



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS  
NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Beshalach  
Tu B'Shvat

Volume: 17, Issue: 26 | February 10-11, 2017

Shevat 15, 5777  
Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

## Shabbat Times



Friday, February 10	
Candle Lighting:	5:06 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:10 PM
Shabbat, February 11	
Shacharit:	8:45 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:33 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	5:00 PM
Shkiya:	5:26 PM
Maariv:	6:02 PM
Shabbat Ends:	6:07 PM
Next Friday, February 17	
Candle Lighting:	5:15 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:20 PM

- ❖ Welcome to Jodi and Yossi Kashnow!
- ❖ Welcome to Michal and Chaim Weber who recently moved into Walraven!

❖ **MYSTERY SHABBOS 2017:** Everyone is invited to a Mystery Shabbos Dessert at Ahavat Shalom at 3:00 PM! Thank you to Eliana Rotenberg and all the organizers!

## Weather Report

Friday night: Snow Showers, 28°      Shabbos day: Cloudy, 42°/36°

**Celebration Kiddush** - This month's Celebration Kiddush will be on February 18th and everyone is invited to join! If you have an occasion you'd like to celebrate with the shul and would like to be a co-sponsor, reach out to the board! (Anonymous co-sponsors are accepted.)

**PURIM 2017** Purim is coming up! The shul will be arranging Mishloach Manot and we are looking for volunteers to help. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Sisterhood.

**Membership Directory** - We are putting together an Ahavat Shalom Membership Directory (no one is getting deported). Similar to other shul directories, our directory will include each member's name, address, email address and phone number - and will be distributed to shul members only (no external clients or NSA). If you would like to exclude certain information, please go to our website and submit an Membership Directory Opt-Out form.

**2016-2017 Membership** - B'H membership for the 2016-2017 year is **still** open. Its never too late to do teshuva. 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](http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/membership.html)

**Basketball Leagues** - "I can accept failure but I can't accept not trying" The shul is looking to coordinate Basketball games during the week (Men's games and/or Women's games). If you would be interested, please reach out to Yoni Kushner and/or the Sisterhood.

**Yeshivat Noam** is pleased to invite the community to a new series in our weekly Tuesday morning shiur for adults, starting on February 14, at 9:30 am in the YN Middle School Beit Knesset. Renowned educator Dr. Scott Goldberg will deliver a five-week series of classes called "God, Tefila, and Generation Z: Educating Our Children for a Meaningful and Life-long Relationship with God." This shiur series is free of charge and is open to the entire community, so bring your friends! Brought to you by the Yeshivat Noam Parent Education Committee. For questions or more information, please

## Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here for Shabbos on: 2/11, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11. He can be reached via email at [rabbihalpert@verizon.net](mailto: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.

## 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.

## Welcoming Committee

If you or anyone you know has moved in recently, let us know! Check out [ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin](http://ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin) for more information.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☐ February 17-18: Celebration Kiddush
- ☐ February 24-25: Keneseth Beth Israel, Rabbi Asher, Richmond, VA

## 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.

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### Yosef's Oath

Rabbi Hershel Schachter

The medrash<sup>[1]</sup> points out that while all of Klal Yisroel were busy fulfilling the hora'as shoah of asking for gifts from their neighbors (bezos Mitzrayim), Moshe Rabbeinu busied himself with taking care of one of the mitzvos (which is binding through all future generations), namely, keeping one's oath. The Torah tells us that before Yosef died he had his brothers and all his relatives swear to him that they would have their children swear that they in turn would have their children swear etc. that when the time for geula comes, they would take his bones with them to be buried in Eretz Yisroel<sup>[2]</sup>. Yosef knew that the return to Eretz Yisroel would not take place during the lifetime of his brothers; they all knew from the prophecy of Avraham Avinu that the galus would last for four hundred years. Therefore Yosef didn't have the brothers swear that they would take care of it, but rather had them swear to have the next generation swear etc. that it would be taken care of when the time came.

In Shir Hashirim we read about the three oaths taken by the Jewish nation many centuries ago<sup>[3]</sup>. No one alive today remembers ever taking these oaths. Apparently it wasn't necessary for each generation to have the next generation accept these oaths. They were accepted at one point in history by the Jewish nation as a whole, and automatically all future generations are bound by these oaths, similar to a treaty entered into between two nations, which is binding on all future generations, since they too are a continuation of the original two countries. Based on this point, the Ragachover Gaon<sup>[4]</sup> raised the question, why was it necessary for Yosef to have his brothers swear that they would have the next generation swear etc.? Why didn't he simply have the brothers swear representing Klal Yisroel, and that shavua would automatically be binding on all future generations?

[The gemara<sup>[5]</sup> tells us that a minhag is binding mid'erabanan just as if one had accepted upon himself a neder, and we know that both an individual minhag tov as well as a minhag hakehilla are binding; so clearly there can be an individual neder as well as a neder or shavua of the kehilla.]

To this the Ragachover responds that before matan Torah there didn't yet exist a concept of a tzibbur or a kehilla of Klal Yisroel. The gemara<sup>[6]</sup> tells us that strictly speaking, the concept of a goy constituting a single entity only applies to the Jewish people. The other nations are really not considered a kahal, but rather a collection of many individuals<sup>[7]</sup>. When the Jewish people accepted the Torah, this unified us to create the concept of a tzibbur. To use the expression of Rav Saadia Gaon, "our nation only achieved its status as a nation through its Torah."

[When we bensch Rosh Chodesh the minhag is that the chazzan holds on to a sefer Torah and declares, "chaveirim kol Yisroel." Rav Soloveitchik pointed out that from the Rambam it would appear that nowadays that we have no Sanhedrin, the responsibility of establishing the Jewish calendar by declaring when Rosh Chodesh will occur is given back to the Jewish people. The chazzan holds the sefer Torah to demonstrate that this is what binds us and unites us to become one goy, and thereby enables us to determine the Jewish calendar.]

Yosef died many years before ma'amad Har Sinai, at a time when a Jewish nation as such did not yet exist. Therefore he couldn't have had the brothers take an oath as representing Klal Yisroel, rather their oath was an individual oath (shavu'as hayachid.) Since Yosef knew that they would not live to see the geula, he had them swear that they would have the next generation swear etc. to take care of his burial. But Shlomo Hamelech, who lived after mattan Torah, wrote in Shir Hashirim about the shavu'ah taken by Klal Yisroel that is binding on all future generations.



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