



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 23 January 2010/ 8 Shevat 5770*

## **Service Times**

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah Shlishis	3.55 pm
Shabbos ends	5.25 pm
Shabbos next week	4.29 pm

We are delighted to welcome back **Freda and Leslie Pollock** to Clayhall this Shabbos. The Kehilla is making a Kiddush in their honour to pay tribute to their sterling work and commitment to the Shul in the many years they enjoyed living here. Freda and Leslie moved to Bushey in November and we will miss their active participation and involvement in our community. We wish them both many more years of good health and happiness. Tonight we are holding our **Melava Malka** at 8.00 pm and we look forward to welcoming **Dayan Yonasan Abraham** and **Gedayla Alexander** - a talented and inspiring line-up. There are unfortunately no more places available.

## **Torah Reading**

Leyning: Bo

Hertz p 248 Soncino p 377

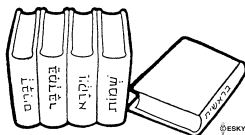
Haftorah:

Hertz p 263, Soncino p 404

**Rabbi Nissan Wilson**

**Victor Shafier**

*You don't have to wait for a Simchah to sponsor the weekly Kiddush or the monthly breakfast. A cakes, biscuits and wine Kiddush starts from as little as £50 while the Sunday breakfast can be sponsored for £35. Speak to Deana in the office.*



***This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Leila & Dennis Abrahams on the occasion of Dennis's 83rd birthday***

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

### ***Weekday Services***

Shacharis: Monday & Thursday, 6.50 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.

Shacharis: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 7.00 am.

Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 6.40 am Monday-Friday, Sundays 8am.

Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 14 February & 21 March

Lunch & Learn: 19 February

### ***Hebrew Reading In 5 Weeks!***

Learn to Read Hebrew in 5 Weeks  
Whether you've never read Hebrew  
before or your reading just needs a  
bit of polishing

join Rabbi Wilson for a 5 week  
adventure.

Starts: Wednesday 3rd February  
at 8.00pm

in the Board Room at Sinclair House  
Pre booking is essential.

Call the Shul office on 0208 551 6533

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

**You really CAN do it!**

### ***Tu B'Shevat***

This year, Tu B'Shevat (New Year for  
Trees) falls on Shabbos 30 January.  
Aside from the custom of eating 15  
different fruits, there is also the lovely  
minhag of completing a **Tu B'Shevat  
Seder**. Rabbi Wilson will be conducting  
this at our Shabbos Seudah Shilishis  
between Minchah and Ma'ariv.

Everyone is cordially invited to learn  
more about this special day. Minchah  
will start at 4.00 pm and the Seudah  
should commence by 4.30 pm with  
Ma'ariv at 5.36 pm.

### ***A Polite Request***

Would you try to ensure that  
any names of people that you  
want to include in the Refueh  
Shelemah prayer are added to  
the regular list. This might stop  
the growing queue around the  
Bimah during this time.

### ***Clayhall's Got Talent***

This fund raising event takes  
place on **Sunday 21 March** at  
RJCC, starting at 7.30 pm.  
Further details are on the Shul  
notice board or please speak  
to Philip Shamplina if you would  
like to participate. This is your  
chance to hit the dizzy showbiz  
heights of stardom!

### ***Ladies Quiz***

Clayhall Ladies Association  
(CLASS) are holding a £6  
Recession Buster Quiz on  
**Tuesday 23 February 2010** at  
Sinclair House. This is a ladies-  
only event. It is hoped that the  
quiz will raise extra funds for the  
Shul. Please do your best to  
support by trying to organise a  
table. More details will follow.  
Meanwhile, contact Cynthia  
Simmons for extra information.

## *Three Weddings & A Bar Mitzvah - A Purim Unspectacular*

*With Purim fast approaching, feverish rehearsals are  
Set to begin for this year's Purim Show.*

*The premier performance will take place on Purim  
night, Saturday 27th February, after the  
Megillah reading and fish n'chips supper.*

*Members of the all-star cast have been selected  
following a rigorous process. There is an air of  
underwhelming anticipation with critics hailing the  
closely guarded script as a "mesmerising piece of  
prosaic prose wrapped up in an enigmatic and  
effervescent enigma."*

*Words alone can't truly describe the experience.*

### **Purim@Clayhall**

After 3 years of blockbusting Purim Spiels that sent the critics wild, Purim 5770 is destined to scale new heights of dramatic and musical prowess. Starring anyone brave enough to take the heat with the kitchen, the one, and thankfully, only performance takes place on Saturday evening **27 February 2010** after the Megillah reading. You have been warned! Casting and rehearsals are being held in a secret location far away from Redberg Shul.

Ma'ariv will start at **6.35 pm** followed by Megillah reading. Our great value -for-money fish and chip supper (£4 adults, £2 u/16's) will be about **7.30 pm** and the Purim Spiel should begin no later than **8.15 pm**. Somewhere in between all the excitement will be a prize fancy dress competition!

### **From the Shtetl to La Scala**

Enjoy an evening of popular Jewish music and operatic arias in aid of **Chai Cancer Care** on Sunday 21 February at 7.30 pm at Hendon Synagogue, Raleigh Close, NW4. Featuring Tsudik Greenwald, Israel's rising star, making his UK debut; Menachem Bristowski, world renowned pianist; and accompanied by child prodigy, Orad Katz aged 11. This is a ticket only event and they must be bought in advance. Please see Lester Harris for application forms and more information.

### **Welfare & Pastoral**

The Shul's Welfare Task Group is always available to help members of the Community with hospital visitation, befriending and shopping. Please talk in confidence to either Rabbi Wilson or Colin Emden at your convenience.

## ***The Big Minute by Rabbi Shaul Rosenblatt***

When G-d informs Moshe of the tenth and final plague, he tells him that it will happen at "approximately" midnight. *Rashi*, the great commentator, asks why G-d was not more exact. Doesn't G-d have a watch? He answers that timekeeping was an inexact science in those days. Were G-d to have said "exactly" midnight, people might have confused their timings and thought that it was G-d, and not them, who had made a mistake. To avoid potential confusion, G-d says "approximately."

At first glance, this answer makes no sense. Let's put it in context for a moment. G-d has brought ten miraculous plagues upon Egypt - blood, locust with iron teeth, hail with fire inside, darkness that is palpable... These miracles are about to climax with the slaying of every firstborn Egyptian in a single moment. And G-d is worried that because someone might not have an atomic clock, he will think that G-d's not as cool as he says He is?! The answer, quite simply, is yes. We, human beings, are always looking for ways to doubt G-d. We are constantly on the lookout for excuses. People often say to me that they don't believe in G-d. But if G-d were to split the ceiling and come through to talk to them, then they certainly would. There is no answer to such an argument, of course. G-d is not a performing dog. One can debate the hypothetical all day.

Of one thing I am confident, though - were such a miracle to happen, the person would still find a reason why it wasn't G-d. Maybe it was a dream, maybe he was hallucinating, maybe the rabbi pulled a good trick because he wants to convince me that G-d exists...

When a person does not wish for something to be true, for subjective reasons, all the evidence in the world will not convince him.

There is no lack of evidence for G-d's existence, for one who wishes to look. But for many, the thought of discovering G-d to be an objective reality has too many painful, even horrific ramifications: absolute morality, eternal consequences to decisions, and nowhere to run. Who would want all of that? People would so much rather that G-d not exist. And it is so easy to subconsciously ignore all the evidence, when one has already decided what one wishes to conclude.

For the person who does not wish to discover that which stares him in the face, then if the tenth plague begins a minute late, that will be excuse enough. It need not be rational. It need not be convincing. It need only be something to grasp onto. And a minute is plenty to grasp onto, when the consequences are great, and the conclusion has already been reached.

**(This article and many others may be read on [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com))**

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