

Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue

Cantor
Chazan Avromi Freilich
 BSc MRCSLT



Community Director
Rabbi Anthony Knopf
 MA (Cantab)

Dear Member

Appointment of Youth and Community Rabbi

In this special week of Shavuot, I wanted to share with you our latest news as we continue to implement the strategy outlined in my previous communications with you, and at the Shul Annual General Meeting.

Introducing Marc and Lisa Levene

I am delighted to announce that we will be welcoming Marc and Lisa Levene to the Community. Marc is currently completing his Rabbinical studies in Jerusalem and will be joining us as our Youth and Community Rabbi at the beginning of August. Marc was educated at JFS and has a BA Honours in Youth and Community Studies. He has spent the last 6 years in Jerusalem where he has been studying to become a Rabbi. Lisa has a BSc in Psychology and Management and an MA in Personnel and Development. She is a Human Resources Consultant. Marc and Lisa have two young children.

Youth and Community Rabbi Role

As Youth and Community Rabbi, Marc's role will be to take overall responsibility for our youth provision and in particular, the youth service. His focus will be to engage with young people and their families and to develop and oversee a wide range of activity designed to increase the engagement of those families with the community. He will also be teaching and participating in a new programme for Bar and Bat Mitzvah years.

The New Team

We announced some months ago that given the size of our community, it was our intention to put in place a dynamic professional team to service all aspects of our growing and vibrant community. Marc's appointment completes the appointment of that team.

Rabbi Kaplan, as Senior Rabbi will be ultimately responsible for the performance of the whole professional team. He will be the religious authority for the community and will drive the religious ethos of the community and will have overall responsibility for the pastoral work of the ministerial team. Rabbi Kaplan, his wife, Freda and three of their children will be joining us at the end of August.

Chazan Avromi will continue to lead services and provide pastoral and ministerial support on the same basis as at present.

Rabbi Anthony Knopf will, with immediate effect, assume the new title of Associate Rabbi. As well as continuing to speak regularly throughout the year, Rabbi Knopf will have the principal role in implementing our community review and in communicating that implementation to the community. He will have overall responsibility for educational programmes and in particular will work with Rabbi Kaplan to develop and implement initiatives to reach out to those on the fringes of the community, of all age groups.

Coupled with our latest appointment, your Honorary Officers are delighted that we have been able to put in place such a diverse and impressive team to lead our community and we will be looking to introduce you all to our new arrivals at the earliest opportunity.

Wishing the whole community chag same'ach

Keith Barnett
 Chairman

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