**Rosh Hashanah 2023**

We are delighted that our annual Rosh Hashanah Chesed project when we give some of our more vulnerable members a honey cake and a card from the United Synagogue, is going ahead again this year.

What people appreciate the most is not the honey cake itself, but the fact that a volunteer has taken the time and effort to go round and visit them. That’s what really is important. You might also be able to use the visits as a way to check unobtrusively on the recipient’s welfare and to find out if they would like some assistance. While you probably already have a very good idea as to who is struggling, nevertheless this can still be of value.

**Who should the cakes go to?**

Our advice is that it is for older members, people who have been bereaved, members who have been unwell, people who are isolated, people who have had a “tough year”. You know your members so it is for you to choose the appropriate people. Just please bear in mind that this is a Chesed project so your choices should be made accordingly.

**How to order your honey cakes from the United Synagogue**

Included with this e-mail is a honey cake request form to fill in and return - **THE LATEST DATE FOR ORDERS is Friday, 4th August 2023.**

We are sending this email to the people who placed the orders for Rosh Hashanah Honey cakes with us last year, as well as to community care co-ordinators, administrators and Rabbis and Rebbetzins. If you are not the right person, please feel free to forward this message on to the correct person and let us know who the new contact is for this year.

**How many families will we be able to help this year?**

All you need to do is identify those in your community who you would like to support in this way and then let us know the number of cakes and cards you require.

This year we are using a sliding scale based on the size of the community, we have increased the number of cakes you can request from previous years. However, if your community has particular needs that means you need more than the figures below indicate, then please contact us to discuss it. Some communities will need fewer than the figures below show.

**Size of Community No. cakes**

2000+ 60

1500-2000 50

1000-1500 40

Up to 1000 30

What we do ask is that our Rosh Hashanah greeting card is given along with the cake. We will send you the cards in advance so that you can write your own message in them. ***Our other ask is when you are delivering the cakes to your members, if they are happy for you to do so please can you take a photo of them receiving the cake.***

Please note that the number of cakes you will receive depends on the number of requests received from each community and is at the discretion of the Director of Jewish Living. We will send you details of the pick-up arrangements on 14th August**.**

**Buying Your Own Cakes**

If you wish to purchase your own cakes, please let us know how many you would like to buy and what the price is. **This will then be considered on a case by case basis.** Do not purchase the cakes without getting our agreement first. Once we have agreed prices with the supplier this year, we will advise you what the maximum amount per cake we can reimburse you. In addition, we will need the receipts from you.

**Baking Your Own Cakes**

Using your shul kitchen to bake your own cakes is another option. If you wish to do this, please get in touch with us and we will talk it through with you on an individual basis.

**Extra cakes**

Some communities wish to have a very large allocation of cakes. If this is the case, we can order them for you at the same time as we order our cakes, but you would have to put in writing that you have agreement of the shul to pay for the additional cakes. We will then invoice you accordingly.

**People with diabetes and other dietary requirements**

If you have, for example, members who follow a gluten-free diet, then you may choose to buy them an alternative, but the value of this must be no more than we spend centrally on the honey cakes.

**The Purple Chesed Box**

Last year we made the purple boxes (same as the Purim boxes) up and included the cake inside. This year we will provide you with your honey cakes and boxes separately along with your greetings cards so that you can assemble them yourselves and should you wish to you can add extra items as well to the box.

Please let us know on the request form how many boxes you would like and we will include them with the cakes.

To view and place an order please click on the link below, **please ensure you speak with the care coordinator first before completing this as we only need one request per community.**

<https://forms.gle/ptEvnmNbkN57psbp6>

For any queries, feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance for all the time and effort you put into our communities, not only at Rosh Hashanah but all year round.

Kind regards,

Hannah Skolnick