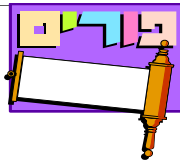




קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 17 February 2007/29 Shevat 5767

Service Times (Parshas Shekalim & Shabbos Mevarachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	4.35 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	6.06 pm
Shabbos next week	5.15 pm

Today is Shabbos Mevarachim when we will bless the new month of Adar. Our Rabbis teach us that as Adar approaches, we increase our joy. This manifests itself fully on Purim and there are details inside about Clayhall's Purim celebrations. The Ladies Rosh Chodesh Group meets this Monday 19th February and further information can also be found in the newsheet. Rosh Chodesh Adar falls on Sunday and Monday, 18th & 19th February. Shacharis will be at the slightly earlier time of **6.45 am** on Monday. The Service will last for about an hour.

We are delighted that **Dov Bodlander** is leyning this Shabbos and we welcome him back for his short stay from New York.

Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wilson enjoyed a few days in Bournemouth this week courtesy of the Annual US Rabbinical Conference!

Reading of the Torah

Sedrah synopsis:

Leyning: Mishpatim

Hertz p 306, Soncino p 471

Maftir: Hertz p 352, Soncino p 540

Today's Maftir is for Parashas Shekalim

Haftorah:

Hertz p 992, Soncino p 1191

Marc Alicoon

Dov Bodlander

Eli Simons



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Melanie Alicoon in celebration of her 40th 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 (Purim) & 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. If you would like to stand for one of the four positions, please ensure you return the nomination form in time. **All forms must be returned to the Shul office and not to the address as stated on the nomination form.**

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.

Great Purim Extravaganza

Clayhall will be celebrating Purim in style on Sunday morning, **4th March 2007**. Shacharis will begin at 9.00 am (at last - a lie in!) followed by the Megillah reading at 9.44 am. We will sit down to a scrumptious and elaborate champagne breakfast at 10.27 am, culminating in the fancy dress parade and **play** at 11.09 am. The all-star premiere performance of the Purim musical, *'The Rabbi and the Golem'* has received rave reviews from its Broadway run last year. The whole morning is yours for the ridiculously low price of just £2 per adult and £1 for under-16's. Return the booking form to the box office by 26th February for prestige dress circle seats.

Rosh Chodesh Group

Join the ladies on Monday **19th February at 8.30 pm** venue from the office. The guest speaker is **Yael Hamer**, a teacher at Hasmonean High School and a regular lecturer to adult audiences. Her topic is 'Purim - A Game of Hide & Seek.' Yael lived in Israel for 10 years and now resides in NW London with her family. She holds a degree in psychology and a teaching diploma.

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**.

***US President
Simon Hochhauser
coming to Clayhall on
Shabbos 17th March.***

Quiz Mania!

The recent Ladies Guild supper quiz was very successful and it raised over £600. On Tuesday 17th April, it's the men's turn with another popular and highly competitive sports quiz. The action begins after Minchah and Ma'ariv at 8.00pm with a beigel and beer supper. Tickets are £8 and the details have been sent out in the recent Shul mailing. Please do your best to support the event with funds going to the Shul.

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!

Purim Evening - Motsei Shabbos

The Megillah reading on Saturday evening, 3rd March, will begin promptly at 7.00 pm followed by a L'Chaim and refreshments.

Hebrew Reading Course

Rabbi Wilson would like to run another 6-week Hebrew reading crash course after Pesach. The first course was very successful and it really is possible to read Hebrew competently after just 6 weeks! Rabbi Wilson already has a few names on the 'interested list' but would you please speak to him directly if you would like to participate in such a course. It really is a worthwhile and rewarding experience. Do something amazing and give yourself the chance to read the Holy tongue.

Up the Ramp (Rabbi Shraga Simmons)

Parshas Mishpatim is unusual in that it begins with the word, "And." This effectively connects the mitzvos of this week's parsha to the final topic of last week's parsha - which specifies that when building the Altar in service of God, the approach should be by way of a ramp, rather than steps. What's the difference between a ramp and steps? Steps implies there is a pre-set measure of how high one should reach with each movement forward. Yet in reality, everyone grows at his/her own pace, in a series of immeasurably small steps. And that idea is represented by the ramp. Often one's growth is impeded by the feeling of being overwhelmed. If a goal is too lofty, we inevitably fall short and get discouraged. But the Jewish approach is different. In Yaacov's famous dream, he sees the vision of a ladder reaching toward heaven. Spiritual growth, like climbing a ladder, must be one step at a time. The story is told of Rabbi Yisrael Salanter, who took upon himself to lead an entire city back to Torah observance. He organized a weekly class and began by saying: "If you have to work on Shabbos, at least try minimize the violation." (In today's lexicon, that would mean walking to work instead of driving, or setting your TV on a timer.) The key is one small step at a time. With this approach, over a few years, Rabbi Salanter was able to lead the community to full Shabbos observance. The Kabbalists say that spiritual growth is actually "two steps forward and one step back." We will inevitably have setbacks. But what's important is that we're moving in the right direction ... up the ramp.

The laws of justice enumerated in this weeks' Sedra must be studied, not only by jurists and others who administer the law, but by the entire Jewish people. Thus, *you shall place before them*, refers to all the members of the nation, young and old. Everyone must be familiar with the rights and duties of the individual towards his fellow and society. Furthermore, in accordance with Yisro's advice, every seventh or eighth person was called on to be a judge. *Ramban* points out that such an abundance of judges was advantageous for setting up a rapid and efficient system of justice in Israel. All misdemeanours, larceny and unlawful behaviour could be punished without delay and this contributed greatly in raising the level of morality within the nation. **(based on the teachings of Rabbi Elie Munk)**

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