



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 16 May 2009/ 22 Iyar 5769

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur	7.25 pm
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.15 pm
Shabbos ends	9.46 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30pm

We wish Mazel Tov to **Ryan Alicoon** and his family on Ryan's Bar Mitzvah aliyah this morning although the 'main event' takes place on Shabbos 6 June.

The Clayhall Shul AGM takes place this Tuesday 19 May at 8 pm prompt after Minchah and Ma'ariv. Voting commences from 6 pm and finishes at 8 pm. Please make every effort to be at the AGM and bring the various papers (previously sent) with you. Flower tubs (14"-16" in diameter) containing an assortment of summer flowering plants have been ordered for **Shavuos**. After Shavous they are available for members to purchase at a discounted rate of £15 each. To reserve your beautiful tub, please contact Deana in the Shul office on 8551 6533.

Torah Reading

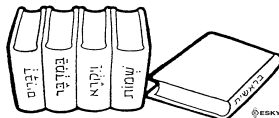
Leyning: Behar-Bechukosai
Hertz p 531, Soncino p 764

Haftorah:
Hertz p 551, Soncino p 789

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Leslie Pollock

The next Sunday morning breakfast and Dads n'Lads football takes place on Sunday 24 May. Invitations have been sent via Facebook.



You can sponsor the Clayhall Kehilla for just £15 in celebration of a simchah or to commemorate a Yahrzeit, or for no reason at all!

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.

Minchah & Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 25th May, 28th June & 2nd August

Adventure Activity Day

For all those young people in school years 6-10, there will be a great day out to Gilwell Park Scout Camp on **Sunday 31 May**. So if you fancy your hand at archery, wall climbing and canoeing, then this is for you. Details are on the Clayhall Shul *Facebook* page and a flyer will also be sent out very shortly with an application form. The day starts at 10.30 am and finishes by 3.15 pm. A packed lunch is needed. The cost for Tribe members is £15 each and for non-Tribe members, the cost is £19. For more information, please speak to Rabbi Wilson.

Clayhall Shabbaton

The very last day for applying for places at our Shabbaton that takes place next Shabbos is tomorrow (Sunday) by 11am. After that the list will be closed. The cost is £13 per adult, £8 for under 16's and £5 for under 12's. The programme ends at 3.45 pm with ice cream. We are honoured that **Rabbi Yehudah Lieberman** will be our guest speaker. He is an erudite scholar and he has made a huge contribution to both formal and informal education.

Shul Calendar & Magazine

Your insertions are needed for the new Shul calendar. Birthdays, anniversaries, yahrtzeits can be included. This year, Bar and Bas mitzvah dates can be highlighted. Forms were recently sent out but there are spare ones in the office. These should either be returned to **Ruth Lyndon** directly or given to Deana in the office. If you have had a simchah since 1 March or will be celebrating one before 15 July, let **Cynthia Simmons** have a photograph for the Rosh Hashanah edition of *Shalom*. Contact her on 8550 8018.

New Shiur Series

Rabbi Wilson's afternoon Shabbos Shiur series will be based on *Be'er Hagulah* of the Maharal of Prague. This far reaching classic work of the Maharal teaches us to analyse the Aggadic passages of the Talmud and unlock the deeper wisdom hidden within. The Shiurim continue this afternoon, **Shabbos 16 May**. They will always start 50 minutes before Minchah and everyone is warmly welcome.

Tikun Leil Shavuos

One of our annual highlights is the Tikun Leil Shavuos. Single malts, lashings of cheesecake, and some great home-grown, inspiring words of Torah provide the perfect blend. We are delighted that Freda & Leslie Pollock are again hosting the event at 149 Herent Drive, Clayhall. It starts on **Thursday 28 May** at 11.45 pm until about 3.30 am. We will then daven Shacharis around 4.00 am. For those not too nocturnal, the Shavuos morning service will be repeated at 9.00 am in Shul. There is no need to attend both services!

Rabbi Wilson's keynote lecture is *"Running for your Life: the Ethics of Pandemics and Contagious Diseases."* This is a very contemporary and intriguing topic. Before that, others will provide short Divrei Torah. If you would like to speak, please let either Lester or Michael know in advance. It is suggested that each contribution should not exceed 10 minutes so as to give everyone a fair chance.

The custom for the Tikun Leil has its source in the Zohar: 'Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai would toil in the study of Torah on the night when the bride (Israel) is reunited with her groom (G-d and the Torah)...Rabbi Shimon and his group would rejoice in the joy of Torah and each one of them would seek new insights into it.

Indulgence Evening

CLASS (Clayhall Ladies Association) invites all ladies to a meeting on **Monday 1 June 2009** to chat about the next fundraising event. This will be **An Indulgence Evening** but the group would like to receive your input and ideas first. This will hopefully ensure that the event is a resounding success that raises a lot of money for the Shul. For more information, please contact Cynthia Simmons on 020 8550 8018. Otherwise, just pop along on the 1st.

Children's Ice Cream Kiddush

The Children's Service will be having a special Shavuos ice-cream Kiddush on **Shabbos (2nd day Yom Tov) 30 May**. There will be plenty of haribos, marshmallows, sprinkles and, of course, delicious ice cream - children only!

Your Money or Your Life!

This is the title of the summer series of Shiurim being given by local Rabbonim on Shabbos afternoon. The first talk on **13 June** is being given by **Rabbi Wilson** at 19 Lakeside Avenue. On successive weeks, Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman, Rabbi Aryeh Sufrin, Rabbi Alex Chapper and Rabbi Moshe Muller will continue the series in their homes. Each presentation begins at 6.00 pm and includes refreshments. As we all try to survive the economic crisis, come and learn what Judaism teaches us in these trying times. There is no need to pre-book.

Repairing the World by Rabbi Yehudah Appel

Judaism recognizes that everyone has a particular role to fulfill in this world. The mystical teachings state that with each waking hour G-d grants us, there comes an **accompanying responsibility** to in some way help repair the world. This concept of "**Tikkun Olam**," repairing the world, also extends to repairing our own selves. Every person has one dominant area of weakness (whether it be gossip, dishonesty, arrogance, etc.) where they need to focus attention in order to accomplish a "personal tikkun." In fact, explain the Sages, the need to correct this area of weakness is why a person has been put into the world in the first place!

A corollary to this idea, is the belief that everyone should select a particular mitzvah to observe to the utmost of their abilities. Whether it be giving charity, visiting the sick, keeping kosher or whatever, this "one special mitzvah" helps focus a person to "go all out" in one area of spiritual growth. Moreover, each person's special mitzvah can serve as a "defending angel" on the day of judgement.

This week's Sedra, Bechukosai, deals with the tremendous responsibilities given to the Jewish people. Just as each individual has a task to improve the world, so too the Jewish people have that role.

In the parsha, G-d addresses the Jewish people collectively, informing them of the severity of judgements - ranging from illness to exile - that they will face if they do not follow His path. The harshness of these afflictions can be seen as a direct correlation to the **importance of the Jewish people's mission**. As the nation who has been entrusted with G-d's instructions for creating a perfect society, the Jewish people are held to a higher standard. On the other hand, at the beginning of the parsha, G-d promises the Jewish people that "if you walk in My laws and guard My commandments," you will be blessed with great peace and wealth. As much potential as there is for tragedy, great blessing can also be theirs.

Of course the big question is what does the Torah mean when it says "if you walk in My laws?" What exactly is expected of the Jewish people? *Rashi* explains that "walk in My laws" means that **everywhere we walk we should be studying Torah**. The Jews are to engross themselves in the study of Torah and become a nation of scholars. The Sfas Emes, a great 19th century Chassidic rabbi, says this goes beyond the simple acquisition Torah wisdom. Walking in G-d's laws means to become so connected to the will of G-d that the **presence of the Almighty becomes manifest on earth**.

This in turn teaches a profound insight into the nature of each person's individual "Tikkun." This is accomplished when the individual becomes an instrument of expressing G-d's will here on earth. And this is truly **the deepest meaning of Tikkun Olam**.

Clayhall United Synagogue

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