

קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 12 January 2008/ 5 Shevat 5768

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.40 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.09 pm
Shabbos next week	4.10 pm

Tu Bishvat (New Year for Trees) is on 15th of Shevat which this year falls on Tuesday 22nd January. There are details inside your *Clayhall Kehilla* about our Tu Bishvat *Messy Afternoon* for 3-8 year olds on Sunday 27 January. Already the response has been very good and the event is being run with **Ilford Jewish Primary School**.

An old man was planting a tree. A young person passed by and asked, What are you planting? A carob tree, the old man replied. Silly fool, said the youth. Don't you know it takes 70 years for a carob tree to bear fruit? That's ok, said the old man. Just as others planted for me, I plant for future generations.

Torah Reading

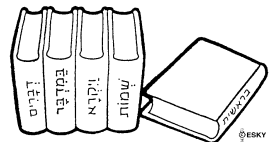
Leyning: Bo
Hertz p 248, Soncino p 377

Haftorah:
Hertz p 263, Soncino p 404

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Victor Shafier

Come along to our Seudah Shilishis afternoon for some good food and drink, a convivial atmosphere and some Torah treats. It's the best club in town!



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Freda & Leslie Pollock in celebration of the birth of a grandson, Eliezar

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: 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. Kiddush will be held after leyning that Shabbos followed by the sermon and Musaf. Further details to follow next week.

CCY Tu Bishvat Afternoon

All children aged 3-8 years are invited to a 'Messy Afternoon' in celebration of the New Year for Trees on **Sunday 27 January 2008**. The event begins at 3.00 pm and finishes at 5.00 pm. Activities include apple, pear and leaf printing, fruit tasting, tree craft, seed planting, face painting, songs, stories, make your own jigsaw and, of course, refreshments! Forms have recently been sent out and they should be returned to the Shul office by 17 January. The cost is just £2 per child. Siblings and adults can come free. Apply soon and join in the fun.

CCY News

The next Clayhall Children and Youth (CCY) is on **Shabbos 26 January** from 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm. It will be packed with games, fun and nosh. If you are between 6-16 years, then why not brighten up your Shabbos afternoon with some light entertainment? There are some really good future events being planned and more details will be sent out in due course. Please ensure you read the Shul mailings and your weekly *Clayhall Kehilla!*

Care & Welfare

It is very important to tell the Shul office or Rabbi Wilson of anyone who is unwell at home, hospitalised, or in need of some general support. Sometimes, it is assumed that those who need to know already do know but, unfortunately, the system does not always work like that. Our team will do its best to help those who need assistance.

Don't forget to let the Shul office know of any change of address, telephone numbers and email addresses. This will ensure that you will continue to receive Shul mailings and other news.

The Sequence of the Plagues

Go to Pharaoh (Shemos 10:1). G-d told Moshe, "Go to Pharaoh. Warn him that I will punish him if he does not release the Jews.

Reb Bechaye writes that the plagues followed one another like this: On the 15th of Nissan, G-d appeared to Moshe from within the bush and ordered him to go to Pharaoh. On the 21st of Nissan, Moshe asked Yisro's leave to go back to Egypt to warn Pharaoh to release the Jews. This warning lasted eight days until the end of Nissan. For the next three months, Iyar, Sivan and Tammuz, Moshe was in hiding; the plague of blood began on the 1st of Av. The plague lasted seven days, and Pharaoh then had three weeks of peace before the onset of the next plague. This was the pattern of all ten plagues. The plague of the first-born was in the month of Nissan, and Moshe had warned Pharaoh of it in the preceding Nissan. The period of the plagues totalled twelve months: they suffered for twelve months, just as the wicked are judged in *Gehinnom* for a twelve-month period.

**Ladies Guild meeting on
15 January at 8.15 pm @
venue from the office**

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.

Man ia a Tree - A Time to Grow

The source for Tu Bishvat is the opening statement of the Talmudic Tractate, *Rosh Hashanah*. This year on Tu Bishvat, just as you are gnawing that slab of chocolate from the carob tree, ask yourself: *Am I getting the spiritual food and shelter I need to survive, or is my tree being blown down by the forces of information overload and rampant materialism? Am I part of a strong, Jewish community, providing a warm and nurturing environment? Or am I cast into the pale bleak anonymity of urban life and cyberspace? Am I looking to future generations knowing that I am providing proper foundations for their lives?*

Weekend in Paris for just £149!

'**Reconnect**' provides social and educational events for young Jewish adults aged 20-30 years in Essex. It has linked up with the Jewish Learning Exchange to offer 3 superb days in Paris for just £149! The trip includes sightseeing Shabbos in the Jewish Quarter, a Motsei Shabbos event and EuroDisney. It takes place from 24-27 January. For more information, log onto <http://reconnectuk.org/6.html> and complete the application form online.

Listen and Hear: A Life Lesson by Adam Leiberman

After Hashem set seven plagues upon Egypt, Pharaoh's servants finally said to him: *"How long will this be a snare for us? Send out the men that they may serve ... G-d! Do you not know that Egypt is lost?"* (Shemos 10:7)

The Egyptians had just experienced seven severe plagues that G-d set upon them. Even though Pharaoh had also witnessed all of it, he still remained stubborn in refusing to let all of the Jews go free. However, Pharaoh's servants - the ones who waited on their master hand and foot - had complete clarity: if the Jews were not freed, then Egypt and its inhabitants would be completely destroyed. How is it that a king was unable to see what was so abundantly clear to everyone else?

The reason is that often we're much too close to a situation to be able to see it objectively. Since it was Pharaoh who was speaking directly to Moshe, he was too emotionally charged with what was happening to "his" country. Too close to the forest to be able to see the trees. Pharaoh - like many of us who are too close to something in our own lives - has the misguided belief that since we feel we know the situation the best, then we're also in the best position to know what should be done. Therefore, we won't entertain any other ideas or opinions. It all comes down to objectivity. Whenever someone is emotionally immersed in something, then by definition he will have little or no objectivity. How often have you known someone who was involved in an unhealthy personal relationship but failed to see just how detrimental it was? And he justified being closed-minded to any other opinions because he embraced the notion that "no one knows the person like he does." And that's exactly why he can never be objective or act rationally. Anyone so close to a situation loses the larger picture and cannot see it clearly.

This is why it's imperative always to seek others out and sincerely ask for and hear their advice. Our human nature will often discount what other people are telling us. This is because if we embrace their viewpoints, then we have to admit to ourselves that we made poor choices and will continue to do so. This "saving face" mentality of not hearing good advice is why people continue to just rationalize their poor behavior instead of changing. One can never grow or become great with this philosophy. The greatest men have always been able to admit their wrongs of the past and then, based upon a new perspective, choose to make healthy and productive choices. So listen to those around you who know you well and whose opinions you value. But the ball will ultimately still be in your court, so fight the urge to justify your past actions and start taking good advice. While it might not be easy on your ego to do this, it will, however, make you great.

Adam Leiberman is a business consultant. He also runs a non-profit foundation that helps Jews of all backgrounds to see the beauty and relevance of their heritage. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and children.

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