



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 3 February 2007/15 Shevat 5767

Service Times (Tu B'Shvat - New Year for Trees)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	4.00 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.43 pm
Shabbos next week	4.49 pm

It's double Simcha time at Clayhall! We wish Mazel Tov to **Ruth & Bobby Cohen** on the wonderful occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary, and another Mazel Tov to **Pamela Grant** on the landmark half-century of birthdays. Both families have great pleasure in inviting the Kehilla to a (double?) Kiddush after the Service in celebration of their Simchas.

We also welcome **Rabbi Yehudah Lieberman** from Edgware who will be our Guest Speaker at the Tu B'Shevat Seder taking place during the Seudah this afternoon. It 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 Rabbi Lieberman. He is a scholar of great repute and an entertaining and sought-after speaker. Don't miss it!

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah synopsis:

Leyning: B'Shalach (Shirah)
Hertz p 265, Soncino p 407

Ian Grant

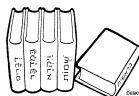
Lester Harris

Haftorah:

Hertz p 281, Soncino p 434

Bobby Cohen

One thing that can't be said of our Shabbos afternoon Seudah - hardly bland and never predictable!!!



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Jacqualyn Conner in celebration of her younger sister Pamela's 50th 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.

Community Power

An old man was planting a tree. A young person passed by and asked, What are you planting? A carob tree, the old man replied. Silly fool, said the youth. Don't you know that it takes 70 years for a carob tree to bear fruit? That's okay, said the old man. Just as others planted for me, I plant for future generations.

A Tu B'Shvat thought!

Man is a Tree - A Time to Grow

The source for Tu B'Shvat is the first statement of the Talmudic Tractate Rosh Hashana. This year on Tu B'Shvat, as you are gnawing on that delicious fruit, ask yourself: *Am I getting the spiritual food and shelter I need to survive, or is my tree being blown down by the forces of information overload and rampant materialism? Am I part of a strong, Jewish community, providing a warm and nurturing environment? Or am I cast into the pale bleak anonymity of urban life and cyberspace? Am I looking to future generations knowing that am I providing them with the proper foundations for their lives? Something to seriously think about?*

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. We are delighted that almost **90** people have already applied to come. 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!

Ladies Guild Supper Quiz

The annual Ladies Guild Supper Quiz (ladies only) takes place this **Tuesday 6th February 2007** at Sinclair House. Doors open from 7.00 pm and the excitement begins at 7.30 pm. Tickets have all gone; it's a sell-out!

New Year for Trees

The 15th of Shevat is known as the Rosh Hashanah for Trees, regarding the different tithes which are brought each year counting towards the seventh, *shmitah* year. Our Sages have chosen this day as the boundary between one year and another since most of the rains of the previous season have already fallen. Any new growth of fruit after this day is a result of the blessings of the new year.

Grand Gala Concert

There will be a few tickets at the door for Sunday's concert starring Ruti Halvani and Chris Carlson from the office. It's a sell-out!

Adult Education Series

The four-week series continues this coming Wednesday 7th February. Rabbi Wilson will be speaking on '*Rabbi SR Hirsch - The Battle for True Judaism.*' It promises to be a very interesting and possibly controversial talk, so please support. The series concludes the following week, 14th February, with the excellent **Rabbi Daniel Rowe** from Aish HaTorah talking on '*Maimonides - Physician and Philosopher.*' Rabbi Rowe is a brilliant and highly intelligent speaker. Be there!

L'Chaim to the Trees! (Rebbetzin Tzipporah Heller)

The Torah admonishes us not to destroy anything needlessly. Even when besieging an enemy city, fruit trees may not be destroyed. According to the mystic tradition, Tu B'Shvat is a day of great significance. Our roots are securely embedded in *terra firma*. Our first experiences with reality are physical and tangible. Then we grow beyond our roots. We extend our branches towards the heavens as we search for connection and meaning. We devote our lives to the production of fruit. We yearn to leave an enduring mark that we too were here. A Tzaddik - a holy person - is compared to an inverted tree. He draws his sustenance from the heavens and gives his fruit to the earth itself, and to any one who is of the earth. We all wish for lives of substance, but we grow weary. The mystic scholars ask: How does the Tzaddik draw his strength? The answer is that he draws his strength from the **Tree of Life** itself. What is the *Tree of Life*? The literal meaning of *Eden* is the Garden of Refinement. There, the inherent link between God and His creation was apparent. There was no shell of coarseness -- no human superficiality or human arrogance to conceal Him. All of nature revealed its source. The *Tree of Life* was in the centre of the Garden of Eden. It gave us the spiritual nurture that made us not only human but also enabled us to be holy. It had the power to do so because it was the mystic embodiment of the Torah, before that Holy Book was put into words. We are no longer in a world characterised by refinement. Instead of being nurtured by the *Tree of Life*, we are all too conscious of the taste left by the fruit of the *Tree of Knowledge* of Good and Evil. That other tree offered us the desire for evil that is as vivid as our desire for good. We think we are searching for the *Tree of Life*, but we wouldn't see it if it poked a branch directly at us. We are too busy looking at everything else. We are, after all, only human. We have already partaken of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and find it almost impossible at times to tell the two trees apart. It is for this reason that the Sages of the Talmud tell us that on this day, we should pray for a good Esrog -- one of the four species that are taken and blessed on Succos. Yet Succos has already faded into the past. Why are we thinking of an Esrog? The simple reason is that at this season the sap is rising, and the tree is beginning the process of eventually giving fruit. This is true of all trees. So why is Tu B'Shvat special to the Esrog? Because of its shape, the Esrog represents the symbol of the heart. This is the day we can pray for purity of the heart. We are fragile and frail. But the power of prayer can move us to its source - to infinity, to G-d. It can give us access to the *Tree of Life*. On Tu B'Shvat, we redefine how we regard the world by committing to sanctify our eating. We try to eat less impulsively and more with higher awareness. Tu B'Shvat is the day we learn once more how to cultivate ourselves. While savouring the fruits, try to envision their root, the source of all life. Let yourself savour the spiritual essence of the Land of Israel, by eating its produce.

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