קליהל קהלה

The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 29 September 2007/ 18 Tishri 5768

Service Times (Chol Hamoed Succos)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	5.55 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	7.30 pm
Shabbos next week	6.15 pm

After the solemnity and reverence of the Yomim Noraim, we immediately launch into the joy and unique happiness of Succos. Tomorrow evening we shall be holding our **Simchas Beis HaSho'evah** (Succos Party) in the Shul Succah at 8.00 pm. More details are inside. We look forward to seeing you there. Tomorrow morning after Shacharis, Clayhall is providing a delightful smoked salmon and beigel breakfast in the Succah. We shall be davening slightly earlier at 8.00 am. Shacharis on Monday and Tuesday morning is at 6.45 am, while we will be davening at 6.30 am on Hashanah Rabbah (Wednesday). Mazel Tov to our Chasanim, **David Miller** and **Bradley Mervish** and to our Eshes Chayil, **Brenda Fletcher.**

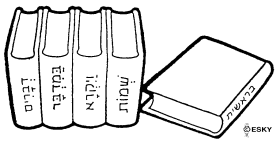
Torah Reading

Leyning: Shemos 33:12-34:26 ***Rabbi Nissan Wilson***

Maftir: Bamidbar 29:23-28

Haftorah: ***Rabbi Zev Glass***

"I love the mitzvah of succah" declared the Baal Shem Tov "for a man can enter it with his whole body even with the mud sticking to the sole of his boots."



Kindly sponsored by Tony Gadian on the occasion of his 65th birthday and Susan & Tony's 40th wedding anniversary

Children's & Youth Service

Combined: 10.30 am - 11.30 am

Weekday Services

Shacharis: Monday to Friday, 7.00 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.
Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 6.45 am (Sunday RC, 8.00 am).
Minchah: 1.45 pm, Monday to Thursday.
Minchah & Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.
Sunday breakfasts: 14th October & 11th November.

Future Education events

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! Rabbi Wilson is also planning to run his third 6-week Hebrew Reading crash course very shortly. Please speak to him if you would like to enrol.

Simchas Beis HaSho'evah

"Whoever did not see the rejoicing of the Beis HaSho'evah never saw rejoicing in his lifetime." The festivities associated with the drawing of the water for the libation on Succos were the highpoint of the festival. Clayhall's very own celebrations take place here tomorrow evening Sunday 30th September at 8.00 pm. There will be live music provided by the immensely talented **Rabbi Shlomo Craimer**, a scrumptious dessert buffet and a few L'Chaims! Our 'party in the Succah' promises to be a really entertaining and enjoyable evening. We'll be singing, dancing, eating and drinking the night away - what better way to spend an autumn evening!

Book of Koheles

We read the beautiful book of Koheles, written by King Solomon after Hallel today. The most familiar reason why this book is read on Succos is that it describes the futility of worldly striving and extols the virtue of fear of G-d. This theme is very appropriate to Succos, for the succah symbolises the futility of materialism and encourages man to live frugally under Hashem's protection. Do read the book in English if you prefer as the words are inspiring and poetic.

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!

Tishrei rather than Nissan

Although it was Nissan, the month of spring, when G-d removed us from Egypt and housed us in succah-booths. He commanded us to observe Succos in Tishrei, during autumn. Why? Hashem wanted the mitzvah to be done in a such a way that it would be readily apparent to all that the booths were being put up for the sake of the mitzvah and not for personal convenience. Given the weather conditions in Eretz Yisrael, this is only possible in the autumn. In Israel, the warm and dry season which begins in Nissan is a time when its common for people to leave their homes and live in cool huts outdoors. On the other hand, when Tishrei comes, the summer is over and the rains are imminent. Then, naturally, people leave their huts and move back indoors. Therefore, when the Jew leaves his home in favour of his succah in Tishrei, it is readily apparent that he does so only to serve G-d. Chassidic writings teach that Pesach and Succos represent the beginning of the summer and winter months, thereby sanctifying all beginnings to Hashem.

Stocks of whisky are low which is not good for this time of year. Over to you…!

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.

CCY Countdown...2 weeks

CCY (Clayhall Children and Youth) launches on **Shabbos 27 October 2007** with 'no xcse 2 b bord on a Shbs aftrn any mr' Join the gang for indoor cricket, table tennis, football, basketball, nosh and a chat at the new CCY. Other great events planned include a tour of Wembley Stadium on Thursday 21 February 2008 (half-term), the unique and fun London Duck Tours on Sunday 29 June 2008 and an incredible Activity Day at Gilwell Park Scout Camp on Sunday 7 September 2008.

Ushpizin

The Zohar teaches that for dwelling faithfully in their *succos,* the people of Israel merit the privilege of welcoming the Shechinah and the seven **'faithful shepherds'** who descend from their heavenly abode in Gan Eden and enter these *succos* as exalted guests. There they observe how their descendants fulfill the mitzvah of succah dwelling. These seven 'faithful shepherds' are Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaacov, Yosef, Moshe, Aaron and David.

Hoshana Rabbah - Akin to Yom Kippur

"At four times of the year the world is judged: On Pesach for the grain; on Shavuos for the fruit of the tree; on Rosh Hashanah all who walk the earth pass before Him…; and on Succos for the water" (Mishnah, Rosh Hashanah 1:2).

Succos in general and its seventh day, Hoshana Rabbah, in particular, are periods of judgement in two ways: one specific and one general. Despite the awesome nature of the Ten Days of Teshuvah from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur, not all is decided during this period of general judgement. Once the overall decisions have been made for humanity as a whole and for each individual in particular, G-d determines what will be done with regard to particular needs. On Pesach He judges man with regard to the grain crops, on Shavuos with regard to the fruit crops and on Succos with regard to the water supply. The decision about water is not rendered until the end of Succos; for this reason, certain specific mitzvos of Succos revolve around water: in the Temple, water libations were offered at the altar; the mitzvah of the Four Species is performed with plants that depend on abundant water for their existence; and the willow, which assumes the spotlight on the climatic day of the water-judgement, Hoshana Rabbah, is identified by the Torah (Vayikra 23:40) as a plant that grows alongside streams.

Hashana Rabbah has a significance broader than the universal need for water. The Zohar describes it as a judgement day akin to Yom Kippur itself, for on Hoshana Rabbah the parchments containing the Yom Kippur decrees are made final. Consequently, the day assumes special importance as one of prayer and repentance. On Rosh Hashanah all people were judged. The righteous were given a favourable judgement, those found wanting - but not totally wicked - were given until Yom Kippur to repent. If they failed to do so, the verdict against them was written and sealed, but not yet 'delivered.' That is not done until Hashana Rabbah, a day when the Jewish people assemble in prayer, dedication and supplication. The joy of Succos reaches its climax not in revelry but in devotion. In His mercy G-d finds ample reason to tear up the parchment bearing harsher sentences, as it were, and replace them with brighter tidings.

It is customary to remain awake and spend the entire night of Hoshana Rabbah reading from the Torah and Psalms. It is forbidden to work until Shacharis has ended. Some people do not even touch money.

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