



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 22 December 2007/ 13 Teves 5768

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	4.48 pm
Shabbos next week	3.43 pm

We wish a very hearty Mazel Tov to **Martin Solomons** on the wonderful occasion of his 70th birthday. Sheila and Martin have great pleasure in inviting the community to a Kiddush after the Service in celebration of his Simchah.

You will find some information inside about the latest Kashrus updates from the London Beis Din. The *2008 Really Jewish Food Guide* is now available at £9.95 and this is a must book for all Jewish households. You can buy it through the Shul office or it can be purchased in most Kosher food outlets. For more details, log on to www.kosher.org.uk and subscribe for automatic updates and Kashrus alerts.

Torah Reading

Sedrah Synopsis:

Leyning: Vayechi

Hertz p 180, Soncino p 296

Haftorah:

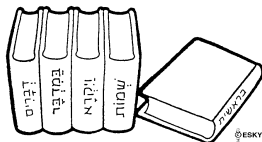
Hertz p 191, Soncino p 315

Martin Solomons

Lester Harris

Lester Harris

Come along to our Seudah Shilishis (in memory of Eliezar ben Menachem Mendel) this afternoon for some good food and drink, a convivial atmosphere and some Torah treats.



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*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by
Sheila & Martin Solomons in celebration of Martin's 70th birthday*

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.

King Solomon Shabbaton

We are delighted to be hosting an inaugural King Solomon High School Shabbaton on **Shabbos 19 January**. Spencer Lewis, Head Teacher, is the Guest Speaker and a small selection of older pupils have been also been asked to share their experiences of the school and overseas trips. Application forms have already been sent out to the community. Please apply as soon as possible to book your place(s).

CCY News

CCY (Clayhall Children and Youth) met for the 2nd time a few weeks ago. It was another successful week with parachute games, team games, sport, a chat, nosh and more! The next CCY is on **Shabbos 26 January** from 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm. CCY is running a fantastic tour of the new **Wembley Stadium** on 20th February (half term) Forms have already been sent out but you can also book your place through Michelle in the Shul office. 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. Lots to look forward to!

Kiddush Levanah

Rabbi Yochanan teaches that the **Sanctification of the Moon** has two bases. By blessing the moon in its proper time (usually between the 7th-14th days of the month), it is akin to meeting the Shechinah (the presence of G-d). This is because the only way we can recognise the existence of G-d is through His works. In nature it is seen by the orderly functioning of the very complex heavenly bodies. This is manifest through the cycles of the moon, because its changes are more visible than those of any other body. The second aspect of the prayer is its significance for the history of Israel. Just as the moon is reborn after a period of decline and disappearance so, too, Israel's decline will end and its light will once again blaze to fullness. As the moon is such a significant allusion to G-d as the Creator and to Israel's rebirth, Kiddush Levanah should be recited joyously preferably at the end of Shabbos when people are still dressed in their best clothes.

Kashrus Alert Update: London Beis Din

Skittles previously approved and parev are now **Not Kosher**. All varieties of M & M's listed in *The Really Jewish Food Guide 2008* are now **Not Kosher**: M & M's Choco, M & M's Crispy, M & M's Peanut. Please note that it is possible to buy kosher M & M's imported from the USA bearing the OU hechsher. These are available from some kosher stores. The following products are **Dairy** as they contain milk ingredients: Sunpride Pineapple & Coconut Juice, Tesco Pineapple & Coconut Juice Drink. Southern Comfort, listed in *The Really Jewish Food Guide 2008* as Parev is now **Dairy**. Old stock should also be treated as Dairy. Fromage Frais is only kosher when manufactured under **rabbinical supervision**. Please note that the following products, listed in *The Really Jewish Food Guide 2008* as approved parev, are in fact **Not Kosher**: Bols Kirsch, Bols Maraschino. **Irish Whiskey** should only be consumed if it has a Hechsher or has been Rabbinically approved. The following brands are now approved: Middleton, Powers, Paddy, Jameson and Tullamore Dew.

The London Beis Din continues to allow all types of Scotch Whisky until further notice

Shul Library

Please use our Shul library that is located in the Ackerman Resource Centre on the ground floor. Over **160 books** to read or borrow covering a range of Jewish topics are available. There are some beautiful books just waiting to be read. If anyone would like to donate books either to celebrate a Simchah or to commemorate a Yahrzeit, please speak to Michelle. A complete list of books can be found on the website.

King Solomon's Tribe Triumph

Eleven students from King Solomon High School have battled it out to be crowned Tribe Ambassadors at the competition's final recently. The competition, supported by JNF, BICOM and UJS, followed an intensive course of advocacy training designed to prepare students to promote Israel on campuses in the UK. The winners competed against 200 other students from JFS and King Solomon during the course of the ten-week competition. Students competed in a range of tasks which included a mock debate in the House of Lords and interviews with university students to explore opinions about Israel.

Service Times

In addition to the Service times below, we shall be davening Ma'ariv on Tuesday and Wednesday evening, 25th & 26th December at 7.30 pm at Rabbi Wilson's home.

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

Respect for the Dead by Rabbi Yehudah Appel

"It has been said that one can measure how civilized a culture is **by the way its dead are treated**. One rabbi I know has found a novel way to give his congregants a greater appreciation of Jewish tradition: He takes them on a **tour of a secular funeral home**, followed by a visit to a Jewish funeral home, where the body is cared for by the "*Chevra Kadisha*," the Jewish burial society. On the first stop, among many other troubling things, the congregants witness undertakers working with a cadaver as rock music blares in the background. The visit with the *Chevra Kadisha* is quite different. There it is explained how, according to Jewish law, **the body is gently cleansed** as a preparation for burial. Prayers are recited, and a "*shomer*" (guardian) stays with the deceased throughout the process. The difference between the two funeral homes is striking and has a marked effect on the congregants' view of Judaism.

A major theme in this week's Sedrah, Vayechi, concerns the funeral plans Yaacov made for himself before his death. Yaacov was the first Jew to arrange to have his **body brought from the Diaspora to Israel for burial** - a custom which has been repeated by thousands of his descendants. Worried that his body will be worshipped by the Egyptians if he is buried by the Nile, and very much wanting to be laid to rest next to the graves of his wife and ancestors, Yaacov implores his son Yosef to see to it that he is buried in Hebron. Yosef agrees, and when the time comes that Yaacov dies, Yosef leads a great procession accompanying his father's body from Egypt to Israel. Jewish tradition places great importance on the "*Levaya*," **the act of accompanying the dead body to the grave**. Rashi presents an interesting rationale for this practice, declaring it beyond simply showing respect for the deceased. Rashi writes that inasmuch as one who is kind to the poor is looked upon as being a partner with the Almighty, it follows that someone who shows kindness to the dead (who are "poorer" than any living person), will certainly have gained this relationship with G-d. At Yaacov's funeral, the eulogy given was described as being "**great and heavy**." The commentaries explain that the eulogy "weighed heavy" on the hearts of the mourners.

In fact, Judaism sees the essential purpose of a eulogy is to move people to a **greater appreciation of the deceased**, and deepen their recognition for what they once had - and have now lost. "*Shiva*," **the seven-day period of mourning** following a relative's burial, was instituted at this time by Yaacov's family. Common sense (and modern psychology) supports this notion of devoting seven days to deep mourning after a great personal loss. Surprisingly, however, Jewish tradition does not see the mourners as the sole beneficiaries of the *Shiva* period. Instead, the Talmud explains how the **soul of the deceased hovers over the body for seven days**, and the spectre of people mourning over the body that the soul formerly inhabited helps to ease the soul's pain. Despite all the great changes that have occurred in the world since the time of Yaacov, Jewish mourning practices have remained remarkably consistent. **May we all live and be well."**

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