



DECEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 5 EDITION

HAPPY HANUKKAH



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM LAST QUARTER:

From the Chair — Page 2

Comfort in Focus— Page 3

In Memoriam— Page 4-5

International Weeks — Page 6

Out and About— Page 7

Melbourne Cup Day— Page 8

Birthday Celebrations— Page 9-10

Special Jewish Events— Page 11

Events at Shalom Court— Page 12

Looking for Cat Burglars— Page 13

Editor's Note: Celebrating the Spirit
of Togetherness— Page 14

Brick Donation— Page 15

Happy Hanukkah

Hanukkah, (Hebrew: "Dedication") also spelled Hanukka, Chanukah, or Chanukkah, also called Feast of Dedication, Festival of Lights, or Feast of the Maccabees.

Jewish festival that begins on Kislev 25 (usually in December, according to the Gregorian calendar) and is celebrated for eight days. Hanukkah reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival.

Although not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures, Hanukkah came to be widely celebrated and remains one of the most popular Jewish religious observances. Hanukkah is celebrated from Thursday, December 7 to Friday, December 15 in 2023.

From the Chair

Happy Hannukah to you all – we are celebrating this for 7 nights with candle lighting from Thursday 7th December, and you will see from photos in this edition, how it has been enjoyed. We purchased donuts for the first night from Greys Ave Deli, and a beautiful dinner was made for the residents by our cook, Albert. Hannukah decorations are everywhere, so we are looking very festive!

Since the last FOSCA, Shalom Court has been very busy – a lot of refurbishment has happened in the lower units, and we welcome some new residents into those units including Sandra with her dog Louie into Unit 1 and Mark into Unit 12. The new kitchen in Philipp House is about to be commissioned and it is wonderful to see the old cabinetry now replaced by new cupboards and drawers.

We will shortly welcome Eileen Smith into Albert House, and as I'm writing this, we are in the process of interviewing a couple from Whangarei who will become residents (in separate rooms) also in Albert House. You can see a fair bit of movement.

This is an extremely busy time of year for us all, and I thank all the staff for their fantastic work during this demanding time. Marlene and Roberta continue to work tirelessly as leaders for our staff, and along with the rest of the team, ensure things go smoothly. The staff end of year function will be held on 16th December.

There have been many photos sent to our editor (Chris Harris) and you can see from this FOSCA, all the fantastic events, birthdays including Melbourne Cup day. We are a little biased with all the photos of our resident cats, Yafa and Micky (and Thunder who occasionally makes herself known), and it is a sheer delight to see them interact with our residents and staff.

Christmas Day will see our usual festive lunch for the residents and family members put on by the Governing Board, and the next FOSCA will show photos of that. We try really hard to make this a special day.

A big thank you to Pete Jaspers, (Adele Hirsh's son in law) for the amazing vegetable box that he built in front of the lower lounge. They spent days building this to a top professional capacity, and the residents will now enjoy a little gardening and hopefully, eating of the products grown.

The Gertie Blumenfeld garden is looking very bright with all the summer flowers and a special thank you to Christine who comes to tend to the garden every few weeks. At the end of November, we bid farewell to Michal after almost 5 years of service to Shalom Court. We wish her all the best and thank her for all her contribution, especially on the cultural side.

An addition to our team is Doug who will be helping Rhoda with maintenance occasionally which is fantastic. His comment recently about Rhoda was, 'we need to plug her in and download her for all the knowledge she has of Shalom Court'. We will be recruiting a new health and safety compliance property coordinator in the new year as we recognize there is a gap in our organization for this position.

Noah is our new physio who works with our residents twice a week. Her bright personality and excellent skills make her a welcome addition to our team. Edna Levy (from Bodylight) has also taken a few sessions with our residents doing light exercises that even some of the staff jumped in.

Thank you again to our wonderful volunteers including the Entertainment Committee and our faithful Shabbat Kiddush roster. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please let me know as we always have scope.

Wishing you all a very happy Hannukah and all the best over the festive season. Our next FOSCA will be around March 2024 where I'm sure there will be a lot more to talk about.

Warm regards,
Esther Haver

**"At this time of year,
when the sun is most
hidden, the holiday of
Hanukkah celebrates the
rays of hope and light.
Often, it is through
simple and unrecognized
miracles that we are able
to feel the warmth of
hope and light."**

Rafael Goldstein



Comfort in Focus: Nurse Manager's Highlights

2023 has been a fantastic year, but we could not have done it without you! Thank you for being patient, kind and considerate to our staff and residents over the past year. There has been a lot of changes, some not so visible. Our staff have become more empowered, and a few have obtained level 4 qualifications.

We have staff currently who are studying for level 3 and 4 and they will be finishing their courses in March 2024. This is all to provide the best possible care to our residents. Level 4 is the highest qualification at present for care partners.

We also are very proud to say we now have 5 staff members that are Eden associates, and they are actively involved in providing person centred approach to care. By keeping skills alive that we used to do when at home we live a longer and happier life. This is to prevent boredom, helplessness, and loneliness.

Our staff morale has been lifted and everyone is happy to come to work and support our elders. With the upcoming holidays I would like to wish our leaders, and care partners a happy festive period, if you are taking a break, rest up and come back refreshed. If you are working, bring your sunny and positive attitude.

We have also taken feedback from relatives and are in the process of upgrading our technology at our facility which will benefit our elders and staff at the same time. Forward thinking technology is how we like to think about it. Our new kitchen is almost finished in Phillip house and would like to thank all our elders for being patient while this process also comes to an end.

As we stand at the crossroads of the present and glance back at the last four months, let us not merely see the pages turned, but read between the lines of experience. Each day, a sentence; each challenge, a paragraph; and in the mosaic of memories, find the narrative of growth, resilience, and the journey toward a brighter future

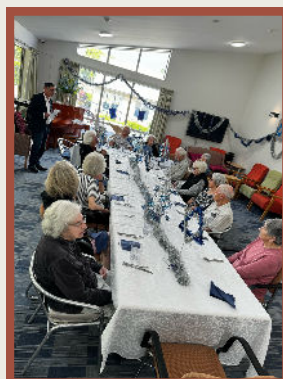


We have seen a few people pass away this year which is always sad as we develop a relationship not only with them but also with their extended families. We would like to think of them during these holiday period. As we say goodbye, we welcome our new families with open arms and enthusiasm. Welcome to Sandra Peterson and her dog Louis who have moved in today into unit 1 we hope she enjoys her extended life here at Shalom Court. We hope to be at full capacity by mid-December.

I would like to thank our tiresome volunteers who are always available and supportive for all their input this year. We do appreciate your input and support.

Lastly, I would like to wish our Jewish residents, staff, and wider community a happy Hanukkah. Our celebrations started on a high note last night. I wish you good health, wealth, and happiness for this festive period.

Warm regards,
Marlene



Daniel Kalman says Kiddush, while Janet Pezaro is lighting the candle for Hannukah

Peter Ceelen

Peter was born in Eindhoven in the Netherlands in August 1933, attended school as long as possible before the school was taken over by the German soldiers during the second world war. He later learnt the textile trade but did not see a future for himself in Holland.

He came to New Zealand when he was 25 years old with very few possessions and took on any job that was offered to him. He worked in many fields of trade eventually becoming the Managing Director and owner of menswear and suede and leather retail businesses in Auckland.

He married his wife Elaine when he was 35 years old and they had three children, a son who died at the age of 7 and two daughters Emma and Vanessa who are now married and between them have 5 children. Peter adored his family and his grandchildren.

Peter was an avid sportsman – before he came to New Zealand he became very proficient in Boxing and played soccer. He also played soccer here in New Zealand but his greatest passion became golf and he spent many happy years on the golf course for leisure and playing tournaments.

He spent his last couple of years at Shalom Court where he received wonderful care from a devoted team. It was a place he could call home.



Thilagawathy (Thilaga) Sirestarajah (née Ponniah)

Thilaga, as the lady liked to be called, had lived at Shalom Court for 14 months. The last three months had been different to her previous time in that she was frail from advancing age nearing 90. The care from the staff at Shalom was exceptional. The family is profoundly grateful for the care and pure love given to Ma. Thilaga's death, while sad, was merciful especially as it was after a head bath (that she had always loved), a good feed and then she died surrounded by many people. As wished by her, she was cremated after a private ceremony and the ashes dispersed at sea.

Thilaga's legacy lives on in her two sons and their families. She loved them enormously and was proud of them as they were of her. She was ethnically a Tamil, Hindu, Sri Lankan who became a New Zealander in her 80's. New Zealand was her fifth citizenship behind Great Britain, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and South Africa. She was humble about this that is seldom achieved by one single person.

Mum or Amma was multilingual with fluency in Tamil, English and Sinhalese. She had forgotten Malay due to lack of use. She was ahead of her time in many aspects being educated with multiple degrees in Science – Chemistry being her major and Education.

Amma had a witty sense of humour and cheekiness that is exhibited in her sons and grandchildren. Her drives to advance by education is continued in her sons. Each of the adults now have multiple tertiary qualifications in varying fields as Human Resources, Medicine, Engineering, Psychology and Neuroscience. She was very proud of this and Ma had a sense of accomplishment in life that we managed to attain ultimately due to her.

We will miss you Amma. We will always love you. As we always discussed, we will not lament your passing but be grateful to you for where you have brought us. We are good Amma. Please rest well that you are so deserving of Amma. Thank you dear Amma for everything xx



David Colmore-Williams

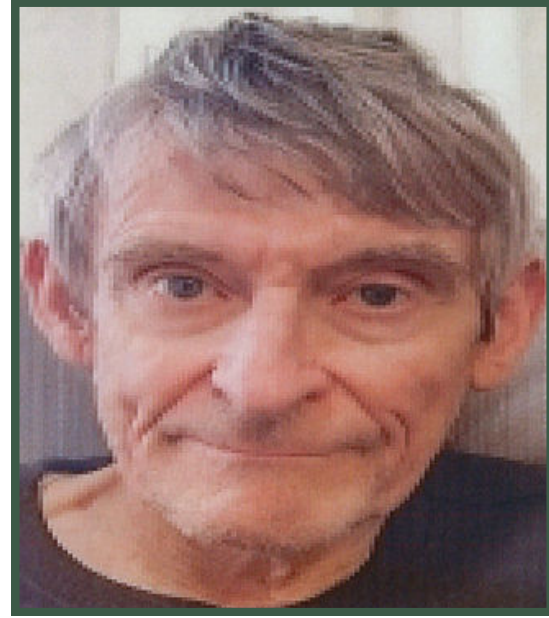
David was born in Auckland in 1940, during World War Two. He did not get to meet his father until he was 4 years old. As he grew up, he followed in our father's footsteps in becoming fascinated with the technical aspects of radio, television and electronics and largely educated himself in that field.

In his adult life he became dissatisfied with working for others and started his own electronics business, repairing people's TV sets, and later helping them with maintaining and repairing and operating their computers. He was very generous with his time in helping all manner of people in coping with their devices.

He was never happier than when he had the opportunity to help others in whatever capacity he could. David, we will all miss you and are richer for having known your kindness.

David was at Shalom Court from early September until his passing in mid-October 2023.

(written by David's brother, Farlan).



May their memory be a blessing



Shalom Court

Commitment. Care. Comfort.

International Weeks at Shalom Court

Shalom Court is buzzing with vibrant cultural celebrations as it joyously observes Fiji, Tokelau, Niue, and Diwali weeks, creating a tapestry of diverse traditions and festivities. The enchanting allure of Fiji permeates the atmosphere, with the rich Polynesian heritage of Tokelau and Niue adding an extra layer of cultural vibrancy. Residents and guests alike are treated to an immersive experience, with colourful displays, traditional dances, and delectable cuisine that transport everyone to the heart of the South Pacific. As the community gathers to commemorate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, the air is filled with the warmth of shared stories, laughter, and the glow of illuminated celebrations. Shalom Court becomes a melting pot of cultural exchange, fostering understanding and unity among its residents. These weeks exemplify the community's commitment to embracing diversity and creating a harmonious haven where every culture is celebrated and appreciated.

“Cultural diversity is the collective strength that arises from the unique perspectives, traditions, and expressions of every individual and community. Embracing this tapestry of differences enriches our understanding, fosters unity in shared humanity, and paints a vibrant mosaic of possibilities for a harmonious world”



Out and About

Embarking on rest home outings aboard the bus, followed by leisurely walks, is a cherished adventure for all the residents of Shalom Court. The commitment of the staff to ensuring the well-being of the residents is evident in the meticulous planning and execution of these outings. Every excursion is infused with care, as the staff attentively assists residents with boarding the bus and ensures their comfort throughout the journey.

The commitment to fostering a sense of community and joy is palpable as the residents share laughter and stories during the bus ride, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie. These outings provide not only a change of scenery but also a therapeutic experience, promoting physical activity and social interaction. The residents' comfort is of utmost priority, and the staff's dedication to creating a safe and enjoyable environment truly makes these outings memorable and cherished moments at Shalom Court.

"Rest home outings on the bus and leisurely walks are more than just adventures for the residents of Shalom Court; they are a testament to the commitment of our staff, the unwavering care we provide, and the comforting embrace of shared moments that turn every journey into a cherished memory."



Melbourne Cup Day

Residents at Shalom Court eagerly anticipated the lively festivities surrounding the Melbourne Cup Horse race in November, transforming their community into a hub of excitement and camaraderie. Laughter echoed through the halls as residents gathered to watch the thrilling race unfold on the big screen, their eyes filled with anticipation and cheers for their chosen horses.

The atmosphere was electric, with the room adorned in vibrant colors and adorned with horse racing decorations. Interactive games added an extra layer of enjoyment, as residents engaged in friendly competitions and exchanged good-natured banter.

The joy reached its peak as winners were declared, and the jubilant cheers filled the air, creating lasting memories of fun times shared at Shalom Court during the Melbourne Cup festivities. This annual tradition not only brought the thrill of horse racing to the community but also fostered a sense of connection and joy among the residents.



BIRTHDAY TIME

Betty Adam's 100th birthday

Happy Birthday

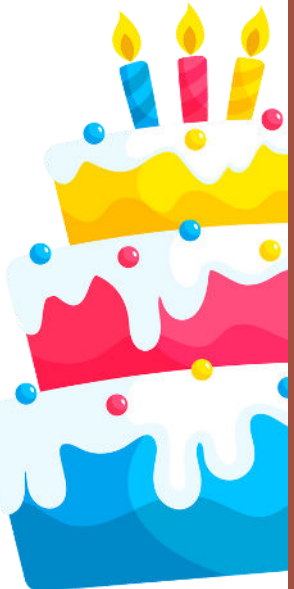
BETTY



BIRTHDAY TIME

Carole, Valentina, Peter

In loving memory of Peter, who celebrated his birthday during the last three months. Though he is no longer with us, we honor and cherish the moments we shared and the impact he had on our lives. Happy belated birthday, Peter, may your spirit find peace and eternal happiness. As we remember Peter, let's also celebrate the birthdays of Carole and Valentina. Happy Birthday, Carole! Your presence has always been a source of joy and inspiration. May your day be filled with beautiful memories and the warmth of love from those who hold you dear. Happy Birthday, Valentina! Your spirit of adventure and kindness left a lasting impression on us all. May this day bring you the love and happiness you deserve. In remembrance and celebration, we honor Peter's memory and extend our warmest wishes to Carole and Valentina on their birthdays.



Special Jewish Events

In the vibrant community of Shalom Court, the residents recently came together to celebrate Sukkot, creating an atmosphere filled with joy and togetherness. The air was infused with the aroma of Jerusalem bagels and challah bread being skillfully crafted in a communal effort. The laughter and chatter of families echoed through the air as neighbors joined hands in the spirit of Sukkot, sharing stories, traditions, and delicious homemade treats beneath the festive sukkahs that adorned the neighbourhood.

As the seasons transitioned, the community of Shalom Court continued to strengthen its bonds during Rosh Hashana, a time of reflection and new beginnings. Families gathered for heartfelt prayers and festive meals, ushering in the new year with a sense of hope and unity. The warmth of shared traditions and the sweet taste of traditional dishes created a sense of belonging that resonated throughout the neighbourhood.

Adding to the enriching cultural experiences, Rabbi Hecht graced Shalom Court with his presence during a special visit. With his family by his side, Rabbi Hecht shared insights into the significance of Hanukkah, fostering a deeper understanding of the festival's historical and spiritual importance. The community eagerly listened as he illuminated the meaning behind the festival of lights, strengthening the communal ties that make Shalom Court a place where tradition and unity thrive.



Events at Shalom Court

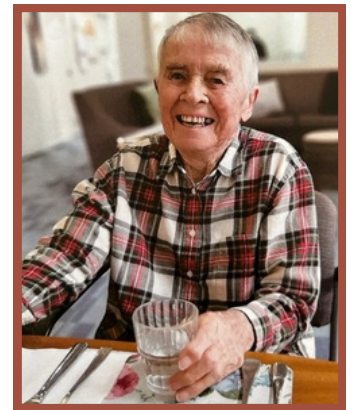
The vibrant atmosphere at Shalom Court reached new heights as former Judge Robinson graced the community with a visit, bringing with him a wealth of experience and wisdom that left everyone eagerly anticipating his words of inspiration.

Meanwhile, Janet and Wendy found solace in each other's company, basking in the tranquility of their shared moments.

In another corner, Gloria and her feline companion, Micky, formed a picture of serene contentment as they lounged together, with Micky reveling in the attention lavished upon him.

Amidst the harmonious scenes, Edna Levy took charge, guiding a group of residents through a rejuvenating Pilates session. Her leadership and enthusiasm injected a burst of energy into the room, creating an environment where physical well-being and community spirit seamlessly intertwined at Shalom Court.

Love and joy enveloped the room as Ruth and Raoul Ketko shared a tender moment, their connection evident in the graceful dance they shared, each step echoing the rhythm of their hearts.



Looking for Cat Burglars

Once upon a moonlit night in the quiet town of Whiskerville, a notorious cat burglar was on the prowl. Residents would wake up to find their socks missing, their jewelry displaced, and their prized possessions rearranged into puzzling patterns. The townsfolk scratched their heads in bewilderment, unable to catch the elusive feline felon.

Little did they know, the mastermind behind these capers was none other than Mickey, a sleek and sly tabby with a penchant for mischief. Mickey's partner in crime was Yafa, a cunning calico with a flair for acrobatics. Together, they formed the most purr-fectly mischievous duo in Whiskerville.

One day, after a daring heist at the local fish market, Mickey and Yafa decided to take refuge in the grand oak tree at Shalom Court. Little did they know, the New Zealand police had caught wind of their feline escapades and were hot on their tails.

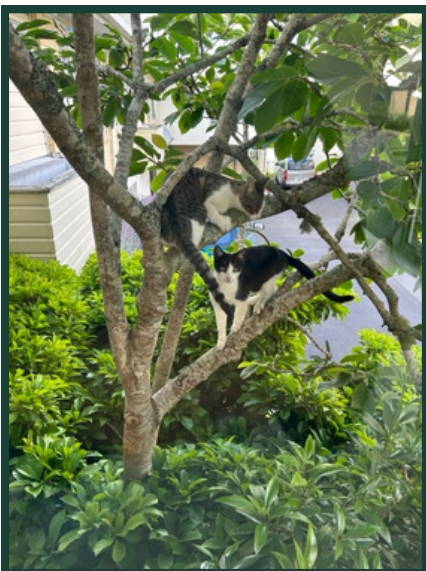
As the duo nestled in the tree's branches, patrolling officers approached, flashlights in hand. But much to their surprise, instead of finding a hardened criminal, they discovered two wide-eyed cats, innocently batting at leaves.

"Mickey and Yafa, is it?" chuckled Officer Whiskers, a cat-loving cop with a fondness for puns. "Looks like we've got a case of the 'paw'-dacious burglars."

Unable to resist the charm of the furry culprits, the officers scooped up Mickey and Yafa, who offered no resistance, choosing instead to purr contentedly. The news spread like wildfire through Whiskerville, and soon a crowd gathered at Shalom Court, expecting a showdown.

To everyone's surprise, the police officers didn't handcuff the mischievous pair; instead, they showered them with scratches, belly rubs, and cuddles. The cats, realizing that their life of crime was over, surrendered to the joys of being pampered by the entire police force.

And so, under the starlit sky of Whiskerville, Mickey and Yafa transitioned from notorious cat burglars to beloved members of the community. Shalom Court became a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, eager to witness the heartwarming sight of police officers indulging in a cuddle session with two reformed criminals-turned-furry-friends. The once perplexed townsfolk now couldn't help but chuckle at the sheer absurdity of it all—Whiskerville's most notorious criminals turned out to be two mischievous cats, enjoying their retirement in the comfort of the grand oak tree at Shalom Court.



Editor's Note: Celebrating the Spirit of Togetherness

As we gather in the warmth of the festive season, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of joy and gratitude. It is a special privilege to stand before you as the editor of our beloved newsletter, a responsibility that brings me immense joy and a deep sense of connection to our vibrant community.

The process of putting together this newsletter is not just about compiling information; it's a journey of shared experiences, celebrations, and stories. Each article, every photograph, and the snippets of life that you, our wonderful community, contribute make this newsletter a reflection of the spirit that defines Shalom Court.

As we embark on the season of Hanukkah, a festival that symbolises the triumph of light over darkness, I am reminded of the light that each one of you brings into our community. Your kindness, generosity, and sense of togetherness shine through, making Shalom Court a truly special place.

I extend my warmest wishes to each one of you for a joyous Hanukkah and a festive season filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. May the glow of the Hanukkah candles illuminate your homes and hearts, bringing peace and happiness.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to actively participate in our newsletter. Share your photos capturing the essence of the season, recount heartwarming stories, let us in on upcoming events, and share the laughter with your favourite jokes. Your contributions not only enrich our newsletter but also strengthen the bonds that make Shalom Court a close-knit family.

Please send your submissions to shalomcourtmedia@gmail.com, and let's make our next edition a true reflection of the joy, diversity, and unity that define our community. Together, we can create a space where everyone feels heard, appreciated, and connected.

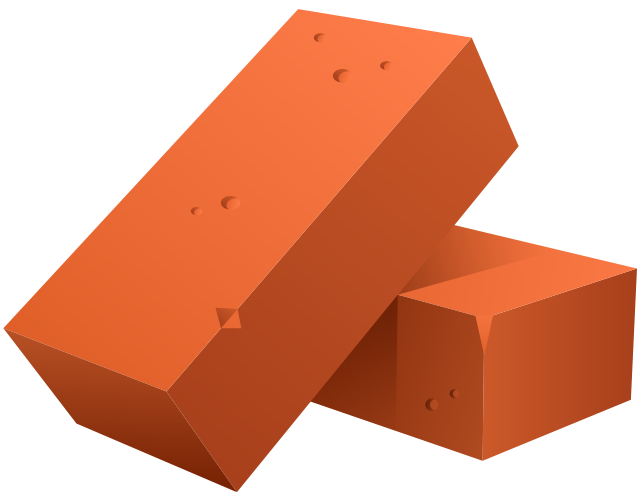
As we come together to celebrate the Festival of Lights, let us also celebrate the light that each one of you brings into our lives. Happy Hanukkah, happy holidays, and may the coming year be filled with love, laughter, and shared moments of joy.

With warmest regards,
Chris Harris
Editor, Shalom Court Newsletter



Shalom Court

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BRICK DONATIONS

If you are wanting to honour or celebrate a family member, friend or organisation then contact our operations team or click on the link on our website.

The perfect gift for someone.

*Thank
You*

I have found that among its
other benefits, giving
liberates the soul of the giver. .

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