



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 10 May 2008/ 5 Iyar 5768

Service Times (Israel@60 Celebration Shabbos)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.00 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	9.34 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30 pm

We salute and applaud the **State of Israel** on the miraculous occasion of the country's 60th birthday since independence in 1948. As **Melanie Phillips** recently wrote in *The Spectator*: "What would Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion have said if, on the day that he declared the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, he had known that six decades thence Israel would be encircled by its enemies, hopelessly outnumbered and fighting for its existence? He would surely have said: so what's new?"

The community is invited to a special **Israeli-style 'breakfast' Kiddush** after the service in celebration of this amazing Simcha. We eagerly look forward b'h to the next 60 years.

Torah Reading

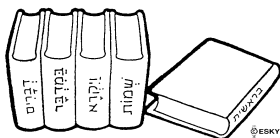
Leyning: Emor
Hertz p 513, Soncino p 740

Haftorah:
Hertz p 528, Soncino p 761

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Robert Segall

The Clayhall AGM will take place this **Tuesday 13 May** at 8.00 pm preceded by Minchah and Ma'ariv at 7.30 pm. Voting will commence from 6.00 pm until 8.00 pm.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by Ruth & David Langdorf in celebration of the engagement of Elliot and Gabrielle

Children's & Youth Service: 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 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: 1st June, 6th July & 3rd August.

Clayhall Cares

The Shul has a dedicated task group ready to help and support those in need in our Kehilla. This could include hospital visiting, shopping, phone calls and other welfare matters. Sometimes it can be frustrating when the Rabbi and Shul office are not made aware of a particular pertinent care issue - and people then wonder why nobody has been in touch! So please do give the Shul a call so that we can help.

Climbing High

Could a nation whose spirituality had been ground down by generations of exposure to the degeneracy of Egypt and then by more than a century of brutal slavery ever become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation? Moshe himself doubted it but G-d had assured him, "*When you take the people out of Egypt, you will serve Hashem on this mountain (Shemos 3:12)*". With the Exodus, the effort began. In seven weeks they would stand at Har Sinai ready to receive the Torah. The day after they left Egypt, they began counting the 49 days of preparation, every day rising higher, until they reached the summit that G-d had promised Moshe.

Contemporary Issues

The 3rd series of the acclaimed *Contemporary Issues* begins again on Tuesday 3 June 2008. Topics that Rabbi Wilson will be speaking on are *The Divine Origin of the Torah* (3 June), *Stem cell research* (17 June), and *The Lost 10 Tribes* on 1 July. Venues will be announced over the next few weeks. Each evening will start at 8.30 pm with the presentation followed by a question and answer session, and then concluding with refreshments. If you would like to host an evening of this popular series, please speak to Rabbi Wilson.

Student House

Further to the advertisement placed in the *Jewish Chronicle* recently for candidates for a student house in Clayhall, there has been some interest. We are looking for 3 or 4 students to run youth services and activities for the Shul. This project is a priority and you can hear more about the proposal at the Annual General Meeting next month.

A Seven-Week Chol Hamoed

At the time of the Exodus, the forty-nine days between the first day of Pesach and the revelation at Sinai were a period of preparation for the moment when all of Israel would hear the voice of the Living G-d. The days of *Sefirah* remain a time of spiritual striving as we prepare for the Festival of Shavous. *Sefer HaChinuch* writes that the counting toward Shavous 'demonstrates our great desire to this exalted day for which our hearts yearn...for when a person keeps count (until a certain day arrives) he shows that his whole desire and longing is to reach that day.' The commentators note that the days of *Sefirah* are infused with a special aura and are most auspicious for spiritual growth. In a letter during this period, R' Avraham of Sochachov, author of *Avnei Nezer*, apologised for his brevity by explaining that each moment of Sefirah is exceedingly precious, and therefore he was anxious to close the letter and resume his schedule of Divine service. *Sefer Chemdas HaYamim* writes: 'During these days...the sanctity progressively grows until the day when the Torah was given. In these days, every Jew can find Divine assistance in perfecting his soul with purity and sanctity.'

**NEROS Super Supper
Quiz on 18 May @
Boundary Road Shul.
Tickets available from
either Michelle Mervish
or Robin Abrahams**

Shabbos Shiur

Rabbi Wilson's popular pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur returns next week, **17th May**. Based on the Maharal of Prague's 'Tiferes Yisrael', Rabbi Wilson will be focusing on a philosophical analysis of the Torah with specific reference to Matan Torah (the Giving of the Torah) as we approach Shavous. The Shiur will always commence 45 minutes before Minchah.

Lag B'Omer Picnic in the Park

CCY (Clayhall Children & Youth) invite you, your family and friends to join them for a Lag B'Omer Picnic in the Park on bank holiday Monday 26 May 2008. You can enjoy football, cricket, parachute games, rambling, visiting the animals and healthy quantities of fresh air. All you need to do is meet at Hainault Forest Country Park in the second car park at 12.00 noon...whatever the weather. Don't forget to bring your picnic, a picnic blanket and chairs. There is no need to book for this event and it is, of course, absolutely free!

CCY Events Keep Rolling...

Put these dates in your diary:

Shabbos 24 May: Monthly birthday Kiddush
Monday 26 May: Lag B'Omer Family Picnic
Sunday 1 June: Shavous Messy afternoon
Monday 9 June: Shavous Ice Cream Party
Shabbos 12 July: 1st CCY Shabbos lunch
Shabbos 6 September: Activity afternoon
Sunday 7 September: Activity Day

Nothing Short of a Miracle by David Harris

"Some friends say they're in no mood to celebrate. The timing isn't right, they complain. The country's political circuitry is overloaded. Danger lurks on the Gaza and Lebanon borders. Iran's nuclear ambitions -- and annihilationist threats -- loom large. Disputes over the current peace talks with the Palestinian Authority are daily fare. Israel continues to take a beating in UN forums. The drumbeat of anti-Zionism grows louder. A fractious social climate creates long-term and seemingly insoluble fissures between Arab and Jew, not to mention Jew and Jew. And global market volatility spells trouble for the Israeli economy. All true, perhaps. But the story mustn't end there. Milestone anniversaries offer the chance to step back, however briefly, from the news of the moment and take stock of the larger picture.

By my reckoning, Israel is quite a success story. Actually, Israel itself is nothing short of a miracle. Think about it. Just three years, almost to the day, after the end of the lowest point in Jewish history, the sovereign State of Israel was established. From the most vertiginous fall in the life of the Jewish people to its greatest ascent -- all in a matter of just over one thousand days. Few gave the embryonic state much chance of survival. Faced with larger armies determined to eliminate the new nation in its infancy, the 650,000 Jews defended themselves and emerged victorious. Against all the odds, they built a state. Not an easy task by any stretch of the imagination.

A land with pitifully few natural resources required the industry and talent of its human resources. Surrounded by forces bent on its isolation and destruction, the fledgling nation couldn't let up its guard even for a moment. And a country defined as a home for Jews everywhere faced the challenge of absorbing millions of immigrants from the four corners of the earth, even as its infrastructure was stretched to the breaking point. And it wasn't just any state that was built. It was a pulsating democratic state, reflective of a country where just about everyone believes they have a Ph.D. in survival methods, leadership, and diplomacy. Through thick and thin, Israelis have benefited from free and fair elections, smooth transfers of power, an independent judiciary, a feisty press, and political parties covering the ideological gamut. No other country in Israel's rough-and-tumble neighbourhood can make similar claims...It makes me want to jump for joy."

**This is an abridged form of the full essay that appears on www.aish.com
The CK editor is not related to the author of this article.**

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