



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 13 May 2006/ 15 Iyar 5766

Service Times (Lag Ba'Omer Special Edition)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	7.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	9.40 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	7.30 pm

We wish a very hearty Mazel Tov to **Helen & Johnny Lyndon** on the birth of their second great grand-daughter, Roni. Helen & Johnny have great pleasure in inviting the Kehilla to a Kiddush after the Service. Clayhall Shul is honoured to be hosting **Professor Robert Haralick** from New York and we are grateful to **Rabbi Matisyahu Glazerson**, the father of Rabbi Zev Glass for organising this event. Professor Haralick is a leading international expert on the subject of Torah codes, a topic that is gaining enormous interest and respect throughout the world. More details can be found inside the 'Clayhall Kehilla.'

Reading of the Torah

Sedra Synopsis:

Leyning: Emor

Hertz p 513, Soncino p 740

Haftorah:

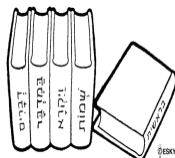
Hertz p 528, Soncino p 761

Joshua Samuels

Lester Harris/Eli Simons

Robert Segall

Professor Haralick will be addressing the community before Mussaf for about 15-20 minutes. Later, at our Seudah, he will speak in more depth and answer your questions. We will daven Minchah slightly earlier at **7.30 pm** with the Seudah starting about **7.55pm**.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Helen & Johnny Lyndon in celebration of the birth of their second great grand-daughter

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: 28 May, 25 June & 23 July.

A Lag Ba'Omer Thought



In Meron and in communities around Israel, bonfires are lit on the night of Lag Ba'Omer. These flames represent the hidden light of the teachings of Kabbalah; the fire which surrounded R' Shimon Bar Yochai's place of learning on that fateful day when he departed this world. Daylight was miraculously extended until Rav Shimon died.

Week-Long Celebration

R' Chaim Vital said that his teacher the Arizal visited the tomb of R' Shimon bar Yochai in honour of Lag Ba'Omer and remained there for 3 consecutive days. The Chasidic masters taught that the spiritual aura that is manifest at Meron on Lag Ba'Omer, the Yahrzeit of R' Shimon, is present for the entire week: from 3 days preceding this day until the 3rd day following it, similar to the aura of Shabbos.

Weddings & Haircuts

There are varying customs as to when during *Sefirah* the mourning period for the disciples of Rabbi Akiva is kept. Rav Yosef Caro, author of *Shulchan Aruch*, says that they ceased dying on the 34th day of the *Sefirah* period. Thus according to this opinion, it is from the day after Lag Ba'Omer and on that weddings and haircuts are permitted. *Sefardim* follow this opinion, though they, too, celebrate Lag Ba'Omer as the *hilula* (joyous celebration) of Rav Shimon bar Yochai. *Rama* follows the opinion that the disciples died on the 33rd day. Following this rule, haircuts are permitted from daytime of Lag Ba'Omer. Weddings can be held on the night Lag Ba'Omer is ushered in.

AGM 2006

The AGM takes place this **Tuesday 16 May**. Members would have received meeting notices. It is your opportunity to hear about the Shul's future plans and for you to voice any concerns and opinions in a fair and constructive manner. Voting starts from **6.00 pm** and finishes at **8.00 pm** when the AGM starts. It beats watching football!

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

We are very short of whisky so any offers would be greatly appreciated!

Calendar Insertions

Have you put your insertions in the 5767 (2006/07) Shul calendar. If you have lost the forms, you should find one in the latest mailing - just delivered! It's an ideal way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, Bar/Bat Mitvas or to commemorate Yahrzeits.

Lag Ba'Omer

This Monday night and Tuesday is the 33rd day of Sefirah, known as Lag Ba'Omer. Steeped in mysticism, this festive day is one of the least known about in the Jewish calendar. **Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai** was born and died on 18 Iyar. He authored the **Zohar** ('Shining Light'), a great Kabbalistic work and he revealed hidden secrets of the Torah on the day he died that had, until then, only be known to Moshe.

Professor Robert Haralick

Professor Haralick has authored more than 550 books, chapters, journal articles, and conference papers, among them the seminal two-volume *Computer and Robot Vision*. He has contributed to image texture analysis, facet modeling for image analysis, shape analysis using mathematical morphology, and in general to computer image processing, computer vision, computer document analysis, and artificial intelligence. His most recent work is in high-dimensional space clustering and pattern recognition techniques applied to combinatorial problems in free group theory. Professor Haralick Lives in New York, and is deeply involved in the research of The Torah codes. ***We are honoured by his presence today.***

The Lag Ba'Omer Pilgrimage

In honour of Lag Ba'Omer, thousands stream to the tomb of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son, Rabbi Elazar, in Meron. There, the people recite prayers, dance and sing around bonfires and cut the hair of 3-year old boys for the first time. The Lag Ba'Omer pilgrimage to Meron is a custom dating back many centuries. The classic commentator on the Mishnah, Rabbi Ovadiah of Bertinoro arrived in Jerusalem in 1488. In a letter to his brothers, he wrote: "On the 18th of Iyar, the day of Rabbi Shimon's passing, they came from everywhere and lit torches...for many childless women were redeemed and sick people were cured through the pledges and donations that they offered at this place." Rav Yeshaya Asher Zelig Margulies writes of the scenes at Meron over seventy years ago: It is impossible to describe the greatness of this day of joy and the 'rejoicing with trembling' which takes place in Meron on Lag Ba'Omer. One can actually perceive that it is a day of joy in the upper worlds and in this world...a semblance of the World to Come. Some who are there sing and rejoice, exult and delight in dances of holiness, with the joy of singing 'Bar Yochai' and other holy songs; others stand wrapped in sacred emotions, pouring out their hearts in unceasing streams of tears near the holy burial site of R' Shimon and R' Elazar. Wrapped in tallis and tefillin, men pray together; still others sit upon the sacred floor and study *Zohar* and other mystical works. Groups are seen with children, dancing and clapping...giving them their first haircuts, distributing wine, whisky and cakes, calling out L'Chayim!"

Nostalgic East End Night

Have you booked your seat for the Nostalgic East End Evening taking place on **Tuesday 13 June 2006**? Featuring Aumie Shapiro's film 'Going Down the Jewish East End', followed by beigels and tasty fillings, and finishing with a mini East End Quiz - all for just £9 per person. A limited number of tickets are available from the Shul office.

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. There are no places left now. For those attending, could you please bring your own garden chair - a bottle is optional! The BBQ will start from 12.45 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

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