



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 21 May 2005/12 Iyar 5765

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.20 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	9.54 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	7.30 pm

Welcome to our **New Members Shabbos** and special Kiddush. Since January 2004, over 100 people have joined our warm and friendly Shul. Clayhall has always retained its uniqueness and informality over the years. Visitors to our Kehilla are usually so appreciative of the care and warmth extended to them. In fact, that has also been a source of new members. It is a tribute to our current 'regulars' that you have been so welcoming in the past, and will continue well into the future.

We also extend a warm *Baruch Habah* to **Rev Stewart Myers** who returns to leyn and address the community.

Reading of the Torah

Sedra synopsis:

Leyning: Behar

Hertz p 531 Soncino p 764

Haftorah:

Hertz p 539, Soncino p 774

Martin Greenberg

Rev Stewart Myers

Hermie Rothman

It's been said before but worth repeating: Our Seudah (third meal) between Shabbos Minchah and Ma'ariv is a very special occasion. We are informal, relaxed and always look forward to welcoming new faces. Enjoy tasty food and drink in a happy, jovial atmosphere.



This week's 'Clayhall Kehilla' has been kindly sponsored by Deborah, Lester & Joshua Harris in celebration of Naomi's 11th birthday

Children's & Youth Services

Reception to School Year 6

10.15 am – 11.15 am

School Years 7 plus

10.15 am – 11.30 am

Weekday Services

Shacharit: Monday to Friday, 7.00 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.

Minchah: 1.15 pm, Monday to Thursday.

Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm every Tuesday evening.

Sunday breakfasts: 5 June, 9 July, 7 August & 4 September.

Lag Ba'Omer



Next Friday is the 33rd day of Sefirah, known as Lag Ba'Omer. It is a day of great celebration and over **250,000** Jews make the pilgrimage to Meron in North Israel on this day to visit the grave of **Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai**. Steeped in mysticism, come to our Seudah this evening to learn more.

Clayhall AGM

The Shul AGM takes place next **Tuesday 24 May 2005** at Sinclair House. Voting will commence from 6.00 pm until 8.00 pm. The meeting will begin promptly at 8.00 pm with a short presentation from the CST. The AGM is **YOUR** chance to air any concerns, opinions and comments in a constructive manner to the Honorary Officers - a sort of Shul 'Question Time' but with real and not evasive answers! Whether you wish to speak or not, please make an effort to come - you may even enjoy it! There will also be an update on the search for a new Synagogue Rabbi.

Ladies Walk

The annual Ladies Guild sponsored walk will take place tomorrow **Sunday 22 May 2005** beginning from the home of Karen Wise, venue start from the office and finishing some miles later in Gants Hill. Any ladies who fancy a jolly good workout and help to raise needed funds for the Shul should contact Karen on 8501 1122. There will be refreshments at the end of the walk - phew! It's not too late to join in.

Book Cupboard

Prior to Rosh Hashanah, the book cupboard is given an extensive clean. Within a few weeks, Siddurim and Chumashim are lying all over the place, papers are strewn across the shelves and nobody bothers to tidy up. Please spend a few more seconds ensuring that what you borrow goes back into the right place.

Eat, Drink & Learn the Night Away!

Clayhall's *Tikun Leil Shavuot* is always one of the highlights of the year. Fine malt whiskies, lashings of gorgeous cheesecake, other edible delicacies and some great home-grown words of Torah provide the perfect blend for a terrific night-out! This year again, we are delighted that Freda & Leslie Pollock will be hosting the Tikun on **Sunday 12 June 2005**, venue from the office from 11.30 pm until the wee small hours. The more that come, the greater the sense of *ruach* (spirit) and atmosphere. If you would like to contribute a D'var Torah, whether it be two minutes or twenty minutes, please speak to either Lester or Bradley. If you have never been to our Tikun before, you don't know what you have been missing. It's definitely worth the extra effort.



Today is **Day 27** of the Omer. It is an important mitzvah to orally count the Omer each day up to Shavous.

*The closing date for
calendar insertions
is 1 June 2005.
Don't delay!*

NEROS Quiz

The annual NEROS inter-Shul quiz takes place on **Sunday 26 June** @ Chingford Shul. We still need team members and the four subjects this year are Israel, the Book of Ruth, History and General Knowledge. Contact Robin on 020 8220 6779 if you would like to take part.

Annual Plant Sale

Victor Shafier's annual plant sale will be on **Sunday 5 June** from 10.00 am, venue from the office. Among the plants for sale will be hanging baskets, beans and tomatoes, sunflowers, sedum, allsium and many other flowers. **All at cheaper than Nursery prices.** If you have some spare plants that Victor can sell, please phone him on 8924 0261. Money raised from this event will benefit the Shul.

Israel Film Festival 2005

Together with Newbury Park, we are hosting an evening of the 2005 Festival on **Thursday 26 May 2005** at Sinclair House as part of the Yom Ha'atzma'ut celebrations. We will show three short Israeli films followed by a talk on Israeli culture. The topics include an intimate look at the love, trials and triumphs of life in Jerusalem; the preparation, last minute difficulties and joy of a wedding organiser, and a decision that will change a person and his environment for life. Tickets at **£3** each must be purchased in advance through the Shul office. Last year's evening was extremely interesting, thought-provoking and moving. The films have been carefully selected to give maximum enjoyment and satisfaction.

Cessation of Mourning

The Sages provide a number of reasons for Lag BaOmer's status as a day of celebration. As the Gemorrah relates, during the *Sefirah* period, 24,000 disciples of the great Rabbi Akiva died for they did not accord one another proper respect. It should be noted that the spiritual levels of Rabbi Akiva's students were undoubtedly great, and their sin must be understood in this context. They surely accorded one another respect **by our standards**. The righteous, however, are judged according to their own spiritual level. It is for this reason that a period of mourning is observed during *Sefirah*. Weddings are prohibited, as are haircuts, and it is customary to refrain from playing music or engaging in other forms of merriment. *Taz* states another reason for mourning during *Sefirah*; the worst massacres of the Crusades happened in the weeks between Pesach and Shavuot. Some communities would recite *Kinnos*, normally said on Tisha Ba' Av, on the Shabbatos of *Sefirah*. There are varying traditions as to the exact time within *Sefirah* when these deaths occurred. The diversity is the source for the differing customs as to when the mourning period is observed. There is a tradition that the death of the students ceased on the day of Lag BaOmer. This is the opinion held by *Rama* who therefore rules that 'there is an increase, to some extent, of joy, and *Tachanun* is not recited.' Rabbi Yosef Karo, author of *Shulchan Aruch*, follows the tradition that the deaths stopped on the 34th day of *Sefirah*.

Lag B'Omer BBQ

Our popular Lag B'Omer BBQ will again take place at the home of Deborah and Lester Harris, on **Sunday 29 May 2005**. Places are limited to the first 55 lucky people so don't delay in returning your forms once these have been sent out straight after Pesach. Start praying for dry weather and lots of sunshine!

Shacharis Minyan

Although we manage to sustain a Minyan virtually every morning of the week, there are occasions when we fall one or two short. However, we are reliant on at least three or four non-Clayhall people **each day** in order to make the requisite number of 10 men. For a Kehilla of our size, we should **easily** guarantee a Minyan for every Service. ***We should all be doing better.***

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