

Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue



Minister
Rabbi Reuven Livingstone
MA, LL.M, PgDipCPsych, JD

Cantor
Chazan Avromi Freilich
B.Sc MRCSLT

Community Director
Rabbi Anthony Knopf
M.A.(Cantab)

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Dear Member

We have now been the shul wardens for 10 weeks. It has been a very busy period preparing for the Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. We would like to record our thanks to the whole professional team and our fellow honorary officers for the support they have provided.

We want to take this opportunity to highlight a few issues that have come to our attention and to ask for your support.

Every week we receive a list of members who have smachot or yahrzeits (and sometimes both in the same week!) from which we allocate the aliyot on Shabbat. We have allocated the aliyot by about 9.45am and therefore if you have a simcha or a yahrzeit and would like an aliyah we would ask you to be in shul and to come to the wardens' box to tell us you are there by 9.30 am at the latest.

We believe there is a wide ranging consensus that with the ever growing frequency of Bar Mitzvot the shul needs to consider how their impact on the conduct of Shabbat morning services can be lessened. This is something that we are looking at with the Rabbis and our fellow honorary officers but the first step has been to ask the Rabbi when addressing the Bar Mitzvah boy to focus his address on a religious message typically linked to week's sedra, rather than the achievements of the Bar Mitzvah boy and his family. We hope that this is a welcome change and that our members will understand the reason for this change and bear with us.

A wide ranging review of Bar Mitzvahs has also been initiated with a view to developing a programme which we hope will be successful in encouraging more of our youth to continue their involvement in the Community as a whole and the youth service in particular. More details will follow.

We have changed the Kol Nidre services offered slightly this year in that the 18-30 service and the Explanatory service have now combined into one full service which will be led by Aish.

On the subject of Kol Nidre we would remind parents that there are no children's services and therefore if you bring children to shul please make sure they stay with you under your control.

For those parents who wish to attend shul without children but have childcare difficulties we have a late Kol Nidre service starting at 9.00 pm. so it may be possible for one parent to attend a regular service whilst the other parent stays at home and for the second parent to attend the late service.

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year

Meyer Pearlman
Wardens

Julian Lewis

Executive Officer
David Sagal

Office Manager
Mrs Sharon Drucker

Youth Director
Mrs Tamar Younger

Norrice Lea, Lyttelton Road, London N2 0RE. Tel 020 8455 8126 Fax 020 8201 9247
e-mail: office@hgss.org.uk website: www.hgss.org.uk