

TERUAH MAGAZINE



Iyar-Silvan 5786 May 2026 Edition

The **Progressive Jewish Congregation** of Auckland, New Zealand [t/a Beth Shalom]

www.bethshalom.org.nz

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Beth Shalom Beach Clean April 2026

Letter to Beth Shalom through Pamela Miller received from the Chairperson of the Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board. Photo provided by Pamela Miller, used with permission.

Dear Pamela & team,

On behalf of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, thank you for the valuable work your group has been undertaking within our local community.

We greatly appreciate the commitment your members have shown over the past two years in caring for the Mangere Boating Club Reserve and surrounding coastal area along Kiwi Esplanade. Your efforts to remove not only larger rubbish but also microplastics are particularly

commendable, given the significant harm these materials pose to bird-life and aquatic ecosystems..

Please convey our sincere thanks to all those involved, for their ongoing dedication and contribution to the cleanliness and wellbeing of the Mangere Boating Club Reserve. Your efforts reflect the strong community spirit that makes this area such a special place..

Kaea Walter Inoke-Togiamua



Community Stories - A mini series

Beth Shalom Walking Club



We had a delightful walk on Sunday 19 April on the Lynfield Coastal Walk hosted by Naomi Johnson.

While this walk happened to be all women, this is most unusual as there are a good number of men in this walking group.

To join the Whats App group for the Beth Shalom Walkers so that you know about upcoming walks, please email Naomi on services@bethshalom.org.nz.

A special moment shared with David Barnston



Chris Shiller and Naomi Johnson enjoyed lunch with David Barnston, now 102 years old, at the Kosher Deli.

David is a former past president of Beth Shalom. Naomi remembers going to Hebrew School with his sons many decades ago!

Photo provided by Chris Shiller, used with permission.

Christopher Tubby appoint by CSG as Regional Security Officer



The New Zealand Jewish Community Security Group Charitable Trust (CSG) has appointed Christopher TUBBY to the position of Regional Security Officer (RSO), as of March 2026.

Chris was employed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Security Manager and Deputy Chief Security Officer. His career also includes service with the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Grampian Police, and the Royal Air Force Police, providing a strong operational foundation to his strategic leadership approach.



We had a wonderful outdoor seder experience led by Rabbi Dean. The weather was perfect and the park setting beautiful. The event was full of learning and also highly enjoyable. Thank you, Rabbi Dean!

Passover Picnic in the Park



Rabbi Dean's Column

I ran a half marathon once, and it wasn't easy. When I started training, I could only run two blocks. I remember those early days – "I'll keep going until I cross three more drives," then "I'll keep going until the tree." Eventually, two blocks turned into two miles, then thirteen and a medal. But it didn't come all at once. It came day after day, run after run, step after step.

The same is true for the Jewish people. After the thrill of Freedom – celebrated at Pesach – we make our way, day after day, to another peak experience: the Encounter at Sinai. Each day is marked by the Omer, seven weeks of seven days, as we count our way to Sinai.

What medal do we get when we arrive? The Torah, the sign of our Covenant, a collection of wisdom and law.

The medal I received for my half marathon is long gone. It was fun to look at for a while, but it lost its luster eventually. After all, the real benefits of running were health, discipline, accomplishment, and joy.

The Torah, on the other hand, remains with us. It sits at the very heart of our synagogue and our people. It tells our stories, reminds us who we are, and inspires us to consider the people we'd like to become. Like a Tree of Life, it continues to expand, blossoming and bearing fruit. Our task is to embrace it – that is, to engage with the extraordinary gift we've inherited.

Shavuot, the fiftieth day following Pesach, celebrates the receiving of the Torah by the Jewish people at Sinai. What's the right way to mark such an occasion? By learning Torah! Not just the Torah contained in the scroll in the ark, but also the Torah that flows from that original document – that is, the wisdom and lived experience of our people.



We stay awake into the night, learning, pondering – and, yes, schmoozing and eating. Shavuot celebrates who we are by connecting us with our very heart and soul.

Join us to do just that on Friday evening, 22 May. After an Erev Shabbat service led by Paul Wilton, you're invited to a series of talks, text-studies, and presentations.

These include:

- Ayelet Zoran-Rosen on "A Tale of One City - Jerusalem from the Romans to the British"
- Josh Sampson on "Exodus: Forming a Nation"
- Noah Raad Jawad on "The Life of Theodore Herzl"
- Kira, Milachi and Elias Bacal on "Ideas from Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks"

Also, it's a chance to meet and hear from Dean Pe'er, our new shaliach, who will have just arrived in New Zealand!

Ashley Strain will MC the festivities.

The night is punctuated by dairy dessert – so bring something to share and sample the offerings! It's said that dairy is the food of Shavuot because, on that night in particular, we imbibe Torah wisdom like babes drink milk.

You're also invited to bring a donation of dried or canned fruit, to go benefit the Auckland City Mission, an echo of the First Fruits our ancestors brought to the ancient Temple on Shavuot.

This Shavuot, we cross the finish line together.

THIS WEEK Torah Study
with Rabbi Dean

The Book of Genesis

After Shabbat Morning Services
9 May
Also 20 June, 11 Jul, 29 August
Beth Shalom

and monthly throughout 2026

Approximately 11:15 AM - No Registration Necessary

Community *Notice*

Tikkun Leil Shavuot A Night of Jewish Learning

Discussions, Workshops & Seminars
on a range of topics
plus
Potluck Dessert, Shabbat Prayers & Socialising

**Come meet our new shaliach,
Dean Pe'er!**



Erev Shabbat
Friday, 22 May - 6:30 PM

Beth Shalom:
The Progressive
Jewish Community
of Auckland

Friendly reminder that desserts should not have strawberry - raw, toppings or flavoured, due to severe allergies.

Shaliach introduction:

Dean Pe'er

Last time we had a Shaliach in New Zealand was March 2020, when Stav was recalled to Israel during the pandemic. I looked back through my files and found the folder called "Shaliach 2024" – we have been working tirelessly since March 2023 to reestablish Shlichut in New Zealand and I am happy to report that Dean Pe'er will be arriving on 20 May 2026 to begin his Shlichut.

Shlichut refers to the Israeli emissary (shaliach/shlichah) program run by The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI, or the Sochnut). It sends young Israelis to work in Jewish summer camps, schools, Hillels, and community centers globally. Shlichim act as an "authentic living bridge," fostering personal connections and providing, educating on, and sharing Israeli culture.

This is a unique Shlichut because it is a first for JAFI to have a partnership of two funding streams, one being community and the other being youth movement. What this means for us is that half of Dean's work will be with the progressive Jewish community, primarily Beth Shalom in Auckland with some outreach to other UPJ affiliated communities in NZ; the other half will be with the Habonim Dror youth movement.

Dean's role with Beth Shalom includes Kabbalat Shabbat, teaching at Yachad, leading the youth, running arts projects associated with the Jewish holidays with children, catching up with young adults, running events with TaMaR, young adult and adult teaching about Israel, and helping to plan Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut with the wider Jewish community in Auckland.

We understand that Dean won't be able to do all these activities all the time, rather this is a range of possible activities that hopefully he will offer our community – let's see what he wants to do! Dean can introduce himself in the next Teruah but having met him in Israel on his kibbutz, I can tell you we are lucky to have him join us.

Dean will join the other Shlichim in Auckland - Yaniv at Kadimah School, and the AHC Shlichim who will be arriving in the spring. And he will be connected to the Shlichim in Australia via Sara Ribner. He has designated host families, and he will meet regularly with Rabbi Dean as his direct Supervisor. So lots of support!



Photo: Michelle Wise and Dean Pe'er. Photo provided by Michelle Wise

We are incredibly grateful to the generous funders who have made this finally happen:

- JAFI who is our financial partner in Israel;
- Board of Management of Beth Shalom who is employing Dean, providing office space, and is also contributing financially;
- Maon Trust who is collaborating with us to provide accommodation;
- Union for Progressive Judaism who is providing a grant over three years; and the Harry Baker Memorial Trust who is providing a grant over two years.

And thanks to the NZ Shaliach team: Rachel, Osnat, Rabbi Dean, Habonim Dror Parents & Friends, and Habonim Dror Mazkir.

Submitted by Michelle Wise, New Zealand representative to the World Zionist Congress

Special Feature Series: 'A Seder with a difference'



Arthur and Chris have been part of the back-bone of Beth Shalom almost from the day they arrived in NZ. We think that probably the only task, function, committee or portfolio held, that Arthur hasn't achieved at Beth Shalom is blowing the shofar!

Back to the seder – it was always the tradition at Beth Shalom to hold a community seder on the 3rd night of Pesach.

Some readers will remember our old shul – the hall was used as the sanctuary and our current sanctuary used to be the kitchen, toilets and a long room that served any and every function – meeting room, social activities, Hebrew School and of course the community seder.

This particular year was no different - 100 people were expected and the menu consisted of chicken soup and kneidlach (yes, we used to allow meat on the premises!), mains consisted of roast chicken, vegetables and salad.

The guests were starting on the service when it was realised that the chickens for the main course had not been ordered. Arthur quickly phoned a takeaway restaurant nearby – Homestead Chicken – and a dozen beautifully cooked chickens arrived at Beth Shalom. Nothing wrong with that you might say but as the team were carving the chickens, there was a loud shriek from the kitchen when it was discovered that all the chickens were filled with bread stuffing.

According to Arthur there was a mad panic but every last breadcrumb was scraped out of those chickens, and, according to Arthur, no-one was any the wiser and a very enjoyable seder was had by all!

Photo: Arthur and Chris Berman. Used by permission, shared by Chris Shiller

This is a story told by Arthur Berman to add to our stories from the past 70 years, but first a bit of back ground.

Arthur and Chris Berman and their three daughters, Sarah, Jude and Sue emigrated from South Africa and arrived in Auckland in December 1978.

Just two weeks after their arrival they made contact with Beth Shalom and were warmly welcomed by the then President, John Pezaro and other families such as Brian and Marie Kay and Gordon and Madeleine Stern. All very well-known families and pillars of our community in the early days.

The Board at the time needed a secretary and offered the position to Arthur – which he accepted and so began 47 years of continuous support to Beth Shalom.

Community Care

The Women's Refuge Winter Appeal 2026

Winter is just around the corner and it's that time of year to launch our winter pyjama and warm clothing collection for the children who are cared for in the Women's Refuge safe houses.

They are in need of new or "clean, near new" clothing especially once again - **winter pyjamas, warm socks, undies – boys and girls, rain wear.**

All sizes needed from toddlers to teens.

The Refuge is also in need of non-perishable food items such as - **cereals, porridge soup, soup mixes, spreads e.g. jam, peanut butter, Vegemite, honey, long life milk, tea and coffee, lunch box snacks for school lunches.**



Photo courtesy: Canva.com



Crafty Club

Last month we had a small but 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 May 30th

Time: 12:30 – 2pm

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 Care



Photo courtesy: Canva.com

Beth Shalom Recipe Book Celebrating our 70th Anniversary

As part of our 70th anniversary celebrations this year, the Community Care committee is planning to publish a recipe book in honour of our 70th birthday.

Why, you might ask, will this book be different to say, Ottolenghi's recipes or Jamie Oliver's 5-ingredients cook book?

Well,

- **THIS** recipe book will be unique, it will contain **YOUR** favourite recipes from the Beth Shalom Community.
- **This** recipe book will contain a section of "your kid's favourite meals".
- **This** recipe book will contain a special section on festival favourites – who has the best kneidlach recipe!
- **This** recipe book will use NZ friendly ingredients.

We are quite a multi-cultural society so we are also thinking of adding an international section – melk tert from our South Africans; pumpkin pie from our American members ...

These are ideas so far but what we really need at this stage is to work out the logistics of actually producing the recipe book – cost, presentation, editing, printing and probably many hurdles that haven't yet been considered!

At this stage we are not asking for recipes – that will happen in a few weeks' time but what we are calling for now are members in the community who would be willing to help and have the following skills eg editing, typing and design, lay - out and printing.

This will be a short term project but with lasting results so if you would like to help and share your expertise please contact **Chris Shiller** on shiller@orcon.net.nz



Burial & Benevolent Society AJBBS

By Jack Wilton (*AJBBS President*)

At last month's Beth Shalom Yom Chinuch, the AJBBS had the opportunity to share our work with the Beth Shalom community. We chose to focus on the mitzvah of tahara, the ritual washing and preparation of the deceased before burial, because it is the most sacred element of a Jewish burial.

The highlight of the session was hearing personal reflections from members of our tahara team on what the mitzvah means to them, the impact it has on the family of the deceased, and what it offers the community at large. We also discussed some of the minhagim (customs) relating to burial in the progressive community.

This Shabbaton was the first step in a drive to engage with the community more actively on tahara, both for educational purposes and to potentially encourage new volunteers to assist us in carrying out one of the highest mitzvot.

The AJBBS will be running an in depth education session in the coming weeks for anyone who would like to learn more about tahara. We want to be clear that this is open to anyone curious about the practice, whether you are considering joining our on-call tahara team or simply want to understand more about this part of Jewish tradition. There is no pressure or expectation to join the team afterwards. The session will cover both the practical and spiritual dimensions of the ritual, in a relaxed and supportive setting, with plenty of room for questions.

For those who do feel called to take part, we would warmly welcome new volunteers, men and women, to join the team. The need for tahara arises only around four times a year, and our aim is simply to grow the pool of trained volunteers so the work is shared.

If you would like to find out more about the education session, please get in touch with David Singer at treasurer@ajbbs.org.nz.

We warmly encourage members of the community to join the AJBBS and to let us know your wishes so they can be honoured when the time comes. To get in touch, please contact president@ajbbs.org.nz.

By Haim Ainsworth (*AJBBS*)

At our recent AGM the AJBBS was interested to learn that the broader Beth Shalom community had limited understanding of the ways that the society is available to the Progressive Jewish community,

particularly when it comes to the second 'B' in our name; Benevolence.

For centuries through our history Jews have had limited access to loans and grants in the wider communities in which we lived. So we created our own systems and organisations to support our community members, particularly in their hours of need.

Rabbi Akiva (c 50-135CE) spoke of tzedakah, charitable giving, as having the power to save us from death. By giving to support others, we take part in a transformative process that saves both donor and recipient from spiritual suffering. In our modern world we are only too aware that 'making ends meet' has become a more challenging task, and that for many of us, particularly when unexpected expenses come up, we are under immense financial and emotional pressure.

The AJBBS understands this. Our mandate is to offer assistance, usually as one-time needs-based grants of funds to assist our community in meeting their varied needs.

While our resources are not limitless, we are able to step in and ease financial burdens where we can. If you, or someone you know in our community, have an acute need we encourage you to reach out to us. Your request will be considered confidentially. We do not use names when discussing requests. Contact us at president@ajbbs.org.nz.

Our ability to make grants is dependent upon the generosity of our members. So we also welcome tax-deductible donations to our fund. Should you be in a place to make a donation, please contact us at treasurer@ajbbs.org.nz.

YACHAD - Term Two

Term 2 Jewish Values sessions began on Sunday 3 May. Throughout Term 2, we'll continue to explore Jewish values and Jewish festivals through stories, discussion, and interactive activities, with a focus on connection, identity, and everyday relevance.

Hebrew language online sessions will run weekly and continue to be a wonderful space for learning and connection.

We're looking forward to an enjoyable and meaningful learning experience together this term, for our children and all in attendance!

May						2026
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27	28	29	30	01	02	03 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
04	05 Lag B'Omer	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
18	19	20	21 Erev Shavuot	22 Shavuot	23 Shavuot	24 Jewish Values 2.00 - 4.00pm
25	26	27	28	29	30 King's Birthday weekend	31 King's Birthday weekend

Community Notices

Ritual Committee's Search for Shammash or e-Shammash



We're searching for
E-SHAMMASHIM

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

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

please contact: office@bethshalom.org.nz

Shavuot - Tzedakah Project



**Shavuot
Tzedakah Project**

Shavuot is the Festival of the First Fruits.
Please join us in Tzedakah by *donating
Canned and Dried Fruit*
April 10th-May 24th.

Please place your fruit donations in the basket on the table in the foyer as you enter the building. All contributions will go to the Auckland City Mission.

Community *Promotion*

Sign up for
Winter camp
MACHANE MASA
חחנה מסע
JOURNEY

standard fees start 20th of april and closes on the 17th of may!!!

Junior out of Auckland Junior Auckland Senior out of Auckland Senior Auckland

JUNIORS
 10-12 July years 4-9

SENIORS
 12-19 July years 10-12

any questions email-wintercamp@habo.org.nz

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

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 COMMERCIAL

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Mark Culley
 Craftsman plumber

elmagiv@xtra.co.nz

+64 21 924 695

Fully certified ✓
 Auckland wide ✓

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.

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

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](#)

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 - Nan Jensen, vice_president@bethshalom.org.nz

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

Secretary – [Vacant], secretary@bethshalom.org.nz

Board of Management Members

Stephanie Richling, Hilary Hemmins, Ashley Strain, Gillian Wess (New), Hannah Rossiter (New); and Rabbi Dean Shapiro (*ex-officio*)

Board of Trustees

David Kranz, Judith Marks, Peter Bruell

Rabbi

Rabbi Dean Shapiro, rabbi@bethshalom.org.nz

Tzedakah - Women's Refuge

Donations are welcome from members or friends to support the Auckland Women's Refuge. Non-perishable items, women's toiletries, winter appeal items, children's pyjamas etc., place your donations in the designated bin in the foyer. Contact Chris Shiller - shiller@orcon.net.nz for assistance.

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

president@ajbbs.org.nz, 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

Administrator:

administrator@bethshalom.org.nz

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

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