

TERUAH

THE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF AUCKLAND

5784
ELUL

BETH
SHALOM



המלך בשדה

ELUL

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Beth Shalom High Holy Day Appeal 2024

We invite you to make a meaningful contribution to our Beth Shalom community as we celebrate the High Holy Days. Thanks to your generosity, we've achieved so much at Beth Shalom. This year, we have an ambitious vision: revitalizing our community, enhancing our buildings and gardens, and expanding Yachad, our cherished Jewish Learning Program for children and youth. We're also thrilled to launch a New Zealand-wide leadership program for adults, culminating in a transformative Shabbaton in March 2025.

But to achieve all this, we must first ensure the safety and security of our community. In a time of heightened risk, we need your help to increase security at all our services, events, and gatherings. The focus of this year's High Holiday Appeal is on safeguarding our property and providing peace of mind for everyone who steps through our doors.

We invite you to take action now. A \$360 donation can sponsor professional security for a Shabbat weekend, \$180 can sponsor a Shabbat Service, and \$150 a Yachad session. Any amount you give will directly contribute to security guards and essential security upgrades. Please contact Tamara at treasurer@bethshalom.org.nz if you want to make a larger donation to offset the costs of enhanced physical security (cameras, equipment, fencing, shatter-proof windows, etc).

Give-a-little page link: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/high-holy-day-appeal-2024#!>

Your support is not just about maintaining a safe space—it's about empowering our community to thrive in a time when we need it most.

Please give generously to help secure the future of Beth Shalom and ensure that our community remains vibrant, safe, and welcoming for all.

B'shalom

Michelle Wise (President) and Mika Daniels (Board Member, Fundraising)



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Wise". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Email: president@bethshalom.org.nz

Elul Reflections 1

There is a moment on Slichot when the Ark stands empty.

The sacred scrolls have been removed and their mantels are being changed. As we replace the colourful covers the Torahs wear all year long with white clothes for the High Holy Days, the Holy Ark contains nothing but space. It stands wide open.

That moment is full of potential. That moment is holy.

In that moment, words are gone – the rules, the stories, the concepts, the allusions. There are no letters or vowels. There is nothing to say. Emptiness prevails.

That is how I strive to be during the Days of Awe. Although I speak and sing and pray many words, my goal is emptiness – that is, a deep acknowledgement that:

- I don't know what the year ahead holds for my body and my life, my family and friends, my community and world.
- I fool myself if I think I know what's right for myself, what I need.
- My attempts to manipulate the future, to woo a certain outcome, are feeble.
- I have nothing to offer God, the Source and Substance of the Cosmos, except my openness and acceptance. There is nothing to do but let go, to surrender to the Divine Will.

Silence is not empty. It has power. It contains freedom from doing, striving, advancing. It is an invitation to stop, breathe, be, experience, hold, gestate. It may be preparation for what comes next, but not necessarily. Quiet has many moods, many flavours. It can be gentle, heavy, expansive, oppressive, delicious, or crystalline. True silence is an echo of the Universe before God spoke the first word, before potential even existed. Silence has the power to invite something meaningful into being.

“R. Shimon ben Gamaliel said: ‘I grew up all of my days among the sages and I have found nothing better for oneself than silence’” (Avot 1:17).

The open doors of Aron HaKodesh represent, for me, the Gates of Prayer. Although the ark doors will be opened and closed many times throughout Elul and the Yamim Noraim, the Gates of Prayer are always as open -- as open as are our ark curtains at this moment of transformation. They forever encourage us to empty ourselves in true prayer. The invitation to wholeness, and wholeness of prayer, is always there. These Days of Awe, may your silences be full.



Rabbi Dean Shapiro

Email: rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5785



beth shalom
בית שלום

Selichot

A time for forgiveness and wholeness

Saturday 28th September 7pm

Services followed by shared
chocolate dessert.

In person and on Zoom



Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah:
6:30 pm Wednesday 2nd October

Rosh Hashanah Day:
Thursday 3rd October
Family Service - 9am
Morning Service - 10 am

ראש השנה שמח

beth shalom
בית שלום



"Here I am again ready to let go of my mistakes.

Help me to release myself from all the ways I've missed the mark.

As I cast this bread upon the waters open my heart to blessing and gratitude."



Do you have your own set of Mishkan T'Shuvah?

Our High Holy Day Machzorim come in a set of two. If you don't already have your own, they are available for \$90 per set from the office. For those planning on joining our Zoom room, rather than attending in person, please note that we are unable to page share, so having your own set will enhance your experience of the services.

To purchase please contact office@bethshalom.org.nz or call +64 9 524 4139.

Copies will be available for collection at synagogue (including at the High Holy Days themselves), or can be posted to people living outside of Auckland.

Yizkor Book

Our Yizkor book includes the names of everyone who is listed on our monthly Yahrzeit lists.

If you have any new names to add, please contact the office. If you are a new member, you could well have names to add.


REVERSE TASHLICH





Join us for another year of the Reverse Tashlich initiative!

In an effort to practice Tikkum Hayam (Repair of the Seas), we will dedicate a day to cleaning and protecting our beautiful Aotearoa waters!

We had an amazing turn out in previous years and we can't wait take on this challenge again!

 29th of September
10 AM

 246 Beach Haven
Road, Birkdale,
North Shore

 For more information
email paul@pl.net

GAN EDEN



*"We invite the Beth Shalom community to join us on **6 October at 4:30 PM** for a ceremony of dedication and commemoration."*

We are all scarred by the magnitude of the destruction that took place on 7 October. The sheer brutality boggles the mind. The horror rocks the world, and crushes the heart.

Each and every victim, both the killed and the injured, is a full human being. Each began that fateful morning with a life, a family, a story. One of them was Eden Zachariah (picture above). She was 28 years old, lived in Rishon LeTzion, and was about to begin training as an interior designer. She was also the cousin of our own Meir Alfassi.

Eden attended the Nova Music Festival along with her boyfriend Ofek. Tragically, they were both cut down in her prime.

Beth Shalom will mark the year anniversary of Eden's death and the 7 October massacre in a poignant way.

We will be dedicating the veggie garden in our back yard in her memory, calling it **Gan Eden - Eden's Garden**. This is our way to mark her death, honour her life, and salute her free spirit.

This dedication is especially fitting, as Meir and Jude have spent countless hours tending to Beth Shalom's gardens, along with other helpers. Eden's mother has given her blessing to Gan Eden.

We cannot bring back the dead. We cannot free the hostages. We cannot end this war or bring peace to Israel and its neighbours.

But we can create an oasis of calm in our own corner of the world, and we can care for it and tend it and let it be a beacon of love.

We hope you'll join us.

AJBBS

“We send New Year greetings from our Committee to all of the Community...”

Greetings all from Linda Kaye and the B&B,

This month we send our condolences to the family of June Shieff. We wish them all the traditional, long life.

There was much interest and good attendance numbers for the Shiva minyan workshop led by our Rabbi. Alongside local, familiar friends of B&B, we welcomed new contacts, including members who joined us from Waikato. We hope there will be an opportunity for follow-up workshops. It is a gift to families and community, to participate in leading the minyan service.

At our recent Committee meeting, we discussed ways to support and mentor minyan-leader volunteers. We welcome feedback and ideas.

As I write this column, we send condolences also to all who mourn the passing of Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII. Living in the Far North, I often attend tangi.



I marvel at the many connections between our Jewish practices and those of iwi Maori and of other communities who retain living connections to ancient cultures.

I am always reminded what a blessing it is to know that there will be familiar, time-honoured rituals and teams of trusted people to take over and guide us in our times of need.

Check out the notices in this Teruah for Kever Doroteinu (Sunday 6 October at 11am, at Waikumete Cemetery), the burial ground service that Rabbi Dean will lead during the High Holy Day period. This year, we will honour our dear late friend Rachel Dennyss with the setting of a plaque on her grave.

We send New Year greetings from our Committee to all of the community. May it be a year of peace, health and blessing.

L'shalom - AJBBS



There's plenty of special this coming Shabbat. We hope you'll join us.

SIGN UP FOR ELUL REFLECTIONS



"It is [our] hope that these reflections will encourage meaningful preparation for the High Holy Days" - Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors (ARC) of Australia



Our Jewish tradition teaches us to dedicate the 29 days in the month of Elul, the month preceding the High Holy Days, as a period of self-examination and spiritual deepening. The Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors (ARC) of Australia, New Zealand and Asia has prepared a series of reflections on the above themes – one for each day in the month of Elul. It is their hope that these reflections will encourage meaningful preparation for the High Holy Days.

If you would like to receive the daily email, each containing a new Elul Reflection, please e-mail upj@upj.org.au to subscribe.



We are having a great time at Yachad, learning Jewish Values alongside Hebrew, customs and traditions, chagem, prayers, songs and Israel. We recently enjoyed learning Israeli dancing followed by a family social Pizza and Games gathering. Students challenged the parents, teachers and each other and much fun was enjoyed by all.

Yachad Jewish Values 2 – 4pm (Alternate Sundays)

Hebrew online – weeknights.

7 – 12-year-old students.

All enquiries to Rachel Schanzer educator@bethshalom.org.nz



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.

CONTACT US

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.

Kvetch and Kvell: Feedback at Beth Shalom

To give constructive feedback - whether positive or negative - please email: feedback@bethshalom.org.nz

Tzedakah – 'Winter Appeal 2024' Women's Refuge Centre

The Women's Refuge continues to encounter a dire and critical demand for non-perishable food supplies, warm clothes for children aged 13-19yrs old and general winter supplies. As they navigate through their day-to-day services, your ongoing support remains invaluable. A table has been setup in the Foyer to receive donations. For more information on how you can help, reach out to Chris Shiller (shiller@orcon.net.nz).

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)

Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542
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Email: office@bethshalom.org.nz

Website: www.bethshalom.org.nz

Communications: communications@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 members – Michael Robinson, Stephanie Richling, Hilary Hemmins, Daniel Josephs, Arie Rosen, and Mika Daniel

Community Care, including Senior Outreach

Chris Shiller shiller@orcon.net.nz or care@bethshalom.org.nz

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society

Email: secretary@ajbbs.org.nz

Security - Board Representative & Security Working-Group

Email: office@bethshalom.org.nz