



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 24 December 2005/ 23 Kislev 5766

Service Times (Shabbos Mevarachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	4.50 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	3.45 pm

We extend a hearty **Mazel Tov** to Joanne, Richard and Jamie Shone on the birth of a baby boy and to Marian and Stephen Shelton on their second grandson. Today we bless the new month of **Teves** and **Rosh Chodesh** is next Shabbos 31 December & Sunday 1 January. Chanukah is just hours away!!!!

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah Synopsis:

Alan Lion

Leyning: Vayeshev

Rabbi Simon Harris

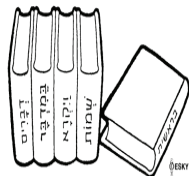
Hertz p 141, Soncino p 229

Haftorah:

Ivor Ross

Hertz p 152, Soncino p 248

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
Marlene & Michael Finegold to celebrate Adam's Masters Degree distinction*

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



The Shabbos mood begins with the preparation. *'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'* We learn that in order to truly keep it holy, we must remember it all week long & prepare for it. If you see something that you will enjoy on Shabbos, by all means set it aside for use on the holy day. Make a clear distinction from the other 6 days.

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 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

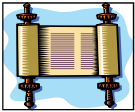
The Clayhall Kehilla has sprouted an offspring! We are delighted that four of our younger members, **Melanie Segall, Alison Mervish, Naomi Harris** and **Sara Freedman** have produced a *'Junior Kehilla'* that will coincide with Festivals. The Chanukah edition contains a couple of competitions with books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

Refueh Shelemah

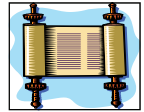
Would you ensure that any names of people that you want to include in the Refueh Shelemah prayer are added to the regular list. This might stop the growing queue around the Bimah. Please also bear in mind that the prayer is said for those people who are seriously ill or suffering from a chronic illness.

Magnificent Melavah Malkah

We are delighted and privileged that the United Synagogue President, **Dr Simon Hochhauser**, will be the Guest Speaker at our yearly Melavah Malkah that takes place on Motsei Shabbos (Saturday evening), **28 January 2006**. Dr Hochhauser is an outstanding speaker and well worth listening to. The highly talented **Jonny Turgel** will provide the musical entertainment. Jonny is a soloist with the Shabbaton Choir and sings regularly with Rev Lionel Rosenfeld. He has also accompanied the Shabbaton Choir on its special Solidarity trips to Israel. We will serve a delicious 3-course fish supper befitting the occasion. Application forms will be sent out shortly and we would ask that you return them as soon as possible. Please put the date in your diaries now - keep it free!



Next Shabbos is very special since we take out three Sifrei Torah as it is both Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh.



Check for the latest Kashrus updates on www.kosher.org.uk Be one step ahead!

Davening over the Holidays

Sinclair House is closed over the holiday period. Shacharis on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday 25/26/27 December will be in David Miller's home, Breakfast will follow the davening tomorrow. Ma'ariv on Tuesday will also be at David's home.

Shul Magazine

Although Chanukah is still a day 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 **5 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.

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

When we consider the life of Yosef it can be divided into two phases: Yosef the younger and Yosef the elder. The young Yosef has his dreams, powerful portrayals of him lording it over the rest of his family. A more mature adult might have kept these prophecies to himself. But the young Yosef cannot keep his peace. He has to tell his brothers how one day they will all be his subjects, bowing down to him. And perhaps understandably his siblings resent the prospect and take action to prevent the fantasies from becoming reality. This is Yosef the younger, the character who must inform everyone of his bright future as their master. But then fate, or rather intervention from on high, causes Joseph to wind up in an Egyptian jail. And there, as everywhere, he is put in charge; although this wasn't quite the lofty position Yosef's visions had prefigured. One morning he is doing his rounds as King-Pin in the lock-up and he walks into the cell of two disgraced former employees of the Pharaoh, the butler and the baker. They look downcast and troubled. Yosef is concerned. He wants to help. They tell him *"we dreamt a dream but there is no interpreter for it. So Yosef said to them... relate it to me if you please"* (Gen 40:8). The minute Yosef has asked someone else about their dreams, and he is able to focus on other people's aspirations and fears, he has come of age. He is now Yosef the elder, a humane compassionate adult capable of listening. He has ceased to be the entirely self-absorbed Yosef the younger.

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.

Ladies Supper Quiz

The Ladies Guild Supper Quiz is an all-female affair taking place on Tuesday 7 February 2006. It begins at 7.30 pm prompt (doors open at 7.00 pm). Please support this event. It should be a really entertaining and fun evening. The cost is £9.50 and monies raised benefit the Shul. For tickets contact either Karen Wise on 8501 1122 or Jacquelyn Conner on 01708 746735.

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