



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 30 January 2010/ 15 Shevat 5770

Service Times (Tu B'Shevat & Shabbos Shirah)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah Shlishis	4.00 pm
Shabbos ends	5.36 pm
Shabbos next week	4.42 pm

Today is the New Year for Trees (Tu B'Shevat). The Kehilla is also paying tribute to a community stalwart, **Hermi Rothman**, in honour of his recent book, "Hitler's Will." Everyone is cordially invited to Kiddush after the service in celebration of the book's publication. *An old man was planting a tree. A young person passed by and asked, What are you planting? A carob tree, the old man replied. Silly fool, said the youth. Don't you know that it takes 70 years for a carob tree to bear fruit? That's ok, said the old man. Just as others planted for me, I plant for future generations. "For as the days of a tree shall be the days of my people" (Isaiah 65:22). Happy Tu B'Shevat!*

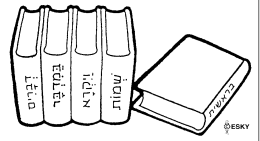
Torah Reading

Leyning: Beshalach
 Hertz p 265 Soncino p 407
 Haftorah:
 Hertz p 281, Soncino p 434

Lester Harris

Hermi Rothman

*This afternoon between Minchah and Ma'ariv, Rabbi Wilson will be leading a **Tu B'Shevat Seder** at the Seudah Shilishis. All men and ladies are warmly welcome. The Seudah will begin by 4.30 pm while Ma'ariv starts at 5.36 pm.*



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by the Clayhall community in honour of Hermi Rothman

Children's Service: 10.30am - 11.15am (6 February)

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: 4 March

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.

Man is a Tree: A Time to Grow

The source for Tu B'Shevat is the opening statement of the Talmudic Tractate, Rosh Hashanah. Just as you are gnawing that slab of chocolate from the carob tree, ask yourself: Am I getting the spiritual food and shelter I need to survive, or is my tree being blown down by information overload and rampant materialism? Am I part of a strong, Jewish community offering a warm and nurturing environment? Or am I cast into the pale bleak anonymity of urban life and wasteful cyberspace? Am I looking to future generations knowing that I am setting proper foundations for their lives?

Kosher Alerts Update

Twinnings Winter Spice Infusion contains Natural Wine Flavouring and is therefore not Kosher. All other Twinnings teas are permitted. The following products, listed as approved and Parev, have changed formulation and are not Kosher:

Bird's p.49

NK Brandy Flavour Sauce Mix
Typhoo p.63

NK QT Instant Tea
Schwartz Classic BBO

Seasoning, listed on p.96 as approved and Parev, has changed formulation and is now Dairy.

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.

Balance in the Metaphysical Realm by Rabbi Yehuda Appel

In a fascinating essay, the Maharal discusses the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle. He posits that ingrained in both the physical and metaphysical realms is a bias towards balance. He cites the unusual example of a dying person. It is not uncommon to see a patient given up for dead suddenly acquire a burst of strength and energy. But, just as one's hopes are rising for his recovery, the patient suddenly passes away.

Human beings, the Maharal writes, "are points of life, surrounded by death," and this last minute "flickering of the candle" is the soul's final attempt to maintain the natural equilibrium that exists between life and death.

The Chida, the Sephardic mystic, also discusses balance. He says that where the opportunities for spiritual advancement are greatest, one also finds the greatest challenges to spiritual growth. Like Purim, which is the day of the year when the heavenly gates of prayer are opened widest to us and we are given the greatest opportunity to have our prayers answered. Therefore, you might think we'd be spending all day in the synagogue! On the contrary, Purim is set up so that the very celebratory nature of the day act as a great obstacle to spiritual elevation. If one is not careful, Purim can be the day of the year when you have the least amount of concentration and success when praying.

In this week's Sedra, we are told of the Exodus from Egypt, of the conflict between G-d and the Egyptian army at the Reed Sea, and of the annihilation of Pharaoh's forces. So stupendous and unexpected was the news of this Egyptian defeat that all the surrounding nations were paralysed by fear of the Jewish People.

At this point, the Jewish People had the opportunity to cement this exalted status vis a vis the nations of the world. But alas, they faltered in their relationship with G-d, and the tide turned in favor of their enemies. Forgetting all the miracles and wonders G-d had performed for them, they muttered harsh words against the Almighty - blaming Him for the thirst they now felt in the desert.

This behavior created a tremendous imbalance in the metaphysical realm: On one hand, the non-Jewish nations possessed great awe of the Jewish G-d. But on the other hand, the Jews themselves lacked proper reverence for the Almighty.

As it stood, the Jewish People were benefiting unduly: The non-Jewish fear of G-d gave the Jews a tremendous military advantage. This imbalance had to be redressed, and it could only be changed in one of two ways: Either the Jewish People would become more G-d fearing, or the gentiles would lose their fear of the Jewish nation and their G-d.

Tragically, the Jews did not change. As a result, they were attacked by the Amalekites, a nation famous for their disrespect toward G-d. When the other nations saw them attack Israel, their own fears of the Jewish nation abated. A famous Midrash likens the actions of the Amalekites to the entrance of the first person into a very hot tub; until the first person steps into it, no one wants to go into the tub, but after that first step is made everyone is willing to enter. Until the Amalekites attacked, everyone was afraid of the Jewish nation. After the attack, much of this fear dissipated. The imbalance in the metaphysical realm balance had been restored, albeit with tragic consequences. *(adapted from www.aish.com)*

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