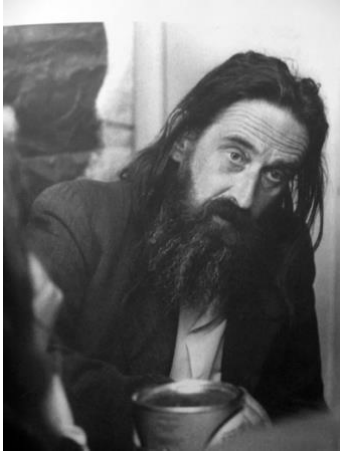


James K Baxter and Suzanne Aubert: Observations from an Outsider

Hosted by Southern Bays Historical Society

7.30pm, Monday 21 August 2023

Island Bay Baptist Church, 284 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington – Koha



James K Baxter and his legacy form an iconic and controversial figure in New Zealand literature and social justice landscapes. Meri Hōhepa – Suzanne Aubert – is, perhaps, less well known, but even more influential as, arguably, the mother of the welfare state in New Zealand. In this talk, Dr Chris Gallavin - Co-CEO of the Sisters of Compassion and poet - will share his observations on the interconnection of the lives of Meri Hōhepa and James K Baxter. Although they never met, their histories are intertwined, at least because of Baxter's relationship with Hiruhārama (Jerusalem), but also because of their faith, parallels in their relationship with Māori, and the plight of the forgotten and unseen in New Zealand.

Dr Chris Gallavin is Adjunct Professor at Massey University, New Zealand. He is also the Co-Chief Executive (Tumu Whakarae) of the Sisters of Compassion Group – a large not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the advancement of those disenfranchised within the community. He is Director of the New Zealand Centre for Global Studies, Co-Director of Global Citizenship New Zealand, documentary film maker and a published performance poet. Former Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey, Chris was Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Canterbury before joining Massey in late 2015. His areas of expertise are criminal justice, global citizenship and the future of tertiary education.

This keynote presentation is part of the Southern Bays Historical Society Quarterly Meeting. This is also a great opportunity to come along and get involved with the Southern Bays Historical Society – plus tea and biscuits!

This is likely to be a very popular talk – spread the word!