



קליהל קהילה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 20 May 2006/ 22 Iyar 5766

Service Times (Gabi Simon's Birthday Kiddush)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.20 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	9.53 pm
Kabbalos Shabbos next Friday	7.30 pm

We wish a hearty Mazel Tov to **Gabriel Simons** on the occasion of his 60th birthday and the Kehilla extends to him warm wishes for many more years of brachah and good health. Ever since his Bar Mitzvah in March, the Kehilla is also indebted to **Eli Simons** for his wonderful leyning and participation in our Services. Eli and Gabi share the leyning between them nearly every Shabbos Minchah as well as leyning on other occasions. Gabriel and Raya cordially invite the community to a Kiddush after the Service in celebration of their Simchah.

Reading of the Torah

Sedra Synopsis:

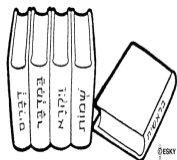
Leyning: Behar-Bechukotai
Hertz p 531, Soncino p 764

Haftorah:
Hertz p 551, Soncino p 789

Sophie Goldman
Rabbi Danny Shmulovit

Eli Simons

This evening at our Seudah we shall be exploring some Shavuot themes. Although it's been said many times before, the Seudah is arguably the event of the week. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal - a perfect way to end Shabbos.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Pearl & Leonard Vilka in celebration of their golden wedding. Shalom from Israel!

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 BaOmer Thought



The Chassidic masters note that Purim and Lag BaOmer always fall on the same day of the week, indicating a connection between the two. Both are weekdays, and both are holidays of intense joy. Both allude to the holiness of even the simple 'mundane' Jew and both are days when every Jew can ignite this spark of holiness anew.

AGM Results

Honorary Officers -

Chairman: Lester Harris

Vice Chairman: Gordon Miller

Financial Rep: Mervyn Lyndon

Wardens: David Miller/Brad Rubenstein

Board of Management -

Male members: Robin Abrahams, Michael Bash, David Grant, Leslie Pollock, Richard Rubin and Victor Shafier.

Female members: Estele Miller, Rosalind Jessener and Jackie Shafier.

Board of Deputies representative -

Martin Solomons

Many thanks to those that stood for the Board and a hearty Mazel Tov to the above people.

Sinclair House

We are delighted that the Well floor will be specially deep-polished over the May bank holiday. It is in a very poor state at the moment. So soon it should be gleaming clean! The Lounge (in front of the Ark) carpet will be industrially cleaned at the same time. Should the carpet still be dirty, it will be replaced.

We are very grateful to the anonymous donor who has paid for the lovely new Bimah carpet. Thank you.

AGM 2006

Many thanks to those who attended the AGM last Tuesday. The Honorary Officers are grateful for all the valuable contributions made on the evening. As always it would have been nice to have had more people present but, often, the less that turn up for these meetings, the higher the satisfaction rating for the Honorary Officers!

Eat, Drink & Learn the Night away!

Clayhall's *Tikun Leil Shavuos* 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 37** of the Omer. It is an important mitzvah to orally count the Omer at nightfall up to the eve of Shavuos.

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.

Rabbi Recruitment

The Honorary Officers want to reiterate what was said at the AGM. There is a preferred candidate who has been approved by the Selection Panel and endorsed by the Board of Management. The Executive are now discussing contractual issues. Only once this has been successfully concluded can an EGM of members be called. Naturally, the process is extremely confidential to protect all parties involved.

Night-long Torah Study

The custom for the Tikun Leil Shavuos has its source in the *Zohar* : "Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai would toil in the study of Torah on the night when the bride (Israel) is united with her groom (G-d and His Torah)...Rabbi Shimon and his group would rejoice in the joy of Torah and each one of them would seek new insights into it...Rabbi Shimon said to them: 'My sons: Praiseworthy is your lot, for tomorrow the bride will come to the marriage canopy only with you, because those who correct (*Tikun*) that which perfects the bride on this night and rejoice with her, will be noted and recorded in the Book of Remembrance, and the Holy One, Blessed is He, blesses them with seventy blessings and adornments from the Upper World' (intro. to *Zohar*, Vilna edition p8)

The Land shall observe a Shabbos rest (Vayikra 25:2)

The laws concerning the Shemittah and Yovel (Jubilee) are specially fitted to the ideal circumstances that existed for a limited time in the Land of Israel. Indeed, when Hashem proclaims that there will be sufficient harvests for the three coming years, it implies a spectacular and miraculous set of circumstances occurring every seven years in Israel. It seems doubtful that these special conditions occurred for longer than one century because the Torah states in regard to the Yovel year, '*proclaim freedom throughout the land for all its inhabitants*' (v.10). The condition that the Jewish people live *throughout the land* came to an end once the tribes of Reuven and Gad and half the tribe of Menashe were driven from their territories in the time of Senacherib. Only when the majority of the Jewish people are reunited in their land will the mitzvos of Shemittah and Yovel come into effect again. Indeed, because of their exceptional significance from the religious, social and economic points of view, these laws are applicable only to a nation-state that is totally prepared to be shaped and molded by the will of Hashem. The Shemittah year is first of all characterised as a Sabbath of G-d. The idea implied by the institution of Shemittah is immediately evident: it is a tribute from the Jewish people who periodically give back their homeland to the One from Whom they received it. This expresses the conviction that the country can become the complete property of the people only insofar as G-d grants it to them. Shemittah and Shabbos both reveal Hashem as the absolute Master of Creation.

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.

Thought for Shavuos

The uniqueness of Israel flows from the gift of the Torah and our continuing allegiance to it. The spark of Avraham's faith has sometimes flickered within his offspring but it has never gone out. It remains alive today and the reappearance of Shavuos every year beckons to us to recognise anew that the Torah was meant for us only.

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