

קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 3 January 2009/7 Teves 5769

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	3.30 pm
Shabbos ends	4.58 pm
Shabbos next week	3.57 pm

This coming **Tuesday 6 January** is the **Fast of Teves**, known as Asarah B'Teves, literally, "the tenth of Teves." It is a minor fast beginning at 6.16 am and finishing at 4.55 pm. Shacharis will be at the slightly earlier time of **6.45 am** as the service includes leynung and Selichos. Three fast days are observed in memory of the three calamities that befell Israel on the 8th, 9th & 10th of this month. On the 8th, the Torah was translated into Greek by King Ptolemy; on the 9th, Ezra the Scribe and Nechemiah died and all of Israel was clouded by their irreplaceable loss. On the 10th, Nebuchadnetzar, King of Babylon, laid siege to Jerusalem and he surrounded the city for three years until its walls were breached on 17th of Tammuz during the 3rd year of the siege.

Torah Reading

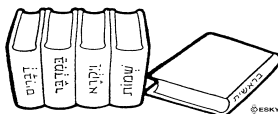
Leyning: Vayigash
Hertz p 169, Soncino p 277

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Haftorah:
Hertz p 178, Soncino p 293

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Minchah will start promptly at 3.30 pm this afternoon followed by Seudah & D'var Torah. After Maariv, we will go outside and recite Kiddush Levanah (Blessing of the Moon).



***This week's Clayhall Kehilla is sponsored by
Lester Harris in loving memory of Lewis Harris z'l (16 Teves)***

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: 25 January, 25 February & 29 March.

Hebrew Reading Course

Come and join our amazing 5 week,
Hebrew Reading Course with
Rabbi Wilson on Sunday mornings.

The course begins on Sunday 11th
January at 11:15 am in the Board
Room at RJCC, and will run for
five consecutive weeks
(Jan 11, 18, 25 and Feb 1,8)

The cost for the course is £15 and
includes the course book
and refreshments.

Remember: Success guaranteed or
your money back!

Facebook

Clayhall Shul has its own *Facebook*
group and events, news and
information will be advertised through
this media. If you are already a
Facebook user, please join the group.
If not, you're missing out on the fastest
growing social networking and
communications channel in the world.
Even Rabbonim use it extensively!

Kashrus Update

Meridian Teriyaki Soya Sauce,
listed as approved and Parev
on page 83 of *The Really
Jewish Food Guide 2008* now
contains white wine and is Not
Kosher. Old stock which does
not list white wine in the
ingredients declaration is still
approved kosher Parev. **Nestle
Smarties** and **Mini Smarties**
are changing to a new formulation
and as of January 2009 will no
longer contain Carminic Acid
(E120) and are approved
kosher Dairy. Please make sure
to check the ingredients
declaration before purchase
as old stock still containing
carminic acid is Not Kosher.

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...and start typing
those prosaic articles!

Project Chesed

Project Chesed, the joint initiative of the United Synagogue and the London School of Jewish Studies, is supporting World Jewish Relief in its Chanukah appeal to light up children's lives around the globe. 30 United Synagogue communities, including **Clayhall**, will be running collections for members to donate new or good-as-new toys and baby products including nappies and wipes—items that most children in the UK take for granted.

To launch the campaign, staff at US head office donated £200 worth of toiletries. The initiative, now in its 2nd year, is set to run from Chanukah until mid-January and hopes to brighten the winter months for thousands of Jewish children throughout Eastern Europe. School sixth formers who recently went on a Tribe trip to Poland are acting as ambassadors for the Chanukah collection.

You can bring your items to the Clayhall Shul office during opening hours only. Please be generous as your contributions will go a long way towards helping Jewish children.

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

Why Fast?

The essential essence of the Fast of Teves, as well as that of other fast days, is not primarily the grief and mourning they evoke. Their aim is rather to awaken the heart towards teshuvah; to recall to us the evil deeds of our fathers, and our own evil deeds which caused anguish to befall both them and us. It thereby causes us to return towards the good. *Vayikra 26, Rambam Hilchos Teshuvah*

Today in Jewish History: 9 Teves

This is the yahrtzeit of Ezra, the leader of the Jewish people at the time of their return from Babylonian exile and the building of the Second Temple. Ezra was the founder of the Great Assembly, a body of 120 prophets and sages who established important matters like the standard text found in Jewish prayer books today. He was an outspoken critic of assimilation, particularly of the masses of Jews who preferred to stay in Babylonia rather than return to Israel. His life and times are recorded in the biblical Book of Ezra. He died in the 4th century BCE.

Television Coverage: Israel/Gaza

If you are concerned about biased coverage of the current situation in Israel, contact the BBC on 03700 100 222. **HonestReporting**, with 140,000 members, is the largest organization fighting media bias in the Middle East conflict. In 2006, HonestReporting launched Media Central, a Jerusalem centre providing support services for foreign journalists in Israel and the region. Their excellent website is well worth visiting: www.honestreporting.com as it is packed full of good articles. It also tells you how to make media complaints.

Live Life by Adam Lieberman

When Yaacov and his family arrived in Egypt, Yosef brought his father to meet Pharaoh. The first words Pharaoh said to Yaacov were: "*How many are the days of the years of your life?*" (Bereishis 47:8)

Of all the things that Pharaoh could ask Yaacov, why did he first want to know how old he was? Or did he? Pharaoh didn't really care to know Yaacov's chronological age. Rather, Pharaoh wanted to know how many **days** that Yaacov actually felt alive in his **life**. Just how many **days** were there where Yaacov lived **life** to its fullest? It was these days that would actually determine the **years** of his life.

People often confuse activity with accomplishment. We can be busy all day long, but how much was actually accomplished? And it gets even worse. What if someone spent the entire day watching television and eating ice cream? Would that really be a day that could be counted as a fulfilling day in our lives? Of course not.

Sadly, many of us are watching television and eating ice cream in our own way. G-d gave each of us a unique and special talent that He wants us to use. Living each day as though it might be your last is a true day in your life. A task will contract or expand depending on how much time we're given. People will inevitably wait until the last minute to finish anything. Whether it's packing for a trip, buying gifts, or completing a project, we all seem to take as much time as we've been given. On Friday night, minutes before Shabbos begins, Jews around the world are rushing to complete their preparations. It doesn't matter whether it's winter and Shabbos arrives at 4:00 or the summer time when it arrives at 8:00, everyone always uses all the time they've been allotted.

Similarly, any personal goals in our life will also contract or expand depending on just how much time we have for it. And since most goals are ones which we want to accomplish during our lifetime, then in theory you have your entire life to achieve them. This is why most people never scratch the surface of their potential. Sadly, the world is full of elderly people in their rocking chairs looking back on a life gone by who are still waiting for the perfect time to begin their goals and live their dreams.

And this is exactly what Pharaoh was asking Yaacov. He wanted to know how many days there were that he actually **lived**. Pharaoh knew Yaacov was such a wise and revered man, so he wanted to know just how many **days** it was that he was able to fight his instinctive urge to put off working toward his goals and aspirations and actually live each day like it might be his last.

Since a task will contract or expand depending upon the time we've been given for its accomplishment, then you can see it's vital to begin right now to live **all** the days... of your life.

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