



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 28 January 2012/ 4 Shevat 5772

Service Times

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah Shlishis	4.00 pm
Shabbos ends	5.33 pm
Shabbos next week	4.38 pm

Application forms have just been sent out for our fantastic **Melava Malka** that takes place on Saturday evening 11 February. The event is always very entertaining and inspirational, and we look forward to a positive response. More details can be found inside the newsheet. We were delighted to welcome **Stephen Pack**, United Synagogue President, to the Board of Management meeting last Tuesday. It was his first visit to Clayhall since his election last July. Stephen spoke about the recent JLC (Jewish Leadership Council) delegation to 10 Downing Street to meet the **Prime Minister**. Issues that were raised included Israel, Shechita, Bris Mila and security. Stephen also talked about the changing face of the United Synagogue and his drive to find new, younger people to take leadership positions. **Rabbi Wilson** gave an interesting presentation of his five days spent in Chicago in November at a Leadership Conference for Rabbonim and Jewish community leaders run by the Kellogg School of Management.

Torah Reading

Leyning: Bo
Artsroll p 340, Cohen p 377, Hertz p 248
Haftorah:
Artsroll p 1151, Cohen p 404, Hertz p 263

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Victor Shafier

Tomorrow after Shacharis, we are having our monthly smoked salmon and beigel breakfast with all the usual delicacies. Everyone is welcome.



***This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by
Dennis Abrahams on the wonderful occasion of his 85th birthday***

Children's Service: 10.30am - 11.30am (next, 28 January)

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: 29th January, 26th February & 25th March.

US Women's Quiz

The annual United Synagogue Women's Quiz is on **Wednesday 14 March 2012** at Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, Norrice Lea N2 0RE. Cynthia Simmons is trying to put a table together and if you are interested in attending, please let her know. The doors open from 7.00 pm and the quiz starts at 7.45 pm. Tables are £70 each with a maximum of 10 ladies per table. There is no set theme but one round is of general Jewish interest. There is ultimately the honour of being the first Clayhall team to return with the trophy!

Klezmer Concert

Enjoy a great evening of Klezmer music on **Sunday 25 March**.

Organised by Genesis, the wonderful "**Shir**" will be performing here again. Doors open at 7 pm and the show begins at 8 pm. Tickets are £15 each and you can buy them via Ivor Lethbridge on 8550 7963 or from the Shul office on 8551 6533. We expect a bid demand so book early!

Dates for the Diary

January

Shabbos 28	Children's Service
Sunday 29	Beigel Breakfast
Tuesday 31	Lunch & Learn

February

Tuesday 7	Tu Bishvat Fruity Evening
Wednesday 8	Tu Bishvat
Shabbos 11	Children's Service
Saturday 11	Melava Malka
Shabbos 25	Children's Service
Shabbos 25	Cholent Kiddush
Sunday 26	Beigel Breakfast
Sunday 26	Pre-Yom Ha'atzmaut Quiz

March

Shabbos 3	Children's Service
Wednesday 7	Fast of Esther & Spiel
Thursday 8	Purim
Wednesday 14	US Women's Annual Quiz
Tuesday 21	Pre-Pesach event
Shabbos 24	Themed Kiddush
Sunday 25	Beigel breakfast
Sunday 25	"Shir" Klezmer concert

Tu Bishvat

Tu Bishvat, the New Year for Trees, falls on Wednesday 8 February (15 Shevat). We will be holding a Fruity Evening on **Tuesday 7 February** after Ma'ariv at 8.00 pm in the Board room. This will include at least 15 varieties of fruit together with cake and drinks. Rabbi Wilson will speak on "*Saving the Environment - Is it Time to Turn Over a New Leaf?*" There is no charge or pre-booking for the event.

Lunch & Learn

The next Lunch & Learn takes place on **Tuesday 31 January** at 12.45 pm in the Board room here at RJCC. Rabbi Wilson's intriguing title is "*Bribery and Corruption - Ethics for the Business and Home.*" The cost is just £4 per person. Please would you confirm attendance with Simone in the office. If you would like to sponsor a Lunch & Learn, perhaps to celebrate a special event or to commemorate a Yahrzeit, speak to Gordon Miller.

Melava Malka

We are delighted to announce that our Melava Malka will take place on Motsei Shabbos (Saturday evening) **11 February**. Our fantastic guest speaker is **Sheldon Lazarus** while last year's musical entertainment of **Chazan Naftali Rose** is back by popular demand. Tickets are £15 each for a 3-course fish supper. Application forms have just been sent out but you can reserve your place with payment through Simone in the Shul office.

Sheldon Lazarus is an award-winning documentary and film maker. He has been the Creative Director, (Factual) at September Films since 2007 where his credits include the hit series *Billy the Exterminator*, *I Am The Elephant Man* (the highest rated documentary on National Geographic), *Penn and Teller: Fool Us* and a host of other programmes. After leaving September Films in 2011, he formed a new production company *RIZE* to develop and produce unscripted TV, scripted TV, branded entertainment and film for network, cable and syndication in the UK and USA. Perhaps most unusual of all is that Sheldon is an **Orthodox Jew** made successful in a highly competitive, secular industry.

Pre-Yom Ha'atzmaut Quiz

A dinner and quiz is being held on **Sunday 26 February 2012** to raise money for the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations. These will take place as usual at RJCC in April. Clayhall Shul is trying to put a table together for the dinner and if you would like to go or require further details, please speak to Mike Callaghan. The cost is £17.50 per person for a sweet and sour chicken or schnitzel dinner.

Really Jewish Food Guide 2012

The London Beis Din's Really Jewish Food Guide 2012 is now available in Jewish shops, schools and shuls across London. It is packed with up-to-date Kashrus information and a must-have accessory for the discerning Jewish household. You can order your copy (£9.99) through **David Grant** at *Ilford Judaica*. Call David on 07711 184442 to reserve your copy.

The Exodus Factor

There is a special pre-Pesach event "The Exodus Factor" on **Wednesday 21 March** from 8.00 pm. It is being run jointly by the Rabbinical Council of North East London and RJCC. More details will follow in the next few weeks. It is the perfect way to be inspired before Pesach.

Kiddush Levanah

The Sanctification of the Moon has two bases. Rabbi Yochanan taught that one who blesses the new moon in its proper time is regarded like one who greets the *Shechinah*. This is because the only way we can recognise the existence of G-d is through His works. This is seen in history through the miracles and revelations to Israel. In nature it is seen through the orderly functioning of the very complex heavenly bodies. The cycles of the moon and its changes are more visible than any other body. So, when we greet the moon, we greet its Maker & Guide. The second aspect of the prayer is its significance for the history of Israel. Just as the moon is reborn after a period of decline and total disappearance, so, too, Israel's decline will end and its light will once again blaze to fullness. We learn that when Israel is worthy of G-d's favour it is like the waxing moon, but when it is not worthy, it parallels the declining moon. As the moon is such a significant allusion to G-d as the Creator and to Israel's re-birth, Kiddush Levanah is recited joyously preferably at the end of Shabbos when people are still in their finest clothes. It is usually said from 72 hours after the Molad up to and including the 14th day of the month.

Pay Attention to the Details by Rabbi Berel Wein

This week's parsha is the introduction to the halachic process of observance of the commandments of the Torah. In every commandment there are numerous layers of meaning and importance. There is the social and moral value that the commandment represents and teaches. There are also the technical minutiae and complex details that comprise the fabric of every commandment.

The commandments regarding the observance of Pesach and of the structuring of the Jewish calendar are part of this week's parsha. The general values of these commandments are apparent to all. Pesach represents for us the value and concept of freedom from bondage and teaches us the beginning history of our people. The calendar has always been a necessity for social and commercial life and keeps us in tune with the changing seasons of the year.

These are the general reasons and lessons of these commandments. However, as we also all know, the devil always lies in the details. What is the mechanism that will enable the story of our departure from Egyptian slavery to freedom to remain fresh and vital thousands of years later? Values only have life if they are somehow translated into human action and normative behaviour.

Theories are wonderful but they rarely survive the tests of time and ever changing circumstances. Every scientific theory is therefore subjected to be proven by physical experiment and validation. Freedom is a great theory but unless somehow put into practical application in society it remains divorced from the realities of everyday existence. Just ask the North Koreans or the Syrians and Iranians about freedom! It is the technical requirements of the commandment – the matzo, chametz, hagadah, etc. – that alone are able to preserve the value and validate the theory and guarantee its meaningfulness for millennia on end.

The uniqueness of the Jewish calendar lies also in its technical details. The permanent calendar that we now follow, established in the fifth century CE, is a lunar calendar with adjustments to make it fit into a solar year span. The technical halachic details how the last Sanhedrin squared this circle are too numerous and detailed for the scope of this parsha sheet.

However, suffice it to say, that if not for those details and calculations our calendar would long ago have disappeared just as the ancient calendars of Egypt, Babylonia, Greece and Rome have disappeared. Many people look at calendars not as G-dly commandments but as merely a practical way to mark our passage through time. Thus the details are really not important to them since we are only interested in the so-called result.

But in Judaism, the details are of equal if not even greater importance than the general value and end result that they represent. In our time, those Jews who for various reasons only concentrated on the values, who were good Jews at heart but observed no commandments or details, rarely were privileged to have Jewish descendants. Of course concentrating only on the details and ignoring the value system that it represents is also a distortion of the G-dly word. Seeing both the general value of a commandment and observing its necessary technical details in practice is the guarantee for allowing the Torah to survive amongst the people of Israel for all times.

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