

Chairman's Notes - March 2018 - Nisan 5778

Dear Friends,

As I have a number of items with which I need to update you, writing this article just before Pesach is an opportune time to wish you all Chag Sameach.

Shabbaton Choir

I have to say that the Shabbat, which included services, dinner and concert, with the Shabbaton Choir six weeks ago, was a most memorable experience. Even though this required a lot of effort by both Shuls, the resultant inspiring singing by the choir and their chazanim was superb.

Neshei Chayil

I am delighted to announce that our Neshei Chayil this year will be Ruth Leviton and Rochelle Veeder. Both ladies have done an extraordinary amount of work for the Shul over many years and are well deserving of receiving this honour. The celebration will be part of the Friday night dinner, which will be on May 18th, two days prior to Shavuot.

Change From Letter Delivery to Email

The board of management has decided that, in order to bring the Shul up to date in its operation and procedures, most of the letters which are currently sent out or delivered will, in future, be sent out by email. This will also save a considerable cost to the Shul from the elimination of printing them. Of course, those members who do not have email facilities will continue to receive their letters in their mailboxes. However, there are only some 30 to 40 such families, therefore the amount of paper produced will be minimal.

Some letters and forms will continue to go out on paper, such as yahrzeit notices and Yamim Noraim mitzva letters.

The usage of the Telemessaging system for calling members will also be reduced, and notifications of bereavements and stone settings will, in general, be sent out by email. It will however continue to be utilised for time critical notifications, for example where a levaya will take place a short time after the notification is available.

Refurbishment

The Rabbi's office has recently been refurbished, if you have been to see the Rabbi you will have seen how beautiful this now looks. Miriam Illfeld organised the whole refurbishment and provision of the new furniture and the Shul owes Miriam a big thank you for her efforts.

Rabbi David Woolf has kindly donated his religious books that he has accumulated over the years to the Shul, and he wanted these to be stored in the Bortz Study Room, as a non lending library. Miriam arranged for bookcases to be installed and this was also a super job for which she again deserves our thanks. Rabbi Woolf is dedicating the library in honour of his parents (ל"ת), for which a plaque has been arranged and put up in the Bortz Room.

New Services

A second Shacharit service will commence on April 9th. This will take place on Mondays and Thursdays, at 8:30am in the Bortz Study Room. Elkan Levy will be in charge of this new service, please contact him if you need further details.

Commencing on Shabbat, April 14th, there will be a children's service in the George Goddard Hall, from 9:30am to 10:15am. Hazel Broch will be in charge of this new service, assisted by Rivka Lehman, please contact Hazel if you need further details.

Yom Hashoa

The Yom Hashoa service this year will be in YINN on Wednesday April 11th at 6:50pm. The order of service is in preparation and we look forward to a most moving service and many people from both Shuls attending.

Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut

The service this year will be in McDonald International Shul on Wednesday, April 18th commencing at 6:50pm. I am hoping that there will be very good support from our Shul for this service.

The following morning, there will be a breakfast in the George Goddard Hall after the festive Shacharit in our Shul.

AGM

The Shul AGM will be on Wednesday, May 16th, commencing at 8:30pm. Notification letters and nomination forms are being prepared and will be sent out by email (and hard copy for those members who are not on email) by April 18th.

Sue Levy

Sue Levy has given her intention to retire from her position as Administrator of the Shul, by the end of May. We will have an opportunity nearer the time to bid farewell and say many thanks to Sue as an employee of the Shul, for which she will be greatly missed.

We will be looking for a replacement for this position and we are preparing a job description, which will put the Administrator position on a more formal, office hours, basis. If any of you know someone who might be interested in this role, please contact me on hiltonshare@gmail.com.

Wishing you and your families Shabbat Shalom & Chag Sameach.

Kind regards,

Hilton