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## Purim and Passover

Welcome everyone to the first edition of FOCUS for 2024! We're excited to kick off a fantastic year filled with activities, events, and milestones at Shalom Court. Let's come together to make this year memorable and enriching for all. Below is two events coming up of importance.

### Purim:

Purim is a lively Jewish holiday celebrated in commemoration of the ancient Persian tale recounted in the Book of Esther. It's a time of festive gatherings, costume parties, and the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther). Purim symbolizes the victory of good over evil and serves as a reminder of the resilience of the Jewish people.

### Passover:

Passover, or Pesach, is a significant Jewish holiday marking the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The centrepiece of Passover is the Seder, a ritual meal where the Exodus story is retold through symbolic foods and readings from the Haggadah. Passover is a time for reflection, family gatherings, and the observance of dietary restrictions, including abstaining from leavened foods to honor the haste with which the Israelites fled Egypt.

# From the Chair

Here at Shalom Court, things are ticking over very well, and kudos to both Marlene (nurse manager) and Roberta (General manager). Our 3-yearly audit is due in early April, and we are gearing up for that, getting everything in order and we are doing very well. Our next FOSCA will have an update on how that went.

We have employed on a casual basis, a health and safety co-ordinator who is already proving to be valuable. This is just a temporary position, and she is fulfilling the list of tasks that she has been assigned. As I write this, we have 25 out of our 26 beds full, and just this morning, I received confirmation for the last bed. It is wonderful that we have such an excellent name in the community at large as we receive regular enquiries that often come to fruition. With the huge facility being built across the road, we don't anticipate a drop in enquiries, as not everyone is keen on the large retirement style of living, compared to the boutique and family environment we provide.

Recently Roberta and I visited two large retirement/rest home facilities and were impressed by the retirement facilities, but the actual rest home rooms were much smaller than ours.

What we offer at Shalom Court for rest home and hospital residents, is superior with regard to care (medical and emotional), activities, food etc. The majority of our staff have been here for many years, and we work very hard to maintain that status quo.

Our volunteers are amazing, and you can see from photos of our recent celebration of the vegetable box built by Adele and Wally Hirsh's son-in-law (Pete) in honour of Wally's mother and aunt who lived here for many years. The EMS committee work really hard to provide entertainment and interesting functions.

Recent activities here have been many (as you will see from the photo display). Our staff get behind all these celebrations like Valentines Day (hearts were spread around Shalom Court for a few weeks), Cultural Day, Christmas Day etc. The next one will be Purim later this month, and we have ordered Hamentashen for everyone here. Following on from that will be Passover, and a beautiful festive meal will (as it usually is) be presented. We thank all the amazing volunteers who come to be part of the festivities as well as the Friday Shabbat services prior to dinner. It is thanks to people like this who make Shalom Court special. We recently celebrated Rhoda's (our amazing maintenance lady) 75th birthday, combined with the official opening of the vegetable box. It was a fantastic morning, with a beautiful morning tea prepared by Roberta and myself. It is important that we celebrate these milestones.

Anna Nathan and her partner David, have willingly stepped up to create a mural of old plaques that have for whatever reason, been taken down over the years. These plaques are being cleaned and will create a big mural which will go into Philipp House. We will do another morning tea for this and invite people who are related to the people mentioned on the plaques, to attend.

Another future function will be a grandchildren day which the EMS (Entertainment committee) will organise for a bit later in the year – a fabulous celebration of grandchildren and great grandchildren (residents and staff) which will be a lot of fun.

Tuesday 5th March we have our strategic planning day, chaired by Jack Porus. It is an opportunity for the two Boards of Shalom Court to get together, and discuss plans and ideas for our future. I'm sure these will be put into place when we have funds to do so.

Once again, I'd like to thank the two Boards, our amazing staff and our wonderful volunteers for all their hard work. A big thank you of course to Chris Harris who continues to do such an exemplary job of this newsletter. I wish you all a very happy and healthy start to 2024.

Warm regards,  
Esther Haver

On our website you can see the page for donations in the form of Bricks. Which brings me to our Bricks. In years gone by, brick donations were more prevalent, but this has dried up somewhat. Recently a very generous donation of 65 bricks for Bob and Freda Narev were gifted. For example, for my mother's 80th birthday, instead of gifts she asked for donations to Shalom Court, and she was one of many who did this. I would like to see this back up and running.

You can contact Roberta on [accounts@shalomcourt.co.nz](mailto:accounts@shalomcourt.co.nz) to expedite this.





## Kabbalat Shabbat

Sylvia and Arnold Treister have been the mainstay of the important Jewish activity of ensuring Kabbalat Shabbat is alive and meaningful at Shalom Court. Sylvia has been the dynamo behind organising the services and ensuring enough volunteers on the roster.

After many years, Sylvia has retired from this duty and we thank Sylvia and Arnold for all their years of dedicated and enthusiastic service for which we are very grateful.

I have taken over the roster, with Sylvia's guidance.

The Shalom Court Kabbalat Shabbat is led by a volunteer. Starting at 5pm on Fridays, it takes place at the dinner table for about half an hour. The Shalom Court residents have bits they do and volunteers fill in the rest.

This depends on the individual volunteer – it could involve a drosh on any Jewish matter, or singing some shabbat songs (Lecha Dodi, Yigdal, Adon Olam, etc).

We are looking for more people (men and women) to join the roster once every 2 months for this important mitzvah.

The service is flexible in terms of your skills and what you prefer to do. If you want to know more, please be in touch with me.

Roy Nates  
021 0272 3120  
[roy.nates@outlook.com](mailto:roy.nates@outlook.com)

After many years, Sylvia has retired from this duty and we thank Sylvia and Arnold for all their years of dedicated and enthusiastic service for which we are very grateful. ”



## Tu Bishvat 2024 'Rosh Hashana La'allanot'

The Hebrew festival of Tu Bishvat 2024 'Rosh Hashana La'allanot', literally "New Year of the Trees" in contemporary Israel, is a day celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted. At Shalom Court on Thursday 25th January, it was commemorated in direct association with the war in Israel and we planted a beautiful protea tree on the driveway side of Albert House. The history of the people of Israel is not just a history of disturbances but a history of resilience. On Tu Bishvat, we convey a message of renewal and hope: we will rise from the dust and grow new lives all-around Israel. The pain of the grieving families is the pain of the entire Israeli people, and we stand with them throughout the way. The photos are of Raoul Ketko planting the tree, and some other residents who took part. May the tree flourish at Shalom Court and always be a reminder of strength, growth and love.





# Shalom Court Celebrates Cultural Diversity with Filipino Day and Pacific Dancing Extravaganza

Shalom Court, a beacon of warmth and community spirit, recently transformed into a vibrant tapestry of cultural celebration. Amidst the cozy confines of this residential haven, residents, staff, and their families united to honor the rich diversity that enriches their lives.

Filipino Day emerged as a highlight, infusing the atmosphere with the flavors, colors, and rhythms of the Philippines. From the tantalizing aroma of adobo and pancit to the lively beats of tinikling, the essence of Filipino culture enveloped Shalom Court. Residents eagerly shared cherished recipes, regaling one another with tales of homeland memories.

But the festivities didn't stop there. Pacific dancing took centre stage, captivating all with its grace and energy. From the hypnotic sway of the hula to the dynamic movements of the Samoan siva, each dance spoke volumes of tradition and history. Laughter and applause filled the air as residents, staff, and families joined in, forging bonds through shared joy and celebration.

For a day, Shalom Court transcended its role as a mere residence, morphing into a vibrant cultural hub where diversity thrived. It wasn't just about the food or the dances; it was about the connections forged, the stories shared, and the memories created. In these moments, Shalom Court truly embodied its name—a place of peace and wholeness for all who call it home.

**"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness." - Ola Joseph** ”





# Valentine's Day-Love is the air

Love was in the air at Shalom Court this Valentine's Day, as residents and staff alike celebrated the day of love with joy and warmth. Among the stars of the day were Raoul and Ruthie Ketko, whose love story continues to inspire everyone at Shalom Court.

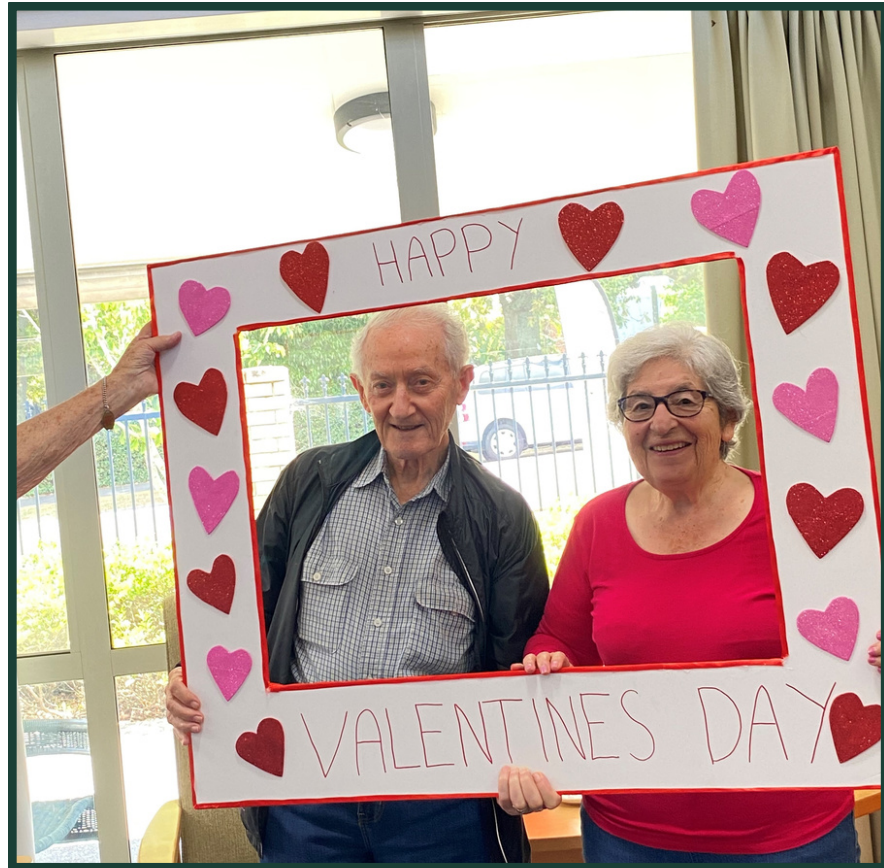
Raoul and Ruthie, the inseparable duo, melted hearts as they shared their affection with one another. Their tender glances and gentle touches were a testament to the enduring power of love, reminding us all that age is just a number when it comes to matters of the heart.

The festivities continued with a delightful Valentine's Day lunch that brought smiles to every face. The residents reveled in the delicious meal, savoring every bite as they shared stories of love and laughter.

Adding to the sweetness of the day were the Valentine cupcakes lovingly prepared by Lima, our resident baker extraordinaire. Each cupcake was a work of art, adorned with heart-shaped sprinkles and filled with love.

Dr. Young Lee, the beloved GP of Shalom Court, also found himself caught up in the romantic atmosphere. Known for his compassionate care and friendly demeanor, Dr. Lee couldn't help but embrace the love-filled spirit of the day, spreading smiles wherever he went.

As the day came to a close, Shalom Court was filled with warmth and contentment, a true testament to the power of love to brighten even the dreariest of days. Here's to many more moments of love and laughter at Shalom Court!





# Happy Birthday

# EVERYONE



Maureen's 91st



Fred Van Tonder and Raoul Ketko



Mary Joass's 92nd



Irene's 87th



# Knitting Together: The Warm Threads of Community

In the heart of Shalom Court, a retirement community nestled amidst serene surroundings, lies a group of individuals whose nimble fingers and creative minds weave more than just yarn — they knit bonds of friendship and warmth. This gathering of knitters, each with their own unique stories and stitches, has become a cornerstone of camaraderie within the community.

The lounge room buzzes with the rhythmic click-clack of knitting needles and the gentle hum of conversation. It's a scene of tranquility and connection as residents, ranging from seasoned pros to eager beginners, come together to share their love for knitting.

For some, knitting is a cherished lifelong hobby, while for others, it's a newfound passion discovered in the golden years of retirement. Regardless of experience, everyone finds a place among the group, guided by the collective wisdom and encouragement of their fellow knitters.

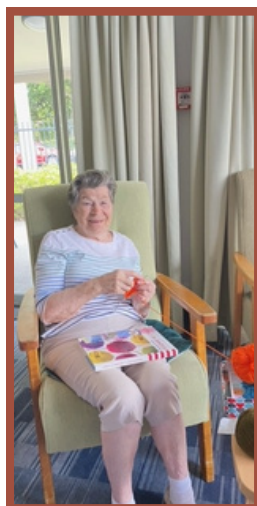
As needles dance and yarn twists into intricate patterns, stories unravel alongside the stitches. Tales of travels, family memories, and life's triumphs and tribulations interweave with each row knitted, creating a rich tapestry of shared experiences.

But it's not just the act of knitting that binds these individuals together; it's the sense of belonging and support that permeates every stitch. Whether helping a neighbour decipher a tricky pattern or offering a sympathetic ear during challenging times, the knitters of Shalom Court exemplify the true spirit of community.

Beyond the walls of their gathering space, their creations serve as tangible tokens of care and compassion. From cozy blankets for charity drives to handmade gifts for loved ones, their knitting extends warmth far beyond their immediate circle.

In a world often characterized by hustle and bustle, the knitters of Shalom Court remind us of the simple joys found in slowing down, connecting with others, and creating something beautiful with our own hands. Theirs is a testament to the enduring power of community and the transformative magic of a few strands of yarn.

In the gentle rhythm of knitting needles and the warmth of shared stories, Shalom Court's knitting group embodies the true essence of home — a place where hearts are warmed, friendships are nurtured, and every stitch is a testament to the beauty of togetherness.



# A Joyous Jumble of Festivities at Shalom Court

Amidst the twinkling lights and the aroma of sizzling barbecues, Shalom Court blossomed into a haven of jubilant spirits this holiday season. The joyous melodies of laughter mingled with the crackle of flames as the board graciously treated residents and staff to a Christmas BBQ extravaganza. Grilled delights danced on plates while hearts warmed with the spirit of togetherness.

As the year waltzed towards its end, Shalom Court didn't shy away from bidding farewell in style. The end-of-year party transformed the halls into a kaleidoscope of colours and chatter. With festive hats adorning heads and merry tunes filling the air, residents and staff reveled in the shared memories of the year gone by, and the promise of adventures yet to come.

Amidst the merriment, a special milestone illuminated the corridors with a radiant glow—Rhoda's 75th Birthday. With a lovely morning tea, the celebration was a testament to the cherished bonds that flourish within these walls. Rhoda, with a twinkle in her eye and a smile that could light up the room, reminded us all that age is but a number, and joy knows no bounds.

In a corner of Shalom Court, a tale of unlikely companionship unfolded—Charlotte and her feathered friend, Spike. Amidst the flutter of wings and the chirps of delight, Charlotte and Spike showcased the beauty of camaraderie that transcends species. Their antics brought smiles to faces young and old, proving that sometimes, the most unexpected friendships are the most treasured.

Meanwhile, Ruthie Ketko found solace and joy in the melodies that filled the air. With a song in her heart and a rhythm in her step, Ruthie reminded us all that music has the power to uplift and unite, regardless of age or circumstance.

And let's not forget the heartwarming scene of Kathy and Ruth, nestled on the couch on a lazy Sunday morning, accompanied by the ever-charming Mickey the cat. As they shared tales and cuddles with their feline friend, laughter bubbled forth, echoing through the halls and warming the very soul.

In the tapestry of life at Shalom Court, these moments of joy, camaraderie, and laughter weave together to create a vibrant mosaic of community. Amidst the daily routines and occasional trials, it's these simple joys and heartwarming connections that remind us all—the best moments are often the ones filled with love, laughter, and a touch of whimsy.





# Honouring Legacy: Unveiling of Memorial Garden Box and Plaque at Shalom Court

In a poignant ceremony filled with remembrance and gratitude, the community of Shalom Court came together to unveil a memorial garden box and plaque dedicated to two cherished former residents, Martha Horn and Margot Hirsh. Led by Adele Hirsh, daughter in law of Margot Hirsh, the event was a heartfelt tribute to the enduring impact these remarkable women had on the neighbourhood.

Martha Horn and Margot Hirsh were not just residents of Shalom Court; they were pillars of strength, kindness, and generosity. Their presence illuminated the lives of those around them, leaving an indelible mark on the fabric of the community.

The memorial garden box, adorned with vibrant vegetables and lush greenery, stands as a living tribute to Martha and Margot. It serves as a tranquil sanctuary where residents can gather to reflect, find solace, and cherish fond memories of their beloved neighbours. The plaque, adorned with heartfelt words of remembrance, serves as a permanent reminder of the profound impact Martha and Margot had on Shalom Court and beyond.

The unveiling ceremony concluded with a moment of silence, as family, friends and residents gathered around the memorial garden box and plaque, paying their respects to Martha and Margot. In that serene moment, amidst the beauty of the garden and the warmth of shared memories, it became abundantly clear that though Martha and Margot may no longer be with us in body, their spirit lives on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing them.

As we leave the ceremony, may we carry forward the lessons of love, compassion, and community that Martha Horn and Margot Hirsh so beautifully embodied. And may the memorial garden box and plaque stand as enduring symbols of their enduring legacy, inspiring future generations to emulate their remarkable lives of service and kindness.



# Editor's Note: Celebrating the Spirit of Togetherness

Welcome to Shalom Court's 2024 Newsletter!

As we bask in the glorious sunshine of this beautiful year, it's a pleasure to reflect on all the wonderful happenings that have already graced Shalom Court. From vibrant cultural days celebrating our diversity to the warmth of Valentine's Day spreading love throughout our community, it's been a joy to witness the spirit of togetherness flourish.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to both the Shalom Court Board and Trust Board for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their commitment ensures that our community thrives, providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the vibrant activities and events tailored for our residents. Whether it's engaging workshops, lively social gatherings, or enriching cultural experiences, there's always something happening to bring us closer together.

As we look ahead, we have the joyous occasions of Purim and Passover to anticipate in the coming weeks. These celebrations not only honour our traditions but also serve as reminders of the strength and resilience of our community.

I extend my warmest wishes to everyone at Shalom Court as we embrace the festivities and continue to build upon the bonds that make our community so special. May this year be filled with joy, prosperity, and countless moments of togetherness.

With warmest regards,  
Chris Harris  
Editor, Shalom Court Newsletter



## Shalom Court

Commitment. Care. Comfort.



# 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.

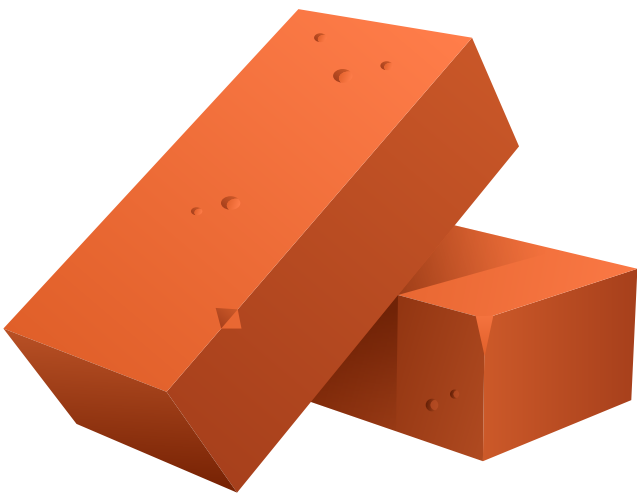
Whether you're considering a donation, supporting our Brick Campaign, or exploring our living options, your involvement makes a significant impact on the lives of our residents. Together, we can continue to build a future filled with care, compassion, and community.

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.



## BRICK DONATIONS

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

**This past month we honour:**

65 bricks

Bob and Freda Narev

Mazel Tov and many more

From: Lily, Eli, Rick and Sam

*Thank  
You*

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

”