



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 7 January 2006/ 7 Teves 5766

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.02 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	4.02 pm

You may have noticed that the secular month of January and the Jewish month of Teves match exactly upto the 29th day. This occurs a second time this year as March and Adar also coincide for the first 29 days. Our lunar calendar is 11 days shorter (354) than the standard solar calendar (365). We also have seven leap years in every cycle of 19 years by adding an extra month otherwise Chagim like Pesach and Succos would eventually fall outside the correct agricultural cycle. Therefore, armed with this information, when is the next time that a **pair** of secular and Jewish months occur in harmony with each other?

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah Synopsis:

Leyning: Vayigash

Hertz p 169, Soncino p 277

Haftorah:

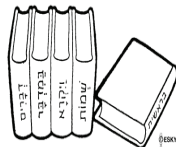
Hertz p 178, Soncino p 293

Johnny Lyndon

Rabbi Simon Harris

Hermie Rothman

We are delighted to pass on best wishes from Karen, Bradley, Ella, Gavriel and Chanah Dina Rubenstein in Jerusalem. They are enjoying a wonderful experience living in the heart of the Old City. Fortunately for us, the family will be returning at the end of February!



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Marian & Stephen Shelton in celebration of the birth of their second grandson, Daniel.

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 & Wednesday evenings.

Sunday breakfasts: 29 January, 5 March & 2 April

Tefillin thoughts



When a man places Tefillin on his arm, he should stretch out his hand as if to draw in the Community of Israel and embrace it with his right arm. The man who wears Tefillin is crowned as on high. He enters the perfection of Unity and so resembles his Creator. Happy is the man who wears Tefillin and fathoms their mysteries (Zohar).

The Fast of Teves

The Fast takes place on the 10th of Teves (**Tuesday 10 January 2006**) from sunrise to sunset. It commemorates the siege of Jerusalem by the wicked King Nebuchadnetzar of Babylon. This siege was the beginning of the whole chain of calamities which finally ended with the destruction of the *Beis Hamikdash*. Famine was intense in the city, the people had no bread, and the city was breached. The real significance of the Fast as well as that of the other fast days is not primarily the grief and mourning which they evoke. Their aim is to awaken the hearts towards repentance. Every generation has the capacity to awaken Divine mercy that Israel be redeemed by the Mashiach.

Ma'ariv Services

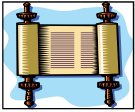
Two years ago, Clayhall only davened Shacharis on a Sunday. Now, thank G-d, we daven every morning. By contrast, our only weekday Ma'ariv service take place on Tuesdays. We have now started our **Wednesday** Ma'ariv service. It begins at 7.30 pm and lasts just fifteen minutes. Once again, your support is needed if we are going to maintain this exciting growth. Please do your best to attend.

Hagbah & Gelilah

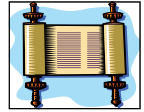
It's that dreaded moment when the Gabbai utters your Hebrew name and you've got to lift the Sefer Torah for all to see, or you may have the honour of dressing it. You worry about the correct procedure because, let's face it, nobody has ever taught you the proper way. Interested in some quick lessons? Let us know.

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!



You can sponsor the newsheet for just £15 in celebration of a Simchah or commemoration of a Yahrzeit.



Don't forget to send back your direct debit forms to the Shul office asap.

Shul Magazine

Although Pesach is still four months 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 we would be grateful if this deadline could be honoured. If you, or anyone you know, would like to advertise in the magazine, please let us know.

Sifrei Torah Silver

Three of our Sifrei Torah are unfortunately without breastplates. We would be grateful if individuals would like to donate these items to mark a special event or just to help the Shul in beautifying our Sifrei Torah. Please speak to the Honorary Officers if you are interested.

He Cried in a Loud Voice

They were tears of happiness (Vayigash 45:2) prompted by the great joy of finally seeing the long years of terrible trials and moral suffering come to an end. When Yosef once again found his brothers and his family, under circumstances so glorious for him, he saw his most cherished wish come true beyond all his expectations. Alas, notes the Midrash, when the Jewish People will at the end of time find G-d in its land, this rediscovery will be of the same nature: with tears of joy will be mingled the memory of indescribable suffering endured through the seemingly endless years of exile. Such is the destiny of Jewry, as the prophet *Jeremiah* predicts, *'They will return in tears, I shall bring them back with sighing.'*

Weekly Torah thought by Rabbi Simon Harris

According to Midreshei Chazal, *yeshivot* (Torah Academies) date back to the patriarchal period. When Rivke experienced ructions in her womb she was disturbed, *"and she went to enquire of the Lord"* (Genesis 25:22). Rashi, quoting Targum Yonatan and Bereishit Rabba, explains that this means that Rivke went to ask for guidance *"at the House of Study of Shem."* A few verses later (ibid. 25:27) when the Chumash is contrasting Esav and Yaakov, the former is described as *"a man of the field"* whereas our third forefather is portrayed as *"abiding in tents."* Once again, Rashi, culling from Bereishit Rabba, identifies these tents as *"the tent of Shem and the tent of Ever."* Indeed in Rabbinic literature, the word *"tent"* becomes synonymous with Yeshiva. Before describing Jacob's vision of the ladder connecting heaven and earth, the Torah states *"and he slept in that place"* (ibid. 28:11). Here, Rashi observes, we have an expression of exclusivity: *"in that place he lay down, but during the fourteen years that he served in the House of Ever he did not sleep at night because he was occupied with the study of Torah."* So far it has been established that two academies existed in Eretz Yisrael, that of Shem (the son of Noach) and Ever. Now in this week's Torah portion Yaakov is about to descend into Egypt, with all that implied spiritually as well as geographically. Yaakov wants to be sure that his sons will not become disconnected from their Torah studies and so *"he sent Judah before him to instruct ahead of him in Goshen"* (ibid. 46:28). Our most prolific commentator, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, drawing from Tanchuma and Bereishit Rabba, clarifies the phraseology here *"to instruct ahead of him means to set up for him a house of study from which instruction would go forth."* The first diaspora yeshiva had been opened and this would guarantee that Jacob's family would have its own seat of learning in the land of the Pharaohs.

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.

Clayhall United Synagogue

Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road,

Redbridge, Essex, IG4 5LN

Tel: 020 8551 6533

e-mail: clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com