

Chairman's Notes - April 2017 - Nisan 5777

Dear Friends,

I have many items to update you, mainly from discussions in our recent board of management meeting, but also from discussions with, and comments from, the members.

We will be having a parallel service for Pesach. This is able to be done as there are no kiddushim over Pesach. As there is always a packed Shul for the chagim, especially in relation to the number of ladies present, we decided that we should have a parallel service. This will be in the George Goddard Hall, for the morning services on the first day, Shabbat Chol Hamoed and seventh day. It will commence at the same time as the service in the main Shul (8:30am on the first day, 8am on the other two days). The Hall will be set out very nicely as a Shul; we have already had an example of this recently when the Youth Minyan ran a Kabbalat Shabbat service in the Hall. Dr Yehoshua Lehman and Adin Glass have offered to run the parallel service, for which we are most grateful.

Please note that, for the evening services over the Chag, gentlemen will be able to be seated both in the Shul and in the Ladies gallery. Any ladies attending the service will be accommodated in the Beit Hamedrash. If this proves successful, we will do the same for Succot, as the Hall is not used for kiddushim. The issue for Shavuot, Simchat Torah and Shabbat Bereshit, when the Shul is really full, has not yet been solved, as the Hall cannot be used for services on those days.

As an advance notice for you, the AGM will be on Wednesday, May 10th. Letters with full details will be with you by April 9th, per constitution requirements, however I wanted you to be aware of this now.

There will be an induction service for Rabbi Boudilovsky on Wednesday, May 24th. I am delighted to inform you that this will be conducted by the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Ephraim Mirvis. He is in Israel for a week over that week, and he has made himself available for that evening. Details will be sent out in due course, this should be a most inspiring service.

I have mentioned to you previously that a new website is in development. This is being done by David Glass, the design by Anthony Felix, and both of them have done an amazing amount of work. Rabbi Boudilovsky and I are also part of the team, making comments and suggestions at appropriate stages. The website is not quite ready for live implementation but please watch this space for further notification. At the same time, Anthony has taken the opportunity to redesign the Shul logo, the letterhead and other stationery used by the Shul. Both the website and new stationery will bring the image of the Shul right up to date in terms of presentation and design. So a big yasher koach to both David and Anthony.

A number of people have mentioned that various parts of the Shul need redecoration. It is not practical to do this in parts, rather the whole Shul, all three stories, would need to be decorated at the same time. As you will find out in the AGM, Shul finances are not in a

brilliant situation, and our Treasurer Alex Stuart has requested that we attempt to have a year without unplanned expenditure. I think that this is a wise move and the project will have to wait until next year when, hopefully, the finances will be in a better situation.

I have received a number of comments regarding the increase in charges for the seuda shlishit. As has been apparent for some time, the numbers attending have considerably risen, with frequently up to 80 people present. Indeed, last week with Beryl Sagal sponsoring the seuda, and Rabbi Boudilovsky giving the Dvar Torah, I estimated at least 100 people in the Hall. The atmosphere was amazing. As a result, more food is being provided, and greater choice as well. This all increases the cost and at NIS 500, we are barely breaking even, if at all. However, I believe that the complaints that I used to hear about insufficient food and inadequate quality at the seuda will be a thing of the past, as I checked towards the end and plenty of food had been put out.

Continuing the point on the seuda shlishit. I happened to be in McDonalds Shul for a kiddush not so long ago and in the announcements at the end of the service, it was mentioned that the seuda shlishit was being sponsored by a number of people with yahrzeit in the following week. I think it would be a good idea if some of the members who are observing yahrzeit could sponsor the seuda, then the cost per person would be much smaller.

With respect to kiddushim, we regularly have no sponsor. The cake and wine kiddush costs NIS 1,000 (we do not make any profit from kiddushim) and it was decided that when this kiddush is not sponsored, whisky will no longer be provided. This will save a considerable amount of money over the year. Of course, if there are members who cannot do without a tot of whisky at kiddush and wish to donate a bottle or two, then we could possibly ensure that there is stock to be able to provide whisky.

As you can see there is plenty of important information in this edition. I hope that you find it interesting.

I wish you all Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach.

Kind regards,

Hilton