



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 13 December 2008/16 Kislev 5769*

## **Service Times (Talia Vyner's Bat Mitzvah)**

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Shabbos ends	4.46 pm
Shabbos next week	3.36 pm

We wish a hearty Mazel Tov to **Talia Vyner** on the wonderful occasion of her Bas Mitzvah today. After *Adon Olam* would you stand in your places as Talia is sung onto the Bimah with the words of *Eshes Chayil*. Talia will then deliver her D'var Torah to the Kehilla and Rabbi Wilson will respond with the address to Talia. After the announcements, Elaine, Kevin and Lauren have great pleasure in inviting the community to a Kiddush in celebration of their Simchah.

Over the holiday period, Thursday and Friday 25th & 26th December, Shacharis will be at the later time of 8.15 am. It's also possible that davening will be earlier the following week depending on people's work commitments. **Please note the important comments inside about the Shacharis Minyan.**

## **Torah Reading**

Sedra Synopsis:

Leyning: Vayishlach

Hertz p 122, Soncino p 195

Haftorah:

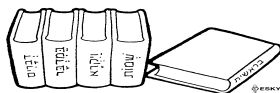
Hertz p 137, Soncino p 224

Minchah this afternoon will begin promptly at 3.30 pm followed by Seudah

**Talia Vyner**

**Rabbi Nissan Wilson**

**Leslie Linder**



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by Elaine, Kevin and Lauren in celebration of Talia's Bat Mitzvah*

**Children's Service:** 10.30 am - 11.15 am (alternate weeks)

### ***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: 28 December & 25 January.

### ***Hebrew Reading Course***

The 6-week **Hebrew Reading Crash Course** is an excellent method, tried and tested, that will dramatically improve your Hebrew reading skills.

Regardless of whether you are a new starter or you just want to refine your current skills, this is the course for you. Several people expressed an interest in a **Sunday morning course** rather than the usual Wednesday evenings.

**Rabbi Wilson** wants to hear from anyone who is seriously interested to learn on a Sunday morning but, equally, please let him know if you would prefer a Wednesday evening. If the demand is great enough, two courses will be run simultaneously. Often, the hardest step to take is the first one. After that, it's easy. So take the plunge and book your name!

### ***Mums & Daughters Baking Bonanza***

On Monday 22 December, girls aged 9-14 years and their mums are warmly welcomed to the home of Rebbetsen Wilson, from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. Learn how to make a variety of Chanukah delicacies and take home what you make! The cost is just £2 per participant. Places are limited to the size of the kitchen and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Application forms are being sent out this Monday and they should be returned to the Shul office by Wednesday 17 December.

### ***Clayhall Administrator***

We are delighted to welcome **Deana Green** as Clayhall's new Administrator. Deana began work last week. We wish her every success as successor to Michelle. Please allow her to get used to the systems and practices of the United Synagogue, and to offer her every encouragement and support over the next few weeks.

### ***Magazine Articles***

Articles, reports, topical stories and pearls of wisdom are all required for the Pesach edition of 'Shalom' magazine. Your written pieces must be sent to either the Editorial Board or the Shul office by mid-January 2009 to guarantee inclusion. So laptops open...start typing!

## ***Family Chanukah Party: Reception to Year Six***

*Please join our family for a  
**Chanukah Party**  
on Sunday 21 December  
from 3.30 pm to 5.45 pm  
Venue from office*

*We hope to see you there for an  
afternoon of fun, games, nosh and supper!*

*We would be delighted if your parents and siblings would join  
us for candle lighting and doughnuts at 4.45 pm.*

*from*

***Rabbi and Rebbetsen Wilson***

*Invitations are being sent out to the community next week.  
RSVP: 17 December to the Wilson family on 020 8551 7359*

**You can sponsor this  
newsheet for just £15 to  
celebrate a Simchah,  
commemorate a  
Yahrzeit, or for no  
reason at all!**

### ***Today in Jewish History: 16 Kislev***

In 1946, the 22nd World Zionist Congress met in Basle. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, Zionist leaders had lost all patience with British hesitation about the creation of a Jewish state. So the Zionists decided to forcibly resist British policy, and Jewish underground movements redoubled their campaign to damage British installations such as rail lines, police stations and army bases. One night in 1946, Ben Gurion's Hagana blew up 12 critical bridges. The efforts were largely successful, and by 1947 Britain declared its intention to withdraw, thus leading to the UN Partition Plan of November 1947.

### ***Shacharis Minyan***

It is becoming very hard to sustain a viable Shacharis daily Minyan. Some mornings, only a handful of men attend while the rest of the time is a constant struggle. Yet, we have a dedicated group, some quite elderly, who are the daily stalwarts. We all share a collective responsibility. If we always leave it to the next person, we negate our responsibility and the mission fails.

### ***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) This is your last opportunity to apply so don't wait. 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.

## ***Yaacov Returns to his Roots by Rabbi Yehudah Appel***

Some years ago, an elderly woman I know traveled with friends in a car across America. For this woman, Denver was the highlight of the trip, for this was where she had spent the first 15 years of her life. After arriving there, she sought out her old neighborhood, and **found the house in which she'd grown up**. The current occupants allowed her to come in, and the woman spent a couple of hours delightedly inside her childhood home, **a wave of serenity enveloped her** - which continued throughout the remainder of the trip. Then, one week after returning home, **she passed away**. Returning to one's roots, to the start of one's journey, can be a powerful human experience. In addition to providing closure, it can also help a person more fully recognize all that has been on the long road of life. A striking example takes place in this week's Sedrah. After a hiatus of some 20 years, Yaacov returns home to Canaan. Two decades earlier, **penniless and in fear**, he had fled his brother Esav. One night, during that fearful journey, at a spot named Beis El, he had a vivid dream in which the Al-mighty promised His help and guidance. Now some 20 years later, after Yaacov re-enters Canaan, the Al-mighty commands him to return to Beis El. This time, however, Yaacov is not alone, for he returns married and with 12 children. Instead of being penniless, he is quite wealthy. And whereas previously he was in fear, now it is the local populace which is frightened of Yaacov and his entourage. But it is not simply his material state that has improved; as well Yaacov is a changed man spiritually. At that earlier encounter with G-d at Beis El, Yaacov had chastised himself for not recognizing the holiness of the place. In the second encounter 20 years later, though, Yaacov knows he is following G-d's instructions, and actually **anticipates a meeting with the Divine**. This spiritual growth of Yaacov is alluded to in a subtle way in the text. After his first encounter with G-d, he erected a "matzeva," **a single-stone pillar**, in acknowledgment of his communion with G-d. At his later visit to Beis El, the Al-mighty tells him to build a "mizbayach," **a multi-stoned altar**. R' Samson Raphael Hirsch explains the distinction between these two modes of worship. The natural single stone pillar, a product of G-d's creation, symbolizes G-d's kindness to man. The altar, however, constructed of various stones assembled by man, reflects a different orientation. It symbolizes man's need to actively involve himself in performing acts that fulfill G-d's will. That is the meaning behind the sacrifices that were placed upon the altar; they symbolize the need to bring oneself closer to G-d and fulfill His bidding. When Yaacov set out on his journey some 20 years earlier, he vowed that if he were to return safely, he would dedicate himself wholly to the service of G-d. Now that the years had passed, he'd successfully returned from exile, and had made tremendous strides in spiritual growth. At this point, Yaacov is ready to start a new chapter in his life. Not surprisingly, **G-d sends him back to the place where his journey began**, giving him the opportunity to reflect on all that has happened during the last two decades. G-d makes this most clear, reminding Yaacov that Beis El is the place "G-d appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esav." (Bereishis 35:1)

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