



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 24 May 2008/ 19 Iyar 5768

Service Times

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Shacharis | 9.00 am |
| Pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur | 7.45 pm |
| Minchah followed by Seudah | 8.30 pm |
| Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends | 9.59 pm |
| Shabbos next week | 7.30 pm |

The struggle to maintain a healthy and viable **Shacharis Minyan** is becoming increasingly difficult and frustrating. Through the dedicated work of a few people with daily phone calls and emails, the Minyan bumps along from day to day. Sometimes there can be up to 15 men present but, more often than not, the battle is simply to ensure there are at least the minimum number of ten. Clayhall should easily be able to sustain a strong Shacharis Minyan whatever the time of year and however inclement the weather. As we move onwards towards Shavuot, let us all resolve to celebrate the giving of our Torah by really making a positive difference. Don't let the count end with nine.

Torah Reading

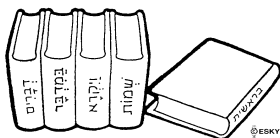
Leyning: Bechukosai
Hertz p 542, Soncino p 777

Haftorah:
Hertz p 551, Soncino p 789

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Hermi Rothman

Articles are required for the Rosh Hashanah edition of the Shul magazine, *Shalom*. Please send your contributions to the Editorial Team or to the Shul office.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by Michelle, Bradley and Jonathan Mervish in celebration of Alison's 17th birthday

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.

Shavuot Flowers

It is a beautiful custom to decorate the Shul with flowers over Shavuot in celebration of Sinai bursting forth with colour at the time of Matan Torah. We would like members to sponsor a tub for just £15 which you can then take home after Yom Tov. The more that do so, the greater the amount of foliage and colour. Please reserve your tubs by paying Michelle in the office as soon as possible.

Shavuot Times

Sunday 8th June

Minchah followed by

Ma'ariv 7.30 pm

Tikkun Leil Shavuot 11.45 pm

Monday 9th June (Day 1)

Shacharis 1st Minyan 3.50 am

Shacharis 2nd Minyan 9.00 am

Minchah followed by

Maariv 7.15 pm

Do not light candles until 10.21 pm

Tuesday 10th June (Day 2)

Shacharis 9.00 am

Minchah 9.00pm

followed by a Shiur

Ma'ariv/ Yom Tov ends 10.22 pm

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.

A Day of Light

In Meron, bonfires are lit on the night of Lag B'Omer; in many Shuls, extra candles are lit. These flames represent the hidden light of the teachings of Kabbalah; the fire which surrounded R' Shimon bar Yochai's place of learning on that fateful day when he departed this world; and the tradition that on that day daylight was miraculously extended to allow R' Shimon to complete the transmission of his esoteric teachings to his disciples.

Eat, Drink & Learn the Night away!

Clayhall's **Tikun Leil Shavuos** is always one of the highlights of the year. Fine single malts, lashings of gorgeous cheesecake, other edible delights and some great home-grown and inspiring words of Torah provide the perfect mix for a terrific night-out! We are delighted that Freda & Leslie Pollock will be hosting the Tikun on **Sunday 8th June** from **11.45 pm** until the wee small hours. The more that come, the greater the ruach (spirit) and atmosphere. If you would like to present a D'var Torah, be it two minutes or twenty (there's a hint there somewhere!), please speak to either Rabbi Wilson or Lester. If you've never been to a Tikun before, you won't be disappointed. It's definitely worth the extra effort. We shall be davening Shacharis at about 4.00 am. For those not too nocturnal, the Shavuos morning service will be repeated at 9.00am!

The custom for the Tikun Leil Shavuos has its source in the *Zohar*: 'Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai would toil in the study of Torah on the night when the bride (Israel) is united with her groom (G-d and the Torah)...Rabbi Shimon and his group would rejoice in the joy of Torah and each one of them would seek new insights into it.

There is still an opportunity to place insertions in the next Shul calendar. Forms are available from the Shul office if lost!

Shabbos Shiur

Rabbi Wilson's popular pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur continues today at 7.45 pm. 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 this 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:

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
and there's much more to come...

Repairing the World by Rabbi Yehuda Appel

Judaism recognizes that everyone has a particular role to fulfill in this world. The mystical teachings state that with each waking hour G-d grants us, there comes an accompanying responsibility to in some way help repair the world. This concept of "Tikkun Olam," repairing the world, also extends to repairing our own selves. Every person has one dominant area of weakness where they need to focus attention in order to accomplish a "personal tikkun." The need to correct this area of weakness is why a person has been put into the world in the first place! A corollary to this idea, is the belief that everyone should select a particular mitzvah to observe to the utmost of their abilities. Whether it be giving charity, visiting the sick, keeping kosher or whatever, this "one special mitzvah" helps focus a person to "go all out" in one area of spiritual growth. Moreover, each person's special mitzvah can serve as a "defending angel" on the day of judgement. This week's Sedra deals with the tremendous responsibilities given to the Jewish people. Just as each individual has a task to improve the world, so too the Jewish people have that role. G-d addresses the Jewish people collectively, informing them of the severity of judgements - ranging from illness to exile - that they will face if they do not follow His path. The harshness of these afflictions can be seen as a direct correlation to the importance of the Jewish people's mission. As the nation who has been entrusted with G-d's instructions for creating a perfect society, the Jewish people are held to a higher standard. On the other hand, G-d promises the Jewish people that "if you walk in My laws and guard My Mitzvos," you will be blessed with great peace and wealth. As much potential as there is for tragedy, great blessing can also be theirs. Of course the big question is what does the Torah mean when it says "if you walk in My laws?" What exactly is expected of the Jewish people? Rashi explains that "walk in My laws" means that everywhere we walk we should be studying Torah. The Jews are to engross themselves in the study of Torah and become a nation of scholars. The Sfas Emes, a great 19th century Chassidic rabbi, says this goes beyond the simple acquisition Torah wisdom. Walking in G-d's laws means to become so connected to the will of G-d that the presence of the Almighty becomes manifest on earth. This in turn teaches a profound insight into the nature of each person's individual "Tikkun." This is accomplished when the individual becomes an instrument of expressing G-d's will here on earth. And this is truly the deepest meaning of Tikkun Olam.

Clayhall United Synagogue

Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road,

Redbridge, Essex, IG4 5LN

Tel: 020 8551 6533 e-mail: clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com

www.clayhallsynagogue.org.uk