

קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 16 December 2006/ 25 Kislev 5767

Service Times (Chanukah Day 1)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	4.46 pm
Shabbos next week	3.39 pm

This week's Kiddush has been generously donated by **Lydia, Martin and Samuel Freedman** in thanks for the community's support during Martin's recent illness.

The **Clayhall Grand Raffle Draw** is 24 hours away. You still have until tomorrow midday to return your counterfoils with the money. All proceeds will be used for the Shul's benefit including education projects. The 1st prize is worth a whopping **£1200** - a seven-day holiday for two to Eilat. See your tickets for full details. We are delighted that **110** people will be enjoying Clayhall's Chanukah extravaganza tomorrow starting at 5.30 pm. It promises to be a really fun and entertaining few hours.

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah synopsis:

Leyning: Vayeshev

Hertz p 141, Soncino p 229

Haftorah:

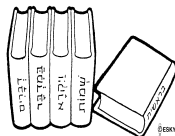
Hertz p 152, Soncino p 248

Samuel Freedman

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Leslie Pollock

Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wilson, the Honorary Officers and the Board of Management wish all members and their families a lechtiger and freilechen Chanukah. Ignore the diet and cholesterol - hit those doughnuts hard!



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Cynthia Simmons in celebration of a special birthday!*

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, Monday to Thursday.

Sunday breakfasts: 17 December, 21 January & 18 February.

NEROS Quiz - So close...

Clayhall narrowly failed by just 2 points to lift the NEROS Inter-Shul Quiz shield. Leading into the final round, our three valiant team members were faced with a barrage of incredibly obscure questions in a tense finale. What bad luck that the answers were equally obscure! Nevertheless, third place was enough to put the team through to the NEROS v East London Synagogues challenge. This was just a warm-up!

Future Events

Tu B'Shevat (New Year for Trees) falls on **Shabbos 3 February 2007** and Rabbi Wilson will be conducting a special 'fruity' Seudah between Minchah and Ma'ariv. Purim then falls on **Sunday 4 March**. After Shacharis, a full 'festive' Purim breakfast will be served. To coincide with Yom H'Shoah (Holocaust Day) the Shul is trying to organise a trip to the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottingham for **Sunday 1st July 2007**.

Ilford Jewish Primary School

Ilford Jewish Primary School's SAT's results have improved considerably again. But, most importantly, the value added element is the second highest in the London Borough of Redbridge. The measure compares the Year 6 pupils' performances in the national curriculum tests with the middle performance of other pupils nationally who had similar attainment four years earlier. **IJPS is rated in the top 5% of ALL primary schools in the country as well as being the top Jewish primary school for this significant element.** You can check the DfES website for more information. These results are fantastic news and we should be proud of our local Orthodox Jewish primary school.

Michelle Mervish

The Honorary Officers, Board of Management and all members wish Mazel Tov to Michelle on her election as Chair of the Association of United Synagogue Administrators. This reflects extremely well on both Michelle and on Clayhall Synagogue. It is a well-deserved accolade and we wish her success.

Melavah Malka Line-up confirmed!

On Motsei Shabbos (Saturday evening), **24th February 2007**, we shall be holding a Melava Malka at 8.15 pm. We are honoured and privileged that our Guest Speaker is **His Honour Judge Martyn Zeidman QC** who will speaking on the subject, 'Crime in a Sentence.' Following an illustrious legal career at the Bar, Judge Zeidman now sits as one of Her Majesty's Judges at Snaresbrook Crown Court. He is an outstanding and much sought-after speaker. We are also delighted that the excellent **Jonny Turgel** will be providing the musical entertainment. Jonny is the newly-appointed Chazan at Edgware Synagogue and a soloist with the Shabbaton Choir. He is well worth listening to. The evening is very much a light, social occasion with the emphasis on good food (a great 3-course fish supper), a wonderful speaker, and some marvellous music. Application forms will be sent to all members in early January with further details. You can provisionally put your name down now by contacting the Shul office.

Chanukah breakfast tomorrow morning after Shacharis. Go hungry or be there!

Clayhall Cares

If you know of anyone in the community who is in hospital, or about to go into hospital, or someone who is lonely and/or housebound, please call the Shul office or **Rabbi Wilson** directly on 07968 432672. Don't assume that we already know! There are unfortunately many times when word has not filtered through to the right channels. Rabbi Wilson and his team are here to help in any way possible so please just ask.

Ladies Guild Supper Quiz

The annual Ladies Guild Supper Quiz (ladies only) takes place on **Tuesday 6th February 2007** at Sinclair House. Doors open from 7.00 pm and the excitement begins at 7.30 pm. Tickets £10 each. More details to follow.

Ladies Rosh Chodesh Group

The eagerly-anticipated Rosh Chodesh group restarts on **Tuesday 19th December** at 8.30 pm at the home of Rebbetzin Wilson, address from the shul office. Our intriguing guest speaker is **Shanni Solomons**, a New York born nurse, counsellor and outreach lecturer. Her title is '*Dispelling the Myths.*' Shanni is a very popular speaker to women's groups in London. She has lectured at *Encounter* and run parenting courses for *Tribe*. She trained as a nurse in Shaarei Tzedek, Jerusalem, and she worked for most of her career in the neonatal intensive care unit at Barnet General Hospital. Shanni lives in Hendon with her husband, Leslie, and five adorable children. Naturally, refreshments will be served! Please do you best to support this excellent event.

Why can't benefit be derived from the light of the Menorah?

At Chanukah we light one candle for each night: one the first night, two the second, upto and until eight lights on the last night. But there is also an additional candle, the shamash, meaning "servant." The reason for this candle is that we are not allowed to use the regular Chanukah lights for our own use; it is the job of the shamash to provide us with light if we need it for some utilitarian purpose. This unique rule seems to reflect the message of Chanukah. Greek culture was generally tolerant of alien cultures, and their synthetic religion was tolerant of other religions. Furthermore, Judaism was not a proselytizing religion, which might have undermined the Greek practices. Why should the Hellenistic conquerors have endeavored to forbid the study and observance of Torah? While Greek philosophy was focused on truth, Greek religion was focused on usefulness. Greek civilization's best minds were occupied in ascertaining the laws of beauty, the laws of language, the laws of nature, the laws of human society. They even interested themselves in theology -- the supposed laws which govern the Divine. But they seldom interested themselves in Torah -- the laws by which the Divine governs us. The Greeks could accept the fact that gods were more powerful than man, but they could not accept the fact that any being was master of man. Their ways of "serving" their gods were really ways of mastering them, indulging and outwitting them. It seems that what bothered them about the Jews was not that the Jews served **one** God, but rather that they **served** one God. So it is fitting that we commemorate our cultural victory over Hellenism by lighting a light which does not serve us, showing that our religion is distinguished by recognizing that the world is not ours to do as we like, and that we can use it for our own purposes only in accordance with the dictates of God's will. ***(Based on an article on www.aish.com)***

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