



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 25 October 2008/ 26 Tishri 5769*

## *Service Times (Jonathan Mervish's Bar Mitzvah)*

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	5.00 pm
Shabbos ends	6.35 pm
Shabbos next week	4.21 pm

The Kehilla wishes a hearty Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Mervish** and his family on the wonderful occasion of his Bar Mitzvah today. Jonathan will be leyning the first and last parts of the Sedra as well as singing the Haftorah. We look forward to Jonathan's future involvement and participation at Clayhall Shul.

Today also marks a 50th birthday for **Bernie Jay** and we wish him and his family many more years of health and happiness. The **Mervish** and **Jay** families (Michelle, Bradley, Simone, Alison, Jackie, Ben & Richard!) have great pleasure in inviting the community to a **Kiddush** after the Service in celebration of Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah and Bernie's 50th birthday. Please do not eat or drink anything until Rabbi Wilson has said Kiddush!

## *Torah Reading*

Sedra Synopsis:

Leyning: Bereishis

Hertz p 2, Soncino p 1

Haftorah:

Hertz p 21, Soncino p 27

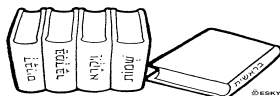
*Jonathan Mervish*

*Jonathan Mervish &*

*Rabbi Nissan Wilson*

*Jonathan Mervish*

We extend a very warm welcome back to Rabbi & Elise Kleiman this Shabbos.



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by Michelle, Bradley, Simone and Alison Mervish in celebration of Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah*

**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.

Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 2 November, 30 November & 28 December.

### ***Mazel Tov***

The Kehilla wishes Mazel Tov to **Rabbi Nissan Wilson, Robin Abrahams** and **Rosalind Jessener** and their families on their deserved honours of Chasan Torah, Chasan Bereishis and Eshes Chayil respectively. We all enjoyed a lovely and lively Simchas Torah with a great atmosphere, dancing and food.

### ***Israeli Dance Course***

Ever been to a simchah and mis-timed your Israeli dance steps? Or do you just want to improve on your current repertoire? Do you also want to raise urgent funds for Israel at the same time? Then a 4-week Israeli Dance course beckons. This is for ladies only. It takes place from **Wednesday 5 November until 26 November** from 7.15—8.15 pm at *Ilford Jewish Primary School*. The cost is just £15 for the course or £4 per session. Further information can be obtained from Mrs Jeanette Jacobs at:

*family.jacobs@hotmail.com*  
All monies raised will go to the Gina Myers z'l fund for a Magen David Adom rapid response vehicle in Israel. So as well as contributing to a most worthwhile cause, you can improve your Israeli dancing leaps and bounds!

### ***Rosh Chodesh***

We bless the new month of **Mar Cheshvan** before Musaf today. Rosh Chodesh is over two days, and falls this Wednesday and Thursday, 29th & 30th October. Shacharis will be slightly earlier at **6.45 am** on both days. The Jewish calendar is lunar, based on the moon's revolutions around the earth. Each such revolution, known as a lunar cycle, is a single lunar month that consists of 29 days, 12 hours and 793 chalakim (44 minutes and 3 and a third seconds). Each halachic hour is divided into 1080 chalakim.

### ***New Ladies Committee***

The role of the traditional Ladies Guild has changed considerably in recent times so much so that a Ladies Guild in itself is not necessarily the right way forward. We are therefore holding an open meeting on **Tuesday 28 October at 8pm** at RJCC for all ladies to discuss ways by which they can be involved in Shul life and make an important contribution.

## *The Essence of Bar Mitzvah*

The greatest milestone in the life of a young boy is becoming *Bar Mitzvah*, reaching adulthood. The term means one who is obligated to perform the mitzvos. Up to this point, parents are duty bound to educate their child in moral behaviour and observance of the mitzvos. Once the boy reaches 13 years, Jewish law considers him an adult and the responsibility becomes their own. However, the education of the boy in Jewish values continues to rest with the parents until the boy is an independent adult. In the Western world, reaching legal adulthood usually means that one now has certain rights; to drive, to vote, to buy cigarettes and alcohol etc. It is a time to enjoy many things previously not allowed as a celebration of rights and the loosening of restrictions. This view is in stark contrast to the significance of reaching Bar Mitzvah. We celebrate the fact that the child has matured sufficiently to become obligated in the mitzvah, to enter a community and join the historical chain that began with Avraham and Sarah. This is a time of great joy and happiness because we accept mitzvos as a gift from Hashem.

Please remember to  
move your clocks **BACK**  
by one hour tonight.  
Next week, Shabbos  
starts at the much  
earlier time of 4.21 pm

### *Bereishis*

*"In the beginning  
of..." (Bereishis 1:1)*

Right with its first words, the Torah solemnly proclaims the great fundamental truth: G-d is the beginning and the origin of all things. The matter constituting the cosmos is not eternal nor is it the primary source nor a regulator of all terrestrial life. It is G-d Who created matter out of nothing. It is He Who created the world "at the beginning," that is to say, at a time depending solely on His own free will. **(based on Rabbi Elie Munk)**

### *Today in Jewish History: 26 Tishri*

In 1973, a cease-fire resolution was passed by the U.N. Security Council to halt the Yom Kippur War. Shuttle diplomacy by Henry Kissinger compelled Israel and Egypt to accept the cease-fire. Fighting, however, would continue for another four days. In the war, Israel suffered the loss of 2,600 soldiers and 800 tanks. Four years later in 1977, Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat would visit Jerusalem and announce his readiness to forge a permanent peace deal.

### *Kol Nidre Appeal*

After Rabbi Wilson's Kol Nidre Appeal on Yom Kippur, it is also worth noting that **30%** of all the proceeds we, as a Kehilla, raise is given back to the Shul for education projects. If any of your address details are wrong on your card, please let Michelle know as soon as possible. If you did not receive your card for whatever reason, the UJIA will, as always, write to members over the next few weeks, or you can pick your card from the Shul office.

## ***Blame Game by Adam Lieberman***

While living in the Gan Eden, Adam and Eve were told by G-d that they can freely eat and enjoy everything the Garden had to offer. They just couldn't eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad. A serpent came along and enticed Eve to eat fruit from this tree. After she ate, she gave some of its fruit to Adam. When G-d confronted Adam and Eve about their blatant disregard for His instructions, *"The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me - she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'"*

When people do something wrong, they usually have an instinctive reaction to either defend their actions or blame someone or something else for what they did. So when G-d asked Adam why he ate from the tree, the first thing Adam did was go on the offensive, saying that he ate from the tree because of *"the woman whom **you** gave to be with me..."* According to Adam, his sin wasn't a result of his choices; it was because of a something that G-d did. And when Eve was confronted about her actions, she also refused to take any responsibility for her free-will decision, and instead simply said, *"The **serpent** deceived me..."* Adam and Eve were punished by G-d not only for not listening to Him, but for also immediately casting blame for their actions elsewhere. It's always easier, more convenient, and far less embarrassing to shift blame onto other people, or to society for any negative or destructive decisions and actions we might make.

Clearly, G-d would rather we personally take complete ownership over everything that we do. The reason for this is that there's nothing more empowering and liberating than personally taking true responsibility for all your actions. This is life-changing because you now have power to "choose and become" as opposed to being stuck in the "blame game." Power to choose right from wrong. Good or bad. Action or inaction. You will never again be a victim of circumstances, but rather will become a proactive decision maker who - through making the right choices - can recreate him/herself anew every day. This isn't easy to do because it goes against our nature to immediately declare "I was wrong." But when you can truly acknowledge to yourself that it's you - and you alone - who's responsible for whatever you do - and not anyone or anything else - then you will have taken complete and total control of your life. You will then have recaptured ownership of your life and with G-d's help you can do and become anything you've ever dreamed possible.

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