



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 27 January 2007/8 Shevat 5767*

## *Service Times (Johnny Lyndon's 80th Birthday)*

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	4.00 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.31 pm
Shabbos next week	4.36 pm

We wish a hearty Mazel Tov to **Johnny Lyndon** on the wonderful occasion of his 80th birthday and we also welcome Helen and Johnny's family from Israel. Johnny has great pleasure in inviting the Kehilla to a Kiddush in celebration of his Simchah. We also wish a happy 80th birthday to **Dennis Abrahams**.

We tend to forget that the Shul boasts a small but high quality library situated in the Ackerman Resource Centre. There are over 160 excellent books covering a whole range of Jewish history and topics. Books can be borrowed at any time that the Shul office is open. Please make use of this important facility. We hope to add to the library over the next year.

## *Reading of the Torah*

Sedrah synopsis:

Leyning: Bo

Hertz p 248, Soncino p 377

Haftorah:

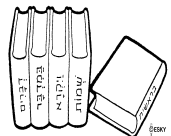
Hertz p 263, Soncino p 404

*Johnny Lyndon*

*Rabbi Nissan Wilson*

*David Krist*

The weekly Shabbos Seudah Sh'lishis (3rd meal) is an intimate and convivial occasion. Beautiful words of Torah from Rabbi Wilson are interspersed with good food and drink. Neither bland nor predictable!



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by  
Johnny Lyndon in celebration of his 80th 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: 18 February & 25th March.

## ***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 started last Wednesday 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.

***The Clayhall Whisky stocks are worryingly low and so we ask you to do your duty!***

### ***Busy times!***

There is so much going on over the next few weeks and months at Clayhall with arguably something to suit all tastes. Rabbi Wilson and others have been working very hard to bring an impressive programme of events, with much more to follow. We all share a collective responsibility to support the Shul. It's impossible to attend everything but we encourage members to make an extra effort and commitment.

### ***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.

### ***Grand Gala Concert***

There are a few tickets available for the 4th February concert starring Ruti Halvani and Chris Carlson from the office. Tel: 8551 6533.

### ***Shema Yisrael...a thought***

Morning and night, Jews shut their eyes and proclaim the *Shema* - G-d is ours and He is One. Life's most meaningful moments are punctuated with the *Shema*: when the Jew prepares to read the Torah on Shabbos and Chagim, when he dedicates his new day and when he surrenders to helpless sleep in the unknown night, at the climax of Yom Kippur, and at the climax of life when his soul leaves its earthly host. In the *mezuzah* the Shema sanctifies his home and in his *tefillin*.

## ***Taking Gold & Silver from Egyptians***

After World War II, Germany offered to **pay reparations to victims of the Nazi regime**. This caused an incredibly heated debate in Israel. There was even speculation in the Israeli media that acceptance of the reparations would cause a civil war. When Ben Gurion ultimately agreed to accept the reparations, riots took place and the Knesset building was stoned. Though peace and order was eventually restored, it is clear that for many Israelis at the time it was despicable to think that any "blood money" should be accepted. A similar phenomenon is found in this week's Sedrah, Bo. The Jewish people are being led to freedom, but before their departure, G-d tells Moshe **to encourage each Jew to take from his Egyptian neighbor vessels of silver and vessels of gold**. Two puzzling questions arise. First, since the Jews would be traveling into the desert, why did they need gold and silver? Second, why did the Jews have to be "encouraged" to take these vessels? In answer to the first question, *Rashi* explains that a promise had been made centuries earlier to Avraham: After his descendants would suffer years of bondage in Egypt, they would be freed, and in the process, they would despoil the Nile Kingdom of much of its wealth. A fascinating Midrash describes why this despoiling of Egypt was fair and proper. Thousands of years later, the Egyptians came before Alexander the Great and registered a claim against the Jewish people, demanding that they should be compensated for all the wealth that the Israelites had seized from their forefathers a millennium earlier. In response to this claim, *Gevia ben Psesia*, acting as the Jews' defense attorney, noted that **the Israelites had not received any wages for all the centuries they toiled as slaves in Egypt**. Thus, justice demanded that the Jewish people be granted a form of reparations. But this brings us to the second question: If the Jews had legitimate claims to Egyptian wealth, then why did Moshe have to encourage them to take it? One explanation is that the Israelites were so anxious to escape the misery of Egypt, that they didn't want to stay around in order to enrich themselves. When a person is in great pain, **his focus is exclusively on ending that suffering** - not on the acquisition of wealth. Furthermore, the Israelites feared that such an action could provoke their former masters into pursuing them. Oznam L'Torah, a modern commentator, offers a very different explanation. As victims of two centuries of unspeakable horrors, the Jews simply abhorred having contact with anything connected to Egypt. Additionally, they did not want their seizure of Egypt's wealth to be seen as some type of "quid pro" for all the suffering they had endured. Thus Moshe had to encourage them to take this property - in order to fulfill the Al-mighty's promise to Avraham. **This reluctance to take any money from the hands of their murderous exploiters** is an issue that was tragically duplicated by the Jews in Europe some three millennia later.

**(Based on an article by Rabbi Yehudah Appel)**

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