



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Eikev

Volume: 19, Issue: 1 | August 3-4, 2018

Av 23

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Friday, August 3 | |
| Mincha/Maariv: | 7:15 PM |
| Candle Lighting: | 7:52 PM |
| Shabbat, August 4 | |
| Shacharit: | 9:00 AM |
| Kriyat Shema: | 9:28 AM |
| Mincha / Shalosh Seudot: | 7:35 PM |
| Shkiya: | 8:09 PM |
| Maariv: | 8:50 PM |
| Havdalah: | 8:55 PM |
| Next Friday, August 10 | |
| Mincha/Maariv: | 7:15 PM |
| Candle Lighting: | 7:43 PM |

Weather Report: Friday night: 82°, Scattered T-Storms

Shabbat day: 75°, T-Storms

Welcome - to Emma and Ami Kirschner who moved into Terrace Circle!

Welcome to the incoming Ahavat Shalom Board of 2018-2019! This past year saw so many wonderful changes and events, and we look forward to building off of last year's successes. The following individuals look forward to serving you with dedication and integrity:

- President: Ben Wine
- Vice President (Terrace Circle): Eliana Baum
- Vice President (Walraven): Henry Bernstein
- Vice President (Westgate): Eli Fenyes
- Vice President (Ayers + Outside Apartments): Shira Giller
- Secretary: Yosef Chai Klein
- Treasurer: Yishai Kadry
- Gabba: Eli Baum
- Gabba: Stephan Gilbert
- Gabba: Steven Lowinger
- Gabba: Avi Sonnenblick
- Sisterhood Co-President: Deena Bernstein
- Sisterhood Co-President: Yael Wine

There will be no groups this week. If you know anyone who is ready and willing to lead groups over the summer, please reach out to Ben at presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com.

Rosh Hashana - Due to the low interest in a minyan at Ahavat Shalom this year, we will once again be partnering with Beth Aaron to assist members of our community that are staying in the area for Rosh Hashana. As in the past, our community members will be offered half-price tickets to Beth Aaron for Rosh Hashana. If you are interested, please reach out to Judi Resnick at (201) 836-6210 or office@bethaaron.org.

Yom Kippur - As in the past, we will be having a minyan over Yom Kippur! If you plan to be here for Yom Kippur, pricing will be \$25/seat for members and \$45/seat for non-members. The sign up link and seat selection will go live within the next two weeks.

Ahavat Shalom Membership for 2018-2019! The link will go live next week! The new membership year begins on September 1st. Early Bird Specials of \$150/person or \$300/household will be available until Rosh Hashanah. As soon you dip your apples in honey the price changes to \$165/person and \$330/household. There will be additional options to add to your membership, explained as follows:

- Kiddush Fund - \$25. This helps cover the cost of kiddushim throughout the year. This year, we will be rolling out some great new kiddush plans!
- Welcome Baskets - \$10. This helps cover the cost of providing welcome baskets to everyone that moves into our community!
- Mikvah Fund - No set amount. This is an optional donation in any amount that goes towards maintenance of the Teaneck Mikvah. Every \$20 donated covers the cost of assisting someone who cannot afford it to perform this important mitzvah.

Chesed Committee - The Chesed Committee's Community Resource Initiative is open for business! If there is anyone in need of professional services, please reach out to chesed@teaneckapartments.com. Thanks to the generous members of our community, we have set up a professional network to assist you with your professional needs. All correspondence will remain virtually anonymous. Available services include financial planning, tax returns and advice, therapy/counseling and more.

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 8/1, 8/18, 9/1, 9/8.
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

There will be no groups this week. If you know anyone who is ready and willing to lead groups over the summer, please reach out to Ben at presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com.

Chesed Committee

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



Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2017-2018

President: Ben Wine **Vice Presidents:** Eliana Baum | Henry Bernstein | Eli Fenyes | Shira 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!

board@teaneckapartments.com | president@teaneckapartments.com | rabbivyehudahalpert@gmail.com



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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.



Jordan Kadry
Vice President
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Learning to Serve Hashem Naturally

Though most *berachos* as we know them were formulated in the days of the second *Beis Hamikdash*, the concept of reciting them with great daily frequency goes back to the time of Dovid *Hamelech*, according to one Talmudic tradition (*Menachos* 53b). In response to a deadly plague which took a large daily toll that Dovid *Hamelech* divined with *ruach hakodesh* that the recitation of one hundred *berachos* a day would raise the community's spirituality and make them worthy of healthy longevity (*Aruch Hashulchan, Orach Chayim* 46). Which blessings are to be counted? What do we do on Shabbos when our *amida* is only seven *berachos*? Does it include responding to the blessing of another? Does one actually have to track the blessings during the day? These are some of the questions which have grown into a sizeable literature over the centuries.

However, most puzzling to me is that Dovid *Hamelech* promoted this ruling by appending it to a *pasuk* (10:12) in our *parsha*: ונתנה ישראל מה' אלקיך - ונתנה ישראל מה' אלקיך בכל לבבך ובכל נפשך - Now, Yisroel, what does Hashem, your G-d, ask of you, only to fear Hashem, your G-d, to go in all His ways and to love Him and to serve Hashem, your G-d, with all your heart and all your soul." The word "מה" in the text with the addition of an aleph becomes the word "מה" - "מה" one hundred, and hence one hundred *berachos* a day. At first glance it isn't clear what Dovid *Hamelech* thought would be gained by developing this allusion - it seems so forced!

Indeed, the *passuk* itself was studied carefully by the earliest commentaries, as the *passuk* seems to understate the entirety of the Torah mission and lifestyle. It seems to encompass the love and fear of Hashem and the entire service described by our *mitzvos* and belittle the ongoing demands and sacrifice which a counter-cultural life places upon us. It is interesting how the word "*mah*" which would seem to minimize its subject is understood by Dovid *Hamelech* to create a demanding daily regimen of *berachos*.

The genius of the sixteenth century giant, Harav Yeshaya Horowitz, the *Shelah Hakadosh*, illuminates both the ruling as well as the seemingly stretched source, and also gives insight into the *passuk* itself. He suggests that Dovid *Hamelech* wanted us to read "*mah Hashem Elokecha sho'el mei'imach*" not in its literal fashion - "what does Hashem request from you" - but rather playfully, Hashem requests the "what" from you. He placed us in a world in which we could endlessly express "what!!", and almost unceasingly be amazed He asks us to stop and remark, in the form of a *beracha*, "what" or "how" or maybe even "wow" as we move from food to food, from event to event, from *mitzvah* to *mitzvah*, and even throughout our *berachos* of requests.

It was not inconceivable to the sages of old that we could slow down one hundred times a day, just for the time it takes to say a *beracha*, and marvel and ponder. Dovid *Hamelech* understood that pensive and mindful people, as well as meaningful and transformative service of Hashem, can be shaped by a regimen of contemplative and appreciative moments.

Perhaps the *Shelah Hakadosh* is giving us an insight into the *passuk* as well. Moshe had no intent to minimize our mission or diminish the demands of Hashem's lifestyle, rather he was suggesting that we can make great strides in it with simple and solitary behaviors.

This is not unlike the opening *Medrash Tanchuma* of the *parsha*, quoted by Rashi, which teaches us that the promises of plenty are conditional on the careful observance of the "*mitzvos* of the heel", i.e. the *mitzvos* that we step over and often dismiss as being easy and unchallenging. As we have pointed out in a previous article on this website, we not only improve through confrontation and distillation but we also mature through steady and gradual osmosis, naturally absorbing from our environs, and harmoniously incorporating life's lessons into the way we live.

Hashem in His kindness does not insist that we only raise ourselves through stubborn contrariness. Rather, by surrounding ourselves with continuous awareness of Hashem's presence and gifts, serving Him becomes natural. This is the pleasant way of Torah referred to by Dovid *Hamelech* - *derocheho darchei noam* - and one who comes to realize it gives expression to the love Hashem has for His children and the beauty of His Torah.

By: Rabbi Yaakov Neuberger

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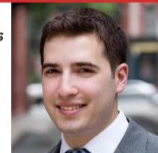
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