

TERUAH



Tammuz - Av 5785

July Edition

BETH SHALOM

The Progressive Jewish Congregation of Auckland, New Zealand



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World Zionist Congress

Delegate – Michelle Wise

We are proud to share that **Michelle Wise** has been elected as **New Zealand's delegate to the 2025 World Zionist Congress (WZC)**.

This achievement marks a significant moment for our community and reflects the growing strength of Progressive Jewish values in Aotearoa and beyond.

Michelle Wise's election follows a successful campaign led by ARZENU, the global Progressive Zionist slate. Her appointment is a testament to the strong support for inclusive, democratic ideals within our Jewish community—values that are central to both ARZENU and the broader Progressive movement.

Michelle brings a wealth of experience and dedication to this role. Her leadership journey includes serving as *Past President of Beth Shalom*, *Chair of KiwiPJ*, and active involvement with *Habonim Dror*, *Limmud NZ*, and the *WUPJ Global Leadership Fellowship*. Her unwavering commitment to a strong, secure, and pluralistic Israel has long inspired those around her.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the election process and offer our warmest congratulations to Michelle. Her voice will represent New Zealand with wisdom, compassion, and conviction at the WZC.

Mazal Tov, Michelle!

From the *Rabbi's* Desk

I met a longshoreman recently – two, in fact. And a nun, an Anglican priest, a Sallie, Union reps from several sectors, a Living Wage specialist, as well as a smattering of environmental activists from Australia. Our motley crew spent the week together recently, learning about Community Organising. Kiwis, Samoans, Tongans, Niueans, Fijians, Aussies – and three Americans for good measure – all learning how to harness People Power in pursuit of Social Justice. It was eye-opening and powerful.

The week was sponsored by Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga. That's an alliance of civic groups, including Beth Shalom, who gather to promote meaningful social change and human flourishing in Tāmaki Makaurau. Te Ohu's membership is comprised of religious organisations, unions, and other Trusts. By coming together, we expand our reach and impact.

First, we held "Relational Conversations." In these intentional one-on-one chats, you ask each other deep and meaningful questions. Then you really listen as they respond. It's amazing how much you can learn about someone in just thirty minutes, when you give one another permission to be curious, open and honest. Sharing our stories really kick starts relationships.

We also experienced "Table Talks." Groups of six sat together and told how housing puts pressure on our lives. That's when I learned what it's like for one young man who is responsible for himself, his young child, and his parents. Working long hours, he makes enough to cover rent, but there's not much left over afterwards. The high cost of housing his family in Auckland is a constant stressor for him. Table Talks help us understand one another's reality, and learn the realities of contemporary life.

Together, we hosted a public forum for Auckland Councilor Julie Fairley (Albert-Eden-Puketāpapa), who made several significant commitments to pay a Living Wage to council employees and to improve social housing in our city. These commitments emerged from a year's worth of Table Talks about housing held by Te Ohu organisations throughout the city, including one sponsored by Beth Shalom and Moishe House.

I was honoured to give the invocation, and to blow the shofar to call the meeting to order.

From the *Rabbi's* Desk (cont.)

More than it is a system of beliefs, Judaism is a code of conduct based in ethics. The Torah is clear that the ways we treat one another are of primary importance. When God promises to make Abraham a great nation, it is so that we will "to do what is just and right" (Genesis 18:19). The Torah is full of specific instructions – *mitzvot* – for how to treat one another properly. The Prophets pleaded for Social Justice. Indeed, the rabbis selected this passage from Isaiah to read on Yom Kippur:

No, this is the fast I desire:
To unlock fetters of wickedness,
And untie the cords of the yoke
To let the oppressed go free;
To break off every yoke.
It is to share your bread with the hungry,
And to take the wretched poor into your home;
When you see the naked, to clothe them,
And not to ignore your own kin. (58:6-7)

There's a reason so many great activists have been Jewish. Our tradition calls us to work and build towards a better world for all people. Because we are created "*btzelem Elohim* /in the image of God," we are all entitled to dignity, fairness, safety – and the social systems that provide them: affordable healthcare, safe and secure housing, quality education, and living wage among them.

For some, Judaism is about God, spirituality, or Israel, Jewish culture or the Jewish people. These are all key components of Judaism. But ethics are part of what it means to be Jewish, too.

We are called upon to act. As we pray in Mishkan Tfilah: "Make us know that the border of the sanctuary is not the border of living and the walls of Your temples are not shelters from the winds of truth, justice and reality. Disturb us, O God, and vex us; let not Your Shabbat be a day of torpor and slumber; let it be a time to be stirred and spurred to action." (Rabbi Rami Shapiro)

If you'd like to know more about Te Ohu, and Beth Shalom's involvement in this work, please let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rabbi Dean Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rabbi" written in a smaller, more formal script than the last name "Shapiro".

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society

One of the functions the **Burial and Benevolent Society** performs for its members is to hold a record of instructions, or wishes, about funeral arrangements. These instructions are referred to by the family or executor and the B and B when preparing for a funeral. The B and B committee will contact its members soon and offer them an opportunity to either provide instructions or update their existing ones. If you are not currently a member of the B and B Society and wish to join, please email secretary@ajbbs.org.nz. Remember, membership of the Auckland Jewish Burial and Benevolent Society is separate from membership of Beth Shalom.

The Meaning of *Tachrichim*

One of the questions asked on the B and B pre-arrangement (instructions) form is whether the member wants taharah, the ritual washing, and tachrichim, the traditional burial garments.

The practice of using tachrichim has a long history dating back to the second century of the Common Era when **Rabbi Simeon ben Gamliel II** asked to be buried in inexpensive linen garments after observing that some Jewish people were not burying their dead because they could not afford the burial. The custom of using tachrichim, and plain unadorned caskets, protects the poor from embarrassment at not being able to afford lavish burial clothes and ensures that all are equal in death.



[Making the shroud Prague ca1780]

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society (cont.)

A Tradition of Equality

Tachrichim are simple white shrouds made without buttons, zippers, or fasteners in cotton, muslin or linen. They include shirt, pants, a head covering, and a belt. Tachrichim cover the entire body, including the face, so that the deceased is both clothed and protected against the gaze of other people. In addition to tachrichim, some men and women choose to be wrapped in their prayer shawl, or tallit. Since shrouds have no pockets, wealth or status cannot be expressed or acknowledged in death. The continuing use of these garments reaffirms our fundamental belief in human equality.

We are very grateful to the members of our community who made the **tachrichim** we now use. They are continuing a *long tradition* and performing a great **mitzvah**, as are all who provide the service of **taharah**.

At this time, we acknowledge the huge contribution by the Reynolds/Dyson family to all aspects of the work of the Burial and Benevolent Society. We wish them *long life* as they mourn **Paul Dyson z"ll**, - *may his memory be a blessing*.

Tamara Liebman, **Board Treasurer**



Hi! I'm Tamara Liebman and I am the Treasurer on the Board of Management. This is my second year on the Board and as Treasurer.

I was born in Israel and have lived in Auckland since I was 5 years old. My original community was AHC and I went through the Bnei Akiva youth group and was a madricha after participating in their leadership programme back in the 90s.

My partner Patrick and I have two teenage children, and we joined Beth Shalom after my children started Sunday school here a decade ago. I have felt really at home in this Progressive community, which strongly aligns with

my values as a humanist. Supporting this community to continue in this complicated, changing world is why I am on the Board.

When I am not serving on the Board I practice as a commercial lawyer looking after small businesses and for purpose organisations under my Calibrate Legal brand. I love working with small business owners – people who are passionate about their businesses and welcome me into their teams. Helping small businesses grow and flourish is extremely professionally satisfying!

I hope this has helped put a face and personality to the name on your contribution communications! Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of this community.

Beth Shalom

Board Highlights

1 - *Financial* Health



The Board reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report. Finances remain stable as we continue to prioritise transparency and sustainability. However our limited income puts constraints on what we can achieve as a community. We need to optimise income from our assets, leading to the next major item on our Agenda.

2 - Real Estate & *Property Planning*



Following discussion at the May Board meeting, and building on previous work, a comprehensive spreadsheet was developed outlining four property options for Margot St. –from minimal maintenance to major refurbishment to potential sale and reinvestment. The Board evaluated the refurbishment options in June with initial costings and input from real estate as to likely rental income according to the level of refurbishment. We will pursue detailed costings around two of these, with further input from investment professionals at the July meeting. Once the Board has identified the preferred options these will be put to the community at a Special General Meeting.

3 - Responding to *Congregational Feedback*



The Board formally acknowledged receipt of a community letter raising concerns around process and fairness. After review and thoughtful discussion, the Board affirmed that while actions taken followed best intentions, the absence of a formal grievance resolution process created uncertainty. As a result:

- The Board will explore establishing a conflict resolution policy.
- A deeper discussion around roles, communication, and boundaries will be brought forward.
- The Executive is working on a draft response that reflects our community values of listening, learning, and respectful dialogue.

4 - Arzenu *Nomination*



The Board unanimously endorsed Michelle Wise as the Beth Shalom candidate for the World Zionist Congress elections. By the time Teruah goes to press voting will have closed – we are hopeful that Michelle will have been elected!

Beth Shalom

Board Highlights (cont.)

5 - *Meet the Board* Event



The first informal "Meet the Board" session was held on Sunday June 22. There will be similar meetings in the future - a chance for you to connect, ask questions, and get to know your board members—no agenda, just community.

6 - *Staffing* Updates



We bade a warm farewell to Nukutau (Nuks to all of us) and now welcome to our new Office Manager, Alex. Thank you to all who helped make the transition smooth.

7 - Upholding Our *Values*



The Board had an animated discussion following the recent statement by the Foreign Ministers of New Zealand and other countries. This called for sanctions against two Israeli government ministers (Smotrich and Ben-Gvir) while striving to ensure an immediate ceasefire, the release of the remaining hostages and for the unhindered flow of

humanitarian aid including food. The signatory governments also called for a reconstructed Gaza no longer run by Hamas, a political pathway to a two-state solution, and no unlawful transfer of Palestinians from Gaza or within the West Bank. Noting the repeated statements by Smotrich and Ben-Gvir disavowing the status of Progressive Judaism, and their openly racist and homophobic remarks, some members of the Board saw this as an opportunity to declare our support for the Ministerial statement as being concordant with the values of a Progressive Jewish congregation. Other Board members felt that such a statement would be overtly political, alienating to some members, or risk exposing the community to hostile reaction from the wider community.

The Board would value feedback from the community as to how and when it is felt appropriate to express the congregation's position on matters that may be controversial but which are at the heart of our status as a Progressive Jewish community.

If you wish to give feedback either use [Kvetch and Kvell](#), contact a Board member, or attend one of the occasional Meet the Board sessions.

Jewish Values & Hebrew Learning

Our weekly online Hebrew classes continue to be a wonderful space for connection and learning. The children have been engaging with Hebrew letters, vowels, and words, while deepening their understanding of Jewish culture and context.

Our **Jewish Values** sessions in *Term Two* have been a truly enjoyable and enriching experience for our children. This term, we explored the concept of *Betselem Elohim*—the idea that every person is created in the image of God. Through this lens, students learned about the importance of treating others with kindness, respect, and dignity.

Please refer to our **Yachad July** calendar for **Term 3** start dates for both *Jewish Values* and *Hebrew* online classes.



JULY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13 School Holidays end
14 Term 3 starts TSHUVAH Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	15 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	16 Hebrew online Aleph Time TBC	17	18	19	20 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
21 Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	22 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	23 Hebrew online Aleph Time TBC	24	25	26	27
28 Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	29 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	30 Hebrew online Aleph Time TBC	31	01	02	03

Community Care *Mid-Winter* Lunch

When: Wednesday July 23rd

Time: 12:00 – 2:00pm

Where: Beth Shalom Hall

If you are free on **Wednesday, 23rd July**, please come and join us for lunch and hear guest speaker, our own *Helen Schamroth*, talk about her new book **"Eighteen for Life: Surviving the Holocaust"** – see below:

"There are secrets I will take to my grave," Martha Ash told her daughters. "I don't want you to think I am a hero," declared their father Feliks.

The past in Poland was to be left behind. Martha and Feliks were determined they would create a future in Melbourne and a loving family environment. It was time to enjoy the good life they could only dare to dream of as they struggled to survive the Holocaust.

Helen Schamroth and her sister Eve unraveled fragments of their parents' harrowing experiences that they endured and overcome with extraordinary courage. Helen's eighteen connected stories tell of unspeakable loss, cultural dislocation, chutzpah, hope, creativity, deception and love.

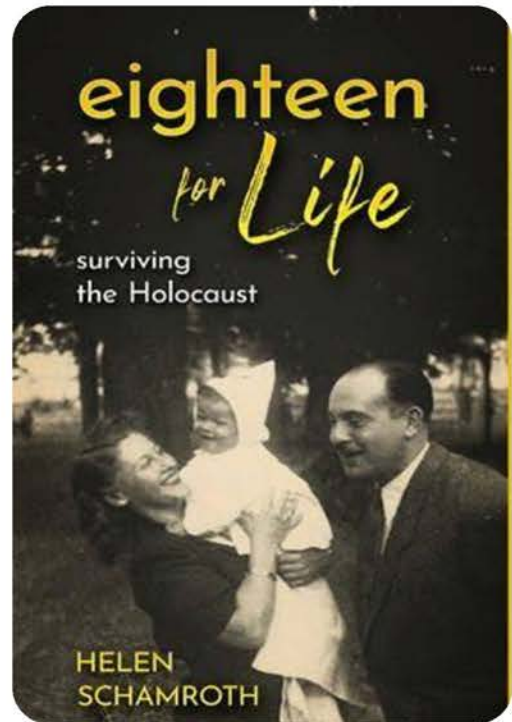
"Copies of Helen's books will be available to buy and for each copy sold, a donation will be made to **Beth Shalom**.

Also, most of you are aware that it has been our *minhag* at **Beth Shalom** to consistently support the **Women's Refuge** over the years. With that in mind – and the fact that the Refuge is really struggling at the moment to feed the large number of women and children they are housing – we invite everyone who attends the lunch to donate an item of non-perishable food or toiletries.

Come and enjoy a bowl of hot soup, warm bread rolls and yummy dessert.

If you are interested – please contact **Chris Shiller** email shiller@orcon.net.nz or **0211774934** or office@bethshalom.org.nz before July 21st as we will need numbers for catering and security purposes. Please let us know if you have special dietary requirements – we will do our best to meet them!

Community Care Team



Community Notices

Shabbat Potluck



Please no strawberries or garlic as we have members with severe allergies.

Crafty Club - July Meeting

Last month we had a very diverse group of "crafty" people doing all sorts of interesting "crafty" activities – as well as enjoying snacks and refreshments. So if you knit, crochet, paint, draw, sew, embroider or are writing a novel or your memoirs please join us on:

When: Saturday, 5 July

Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm



People of 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.

Community

Notices (cont.)

We're searching for

E-SHAMMASHIM

If you have access to a computer with zoom and a strong wi-fi and would be available to help a few services a month



The role includes co-ordinating with the in-persons shammash, admitting people on zoom and sharing the digital siddur.

Please contact: office@bethshalom.org.nz

Community Notices (cont.)

Senior Outreach

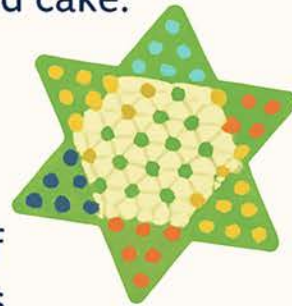
WEEKLY POP-IN CENTRE ALL WELCOME!

The Pop-In Centre welcomes community members to join our gathering and participate in a range of activities and test your skill at Bananagrams, Rummikub or Chinese Checkers or, for the more artistically inclined, painting on canvas or bring your own handiwork projects. All with light refreshments, coffee and cake.



The Drop In is open
**every Tuesday from
11am – 2pm**

except the last Tuesday of
the month/school holidays
and Festivals.



Join us for an hour or two,
or however long suits



For further information
please email Maxine at
maxinedejong@gmail.com or
phone on **021 614 446**

Address: AJCC Centre, 514 Remuera Road, Remuera

Community Sponsors



Meir Alfassi
Commercial / Industrial
M 021 221 0155
E meir.alfassi@barfoot.co.nz

LICENSED REAA 8008
**BARFOOT
THOMPSON &**
COMMERCIAL



Erman Trust

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Erman Trust Seeks a Treasurer

After 22 years our Treasurer is hanging up his boots and we are seeking someone to carry on his amazing work. The **Erman Trust** is a charitable organisation that supports members of the **Jewish Community** to attend programs based in Israel. The position is not arduous and in total would involve 30 to 40 hours a year (being generous). The position includes:

- Communication with chairman
- Being a co-signatory to ASB accounts with internet access
- Monitoring income from investments and ASB deposits
- Placement of funds for appropriate periods including getting negotiated interest rates from ASB
- Ensuring sufficient funds available for trust expenditure (mainly grants)
- Making payments (jointly with chairman) including grant payments made locally and remittances to Israel
- Preparing annual accounts and cash flow
- Assisting with Commerce Commission return
- There is a small stipend available

Please contact **David Kranz** **021 958 904** or email ermantrust@gmail.com

Security Notices

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 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 [Report an Incident Form Online](#)

File police reports with NZ Police at [Report Incident Form Online](#)

Non-members and visitors

(local or overseas) need to contact the office to assist with security clearance process. Call [09 524 4139](tel:09-524-4139) or email:

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)

Contact Information

Board of Management

President: [Vacant]

Vice President - Mika Daniels, vice_president@bethshalom.org.nz

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

Secretary – Roger Reynolds, 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

Rabbi

Rabbi Dean Shapiro, rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz



Prayers for Healing

If you would like our home prayer group to pray for healing—for yourself or someone close to you—please contact the office - office@bethshalom.org.nz

Kvetch and Kvell: Feedback

To offer constructive feedback—whether positive or critical - feedback@bethshalom.org.nz

Membership

membership@bethshalom.org.nz

Community Care [including Senior Outreach]

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

Security - Board Representative & Security Working-Group

office@bethshalom.org.nz

Auckland Jewish Burial & Benevolent Society

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

Ritual

services@bethshalom.org.nz

Education - Yachad & Hebrew School

educator@bethshalom.org.nz

Office Coordinator

office@bethshalom.org.nz

Assistant Administrator

administrator@bethshalom.org.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

Website: www.bethshalom.org.nz