

# קליהל קהלה



טו בשבט

The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 19 January 2008/ 12 Shevat 5768*

## *Service Times (King Solomon High School Shabbaton)*

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.50 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	5.19 pm
Shabbos next week	4.22 pm

We are delighted to be hosting the inaugural King Solomon High School Shabbaton and the Kehilla extends a very warm welcome to the Head Teacher, **Spencer Lewis**, and his wife, Rachel. Some of the KS students will be participating in today's Service, while others will be speaking at the lunch. Kiddush will be made before Musaf in the dining hall at approximately 11.00 am. Spencer Lewis will address the community before Musaf.

**Tu Bishvat** (New Year for Trees) is this 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. It's already attracted over **40** participants so don't miss out!

## *Torah Reading*

Sedra Synopsis:

Leyning: Beshalach

Hertz p 265, Soncino p 407

Haftorah:

Hertz p 281, Soncino p 433

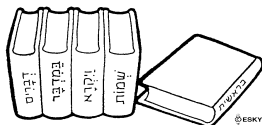
Come along to our Seudah Shilishis afternoon for some good food and drink, a convivial atmosphere and some Torah treats.

It's the best club in town!

*Ian Grant*

*Lester Harris*

*Spencer Lewis*



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by  
Clayhall Shul in honour of King Solomon High School*

**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: 10 February, 9 March & 6 April.

### ***Tu Bishvat Seeds***

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.

### ***60 Days For 60 Years***

**60 Days for 60 Years:** Israel sees the publication of the latest book in the "60 Days" series. Beginning on the 9th March 2008, each day for 60 days, thousands of participants will read one essay in commemoration of the lives that have been lost in Israel due to the war or terror. Ending on Yom Hazikaron, the day before Israel's 60th Yom Ha'atzmut, this project seeks to engage people from all over the world with Israel the Land and Israel the People. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the amazing feats that have seen Israel grow and prosper. Each essay has been written to inspire the participants both about Israel and Judaism. More details to follow soon.

### ***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.

### ***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.

## ***Shabbos Shirah - The Shabbos of Song***

All of the waters of the world split. There were 10 wonders performed by the sea: first, the sea split; second, the waters were like a cave, sheltering all of Israel; third, the land beneath them was dry and hard; fourth, when the Egyptians advanced the earth became muddy and they sank in it; fifth, the water was solidified; sixth, the water did not solidify like a single rock, but rather hardened in many places like pebbles; seventh, the water split 12 ways so that each tribe had its own path; eighth, the water was as clear as glass, so that each tribe could see the other tribes walking nearby; ninth, the water of the sea became sugar-sweet so that the Jews could drink it. When they wished to drink, the water liquefied for them and when they had finished it immediately hardened again, so their feet would not get wet. Finally, the tenth wonder was that only one third of the water on the bottom became hard. If the entire sea until the bottom had dried up, there would have been a great pit and it would have been difficult for them to climb down and climb back up.

**Pre-Pesach Education programme with guest speakers coming here very soon**

### ***CCY News***

The next Clayhall Children and Youth (CCY) is on **Shabbos 2 February** (postponed from next Shabbos) from 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm. It will be packed with games, fun and nosh. If you are aged 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.

### ***Man is 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.

## ***Tests of Faith***

*"And it was when Pharaoh sent away the nation" (Shemos 13:17)*

When Pharaoh sent the people away, G-d did not want to lead them through the land of the Philistines, even though it was the closest to Eretz Yisrael. Hashem wanted to test the Jewish people to see if they would enter the desert together with their wives and children, despite the deadly snakes which infest it.

Moreover, He led them through the desert so they would be unable to return to Egypt when forced to encounter battle. For this reason, too, G-d brought them to the other side of the sea.

Rav Chananel writes that G-d always wants to perform miracles for the righteous. He wanted to display His miracles to Israel in the desert - the miracle of the manna, the miracle of the quail, the miracle of the water-giving rock. For this reason, He led them through the desert. Similarly, when Chananiah, Mishael and Azariah were thrown into a fiery furnace, G-d could have simply extinguished the fire. Instead, He made it blaze even more fiercely and yet not a hair on their heads was scorched. He did this in order to maximise the miracle. When Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, G-d could have killed the lions. However, He let them remain alive but sealed their mouths so they could not harm Daniel. Thus, He displayed His wonders.

In this same manner, G-d performed miracles in the desert, and split the sea for the Jewish people. Later, when they arrived at Marah, where the water for many years had been sweet and drinkable, G-d made it bitter, so that Israel could not drink of it. Hashem then commanded Moshe to throw a bitter tree into the water. Miraculously, it became drinkable once again. G-d did this to test His people to see if they would rely on Him or not. G-d did the same thing with the manna. He sent one portion every day, rather than send enough for a long period of time, so that they would have to turn to Him every day for their daily bread.

*Another Torah thought:*

Hashem did not want to bring Israel through the land of the Philistines, lest the Philistines think that they were coming to do battle with them in vengeance for the Philistines' murder of the people of Efraim. These people had incorrectly calculated the end of the Egyptian exile and had left several years too early. Had the Jewish people travelled through their land, they would have assumed that they were coming to avenge their brothers' deaths, so G-d avoided the route.

***Clayhall United Synagogue***

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