



קליהל קהילה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 28 May 2005/19 Iyar 5765

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.20 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	10.06 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	7.40 pm

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to Helen and Johnny Lyndon and all the Lyndon family on the recent birth of their first great-granddaughter in Israel. Helen & Johnny have great pleasure in inviting the community to Kiddush in celebration of their lovely Simchah after the Service.

We are delighted to welcome back **Rabbi Simon Harris** who will be leyning and addressing the community this morning.

Reading of the Torah

Sedra synopsis:

Leyning: Bechukosai

Hertz p 542 Soncino p 777

Haftorah:

Hertz p 551, Soncino p 789

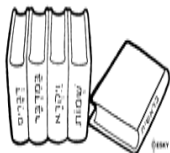
Ian Grant

Rabbi Simon Harris

Lester Harris

The next six weeks are the longest Shabbasos of the year. It can be more difficult to sustain a healthy Shabbos Minchah Minyan during this time. Yet, the Seudah atmosphere and stimulating discussions are both very good reasons to give it a go.

Even more so today as **Rabbi Simon Harris** will be our guest speaker. We are looking forward to hearing his words of inspiration as we prepare for Shavuot. Women are most welcome to join the men.



This week's 'Clayhall Kehilla' has been kindly sponsored by Pamela & David Grant in celebration of Ian'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



Yesterday was 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, learn more from the back page. Turn over!

Rabbi Update

As reported at the AGM, the HO's are naturally disappointed that, to date, we have been unable to make an appointment. Four candidates were interviewed and, although we were close to making a decision, the Shidduch was just not meant to be. However, we are meeting the US Chief Executive and the Director of the Office of the Chief Rabbi next Wednesday to review the process. What is quite clear is that the HO's will act in the best interests of the **whole** community. Better that we make the right appointment than rush in and make a disastrous mistake.

Shalom Magazine

Calling all budding writers and journalists to submit articles, and other items of interest to the Editorial team no later than **31 July 2005**. It's always a struggle coaxing people to write so please make a big effort. Similarly, advertisements are most welcome as this naturally increases Shul income! It would also be nice to see many more Rosh Hashanah greetings which, at £5 per insertion are extremely good value.

Personal Thanks

'May I sincerely thank the community for its very generous and touching gestures last Shabbos and at the AGM. The Seforim were beautiful and they are a fitting addition to my collection. Long may we all continue to build a vibrant and stimulating Clayhall Kehilla.'

Lester Harris

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 34** 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 @ 7 Strafford Avenue, Clayhall.

Among the plants for sale will be hanging baskets, beans and tomatoes, sunflowers, sedum, allysium 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.

Clayhall Elections 2005/06

We extend a Mazal Tov to the following who have been elected to serve for 2005/06:

Chairman: **Lester Harris**

Vice-Chairman: **Gordon Miller**

Warden: **Bradley Rubenstein**

Financial Representative: **Norman Reisman**

Board of Management (male members): Mike Callaghan, David Grant, Johnny Lyndon, Mervyn Lyndon and Victor Shafier.

Board of Management (female members): Jacquelyn Conner, Estele Miller, Hilary Segall, Karen Wise and Anne Yeshin.

It was very healthy to have three separate elections and we thank all those who stood for office this year. The new Board will hold its first meeting on Wednesday 15 June 2005.

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and Lag Ba'Omer

Rabbi Shimon was a great Sage who lived during the Roman conquest of Jerusalem 2000 years ago. He was one of Rabbi Akiva's five students who, despite terrible persecutions, ensured that the Torah would not be forgotten. When Rabbi Shimon reached the final day of his life on **Lag Ba'Omer**, he called together his students and told them to pay close attention. The *Zohar* (3:29 1b) describes the scene: Rabbi Shimon spent the entire day in a prophetic dream of consciousness, revealing the deepest mystical secrets of Torah. He told his students: 'Until now I have held the secrets close to my heart. But now, before I die, I wish to reveal all.' Rabbi Abba, a student assigned with the job of transcribing Rabbi Shimon's words reports: 'I couldn't even lift my head due to the intense light emanating from Rabbi Shimon. The entire day the house was filled with fire and nobody could get close due to the wall of fire and light. At the end of the day, the fire finally subsided and I was able to look at the face of Rabbi Shimon: He was dead, wrapped in his Tallis, lying on his right side, and smiling.' Why was Rabbi Shimon bathed in light and fire? Because Torah is compared to fire – for example, '*Aish HaTorah*.' Fire is that material which converts physical matter into energy. So too, Torah shows us how to transform the material world into transcendent energy. In fact, Rabbi Shimon's epic Kabbalistic work, '*The Zohar*' means 'shining light.' Not since Moses was anyone able to reveal such esoteric teachings as Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

Lag B'Omer BBQ

Our popular Lag B'Omer BBQ will again take place at the home of Deborah and Lester Harris, tomorrow, **Sunday 29 May 2005**. There are no further places available. Start praying for dry weather and lots of sunshine! The lawn has been cut, flower beds weeded, the patio swept, tables and chairs cleaned, and food ordered!

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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