

קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 8 November 2008/ 10 Mar Cheshvan 5769

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.40 pm
Shabbos ends	5.11 pm
Shabbos next week	3.58 pm

We welcome **Ezra Simon** to Clayhall this Shabbos. Ezra will be leyning as Rabbi Wilson is away.

After 9½ years of sterling service, **Michelle** is leaving Clayhall Shul for a new, exciting post at the United Synagogue head office with effect from 1 December 2008. Michelle has always worked with great dedication, enthusiasm and commitment. She will be missed. A suitable communal occasion to honour her will be arranged shortly and the community notified.

The vacant post is being advertised on the United Synagogue website, www.theus.org.uk for anyone who is interested. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 14 November. Interviews will take place towards the end of the month.

Torah Reading

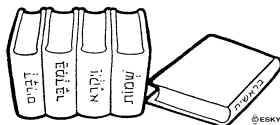
Leyning: Lech Lecha
Hertz p 45, Soncino p 60

Ezra Simon

Haftorah:
Hertz p 60, Soncino p 82

Hermi Rothman

Inside your action-packed Clayhall Kehilla is information about Kristallnacht, the AJEX Parade, Chanukah, a Poland trip and the new-look Children's Service



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by
ARL in memory of his parents*

Children's Service: Commencing 22 November 2008

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: 30 November & 28 December.

Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday morning breakfast or an edition of the *Clayhall Kehilla*, the cost is £35 and £15 respectively. Please speak to Michelle in the Shul office. This is an ideal way to celebrate a simchah or birthday, commemorate a Yahrzeit, or simply for no reason at all!

Kristallnacht

The United Synagogue communities of Barnet & Alei Tzion present "An Evening of Remembrance" on the 70th Anniversary of Kristallnacht on **Sunday 9 November 2008** at 7.30 pm at Barnet Synagogue, Eversleigh Road, Barnet, EN5 1ND. The Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks will be present with presentations led by the Communities' Youth and witness testimonies. Admission is strictly by ticket only. Contact Barnet Shul on 020 8449 0145. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis.

Bar/Bas Mitzvah Seminar

Once again, we are holding a seminar on **Tuesday 18 November** at RJCC at 8.00 pm. Invitations have been sent to families celebrating their simchah over the next 2 years. It is an opportunity for Rabbi Wilson and the Wardens to talk through the process and create a rapport with the families. The evening should last no longer than 75 minutes.

New Ladies Committee

There was a successful meeting of the new Ladies Committee last Tuesday. Several ideas were discussed including a Ladies Quiz that is provisionally booked for February 2009 and a dinner later in the year. The ladies present on Tuesday are trying to find a suitable, catchy name for the new group. If you have any suggestions, please speak to Anne Yeshin.

Poland Trip

Rabbi Wilson is organising a Shul trip to Poland for November 2009. It will probably be a 48-72 hour stay led by the very experienced *Jewish Learning Exchange*. It is hoped to send out further details to members in early 2009. The cost will be in the region of £325 per person although this may of course change.

Children's Service Re-launch

There is a new-look, dynamic Children's Service coming to Clayhall Shul from **Shabbos 22 November 2008**. It will be open to all children from nursery to school year 6 and, initially, the service will run fortnightly. A coloured flyer has been sent out to all members, IJPS pupils and (soon) local shops. It will be organised and run by **Naomi Harris**.

- Times: 10.30am-11.15am
- 10.30-10.50 davening
- 10.50-11.05 games, stories, songs
- 11.05-11.15 Kiddush

In addition, there will be certificates and awards for attendance, star-of-the-month and star-of-the-morning with small prizes. It is hoped that the children will revive the old Clayhall tradition of singing a song in the main service before *Adon Olam*. There are many exciting plans to develop other activities and events with this age group. On Simchas Torah, there were a healthy number of young children and we want to build on this.

Articles are required for the Pesach edition of **Shalom, the Shul magazine**. Please submit these by mid-January 2009.

AJEX Parade

The annual AJEX Parade takes place on **Sunday 16 November 2008**. For those marching, the Fall-In is at 1.40 pm in Horse Guards Parade. AJEX encourages the community to show its solidarity and you should make your way to the Cenotaph for 2.00 pm. The Reviewing Officer this year is Admiral The Lord West of Spithead GCB, DSO. The Service will be conducted by the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks and Rev Malcolm Weisman. For more information, log on to: www.ajex.org.uk

Today in Jewish History: 3 Cheshvan

On this date in 2105 BCE (1656 from Creation), Noach and family entered the Ark. It wasn't until seven days later, however, that the intense rains began for 40 days and 40 nights. The delay was to allow a proper mourning period for Methuselah, the righteous grandfather of Noach who had just died at the age of 969 years, history's oldest human being. Noach, his family and the animals would remain on the Ark for over a year, until the flood waters had sufficiently subsided.

Chanukah at the Aviv!

Clayhall is celebrating Chanukah at the **Aviv** restaurant in Edgware (this is, we believe, somewhere over the rainbow in another land) Very shortly, you will receive full details in the Shul mailing. It takes place on **Tuesday 23 December** and everyone is invited. The adult menu is £25 per head and there is a reduced price children's menu. Rabbi Wilson has assured us of a fun-packed evening so book your place(s) on receipt of the form.

Avraham Reaches Out to Help by Rabbi Yehuda Appel

The Talmud describes the afterlife as "**a world turned upside down.**" This means that many of the people who have been given little respect here on earth will be accorded much honor in the afterlife, and conversely many who were prominent in this life will receive little attention there. In other words, we simply have no way of knowing the true righteousness of people. Rabbi Aryeh Levine, the "Tzaddik of Jerusalem," told of a cobbler he would see everyday in the marketplace. Though they never really spoke with one another, whenever he passed the cobbler's way, something would compel Rabbi Aryeh to put some money in a charity box the cobbler had placed in his store. Then one day, out of the blue, the cobbler invited the rabbi to a special meal commemorating the completion of a tractate of Talmud. At the celebration the following night, Rabbi Aryeh found **the cobbler teaching a group of elderly Jews the last passage of the Zohar**, the core text of Jewish mysticism. Listening to their discussion, Rabbi Aryeh - himself a great Kabbalist - was overwhelmed by the group's great understanding of Kabbalah. The next morning, Rabbi Aryeh went to seek out the cobbler. When he arrived at his shop, however, he found the doors shut. The cobbler had passed away the night before. Jewish tradition teaches that in every generation there are "**36 hidden Tzaddikim**" - people whose presence justifies the world's existence. This cobbler may have been one of them. But it is not always a good thing that righteousness be "hidden."

A classic example is found in this week's Sedra. Avraham is told by G-d to "**leave your land, your birthplace, and the house of your father - and go to the land that I will show you.**" The commentaries explain that had Avraham stayed in Haran, he would not have been blessed with children; the lack of holiness in Haran would not have allowed the birth of the great Yitzchak, the only patriarch never to leave the land of Israel. So if Avraham was to have Yitzchak, he had to go to the Holy Land. Avraham's journey to Canaan was a great test. Leaving his parents behind, he did not know whether he would ever see them again. But the possibility of receiving G-d's blessings - and obeying G-d's will - encouraged Avraham to make the journey. Though this journey was for Avraham's benefit, the Midrash makes clear it was also for the world's benefit. The Midrash likens Abraham to **a bottle of perfume**: As long as the bottle is sealed, no one can enjoy its scent. But once it has been opened, everyone can benefit. The Midrash explains, as long as Abraham remained in Haran, people in other lands could not be exposed to him or to his message. Avraham's journey thus allowed others to share in his revolutionary concept of monotheism. The Chafetz Chaim, severely censured people for not taking such a "journey." Of course, there are limits to the risks one should take. For example, we are not to endanger our own lives in order to help others. The bottom line is that the paths we walk are very narrow, and though a person may appear to be righteous, in truth his actions may be self-serving. **We must be dedicated to helping others as well.** And it is only in the next world that the full and unadorned truth will be revealed.

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