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A Garden of Serenity: Celebrating the B.A. Lewis Garden Opening

On Sunday, 23 November, Shalom Court was blessed with sunshine and joy as we gathered to celebrate the official opening of the B.A. Lewis Garden. This beautiful new space, located in front of the lower lounge, has been thoughtfully designed to provide a peaceful retreat for our residents, families, and friends. Surrounded by vibrant greenery and gentle blooms, the garden invites everyone to pause, relax, and enjoy the simple pleasures of nature.

The creation of this tranquil haven was made possible through the dedication and vision of Christine Hanley, who served as project manager. Christine worked tirelessly, overseeing every stage of the project—from the initial planning and construction to the careful selection of plants. Her personal commitment and hands-on involvement have resulted in a garden that truly feels like an oasis of calm and beauty. It is a testament to her hard work and love for our community.

We hope the B.A. Lewis Garden will become a cherished space for quiet reflection, friendly conversations, and joyful gatherings for many years to come. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Christine and everyone who contributed to making this dream a reality. May this garden bring peace and happiness to all who visit, and may it continue to bloom as a symbol of care and connection within Shalom Court. For more images please look inside on page 3.

From the Chair

Another year is again almost done, and what a year it's been. Shalom Court continues to be full with a waiting list of people wanting to join our Shalom Court family. This is only because of our fantastic staff (including our amazing chef). I feel each and every time that I come here, that the place is dynamic with a vibrant atmosphere and never a dull moment!

This year we have welcomed and farewelled several people and it is truly a pleasure and honour to be able to enjoy our residents who bring with them such history and beauty and as a Board, we reiterate that the purpose of Shalom Court is to give back to the Jewish and wider community, to all those people who have contributed so much during their lives. Shalom Court is a place of peace and harmony, a place of activity and yet serenity, a place called 'home'. With our Eden philosophy, we encourage visits from all walks of life, and that of course includes our beautiful menagerie of gorgeous animals – those that call Shalom Court their home, and those that visit their loved ones who are now residents here. What a pleasure to have them.

On the door of Shalom Court's Philipp House, we have a new mezuzah by the Israeli artist, Michael Aram. This was donated to us and do look out for it when you come and visit. A new Seder plate (made by Anna Nathan) has also been donated, and we shall enjoy that next Passover.

The year has seen a lot of maintenance. We have painted the entire inside and outside of Philipp and Albert Houses (including Fisher House) and the doors on the hallways also have been painted in different shades. The paintings that adorned the hallways are now on two different walls all together and they look incredible! Additionally, a great deal of work has taken place on our lower lounge garden and a huge thank you to Christine Hanley who has been the project manager for this momentous task. It has been named the B A Lewis garden as we receive a small grant annually from this Trust, and use it for various projects – this year, it was the garden. That tranquil space will be officially opened on 23rd November and this edition will feature photos of that afternoon tea. We do hope those who attended enjoyed that special day.

Next year we are aiming for a special Art Exhibition by local artists and you will all be invited to this event. It is a project in the making, and we are aiming for around April 2026.

A special mention must be made to the very sad event that has very recently happened to our dynamic and wonderful nurse manager, Marlene. Recently she was out walking her 4 dogs, along her partner Louis and daughter Zoe on a beach near Beachlands. What unfolded subsequent was shameful and frankly, awful, where two women assaulted and then ran over Marlene in their car, in what was an unprovoked attack. Louis was also badly assaulted, and Zoe also was punched. Marlene spent several days in Middlemore Hospital with broken ribs, massive bruising and grazes. This event has shaken them immensely, and as part of our Shalom Court family, we are supporting them to the best of our ability. The staff have all stepped up and we are running as normal, but as a South African family who have come to NZ for safety, I am personally embarrassed and ashamed that this has happened. I apologised to them on behalf of NZ and we are hopeful that these perpetrators will be caught and suitably punished. Marlene is presently at home, and we hope to see her a bit here and there when she is up to being here, but we anticipate that only in the new year will she be able to return to work full time.

My husband and I are away for 3 weeks again to Toronto at the end of November, to join our youngest daughter and family on the birth of their third child, a little girl who is due any day now. That will take us to grandchild #5 and we are delighted that we have another grandchild due in April to our gorgeous son who at the age of 41, is going to be a Dad for the first time..... Thankfully that will be here in Auckland.

May we all have blessings in our lives – with the horrors of this year in Israel and so many parts of the world, and the ghastly attack on our dear Marlene, I want to wish us all the best of years for 2026. I want to thank you all for supporting Shalom Court, to our staff, Boards, residents, families and friends – a happy Hannukah, a merry Xmas and peace and happiness over the new year. May you all have safe travels for the summer holidays and return with batteries charged and ready to embrace what 2026 will bring us.

Warm regards,
Esther Haver

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



More from the Garden Opening



Christine Hanley (above)-project manager

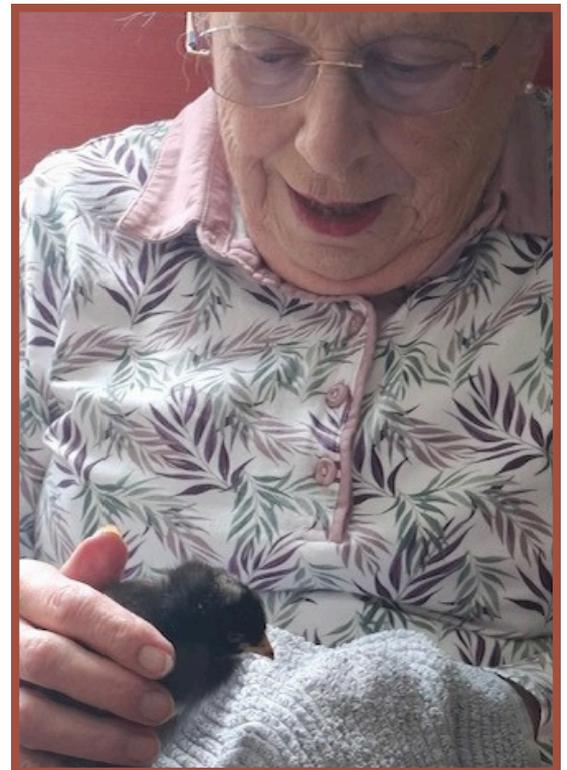
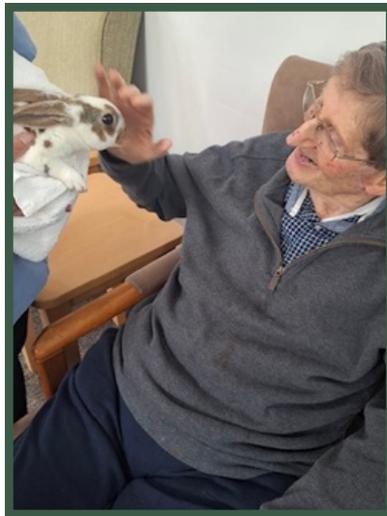
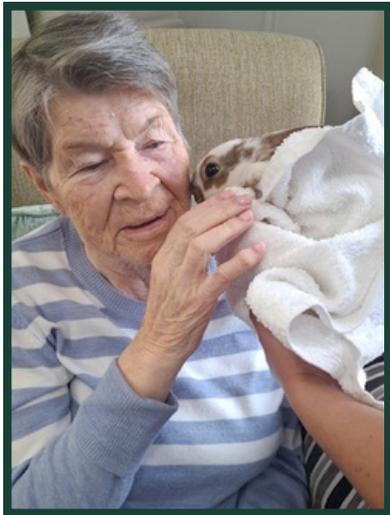


Furry Friends Bring Joy to Shalom Court!

What a delightful day we had when Creature Connections paid us a visit! Our lounge was buzzing with excitement as residents welcomed an adorable lineup of animal guests: a cuddly guinea pig, two playful bunnies, fluffy young chickens, sweet ducklings, a friendly dog, and even a tiny newly hatched bird!

Smiles lit up the room as everyone enjoyed gentle pats, warm snuggles, and the soothing presence of these charming creatures. It was a heartwarming reminder that a little fur and feathers can bring a whole lot of happiness!

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Happy Birthday Anne



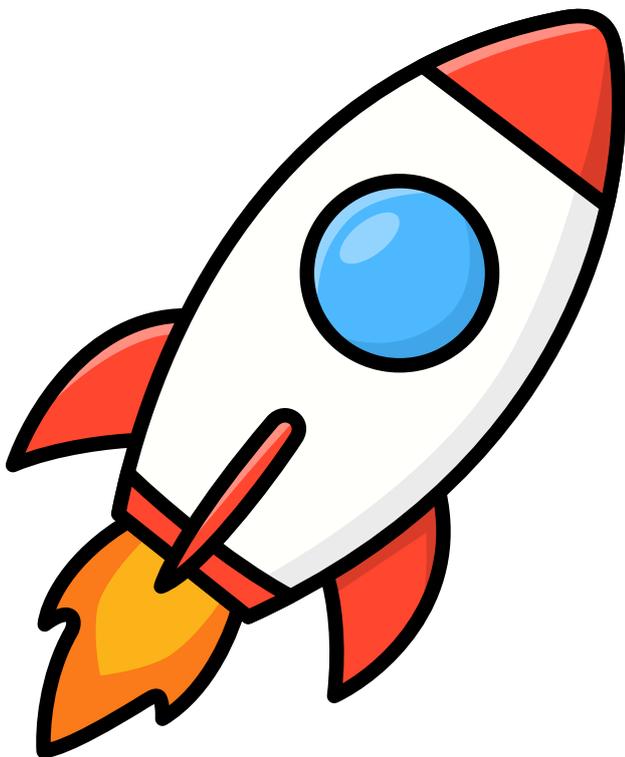
Anne Doherty's birthday celebration



Reaching for the Stars at Stardome!

June was a stellar month for our residents as we ventured to the Stardome Observatory for an unforgettable cosmic experience! The outing was filled with wonder as everyone explored the mysteries of space, learned about planets, and gazed at the stars. The excitement didn't stop there our very own Jane suited up as an astronaut for a fun photo opportunity, proving that adventure truly has no age limit!

Valentina also joined in the fun, posing with an astronaut and sharing plenty of laughs with friends. The day was packed with smiles, learning, and a sprinkle of stardust magic. It's safe to say this trip was a giant leap for Shalom Court fun!



Shalom Court is Blooming with Activity!

There's been so much happening at Shalom Court lately, and we're thrilled to share the highlights! Our residents have enjoyed wonderful visits from friends and family, lively social gatherings, and plenty of opportunities to connect and celebrate. From music and games to special guests who bring joy and laughter, every day has been filled with moments that make our community shine.

And let's not forget our beautiful gardens! Residents have been rolling up their sleeves to plant, water, and nurture vibrant flowers and greenery, creating a peaceful space for everyone to enjoy. Add in our exciting events and outings, and it's clear that Shalom Court is a place where life is full of colour and joy. Here are some photos to showcase all the amazing things we've been up to!



New Rabbi's visit to Shalom Court with his family – was a wonderful day and we all enjoyed meeting him, and hope for many more visits.



Visit by St Thomas school children – around 20 children came and entertained the residents – interacting and performing for residents in September.



The beautiful table setting for Rosh Hashana where we celebrated in style

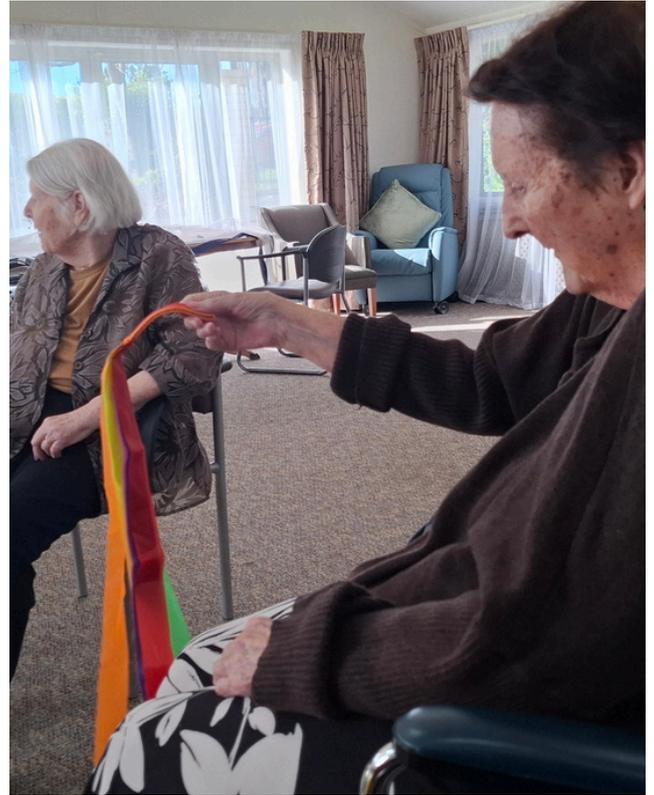


A stimulating talk by Leah Robinson who lives in one of our cottages – her talk was about tone of voice – sounding angry or happy and engaged the residents really well

Moments to Remember: Celebrating Life and Community at Shalom Court



Planting vegetables in lower lounge vegetable garden – the residents will enjoy the fruits of their labour in their meals



Our lovely Paul Nathan (left photo) who is a volunteer, working with residents on dance and movement therapy which helps coordination. Paul visits regularly and we are hoping to make him a regular.



Indoor gardening activity



We had the wonderful opportunity to listening to the fantastic Diane Levy give us a talk and it is obvious that everyone is completely spell bound by her.



Ruth Meltzer enjoying time with Louis our wonderful dog

Happy Birthday Robert



Robert Benton's 80th birthday – a wonderful celebration enjoyed by all in early November



A Year of Memories and Gratitude

As we look back on this year at Shalom Court, we are reminded of the strength and warmth that define our community. Despite the challenges that come with caring for an aging population, our residents, staff, and volunteers have continued to create an environment filled with compassion and dignity. From daily routines to special celebrations, every moment has been an opportunity to honor the traditions and values that make Shalom Court a unique and cherished home.

One of the highlights of the year has been the way our community came together for the Jewish holidays. Whether it was lighting the menorah during Chanukah, sharing stories at Passover, or welcoming the new year at Rosh Hashanah, these occasions were marked by joy, music, and a sense of belonging. Our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to ensure that every resident felt included and cared for, and the smiles and laughter that filled our halls were a testament to their efforts.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing not only excellent care but also meaningful experiences for our residents. This year has shown us that connection and kindness are the true foundations of well-being. As we step into the new year, we carry forward the lessons of resilience and community, ready to embrace whatever comes next with the same spirit that has guided us so far. Thank you to everyone, residents, families, staff, and supporters for making Shalom Court a place of life, love, and tradition.

With warmest regards,

Chris Harris

Editor, Shalom Court Newsletter



Building a Future of Care and Community

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.

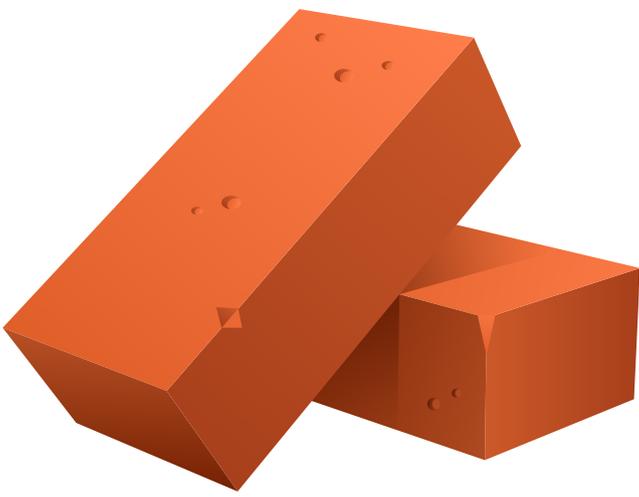
Whether you're considering a donation, supporting our Brick Campaign, or exploring our living options, your involvement makes a significant impact on the lives of our residents. Together, we can continue to build a future filled with care, compassion, and community.

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



Shalom Court

Commitment. Care. Comfort.



BRICK DONATIONS

3 bricks for Diane Levy in appreciation of her talk at Shalom Court

30 Bricks from Dian and David Ross in recognition of Bob Narev's 90th birthday

7 bricks from Brenda Shenken to Ilana Korpus on her birthday in October

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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