



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Vayechi

Volume: 17, Issue: 22 | January 13-14, 2017

Teves 16, 5777

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, January 13	
Candle Lighting:	4:33 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:35 PM
Shabbat, January 14	
Shacharit:	8:45 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:42 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	4:25 PM
Shkiya:	4:52 PM
Maariv:	5:31 PM
Shabbat Ends:	5:36 PM
Next Friday, January 20	
Candle Lighting:	4:41 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:45 PM

❖ Tzeitchem L'shalom to Amanda and Justin Lipschik who moved this past week!

CELEBRATION KIDDUSH THIS WEEK!!

- ❖ Dina and Daniel (and Moshe and Shaya) Goldberg in honor of Dina's birthday!
- ❖ Shoshana and Josh (and Yehuda) Goldstein in honor of their anniversary and Josh's birthday!
- ❖ Pamela and Shua (and Lea and Maya) Joseph in honor of Maya's birthday!
- ❖ Jordana and Ari Schwartz in honor of their anniversary!
- ❖ Ora and Yaacov Weiner in honor of Ora's birthday!
- ❖ Debbie and Joel Garbow in honor of Rena Winston's birthday!
- ❖ Anonymous in honor of his wife! (Watch every husband take credit for this...)
- ❖ And the Ahavat Shalom Kiddush Fund!

Thank you to all of our co-sponsors!

Weather Report

Friday night: Partly Cloudy, 24°

Shabbos day: Cloudy, 32°/27°

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here for Shabbos on: 1/14, 1/28, 2/4. He can be reached via email at rabbihalpert@verizon.net, 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.

Ski/Snowboarding Trip - Stop hibernating, stop watching Netflix all day and join Ahavat Shalom's first ever ski/snowboard trip on Sunday 1/29 or 2/5! Carpool coordination and group rates available based on number of responses. To register and let us know you plan to join us, see <http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/skitrip2017> for more info.

Membership Directory - Ahavat Shalom will be putting together a Membership Directory over the next few weeks! More information to come. Feel free to reach out to the Board with any questions or concerns.

2016-2017 Membership - Membership for the 2016-2017 year is still open. If you paid for Membership but do not receive emails (and would like to receive them), reach out to the Board for more information. www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/membership.html

Yeshivat Noam Youth Groups

Groups for children ages 2-3 are located in the room across the Shul from 9:30am - 10:45am. 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.

Join us and more than 1000 others Sunday, January 15th for **Torah in the City**, presented by the Orthodox Union. Over 30 of the Torah world's greatest minds discussing dozens of topics, one amazing day indoors at Citi Field. From Rabbi Shalom Rosner to Rabbi David Fohrman, from Rabbi Hayyim Angel to Professor Nechama Priche. Come find what speaks to you. Children's programming available for 2-5 and 6-10 at additional cost. Free parking and lunch available for purchase. Register at ou.org/city

Welcoming Committee

If you or anyone you know has moved in recently, let us know! Check out ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27-28: Ohr HaTorah, Rabbi Sobolovksy, Bergenfield, NJ
February 3-4: Cong. Anshe Chesed, Rabbi Hess, Linden, NJ
February 10-11: Mystery Shabbos

Welcome to Ahavat Shalom

Households: 87
(Adults: 171, Kids: 51)

Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2016-2017

President: Jason Shor **Vice Presidents:** Jason Bloom | Alex Daitch | Moty Raven | Binny Steinig **Secretary:** Liron Gamzeh **Treasurer:** Jason Felder
Sisterhood: Sarit Anstandig | Tali Wigod **Gabbaim:** Sam Lightstone | Ezra Blain | Shua Joseph | Dani Weinberger

We welcome your input! Please send your newsletter announcements by Wednesday.

board@teaneckapartments.com | president@teaneckapartments.com | rabbihalpert@verizon.net



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Keeping Galus In Perspective

Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger

Though parshas Vayechi is a distinct parsha as determined by Torah sheba'al pe, our oral tradition, it does not enjoy the clear Torah shebichsav demarcation that marks every other parsha in Torah. That means that Vayechi is missing the nine blank spaces that indicate the start of a new parsha and chapter to every baal koreh, student, sage and parshan. Bringing Vayechi and Vayigash side by side much as one slides closed two panes of a window, signals to us, according to Rashi, that upon the death of Yaakov Aveinu the eyes and hearts of the Jewish people were similarly closed shut.

Nevertheless the meaning of the message is unclear and the faint connection between the metaphor and the message should leave us all puzzled. In a similar matter, the omission of all white spaces throughout parshas Vayetze led Harav Chaim Shmuelevitz to investigate it in the following manner. He pointed out the Rashi at the beginning of Sefer Vayikra, explains that the white spaces in the Torah represent the downtime that Moshe Rabeinu needed to absorb what he had just studied. Now we may question, as the Mirrer Rosh Yeshiva does in Vayetze, is the lesson of the shutting down of the hearts and eyes of the shevatim important enough to justify robbing Moshe Rabeinu of the opportunity that even he needs, to digest and absorb new teachings?

It would seem to me that the Torah is simply instructing us to read Vayechi both as an independent parsha as well as a continuation of parshas Vayigash. For what purpose, might this be?

The final pasuk in Vayigash describes the complacency of Yaakov's family in their new surroundings, (47:27) "And Yisrael dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen; they acquired property in it and they were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly." Understandably, Yosef's efforts to prepare a place for his brothers were successful. They were allowed to live as shepherds, somewhat independently in Goshen, perhaps at first as part of the royal family who had saved the country, and probably strengthened by the guidance and teachings of Yaakov. There is good news here for the Diasporas of the future: unfriendly environments may surprisingly become a haven for the prosperity of Torah study, and the establishment of independent Jewish communities committed to Torah and the propagation of its culture and ethics.

That is why it so important to juxtapose the last words of the aging Ya'akov as he reminds his children of how far they are from home and how uncomfortable they all have to be in Mitzrayim. To be sure, Ya'akov's request to be buried in Chevron, setting his children apart from their hosts as they make the trip home, was to be a defining experience. This charge would remind them to dream of the cedar trees that they brought with them and the code phrase yifkod yifkod that would mark the beginning of the end of trouble, which they had not yet envisioned.

Unfortunately but predictably with the passing of Yaakov, his children, their eyes and their hearts, shut out his final thoughts, allowing the culture of Mitzrayim to severely impact them. Thus the measured confluence of Vayigash and Vayechi implore us to appreciate and utilize the blessings of a golden galus even as we make sure that throughout them, Yaakov Avinu's final breathes reverberate powerfully and unceasingly.



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