

TERUAH

BETH SHALOM



**ADAR-
NISSAN
5785**

MARCH 2025

The Progressive Jewish Congregation
of Auckland-New Zealand

www.bethshalom.org.nz



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FROM THE RABBI



As I sat in a restaurant several months ago, a woman walked in wearing a keffiyeh. I was filled with rage.

Didn't she know about the hostages? The cruelty? She ordered her meal, took out a book, and read. She was calm; I wasn't. As I watched her, I started to wonder about her book. Did it have anything to do with Israel or Palestine? Then I wondered about the keffiyeh. What did it mean to her? I realised I didn't know. Was she Palestinian? Did she have family in Gaza? Were we both feeling angry and sad and helpless? I had no idea. I wanted to ask her, but I was nervous about starting something complicated. How would she respond? Plus, I didn't want to disturb her afternoon. My curiosity unsated, I closed my own book, paid, and left.

As a teacher, I've seen the difference between curious and non-curious learners. The latter lead with what they know. Being right is important to them; they are less likely to care about something with which they aren't already familiar. They may ask questions, but the questions are often closed, or articulated to gain information needed to buttress their own case. (They might ask, for example, "isn't it true that...".)

Curious learners, on the other hand, find delight in possibility. They don't decide what's true until they've explored options. They lead with empathy, seeking to understand the perspective of others. They wonder, and tend to ask open-ended questions. They are OK with not knowing.

Put another way, people who are curious are committed to learning, while those who aren't curious are committed to being right, according to Dethmer, Chapman, and Warner Klemm (2014). The world opens up to us when we are curious. Possibilities abound. Wonder resides around every corner. We fill with awe and come truly alive.

From the place where we are right,
Flowers will never grow
in the spring.
The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.
But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard
In the place
where the
ruined house once stood.

Yehuda Amichai

How many questions could you ask while walking a single block? Where is that person headed? How does an insect perceive a flower? Can a young person understand what it means to be old? How would the world be different if I were never born? What happens if I add a bit of spice to the soup? Why am I reacting this way?

Scott Shigeoka, author of the book *SEEK: How Curiosity Can Transform Your Life and Change the World*, asks "how do you use this desire to understand as a force for connection? How do you really use this as a force for self-transformation? Because this is really about the journey of us discovering new things and changing our own mindsets and behaviours and the ways that we interact with each other and the world." (Podcast: Templeton Ideas, 6 June 2024) Deep curiosity isn't designed to change someone else. Instead, it gives the asker more understanding and nuance. It allows us to wonder what else is possible for ourselves, our families, our communities, and the world.

Today's world feels so divided, so bifurcated. "They" just don't understand. The gulf between us and them feels like an uncrossable chasm.

But this mindset gets us nowhere. I wonder: how can curiosity help us bridge the divide? What would happen if we gave one another the benefit of the doubt? What would happen if we allowed ourselves to be more curious about each other? I aim to find out.

-Rabbi Dean Shapiro

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Nic and I have recently become 'empty-nesters.' Maia has gone off to Toronto for her first job and Jonah is completing his final year at Victoria University in Wellington. I would love to hear from those of you in a similar situation how you manage to be both completely proud of your children and be a bit sad and missing them in yourself.

We joined with lots of Beth Shalom members at the very meaningful rally for the hostages last week, where people wore orange to commemorate the Bibas children.

I have been busy preparing for the UPJ / KiwiPJ Shabbat gathering. Please join us for what looks like a warm, educational and musical weekend. Deadline to register and pay is 18 March:

<https://events.humanitix.com/upj-shabbaton-at-beth-shalom>

I will be running in the election to represent the New Zealand Jewish community at the WZO World Zionist Congress in Israel in October 2025. I will be running on an Arzenu platform <https://www.arzenu.org/> Please support me by registering to vote.



We also have re-started the Beth Shalom walking group. This week Viv led us on a 10km (!) walk along the Manukau harbour. If anyone wants to join our WhatsApp group, or help arrange future walks (usually they're shorter 🤗), please contact Viv, Tanya, or the Office.



The AGM will be Sunday 30 March at 4pm soon, and I will be circulating the President and Treasurer reports next week. Please come along to hear my thoughts on the future of Beth Shalom, as I step down after 3 years as president. Our current governance structure is untenable, and I would like to propose my view on how we go forward.

B'Shalom

Michelle

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

New Zealand has one mandate at the World Zionist Congress (WZC) in October 2025. The New Zealand mandate is intended to represent the views of Jews who live in New Zealand on how they want Israel to look in the future. New Zealand does not have a vote in the Knesset, but has a vote at the WZC.

The Area Elections Committee is seeking candidates to run for election to represent the New Zealand Jewish community. If you are interested in standing for election, please take note of the following criteria and process:

Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Be 18 years or older by 30 June 2025
- b. Be resident in New Zealand
- c. Be Jewish and not practicing any other religion
- d. Believe in the right of the State of Israel to exist and The Jerusalem Program
<https://www.wzo.org.il/page/extraordinary-congress/jerusalem-program/en>
- e. A nominee does not need to be a member of a recognized New Zealand Jewish or Zionist organisation, but in order to verify the above eligibility criteria, then will need to provide a Referee of someone known to one of these organisations
- f. If the nominee is an Israeli citizen, then they need to have not voted in the most recent Israel parliamentary election in November 2022

Nomination Process:

Candidates must meet the following condition:

- A nominee can run as a representative of a World Zionist Organisation (WZO) recognized political party or declare themselves as an independent
- A nominee must be supported by 30 eligible voters who meet the same criteria as (a) to (f) above. Specifically the nomination must be submitted with the names and signatures of the 30 eligible voters. Signatures can be handwritten or electronic.

Deadline for Nominations: All nominations must be submitted by 23 March 2025.

We encourage all eligible candidates to consider standing for election.

For more information, a copy of the nomination form or to submit a nomination, please email nzwzoelections@gmail.com

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,

NZ Area Election Committee for World Zionist Organisation
Rabbi Moshe Rube, Chair
Michelle Wise, member
Michael Silverman, member

SPECIAL MENTION

David Barnston featured in the Rangitoto Observer ahead of 101st Birthday celebrations.



Mission accomplished... David Barnston (right) and aircraft owner Mel Forsyth back on the tarmac after their 11 February flight. Below: Barnston in his RAF days, and talking to a territorials colleague in New Zealand.



The February edition of the Rangitoto Observer featured our beloved centenarian member David Barnston, wrote “as a former Royal Air Force and commercial pilot David Barnston enjoyed his first stint at the controls in 45 years during a celebration flight – including a flyover of his home in Milford – ahead of his 101st birthday.”

“David flew the dual-control Tecnam light aircraft for most of the 11 February sightseeing flight, although plane owner Mel Forsyth handled take-off and landing duties at Dairy Flat’s North Shore Airport...Barnston’s son Jack, daughter-in-law Nicole and several friends and members of the North Shore Brevet Club were in attendance to watch him take flight.”

We are very proud of David and his achievements and on behalf of Community care and the whole of Beth Shalom we wish David a happy 101st birthday.

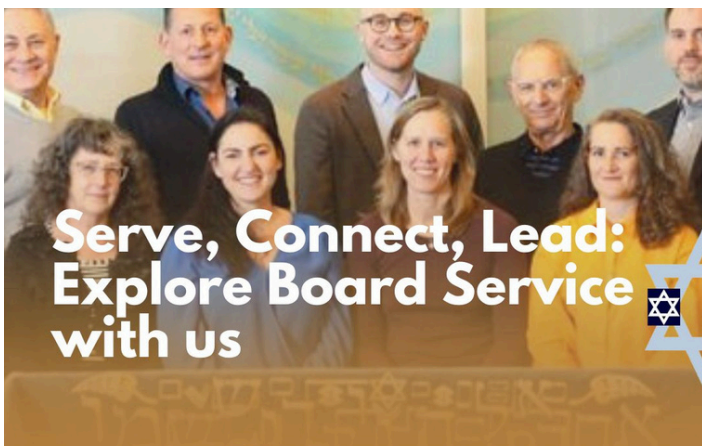
*Article and photos courtesy of the Rangitoto Observer, February 2025 edition,
<https://rangitoto-observer.co.nz/read-online/>*

IN BRIEF...



Tu Beshavat at Beth Shalom

Members gathered to celebrate Tu Beshavat last month in our garden. Photos courtesy of Chris Milton.



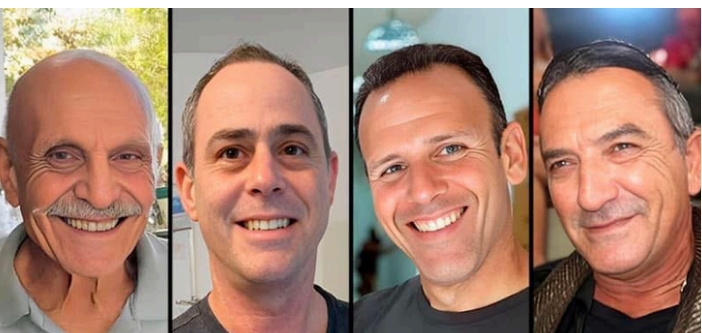
Explore Board Service with us

Are you passionate about serving your community? Looking to deepen your connections and step into a meaningful leadership role? Beth Shalom invites you to explore how Board service can help you make a difference. To express your interest or simply to ask a question about Board service, get in touch with Rabbi Dean (rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz) or Michelle Wise (president@bethshalom.org.nz) today.



Auckland Interfaith Council's Creek Clean Up

About 70 people of different age groups and different religions came together and pulled tyres, car parts and many bottles out of the creek and the surrounding bush according to the Interfaith councils Facebook page. Members of Beth Shalom (Paul Wilton pictured) were actively organising and supporting this Creek Clean up initiative in Whenuapai. [Photos courtesy of AIFC's FB page]



Zichronam l'vracha - their memories are a blessing



BETH SHALOM FOOD POLICY

[Approved by Board on 29.1.25]

Eating is a fundamental part of Jewish culture! We say blessings before we eat in order to elevate our consumption. Special foods convey ideas, stories, and memories.

For many of us, synagogue is an important part of our social lives, and we look forward to the fellowship of sharing meals together. At the same time, health is fundamental. It's important that our synagogue be a place where people with allergies and medical aversions to certain foods are safe from harm. With these revised procedures, we seek to balance several important – and at times competing – values so that Beth Shalom can be truly warm and welcoming for all.

Safety and equity for all people. We want Beth Shalom to be a place where all people can come share in community, regardless of health status or condition. This includes allergies and medical aversions.

Enjoyment. Beth Shalom should be a place for joy and relaxation.

Honouring labour. We appreciate the efforts of our volunteers to make events function smoothly.

Towards that end: Potluck Shabbat

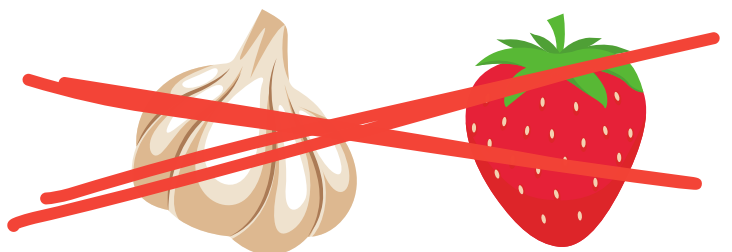
- Potluck Shabbats will be advertised as NO GARLIC and NO STRAWBERRIES. Please don't use garlic or strawberries in any way or at any temperature.
- Dishes will be placed on a table in the hall, not brought into the kitchen. This gives volunteers the chance to ask about the ingredients. If the food does contain garlic, strawberries or (at times) fish, volunteers will explain that the dish needs to be removed from the building.

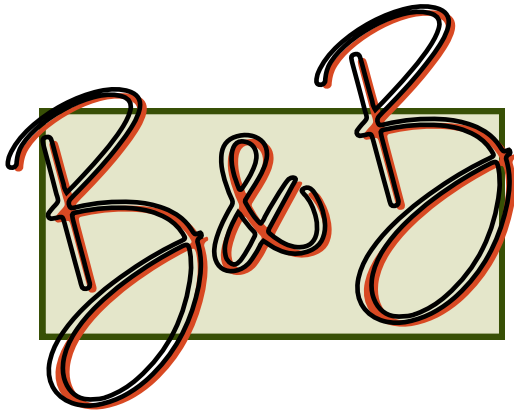
- We ask that people with allergies notify the office in advance if they ARE attending a particular potluck. That way, volunteers can be extra vigilant.
- To be clear, we will request “no garlic/no strawberries,” but we are not a professional kitchen and cannot promise that they will never slip in. People with allergies/medical aversions need to be mindful.

In addition, we will hold at least four explicitly vegetarian/no fish potlucks each year. These may include “Dessert Potluck,” such as at Shavuot.

For simchas, family events, and catered meals (such as seder) hosts will be notified that they are not to serve garlic or strawberries. Fish will be permitted. Even so, those with allergies and aversions are asked to remain mindful.

In the event that the rule is violated and garlic, strawberries, or fish are present when they are not supposed to be, we ask those affected to use the “Kvetch/Kvell” email address (feedback@bethshalom.org.nz), rather than contacting staff or volunteers directly. This is the appropriate system.





RETREAT DAY & AGM

Report from the Burial and Benevolent Society Retreat Day

The management committee of the B and B held a retreat day on Sunday 9 February to focus on issues that we do not have time to address in regular monthly meetings.

The committee:

1. Agreed on amendments to our constitution which will be put to members for their approval.
2. Reviewed the membership and contribution structure and drafted the motion which will be put to the AGM (see separate notice of AGM)
3. Reviewed the procedure for supporting funerals and shiva minyan in light of the training provided by Rabbi Dean.
4. Established a subcommittee to review our resources, including the guidelines provided about funerals and taharah and information for care facilities and hospices.
5. Reviewed committee roles.

We are delighted with the progress we made and look forward to speaking in more detail about our work at our AGM on **Sunday 30 March at 2.30pm**, prior to the Beth Shalom AGM.

Plot pre-purchase

We remind members that funeral related costs increase each year, partly due to the Council's annual increase in the cost of plots on 1 July each year. In the last two years, these increases have been significant.

If you wish to purchase either a burial or ash plot in our Progressive Jewish area of Waikumete, please ask for a letter of authorisation from the B and B as this is required by Waikumete Cemetery.

Sue Pezaro
Secretary - AJBBS

ALL TOGETHER NOW!



Yachad Jewish values sessions in March will be on **Sunday 9** and **16**, at 2pm. We will conduct a special Yachad session on Sunday 16 March at 2pm, and thereafter join in with the Purim celebrations in the shul hall.

Parents and caregivers of children registered for Yachad are encouraged to bring your child/ren along to our Sunday classes. Below is the April calendar for Yachad.

We look 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 Sedar 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

CRAFT MARKET MARCH 16TH

Chris Shiller

Crafty club and Community Care Leader

Our Craft Market, held in conjunction with the Purim Spiel hopes to be bigger and better this year.

Do you have a hobby or a craft that you would like to showcase at our Craft Market:

- Homemade preserves, pickles, jam, bottled fruit etc
- Judaica
- Painting, art work, greeting cards
- Pottery
- Jewellery
- Plants, seedlings

Calling Crafty Kids ...

We also have an exciting initiative this year - we would like to invite our talented youngsters in the community to set up (or share) a stall with their own handmade crafts eg jewellery, place mats, magnets, lollies or cookies to sell at the market.

We are calling for stall holders at this time – there is no stall fee although we do ask that if able, a donation is made to Community Care. The Market Day is also a fund raiser to help Community Care to continue their work in the community.

Last year's stall holders – we look forward to seeing you again this year and for potential new stall holders, we still have tables available.

Please note - there is very limited access to eftpos etc, therefore cash for transactions is the preferred means of payment on the day.

Date: Sunday March 16th

Time: 3pm – 5:30pm

If interested please either email office@bethshalom.org.nz or contact Chris Shiller email shiller@orcon.net.nz

WUPJ SHABBATON GATHERING

Thanks to Union for Progressive Judaism support, we are excited to present the time for the inaugural UPJ Gathering in New Zealand is near, from 21-22 March 2025. Our special guests include:

- **Rabbi George Mordecai, Temple Emanuel, Sydney**
- **Avishai Conyer, Head of Youth and Young Adult Education, Temple Emanuel, Sydney**
- **Danny Hochberg, co-president of Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)**

Beth Shalom is hosting the Shabbat Gathering in Auckland. The gathering will begin with Kol Nefesh (a meaningful, intentional and musical Kabbalat Shabbat service) at 6.30pm on Friday evening, 21 March followed by a potluck dinner. On Saturday morning, 22 March, Shabbat services start at 10.00am followed by lunch, catered by Carmel.

On Saturday afternoon, we will engage with learning sessions including topics like young adult engagement, Progressive Zionism, innovative lay leadership, and service-leading through music. After a seudah shlishit dinner, we will conclude with Havdalah.

Anyone interested in attending this event must register via humanitix. Please refer to the link provided in the President's article on page 4.

SHABBAT GATHERING

UPJ SHABBAT IN AUCKLAND

WHAT: An inspirational and educational Shabbat experience.

WHO: All members of any UPJ or KiwiPJ community in Aotearoa.

WHEN: 6:30pm Friday 21st March to Havdalah Saturday 22nd March, 2025.

WHERE: Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Rd, Auckland.

NOTICES



Save-the-Date: Seder in the Park

Let's celebrate FREEDOM together with a full but informal seder. Everyone's welcome to this RSVP essential event. Just copy and paste the following link in your web browser to access the registration form. the location will be advised to those who register two days before the event.

https://bethshalom.infoodle.com/form_process?g=2a63524e-eff5-4644-a6c4-87ee09e7f3f8

Purim at Beth Shalom

All are welcome to join us for Purim at Beth Shalom. Community care's Purim Market will start at 3pm, all are welcome to come and support each stall, please bring cash on hand for purchases. Our Purim Spiel and pagentry begins at 4pm, we do hope you will come and join in the fun and joy of Purim.



Mishloach Manot

All who are able are encouraged to take part in the Purim tradition of Mishloach Manot - sending portions of food and drink to family and friends.

Book of Esther 9:22

NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

All members of the Beth Shalom community are hereby reminded that our AGM will be held on **Sunday, 30 March 2025 at 4pm**. Please save-the-date into your calendars and all are invited to attend. The official notice and nomination forms for the AGM are available on our website (<https://bethshalom.org.nz>) and please take note that all nomination forms are required by March 9.

Please submit your nominations to the office via email – office@bethshalom.org.nz



שבעה: דקות בשקט

Events swirl around us. Feelings swirl within us.
This is a confusing, turbulent time.

Each week in March, Beth Shalom makes
SEVEN MINUTES OF QUIET
to sit together
with our thoughts, feelings, and with What Is.

We have different experiences and beliefs,
but we can sit together, quietly and without judgement
for seven minutes.

Join Rabbi Dean on Zoom promptly at 5 PM.
Meeting ID: 833 2545 9866 Passcode: Quiet
No RSVP required.

Seven Minutes of Quiet

All members are welcome to join this special 'Seven minutes of Quiet' online session with Rabbi Dean, every Wednesday in the month of March. The sessions will promptly start at 5pm, please connect via Zoom.

Bedikat HaMayim and Beach Clean Up



Beach Clean-Up

APRIL 6TH FROM 10 AM

Mangere Boating Club
32 Kiwi Esplanade
Mangere Bridge

All ages welcome but children must be supervised.
Bring sunscreen, a raincoat, drink bottle, closed-toed shoes, and gardening gloves. Soft gloves and garbage bags will be provided.

If you need carpooling or can provide carpooling
please contact Paul Wilton: paul@pl.net
any questions please contact
Pam Miller: pammymill@hotmail.com

Tzedakah - Auckland Women's Refuge (Urgent appeal)

The Women's Refuge are in urgent need of hygiene products for set up kits, baby food, baby wipes, nappies for newborn and older babies. They are also in need of warm clothing items for new-born babies through to mid-teen children. The Refuge has had an influx of large families including several small babies. Hopefully they will be going out into their own safe places soon, but they do need supplies to get the families started. This appeal also includes the non-perishable food and toiletries that we regularly collect. Please contact Chris Shiller (shiller@orcon.net.nz) if you need more information and ways to help.

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>



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

Kvetch and Kvell: Feedback at Beth Shalom

To give constructive feedback - whether positive or negative - please email: 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).

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 (Office Coordinator)

Website: www.bethshalom.org.nz

Communications: communications@bethshalom.org.nz

Assistant Administrator: administrator@bethshalom.org.nz

Board of Management

President - Michelle Wise, president@bethshalom.org.nz

Treasurer - Tamara Liebman, treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz

Secretary - Roger Reynolds, 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

Membership - membership@bethshalom.org.nz

Community Care [including Senior Outreach]

Email: shiller@orcon.net.nz or care@bethshalom.org.nz

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society

Email: secretary@ajbbs.org.nz or treasurer@ajbbs.org.nz

Security - Board Representative & Security Working-Group

Email: office@bethshalom.org.nz

Education - Yachad & Hebrew School

Email: educator@bethshalom.org.nz or learning@bethshalom.org.nz

Ritual

Email: services@bethshalom.org.nz