



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

Davening: TABC, 1600 Queen Anne Rd.
Mailing: PO Box 595, Teaneck, NJ 07666-0595

Parshat Terumah

Volume: 17, Issue: 29 | March 3-4, 2017

Adar 6, 5777

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Friday, March 3 | |
| Candle Lighting: | 5:31 PM |
| Mincha/Maariv: | 5:35 PM |
| Shabbat, March 4 | |
| Shacharit: | 8:45 AM |
| Kriyat Shema: | 9:17 AM |
| Mincha / Shalosh Seudot: | 5:25 PM |
| Shkiya: | 5:50 PM |
| Maariv: | 6:26 PM |
| Shabbat Ends: | 6:31 PM |
| Next Friday, March 10 | |
| Candle Lighting: | 5:39 PM |
| Mincha/Maariv: | 5:45 PM |

❖ Welcome to Ari and Shelly Mankowitz who just moved to Walraven!

Weather Report

Friday night: Partly Cloudy, 18° Shabbos day: Cloudy, 28°/15° (What is this?)

Celebration Kiddush Another month, another gezunta celebration kiddush. Our next Celebration Kiddush will be on March 18th! If you want to sponsor (even a bissel), please reach out to the board!

PURIM 2017 | Ta'anit Esther - Thursday, March 9th

Fast Begins: 5:05 AM
Fast Ends: 6:32 PM

PURIM 2017 | Purim Night - There will be Megillah at Ahavat Shalom on Motzei Shabbos, March 11th. Exact schedule to come.

PURIM 2017 | Morning Minyan & Megillah - Ahavat Shalom is planning to have a Shacharit minyan and **breakfast** on Purim morning at TABC! There would be megillah, breakfast, costumes and mishloach manot! Don't be lame, show up in a costume.

PURIM 2017 | Mishloach Manot - Deadline to submit a FORM AND PAYMENT is March 7th at 11:59 PM. Sign up now to send a Mishloach Manot to your friends in the community! You can select specific families that you would like to send to or to the entire shul! On Purim, each member will receive one Mishloach Manot from the shul with a list of all the people that contributed to their Mishloach Manot! (<https://goo.gl/forms/6bjWh9I7zVlu4R4Y2> or <http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/mishloach-manot-2017.html>).

PURIM 2017 | Volunteers - Ahavat Shalom is looking for a few volunteers to help move Mishloach Manot into TABC on Friday, March 10th (around noon), to help deliver Mishloach Manot and to help with the breakfast. 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 a Membership Directory Opt-Out form.

Beth Aaron and the community-at-large will pay tribute to the legacy of *Moreinu ha-Rav* Yosef Weiss *z"l* at 8:00 p.m., this Sunday, March 5, at Congregation Beth Aaron. Rabbi Weiss was a longtime RIETS Rosh Yeshiva and Rav of the Moriah *shul*. Speakers include Rabbi Larry Rothwachs, Rabbi Nachman Lauer, and Ronny Sulimanoff. There also will be a prerecorded keynote address by Rabbi Aharon Rakeffet, Rosh Yeshiva and Professor of Rabbinic Literature at Yeshiva University's Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

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

Welcome to
Ahavat Shalom!

Households: 99
(Adults: 192, Kids: 59)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 9, 11-12: Ta'anit Esther & Purim
- March 17-18: Celebration Kiddush

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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Fractions and Aspirations

Rabbi Mordechai Willig

"They shall make an aron, two and a half amos its length, one and a half amos its width, and one and a half amos its height" (Shemos 25:10). The Kli Yakar explains that all the dimensions of the Aron, which represents the Torah which it housed, are fractions, containing half-amos, to teach us that everyone should understand that the breadth and depth of his wisdom is lacking (fractional, so to speak), since his intellect is limited.

A person should pray with his eyes looking down, and his heart focusing up (Yevamos 105b). Think of someone who is higher than you in Torah, and pray that Hashem grant you an understanding heart (Melachim I, 3:9). His eyes, which behold physical things, should look at someone who has less than him, and then he will be happy with his portion and not ask for excessive wealth (Mishlei 30:8).

"You shall make a shulchan, two amos its length, an amah its width, and one and a half amos its height" (25:23). One should say, like Yaakov Avinu, "I have everything" (Bereishis 33:11). The whole numbers indicate that in worldly matters, represented by the shulchan, the wise man who is happy with his portion is not missing anything. The fraction teaches that he should not indulge in physical desires totally, but rather he should break his desires. Eating bread is, therefore, called breaking bread (Bereishis 43:2), consuming only a fraction of the whole.

"You shall make a mizbe'ach, five amos long, five amos wide, and three amos height" (27:1). By atoning for a person's sins the mizbe'ach completes that which his deeds are missing, and therefore all its dimensions are whole numbers.

II

The Kli Yakar's idea of looking up spiritually and down physically was echoed by the Ba'al Shem Tov. His Chasidic interpretation of "On the heaven above and on the earth below" (Devarim 4:39) requires that we compare ourselves to those higher than us spiritually and try to emulate them. Regarding earthly matters we should compare ourselves to those who have less than us, and thereby be happy with our portion.

Unfortunately, too many do exactly the opposite. They rationalize their level of Torah learning and observance by pointing to others who are on a lower level, while in worldly pursuits they look up to those who have more. They seek and pray for excessive wealth and display it even if they don't have it (See Kli Yakar on Devarim 2:3). This ostentation creates harmful jealousy in our communities and beyond, leading to disastrous results (ibid). By contrast, the "jealousy of scholars increases wisdom" (Bava Basra 21a) phenomenon, represented by the fractional dimensions of the aron, is missing.

The parsha begins, "Speak to Benei Yisroel and they shall take to Me a portion" (25:2), which the Ibn Ezra explains to mean that one should take from himself and give it to Me (Ibn Ezra). Just as we must break bread and leave over a fraction, so must we leave over a fraction of our wealth and give it to Hashem. We give "to Hashem" by donating to the poor or to Torah institutions. The recommended fraction of one's income to donate is one tenth or, preferably, one fifth (Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 249:1).

Unfortunately, many do exactly the opposite - they spend large amounts of money on luxurious items and/or activities, yet do not give the preferred or recommended portion to tzedaka. Conspicuous consumption is doubly harmful because it creates jealousy and decreases charitable giving.

Parshas Teruma is the Torah reading which emphasizes the importance of donating to good causes and the centrality of Torah (See Shemos 38:21). As we read it, we must establish for ourselves proper priorities and aspirations and internalize these lessons of the Kli Yakar and the Ba'al Shem Tov. We should be jealous of those who are greater scholars than us and thus be motivated to increase wisdom. We should be happy with our worldly portion and compare it to those who have less, and not be jealous of those who have more. May we thereby merit the restoration of the aron, shulchan and mizbe'ach in the rebuilt Beis Hamikdash.



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