



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Yitro

Volume: 17, Issue: 27 | February 17-18, 2017

Shevat 22, 5777

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, February 17	
Candle Lighting:	5:15 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:20 PM
Shabbat, February 18	
Shacharit:	8:45 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:29 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	5:05 PM
Shkiya:	5:34 PM
Maariv:	6:10 PM
Shabbat Ends:	6:15 PM
Next Friday, February 24	
Candle Lighting:	5:23 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:25 PM

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here for Shabbos on: 2/18, 2/25, 3/11. 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.

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 for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 17-18: Celebration Kiddush
- February 24-25: Keneseth Beth Israel, Rabbi Asher, Richmond, VA
- March 11-12: Purim

Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2016-2017

President: Jason Shor **Vice Presidents:** Jason Bloom | Alex Daitch | Moty Raven | Binny Steinig **Secretary:** Liron Gamzoh **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

- ❖ **Mazal Tov** to Violette and Moshe (& Mackenzie) Mannasse on the birth of a baby girl, Savannah Maeve, last Friday!
- ❖ **Shabbos Afternoon Women's Shiur** - Given by Ora Weinbach! (This shiur is for women only.)
Topic: Paragon Princesses, Purim Paradigms of Pretty People
Location: Elisheva (and Aaron) Brody, 1497 E Terrace Circle, Apt 3
Time: February 18 at 3:30 PM

CELEBRATION KIDDUSH!

- ❖ Shoshana and Josh (& Yehuda) Goldstein in honor of Yehuda's FIRST birthday!
- ❖ Rabbi Yehuda and Shoshana Halpert in honor of Daniella Baratz's upcoming wedding to Elie Hirt!
- ❖ Chani and Dani (& Ethan) Kohn in honor of Dani's birthday!
- ❖ Leah and Sam (& Judah) Lightstone in honor of their anniversary and Judah's FIRST birthday!
- ❖ Violette and Moshe (& Mackenzie & Savannah) Mannasse in honor of their anniversary and the birth of Savannah last Friday! Mazal tov!
- ❖ Yael and Gabe Nadel in honor of both of their birthdays!
- ❖ Ray and Moty Raven in honor of Ray's birthday!
- ❖ Aviva and Phil (& Julia & Abe) Reich in honor of Phil's birthday!
- ❖ Russi and Jason (& Jakey) Shor in honor of their anniversary!
- ❖ Naomi and Dani (& Akiva) Weinberger in honor of their anniversary!
- ❖ And the Ahavat Shalom Kiddush Fund!

Thanks to all of our co-sponsors!

Weather Report

Friday night: Partly Cloudy, 34°

Shabbos day: Sunny Skies, 61°/46°

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

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.



Esther Shayowitz
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Elevating the Mundane

Rabbi Eliakim Koenigsberg

At the beginning of Parshas Yisro the Torah describes how after Yisro decided to convert to Judaism, he brought various korbanos. "Vayikach Yisro olah u'zevachim l'Elokim - Yisro brought both a korban olah and korbanos shelamim" (Shemos 18:12). Why did he bring both types of korbanos?

Perhaps the answer is that this double korban symbolized Yisro's transition from non-Jew to full-fledged ben Yisrael. The halacha is that a non-Jew cannot bring a korban shelamim, only a korban olah (Menachos 73b). Some explain that this is because according to the non-Jewish world's perspective, kedusha requires a total separation from physicality; to live a life of holiness, a person must deny himself physical pleasure. For a non-Jew, the korban olah is the only way to serve Hashem because a non-Jew feels that a spiritual life requires total sacrifice.

However, the Torah has a different perspective. While there certainly is room for a korban olah which is completely burnt on the mizbeach, there is also a place for a korban shelamim, in which part of the korban is burnt on the mizbeach, part is given to the kohein, and part is also eaten by the owner. The korban shelamim shows that the Torah believes that man can partake of the physical world, he can enjoy physical pleasures like eating and drinking, and still be serving Hashem. Kedusha does not require a person to abstain from the physical world. It requires that he elevate and sanctify the physical world. By bringing both an olah and a shelamim, Yisro demonstrated that he understood this message.

This idea can also help explain a puzzling Gemara (Pesachim 68b.) which says, "All agree that to fulfill the mitzvah of simchas yom tov on Shavuos, one must have some physical pleasure because on Shavuos the Torah was given to the Jewish people." On all other yomim tovim, the Rabbis argue as to whether a person can choose between total immersion in spiritual pursuits (kulo l'Hashem) and complete involvement in physical activities (kulo lachem), or rather he should split the day chatzi l'Hashem v'chatzi lachem - he should engage both in spiritual endeavors like davening and learning Torah, as well as physical activities like eating and drinking. But on Shavuos, everyone agrees that some physical enjoyment is necessary.

At first glance, the opposite seems more logical. After all, Shavuos is the day that the Jewish people received the Torah, a day on which we celebrate the value of ruchniyus in our lives. Why must there be some portion of lachem on that day? If anything, everyone should agree that on Shavuos one can choose the option of kulo l'Hashem to fulfill the mitzvah of simchas yom tov!

The answer is that precisely because Shavuos is the day of kabbolas haTorah we have to eat and drink to celebrate the yom tov because Shavuos is a day that we declare our commitment not only to learning Torah, but to living a Torah lifestyle as well. And there is no better way to demonstrate the Torah's perspective on life than by elevating ourselves through eating and drinking (see Beis Halevi).

As Jews, the ultimate level we can aspire to is not to separate ourselves from the world, but to engage in physical activities - even the most mundane - and imbue them with a sense of kedusha. When we eat and drink l'shem shomayim, in a refined way, when we dedicate some of our resources to tzedaka and hiddur mitzvah, we demonstrate that we have internalized the message of the korban shelamim. We do not have to abstain from physical pleasures in order to reach the ultimate level in avodas Hashem. All we have to do is live for a higher purpose.

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