

## Pesach night with a difference



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Tomer Simhony is pictured entertaining the people who gathered on the third night of Pesach for the Habonim Dror Pesach Trivia night.

About 50 adults and children enjoyed the family night at Beth Shalom.

"Habo decided to do something different this year," Laura Kranz, Habonim Dror mazkira said.

"We organised lots of trivia questions, questions on Pesach, general knowledge, Israel, for children and adults so that everyone could take part.

"It was lots of fun for everyone."

The evening at Beth Shalom was the night after the highly successful communal seder, attended by about 150 visitors and members.

(Photo: Courtesy Ilan Wittenberg, Wow Photography).

## A letter from the Beth Shalom president

Dear Members of the Beth Shalom Community,

I write with bittersweet news.

As you are aware, Rabbi Dean's term with us is over in June. He has informed the board of management that he will be returning to the US at that time. Rabbi Dean will become Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel, a robust Reform congregation in Tempe (Greater Phoenix) Arizona, where he will have the opportunity to continue to develop as a rabbi. He was selected for the position from 40 applicants. We are excited for Dean, Haim and Jacob for this new chapter in their lives, and I know you join me in wishing them all the very best. You can learn more about Temple Emanuel at their website, [emanueloftempe.org](http://emanueloftempe.org)

During Rabbi Dean's three years with us, Beth Shalom has been a hive of activity. We've adopted a new siddur, refurbished the shul's exterior (including building two gardens and rebuilding the sukkah), created a Tikkun Olam programme, improved our Hebrew School, hired a part-time Jewish educator and improved our relationship with AHC.

*More on Page 3*

# The Beth Shalom Buzz

Shalom y'all, and welcome to another edition of The Buzz! This month we have drama, romance and intrigue – read on.

First, we send a warm welcome to **Simon Hoff** and **Tina Rose** who have just joined the Beth Shalom family. **Simon** and his wife **Mary** and daughter **Hannah** have to come to Auckland via Singapore and **Tina**, who has two daughters and one son, has been a part of the community for many years, even having celebrated her bat mitzvah with us.

Watch out, Broadway – several talented Beth Shalom kids have been involved in the dramatic arts this month. Both **Adele** and **Zachy Miller** were on stage in the Selwyn College production of *Bat Boy* and **Jacob Swiatek** had a part in the St. Kentigern College production of *The Three Musketeers*. Both plays received outstanding reviews. Well done!

We'd like to send wishes for safe travels to **Eunice Defries** who is off to the UK to visit family.

And healing thoughts are sent out to **Marjorie Isaacs** who is on the mend.

Love is in the air at Beth Shalom. Mazel Tov to **Lorna** and **Jock Orbell** who are celebrating 50 years together this month. Fifty years ago on May 14 **Lorna** and **Jock** were wed on Jock's birthday. Wow! How beautiful is that? A hearty Mazel Tov also goes to **Natan Karon** and his beautiful bride, **Eliza Oldenfield**, who became husband and wife this month. May you also celebrate many anniversaries together .

**Valerie** and **Dan Cohen** are happy to report that their youngest son, **Simon**, and his partner **Santiago**, will be visiting us from Madrid for a couple of weeks and are looking forward to catching up with family and friends.

April was a sad month for our community with the deaths of three members, **Suzette Borsteinas**, **Reuben Golbraih** and **Sam Shafar**. Our hearts and prayers go out to Suzette's daughter **Rachelle** and **Sam's** wife **Colleen** in Auckland and to the three families.

And so ends another issue of The Buzz. But where is the intrigue I mentioned at the start, you ask? I am taking my kiddies and Buzzing off for a short bit. Fear not, I will be back with plenty of time to submit the next Buzz column. The intrigue – you'll have to check back here next month to see where we've been! 😊

Debbie Swiatek would like to hear your news about births, weddings, members who are travelling and other bits and pieces. Please contact her at [swiatek@xtra.co.nz](mailto:swiatek@xtra.co.nz)

## Leaves Available for Tree of Life

The beautiful Tree of Life adorns the window of the Beth Shalom foyer. Its multi-coloured leaves celebrate important life events – births, deaths, marriages, rabbis, teachers.

It was designed by Helen Schamroth and erected in 2001, through the efforts of Harvey Livschitz.

Harvey says he has several hundred leaves waiting to be engraved. Any person associated with Beth Shalom can buy a leaf to commemorate an event. Leaves cost \$270.

Names are also recorded by Lorna Orbell in a leather-bound book which also sits in the foyer.

Applications can be made through the Beth Shalom office.



### Happy Birthday To:

Claris Jacobs, Rebekah Wadsworth, Sacha Sampson, Joshua Sampson, Hannah Sampson, Simon Cogan-Beck, Matthew Swiatek, Alexa Bernstein, Ciara Bernstein, Jenna Bernstein.

### Happy Special Birthday To:

John Pezaro, Phil Weinstein, Stephen Rothman.

## Taking a Course of Jewish study?

### Need some help?

Applications to the Educational Bequest Fund close **June 30**

Contact:

Jude Berman, [meirjde@orcon.net.nz](mailto:meirjde@orcon.net.nz),  
Claire Bruell, [claire@bruell.co.nz](mailto:claire@bruell.co.nz)  
Or the Beth Shalom office.

# Rabbi Dean to depart (Continued from page 1)

We also trained lay readers and life cycle officiants, celebrated as children became B'nei Mitzvah, welcomed many new Jews, and participated in several community art projects. Our Shabbatonim have been hugely successful, and we've enjoyed visiting teachers and song leaders. Festival services have drawn increasing numbers, and the congregation's membership has grown.

Behind the scenes, our board is certainly healthier and with clearer goals, than when he arrived, and our admin systems and public image is being revamped. Rabbi Dean has been an energetic, thoughtful and compassionate leader for our community.

Although we had hoped to extend his contract, Beth Shalom is not at this time financially able to retain a permanent rabbi. Rabbi Dean's employment could not have been extended beyond one additional year, and this outstanding professional opportunity, as well as Haim's need to return to the States to maintain his US permanent residency status, means that they will leave according to the agreement we made with him on his arrival. We launched the Bequest Campaign for this very reason—hoping that some-

day we will be able to employ and retain a permanent rabbi.

We will be making some innovative proposals in the near future.

We will have several events to farewell Rabbi Dean, Haim and Jacob. These will include:

- o Erev Shabbat and Potluck Dinner 3 June
- o Kiddush following services on 4 June
- o Havdallah and party on 4 June

In addition, Rabbi Dean will lead a teaching at the Tikkun Leil Shavuot on Tuesday 7 June, which will be his final duty.

The board of management has already begun sorting out a rabbi for the High Holy Days. We hope to have some very exciting news for you soon.

I hope to see you in early June as we farewell our Rabbi.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Bernstein  
President

## Hebrew School loses long time coordinator



After 10 years of being the Beth Shalom Hebrew School coordinator, Shirley Bosman is moving on.

"It won't be easy," she says.

"It's part of my life – the teachers, the students, everything."

She emigrated from South Africa in 1999 and shortly after her arrival, she was asked to assist with the Hebrew School by the then rabbi, David Kopstein.

"I had had no previous experience. I had a background in nursing and catering and as a manager." With two young children, Alison and Michael, she thought it would be a challenge.

Soon after she became involved, Rabbi Patti and Rabbi David left Auckland.

"I found myself keeping a school with over 70 students afloat," she remembers.

Now she is passionate about the success of religious schools like Beth Shalom's.

It has not only been Beth Shalom that has benefitted from her enthusiasm. Shirley also became involved in the Union of Progressive Judaism (UPJ) educational workshops and conferences and then found herself helping in their organisation. For the

last two years she has been on the UPJ board and has also done a stint on the Beth Shalom board.

At the end of the term, she was farewelled by the Hebrew School children and received two books, with a New Zealand Jewish theme, Freda Klier's Promised New Zealand: Fleeing Nazi persecution and Sarah Gaitanos's The Violinist, about Clare Galambos Winter who is also a New Zealand Holocaust survivor.

The board member who chairs the Hebrew School committee Debbie Swiatek says Shirley has been a cornerstone of the Hebrew School at Beth Shalom. "Her oversight and organisation have been a contributing factor to the school's success. Thanks to the framework she helped to develop, the Hebrew School will continue to thrive for many years to come.

"We are all grateful to Shirley for her dedication and are glad to note that she will remain a part of the school for years to come as her children continue their Hebrew education."

Shirley may be leaving the Hebrew School but she will still be very much involved in the Jewish community. She is the office manager of the Zionist Federation.

# Important to treat the dead with dignity, says Rabbi Dean

It was dreadful, when my grandmother died.

Not the moment of her death—that was peaceful and natural. Not her funeral—that was conducted with dignity and feeling. The most dreadful experience was the casket room.

My father and I were brought into a well-appointed showroom with dozens of caskets on display. Our task was to select one. We knew our mother/grandmother to be a devoted Jewish woman, and not one to waste money on pointless things. Still, we couldn't help but feel that we would be honouring her more by providing a fancy coffin. Oak or mahogany, perhaps? Maybe velvet cushions? What's a few thousand dollars compared with eternity?

In the end, we opted for the plain pine box. We felt that this honoured her values as we knew them to be. A simple coffin is part of Jewish tradition dating back to Rabban Gamliel, shortly after the fall of the Second Temple. He eliminated the disparity in burial practice by having himself laid to rest in a plain box with a simple meal to follow served with simple utensils. We know that's what Grandma would have wanted. Still, it would have been nice to have had a clear statement of her wishes.

When grief comes, the world is turned upside down. Nothing makes sense. Death is bewildering even if the loss is expected. Deaths un-foretold boggle the mind. Our beautiful tradition helps us know what to do in such times. The pain is not diminished, but at least the confusion is.

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At such times, the last thing we need is to wonder about how to bury our loved one. What's the right thing to do? What were his wishes? Which customs should we observe? How much should we spend? Who gets a say? Such questions can strain a family dealing with grief. They can also expose differences in values. They can cause stress, confusion or hurt where none need exist. And they are entirely unnecessary.

It is our obligation to reduce our loved ones' angst, and to make our wishes for burial known. It is not a happy task, but it is an important one. To facilitate this process, the Burial and Benevolence Society has produced a simple form for each one of us to complete indicating our desires. A copy is included in this issue of Teruah. Please take a few moments to consider the questions it raises—no matter what your age. Discuss them with your loved ones and make your wishes known to them. Then, complete the form and return it to the synagogue office. We'll keep copies on hand and refer to them when the time comes. Although it is not easy to contemplate our own deaths, this is the best way to ensure that your wishes are followed, and to eliminate confusion and stress.

The funeral directors we use, Davis, are familiar with Jewish customs and work beautifully with the Burial and Benevolence Society. No one is shown a casket room here. Instead, each of our beloved dead is treated with dignity, in accordance with Jewish custom and with respect for his or her wishes.

The Beth Shalom congregation is sad to record the passing of Sam Shafar, beloved husband of Colleen.

Sam was 97 years old.  
We wish the family long life.

The Beth Shalom congregation is sad to record the passing of Reuben Golbraih beloved brother of Ella Lerner.

Reuben was 83 years old  
We wish the family long life.

The Beth Shalom congregation is sad to record the passing of Suzette Borsteinas, beloved mother of Rachele and Joel, Craig and Juanita and grandfather of Liam and Aidan.

Suzette was 87 years old.  
We wish the family long life.

## Planet FM 104.6

Every Sunday morning at 9 am  
If you miss a programme you can hear it for one week after the broadcast before the next programme takes over by going to

[www.planetaudio.org.nz/radioshalom](http://www.planetaudio.org.nz/radioshalom)

Programmes may be changed without notice due to unforeseen circumstances

Sunday May 1: Mike shares Israeli Music

Sunday May 8: Osnat and Moshe celebrate Yom Haatzmaut

Sunday May 15: Ann Gluckman speaks about her travels

Sunday May 22: Interview with Osnat Dvorkin, shlichah zfnz

Sunday May 29: Udi interviews Kadimah kids

Sunday June 6: Shavuot

## Sanctuary refurbishment will cause little disruption

The interiors committee is now beginning work on the scheduling and specifications for Beth Shalom's sanctuary refurbishment. A date has been set for the commencement of the refurbishment. Ensuring minimum disruption to the community has been crucial to establishing this date.

It has been estimated that refurbishment will take up to two months. The committee would like to assure members that all known needs of the community have been taken into consideration with the setting of the commencement date. A number of families had booked b'nei mitzvah for the latter part of 2011. In order not to disrupt their special day, refurbishment has been scheduled to commence in January 2012.

The sanctuary will be closed for the duration of the refurbishment. The ark and bimah will be moved into the social hall, creating a temporary sanctuary where services will be conducted. Some of us with long memories of Beth Shalom will recall this arrangement before the current sanctuary was built.

The High Holydays Appeal raised over \$15,000 and Beth Shalom's board has committed up to \$65,000 from accumulated funds. We are thrilled to announce that pledged donations now total over \$80,000.

We recognise that the accumulated funds could be recalled to top up funds for a rabbi at a later stage, so this money is being regarded as a loan. We are therefore committed to raising as much money as possible through fundraising.

If you are able to assist financially please contact the treasurer. No amount is too small – **10 people donating \$10 per month for three years would make a significant difference!** An interest bearing account has been opened at the ANZ Bank: "Refurbishment Fund", account number is: 01-0102-0049104-50.

At the annual general meeting on 20 March there was overwhelming support for the proposed refurbishment to proceed.

## Volunteers needed for new house preservation scheme

Beth Shalom will be one of the first organisations in New Zealand to be involved in a new scheme, the "Brush of Kindness" to help low income home owners maintain and preserve their homes.

"On Sunday May 22, we will be working on a Ranui house, where we will be demolishing and rebuilding a carport, possibly working on a half completed kitchen and maybe doing some work landscaping," David Kranz says. David chairs the Tikkun Olam committee which is involved in the project organised by Habitat for Humanity.

Last year a group of volunteers from Beth Shalom helped in building new houses through Habitat for Humanity and were inspired by the scheme.

"It was so special working with families whose homes we were helping to build," was one comment.

The "Brush of Kindness" project will provide similar rewards, David says. Homeowners help with maintenance and preservation work and also pay for it on an affordable long term basis. The money received is recycled into a "Fund of Kindness" to enable further projects to proceed.

"We already have five volunteers and need five more. Please leave your name with Christine in the office," David says.

On July 31 and September 18, the Tikkun Olam committee will be involved in house building again and on October 30 a group of volunteers will again be needed for the "Brush of Kindness" scheme.

Other projects this year will be the Mitzvah Bank ( see separate story), Limmud NZ and work to help earthquake victims in Christchurch.

### Beth Shalom Sanctuary Refurbishment Fund

**Aim:** To raise \$200,000

**To date:** Over \$90,000 in pledges and donations

You can help the fund grow paying by monthly instalments or as a one-off capital sum

*See adjoining story for more details.*

## Need childcare? Can help with gardening?

Mrs X wants to have her house windows cleaned. In return you could learn to play bridge. Mr Y will wash the outside of your house... Miss Z will cut your hair...

The Tikkun Olam committee's Mitzvah bank was launched at the communal seder and already it has 17 investors. Sixteen people have "deposited" their skills which range from help with gardening, cleaning, driving, childcare/babysitting, shopping, cooking, basic home maintenance to teaching Hebrew, to helping with computers and house washing, while seven people want to "withdraw" various jobs including lifts to the synagogue, landscaping, childcare and helping build a chicken run.

"We are delighted with the success of the scheme so far," says Olga Bernstein, on behalf of the Tikkun Olam committee.

"As with all banks there is a deposit and withdrawal system. You can deposit any skills you have (and approximately two hours of time, when a 'withdrawal' is requested) into the Mitzvah bank or withdraw any job you might need doing.

"It's a wonderful way to get involved in our community."

See below for details of how to become involved in the Mitzvah bank

## Memorial event for Gail Haffern

Sabina Schweid will be the main speaker at a memorial event for Gail Haffern at Beth Shalom on May 7. She will be talking about the ark curtain as a metaphor to modern Jewish art, and will discuss both Gail Haffern's curtain at Beth Shalom and Helen Schamroth's curtain at Auckland Hebrew Congregation.

The two ark curtains, created at a similar time in 2007-2008, are very different as they are responses to two very different interiors.

Helen's ark curtain was a reinterpretation of Orthodoxy in a 21st century environment, and was designed for the large spaces of the newly renovated Greys Avenue synagogue.

Gail was working with a blanker canvas and features graphic motifs with a contemporary Progressive view. It was created at the time of the 50th jubilee celebrations for Beth Shalom and hung for the following Simchat Torah.

The evening, starting at 6.30pm, also features personal words in Gail's memory and excerpts from her essay on Jewish art.

*Memorial event for Gail Haffern, Beth Shalom, Saturday May 7, 6.30pm.*

## Launching of the Mitzvah Bank Project!

### What is the 'Mitzvah Bank' Project?

It is an exciting new initiative coordinated by the Tikkun Olam Committee. As with all banks, there is a deposit and a withdrawal system.

### How can you get involved?

You can 'deposit' any skills you have into the Mitzvah Bank. These can be range from sweeping driveways and weeding to painting to basic carpentry. All we are asking is that you donate your skills and approximately two hours of your time when a withdrawal is requested.

Conversely, if you need some help, a 'withdrawal' from the Mitzvah Bank can be made to assist you.

**This will be free** to all members of the community but we do need both 'depositors' and 'withdrawers' to make this a success!

**Please complete form on page 7 to enable us to get this exciting project up and running as soon as possible.**



*Tikkun Olam Committee*

# 'We didn't start the fire' but we can take action now

To take the lesson from Purim – when faced by disaster each person can make a difference, by speaking out and taking action, executive director for the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ), Steve Denenberg, says.

“The Billy Joel song, We didn't start the fire, includes a list of wars and disasters. It suggests that even if you aren't responsible for the disaster you do have a duty to try and do something about it.

“It seems like we can already add an entire verse of disasters that have occurred in 2011 from Christchurch to Ipswich, through to Fukushima and Itamar. We have suddenly been made aware of the fragility of life and the importance of using every opportunity to be productive and 'make a difference' to the world,” he says.

He cites examples of how the UPJ

is taking action. Recently Netzer madrichim flew to Queensland to help with the clean-up operation, with flights funded by the UPJ.

The world movement – the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) – showed their commitment to 'Tikkun Olam' at the recent conference in San Francisco when they passed a series of resolutions calling for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexual couples to be treated the same as “married heterosexual couples” and for Progressive and Conservative Rabbis to be treated the same as Orthodox rabbis in Israel.

Leadership of the UPJ and the Moetzah (Council of Progressive Rabbis) are also working to address important issues both locally and in Israel. The social action committee is planning a series of activities to encourage

social action and advocacy work at national and international levels. Similarly, the Australian Religious Zionist arm of the Progressive movement is working to defend Israel against the impact of boycott and slander while pushing for democratic reforms to the legal and political system there, he says.

As well as supporting the 25 Progressive congregations around Israel, it works to make Israel a democratic and inclusive society by fighting against gender segregation in transport, health and education systems.

Steve Denenberg suggests people make donations to help the victims of disasters and provide support to the UIA Progressive Trust, as well as becoming involved in a hands-on project of "Tikkun Olam". Beth Shalom's Tikkun Olam projects are detailed on page 5.

If you would like to participate in this exciting project please complete the form below by filling in your details and circling the relevant skills.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### I can help with

- Gardening
  - Mowing lawns
  - Weeding
  - Planting
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaning
- Driving
- Childcare/ Babysitting
- Shopping
- Cooking
- Basic home maintenance
  - Carpentry
  - Painting/ decorating
  - Windows
  - 'Odd jobs'
- Other skills \_\_\_\_\_

### I could use help with

- Gardening
  - Mowing lawns
  - Weeding
  - Planting
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaning
- Driving (e.g. to shops, shul, Hebrew School)
- Childcare/ Babysitting
- Shopping
- Cooking
- Basic home maintenance
  - Carpentry
  - Painting/decorating
  - Windows
  - 'Odd jobs'
- Other requirements \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!** A member of the Tikkun Olam Committee will be in contact with you shortly

# Project Sabina centres on Holocaust theme

Polish-born Sabina Schweid was eight when the second world war started. Her father, a leader in the Jewish community had been killed, and her mother, fearful of what lay ahead arranged for the family to be hidden, together with a cousin and an aunt. After the war, and a long period in a refugee camp, she made aliyah to Israel. Now more than 70 years later, Sabina is in Auckland as the guest of the Zionist Federation for "Project Sabina" which is this year's Holocaust education programme. Sabina Schweid also has a personal reason for visiting Auckland. Osnat Dvorkin, who is the Zionist Federation shlichah, is her granddaughter. While in Auckland Sabina will be talking about her life in Poland, her time in hiding and the new life she made afterwards talking on the theme of this year's Holocaust

programme, "Out of the ashes of the Holocaust a nation was born." She will have a busy two weeks in New Zealand. She will be talking to 11 schools, mainly high schools and intermediate schools, at Auckland university, a seminar in Auckland and Wellington, for Yom Hashoah on May 1, at the Steibel, and on the ark curtain as a metaphor in modern Jewish art (see separate story) and will meet with the Second Generation group of Holocaust survivors.

This year's Project Sabina follows the success of last year's Anne Frank exhibition. But, Osnat emphasises, it will bring a different story.

"My grandmother will talk about rebuilding her life in Israel after the Holocaust and the connection to the way survivors in other countries like New Zealand have rebuilt their lives."

Sabina was 14 when she arrived in Israel and was sent to an agricultural boarding school. She worked hard to gain her high school diploma and studied to improve her English.

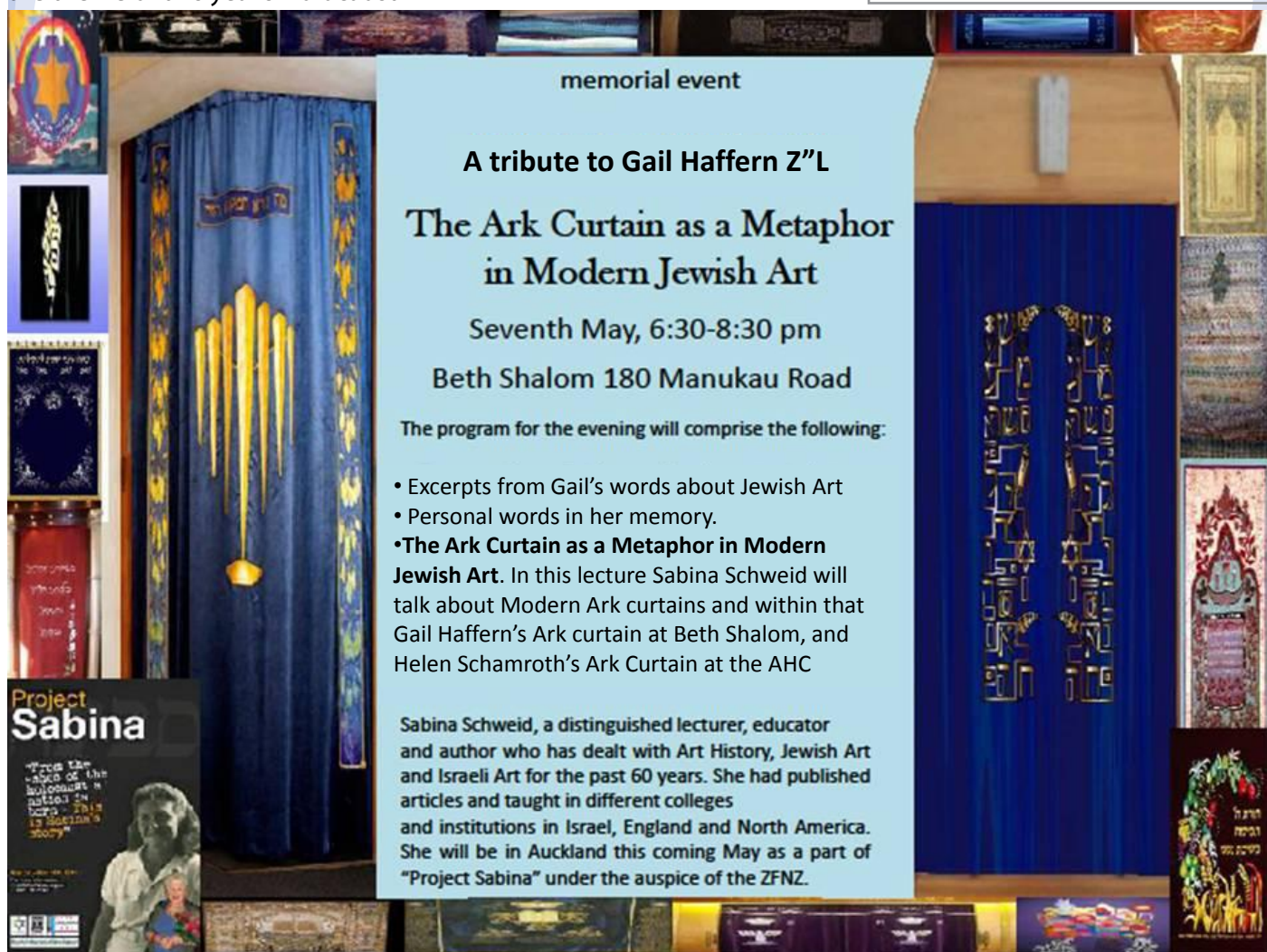
She has had a long career as a lecturer, educator and author, specializing in Jewish and Israeli art and has published articles in Israel, England and North America.

Sabina Schweid tells her story in a book published through Yad Vashem, and translated into English in time for her visit to New Zealand.

**SAVE THE DATE: 7 JUNE 2011**

**SHAVUOT: A Night of Study and Desert**

Featuring multiple sessions and learning opportunities. Jointly sponsored by Habo and Beth Shalom



memorial event

**A tribute to Gail Haffern Z"l**

**The Ark Curtain as a Metaphor in Modern Jewish Art**

Seventh May, 6:30-8:30 pm

Beth Shalom 180 Manukau Road

The program for the evening will comprise the following:

- Excerpts from Gail's words about Jewish Art
- Personal words in her memory.
- **The Ark Curtain as a Metaphor in Modern Jewish Art.** In this lecture Sabina Schweid will talk about Modern Ark curtains and within that Gail Haffern's Ark curtain at Beth Shalom, and Helen Schamroth's Ark Curtain at the AHC

Sabina Schweid, a distinguished lecturer, educator and author who has dealt with Art History, Jewish Art and Israeli Art for the past 60 years. She had published articles and taught in different colleges and institutions in Israel, England and North America. She will be in Auckland this coming May as a part of "Project Sabina" under the auspice of the ZFNZ.

# Claims against wills

As I mentioned in my last article, will-makers generally have “testamentary freedom” to dispose of their assets as they see fit because New Zealand has no formal forced heirship laws. However, within certain prescribed time limits, wills can be challenged under the Family Protection Act 1955, the Property (Relationships) Act 1976, and the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949, which, if successful, in effect means that the court can rewrite a will.

## Family Protection Act 1955

This is probably the most contentious of the three Acts, because it allows the court broad discretion to rewrite wills and it has often liberally done so. The Act allows certain persons to apply to the court when they allege that the will-maker has failed to provide properly for them in a will.

The classes of persons entitled to claim for provision out of the estate are the deceased’s:

- spouse or civil union partner
- de facto partner who was living in a de facto relationship with the deceased at the date of his death
- children
- grandchildren
- stepchildren who were being, or were legally entitled to be, maintained wholly or partly by the deceased immediately before his death
- parents of the deceased provided that the parent was being, or was legally entitled to be, maintained wholly or partly by the deceased immediately before his death; or at the date of the claim, no spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner or child of a marriage, civil union or de facto relationship of the deceased is living.

This Act is based on the premise that a will-maker has a moral duty to make adequate provision for the proper maintenance and support of the above people out of his or her estate. “Support” is not confined to financial provision but extends to recognition of the claimant having belonged to the family or having been part of the overall life of the deceased.

The moral duty is tested against the standards of a

*In this second article, Juliet Moses a partner at the Auckland-based boutique law firm Taylor Grant Tesiram discusses claims that can be made against wills.*

deceased who is just and wise. A court will look at a range of factors in deciding whether the moral duty has been met including the deceased’s reasons for his or her dispositions. If the court decides the moral duty has failed, it can order such provision out of the estate as it thinks fit.

## Property (Relationships) Act 1976

Under this Act, the claimant against an estate is the deceased’s spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner (where, generally, the factio relationship with the deceased was more than three years’ duration).

A claimant applies for a division of relationship property, instead of receiving the gifts he or she is entitled to under the deceased’s will (or intestacy). There is a presumption under this Act that all property that was owned by the deceased at his or her death, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is relationship property. Generally, relationship property will be split equally. So the survivor can generally elect to take either 50% of the estate by claiming under this Act, in which case the remainder of the estate is distributed in accordance with the will (or intestacy) as if the survivor had already died, or otherwise he or she will take under the deceased’s will (or intestacy).

## Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949

Under this Act claims are made against an estate where the claimant provided services to or performed work for the deceased in his or her lifetime and the deceased promised to reward the claimant for the work or services by making some provision in his or will for the claimant and failed to do so.

## What can you do?

Careful and clever thought and estate planning can help to minimise the chances of a claim being made under these Acts and, indeed, the chances of a claim succeeding. Such claims can be costly for your estate, delay its distribution and tear families and friendships apart. You should talk to your lawyer if you have any concern about such claims.

Remember the Beth Shalom Bequest Fund  
Your donation will be a blessing in your  
name ensuring the future of our community.

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**Burial & Benevolent Society**

President, Stuart Reuben, email: s.k.reuben@paradise.net.nz  
 Vice President, Stephanie Markson, email: stephanie@markson.co.nz  
 Secretary, Leonie Ariel, email: leonieariel@hotmail.com  
 Treasurer, Stephen Cohen, email: narste@xtra.co.nz

**For burial or benevolent emergencies, please call -**

Stephanie Markson (524 5647 or 021 106 5302) or  
 Stuart Reuben (372 4110, 021 067 4576).

**To the editor:  
 Successful tzedaka project**

I managed to collect over 200 books within a couple of month, thanks to Beth Shalom community support. The books were shipped to Samoa and were distributed among local schools and libraries. Judy Macfall, the Pacifica liaison officer appreciated the donation of books as well as the Samoan community. I have received a phone call from Samoa expressing words of appreciation which I kindly accepted. I felt proud to complete this tzedaka project with great success.

**Ravid Aharon**

**Yom Hazikaron in May**

The annual event to commemorate the fallen soldiers in Israel will be held on Sunday May 8. Yom Hazikaron is organised each year by the Zionist Federation of New Zealand.

"Please show your support for this significant day in the Jewish calendar," president Rachel Korpus says.

The event will be held this year at Beth Shalom at 7.30 pm.

**AUJS International  
 Programme Coordinator**

will be speaking at Beth Shalom 14 May Shabbat services followed by a conversation about Israel travel for young adults All welcome

**Thanks**

A huge thank you to Charles and Tana Fishman who have donated a small library of Jewish books to Beth Shalom.



**Senior Outreach Service**

Community Seniors  
 Something on your mind?  
 Call Stephanie Markson, Outreach Worker, Tel. 524 5255 for a free chat or home visit.

**Accommodation in free private bedroom-Epsom, commencing 25 May**

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**May 2011**

**Sunday 1 May, Yom Hashoah Community commemoration, Greys Ave, 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 4 May Rosh Chodesh 1**

**Thursday 5 May Rosh Chodesh 2 Iyar**

**Friday 6 May Oneg Shabbat Seudah Pot luck Dinner Induction of Board**

Service Leaders: Rabbi Dean Shapiro, Mor Karon and Jack Wilton

Shammos: Arthur Berman

Board Rep: Debbie Swiatek

**Talk by Mor and Jack about their recent experiences on Shnat in Israel.**

**Torah Study**

**Saturday 7 May Shabbat Emor**

Service Leaders: Judith Hunt and Meir Alfassi

Shammos: Carol McCracken

Board Rep: Terry Haffern

*Torah Reader: Deb Miller*

*Torah Portion: Emor 21:1 – 24:23*

*Haftarah Reader: Paul Wilton*

*Haftarah Portion: Ezekiel 44:15-31*

**Sunday 8 May Yom Hazikaron**

Ma'ariv Service at 6.45pm

Service Leader: Rabbi Dean Shapiro

Shammos: Leon Goldwater

**7:30pm community commemoration in Beth Shalom Hall**

**Friday 13 May**

Service Leaders: Rabbi Dean Shapiro and Harvey Livschitz

Shammos: Chris Milton

Board Rep: David Cukier

## Beth Shalom Services

**Nissan/Iyar 5771**



**Saturday 14 May Shabbat Behar**

Service Leaders: Rabbi Dean Shapiro and Adi Rothman Berman

Shammos : Chris Shiller

Board Rep: Danny Gelb

*Torah Reader: Adi Rothman Berman*

*Torah Portion: Behar 25:1-26:2*

*Haftarah Reader: Sarah Berman*

*Haftarah Portion: Jeremiah 32:6 -27*

An update from the Australasian Union of Jewish Students International Programme Co-ordinator. Kiddush hosted by AUJS.

**Friday 20 May**

Service Leaders: Arthur Berman and Jude Berman

Shammos : Harvey Livschitz

Board Rep: Ruth Thomas

**Saturday 21 May Shabbat Bechukkotai**

Service Leaders: Rabbi Dean Shapiro and Stuart Reuben

Shammos: Terry Haffern

Board Rep: Jenny Livschitz

*Torah Reader: Stuart Reuben*

*Torah Portion: Bechukkotai 26:3-27:34*

*Haftarah Reader: Dan Cohen*

*Haftarah Portion: Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14*

**Friday 27 May**

Service Leaders: Rabbi Dean Shapiro and Udi Dvorkin

Shammos : Sandra Van Eden

Board Rep: Rob Bernstein

**Saturday 28 May Shabbat Bemidbar**

Service Leaders: Rabbi Dean Shapiro and Matthew Swiatek

Shammos: Lenny Bloksberg

Board Rep: Shane Sampson

Torah Reader: Matthew Swiatek

*Torah Portion: Bemidbar Num 1:1-4:20*

*Haftarah Reader: Amnon Kramarz*

*Haftarah Portion: Hosea 2:1-2:22*

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