



קליהל קהילה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 7 August 2010/ 27 Menachem Av 5770

Service Times (Shabbos Mevorachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah Shlishis	8.00 pm
Shabbos ends	9.33 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30 pm

We are delighted that **Eli Simons** is leyning for us this Shabbos as Rabbi Wilson is on holiday. Today we bless the new month of Ellul which means that Rosh Hashanah is just a month or so away!

Rosh Chodesh is this Tuesday and Wednesday, 10/11 August, and Shacharis will be at 6.40 am on both mornings. It is also the time of year when many people are on holiday and therefore support for the **daily Minyanim** is even more important. Times of services are inside the newsheet. Please do your best to support them. Details of **August events** such as the Ladies hat sale, the Lunch n' Learn and 5-a-side football/netball & BBQ are all in your action-packed *Clayhall Kehilla*.

Torah Reading

Leyning: Re'eh

Hertz p 799, Soncino p 1055

Eli Simons

Haftorah:

Hertz p 818, Soncino p 1076

Leslie Linder

The Clayhall Kehilla can be sponsored for just £15 while the monthly Sunday breakfast can be sponsored for £45. Please speak to Deana in the Shul office on 020 8551 6533 to book your slot.



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by
Geoffrey Rosenberg in honour of his dear parents*

Children's Service: 10.30am - 11.15am (resumes 4 September)

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: 15 August.

Lunch & Learn: 19 August

Lunch & Learn

The next popular Lunch & Learn event takes place on **Thursday 19 August** in the Boardroom at RJCC. Rabbi Wilson's intriguing title is *"Dipping the Apple in the Honey and other Gastronomic Customs."* The cost is just £4 per person and it begins at 12.45 pm. Please let Gordon Miller know if you are coming.

NEROS Selichos Service

The NEROS Selichos Service takes place on Saturday evening **4 September** at Ilford Federation Synagogue, Coventry Road. The reception begins at 10.45 pm followed by the service at 11.30 pm. The guest speaker is **Rabbi Yehudah Black** from Kenton Shul and the guest Chazzan is **Adrian Alexander** who will be accompanied by the choir of the Cockfosters and Southgate Shul conducted by Harvey Rosen.

Ladies Hat Sale

Worried where that new hat is coming from for Rosh Hashanah? Then support the Ladies hat sale on Wednesday **25 August** and pick up a millinery delight. It starts at 7.30 pm at the home of Hilary and Robert Segall, 17 Fernhall Gardens, Redbridge. The entrance cost is a small £2 and refreshments will be served. All ladies are warmly welcome.

Tribe Intern

For the second year running, we are delighted to welcome a *Tribe* Intern Rabbi to run a youth programme over the Yomim Noraim period. **Rabbi Jonathan Jaffert** from Canada and his wife will be taking youth services over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Letters of invitation will be sent directly to all young people from school years 7-11 nearer the time with more information and times of the programme.

Chatanim & Eshet Chayil

We wish Mazel Tov to our well-deserved Chatanim and Eshet Chayil and their families for this coming Succos and Simchas Torah. They are **Reb Berek Obuchowski** (Chatan Torah), **Jeffrey Simmons** (Chatan Bereshis), and **Lydia Freedman** (Eshet Chayil).

Memorial Forms

Please return the Memorial Forms sent out this week by Monday 9 August. Names of loved ones will be read out publicly during Yizkor on Yom Kippur.

Football & BBQ

The annual 5-a-side football tournament is now taking place on **Sunday 29 August** from 2.30 pm at RJCC. It will be followed later by a BBQ also at RJCC which will start at 6.30 pm. Further details will be sent out shortly. There will be a girls/ladies netball event running concurrently with the football. If you would like to take part, please speak to either **Rabbi Wilson** or **Lester Harris**. The emphasis is on a family fun afternoon/evening. You will also have the option of just attending the BBQ. So if you fancy shedding a few pounds before the carnivore feast, join in the sporting fun. The costs are the same as last year:

Football or Netball & BBQ: £7

Under 16's: £5

Spectating & BBQ: £6

Under 16's: £4

Children & Youth Activities

The new Children and Youth Task Group, chaired by Bradley Mervish, is planning a series of activities and events for our young people. Most of the communication to the primary school age group will be directly to the children and their parents with colourful flyers. Those in secondary school will also be able to access information via the Shul's Facebook page. Among the activities planned are:

- * Succah Decorathon: Sunday 19 September for primary school age.
- * Succos Colouring competition.
- * Annual Succah lunch/crawl: Friday 24 September, 2nd day Succos.
- * Pizza in the Hut: 26 September for Years 7-11.
- * Bowling and Top Golf events for the youth.

It won't be long before full details are sent out to everyone concerned.

Foot Tapping Enjoyment!

Genesis is holding a Swing & Boogie Concert with Nick Dawson and his Band on **Sunday 14 November** at RJCC. It should be an entertaining evening with all funds raised going to the Shul. The ticket price is £12.50 and they must be bought in advance from Ivor Lethbridge on 8550 7963 or the Shul office on 8551 6533. Doors open at 7.00 pm and the show begins at 7.30 pm.

Dads n'Lads Football

The next Dads n'Lads football will take place on **Sunday 15 August** on the outdoor pitches at 10.00 am. Clayhall's monthly smoked salmon and beigel breakfast will precede the football at 9.00 am. This run very successfully last year and it would be great to get it up and running again. What's more, it's absolutely free! Reminder emails will be sent out shortly but speak to Lester Harris if you are attending.

Logic versus Faith by Rabbi Yehuda Appel

Many people are curious as to how Jewish tradition foresees "the end of days" - the coming of the Messiah. While there are many descriptions offered, we are warned against speculating much on this subject. Why? Because Jewish tradition says if we're focused too much on the future, we'll miss out living in the present! It is worthwhile to note one striking Midrash, which describes the "awesome fear" that will prevail at the end of days. The Midrash says that a competition will be held between Jews and other religions, to determine who is really carrying out the Al-mighty's will. The Midrash says that initially it will be other religions, not the Jews, who will be answered by G-d. This shocking response will cause "awesome fear" in the minds of the Israelites and will be for them a time of great trial and tribulation. Ultimately, Israel will be vindicated, but those early moments will be a time of great terror and self-doubt. The entire scenario, the Midrash explains, is a grand, final test of the Jews' loyalty to G-d and His Torah.

A similar idea is found in this week's Sedra, Re'eh. The Israelites are warned against falling prey to "miracles" performed by false prophets. Says the Torah (Devarim 13:2-4). *"If there should rise up among you a prophet or dreamer of dreams and offer a sign or a miracle. And the (predicted) sign or miracle should then occur of which he has told you, and he says to you, 'Let us go after other gods whom you do not know and worship them.' Do not listen to the words of this prophet or dreamer of dreams because it is G-d who is testing you to know if you love the Lord your G-d with all your heart and with all your soul."*

The Torah is warning us: Despite the seeming evidence that a magician may offer, if they contradict the Torah, then their ministrations are to be ignored. One who is loyal and whole with G-d will not be swayed by demonstrations that are contrary to G-d's commands.

This brings us to the millennia-old theological debate of whether "faith" or "reason" should be the foundation of a person's belief system. Is it enough to have faith in our traditions, or do we need concrete, rational evidence to support these claims? In today's generation, the approach of "reason" clearly rules the day. Ours is a world of science and computers, and thus we tend to view life as rationalists.

Is there a rational basis for belief in Judaism? Of course! Whether it is Torah prophecies which have come true (e.g. the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel), or the stunning Bible Codes, or archeological evidence. Belief in Judaism is by no means a "leap of faith!" The Torah itself, at the beginning of this week's portion, weighs in with a powerful voice on the issue.

"Behold! I place before you today the blessing and the curse. The blessing that you listen to the mitzvot of the L-rd your G-d which I command you today."

A careful reading of this passage suggests that this "reward" is not some additional gift that will come a person's way through observing the mitzvahs. Rather, proper observance brings its own rewards: a corresponding awareness of the Al-mighty's nearness and the validity of Torah. The mitzvot themselves have the power to bring one into G-d's presence, which can be seen as the greatest of blessings. A Shabbos dinner or a trip to Israel can touch a person so deeply that the presence of G-d becomes clear and obvious.

Clayhall United Synagogue

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