



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 31 May 2008/ 26 Iyar 5768

Service Times (Shabbos Mevarachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur	7.55 pm
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.40 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	10.10 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30 pm

We wish Mazel Tov to **Karen Phillips and Daniel Kirwilliam** on their forthcoming marriage. Today we are delighted to be celebrating Daniel's *Aufruf*. Judith & Alan Kirwilliam have great pleasure in inviting the Kehilla to a Kiddush after the Service in celebration of their *Simchah*. Mazel Tov!

Today we bless the new month of Sivan. Rosh Chodesh is this **Wednesday 4th June** and we shall be davening Shacharis at the earlier time of 6.45 am. Shavous times are overleaf and they have also been sent out in the recent Shul mailing. Tomorrow after Shacharis, there is our monthly smoked salmon and beigel sumptuous breakfast. Everyone is welcome.

Torah Reading

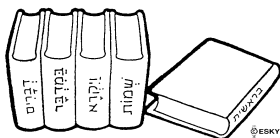
Leyning: Bamidbar
Hertz p 568, Soncino p 793

Haftorah:
Hertz p 582, Soncino p 810

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Leslie Pollock

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 the Kirwilliam and Phillips families in celebration of Karen & Daniel's marriage

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

Fun Footie & Beefy BBQ

The inaugural Clayhall Shul 5-a-side Football Tournament takes place on **Sunday 22 June 2008** on the amazing RJCC AstroTurf. Open to all men and boys over 12, you can prove your soccer prowess by dazzling stunned spectators with your silky skills. Afterwards, why not enjoy a succulent big beefy BBQ at the home of Rabbi & Rebbetsen Wilson? Application forms have just been sent out in the Shul mailing with full cost details. Please do your best to support this event whether by playing, watching or eating! Bringing Euro2008 to your backyard!

Contemporary Series

The dates have been changed and they are now as follows:
Tuesday 17 June: *Stem Cell Research* @ chez Segall.
Tuesday 24 June: *The Lost Ten Tribes* @ chez Lyndon (junior!)
Tuesday 8 July: *The Divine Origin of the Torah* @ chez TBC.
The evening begins at 8.30 pm followed by questions and answers, and refreshments.

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. Rabbi Wilson's keynote talk is **"It's My Life": The Parameters of 'Honour Your Parents.'** 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. We shall daven 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.

**Mazel Tov to
Rabbi Wilson on being
elected onto the
Executive of the
Rabbinical Council of
the United Synagogue**

Shabbos Shiur

Rabbi Wilson's popular pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur continues today at 7.55 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 Shavuos. The Shiur will always commence 45 minutes before Minchah.

Clayhall Community Shabbaton

Rabbi Danny Kirsch, founder and director of the 'Jewish Learning Exchange' is Clayhall's outstanding guest speaker at our annual Shabbaton on **12 July 2008**. Including a hot cholent and buffet Kiddush, a Community Shabbos lunch and finishing with ice creams all round, this is a not-to-be-missed event. **'Mission Impossible: A History of the Outreach Movement'** is Rabbi Kirsch's keynote address before lunch. His second talk is called **"What we 'owe' our children."** There will also be special programmes for young people.

Shavuos Messy Afternoon

The messy afternoons for 3-8 year olds (and their siblings!) continue **tomorrow** from 3.00pm until 5.00pm at RJCC. Activities include finger painting, hat making, flower making, songs, stories and lots more followed by ice cream and refreshments. The cost is just £2 per child with adults and siblings free. We recommend that the children wear old clothes.

Unified Nation by Rabbi Yehuda Appel

The Talmud reports that the generation of Yehuda Bar Illai represented Torah study at its best. What was so striking about that generation? The Talmud says that in that period, six people would study together under a single blanket. On one level, the Talmud means that despite having only one blanket due to harsh poverty, the people were still devoted to Torah study.

Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz, however, offers another explanation: The only way five people could have sat together under one blanket was if everyone was looking out for each other, making sure that all are "covered." The true greatness of Yehuda Bar Illai's generation could be found in the way they loved and respected one another. A similar idea is expressed in the Torah itself, regarding the revelation at Har Sinai. The Torah describes how the Jewish People were so unified at the time of the revelation, that it was as if "one person" stood at Sinai. It was precisely because of this unity that they were worthy of receiving G-d's law.

This theme plays a pivotal role in this week's Sedra, Bamidbar. The parsha goes to great length to describe the Israelite encampment in the desert: In the middle of the camp were the Levites and the sanctuary. Surrounding this centre were the 12 Tribes, creating an overall shape of a square. There were three tribes in each of the four sides of the square - north, south, east and west - constituting secondary encampments. Accompanying each tribe was a flag which had that tribe's particular insignia upon it. The colours of the flags were patterned after the colours of the stones on the High Priest's breastplate, each of which represented a different tribe.

The Midrash says that when G-d suggested this arrangement, Moshe questioned the idea, saying, "Now there will be disputes between the tribes." Moshe reasoned that once he starts specifying who travels in the East and who travels in the West, who is in front and who is in back, people are going to start arguing. Moreover, each of the different directions of the compass is associated with a different quality and blessing. The north, for instance, is associated with wealth, and the south with wisdom. God explained to Moshe that there was no need for concern. The tribes would accept the encampment arrangements for a simple reason: Years earlier, at Yaacov's funeral, his 12 sons carried the coffin. The way the sons were arranged around the coffin is the same way the tribes would be arranged in the desert camp. In this way, everyone would already be clear as to his proper place. So don't worry, G-d tells Moshe, because when someone knows their place, there is inevitably peace and calm. And so it was. In our parsha, after a long description of who will travel first, and who will travel last, the Torah says: "And the Jewish People did exactly as they were instructed" (Bamidbar 1:54).

Love and respect for each individual, and a recognition of how each contributes to the whole is the way for our Jewish nation to achieve true greatness. May it be so speedily in our days.

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