

Once again Dan ensured our progressive Jewish perspective was included in considerations for the school, assuring that Beth Shalom children were recognised as part of the wider Jewish community.

It is interesting to note that during Dan's time on the trust attempts in the 1990's were made to buy property in Abbots Way to relocate the school and AHC. Dan says there was even some discussion that Beth Shalom would move closer.



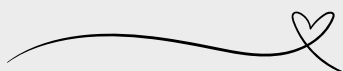
The plans fell through at that stage and of course now, the rest is history!

Aside from his commitment to governance, Dan has been an integral part of our Beth Shalom minyan all these years. He has been a regular and engaging reader of our Haftorah and in more recent years, a reliable shamash.

We will miss Dan and Valerie's generosity on so many levels as they move to be closer to two of their three sons and their families in Melbourne. We know that a sweet 2 year old grandson will most certainly keep them on their toes!

Our Beth Shalom family wishes Dan and Valerie Cohen a smooth transition, good health, fun new adventures and a mighty B'Hatzlacha!

**Article by Jude Berman**



*A special Kiddush will be held in honour of Valerie and Dan Cohen, after Shabbat Service, 7 December. All are welcome to join!*



# AJBBS ARTICLE



Greetings, friends,

In last week's parsha, we read of Abraham's negotiations to secure a burial place appropriate to the honour of his remarkable wife, Sarah.

Besides the immediate obvious connection with our B&B tasks, this chapter of Torah also coincided with discussions regarding our new constitution for AJBBS.

Our role is a centuries old, traditional heritage, one that has accrued a body of halakhic (Rabbinical law and custom) ruling. And, we have to conform to modern legal obligations, too.

Recent legislation amending procedures for charitable and incorporated societies, requires us to try and integrate our traditional, religious and cultural practice into some not-entirely-relevant frameworks. It is an expensive and thought provoking exercise. Kol hakvod to David Zussman, who is steering us through the process.

We have been so fortunate in the services of both our Progressive B&B, and the AHC Chevra Kadisha over many decades, and in the support from our Rabbis in this time.

So, it came as a great surprise to discover that the first ever Progressive Burial society in New York was established just last year, 2023. "First-Ever Reform Chevra Kadisha in NYC is Established" Plaza Jewish Community Chapel Press Release, March 7, 2023 [www.plazajewishcommunitychapel.org/first-ever-reform-chevra-kaddisha-in-new-york-city-is-established/](http://www.plazajewishcommunitychapel.org/first-ever-reform-chevra-kaddisha-in-new-york-city-is-established/)

It is an initiative of four communities who have joined together to provide just some of the services that our own Progressive B&B has carried out for decades.

The simplicity of Jewish funeral practices is often a source of comment. In an earlier column, we considered how the tradition introduced unadorned caskets and modest burials.

An early model of environmental responsibility. Other elaborate rituals also drew the attention of Talmudic Rabbis who were aligned with so many of our contemporary values. Here is a charming extract from the Talmud, with commentary, on funeral music.

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*From KeTUBoT . Perek IV . 46b*

*A husband's duty to his wife:*

*he is obligated[to provide] her sustenance, her redemption [if she is captured], and her burial [upon her death]. Rabbi Yehuda says: Even the poorest [man] of the Jewish people may not provide fewer than two flutes and a lamenting woman, [which it was customary to hire for a funeral, as these too are included in the duties of burial]*

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...continued on next page

# AJBBS article continued...

## Commentary

May not provide fewer than two flutes, etc. If a woman dies before her husband, he is obligated to bury her, to pay all the requisite expenses, and to arrange a eulogy for her in accordance with the local practice. If it is the custom to hire people to play the flute and to lament, he must provide at least two flautists, as well as a lamenting woman.

As stated by the Gemara (48a), the halakha is in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yehuda (Rambam Sefer Nashim, Hilkhot Ishut 14:23; Shulh n Arukh, Even haEzer 89:1)

Flutes – : It was customary during ancient times, including in Eretz Yisrael during the period of the Mishna, to play flutes at funerals in order to stimulate mourning. It seems this custom was widely practiced, since the Mishna (see Shabbat 151a) discusses various halakhot that concern flutes used at funerals. Later generations discontinued this practice, as they considered it a gentile custom.

Wishing everyone a light-filled Hanukah,

**AJBBS**

## CRAFTY CLUB

### **Are you a Crafty Person?**

Then save the date for our next Crafty Club Meeting: Saturday December 7th, 1.00pm–2:15pm in the shul hall.

Do you knit, crochet, paint, draw, sew, embroider or even just do colouring in? Our youngster member, 7 year old Benjy, is only too happy to share his crayons and for people to join in with his work (as long as you can colour inside the lines!).

At our last get-together Jak (pictured here) was showing us how to spin yarn from goat's hair into a useable material, so much patience needed! All ages welcome, come and share your crafty talents with the group and maybe learn new skills as well as enjoying good conversation and refreshments.

This month we will also be wrapping the soft toys that have been donated for the Refugee children but in fact if you just want to come and socialise, get to know members of the community, try your hand at something new or just chat over tea and cookies, Crafty Club is the place to be.



# DECEMBER EVENTS & SERVICES

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## Erev Shabbat (6.30pm) and Shabbat Morning Services (10am)

- 6 December (in-person)
- 7 December (in-person) - Kiddush in honour of Valerie and Dan Cohen
- 13 December (Online via Zoom only)
- 14 December (in-person) - Bat Mitzvah - Rowan Bacal
- 20 December (Online via Zoom only)
- 21 December (in-person)
- 27 December (in-person) - Chanukkah Service
- 28 December (Online via Zoom only)





# DECEMBER EVENTS & SERVICES

*ZFNZ invites you to*  
*Pre-Chanukah*  
*Celebrations @ AJCC* ✨

**15 DECEMBER**  
**1PM TO 4PM**

Featuring a variety of stalls including Judaica, delicious sufganiyot, latkes, and more tasty food. ✨  
 You can also participate in making a Chanukah and take a dip in the pool.

**\$10 per person or \$20 per family** ✨

<https://events.humanitix.com/pre-chanukah-celebrations>

Pre - registration via ticket purchase is required for security purposes.



DO YOU HAVE FOOD, CRAFTS, OR OTHER PRODUCTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SELL TO THE COMMUNITY?

**CALLING ALL VENDORS**

BOOK A STALL AT OUR EARLY CHANUKKAH CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER ● AUCKLAND**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ZFNZ 📧 [president@zfnz.org.nz](mailto:president@zfnz.org.nz)



# DECEMBER EVENTS & SERVICES

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Please join us for a

## Pre-Chanukkah Fish & ~~Chips~~ Latkes Luncheon



Wednesday 18 December  
Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Road, Epsom  
Time: 12noon - 2pm



We will raffle a handmade crocheted blanket (all proceeds go to the Auckland Women's Refuge Centre) and have fun table games, great company and food. 'Koha' welcome. Please bring cash for the raffle.

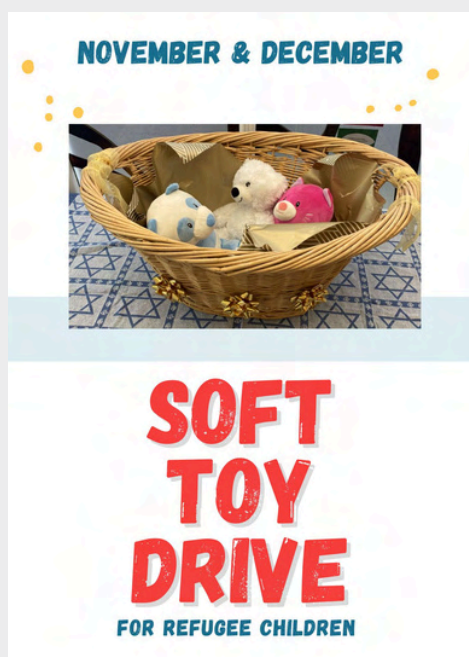
**Everyone Welcome!**



RSVP to office - [office@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:office@bethshalom.org.nz) or 09 524 4139, or Chris Shiller ([shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz))



# DECEMBER EVENTS & SERVICES



Soft toy donations can be placed in the basket setup in the foyer. Thank you very much for your kind donations.



Contact Chris Shiller via email [shiller@orcon.net.nz](mailto:shiller@orcon.net.nz) to find out ways in how you can help.





In 2020, the Jewish Arts planned to present the Choral Odyssey from Adelaide to Uluru, which was sadly derailed by Covid-19. For years, the UPJ has held the Shir Chadash music conference, and what has emerged for next year is an exciting, reimagined, combined event for singers and aspiring singers, taking place on 19-26 June 2025.

The program is in two parts. Any interested persons may choose to attend Part 1 or 2, or both parts. The themes of the program are engagement and outreach - musical, intercultural and interfaith, including music arising from or inspired by Indigenous people of Australia.

### **Part 1: A Shabbaton, along the lines of Shir Chadash**

Hosted by Beit Shalom Synagogue in Adelaide. Friday 20 June at 9.00am - Sunday 22 June at 1.30pm

We sing together and learn music to take on the road in Part 2, and/or take home with us to inspire our choirs and congregations. Faculty: Cantors Michel Laloum (Melbourne) and George Mordecai (Sydney), plus choral conductor/composer Elliot Z. Levine (USA). There will be opportunities for individual vocal tuition from Andrea Catzel.

### **Part 2: Coach tour from Adelaide to Uluru**

We travel through South and Central Australia, singing together as a single large group and in two "instant choirs", led by master conductors Elliot Z. Levine and Kelly Shepard. We visit and sing in iconic, fascinating places. Sunday 22 June at 3.00pm - Thursday 26 June at 9.00pm

- Sun: Adelaide. Program at Beit Shalom Synagogue.
- Mon: Travel to Port Augusta. Program at Aboriginal Cultural Centre.
- Tue: Travel to Coober Pedy. Program at underground Serbian Church.
- Wed: Travel to Yulara (Uluru). Program includes Field of Light.
- Thu: Day program at Uluru; evening at Yulara; sing under the stars.

### **Registration fees**

Excludes accommodation, which will be payable to UPJ when rooming choices are finalised.

Excludes flights to Adelaide and from Yulara (Uluru), to be arranged/paid for by participants.

#### **Part 1: \$195**

Accommodation for 3 nights (Thu- Sat):  
\$266pp for twin/double occupancy  
\$532pp for single occupancy.

#### **Part 2: \$930 (coach travel is included)**

Accommodation for 5 nights (Sun-Thu)  
\$534pp for twin/double occupancy  
\$1,065pp for single occupancy.

#### **Both Part 1 and Part 2: \$1,125 (coach travel is included)**

Accommodation for 8 nights (Thu-Thu)  
\$799pp for twin/double occupancy  
\$1,597pp for single occupancy.

### **How to register - don't delay: limited space for Part 2!**

You can find more information about the Odyssey of Voices on the main page by clicking on the orange buttons at the bottom.

<https://events.humanitix.com/odyssey-of-voices>

Click on "Get Tickets" at the top of the page to register.





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### **Message from Holocaust Centre of New Zealand Board Chair, Deborah Hart**

We advise that the CEO of the Holocaust Centre, Gillian Wess, has resigned. She will finish with the Centre at the end of January, after delivery of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day events.

Gillian joined the Centre nearly three years ago. Since she was appointed, she has done an exemplary job of running the Centre and delivering a professional service, working with a broad range of people. Board chair, Deborah Hart said, “we will miss Gillian’s dedication and sheer hard work in the service of the Centre.”

In time, we will advise how we will farewell Gillian. For now, the board will be turning its mind to the future leadership of the Centre after Gillian leaves.

“We extend our sincere thanks to Gillian for her significant contributions and wish her continued success in her future endeavours.”

Gillian said, “It has been a honour to serve as the CEO of the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand. Holocaust remembrance and education is more important than ever, and I have been proud to lead such a remarkable team of staff and volunteers dedicated to this purpose. I have learnt so much from many friends and colleagues in our communities, and especially from our cherished survivors and their families. I send my warmest and heartfelt best wishes and grateful thanks to you all.”

# 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>



# CONTACT US

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**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 clothes for children aged 13-19yrs old and general 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:** [communications@bethshalom.org.nz](mailto:communications@bethshalom.org.nz)

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

**Board of Management**

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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 members** – Michael Robinson, Trudi Sawyer, Stephanie Richling, Hilary Hemmins, Daniel Josephs, Arie Rosen, and Mika Daniels

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

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

**Ritual**

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