



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 8 September 2007/ 25 Ellul 5767

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Pre-Minchah Shiur	6.00 pm
Minchah followed by Seudah	6.45 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	8.19 pm
Shabbos next week	7.03 pm

This evening, Clayhall Shul will be hosting the NEROS Selichos Service. The Service will be conducted by **Chazan Edwin Ross** of Manchester and the guest speaker is **Rabbi Nissan Wilson**. An impressive buffet reception begins at 10.40 pm followed by the address at 11.40 pm. The Service will begin at about 12.00 am. Please make every effort to attend this extremely spiritual and uplifting Service. It's the perfect way to lead us all into the week of Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbi Wilson's pre-Minchah Shiur will be about Rosh Hashanah this afternoon at 6.00 pm. If it follows the standard of the Pirkei Avos Shiurim, we should be in for a Torah treat.

Torah Reading

Sedrah synopsis:

Leyning: Nitzavim-Vayelech

Hertz p 878, Soncino p 1138

Haftorah:

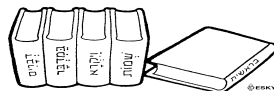
Hertz p 883, Soncino p 1145

We will be davening Minchah
Erev Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday at
7.08 pm followed by Ma'ariv.

Ian Grant

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Uri from Israel!!



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Lester Harris because nobody else was available*

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.

Minchah & Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 9 September, 14th October & 11th Nov'br.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Many members have bought Yahrzeit plaques over the last few years in memory of loved ones. We only have about 10 available plaques left and this is a very appropriate time of year to add names to the Board. The cost is £60 per plaque which also includes the engraving. Please call Michelle for a form or you can complete one in person at office. Monies raised will benefit the Shul's youth programme.

Selichos Times

We will begin saying Selichos (prayers of forgiveness) before Shacharis from Monday 10th September at **6.25 am**. On Erev Rosh Hashanah, which is Wednesday 12th September, Selichos will begin at **5.45 am**. During the Aseres Yamei Teshuvah (the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), Selichos commence at **6.20 am** and on Erev Yom Kippur (Friday 21st September) we will begin at **6.30 am**. It is important to daven Selichos with a minyan so please make every effort to attend early.

Future Education events

There are many exciting events and activities in the making for 2007/08. Aside from the Essex Ellul Programme, our annual **Succos Party** - Simchas Beis Ha'Shoeva takes place on **Sunday 30 September 2007** at 8.00 pm in the Shul Succah with live music and sumptuous desserts! Clayhall's brilliant Melava Malka is scheduled for Saturday evening **17th November** with a great speaker and musical entertainment. We celebrate Chanukah with a family day on **Sunday 9th December**. This includes a full children and youth programme and an evening meal. Our first Friday night dinner for some time will take place on **Friday 15th February 2008**. Book these dates now!

NEROS Quiz

The Inter-Synagogue NEROS quiz takes place later this year on **Sunday 11th November** at Newbury Park Shul. We need three willing and able team members to tackle four gruelling rounds of Jewish Calendar, Israel, Jewish History and General Knowledge. If you are interested, please phone Robin Abrahams on **8220 6779** for a selection test!

Pre-High Holy Day Programme

The Rabbinical Council of NE London together with Jewish Care present the 2007 Pre-High Holydays Programme. The main event of this year's programme takes place on Monday 10th September with a **'New and Improved Speed Learning: 9 Rabbis - 18 minutes. Your choice.'** Before this, **Dayan Yonasan Abraham** of the London Beis Din will provide the keynote address. Dayan Abraham is an outstanding speaker and erudite scholar, well worth listening to. After a quick break, nine local Rabbis will serve up a royal dish of Yomim Noraim delights. Rabbi Beni Fleischer, Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman, Rabbi Odam Brandman, Rabbi Aryeh Sufrin, Reverend Gary Newman, Rabbi Baruch Davis, Rabbi Yehuda Aronovitz, Rabbi Nissan Wilson and Reverend Stewart Myers will deal with such varied topics as: 'Don't be blown away - guidelines to the mitzvah of shofar' - 'L'Chaim in 18 minutes' - 'Creative accounting and the power of Teshuvah' - 'Can I really connect within 18 minutes?' - 'The navigating system for repentance' - and a lot more besides!

Many thanks for the wonderful response to the special appeal on the Memorial Forms

Functions News

There will be a Family Fun Quiz on Sunday 28th October. Tickets are £12.50 each to include a fish supper. On Sunday 16th December, the Ladies Guild are holding their annual dinner open to everyone. The guest speaker is **Malcolm Singer**, Director at the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music. Tickets are £17.50 per person. A brochure is also being produced for this event. Put these dates in your diary.

Music for the Jewish Soul 2

In your Rosh Hashanah mailing, you should have received a CD on music and reflections of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks. It is a truly beautiful journey of inspiring words and delightful Chazzanus. To really appreciate its worth, you would need to listen to it several times to internalise the powerful messages and gorgeous singing. A great way to prepare for the Yomim Noraim. What's more, it was free courtesy of the United Synagogue!

Blue Tins

The Shul urgently needs Blue Tin collectors for the Barkingside, Chigwell, Gants Hill, Loughton and South Woodford areas. Some tins have not been emptied for a long time and your assistance is needed. Please let Michelle know if you can help to collect.

Arba Minim

Members can order their Arba Minim for Succos through the Shul office. The cost for this year is probably £23-£25, similar to previous years. It is a mitzvah to purchase your own Lulav and Esrog as much as it is a mitzvah to waive the Four Species. So don't leave it too late!

The Insanity Plea by Rabbi Abraham J Twerski M.D.

It would appear that when asking for forgiveness, we should try to minimise the gravity of our sins rather than exaggerating them. Why then do we say "...for our iniquities are many"? We find something similar to this in Moshe's prayer for forgiveness after the worship of the Golden Calf. Moshe said to G-d, "I implore! This people has committed a grievous sin and made themselves a god of gold" (Shemos 32:31). Why did Moshe accentuate the sin in his plea for forgiveness? Even sin must have some logic. A person who is meticulously observant of Torah may conceivably forget to check that his coat pockets are empty before leaving home on Friday evening, and it is possible that he may find a coin in his pocket on Shabbos, but it is understandable that this could happen. However, if this same person would eat in a non-Kosher restaurant on Yom Kippur, we would conclude that something must have happened that caused him to take leave of his senses. This is something that he could never have done if he were in his right mind. This man does not need to be reprimanded. Rather, he needs the services of a psychiatrist to restore him to sanity.

This was Moshe's plea for the Israelites. They had witnessed the miracles of Egypt, the dividing of the waters of the Reed Sea, and the Revelation at Sinai. For them to worship a Golden Calf as a god is so absurd that it can hardly be considered a sin. It could only be that something caused them to lose their sanity. They need to be helped rather than punished. The Talmud says that a person would not sin unless he was overtaken by a spirit of insanity (Sotah 3a). This is our defence before Hashem. The sins we did were so grievous that we could not possibly have done them if we were in our right minds. It can only be that the *yetzer hara* (evil inclination) so overwhelmed us with desire that we were not fully sane when we committed our sins. This is a powerful argument and it may indeed mitigate the severity of the sinful act. However, once we had satisfied our desire, that stress was gone, and we could again think rationally. Why did we not do *teshuvah* for our sins? Failure to do *teshuvah* is not defensible and may be a greater transgression than the sin itself. If we do proper *teshuvah* in these days of penitence, we may merit total forgiveness.

The sinful act itself occurred when the *yetzer hara* made us bereft of logical thinking, and realising that we acted in folly, we do *teshuvah*. We may, therefore, confidently ask Hashem for forgiveness.

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