



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 3 November 2007 / 22 Mar Cheshvan 5768

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.50 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.19 pm
Shabbos next week	4.05 pm

We wish Mazel Tov to **Bertha & Sam Chaplain** on the wonderful occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary and the Kehilla wishes both of them many more years of health and happiness. Bertha & Sam have great pleasure in inviting the community to a Kiddush after the Service in celebration of their Simchah.

Clayhall Children & Youth (CCY) was successfully launched last Shabbos when 17 youngsters attended the inaugural event. It was a very encouraging and positive start. More details are inside. Also contained in your packed *Clayhall Kehilla* is information about the new **Ladies Rosh Chodesh group** season which kicks off on Tuesday 13th November at 15 RLE.

Torah Reading

Sedra synopsis:

Leyning: Chayei Sarah

Hertz p 80, Soncino p 118

Haftorah:

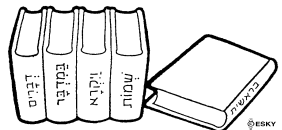
Hertz p 90, Soncino p 135

Richard Jay

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Sam Chaplain

If you know of anyone who is unwell, in hospital or awaiting treatment, would you inform either Rabbi Wilson or the Shul office so that appropriate calls or visits can be made.



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by
Bertha & Sam Chaplain in celebration of their Golden Wedding*

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: 11th November.

Special Event

We are delighted and privileged to welcome **Gila Manolson** to Clayhall on Shabbos 17 November. Gila is a popular international lecturer and acclaimed author of 'The Magic Touch.' She lives with her husband in Jerusalem with her seven children. She will be speaking at a delightful community Seudah at 3.30 pm on the above date. A fuller biography and details will be sent out in the mailing.

CCY: The Future is Bright!

We are delighted that 17 youngsters enjoyed the launch of CCY last Shabbos afternoon. It was a great success and the next CCY takes place on **Shabbos 1st December** from 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm. If you are aged between 6 and 16 years, then this is for you! Bring your friends regardless whether their parents are members of Clayhall Shul or not. Basketball, table tennis and cricket were some of the activities everyone enjoyed. Rabbi Wilson joined in the fun which ended with some welcome nosh and drinks. Future events are being planned by our Children and Young People Task Group including holiday trips to some great London locations.

Rosh Chodesh Group

The eagerly-anticipated Ladies Rosh Chodesh group restarts on Tuesday 13th November at 8.30 pm, when **Rebbetzin Nechama Davis** will speak on, '*What We Only Do For The People We Love - two great women's sacrifices.*' Like last year's line up included challah baking, Insights into Chagim, Understanding Misconceptions of Judaism and Eating A Healthy diet. There is an exciting and varied line up of speakers for the coming months. The Rosh Chodesh group is open to all ladies, and new faces are always welcome. The first session will be held at the home of Rebbetzin Wilson, venue from office. Refreshments included.

Israel Expo

This takes place at Wembley on Sunday 11 November from 10.30 am until 6.00 pm. There will be live entertainment and children's activities. For more information, call the Zionist Federation on 020 8343 9756. office@zionist.org.uk

Contemporary Issues Series

Rabbi Wilson is launching a 4-part round of talks and debate about a variety of controversial but interesting topics. It should certainly produce some lively conversation! Each talk takes place at a different venue and we are grateful to those families for hosting each evening.

Tuesday 6th November - venue from office

Keeping it in the Family - The Ethics of Cloning

Tuesday 20th November - venue from office

Mrs Chairman - Women on Synagogue Boards

Tuesday 4th December - venue from office

Copyright: Intellectual Property in Jewish Law

Tuesday 18th December - venue from office

Why Jews don't celebrate Xmas

*Ladies Guild meeting is
Monday 5 November
at 8.15 pm at
48 Campbell Avenue*

Crash Course Hebrew Reading dates

Rabbi Wilson is running another highly-rated six-week Hebrew reading crash course on Wednesday evenings on the dates below. You really can learn to read Hebrew in just 6 weeks. The course costs just £15.

14th November

21st November

28th November

5th December (1st night Chanukah)

12th December (8th night Chanukah)

19th December

Functions News

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. He is a particularly talented and erudite speaker. Tickets are £17.50 per person and they will be on sale shortly. A brochure is also being produced for this. There will be a bingo evening in March with details to follow.

Clayhall Circus comes to Town!

Following the success of last year's Chanukah Treasure Hunt and Supper, another treat is in store for this year. On **Sunday 9 December**, join us for a family afternoon of Circus Skills, and a shwarma/hot dog/falafel supper party followed by a medley of doughnuts. Just £6 per adult and £4 for those under 12 years, this is a **MUST** event for all the family. More details will be with you in next week's Shul mailing but put the date in your diary straight away.

One Step Ahead - Mystical Insights ***by Rabbi Aba Wagensberg***

The sedra begins with the death of Sarah. We are told (Bereshis 23:2) after Sarah's passing, Avraham eulogized her and wept. The letter *kaf* in the word "*v'livkota*" ("*and he wept over her*") is written smaller than the other letters in the word. Many commentators understand this small *kaf* as an indication that Avraham cried only a little over Sarah's passing. Surely Avraham was devastated over the loss of his beloved wife. Why would he cry only a little? This question becomes even stronger when we look at Rashi's comment (23:2) regarding the juxtaposition of the binding of Yitzchak and the death of Sarah. According to Rashi, when the news reached Sarah that Avraham had brought Isaac as an offering to G-d, Sarah was so overwhelmed that she died. How can we understand Avraham weeping only minimally in such a situation? Not only did his wife pass on; it seems that, indirectly, his own actions actually killed her! A deeper examination of Avraham's motives will help us resolve this troubling question. When Abraham returned from Mount Moriah to find that Sarah had died, he could easily have regretted following G-d's will. This would have been an understandable reaction; after all, his obedience to G-d resulted in the death of his beloved wife. Yet Avraham understood the tremendous power of regret to undo the effect of past actions. When repentance is used positively, as part of the *teshuvah* process, it has the ability to erase our misdeeds. But repentance can also erase the reward we receive for performing mitzvos. Had Avraham regretted bringing Yitzchak as an offering, countless future generations would have lost the ability to draw from the merit of his actions. Therefore, Avraham cried only a little bit over the passing of his beloved wife to show that, despite the challenges, he did not regret having performed the Divine will. He knew that there are no negative consequences to performing mitzvos wholeheartedly, and that his actions could therefore not have been the true cause of Sarah's death. In overcoming this test of faith, Abraham preserved the merit of the binding of Isaac as a powerful spiritual inheritance for generations to come.

Rabbi Abba Wagensberg is a disciple of Rabbi Chaim Pinchas Scheinberg, and is a popular lecturer in Jerusalem and throughout the Jewish world. Originally from New Jersey, he now lives in the Old City of Jerusalem with his wife and children.

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