



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Vayeira

Volume: 19, Issue: 13 | October 26-27, 2018

Cheshvan 18

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat day: 63rd, Thunderstorms

Shabbat Times



Friday, October 26	
Candle Lighting:	5:42 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:45 PM
Shabbat, October 27	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	10:00 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	5:30 PM
Shkiya:	5:59 PM
Maariv:	6:35 PM
Havdalah:	6:40 PM
Next Friday, November 2	
Candle Lighting:	5:33 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:35 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 52nd, Rain Likely

Mazal Tov to Sarah, Josh and Serena Levy on the birth of a baby boy!

SAVE THE DATE! - New to the community? Never got a chance to meet 'that couple'? Nows your chance! The shul

will be continuing in its traditional community themed shabbat, where potlucks are arranged by the sisterhood, allowing new and old members to meet, bond and build friendships. The event will take place on November 17th, Shabbat Parshat Vayetzei. If you are interested in partaking please fill out the link <https://goo.gl/forms/8DQm6hLM9oL5dH0s2> and specify if you'd like to be a host or a guest. The community will then reconvene for a communal dessert at the shul. All are welcome and encouraged to join

The next sisterhood cookbook club is Thanksgiving themed being hosted by Gabee London 110 Ayers Court, 1B on November 11th at 8:00. If you'd like to sign up please reach out to Yael or Deena or use this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/w05gbns6kCtBGzH192>



Looking to meet new friends in the Ahavat Shalom community? Participate in a potluck meal
SHABBAT PARSHAT VAYETZEI
Sign up to be a host or a guest for Shabbat lunch followed by a communal dessert taking place at Shul. We encourage everyone from the community to participate!

Latte and Learn - starting October 30th at 9 a.m. at Yeshivat Noam's Middle School. This will be a shiur series on parenting: Perspectives on Parenting in an Ever-Changing World and will run for six consecutive Tuesdays (excluding Nov. 6th). It is Open to the Community Free of Charge.

Congregation Beth Aaron and Celebrate Calm invite parents, teachers, friends, and the community to one FREE dynamic, laugh-out-loud funny parent event. The event is FREE and there is NO need to register. Tuesday, November 6 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Congregation Beth Aaron.

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 10/27, 11/3. He can be reached via email at RabbiYehudaHalpert@gmail.com, or phone in the evenings at 201-836-3828. In the event of an emergency, Rabbi Halpert can also be reached at 212-909-6951.

Yeshivat Noam Youth Groups

Groups for children ages 2-4 will be located in Room 3 from 9:45m - 11:00am. Morah Shira and Morah Melissa, two Yeshivat Noam teachers, will supervise. Toys and books will be provided by Yeshivat Noam. We ask parents to please send your child with a snack. Signup is on the website.

Chesed Committee

If you or anyone you know has moved in recently or knows somebody moving in, please let Shira Russell-Giller know! Check out ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin for more information.



Chanukah Toy Drive - The Drive will officially start on Nov. 7th this year and the "official" deadline will be Nov. 23rd (the day after Thanksgiving) due to an early Chanukah this year (December 2nd). The central drop off location is the same as last year, [95 Norfolk St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621](http://95NorfolkSt.,Bergenfield,NJ07621) (side/garage entrance) and the phone contact when dropping off is the same as well; Joy Sklar, 551-404-0227.

Join the YAD LEAH's 5K - Clothing for Israel Dash for Dignity- Sunday November 11th, at Overpeck Park - Run, Walk or Stroll 1 Mile - All ages, levels and abilities are welcome - there will be activities for everyone! Register at <https://www.wizathon.com/dashfordignity> Form a team with your shul, friends and family - Donors and Sponsors Welcome! For more information please reach out to Shoshana Poloner at sspol@optonline.net

Teaneck Mikvah's 9th Annual Women's Event is taking place on Wednesday evening November 14th at Congregation Keter Torah. As you know, this is the Mikvah's major yearly fundraiser, enabling the Mikvah to meet critical expenses such as insurance, salaries, utilities and our mortgage. In addition to the income from nightly usage fees, the Mikvah relies on the generosity of community members to allow it to continue to service, within our two facilities, approximately 1,000 women a month and 100 Kallahs a year, while maintaining the only community Keylim Mikvah. Please encourage the women of your shul to attend and/or sponsor this unifying and inspiring evening. Sponsorships of \$180 and above are listed in the Scroll of Honor. This year's Event will feature a talk given by kosher food blogger Danielle Renov of peaslove&carrots fame (see website and Instagram).

School Open Houses in the Community:

1. The Moriah School - Wednesday, October 31st @ 7:30 PM

Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2018-2019

President: Ben Wine **Vice Presidents:** Eliana Baum | Henry Bernstein | Eli Fenyes | Shira Russell-Giller **Secretary:** Yosef Chai Klein **Treasurer:** Yishai Kadry

Sisterhood: Deena Bernstein | Yael Wine **Gabbaim:** Eli Baum | Stephan Gilbert | Steven Lowinger | Avi Sonnenblick

We welcome your input! Please send your newsletter announcements by Wednesday of each week to ensure they make it in!

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MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



PROGRAM BENEFITS:
Exclusively for Ahavat Shalom Members

- Waive of all bank fees (\$1490 value)
- A dedicated mortgage professional assisting you through the entire process
- Competitive rates

*Minimum loan amount \$300,000
Loan must be originated with Jordan Kadry. Must be a member of Ahavat Shalom at time of application. Offer expires June 1, 2018.



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Lessons From the Aftermath of the Akeida

Immediately following *akeidas* Yitzchak the Torah tells us that Avraham rejoins those who had accompanied him on his journey to the *akeida*. There are two difficulties with this epilogue. First, there is no mention of Yitzchak returning, which leads us to wonder where he was after the *akeida*. Second, why is it significant that Avraham returns to those who initially traveled with him?

There are two important lessons that we learn from Avraham's return and Yitzchak's seeming lack of return. *Chazal* comment that Yitzchak did in fact not return home, but rather traveled to the *yeshiva* of Shem and Ever to study Torah. Why was the place of Torah study the next destination for Yitzchak after experiencing the *akeida*?

There are countless references in *Tanach* and *Chazal* to the relationship between the *Beis HaMikdash* and *talmud Torah*. The *Mishkan*, and later the *Beis HaMikdash*, housed the *luchos* which were the representation of the entire Torah. The *Sanhedrin* that embodies the *mesorah* sat in the *Beis HaMikdash*. Our *tefillos* at the end of every *Shemoneh Esrei* conclude with the words "May You rebuild the *Beis HaMikdash* and grant us our share in Your Torah." Echoing the words of Yeshayahu, "From Tzion will come forth Torah and Hashem's word from Yerushalayim," the Rambam in the end of *Hilchos Melachim* describes the days of *Moshiach* as being a time of unprecedented Torah study. "The world will be full of knowledge of Hashem", as prophesized by Yeshayahu, and this will accompany the rebuilding of the *Beis HaMikdash*.

The connection between Torah study and *Mikdash* reflects the basic nature of both. The purpose of the *Mikdash* is to enable the *Shechina* to dwell in our midst. It is precisely this Divine Presence that is also an essential component of *talmud Torah*. *Chazal* teach us that anytime and anyplace that Torah is studied, Hashem's Presence is there. At the conclusion of the *akeida* the future location of the *Beis HaMikdash* was designated. Although not physically offered as a *korban*, Yitzchak had been consecrated as one. As such, he had to maintain a level of sanctity befitting a *korban*. Yitzchak was therefore searching for a location where he could continue to bask in Hashem's Presence, and there was no greater place to do so than the *yeshiva* of Shem and Eiver.

Yitzchak's actions following the *akeida* speak to every one of us this time of the year. We all experienced the Divine Presence during the recent *yomim tovim*. Although we did not yet merit the rebuilding of the *Beis HaMikdash*, we did come closer to Hashem during the *Yomim Noraim* and *Succos* season. Now that the month of Tishrei and its great spirituality is behind us, where do we go to maintain the proximity to Hashem's Presence that we attained during that period? Yitzchak's behavior is very instructive. The only way to continue our relationship with Hashem is through the vehicle of Torah study. We go back to the *beis medresh* and thereby reinforce everything we accomplished in the "House of Hashem" during the *yomim tovim*.

Avraham's actions following the *akeida* also contain a critical lesson for us, particularly following the great spiritual heights of the past month. Although Avraham had just passed the monumental test of the *akeida*, he did not display any haughtiness toward others who had not done so. He accompanied his fellow travelers without drawing attention to his great accomplishments.

We daven that Hashem should remove the Satan from in front of us and from behind us - "*v'hoseir Satan milifneinu u'm'l'achareinu*". The Chofetz Chaim explained this phrase to refer to the two challenges that we face as we try to attain spiritual heights. There are obstacles we must overcome that can prevent us from attaining greatness in Torah and *avodas* Hashem. After we succeed, we are faced with another challenge: we may become arrogant about our accomplishments and look down at those around us. We therefore beseech Hashem to help us follow the example of Avraham who was able to return from the *akeida* without the feeling of arrogance notwithstanding his great accomplishments. We should be proud of what we accomplished during the month of Tishrei. Yet, this should never result in an arrogance that causes us to look down at others. As the *yom tov* season is behind us, let us rededicate ourselves to *talmud Torah* in a spirit of humility befitting the descendants of Avraham and Yitzchak.

By: Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky

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