



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 17 December 2005/ 16 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	3.39 pm

We extend a hearty Mazel Tov to Louise, Ben & Yared Posnasky on the Bris Milah of their newly-born son and brother, Refuel Asher. The Kehilla also wishes Mazel Tov to grandparents, Elaine & Alan Rubenstein and of course to aunt and uncle, Karen & Bradley Rubenstein who are temporarily residing in Jerusalem.

## *Reading of the Torah*

Sedrah Synopsis:

Leyning: Vayishlach

Hertz p 122, Soncino p 195

Haftorah:

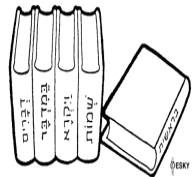
Hertz p 137, Soncino p 224

***Corinne Abrahams***

***Rabbi Simon Harris***

***Leslie Linder***

Chanukah is the festival when oil produced a light that illuminated the true nature of a major slice of Jewish history. The war against the Syrian Greeks had been won through miracles. But more. The fact that the struggle was climaxed with the miracle of the oil and that G-d chose to stamp His salvation with a miracle of light was a proof to the leaders of Israel that their struggle was more than a fight for self-respect and freedom - they had been waging the war of light against darkness, and bringing about the fulfilment of G-d's command 'Let there be light!' (Artsroll Mesorah)



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Sarah Abrahams on the occasion of her father, Robin's 50th birthday*

## ***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: 1 January, 29 January & 5 March.

## ***A Shabbos thought***



Once each week, we spend a day reinforcing our belief in G-d. As long as we keep the Shabbos, G-d remains an integral force in our lives. Our faith is like a rock and nothing can shake it. All the waves of persecution break before this rock of faith. With this belief we not only survive, we flourish. Where Shabbos is alive, so too is Judaism.

## ***A Muslim in a Jewish Land***

Dr Tashbih Sayyed, Editor-in-Chief of 'Pakistan Today' and 'Muslim World Today' has written an amazing article on [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com) on his first visit to Israel on 14 November 2005. He begins by stating 'I wanted to use my first visit to Israel to feel the strength of the Jewish spirit that refuses to give in to evil forces despite thousands of years of anti-Semitism. It was not Israel's suicidal sacrifices that I wanted to investigate but the foundations of Israeli determination to live in peace.' The article is a must-read. He finishes, 'I am convinced that it is true that G-d created this earth but it is also a fact that only an Israel can keep this earth from dying.' A remarkable piece.

## ***The Junior Kehilla***

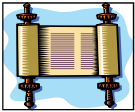
The Clayhall Kehilla has sprouted an offspring! We are delighted that four of our younger members, **Melanie Segall, Alison Mervish, Naomi Harris and Sara Freedman** have produced a 'Junior Kehilla' that will coincide with Festivals. The Chanukah edition contains a couple of competitions with books as prizes. It has been written for primary school-age children and it will be sent directly to this group.

## ***Refueh Shelemah***

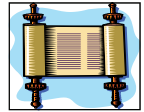
Would you ensure that any names of people that you want to include in the Refueh Shelemah prayer are added to the regular list. This might stop the growing queue around the Bimah. Please also bear in mind that the prayer is said for those people who are seriously ill or suffering from a chronic illness.

## ***Battle Me First***

*'He put the handmaids and their children first' (33:2)* Yaakov placed Bilhah and her children first followed by Zilpah and her children. Then came Leah and her children with Rachel and Yosef in the rear because he dearly loved Rachel. Yaakov stood in front of them all, thinking, 'Let Esav battle me first.' Esav ran to greet him, and hugged and kissed him, and they both wept. The maids and their children approached and bowed. Then Leah and her children came forward and bowed, and finally Yosef and Rachel came forward. Rashi asks why the names of the mothers precede those of the children, except in the case of Rachel? Since Rachel was beautiful, Yosef stood before her, blocking her from Esav's sight, so that he would not desire her.



*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)***

### ***Shul Magazine***

Although Chanukah is still a week away, the **Pesach edition** of the Shul magazine needs to be filled with your articles, news items and any other literary masterpieces that you could conjure up. The final submission date is **12 February 2006** and it would be appreciated if this deadline could be honoured. If you or anyone you know would like to advertise in the magazine, please let us know.

### ***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 Xmas 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***

How should one deal with confrontation? From this week's Parsha we learn about Yaakov's three pronged approach. He dispatches an advance party to smoke out Esav. They return and inform Yaakov that his bloodthirsty sibling is travelling towards him with 400 men. Some say they were 400 generals, each commanding his own division. Either way things do not augur well. Our Sages teach us "that the behaviour of our ancestors is a sign to us the children." Yaakov's response should serve as a model to guide us when we are faced with aggression. First of all, our Patriarch works out a military strategy. He divides his camp in two. It is of great significance that Yaakov does not start by praying. There must be some truth in the street-wisdom that G-d helps those who help themselves. Indeed the Rabbis tell us "one should not rely on miracles." Taking the initiative is seen as a positive virtue in Jewish Thought. Having split his entourage, Yaakov now makes his supplications. He reminds Hashem that it was He who said, "Return to your land .... And I will do good with you" (Gen. 32.10). Lastly, having prepared for war and implored the G-d of his fathers to spare him, Yaakov turns to what we might call "diplomacy." Yaakov sends a long caravan of gifts and makes a point of having a good space put between each drove of cattle. This gives the impression that the tribute is simply unending. The moral of the story is *Cover all bases, don't just hope that davening will save you.*

### ***You Can Do Better!***

It's still a struggle to sustain a healthy Shacharis Minyan. The numbers fluctuate day by day but we lack consistency. We know that there are many gentlemen out there that could make a real difference. So prick your consciences and let the action do the talking. It's grossly unfair on the small group of rock-solid stalwarts who lead by example.

### ***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.

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