

TERUAH



Sivan – Tammuz 5785
June Edition

The Progressive Jewish Congregation of Auckland, New Zealand

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A *World* Aflame, A Call for *Peace*

Beth Shalom joins world Jewry – and all people of good conscience – in decrying the recent spate of Anti-Zionist and antisemitic attacks in Colorado, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. We reject the notion that violence is legitimate political protest and mourn the loss of life and innocence taking place in our polarised world.

These days, our world is on fire – both metaphorically and literally. We pray for an end to hatred. We pray for calm and connection. We pray for restraint. We pray for sound minds to prevail. We yearn for an end to violence and the return of hope – not the hope of fanciful dreaming, but the kind of hope that inspires the hard, practical work that builds a better world for all.

Our *Amazing* candidate for the WZC

You have read in recent newsletters about what the World Zionist Congress (WZC) is, and why it is so important to vote. If you have registered already, please diarise 15 June to vote.

New Zealand's proposed delegate for ARZENU is **Dr Michelle Wise**, Past-President of Beth Shalom Progressive synagogue in Auckland. She is also past-Chair of KiwiPJ, a network of Jewish communities around the country. She recently completed the WUPJ Global Leadership Fellowship, including a seminar in Israel. This year Michelle organised the inaugural UPJ Shabbaton in Auckland and the inaugural KiwiPJ leadership program for 25 emerging leaders from communities all over the country. She has been to Israel 7 times and has met with leaders in all the National Institutions. **Michelle has been instrumental in influencing all the relevant stakeholders to secure Shlichut for New Zealand for 2025.**



Michelle attends Limmud NZ every year and will be leading her 3rd session this June. She was previously the head of Parents and Friends of Habonim Dror Aotearoa New Zealand, and the chanichim and madrichim may also know her as the 'camp doctor.' Michelle's children went to Kadimah school, Habonim Dror, and both Maia and Jonah became B'nei Mitzvah at Beth Shalom. Michelle grew up in a large Reform congregation in Toronto, participated in the Reform youth movement NFTY and spent summers at camp with Canadian Young Judea.

In her career, Michelle is a specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Auckland Hospital and an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland. She moved with her husband Nic and their family to Auckland from Canada in 2010; they have just become 'empty nesters.'

See this Instagram link to hear Michelle speak about ARZENU and what it stands for: [Michelle Wise](#) and follow ARZENU on Instagram: [arzenu_olami](#)

Here are some photos of the Arzenu campaign so far:



Spoke to Temple Sinai members after Shabbat services



Gave out biscuits at Yom Haatzmaut at AJCC



Presented at Beth Shalom



Met for lunch at the Fat Camel with Northland Jewish Association

Shavuot at Beth Shalom



We had a most successful and well attended Tikkun Leyl on Erev Shavuot. Rabbi Dean had organised a most interesting set of speakers for the Tikkun including

- Helen Schamroth talked about her new memoir "Eighteen for Life"
- Rabbi Ma'ayan Turner gave her perspective on the current situation in Israel with a talk called "Occupation and Accountability: The Reality in the West Bank through a Rabbi's Eyes" on Zoom
- Liat Oz, archaeologist, spoke on "Mosaics in Israel's Ancient Synagogues: 'Thou shall not make a Graven Image or Likeness?!'"
- Rabbi Dean spoke on "Building Community – Jewish Law on Houses and Civic Obligation"
- Ayelet Zoran-Rosen gave the final talk "Anti-Semitism: A Modern Twist on an Ancient Hatred"

For the first two sessions participants needed to choose which session to go to, a difficult choice as most of us wanted to hear all the talks!!



We thank

- Rabbi Dean for putting together the Tikkun
 - Our wonderful speakers
 - Pam Miller for the beautiful Shavuot decorations in the shul and hall and to Bill Merrill for assisting her
 - Bill Merrill, Eileen Jordahl and others who helped to set up the pot luck dessert table
 - Pam Miller for organising the successful Shavuot tzedakah collection of canned and dried fruit for the Auckland City Mission
 - Faith Kerekere for running the Arts and Crafts table
 - Lenny Bloksberg and Christopher Dempsey for shammosing and helping with the AV
- The CSG team in attendance at the gate, Jonathan Parsons for the morning service
 - Jen Proctor and Naomi Johnson for e-shammosing – we apologise for the problem with the links
 - Meg who washed the dishes
 - Chris and Jessamie Milton for leading the Shavuot morning service
 - Lenny Bloksberg for shammosing and Leon Goldwater e-shammosing briefly till we closed the zoom room due to the link issue

As always, the teamwork provided by our volunteers is a key factor in making our events such a success. We value you all.

“Sharing our *Faiths*”

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH EVENT HELD AT
BETH SHALOM



On Sunday 18th May Beth Shalom hosted a heart-warming event where members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association came to meet women from Beth Shalom and the wider Jewish community. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, through their outreach leader (Rizwana Reddy), had asked Naomi Johnson if they could visit to learn more about Judaism and to use her words "to build bridges between us". Naomi, who has attended Ahmadiyya interfaith events regularly over many years, so knew, and respected this group of women, was pleased that the Jewish Community could return some of their hospitality.

Naomi gave a "Judaism 101" talk in the sanctuary and Chris Shiller chanted some Torah as well as giving the women an opportunity to see the Torah up close. This proved to be a real highlight of their visit. After a quick morning tea, Rizwana Reddy spoke on behalf of the Ahmadiyya women, giving an "Islam 101" talk in return. It was the turn of the Jewish women present to ask questions and to learn more about Islam.



The event was so captivating that we overran our time in both the Jewish and Muslim learning sessions.

Beth Shalom thanks The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association for the very special gifts of books for our synagogue library: The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam and the copy of Selected Verses of the Holy Quran, Hebrew Translation. We really appreciate these gifts.

Everyone attending, both Muslim and Jewish, really enjoyed the event. We heard comments like "I am so glad I came today" from a Muslim woman to "This was the best interfaith event I have ever been to" from a Jewish woman. We all agreed that we had fulfilled the goal of "building bridges between us". A number of our Jewish women have expressed interest in attending the Ahmadiyya Women's Interfaith event scheduled for August and, also, look forward to visiting their beautiful Mosque.

Thank you to Chris Shiller for her wonderful talk on the Torah, to the Astor Foundation for their input, and to the team of women from Beth Shalom who provided food for morning tea and who helped to make the event such a success.

It is events like this that bring our Abrahamic faiths closer together, which all helps make the world a better place.



Meet *Mika Daniels*

Vice President, Beth Shalom Board

Hi, I'm Mika Daniels. I was born in the U.S. to Israeli parents and am proudly first-generation American. In mid-2022, my husband Garvey and I packed up our life and moved our family to New Zealand. These days, we live in Mellons Bay with our two teenagers, Liam (16) and Mila (15), who are navigating high school life at Macleans College.

When I'm not acting as Uber driver, I love beach walks (yes, I know—so cliché!), trying out new restaurants, and attempting to keep plants alive in my ever-hopeful garden.

I recently stepped into the role of Vice President on the Beth Shalom Board, where I help lead fundraising and host our potluck gatherings. We joined Beth Shalom because, from the first moment we

walked through the doors, it just felt like home. The community has wrapped us in warmth, and so many of you now feel like family.

At the heart of it all, my inspiration is simple: I want my kids—and one day, their kids—to feel deeply connected to our Jewish heritage. Whether it's saying Hamotzi or celebrating Passover, I want those traditions to stay alive and meaningful. Being involved with Beth Shalom helps make that happen—and I'm so grateful to be a part of the Shul with all of you.



Message from the New AJBBS President

Jack Wilton

It's a privilege to write to you as the newly elected President of the Auckland Jewish Burial and Benevolent Society. I have served as Treasurer for the past three years, and I've found it to be a really great experience. The work of the Society is often quiet and behind-the-scenes, but it is work imbued with love, care, and community spirit.

One of the most touching aspects of this role has been witnessing the generosity and commitment of both the volunteers on the committee and others in the wider community. Whether sewing tachrichim, supporting bereaved families, assisting with tahara, or quietly ensuring that the cemetery remains cared for, each person contributes to the mitzvah of chesed shel emet — the true act of kindness. It is humbling to see this spirit alive in our community.

The AGM, society elections and issuance of tax deduction certificates has a feel of the new year to it, and coming up, the committee is focusing on reconnecting with our membership and ensuring that our records are

accurate and up to date. In the coming months, a group of us will be phoning all members. This is mostly intended as a practical measure, to ensure that the information we have for our members is accurate and up to date, but if you have any questions or require anything from us then this will be a good opening of communications.

The committee continues to work on several other important projects, including reviewing our guidelines for funerals and burials, strengthening our communication with care facilities, and supporting ongoing volunteer training. We also thank those who have generously donated toward benevolence — your support allows us to extend help where it is most needed.

If you have questions about your membership, wish to join, or would like to contribute to our work, or wish to talk to us about benevolence please don't hesitate to reach out via secretary@ajbbs.org.nz.

Or you can reach me at: president@ajbbs.org.nz

Yachad



All Together Now!

The theme for **Term 2** is **Betselem Elohim** - which is all about being created in the image of God and what this means with regard to treating others with kindness and respect.

We warmly invite Parents and caregivers of children registered for Yachad to bring your child/ren along to our Sunday classes.

Please see the June Yachad calendar for all session dates. We're looking forward to an enjoyable and meaningful learning experience together for our children and all in attendance!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 Erev Shavuot
02 Shavuot Kings Birthday	03 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	04 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	05	06	07	08 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
09 Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	10 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	11 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	12	13	14	15 LIMMUD
16 Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	17 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	18 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	19	20 Matariki	21	22 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
23 Hebrew online Gimel A 6.30 - 7.30pm	24 Hebrew online Bet 4.45 - 5.45pm	25 Hebrew online Gimel B 5.00 - 6.00pm	26	27 Term 2 ends	28 School Holidays start	29
30						

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.



2. Real Estate & Property Planning

A comprehensive spreadsheet is in development outlining four property options—from minimal maintenance to potential sale and reinvestment. The Board aims to evaluate each scenario with input from real estate, renovation, and investment professionals to make an informed decision at the next meeting.



3. ARZENU Nomination

The Board unanimously endorsed **Michelle Wise** as the Beth Shalom candidate for the **World Zionist Congress** elections.



4. Meet the Board Event

The first informal "Meet the Board" session will be held on **Sunday, June 22**. It's a chance for you to connect, ask questions, and get to know your board members—no agenda, just community.



5. Staffing Updates

A warm farewell to Nuks and welcome to our new Office Manager, Alex. Thank you to all who helped make the transition smooth.



Community Notices

Bat Mitzvah! *Harmony Caunes*

It is with much pride that Olivier and Hannah warmly invite you to join us for the bat Mitzvah of our daughter Harmony Caunes.



Click here to participate via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 832 4809 6392

Passcode: 596538

Notices – Continued

Yachad Classroom Update



We are pleased to share that the Yachad classrooms have been thoughtfully refreshed with new carpet.

The fresh, inviting look has truly transformed the learning environment, and we can't thank our team enough. Special thanks go to Meir Alfassi, Judith Hunt, Judith Marks, and Jacob—whose insights and hard work made this all possible.

In addition, we respectfully request your support in replacing the four blinds in the Yachad classrooms. Your donations will ensure that these spaces continue to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for all who use them.

Notices – Continued



Tzedakah - Shavuot Thank You to Our Community

THANK YOU to our Beth Shalom community for your generosity this Shavuot in the dried and canned fruit collection. The Auckland City Mission is very appreciative.

Todah Rabah

Thank you to all who donated warm winter clothes and pyjamas to our Women's Refuge Winter Appeal together with the ongoing non-perishable food supplies and toiletries for the women and children

A huge "thank you" to the Yachad students and their parents – this amazing team donated over \$200's worth of supplies to the Women's Refuge. The money used was the profit made by the Yachad stall at the Purim Market earlier this year - well done and we look forward to seeing you at next year's Market, bigger and better!

Currently the Refuge is in need of non-perishable food items such as: cereals, porridge, soup, soup mixes – winter warmers! Spreads eg jam, peanut butter, vegemite, honey, long life milk, tea and coffee, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, baby wipes and sanitary products.

Thank you
Chris Shiller



Notices – Continued

Sanctuary Etiquette

Let's make everyone's experience at Beth Shalom as good as we can. Here are some pointers from the Ritual Committee that will make a difference:

- Smart modest clothing – casual is fine
- If we are late, we walk behind the bimah to find a seat so as not to disturb others
- We hold off entering the sanctuary if the congregation is standing
- Our mobile phones are off or on silent
- To maintain the sanctity of the moment, we don't talk when the ark is open or the Torah is being read
- We avoid walking in or out of the sanctuary while the Torah reader is "leining" as this can be very distracting for the Torah reader
- Photos may be taken after the service but not during the service
- We don't eat or drink in the sanctuary apart from sipping water from a water bottle
- It is our custom to say "yasher koach" to congratulate someone during a service instead of applauding.
- When young children become restless, we take them to the play area in the hall
- It is gracious for visitors or late comers to be given a siddur and know what service we are on

Updated by the Ritual Committee 4 June 2025

Security

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 <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

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

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

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

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

Communications

communications@bethshalom.org.nz

Office Coordinator

office@bethshalom.org.nz

Assistant Administrator

administrator@bethshalom.org.nz

Board & Management

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

Board of Management Ex-Officio & Rabbi

Rabbi Dean Shapiro, rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz

Affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ)
Charities Commission Registration Number CC29542

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