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Sowing Seeds of Hope: Tu B'Shvat Festivities in Bloom

Celebrating Tu B'Shvat with joy and gratitude, we held a festive seder and planted fruit trees in our beautiful garden at Shalom Court. Residents, staff, and volunteers came together to honour the New Year of the Trees, sharing in a meaningful tradition that connects us to the land of Israel and the cycle of life. During the celebrations, we enjoyed a variety of fruits—dates, figs, pomegranates, and nuts—each representing the beauty and bounty of nature. We recited blessings, sang traditional songs, and reflected on the importance of trees in Jewish heritage, symbolizing growth, renewal, and hope.

After the seder, we gathered outside to plant young fruit trees in the Shalom Court garden. Residents took turns gently placing the trees into the earth, their hands working together in an act of care and stewardship for future generations. It was a heartwarming sight to see smiles, hear laughter, and feel the shared sense of purpose as we contributed to making our garden even more vibrant. The day left everyone uplifted, with a renewed appreciation for the environment and the deep roots of community that continue to grow at Shalom Court.

From the Chair

As our summer starts to draw to a close, I am extremely happy to share with you all these gorgeous photos so you have an idea of what is happening at Shalom Court. The activities, festivities, birthdays, talks, walks, outings, meetings, education etc are endless, and for a small home, we are buzzing.

One of the highlights since our last edition, was a talk given by Micky Michaeli in February, where we hosted around 100 people in Albert House lounge – he spoke about his beloved son, Omri, who was killed on 7th October 2023, being one of the first respondents from the IDF (Israeli Army) to react to the horrific invasion by Hamas. Micky shared with us some videos and spoke eloquently and emotionally about Omri, and the amazing and heroic person he was. People who came were very moved by Micky's talk, and there was also a spontaneous few words spoken by a fellow soldier who had served with Omri quite a few years back. The staff at Shalom Court, specifically Marlene, Roberta, Shachar and Anna, were extremely helpful in pulling this event together. We also had volunteers on the gate. Albert, our chef, put on a magnificent supper that everyone enjoyed. I am grateful that we could showcase Shalom Court by presenting this delicate and important talk.

Shalom Court has a license for 29 Resthome/Hospital beds, 27 of which are in the main buildings. We are able to look after two people in cottages 1 and 2 (in front of the lower lounge) for resthome care, and that has begun to happen with one of the residents there. So we are sitting at 28 residents in the categories that we so ably cater for. Shalom Court hasn't been in this position for a long, long time and as Chair of the Governing Board, I can, hand on heart, say this is because of the tireless work by Marlene as our Nurse Manager, and Roberta, who steers the ship, working hand in hand with Marlene. Added to that are our wonderful staff, including a full contingent of Registered Nurses, HCA's, phenomenal cook and helpers, admin and volunteers. The two Boards who work so hard behind the scenes complement the staff, and look at us now..... I want to thank them all so much for making my job as Chair an easy one.

You will have noticed the new carpet that has really lifted our home, and the next steps that will happen before the end of summer, is painting the exterior. Then we will begin, room by room, to recarpet and re-curtain, purchase garden furniture, followed eventually by new furniture in the lounges – my goal and that of the Boards is to lift Shalom Court to a more beautiful and stylish place, one where we will keep attracting members of the Jewish community, and general community at large. We have the privilege of using the services of a wonderful architect to help us on this journey, and I will be happy to fill you in more in the next edition of FOSCA, in June.

The gardens are looking fantastic, with the Gertie Blumenfeld Garden in front of Philipp House in full bloom. I want to thank Christine Hanley who quietly and, on many weekends, comes and organises (and works) in the gardens, noting what needs to be done – pruning and replanting, sharing ideas, along with Tamir Alford (Shachar's husband) who does several hours each weekend.

We celebrate Purim in a few days, and then Pesach will be upon us again. As in the past few years, Pesach will be enjoyed by the residents on the first day (not the eve) with a festive lunch and reading of the Hagaddah.

Shachar is due to give birth to her baby in late April, and Shalom Court staff will be hosting a baby shower for her in early April. We are hoping that once the baby is born, she will bring her along and continue working along side of us when she is ready.

Enough from me – enjoy this edition,

Warm regards,
Esther Haver



Festival of Lights Shines Bright

Shalom Court was filled with warmth and light as residents, staff, and families came together to celebrate Hanukkah. The menorah was lit each evening, with blessings and songs bringing joy and a sense of tradition to the home. Residents enjoyed spinning dreidels, sharing stories from their own Hanukkah memories, and savoring delicious sufganiyot and latkes prepared by the kitchen team. The celebration brought a special sense of community, honoring the Festival of Lights and the spirit of togetherness that shines brightly at Shalom Court.



REMEMBERING WALLY HIRSH



Wally and his older brother, Fred, came to New Zealand with their parents, Ernst and Margot as German refugees arriving in Bluff on the 11th November, 1938. Ernst, who had been an accountant, was given a job at the Bruce Woolen Mill, in Milton. Unfortunately, Ernst only managed to get one of his sister's Martha, and her husband, Joe, to New Zealand before World War 2 broke out.

Wally and Fred had their primary schooling in Milton before the family moved to Dunedin, where his father became the spiritual head of the Dunedin Jewish Community. Wally played hockey at high school and was in the Otago rep team after leaving school. He later played Squash and was an ardent supporter of the All Blacks!

Wally enjoyed Dunedin but came to the North Island to attend all the Habonim summer Camps. In 1955, he was chosen to go on Machon in Israel, to undertake a leadership training programme for 10 months. This made a lasting impression on Wally leading him to become the youth representative on the Zionist Federation. Later, he became the editor of the New Zealand Jewish Chronicle, a founding member of the Jewish Council and along with Jeff Durkin, organized the commemoration of the 40th anniversary since the rescue of the Inmates of the Concentration Camps, which was held at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington.

He also became the chairman of the United Israel Appeal committee. When he returned from Israel he went to Teachers College and attended Victoria University as a part time student, finishing up with 2 degrees. He and Adele were married in 1958 and had three children – Geoffrey, Joel and Leora. He was very proud of his children and was a caring and loving father. The family moved from Wellington to Aokautere (near Palmerston North) where he became the teaching head of the two teacher school. On returning to Wellington he became a vice principal before head of Clyde Quay school and then principal of Karori West Normal School.

He was on various educational committees including the decimal currency board and Tomorrows Schools. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the USA where he studied different ethnic groups observing their teaching methods and the revitalizing of their native language. Wally and Adele had planned a sabbatical in the UK for 1986 but the Deputy Prime Minister, Geoffrey Palmer, approached him and asked if he would be the next Race Relations Conciliator. This entailed a move to Auckland. Geoff, was by then living in Sydney, Joel was on his OE and Leora had just returned from her year in Israel and was working in Wellington.

His years as the RRC were turbulent, demanding, controversial, leading to long hours, but also included many wonderful experiences. He and Anne Gluckman (then the Principal of Ngatapawai College) organized a student exchange programme within New Zealand, that was very rewarding and successful. His work as the Race Relations Conciliator, was recognized by being awarded an OBE. He then became Head of Adult Education at AUT before being persuaded to become the principal of Kadimah College (now Kadimah School). The roll grew rapidly and rooms adjacent to the school, at Peerless Ties were rented so that the students in years 8 and 9 had classrooms.

To add to his portfolio, he became a Justice of the Peace. On finally retiring, he was able to attend pottery classes at the Auckland Studio Potters and it wasn't long before he became the Chairman – he was a natural leader and always full of progressive ideas. About this time to, he was approached by the Woollongong University, to lead Elder Hostel Tours of New Zealand and Australia. He did these tours twice a year for the following 6 years and then Meadowbank U3A asked him if he would be willing to take U3A members on tours – the answer was “yes” and 17 trips (in NZ, Australia and Asia followed.)

Wally and Adele were enthusiastic travellers and visited Australia frequently (as Geoff, Shayne and family and Adele's sister and her family lived there) but they also visited London where many of his first cousins lived, Europe, Israel, Turkey, Asia and the Pacific. They enjoyed tramping in New Zealand walking many of the wonderful and beautiful National Parks which encouraged them to start a Jewish Tramping Group which was called the Arteez – recycled teenagers! These days the Arteez has become a luncheon group.

He wrote some books for junior school children, books on multiculturalism with Professor Paul Spoonley, books on the private walking tracks in New Zealand and his life story. In his latter years, he enjoyed writing weekly dispatches to the extended family. His mother, Margot and Aunt, Martha, spent 16 happy years at Shalom Court and Wally spent his last 7 weeks there. He received wonderful care and we are so grateful to the staff who cared for him so well.

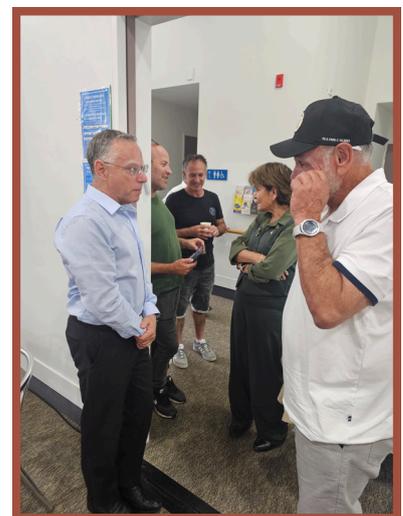
He was a workaholic, a leader, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He lived a full life and was a proud Jewish New Zealander.

In Memory of Omri: A Story of Bravery and Heart

A moving talk in February by Micky Michaeli, who spoke about his beloved son, Omri. Omri was one of the first IDF responders on 7th October 2023 and was tragically killed during the Hamas invasion. Micky shared heartfelt stories and videos, giving us a glimpse of Omri's heroism and character.

Around 100 people attended in the Albert House lounge, with a fellow soldier also sharing a few words. Thanks to Marlene, Roberta, Shachar, Anna, our volunteers, and Albert for helping make this important event so meaningful.

Micky shared heartfelt stories and videos, giving us a glimpse of Omri's heroism and character.



Sowing Seeds of Hope: Tu B'Shvat Festivities in Bloom continued..



Honouring the Six Million: A Heartfelt Holocaust Memorial at Shalom Court



Above: Sybil lit the candle in memory of the vibrant Jewish communities that were destroyed, leaving an enduring void in our history.

Below: Leon lit the candle in memory of those whose resistance and courage stood against oppression, often at great personal cost.



The residents gathered solemnly at Shalom Court for our Holocaust Memorial ceremony, a poignant moment of reflection and remembrance. Together, we lit six candles, each representing one million Jewish lives tragically lost during the Holocaust. As the flames flickered, they served as a powerful symbol of resilience, memory, and the enduring commitment to never forget.

The ceremony provided a meaningful opportunity for residents to honour the victims, reflect on the lessons of history, and stand in solidarity against hatred and injustice in all its forms.



Carole lit the candle in memory of the survivors, whose stories serve as enduring testimonies to unimaginable suffering and extraordinary resilience.



The residents gathered at Shalom Court for our Holocaust Memorial ceremony, where we lit six candles to honour the six million Jewish lives lost.

Strings of Love: A Valentine's Day Serenade at Shalom Court

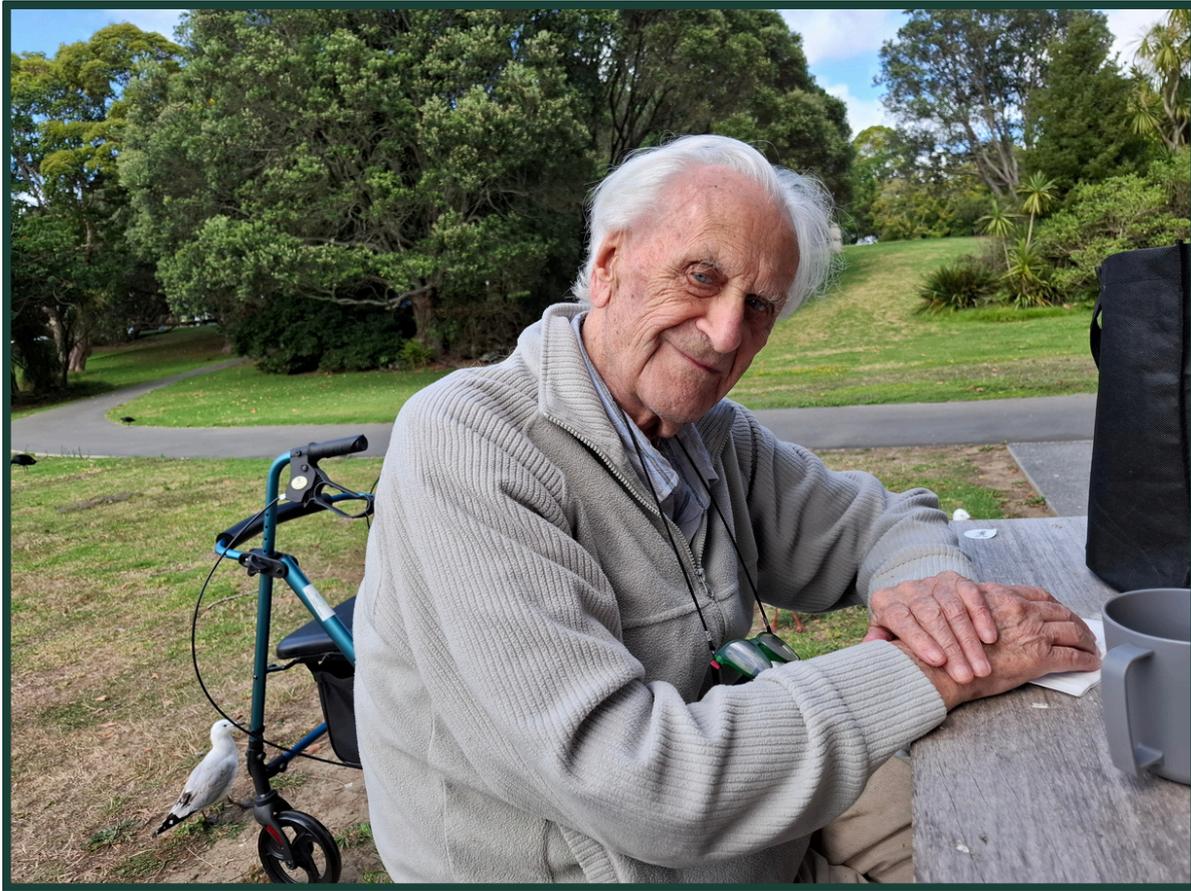
Shalom Court was filled with warmth and melody this Valentine's Day as residents enjoyed a beautiful violin performance that touched every heart. The soothing sound of strings brought a sense of joy and nostalgia, with classic love songs and timeless melodies filling the air. Smiles lit up the room as residents swayed gently to the music, some even humming along to their favorite tunes. It was a truly special afternoon, celebrating love, friendship, and the simple pleasure of sharing beautiful moments together.



love



Enjoying a delightful outing at the beautiful Western Springs.



Mixing Memories and Muffins: A Sweet Afternoon at Shalom Court

There was a delightful buzz in the Shalom Court kitchen as residents rolled up their sleeves and got busy baking a batch of delicious muffins for afternoon tea. The sweet aroma of vanilla and berries filled the air as everyone took part—measuring, mixing, and sharing favorite baking tips from years gone by. Laughter and lively conversation made the experience all the more enjoyable, with many reminiscing about family recipes and fond memories of baking for loved ones.

Later in the day, the fruits of their labour were enjoyed with a warm cup of tea in the cozy dining area. The freshly baked muffins were a hit, sparking smiles and compliments all around. It was a wonderful afternoon that not only filled stomachs but also hearts, bringing everyone together over the simple joy of homemade treats and good company.



Hearing the incredible life story of our beloved team member- Kalo.



Happy Birthday Sybil

spirit of the child into
cl means new r loir
ent of a n
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



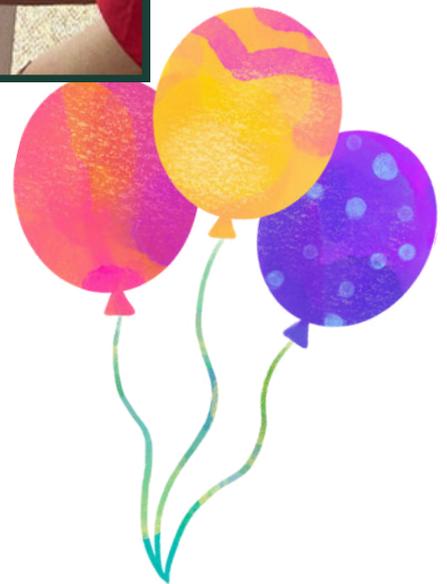
Sybil Cornell's 102nd birthday held at the beginning of January. Rabbi Rube attended, and it was a joyous occasion.

Sybil has been a long term resident of Shalom Court and continues to bring so much to our Shalom Court community.

Happy Birthday to a very special lady!

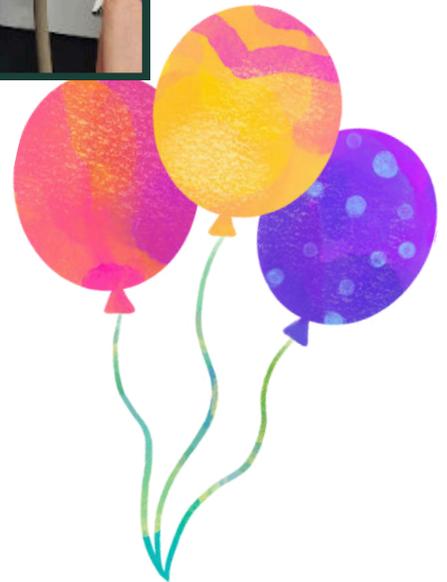
Happy Birthday Shachar

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



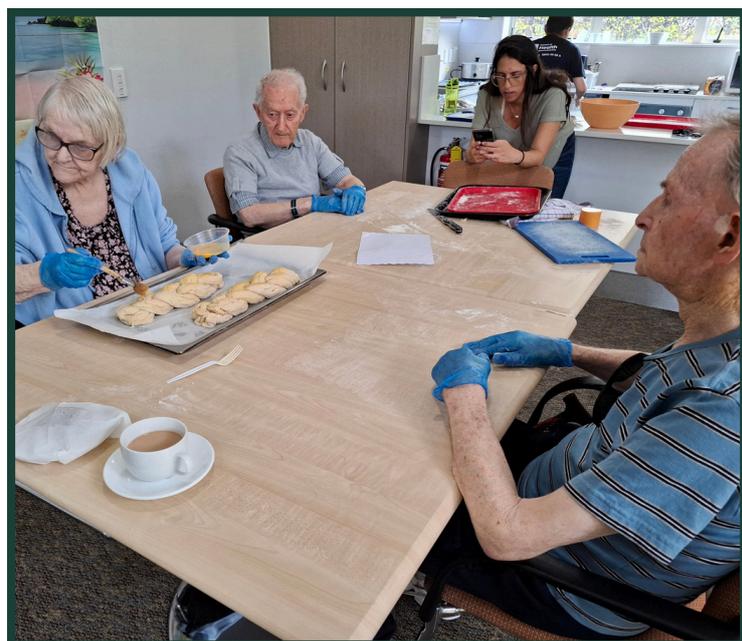
Happy Birthday Ruth

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Braiding Memories: Residents Rekindle Tradition with Homemade Challah

Residents preparing challah bread. This is really amazing as even vision impaired residents participated in this important dish which is consumed at shabbat kiddush on Fridays. The smell, texture and plaiting gave them a sense of dejavu taking them back to when they arranged these events for their own families.



A Stirring Tale: Olly Newland Dishes on the History of Spoons

Shalom Court recently had the unique pleasure of hosting renowned historian and author Olly Newland for an engaging and enlightening talk on a subject you might not expect—the history of spoons! Olly took us on a captivating journey through time, exploring how something as simple as a spoon has evolved over the centuries. From the ornate, hand-forged silver spoons of the 14th century to the elegant and finely crafted designs of the 19th century, each piece told a story of changing cultures, craftsmanship, and social customs. Residents and guests were fascinated to learn how spoons were not just practical tools but also symbols of status, wealth, and even love.

Olly's talk sparked lively discussion and plenty of laughter, as he shared amusing anecdotes about ancient dining etiquette and surprising spoon-related traditions from around the world. Guests had the chance to view a display of replica spoons from different eras, which brought the history to life in a tangible way. It was a wonderful afternoon of learning, connecting, and appreciating the beauty in everyday objects. We look forward to welcoming Olly back for more thought-provoking talks in the future!



We had the honour of hosting Olly Newland for a fascinating talk on the history of spoons from the 14th to the 19th century.

Shalom Court Times: Life, Laughter & Community



Our residents took part in baking challah for the Shabbat dinner, enjoying the process and the opportunity to come together in a meaningful and festive activity.



The residents enjoyed an energetic Zumba session, full of music and movement.



Our incredible residents have successfully completed the Cognitive Stimulation Course, demonstrating remarkable dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm as they engaged in activities aimed at enhancing memory and focus.

SO
MUCH
FUN

From My Desk to Yours: Thank You for 10 Wonderful Editions!

Welcome back to 2025! It's hard to believe we're already stepping into another exciting year together. As the editor of this newsletter, it has truly been my pleasure to bring you stories, updates, and moments that celebrate the heart of Shalom Court. This edition marks the 10th in our new format, and I couldn't be more proud of how far we've come in sharing the vibrant life of our community.

Volunteering at Shalom Court Rest Home has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me personally. It's a privilege to be part of a place filled with so much warmth, kindness, and connection. Each story that crosses my desk—whether it's about a resident, a staff member, a volunteer, or a special event—reminds me of the extraordinary people who make Shalom Court feel like home.

Thank you to each and every one of you who contributes to this wonderful community. Your care, compassion, and dedication do not go unnoticed, and I am constantly inspired by the work you do and the joy you bring. Here's to a fantastic year ahead, and to many more editions of celebrating the people who make Shalom Court truly amazing!

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.

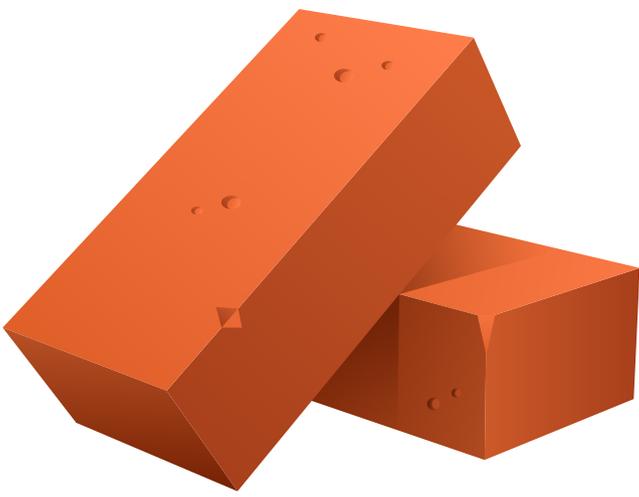
Whether you're considering a donation, supporting our Brick Campaign, or exploring our living options, your involvement makes a significant impact on the lives of our residents. Together, we can continue to build a future filled with care, compassion, and community.

For more information or to get involved, please contact us at generalmanager@shalomcourt.co.nz. Your support is truly appreciated.



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BRICK DONATIONS

5 bricks from Sybil Cornell to Paul Shenkin for his birthday

3 bricks for Olly Newland in appreciation of your talk

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
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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