

קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 20 January 2007/1 Shevat 5767

Service Times (IJPS Shabbaton & Shabbos Rosh Chodesh)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.50 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.20 pm
Shabbos next week	4.24 pm

We are delighted to be hosting the **Ilford Jewish Primary School Shabbaton**. Once again, Years 2, 3 & 4 have combined and **50 children** have joined us for a day of eating and fun! After their Children's Service, they will join us for *Adon Olam* - perhaps with a song or two. Then the Kehilla is providing a Kiddush in the school's honour. The children will enjoy a buffet lunch with zemiros and bensching. After more activities, we will join together for a Seudah, something our regulars look forward to each year.

Today is **Shabbos Rosh Chodesh** and we will recite Hallel and leyn from two Sifrei Torah. Page numbers will be provided!

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah synopsis:

Lauren Woolf

Leyning: Va'era

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

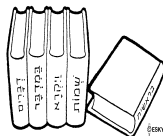
Hertz p 232, Soncino p 351

Haftorah:

Uri (from Israel!)

Hertz p 944, Soncino p 1188

*We wish Mazel Tov to David Miller and Sandra Fisher on their wedding last Sunday. Today's Seudah will double up as **Sheva Brachos** with a great atmosphere replete with food, drink and a few wee drams of fine malt!*



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Deborah Harris in honour of the pupils of Ilford Jewish Primary School

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: 21 January & 18 February.

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild AGM will be taking place on **Tuesday 27th February 2007** at Sinclair House. Further details and voting papers will be sent to all ladies nearer the time. This presents a good opportunity for ladies to discuss how they would like the role of the Ladies Guild to develop. The Ladies Guild Shabbos will be celebrated on **10th February** where the contribution of all of our ladies will be honoured.

Adult Education Series

Rabbi Wilson has been busy putting together an excellent 4-week Jewish History Series. The series feature three great speakers, **Rabbi Daniel Rowe**, **Mrs Shanni Solomons** and **Rabbi Nissan Wilson**. It starts this Wednesday 24th January with '*King Solomon - Wealth, Wisdom & Wives*.' The talk on 31st January is for **ladies only** given by Shanni Solomons, who was a very popular speaker at our Rosh Chodesh group recently. On 7th February, Rabbi Wilson lectures on '*Rabbi SR Hirsch - The Battle for True Judaism*.' The series concludes on 14th February with the excellent Rabbi Daniel Rowe talking on '*Maimonides - Physician and Philosopher*.'

Tu B'Shvat Seudah

We are delighted that **Rabbi Yehudah Lieberman**, Head of Dayan Ehrentreu's Edgware Kollel, is joining us for the Tu B'Shvat Shabbos on **3rd February**. Rabbi Lieberman is a scholar of repute and an entertaining and sought-after speaker in NW London. The Seudah is open to men and women of all ages and it will include exotic fruits, fine wine, single malt whisky as well as lively singing and an inspiring address from our guest speaker. Don't miss it!

Champagne Purim!

Purim very conveniently falls on **Sunday 4th March** with the first Megillah reading on Motsei Shabbos 3rd March. A champagne breakfast on the Sunday will include great food, lots of drink and some frivolous frivolity! What about the rumour of a thespian event involving the Rabbi and Honorary Officers? Never!

Melavah Malka Line-up confirmed!

On Motsei Shabbos (Saturday evening), **24th February 2007**, we shall be holding a Melava Malka at 8.15 pm. Application forms and further details have just been sent to members in the recent Shul mailing. It will be an evening of entertainment and inspiration, complemented by a beautiful, three-course, hot fish supper - all for just £13 per person.

Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis and it is important to return the form with payment no later than 12th February. 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.

***Sunday Shacharis
breakfast tomorrow
morning featuring the
usual goodies!***

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.

IJPS Success!

Iford Jewish Primary School's SATS's results have greatly improved again. More importantly, the value added element is the 2nd highest in the Borough of Redbridge. The measure compares the Year Six 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.** Well done!

Grand Gala Concert

The Gala Concert is nearing a sell-out. There are just 18 tickets left and they will be available from the Shul office tomorrow. If you are interested, call and book your seats immediately. Featuring the Israeli/English Mezzo-Soprano, **Ruti Halvani** accompanied by solist, pianist and composer **Peter Dale**, the evening promises to be a real cracker. Ruti Halvani has graced radio, television and many stages in Israel, Europe and America. Her performance with Peter Dale will combine the operatic Israeli Diva with the English jazz virtuoso. Also appearing is comedian, **Chris Carlson**, making a return visit to Clayhall. He will take a wry look at life as it used to be, taking his audience on an hilarious stroll down memory lane.

Miracles and Magic

Over the centuries, many religious adherents have tried to prove that they possess the "true" religion **by performing miracles**. However, *Maimonides* states: When one is willing to give credence to a religion because of reports of miracles, that is entering into dangerous territory - for one never knows whether the "miracles" may in fact be optical illusion or sleight of hand. While there is clearly no lack of miracles in Jewish tradition, **Judaism rejects the notion that our belief is based on these miracles**. The theological bedrock of our religion is a claim unparalleled in history: that G-d spoke in a national revelation to the entire Jewish people at Sinai. **The foundation of Judaism is built upon a verifiable historical event**, not an account of miraculous acts. But how does Judaism respond to the reported miracles of other peoples and faiths?

This question is at the heart of this week's Sedra. In it, Moshe approaches Pharaoh and asks that the Jewish people be given a short respite from their labors so that they can go into the desert and worship G-d. To bolster the strength of the request in the eyes of Pharaoh, G-d tells Moshe to have his brother Aaron throw a staff down in front of the Egyptian leader and it will turn into a snake. Aaron does this, but Pharaoh is unimpressed and **his own sages accomplish the same task!**

Though Aaron's staff eventually swallows up all the Egyptian staffs, Pharaoh remains unmoved. There are various opinions as to how the Egyptian sages accomplished their actions. *Maimonides* categorically rejects the possibility that there is any power to magic. In his view, any instance of sorcery is sheer nonsense to which no rational person should give any credence. However, *Nachmanides* maintains that the Egyptians were able to perform supernatural acts. He says that they possessed knowledge of the spiritual realm and were **able to manipulate negative forces** - in particular, the "forces of destruction."

Abarbanel notes that, on the one hand, various Biblical verses indicate that only G-d can perform supernatural acts. On the other hand, the Torah clearly seems to state that the Egyptians performed magic through incantations and sorcery. His conclusion is that the Egyptians did in fact perform sleight of hand, but only with the help of these spiritual forces.

An alternative explanation to the Egyptians' actions could be that in creating His world, G-d placed within it an incredibly powerful force called "faith." This means that if you put enough people in a room, who share a strong enough belief in something, these people just may be able to bring about a miracle. Based on this approach, the success of one's actions does not attest to the truth of their beliefs, but rather **to the strength of their faith**. Belief stands as a force in and of itself. In religion, just as in human psychology, what you believe can have a great impact on reality.

(Based on an article by Rabbi Yehudah Appel, Aish HaTorah)

Clayhall United Synagogue

Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road,

Redbridge, Essex, IG4 5LN

Tel: 020 8551 6533 e-mail: clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com

www.clayhallsynagogue.org.uk