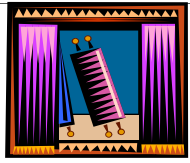


קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 10 February 2007/22 Shevat 5767

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	4.25 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.54 pm
Shabbos next week	5.02 pm

The United Synagogue has designated today as the **Ladies Guild Shabbos**. Indeed, we salute the valuable contribution of all our ladies irrespective of what task group or committee they might serve on. For the last few years, ladies have made up 50% of the Board of Management. Aside from Rabbi Wilson, most of our welfare and care work is undertaken by women and they play a leading role in our various task groups.

Today's Kiddush is being given in their honour and it is being prepared by the men! We are reasonably optimistic that the food and drink will be ready on time. Men do have a tendency to make more of a mess in the kitchen so the post-Kiddush clear up could be somewhat challenging! Many thanks are extended to this brave male group for stepping on female toes!

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah synopsis:

Hermie Rothman

Leyning: Yisro

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Hertz p 288, Soncino p 445

Haftorah:

Sam Chaplain

Hertz p 302, Soncino p 464

Two things that cannot be said of our Shabbos afternoon Seudah - hardly bland and never predictable!!!



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Dennis Abrahams 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: 4th March & 25th March.

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild AGM will be taking place on **Tuesday 27th February 2007** in the Board room at Sinclair House starting at 8.00 pm. Further details and voting papers have been sent to all ladies. This presents a good opportunity for ladies to discuss how they would like the role of the Ladies Guild to develop. If you would like to stand for one of the four positions, please ensure you return the nomination form in time.

Sinclair House

We know that there has been much speculation in recent months about the possible relocation of Sinclair House. Whatever might happen will take several years and it is quite possible that nothing will change at all. The Honorary Officers will act in the best interests of the Shul, and members will be kept informed of developments. We enjoy a very warm and close relationship with Jewish Care, something valued by both parties.

The Ten Commandments

The *Aseres Ha'Dibros* (The Ten Commandments or 'Statements' as is a more accurate translation) are read during this week's sedra of **Yisro**. Their first three verses establish the fundamental principle of the Jewish faith: Hashem's existence, His unity and His spirituality. The very first word of the Revelation proclaims the Supreme Being as a personal G-d. The G-d of Israel is not an abstract force. He is not called 'nature' or 'spirit' or 'universal soul.' Not only is He the ultimate Source of all life and existence, but an active Force in human history as well. He is the Source of human conscience and human morality.

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!

Melava Malka Sell Out!

We are delighted that the Melava Malka has been SOLD OUT. There are no more tickets left! Anyone who now wishes to apply will be put on a waiting list. We will do our best to accommodate seating requests where indicated. There will be a table plan for the evening and the event will start 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 will be accompanied on the piano by the well-known arranger and composer, **Stephen Levey**.

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

Silence is Golden

The Midrash emphasises that when G-d spoke from Sinai the earth was silent without a sound to distort the sound of His words. When Hashem presented the Torah not a bird chirped, not a fowl flew, not an ox lowed, nor an angel ascended, not a seraph proclaimed. The sea did not roll and no creature made a sound. All of the world was silent and mute. It was then that the Voice proclaimed.

Shabbaton...coming

The action is happening thick and fast at Clayhall. On **Shabbos 16th June**, Rabbi Dovid Roberts from Netzach Yisrael Shul in Edgware will be our guest Shabbaton speaker. He is a scholar of great repute. Another diary date!

Gala Concert Success

Sunday's Gala Concert was a big success raising just over **£800** for the Shul. Thanks to everyone involved in its organisation.

Adult Education Series

The series concludes this Wednesday 14th February. We are delighted and honoured that **Rabbi Daniel Rowe** from Aish HaTorah will be talking on '*Maimonides - Physician and Philosopher*.' Rabbi Rowe is a brilliant and highly intelligent speaker. It starts in the Board room at 8.00 pm and will finish by 9.30 pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. Hot drinks and danish pastries will be served. The talk, three days ago, by Rabbi Wilson was excellent. This will be no exception.

"And Yisro...heard" (based on the teachings of Rabbi Elie Munk)

Today's Sedra which contains the *Aseres Ha'Dibros* (The Ten Commandments), bears the name of Yisro, a former Midianite priest. This clearly demonstrates that the Torah does not belong solely to those of Jewish descent. In fact, it is the universal law, indirectly addressed to all men. Yisro is the example par excellence of a pagan leader who, upon recognising the futility of the heathen cults, embraced the law of Israel. The same theme is repeated on Shavuot, the anniversary of the giving of the Torah, when the story of the convert Ruth is read. From the time of its giving, the Torah relates to the entire universe. The fact that the episode of Yisro follows the war with Amalek gives us a revealing example of the various ways in which the nations react to Israel's existence. The events of the Exodus terrified the inhabitants of Philistea, Edom, Moav and Canaan (15:15). Yet it was precisely these events that led the Amalekites to seek to exterminate Israel, even though they were related to Israel through Esav. In contrast, Yisro, a total stranger to the Jewish people, was so deeply impressed by the evidence of G-d's concern for Israel that he converted to Judaism. The Bnei Yisrael were taught a valuable lesson regarding their relationship with the nations of the world. The fierce hatred of some is counterbalanced by admiration from others, and it is not always the kinsman who shows the greatest understanding. Some of our Sages contend that Yisro's arrival occurred after the *Aseres Ha'Dibros* were given. Nevertheless, the story of his conversion precedes this event, an indication that Yisro was drawn to Judaism by the previous historical events. As *Rashi* puts it, the most remarkable of these events were the crossing of the Reed Sea and the war with Amalek. The first attack against Israel by Amalek was not provoked for religious reasons since the religious laws were only given later. Amalek tried to destroy Israel as soon as it became an independent nation; Yisro, on the other hand, was so convinced of the Divine revelation from these historical events, that there was no need to wait and hear the contents of the Law before cleaving to the G-d of Israel. Thus *Rashi's* remark that Yisro joined Israel because of the crossing of the Reed Sea and the war with Amalek assumes its full significance. *Rashi* lists Yisro's seven names. Biblical people with several names went through several stages in their moral or social development. Each name corresponds to one of those stages.

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