

Chairman's Notes - February 2017 - Shvat 5777

Dear Friends,

I have updates for you, both from my last Chairman's Notes article and from the board meeting last week.

The Tu BiShvat event on Sunday, February 12th at 7:30pm has now been fully developed. The four speakers will be Dr Zvi Braun, Charles Oster, Paula Edery and Helen Stareshefsky. This should prove to be a really interesting evening and I am hoping that many of you will attend and participate in this event.

Many of the ladies, and quite a number of the gentlemen, have requested that we read the Azkara for the yahrzeits on Shabbat morning rather than at mincha. In consultation with Rabbi Boudilovsky, he has stated that there are no objections to doing this. There are many restrictions, however, and the Azkara will only be able to be read on Shabbat morning for about half of the year. The board discussed this and considered that it is worthwhile adopting this procedure. It will begin this coming Shabbat, Bo, February 4th.

Although we have not totally finalised this point, we are looking to engage Victor Jaffe as chazan for the Yamim Noraim this coming September. You will remember that he was our chazan in 2015. He has said that he is available and would be delighted to join us, and the board approved inviting Victor to daven for us.

As part of the contract with Rabbi Boudilovsky, administration support was agreed to be provided. Initially, this is for scheduling appointments with the members so that the Rabbi can visit the whole community over a period of time, as he stated that he wanted to do when he was initially here. There may well be further requirements for support. Although the time commitment has not been set, it should not be too burdensome. We are looking for a volunteer from the community who would like to be involved. Please contact me if you are interested in this position (hiltonshare@gmail.com).

Gerald Barnett has formed a group called Friendly Faces. This has been set up so that people in the community who would like to see a "friendly face" from time to time can be visited. Gerald has already developed an initial client list and has some volunteers who will be part of the group. However, he is looking for further people to join him in this venture. If you would like to be part of this worthy project, please contact Gerald (gjb@26bar.net).

If you have any questions that you would like to ask me, or general comments to make, please either send me an email, call me, or talk to me in the kiddush on Shabbat morning.

Kind regards,

Hilton