



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 22 April 2006/ 24 Nisan 5766

Service Times (Shabbos Mevarachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	7.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	9.00 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	7.30 pm

Pesach soon comes and goes with all the hard work that is involved. We hope that everyone enjoyed a really wonderful eight days in the company of family and friends. Already, we are over a week into the Counting of the Omer. These 49 days are a time for real spiritual growth and development and there will be relevant articles appearing in the *Clayhall Kehilla* over the next few weeks. We are delighted to welcome back **Gary Weyland** who is leyning today and we are also indebted to **Jonathan Bash** for sharing some inspiring Divrei Torah especially at our Mashiach Suedah on the final day of Pesach.

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah synopsis:

Leyning: Shemini

Hertz p 443, Soncino p 651

Haftorah:

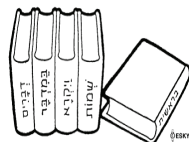
Hertz p 454, Soncino p 667

Joel Russell

Gary Weyland

Sam Chaplain

Today is **Shabbos Mevarachim** and we will bless the new month of Iyar. The *Birchas Ha'Chodesh* prayer is recited and the New Moon (Molad) is announced. Rosh Chodesh is next Friday and Shabbos. Shacharis on Friday 28 April will commence at **6.45 am**.



**This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Elaine & Lee Russell**

Children's & Youth Service

Reception - Year 6

10.30 am – 11.30 am

Year 7 - Year 11

10.30 am - 11.30 am

Weekday Services

Shacharis: 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: 30 April, 28 May, 25 June & 23 July.

An Omer Thought



Fifty gates of understanding and spirituality were created in the world. Moshe's degree of comprehension included 49 gates, but he could not comprehend the 50th gate, which is the ultimate level of understanding. Those 49 levels are the 49 days of the Counting of the Omer, and the Torah was given on the 50th day.

May is a Busy Month!

We will be holding a special Youth Shabbaton on **Shabbos 6 May 2006** to coincide with the Shabbos nearest to Yom Ha'atzma'ut. It will be a Clayhall-led event involving the local Orthodox Shuls. Forms were sent directly to young people before Pesach. Sinclair House will be holding its **Yom Ha'atzma'ut Gala Show** on Tuesday 2 May and, once all the information is published, we will send it to members. Again, Clayhall and Newbury Park Synagogue will jointly host a series of the Israel Film Festival on **Tuesday 9 May** at Sinclair House. This is the Festival's third year and this time, we will show one feature length film rather than three short films. More next week!

Family Shabbaton

We want to run a 'Family Shabbaton' on **Shabbos 24 June 2006** for all children from school Year One to Year Six. Invitations would be extended to members of their family including older siblings. We have an excellent Guest Speaker in mind but he has not been approached yet. Further details will be sent out after Pesach but try to keep the date free. The event will be run through *Tribe* making it cheaper all round!

Nostalgic Evening

On **Tuesday 13 June 2006**, we are '*Going down the Jewish East End*' with Aumie Shapiro. It promises to be a nostalgic evening that also includes a bagel supper, and finishing with an East End Quiz. For just £9 you can reminiscence and test your memory. The evening starts at 7.30 pm and tickets can be bought through the Shul office.

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! Again this year, we are delighted that Freda & Leslie Pollock will be hosting the Tikun on **Thursday 1 June 2006** from 11.30 pm until the wee small hours. The more that come, the greater the ruach (spirit) and atmosphere. If you would like to present a D'var Torah, whether it be two minutes or twenty minutes, please speak to either Bradley or David. If you've never been to a Tikun before, you don't know what you've been missing. It's definitely worth the extra effort! There will probably be a Shacharis minyan at about 4.00 am.



Today is **Day 9** of the Omer. It is an important mitzvah to orally count the Omer at nightfall up to the eve of Shavuot.

**The Clayhall AGM
will be on Tuesday
16 May at 8.00 pm.
Keep it free!**

Nominations 2006/07

The closing date for nominations for Honorary Officers and the Board of Management is this **Monday 24 April**. Any received after **3.30 pm** on this date are invalid.

Rabbi Recruitment

Once again some very speculative stories have circulated over the last fortnight. Until the HO's and Board of Management have anything concrete to announce, it would be wise to discount any such rumours that you hear. What is true is that a further series of interviews took place before Pesach but it would be very wrong to comment further at this stage. Members will be the first to know of any 'real' news.

Youth Service Update

The Honorary Officers are very aware of the need to provide stimulating, educational and enjoyable services for our children and young people. The Youth Service, in particular, has always been a challenge. We are not the only Shul to experience difficulties here. Despite the best efforts of several people, the formula is still not right. We have spoken with *Tribe* (Young United Synagogue) with a view to bringing in a suitably qualified person once a fortnight to run the Youth Service. The role would also extend to advice and training for the other weeks when *Tribe* are not here. Numbers have dwindled in recent months and it our responsibility to create the right Orthodox Jewish environment for our young people to develop. Buying in professional help is a positive move forward.

'You shall be Holy, for I am Holy' (based on Rabbi Elie Munk)

For the Jewish people, observing the dietary laws in totality became the condition for keeping the *Shechinah* in their midst. It cannot be denied that some people view the rules regarding Kashrus as the most negligible part of the entire body of Divine Laws. To these people the preoccupation with seemingly trivial detailed restrictions is not consistent with the noble ideals associated with religious devotion. Indeed, they have put forward various hypotheses in an attempt to explain the origin of these laws. Some are convinced they see traces of various primitive cults and religions that existed at that time. Others see the dietary laws as preventative measures based on the climate and living conditions of the Jewish people in that era. If one were to suppose for a moment that one or another of those explanations are valid, a questions surely arises. How is it that these laws were fully maintained in all their specifics from that time in the desert up to the very present? None of the great leaders of Judaism including those most influenced by the culture of their day, ever thought of declaring them outmoded. This permanency of the dietary laws is an extraordinary phenomenon, almost unique in the annals of civilisation. It can be explained only by the fact Kashrus has an absolute value to the Jewish nation. That value goes beyond reasons linked to time and surroundings and beyond reasons that make these laws merely a means to an end. Accordingly, with each drop of water that a Jew drinks, with each piece of bread that he eats, he must remember G-d and be thankful to Him.

Carpet Request!

The Shul needs your off-cuts! We have two loose pieces of carpet on the Bimah to give extra protection and comfort. Both pieces urgently need replacing as the last few years of tread have taken their toll. If anyone has navy-blue carpet to spare, could they speak to either Lester or Michelle in the office. Many thanks in grateful anticipation.

Lag B'Omer BBQ

Our popular Lag B'Omer BBQ takes place on **Sunday 21 May 2006** as usual at the home of Deborah and Lester Harris. Places are limited to the first **55** people who apply and there are still places available. Return your application forms to the Shul office as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Clayhall United Synagogue

Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road,

Redbridge, Essex, IG4 5LN

Tel: 020 8551 6533

e-mail: clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com