



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 28 April 2007/ 10 Iyar 5767

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	7.40 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	9.12 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30 pm

We are all looking forward to Rabbi Wilson's Induction Service that starts promptly at 3.00 pm tomorrow afternoon. Clayhall is privileged that the **Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks** will formally induct Rabbi Wilson in front of the Mayor of Redbridge, **Simon Hochhauser** - United Synagogue President, **Rabbi Mordechai Ginsbury** - Chairman of the Rabbinical Council, **Dayan Simon** and **Dayan Ehrentreu, Lee Scott MP** and other distinguished guests from near and far. The excellent Alexander brothers, Adrian and Gedalya, will lead Minchah and other prayers. We are also delighted to welcome many of Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wilson's family and friends but, most important of all, **the whole Kehilla wishes a very hearty Mazel Tov to our esteemed Rabbi.**

Torah Reading

Sedrah synopsis:

Alan Lion

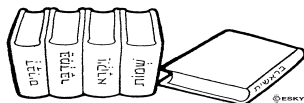
Leyning: Acharei Mos-Kedoshim
Hertz p 480 , Soncino p 705

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Haftorah:
Hertz p 509, Soncino p 735

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

We celebrate Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer) on Sunday 6th May.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Israel on the wonderful occasion of her 59th 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: 1.45 pm, Monday to Thursday.

Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 20th May, 17th June & 22nd July.

Shul AGM

The Shul AGM takes place on **Tuesday 15th May 2007** at 8.00 pm at Sinclair House. Voting (if needed) will run from 6.00 pm until 8.00 pm. The meeting is an important time for members to question and comment on the way the Shul has been running, and for the Honorary Officers to talk about future developments. It is anticipated that one of the United Synagogue Trustees will be present at the meeting.

Community Shabbaton

The Shabbos of **16th June** (Rosh Chodesh Tammuz) promises to be a real cracker! Rabbi Wilson plans to run a big Community Shabbaton. There will be something for everyone. The much sought-after speaker and scholar, **Rabbi Dovid Roberts**, from Edgware is already confirmed as a guest speaker. The event will be run in conjunction with **Project Seed**, an organisation that has just celebrated its 25th birthday. Project Seed has recently run some very successful events at **Ilford Jewish Primary School** and in other Jewish schools around London. Further details will be sent to members after Pesach but please try to keep the date free.

Week-Long Celebration

R' Chaim Vital said that his teacher the *Arizal* visited the tomb of R Shimon Bar Yochai in honour of Lag B'Omer and he remained there for three consecutive days. The Chasidic masters taught that the spiritual aura that is manifest at Meron on Lag B'Omer, the Yahrzeit of R' Shimon, is present for the entire week; from three days preceding this day until the third day following it, similar to the aura of Shabbos. R Shimon was the author of the classic Kabbalistic teaching, the *Zohar (Shining Light)*

Rosh Chodesh Group

'*Roll Out The Chametz*' is the title of the next Ladies Rosh Chodesh group. Join Rebbetzin Wilson for an interactive session on Challa baking on **Wednesday 2nd May at 8.30 pm**. The venue is none other than 'Edna's Kitchen' - address from the office. Refreshments will be served after baking!

Learn to read Hebrew in 6 Weeks

Following on from the success of the first crash course 5 months ago, Rabbi Wilson is running a second course beginning on **Wednesday 9th May for 6 weeks** (except for 23rd May as it's Shavuos) at 8.00 pm in the Board Room at Sinclair House. Whether you have never read Hebrew before or your reading just needs a bit of polishing, this course is for you. **Never again will you need to struggle with your Hebrew reading.** With just a little effort at home and during the course, it is quite possible to do this in just 6 weeks. You must pre-book by calling the Shul office on 8551 6533. The Shul has kept the cost of the course down to just £15 per person. This amount includes £5 for the course book and refreshments. There are already about 6 participants but there is room for more. So there's just one other thing left to say -

You Really CAN Do It!

*Please note that
lunchtime Minchah
begins at 1.45 pm
during the summer*

New Talmud Shiur

Rabbi Wilson is running a double-session of Jewish education for men **every Tuesday evening** beginning on 1 May. The programme starts at 8.00 pm with one-to-one learning followed at 8.45 pm with a Gemara Shiur until 9.30 pm. For more information, please contact Jamie Field on 07870 313467. Rabbi Wilson is very keen to develop regular learning opportunities for men and women to cater for all tastes.

Eat, Drink & Learn the Night away!

Clayhall's Tikun Leil Shavuos is always one of the highlights of the year. Fine malt whiskies, lashings of gorgeous cheesecake, other delicacies and some great home-grown Divrei Torah provide the perfect recipe for a terrific night out! This year, we travel to Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wilson's home, address from the office, from 11.30 pm on **Tuesday 22nd May** until the wee small hours. The more that come, the greater the ruach and atmosphere. If you've never been before, you don't know what you've been missing. It's definitely worth the extra effort! If you would like to present a D'var Torah be it 5 or 15 minutes, please speak to either the Rabbi or Leslie Pollock.

Clayhall Calendar

Please don't forget to complete the form with your insertions for the Shul calendar that is sent out before Rosh Hashanah. Birthdays, anniversaries, Bar/Bas Mitzvahs and Yahrzeits can all be added. This year, the New Year greetings will also be part of the calendar. Just in case forms have been lost, you will receive a new one in the next Shul mailing.

Above this World (adapted from Artscroll Mesorah)

When Moshe ascended to Heaven to receive the Torah, he spent 40 days there in which he neither ate nor drank. Had G-d willed it, Moshe could have been taught all the Torah in a single day. However, for Moshe to be worthy of his role as a student of G-d, it was necessary that he totally subjugates his earthly desires. Only someone whose every fibre yearned for nothing but spirituality could be the one to receive and transmit the spiritual wisdom of Torah. The same was true of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Providence ensured that a decree of death should be issued against him, forcing him to spend 13 years in a cave, for it was there that he would become transformed into a being worthy of being shown the Torah's most esoteric teachings. Here is an extract from the Talmudic account: "R Pinchas ben Yair...heard that R Shimon had emerged from hiding and went out to greet him. He later escorted him into the bathhouse and was massaging his flesh, when he saw that there were cracks in R' Shimon's skin. Seeing these vestiges of the years spent in the abrasive sand, R' Pinchas began to cry. As tears trickled down from his eyes, they fell on the cracks of R Shimon's skin and caused him to cry out in pain. R Pinchas ben Yair said to him, 'Woe unto me for having seen you like this!' R' Shimon replied, 'On the contrary! Lucky are you for having seen me like this, for had you not seen me in such a state, you would have not found within me the level of Torah knowledge which I now possess.'

The Talmud mentions R' Shimon's prowess in the revealed portion of Torah. As mentioned above, it was during his years in the cave that R' Shimon rose to the heights where the hidden realm of Torah became open before him. R' Shimon was certain that the physical deprivation to which he had been subjected, including the learning of Torah while buried up to his neck in sand, was a primary factor in his attainment of such awesome spiritual needs. While we are far removed from such levels, there is still a lesson to be learned. The more one frees himself from the earthly cravings and self interest, the more he will succeed at spiritual accomplishment. Such freedom is the key to happiness. A person whose life revolves around satisfying his own interests and urges will never be satisfied, while one whose goals and aspirations are Torah-orientated will find himself happy with his material lot and joyous with a meaningful life.

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