



# קליהל קהילה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 4 July 2009/ 12 Tammuz 5769*

## *Service Times*

Shacharis	9.00 am
Pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur	8.00 pm
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.50 pm
Shabbos ends	10.24 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30pm

This Thursday 9 July is the **Fast of Tammuz**, when we remember the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem that ultimately led to the Destruction of the Second Temple. The day marks the start of the Three Weeks period of mourning leading up to Tisha B'Av. There are more details inside the *Clayhall Kehilla*.

Next Shabbos we are holding our annual **Pimms, Stella and Ice Cream Kiddush** preceded by an interactive sermon! On the following day, the annual **5-a-side football tournament** kicks off at 2.30 pm at RJCC. Tomorrow is your last chance to submit applications and the grand Beefy BBQ will be a welcome treat after for all those wearisome men and boys!

## *Torah Reading*

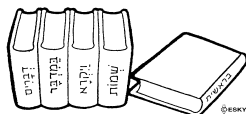
Leyning: Chukas-Balak  
Hertz p 652, Soncino p 898

*Rabbi Nissan Wilson*

Haftorah:  
Hertz p 682, Soncino p 929

*Daniel Finegold*

*We will daven Shacharis at 6.40 am this Thursday 9 July: the Fast of Tammuz. The Fast begins at 1.12 am and ends at 10.18 pm.*



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by Lester Harris on the occasion of another birthday*

**Children's Service:** 10.30 am - 11.15 am (27 June & 11 July)

### ***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: 2nd August & 13 September

***New  
Exciting  
Cool  
Stimulating  
Fun  
Coming Soon  
Not Long Now!  
Be Patient!***

### ***Children's Service***

The next Children's Service, led by Naomi Harris, is on **Shabbos 11 July** with songs, games, quizzes, stories and prizes. All are warmly welcome from the ages of 3 to 10 years. We look forward to seeing you. The last date before the summer break is Shabbos 25 July. Invitations to a **Shabbos afternoon get-together** on 25 July will shortly be sent to those children who attend the service on a regular basis. This will be an afternoon of fun, games and tea.

### ***Genesis Events***

Following the success of the Chicago Bridge and Kalooki evening in May, the Genesis committee are organising a Supper Quiz on **Sunday 18 October** at RJCC and a Bingo evening on **Sunday 6 December** also at RJCC.

These are important fund raising events for the Shul as well as being fun social evenings. More details will follow nearer the time. In March, Genesis is planning a "*Clayhall's Got Talent*" evening. It is hoped that this will be a major source of new funds to be used for the benefit of Clayhall Shul.

### ***Shalom Magazine***

Articles, news stories, items of interest and especially Shul-related pieces are all required for the Rosh Hashanah edition of the 'Shalom' magazine. You need to submit your chosen media no later than Monday **20 July 2009** either to Martin Greenberg, Editor, or to Deana in the Shul office. Similarly, if you would like to advertise in the magazine, please also call Martin or Johnny Lyndon who will be able to help you.

## ***Fast of Tammuz***

Five tragic events occurred on the 17th of Tammuz: The (First) Tablets were broken; the *Tamid* offering was discontinued in the days of the First Temple; the walls of Jerusalem were breached in the days of the Second Temple; the wicked Apostomos burned the Torah, and placed an idolatrous image in the Temple. Prior to the Destruction of the First Temple, the walls were breached on the 9th of Tammuz as it says, "*In the fourth month on the ninth of the month, and the famine became severe in the city...And the city was breached*" (Jeremiah 52:6-7). The Sages did not want to burden the nation with two fasts in such close proximity; so they selected the 17th of Tammuz as a fast since it was a prelude to the present exile and it also commemorates the other tragic events that occurred on it.

This is the opinion of the *Talmud Bavli (Taanis 28b)*. *Talmud Yerushalmi* however is of the opinion that at the time of the First Destruction, the walls were, in fact, breached on the 17th of Tammuz. However, the people were so thoroughly consumed by fear and dread of the enemy that they mixed up all their calendar dates. In their confusion, they thought that the 17th of Tammuz was actually the 9th, and that is the date which Jeremiah recorded for all time to teach us how utterly distraught the people of Jerusalem were when the Destruction came.

### ***Indulgence Evening***

The Clayhall Ladies Association (CLASS) is holding An Indulgence Evening on **Thursday 3 September** from 7.30 pm until 10.30 pm at RJCC. So how about a new hat, a relaxation session, beautiful nails or a facial? Or are you are a qualified beautician or do you have suitable items for sale? Would you like to participate I this event by taking a stall? For more details, please contact Cynthia Simmons on 8550 8018 or you can email her at [cindyess@talktalk.net](mailto:cindyess@talktalk.net)

### ***Adult Education***

Shortly, a new adult education programme will begin catering for all tastes and levels. Members will be sent more information as soon as possible. The next ladies Rosh Chodesh group is due to take place on **Tuesday 21 July** at the home of Rebbetsen Wilson. More details will follow soon.

### ***Communal Family Event***

"*The Challenge of the Jewish Family in the 21st Century*" is the eye-catching title of a pre-High Holy Day programme taking place on **Sunday 6 September** from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm at King Solomon High School. The cost is £5 while under 16's are free. A full and thought-provoking few hours includes life coaching, and exploring family and relationships through Jewish sources. Lunch is available. For more information, please speak to **Fiona Elias** on 020 8498 1300 or email her at: [felias@kshonline.com](mailto:felias@kshonline.com)

## ***Admitting Weakness by Adam Lieberman***

In this week's second Sedra, a king named Balak wanted to curse the Jewish people. He sought out a prophet named Balaam to carry out this wish and sent his officers to summon him. Balaam asked G-d if he could go, but G-d immediately told him not to go and curse the Jewish people because they were a people who were "blessed." But when Balaam relayed this answer to the king's officers, Balaam left that part out and only said: "...*God refuses to let me go with you.*" (Bamidbar, 22:13).

G-d had told Balaam two distinct and specific points in response to his request to go and curse the Jewish people. First, G-d emphatically told Balaam not to go and second, to not curse the Jewish people because they are blessed. But when Balaam relayed this simple and brief response, he left out 50 percent of what G-d said! G-d made it very clear to Balaam that it would be completely futile to even attempt to curse the Jews because they are a blessed nation. But to an arrogant and haughty prophet -- which Balaam certainly was -- he could never bring himself to admit his own powers lacked any limitations. So instead of telling the king's delegates that Balaam was simply the wrong man for the job and would be completely ineffective and incapable of doing the king's bidding, he chose to omit all of this and "pass the buck" to G-d by only saying that G-d said he wasn't allowed to go. It's what Balaam purposely didn't say that can teach us all a valuable lesson in our own lives. To most people, it's clear that G-d gave each of us certain unique strengths and talents whereby certain things that just seem to "naturally" to us. But it is also equally clear that G-d *didn't* give us certain skills and strengths. Whether we're not good at math, directions, instruction manuals, drawing, or organization -- we all have weaknesses. While some of these weaknesses are things we might continually work on to become better people, there are some things that we are just plain not good at, and that's just how it is!

But those with low self-esteem have a difficult time ever admitting they lack any skill or ability. They wrongly believe that an acknowledgement of a lack of talent in any area would be a direct reflection on their own self-worth. However, the exact opposite is true. Those who can readily and easily admit that they aren't "good" at something aren't showing weakness or incompetence. Rather, it demonstrates honesty, strength and self-confidence. Others will look at this person and see someone who is comfortable with the strengths and talents that they DO have and need not proclaim to all they meet that they're good at everything. Balaam was just too proud to admit he couldn't do what someone had requested of him.

Let's learn from this the next time you're asked to do something that you're either not that skilled at or are outright incapable of doing. Contrary to what Balaam believed, telling people you're not the right person for the job will actually make you shine in their eyes, because it means you have the confidence to say so. It also sends the message that when you do take on a task, you unquestionably believe that you'll deliver great results.

### ***Clayhall United Synagogue***

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