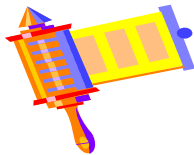




קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 28 February 2009/ 4 Adar 5769

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah	4.55 pm
Shabbos ends	6.25 pm
Shabbos next week	5.35pm

As we edge ever closer towards **Purim**, the Clayhall Thespians, led by the irrepressible **Rabbi Redberg** and his disciples, are turning in hours of rehearsals. Never before has so little been achieved by so many for the benefit of so few. The Kehilla is warmly invited to a Purim Spectacular on **Monday 9th March**. Full details can be found inside your fun-packed newsheet. Tomorrow morning after Shacharis, we are having our monthly sumptuous smoked salmon and beigel breakfast followed by a **Dads n'Lads football frenzy** in the sports hall. The action kicks off at 8.15am with the weary athletes staggering off by 10.45 am. At 11.30 am on Sunday, Rabbi Wilson and Spencer Lewis will be providing information on the Shul's forthcoming **Poland trip**.

Torah Reading

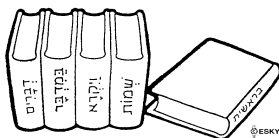
Leyning: Terumah
Hertz p 326, Soncino p 500

Haftorah:
Hertz p 336, Soncino p 515

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Leslie Linder

The four mitzvos of Purim are: hearing the Megillah, giving charity to the poor, giving gifts to friends (mishloach manos) and eating a hearty Purim Seudah!



If you would like to sponsor the Clayhall Kehilla in celebration of a simchah or for any other event, call Deana on 020 8551 6533

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: 29 March & 26 April.

Poland Trip

We will be introducing the Clayhall Community Poland trip at an open meeting with **Rabbi Wilson** and **Mr Spencer Lewis** - Head Teacher, King Solomon High School - on Sunday 1st March. The two day trip will take place on **1st & 2nd November 2009** and will include a full guided tour of Auschwitz and Birkenau, as well as the significant sites of the ancient Jewish quarter of Krakow and its Ghetto. To find out more join us for the launch on Sunday 1st March, 11:30am at RJCC.

Purim@Clayhall

The Daily Minyan describes it as "The Feel good Purim Spiel of the Decade." Come along on Monday 9th March for an evening of spiritual bliss, gastro delights and thespian embarrassment! It all starts at 6.35 pm with Minchah followed by the Megilla reading by the irrepressible Adrian Alexander at 6.44 pm. The amazing fish n' chips supper party kicks off at 7.29 pm with a fancy dress competition. Then the big one...at 8.14 pm, the world premiere of *Strictly Come Davening* treads the boards. Just as a soufflé can't rise twice, this will be your only chance to witness such mediocrity!

Shacharis Minyan

The weekly Shacharis Minyan continues to struggle despite the very best efforts of a few dedicated people. Although most mornings provide the quorum of 10 men, it is often more by luck than design. Tuesdays are particularly poor and **any** help that you can give will be gladly received. Our 'squad' is getting smaller and smaller and this is putting extra strain on our depleted resources. Please make every effort to support your Shul.

Rosh Chodesh Group

The next Rosh Chodesh group is on **Tuesday 3rd March 2009** at venue from the office. All ladies are cordially invited and the evening begins at 8.30 pm. Rebbetsen Wilson will talk about the interesting topic of "*The Megilla as a Lesson for Life*" as a prelude to Purim. **Mrs Yael Hamer** will be the guest speaker at the next Rosh Chodesh group on **24 March** at the same venue. Refreshments follow on both evenings.

Strictly Come Davening - A Purim Unspectacular

With Purim fast approaching, rehearsals are beginning for this year's Purim Show. The premier performance will take place on Purim night, Monday 9th March, after the Megilla reading. Members of the all-star cast have been limbering up and gargling with raw egg in attempt to prepare themselves for this year's incredible thespian performance. If previous years' are anything to go by, expect another record breaking, box-office hit performance that will leave you feeling inspired, uplifted and genuinely moved!

This year features an all-star cast of breathtaking talent including many younger members of the theatrical company.

Times for Purim services can be found on the adjacent page.

Care & Support

If you know of anyone who is unwell, hospitalised, house-bound or just in need of company, please contact the Shul office. Rabbi Wilson and the welfare team can arrange home or hospital visits, shopping or befriending. Sometimes, the Shul does not always hears when an individual is in need of support so please don't hesitate to call the office. The Shul will try to help in any way possible.

Children's Service

Our fortnightly Children's service next takes place on 7th March for children aged 3-10 years. The morning is a fun mix of davening, games, stories, songs and plenty of nosh. See you at 10.30 followed by Kiddush!

Shlock Rock in Town!

Direct from Israel, you can keep on shlocking with the great Lenny Solomon and his band on Saturday evening **28 March 2009**. The concert takes place live at Wanstead & Woodford Shul. Doors open at 8.00 pm and admission is by ticket only. The cost is £12.50 for adults and £10 for concessions. Family discounts are also available.

For bookings, please call **07958 608 830** or you can email: woodforyouth@gmail.com
Free food vouchers are being given to all Tribe members!

G-d Dwelling on Earth Below by Rabbi Yehuda Appel

Some years ago, while teaching Jewish Ethics at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, I gave my students a difficult assignment: They were to go through an entire day without talking. (In classical Judaism, this is called a *"taanis dibur"* - literally, a "talking fast.") During the day, they were not allowed to speak to anyone unless absolutely necessary. When the students reported back their experiences, they expressed shock at what they discovered about interpersonal relationships. For example, one woman named Stephanie said she had held a "conversation" with a friend for over an hour. The friend, unaware that Stephanie was on the *"taanit dibur,"* just kept on talking. At the end of the "conversation," the friend thanked Stephanie for "one of the best conversations I've ever had!"

Many people would rather hear themselves talk than listen to what others have to say. However, Judaism teaches that hearing - going beyond oneself - is more important than self-expression. This is one reason why Torah study is deemed superior to prayer. While prayer is an expression of our thoughts, the Torah is the embodiment of the Al-mighty's thoughts. In contrast to many other religions where the primary dynamic of the religious experience is man finding G-d, in Judaism the major focus is the giving of the Torah, where G-d made Himself known to man.

This concept of G-d "coming down" to be with man is explored in this week's Sedra. Much of the Parsha describes the Mishkan, the portable sanctuary which contained the Ark and the tablets of the Ten Commandments. Regarding this Mishkan, G-d tells Moshe, *"Make for Me a tabernacle and I will dwell AMONG THEM."* G-d is not distant, He wants to dwell among the Israelites.

This dwelling of the Al-mighty among the Israelite encampment was manifest in many ways. For example, it was from between the Cherubim (the golden figurines atop the Ark) that Moshe and Aaron would hear the voice of the Al-mighty. The Midrash says that G-d's presence which came down upon Mount Sinai, then contracted and moved itself to the Mishkan where it rested on top of the ark. In this way, the Mishkan was a permanent manifestation of the revelation at Sinai. This is particularly significant in light of the sin of the Golden Calf. After that tragic event, the Al-mighty withdrew Himself from the Jewish People. His return to the Mishkan, however, signaled reconciliation between the children of Israel and their G-d. Another Midrash, however, gives an entirely different reason for God's presence in the sanctuary. The Midrash describes a king who loved his only daughter dearly and never wanted to be separated from her. In giving his daughter's hand in marriage, the king stipulated one condition: that the young couple agree to build a small portable guest-house, so he could travel with the young couple wherever they might go.

The Midrash explains this was the intention behind the building of the Mishkan. Anxious to maintain proximity with His only daughter, the Torah, G-d had constructed a Mishkan in which both He could also "dwell." The nuances of this Midrash are of course many. But an essential point is that through the Torah, the Al-mighty gave that wisdom to the Israelites which was dearest to His heart.

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