

Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue



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Dear Friend

RECESSION - IT'S A TIME OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES !

HGSS JOBSHIDDUCH GOES LIVE ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th !!

I am delighted to announce the launch of JobShidduch.com an email website service for members of Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue to help them find jobs and fill positions.

The idea for JobShidduch was born out of the Recession Watch initiative which was set up in May 2009 to provide mentoring help to members of HGSS in need as a result of the current economic recession. From the outset it became clear that a significant number of members were experiencing employment hardship including redundancies and difficulties in finding suitable work. JobShidduch is designed to provide additional assistance to members experiencing employment hardship and is complementary to Recession Watch.

Any member of HGSS can apply to register onto the JobShidduch website. The formalities for doing so are very simple, there is NO COST involved and personal information is kept strictly confidential and protected under Data Protection legislation. Once members are registered they will be able to post messages seeking work (including resumes or CV's if they wish) or listing job vacancies within their organisations.

Members will be able to view messages:

- on the website
- by viewing a single daily email from the website with all of that days messages (or if they prefer a summary of the messages)
- by receiving an email each time another member posts a message

For members' protection JobShidduch is moderated by Site Administrator Jeff Durkin. He will vet applications for registration and review all messages posted on the website before they are released to ensure that they are (a) not too long, (b) intelligible, and (c) in good taste ! If he thinks it appropriate the Site Administrator may amend a message before releasing it or may even reject it altogether.

We know already from our experience with Recession Watch that there are a number of members looking for work. What is very pleasing is the early response from members who are in management or ownership positions in companies with job vacancies who have contacted Jeff Durkin or myself asking if there is a way they can help. JobShidduch offers a simple and most effective way for them to do so. It doesn't offer members charity, it offers them the prospect of obtaining meaningful employment once again and the self-respect that comes with this.

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The JobShidduch website can be accessed from this Sunday October 25th at www.jobshidduch.com. The website contains a link to frequently asked questions (FAQs) which will explain in more detail the purpose and function of JobShidduch.

I urge every member who is looking for work to register on the website. I also urge every member who is aware of job vacancies in his or her organisation to register and to post such vacancies so that they may be considered by members looking for work.

Over coming weeks I will provide you with email updates on the progress of JobShidduch. While there are signs now that the economy is picking up it is clear that the impact on employment is more deep seated and therefore this problem will be with us for many months to come if not longer.

JobShidduch has my full support as well as that of the Board and Honorary Officers of the Shul. It reflects very highly on our Community and on the several members who have given (and are continuing to give) considerable time on an unpaid basis to help members in need as a result of the recession. Your support is critical as well if we are to make JobShidduch the success it deserves to be !

With best wishes



Rabbi Reuven Livingstone

22 October 2009