



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 10 December 2005/ 9 Kislev 5766

## Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	4.46 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	3.37 pm

We wish a hearty Mazel Tov to **Mark Freedman** on the occasion of his Aufruf today, and on his forthcoming marriage to Lara Neville. We also extend Mazel Tov wishes to Mark's parents, Eve and Steve Freedman and to his grandfather, Lou Freedman. Clayhall warmly welcomes all our visitors this morning and we look forward to sharing more Simchas in the future.

## Reading of the Torah

Sedrah Synopsis:

Leyning: Vayetze

Hertz p 106, Soncino p 164

Hafforah:

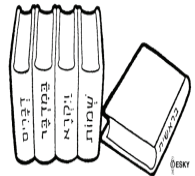
Hertz p 118, Soncino p 188

**Lauren Woolf**

**Rabbi Simon Harris**

**Mark Freedman**

On the Shabbat before the wedding, the groom is given the honour of an Aliyah. He is then traditionally showered with nuts and sweets thrown by the congregants! This event is called an **Aufruf** in Yiddish (literally 'calling up'). After the Service, it is usual for a small celebration to be held. In Sephardic communities, the groom is called to the Torah on the Shabbos *following* the wedding. Close friends of the bride usually spend the Shabbos with her, called the *Shabbos Kallah*, Shabbos of the Bride.



**This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Lou Freedman on the occasion of the Aufruf of his grandson, Mark.**

## Children's & Youth Davening Service

Reception - Year 6

10.30 am – 11.30 am

Year 7 - Year 11

10.30 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: 11 December, 1 January & 29 January.

## A Shabbos thought



There is a miracle in Shabbos. Even if you have never felt it yourself, it is there. It is one of the most important ingredients of Jewish survival. It is no exaggeration to say that the Jew has survived 2000 years of persecution largely because he had the Shabbos, keeping him alive both spiritually and morally. Without it, we would be gone.

## Kiddush Levanah

This evening after Ma'ariv, we will bless the Moon in the ceremony of *Kiddush Levanah*. There are two bases for this ritual. *Rabbi Yochanan* taught that one who blesses the new moon in its proper time is regarded as like one who greets the *Shechinah*. The second aspect of the prayer is its significance for the history of Israel. Just as the moon is reborn after a period of decline and total disappearance so, too, **Israel's decline will end and its light will once again blaze to fullness.** Because the moon is such a significant allusion to G-d as the Creator and to Israel's rebirth, *Kiddush Levanah* should be recited joyously, wearing our finest Shabbos clothes.

## United Synagogue CDG

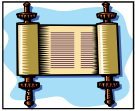
The United Synagogue's **Community Development Group** celebrated its 10th anniversary recently with a special evening in St John's Wood. CDG is described as the 'engine-room' of the United Synagogue. Aply led by **Leonie Lewis**, it has significantly changed the United Synagogue's face in the last decade. Clayhall looks forward to working with CDG as we begin to plan programmes for our future.

## Refueh Shelemah

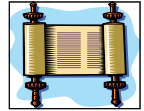
Would you ensure that any names of people that you want to include in the *Refueh Shelemah* prayer are added to the regular list. This might stop the growing queue around the *Bimah*. Please also bear in mind that the prayer is said for those people who are seriously ill or suffering from a chronic illness.

## Lavan Learns of Yaakov's Flight

'It was told to Lavan on the third day that Yaakov had fled' Lavan pursued him. It took the messengers 3 days to reach Lavan with news of Yaakov's flight giving Yaakov a 3-day start, so they were actually 6 days' journey apart (since Lavan had travelled a distance of 3 days' journey in the opposite direction). Yet on the 7th day Lavan caught him. The journey which took Yaakov 7 days, Lavan did in one. *Chizkuni* writes that Lavan travelled speedily, as criminals do. But Yaakov travelled with much wealth, large flocks, and an entourage, and so went slowly. G-d appeared to Lavan in a dream and warned him not to speak to Yaakov 'from good to bad.' *Rashi* says that he was not to speak even good, as the good of an evil man is bad for the righteous.



Shacharis on 25 and 26 December will be at the, home of David Miller, as Sinclair House is closed.



**Polo Fruits are no longer Kosher.**  
**Check updates on [www.kosher.org.uk](http://www.kosher.org.uk)**

### Rosh Chodesh Group

Flora Frank's talk last week was extremely interesting, lively and uplifting. A dozen ladies attended and it would be nice if there was even bigger support for **Samantha Hambling**. She will be speaking on **Tuesday 3 January 2006** at the home of Anne and Mike Yeshin, address from the office. All ladies are most welcome to come along. Other speakers are being booked for

### Kaddish Pamphlet

The Yahrzeit reminder letters now contain our own **Kaddish** pamphlet. The attractive leaflet explains the importance of saying Kaddish for the souls of the departed and lists times of our Services. We hope that the message will encourage more members to say Kaddish.

### Chanukah presents...or not?

Yes, we all give and receive presents on Chanukah. But why? The reason we give presents on Chanukah is because Chanukah just happens to arrive around the same time as Santa! Our Jewish holiday has become culturally overwhelmed by society's obsession with Christmas presents. There is great historical irony in the fact that Chanukah has been so dramatically impacted by a non-Jewish religion and culture. The Jewish people fought to resist one culture and we have celebrated that resistance for over 2,000 years. Now we find ourselves adopting the customs of yet another culture to celebrate the victory of Chanukah. What would Judah Maccabee say about that?

## **A Weekly Torah thought by Rabbi Simon Harris**

There is no superfluity in the Torah. No fat on the text. Every word, every letter, every space is of consequence. So the Rabbis are immediately curious as to why the opening verse of this week's portion tells us something that we already know. "And Jacob left Beersheva and he travelled towards Haran." (28.10) We know he left Beersheva because that is where his family was domiciled. So why does the Torah make a point of underscoring this fact? The answer is of importance to every Jewish community. The presence of a *Tzaddik* (holy person) in a town adds lustre and glory to the locale. People will say "Have you been to *Berditchev*, where *Reb Levi* lives?" Conversely, when a pious Rabbi departs, a huge vacuum is left. In Rashi's words "at the time when a righteous individual is in a city, he is its magnificence, he is its splendour, he is its grandeur." When the *Tzaddik* is gone, all the holiness that he brought with him seems to vaporise. This is why our Parsha starts by telling us that Jacob **left** Beersheva because our forefather's departure radically altered the spiritual contours of the Negev. Among other strange occurrences in this week's Sedra is the actual meeting for the first time between Jacob and Rachel. He sees her, he kisses her and then he breaks down weeping. Jacob appears to be on an emotional roller-coaster. One moment he is happy, the next, distraught. Our Sages explain that the kiss was permissible because they were close relatives. But no sooner had they embraced than Jacob foresaw prophetically that they would not be buried together. And indeed whereas Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah were all buried in the Cave of Machpelah, Rachel was not. Jacob's sweetheart died on the road back home to Canaan. Tradition has it that when Mashiach comes, we will re-enter the land of Israel in Rachel's footsteps via her grave in Bethlehem.

### **Shacharis Minyanim**

It's smoked salmon and beigel time again after Shacharis tomorrow with another great monthly breakfast. Let's see a few new faces for a change! We will be making a real effort in the next few months to encourage 'Dads and Lads' to attend, especially in the run-up to a Bar Mitzvah. Tefilin lessons are available either in Shul or in your own home.

### **Blue Tins**

We aim to get **200** tins out by 31 December. If you don't yet have a tin, you will probably get a call in the next few weeks. Please help us by agreeing to have one. This year, over **£1000** has already been distributed to Tzedakah. You can help us to add to this mitzvah. If you do not receive a call, just phone the Shul office and we will gladly deliver a blue tin. Thank you for your support.

#### **Clayhall United Synagogue**

Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road,

Redbridge, Essex, IG4 5LN

Tel: 020 8551 6533

e-mail: clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com