



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 15 December 2007/ 6 Teves 5768

Service Times (CST Shabbos)

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| Shacharis | 9.00 am |
| Minchah followed by Seudah | 3.30 pm |
| Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends | 4.46 pm |
| Shabbos next week | 3.38 pm |

This Shabbos we honour the **Community Security Trust (CST)** for all their dedication and hard work in looking after the security interests of the Jewish community. The CST provides physical security, training and advice for the protection of British Jews. Log onto **www.thecst.org.uk** for more information. In particular, Clayhall Shul is very grateful to the local CST and a band of volunteers for looking after us week in, week out come rain or shine. The Kiddush today is given in their honour.

Last Sunday, over 60 people thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic Circus Skills Chanukah afternoon with juggling, stilts, tight-rope walking, spinning plates and much more. This was followed by a delightful supper selection of hot dogs, pitta, falafel and salads and shwarma. Many thanks to all those involved in organising.

Torah Reading

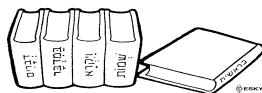
Leyning: Vayigash
Hertz p 169, Soncino p 277

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Haftarah:
Hertz p 178, Soncino p 293

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Come along to our Seudah Shilishis this afternoon for some good food and drink, a convivial atmosphere and some Torah treats.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Florence & Tony Pollock in celebration of the birth of a grandson

Children's & Youth Service: 10.30 am - 11.30 am (alternate weeks)

Weekday Services

Shacharis: Monday to Friday, 7.00 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.

Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 6.45 am Monday to Friday.

Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 8.00 am Sundays.

Minchah: 1.45 pm, Monday to Thursday.

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

Sunday breakfasts: 16 December, 13 January & 10 February.

Fast of Teves

This coming Wednesday 19 December is the Fast of Teves known as Asarah b'Teves, literally, 'the 10th of Teves.' It is a 'minor' fast and ends at 4.41pm. Shacharis will be at the slightly earlier time of 6.45 am as the service includes leyning and Selichos. There is also leyning at Minchah followed by the special Haftorah read on public fast days. Elsewhere in the Clayhall Kehilla are deeper insights into this fast day.

CCY News

CCY (Clayhall Children and Youth) met for the 2nd time two weeks ago. It was another successful week with parachute games, team games, sport, a chat, nosh and more! Despite several young people were unable to attend, there were 14 present who all enjoyed a fun-packed afternoon. The closing date for the half-term tour of Wembley Stadium on 20th February is this Monday 10th December. Please make sure that your forms are returned tomorrow. Future events include a birthday Kiddush on **5th January** for all primary school children celebrating birthdays in January, a Pizza & DVD evening for Years 5 to 12, and a Tu Bishvat activity afternoon.

Lecture Series

The fourth talk in this intriguing series of four contemporary lectures by Rabbi Wilson takes place this Tuesday 18th December at the home of Melanie & Andrew Alicoon, venue from the office. What a topical subject - **"Why Jews don't celebrate Xmas!"**

It begins at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be served later. Rumours that mince pies and sausage rolls will be served by chez Alicoon are completely unfounded. The Shul is very grateful to those families who have hosted the series - family Jay, Segall, Yeshin and Alicoon.

Michelle Mervish

The Rabbi, Honorary Officers and Board of Management wish Mazel Tov to Michelle on being re-elected as Chair of the Association of United Synagogue Administrators for a second year. This reflects well on both Michelle and Clayhall Shul. Well done!

A Month of Anguish

During the month of Teves, three fast days are observed in memory of the three calamities which befell Israel on the 8th, 9th and 10th of the month. The fast days of the 8th and 9th are called 'fast-days-for-the-righteous.' On these days, only individuals fast, whereas the fast of the 10th of Teves is a public fast for the entire community. On the 8th, the Torah was translated into Greek by the decree of King Ptolemy. The day was regarded as equally calamitous for Israel as the day on which the Golden Calf was made - since it was impossible to adequately translate the Torah. On the 9th, there occurred the death of Ezra the Scribe and Nechemiah, who faithfully led Israel during the return from Babylonian captivity. The eyes of all Israel were clouded by their death for their loss was irreplaceable. On the 10th, Nebuchadnetzar, King of Babylon, laid siege to Jerusalem. He beleaguered the city three years until its walls were breached on the 9th of Tammuz during the 3rd year of the siege. Except for the last days of Chanukah, Teves contains no festive days.

The IJPS Shabbaton was very successful. The children were a credit to the school

Why Fast?

The essential essence of the Fast of Teves, as well as that of other fast days, is not primarily the grief and mourning that they evoke. Their aim is rather to awaken the heart towards *teshuvah* (repentance); to recall to us, both the evil deeds of our fathers, and our own evil deeds which caused anguish to befall both them and us - and thereby to cause us to return towards the good.
Vayikra 26, Rambam Hilchos Teshuvah Taanis

The Translation of the Seventy

Israel was subjugated to Greek rule after the fall of the Persian Empire. Ptolemy of Egypt coerced the 72 Jewish Sages to translate the Torah into Greek. That his motives were questionable is attested to by the fact that he did not assemble them in one place so that they might execute their task in joint deliberation. (Tractate Megillah 9). Ptolemy found no discrepancy between any of the individual translations. Even in a number of places where the Elders intentionally altered the literal translation, the results were identical; which in itself constituted a public Kiddush Hashem of G-d's name, as well as the name of Israel and its Sages.

Service Times

The **Fast of Teves** falls on Wednesday 19th December and we shall be davening slightly earlier at 6.45 am in the morning. Over the holiday period, Shacharis will commence at:

Sunday 23rd December: 8.15 am
Monday 24th December: 7.00 am
Tuesday 25th December: 8.30 am
Wednesday 26th December: 8.30 am
Tuesday 1st January: 8.30 am

The True Challenge of Giving by Rabbi Shaul Rosenblatt

Yosef is the only biblical figure referred to specifically as "*haTzaddik*" -- "the righteous one." We know that the Tanach is full of righteous individuals. What is it about Yosef that marks him out as the paragon of righteousness more so than others? There is one character trait that we find epitomized in Yosef: He takes responsibility. Starting with his brothers, he tells his father the mistakes they are making. It's not the best way of doing it, but his motivation is sincere. In Potiphar's house, he ends up running the show. In prison, he ends up running the show. When he leaves prison, he ends up running all of Egypt. When his brothers come to Egypt, he first helps them grow past their mistakes, and then provides for the whole family. We often think of a righteous person as someone who does a lot of good. But how much good? How does one quantify? The Torah answers for us: It's not enough to just "do a lot of good." In order to be truly good, you have to take responsibility for others. We all have a good part that wants to give and to share. And that part will naturally express itself at times. Even the most selfish of people will feel like giving sometimes. But the challenge of giving is not when you feel like doing so. It is to give when you **don't** feel like doing so. And when you take responsibility for others, you are committing to giving even when you don't feel like doing so. Giving to a homeless person in the street means dropping some money into his cup. Taking responsibility for him means sitting with him and talking about what his needs are and then figuring out how to solve those problems. It's not quite as comfortable as dropping him a few pennies. Giving to an office colleague means making her a cup of coffee when you're making one yourself. Taking responsibility would mean proactively approaching her when she seems down, giving her your time, then suggesting concrete ways you could be of assistance. Giving to your partner means responding to their needs and sharing. Taking responsibility, however, means rebuking them sometimes, even though it might cause friction. It means listening to them and understanding them, not just expressing your own opinion. It means taking time to figure out how to help them grow, then actively and patiently encouraging them to move in that direction even though they might resist initially. Giving comes naturally -- to a greater or lesser extent -- to every one of us. Taking responsibility for others, however, is the true challenge of giving. The one who is willing to take responsibility for others in all areas of life no matter where it might take him -- is the truly righteous person. That was Yosef.

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