



DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 9 EDITION



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## Honouring Legacy: Residents' Heartwarming Visit to Michael Joseph Savage Memorial

Residents of Shalom Court Rest Home recently enjoyed a memorable outing to the Michael Joseph Savage Memorial in Auckland, honouring New Zealand's first Labour Prime Minister and a champion for the rights and dignity of elderly citizens. The sunlit day provided a perfect backdrop for this meaningful visit, as residents took in the serene gardens and panoramic views over the Waitematā Harbour. Michael Joseph Savage's tireless advocacy for social welfare, including policies that improved the lives of New Zealand's aging population, resonated deeply with the group, making the experience both uplifting and reflective.

The outing offered residents an opportunity to connect with nature, history, and each other. For many, it was a chance to celebrate the legacy of a leader whose work has shaped their lives and the care they receive today. Conversations over picnic lunches shared stories of gratitude and admiration for Savage's vision of fairness and inclusion. As residents returned to Shalom Court, the sense of community and shared appreciation for the day's experience lingered, reminding all of the importance of cherishing both the past and the present.

# From the Chair

With Hannukah just around the corner, and the new year within grasp, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy festive season, and all the very best for us all in 2025.

Shalom Court continues to run at full capacity, and we have just added an additional room, charging it at a standard rate, as this room does not have an ensuite. Our total in Philipp/Albert/Fisher Houses is now 27, and our license allows us to have 29 people under our care. Units 1 and 2 have tenants, but can be utilised as rest home care, which we may do if the opportunity presents itself. The cottages at the rear also have 3 permanent residents from the Jewish community and many of the other cottages are rented out to nurses who are training in New Zealand.

Our AGM came and went in August, and has stayed at status quo for both Boards. Thank you to everyone for continuing to do this voluntary work so well and passionately.

We proudly used our Sukkah over Sukkot and have had a bit of staff movement in the last months. Rhoda Montgomery, our fantastic and yes, irreplaceable maintenance lady, has finally hung up her tool kit. We farewelled Rhoda in style with a beautiful lunch and Rhoda (happily) is still around - should we need her, as well as popping in from time to time. It was wonderful to see her at the staff Christmas Party, attired in her usual zany outfit which consisted of two lamp shades she'd purposely bought from the Op shop, swathed in red material - one on her head and another around her legs as she tottered in and enjoyed the great evening with the staff. The other news is that Shachar (married to John Alford's youngest son) has begun as Cultural Administrator, joining in with our present activities programme. Shachar has come to NZ to live for a few years with Tamir (her husband) and have already started on their journey of becoming parents.

We have welcomed Wally Hirsh, Alan Spalter and Leon Yankelowitz recently into Philipp House. Robert Benton, Astrid Ensing and Valerie Cotttle have also joined us and all are settling in very nicely. Sadly, Betty Adams was recently farewelled, just short of her 101st birthday. She was buried in Christchurch, with her son Ben flying in from USA. We will be purchasing a chair in Betty's name and also a morning tea for staff in the new year, in her memory. Hilda Gosling was 103 when she passed away recently. We will also miss Gloria Alder, Donald McPhail and Vernon Levy, all of whom have left us in the past few months.

Our new carpet is simply stunning - very classy and stylish and our next goal is to recarpet all the residents' rooms, keeping up the same style. We have just purchased 4 new electric beds (all king singles) with matching vanities, and will be continuing that throughout the next few years to replace the existing beds. We are also investigating new dining room chairs, ensuring they all fit into the new décor.

Next year, around March/April our community daycare will kick off on a small scale. A brochure has almost been completed advertising this. If you have any enquiries at this stage, please let Marlene know ([manager@shalomcourt.co.nz](mailto:manager@shalomcourt.co.nz)). So all in all, we are doing magnificently, and the site across the road has not affected us (for those who were wondering), as we offer the boutique rest home/hospital care that many people enjoy. The family of Shalom Court is very special which we can see in our devoted staff.

Wishing you all peace and happiness with everything that's going on in this world of ours.

Warm regards,  
Esther Haver

**“Wishing you all  
peace and happiness  
with everything  
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this world of ours”.**

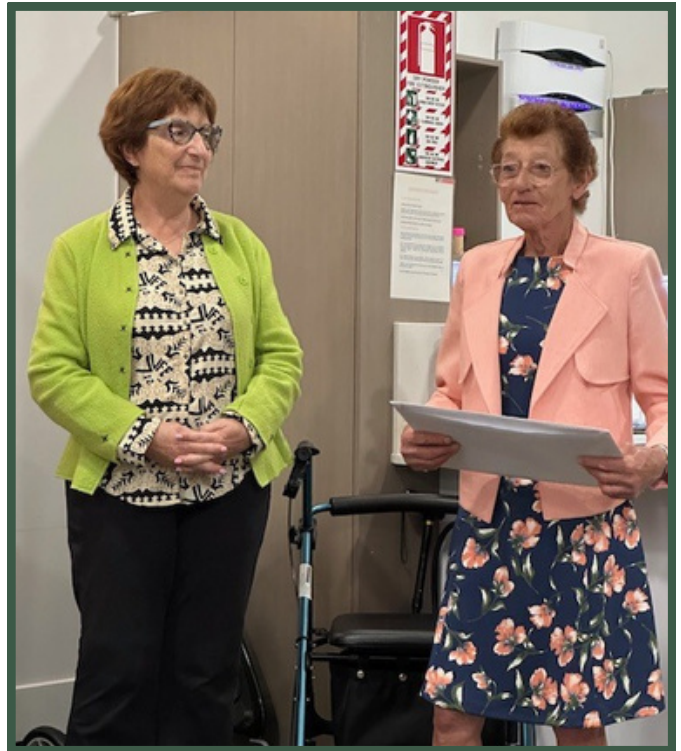




# A Heartfelt Farewell to Rhoda: An Irreplaceable Part of Shalom Court

In mid-November, a special luncheon was held to bid a fond farewell to Rhoda, a truly irreplaceable member of the Shalom Court family. For 18 years, Rhoda has been the maintenance lady extraordinaire, bringing her unparalleled strength, knowledge, and passion to every task. Her commitment to Shalom Court has been nothing short of extraordinary, and her contributions will always be remembered with gratitude. Rhoda's journey at Shalom Court began when she arrived with her late husband, Monty, through Margot Hart (Chair of the Board). Although she retired several years ago, Rhoda graciously came out of retirement at Esther's request, further demonstrating her unwavering dedication to the community.

Rhoda's skills are too numerous to list, but beyond her maintenance work, many special qualities stood out. She was known for her homemade preserves, which she lovingly shared with many residents and staff. Her deep love of animals was evident in the bond she shared with the three rescue cats who followed her around and her dog, whom she co-parents with Patricia. Rhoda also had a wonderful sense of style, always dressing in vibrant outfits to celebrate various occasions, brightening everyone's day. We want to express our deepest thanks to Rhoda for her incredible contributions, her kindness, and for being the amazing, wonderful person that she is. Rhoda, you will always be a cherished part of Shalom Court.





# Paws of Joy: Saving Hope Brings Love and Laughter

The saving hope foundation came to Shalom Court after we donated many cans and dry dog food to their fantastic organisation.

On Saturday they came with 3 puppies (from a litter of 5) who had been taken to a vet to be euthanised but the vet called saving hope instead.

Also were 2 adult dogs and 6 volunteers who spent a few hours with our residents and the dogs and also creative games with prizes for us. It was so wonderful and we are happy to support such a fantastic organisation. Thank you to them for coming from all over Auckland to spend time with us

**“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”**

**Anatole France**





# Remembering Betty Adams

When loved ones get to a truly great age, it seems like they will always be there tomorrow, and the next day, and the next. In a family not unknown for longevity there was apparently an aunt to my mother's generation who lived to 105 or 6 and mum was sure she would give her a run for her money. She did not want to die and perhaps was afraid of it, so I am grateful that by all accounts she passed peacefully. In 101 years, minus a week, you see a lot of life. One of our favourite Betty quotes was "If I could live through the Blitz I can live through this!". Indeed, she lived through a London East End childhood in the depression years with her father in and out of work, a world war and serving in the RAF, and later an earthquake that took their home and a pandemic that took millions, but not them.

She also ran her own business successfully for some time in Christchurch, led social activities in the Jewish community there, and was a proud lifetime member of WIZO in support of Israel. To my father's chagrin she was no fan of technology and struggled with it mightily. Yet after he died she continued to read and send emails every single day, kept up with the news on the internet, and knew how to research her medications and ailments online enough to make her doctor's job just that much harder. I'm sure she would disagree but I think mum struggled with her Jewishness, particularly in New Zealand with so few Jews and until more recently, its relative lack of diversity. I'm sure few at the assisted living retirement home in Chch knew of her faith, for example. She had little time for what she saw as the anachronistic tenets of the religion, yet clung tenaciously to its traditions. She longed to be around people with a common Jewish upbringing, and the move to Shalom Court in Auckland was the greatest of gifts for her final two years. Perhaps the best part of which was the food they served there - familiar as both English and Jewish, and she never had to worry about what was in it. I am sure that in her century of living no morsel of bacon or shellfish ever passed her lips - though at age 100 she did finally try Chinese food!

The years in New Zealand since arriving in 1960 included both joy and trauma. But overall, a series of amazing accomplishments for a family that arrived with essentially nothing. They came to get away from the doom and gloom of postwar Britain to try a life in the fresh air and sunshine of New Zealand and that's what they got, meteorologically and metaphorically. I'm sure another one of my mom's favorite sayings was involved in that move and every move after: "I've decided" could strike fear in those around her, but was also clearly a great motivator for her and my dad over the years.

Everyone here will have their memories of mum, and their own particular relationship. She was a social being at heart, and could surprise and delight with some well chosen words in any gathering - right up to her 100th birthday and beyond.

We will all miss her, and remember the best of her. Rest in peace Mum, you're finally back at Dad's side. Zichronah l'vracha - May her memory be a blessing.

Ben Adams

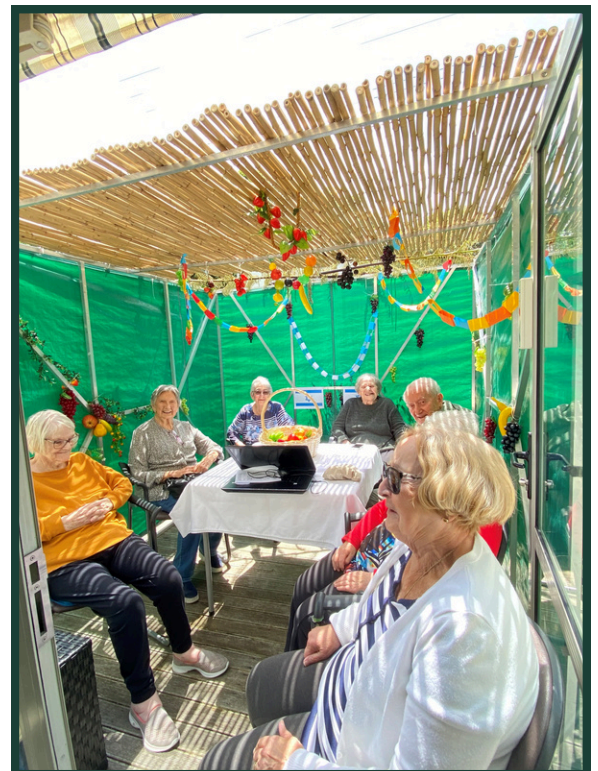




# Building Tradition: Celebrating Sukkot Together in the Sukkah

Residents of Shalom Court Rest Home came together in the spirit of tradition and community to help set up the Sukkah, marking the joyous festival of Sukkot. With hands-on participation, residents contributed to decorating the Sukkah with vibrant foliage, colourful ornaments, and symbolic elements that reflect the holiday's themes of gratitude and shelter. The collaborative effort brought a sense of fulfillment and pride, as everyone worked together to create a beautiful and meaningful space for celebration.

Spending time in the Sukkah became a cherished experience, filled with laughter, storytelling, and reflection. Residents enjoyed meals and shared moments under its canopy, connecting with the traditions that have brought people together for generations. The Sukkah not only served as a symbol of faith and resilience but also fostered a profound sense of unity and joy among the Shalom Court community, creating lasting memories of this special time.





# Shining Lights and Joy: Shalom Court Celebrates Diwali with Heart and Spirit

This was a surprise event as per our Eden philosophy. The residents were delighted to this surprise treat. We served our residents lunch in beautiful Indian garments and then had a shared lunch for staff. The staff had to bring a vegetarian dish as our Indian staff refrain from eating meat during Diwali celebrations.





# Blooms and Bliss: A Day at Parnell Rose Gardens

Residents of Shalom Court Rest Home recently enjoyed a delightful visit to the picturesque Parnell Rose Gardens, a beloved oasis in Auckland known for its stunning blooms and tranquil atmosphere. The outing was a sensory feast, as residents strolled through rows of vibrant roses, their rich fragrances filling the air.

The beautifully landscaped gardens provided the perfect setting for relaxation, reflection, and conversation, with many residents sharing memories of their own gardens and love for nature.

The day was filled with laughter, companionship, and moments of quiet appreciation for the simple beauty around them.

This offered a chance for residents to connect with one another while taking in the breathtaking views of the Waitematā Harbour. The visit to the Parnell Rose Gardens was not just an outing but a celebration of community and the restorative power of nature, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a renewed sense of joy.





# Raising Hope: Fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness with Baked Goods and Raffles

This October, Shalom Court Rest Home came together to raise both awareness and funds for Breast Cancer research in honour of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event was a resounding success, with staff, residents, and their families showing incredible support through generous donations and participation in a fun and meaningful raffle. The efforts of everyone involved resulted in a remarkable total of \$308.05 raised for the cause, which will be directly donated to Breast Cancer research. Roberta, who coordinated the fundraising, will be depositing the funds into the appropriate account. Ana Jones, a member of the Breast Cancer Committee, is helping by gathering the banking details to ensure the funds are directed to the right place.

The raffle, which was a central part of the day's events, brought excitement and anticipation. The lucky winners of the prizes were as follows: First prize went to Rhoda Montgomery, Second prize to Rojina Karkee, a night shift HCA, and Third prize to Joyce Bentadan, RN. The prizes were a lovely touch to the event, adding to the sense of community and fun. In addition to the raffle, Albert, a staff member, delighted the residents with his delicious homemade pink cupcakes and fairy bread, which were enjoyed during afternoon tea. It was a heartwarming day filled with generosity, joy, and a shared commitment to supporting Breast Cancer awareness. The funds raised will go toward helping those affected by breast cancer, making the event all the more meaningful for everyone at Shalom Court.



1st prize winner: Rhoda Montgomery



# Race Day Excitement: Melbourne Cup Celebrations in Full Swing

Melbourne Cup Day at Shalom Court Rest Home was a lively and festive occasion, filled with excitement and a touch of humor. Residents, staff, and volunteers gathered to watch the iconic race, with a fun twist added by staff members who joined in the celebration riding inflatable horses. The colourful, playful atmosphere brought smiles and laughter as everyone got into the spirit of the event, enjoying the thrill of the race from the comfort of the rest home. There were even sweepstakes and fun competitions, with prizes for the closest guesses and best-dressed attendees.

The day was not only about the race itself but also about the shared joy and community spirit that filled the air. Residents chatted, laughed, and cheered as they watched the race unfold, while staff and volunteers made sure everyone had a great time. The inflatable horses added a delightful element of surprise, making Melbourne Cup Day at Shalom Court a memorable and heartwarming celebration of camaraderie, fun, and friendly competition.





# Happy Birthday Robert



Robert Benton 79th Birthday together wife Jill Benton, son and two friends at a morning tea with Shalom Court residents in Albert house





# Moments to Remember: Celebrating Life and Community at Shalom Court



Janet Pezaro lighting candles on Shemini Atzeret.



Jim Salinger's visit to Shalom Court where residents were very interested to hear him speak about weather issues.



On Tuesday 26th November, Shalom Court had the pleasure of meeting Brooke Van Velden who is the MP for Tamaki. She was accompanied by 2 of her staff members and we showed her our beautiful facility - she was very impressed. Then we had afternoon tea with some of our staff who asked her questions. Overall it was a wonderful visit, including a chat with several residents.



The staff recently got together for a fabulous Christmas party - games and good food were the order of the night, with Green and Red teams competing against each other.





# Honouring the Past: A Visit from the Holocaust Second Generation Group

Residents at Shalom Court Rest Home were honored to receive a visit from Naomi Johnson, a member of the Holocaust Second Generation Group, who shared her powerful personal story and the history of her family's experiences during the Holocaust. Naomi spoke movingly about the challenges and resilience of those who lived through such harrowing times.

Her visit offered a poignant opportunity for residents to reflect on the significance of memory, survival, and the importance of passing on these stories to future generations. Naomi's presentation sparked meaningful conversations, as residents shared their thoughts and memories in response to her powerful account.

The visit was not only an educational experience but also a reminder of the profound impact that the Holocaust has had on many families around the world. Naomi's heartfelt words resonated deeply with the residents, many of whom have lived through significant historical events themselves. The afternoon concluded with a sense of gratitude and reflection, with everyone feeling privileged to hear such a personal and impactful story.

It was a memorable day at Shalom Court, one that reinforced the importance of remembrance, education, and the bonds that unite us in our shared history.





# Baking up a Storm

On Friday, 8 November 2024, residents at Shalom Court enjoyed a delightful baking session, where the focus was on making a delicious banana cake. With the guidance and support of Anna and Ilalina, everyone worked together to follow the recipe, ensuring every step was completed with care and attention. The activity required a great deal of concentration as residents listened closely to the instructions and contributed their skills to the baking process.

The event was filled with enthusiasm, as several residents, including Mary, Lucille, and Eileen, joined in with great excitement. Their joy and energy were contagious, making the session not only productive but also a fun, engaging experience. The aroma of the freshly baked banana cake filled the room, adding to the sense of accomplishment and the warmth of the community at Shalom Court. It was a lovely afternoon, bringing together both creativity and connection in the heart of the home.



TIME  
TO  
BAKE





# A Year of Memories and Gratitude: Editor's Reflection

As we reflect on another wonderful year at Shalom Court, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for contributing to the vibrant, caring community that makes this place so special. It's been a year filled with memorable moments, laughter, and the kind of stories that remind us of the strength and warmth we share.

As we look ahead to the festive season, I wish everyone a joyful Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and all the best for a relaxing and sunny summer ahead. May this time of celebration bring peace, happiness, and connection to all.

As your editor, I truly love reading the stories and seeing the wonderful photos of our residents, staff, and volunteers. You all are amazing, and I encourage you to keep the stories coming. Whether it's a special event, a quiet moment, or a fun memory, your contributions make this newsletter come to life and reflect the heart of Shalom Court.

Thank you for being a part of this journey, and I look forward to sharing many more stories in the year ahead!

With warmest regards,

Chris Harris  
Editor, Shalom Court Newsletter





# Building a Future of Care and Community: Support Shalom Court Today

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we navigate through the ever-changing landscapes of life, it's crucial to remember the values that anchor us: compassion, generosity, and community. At Shalom Court, these principles are not just words; they are the cornerstone of everything we do. Today, we invite you to join us in our mission to provide care, support, and a home for those in need.

Shalom Court is more than just a residence; it's a haven where individuals find solace, dignity, and a sense of belonging. We are committed to ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors receives the care and attention they deserve, regardless of their circumstances.

There are several ways you can contribute to our cause and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents:

- 1. Donate Now or in Your Will:** Your generous donations help us continue our vital work in providing high-quality care and support services. Whether you can give a little or a lot, every contribution makes a difference. Consider including Shalom Court in your will, leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and kindness.
- 2. Support Our Brick Campaign:** Instead of receiving traditional birthday presents, consider asking your loved ones to donate towards our Brick Campaign. By purchasing a brick, you're not just supporting our organisation financially; you're also leaving a lasting mark on our community. It's a gift that truly keeps on giving.
- 3. Explore Our Living Options:** If you or someone you know is seeking a comfortable and caring living environment, we invite you to explore our independent living apartments. Our recently refurbished, one-bedroom apartments offer a cozy and secure space for individuals looking to maintain their independence while receiving the support they need. Limited apartments are available, so don't hesitate to schedule a viewing today.

Whether you're considering a donation, supporting our Brick Campaign, or exploring our living options, your involvement makes a significant impact on the lives of our residents. Together, we can continue to build a future filled with care, compassion, and community.

For more information or to get involved, please contact us at [generalmanager@shalomcourt.co.nz](mailto:generalmanager@shalomcourt.co.nz). Your support is truly appreciated.



## Shalom Court

Commitment. Care. Comfort.



# Message from the NZJC and HCNZ

Last week a constructive meeting took place between members of the Jewish community and representatives of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Representing the Jewish community were Claire Bruell, Steven de Jong, Deborah Hart, Esther Haver, Josh Korpus, Vera Kruikziener, Lesley Max, Juliet Moses, Bob Narev and Michelle Wise. Representing the museum was the majority of its governing board and its chief executive.

We were able to detail the concerns the Jewish community has had with the museum, including the museum's apology for lighting its building in solidarity with the 7 October massacre, allowing its building to be lit up by pro-Palestinian protesters, hostile badges being worn by staff and the wrongful classification of exhibits. Each community member spoke in turn powerfully and often very personally. The museum representatives were left in no doubt as to the impact their actions and inactions had had on us personally and as a community, as well as the challenges Jewish people are facing more broadly.

The museum apologised for the mistakes they had made and the hurt it has caused us. The apology was full and, we believe, sincere. We are prepared to move forward and look to repair our relationship on that basis.

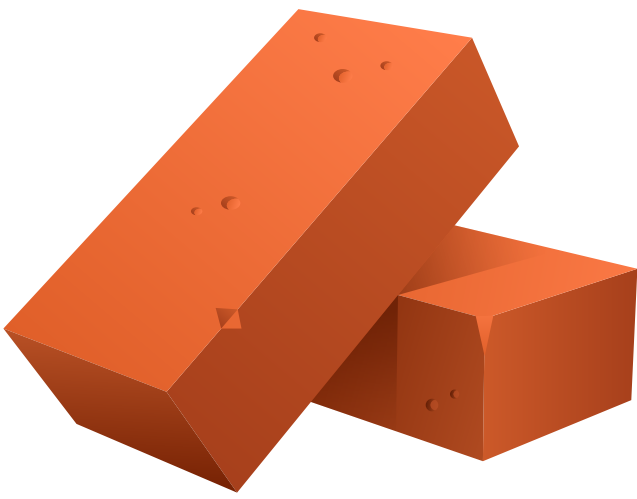
The museum has offered to meet with more members of the Jewish community, to work with us on a number of projects including the refurbishment of the Holocaust exhibit it houses and programmes to combat all forms of hate, including antisemitism. It wishes to host International Holocaust Remembrance events again.

We will now begin work with the museum on the various initiatives.

Deborah Hart  
Chair Holocaust Centre of New Zealand

Juliet Moses  
New Zealand Jewish Council





## BRICK DONATIONS

If you are wanting to honour or celebrate a family member, friend or organisation

Contact our operations team Roberta Tills – 521 7325 or email:

[accounts@shalomcourt.co.nz](mailto:accounts@shalomcourt.co.nz)  
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. .

”