



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Bereishit

Volume: 19, Issue: 10 | October 5-6, 2018

Tishrei 23

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, October 5	
Candle Lighting:	6:14 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:15 PM
Shabbat, October 6	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:51 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	6:05 PM
Shkiya:	6:30 PM
Maariv:	7:06 PM
Havdalah:	7:11 PM
Next Friday, October 12	
Candle Lighting:	6:03 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:05 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 60°, Clear

Shabbat day: 67°, Mainly Sunny

Mazal Tov to Nathan Blashka on Choson Torah, Yishai Kadry on Choson Bereishit and Eli Baum on Kol Ne'arim!

Tzeitchem L'Shalom to Rebecca, Jason and Sophie Katz who are moving to Bergenfield!

A HUGE Thank you to all of those who participated in our Simchat Torah Program this year. A **Special Thank You** to sponsors **Dani and Arielle Secemski**, as well as **Yishai and Michelle Kadry** in honor of Michelle's Birthday and Kayla's first Simchat Torah!

CookBook Club Our Sisterhood is in the midst of putting together a cookbook club for women members of Ahavat Shalom. If you would be interested in trading delicious recipes each month then they ask you to kindly fill out the following link. Every month will be a different theme. <https://goo.gl/forms/UWUjpScOotjSicHe2> **MEN**, dont worry...something is "cooking" for you too...

Do You know a Single Who Wants to Mingle? Do you have any single friends that are tired of going to the same old single events? Because of our diverse community and backgrounds we are putting together a fun and exciting Single Shabbaton within our own community. Please invite your single friends to come join; accommodations will be provided. They can fill out the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/hjdiwLUKDXQUVMIP2>. For more information reach out to Deena Bernstein.

Open House Shabbaton in Fairlawn Ahavat Aehim who recently visited kindly invite those interested in checking out their community to an open-house Shabbaton October 19-20; Parshat Lech-Lecha. For information or reservation please email: membership@ahavatachim.org.

"Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age." The Bergen County community is invited to a lecture by Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair of Harvard University, an expert and author of an award winning book on this topic. She will share practical wisdom on strategies for healthy control of technology for families with children of all ages. Admission is free. RSVP at moriahschool.org/smevent. 3 Disney Circle parental control devices will be raffled off to those who RSVP and attend. The Program is sponsored by the Moriah School and a number of local Shuls and technology companies. The program will take place on Thursday November 15 at Congregation Ahavat Torah, 240 Broad Ave, Englewood, NJ. Doors open at 7:00 and lecture starts promptly at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Keep your post-Sukkot inspiration going strong with Lamdeinu's jam-packed Fall semester! Ever wanted to understand Yitzchak Avinu better? Learn parshanot on Sefer Bereishit as an adult? Study Sefer Yehoshua in depth? Delve into Talmud and Halakha? Learn on Rosh Chodesh and then celebrate it? Prepare for Chanukah through a Torah lens? Join Lamdeinu for all this and more! Classes begin on Monday, October 8th and are offered Monday through Thursday mornings in Beth Aaron in Teaneck and Tuesday evenings at Mount Sinai Jewish Center in Washington Heights. Please visit our website for a full list of classes and register today! www.lamdeinu.org.

School Open Houses in the Community:

1. Yavneh Academy - Wednesday, October 24th @ 7:30 PM
2. The Moriah School - Wednesday, October 31st @ 7:30 PM
3. RYNJ - Sunday, November 4th @ 7:00 PM

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27.

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

Groups for children ages 2-4 will be located in Room 3 from 9:45am - 11:00am. 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

Chesed Committee

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



Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2018-2019

President: Ben Wine **Vice Presidents:** Eliana Baum | Henry Bernstein | Eli Fenyes | Shira Russell-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 | rabiyejudahalpert@gmail.com



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MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



PROGRAM BENEFITS:
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- Waive of all bank fees (\$1490 value)
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- 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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Realizing Our Potential

If pesukim could talk, writes Rashi, then the very first pasuk - "*Breishis bara Elokim es hashomayim v'es ha'aretz*" would say "you must *darshen* me". In other words, Rashi could not find a translation, elucidation, or even a liberal translation, that is a good fit for the text. Thus the Torah wastes no time to teach us that we will need the oral tradition to understand the written word, and furthermore that numerous interpretations, traditions, and meanings are at times infused into one text.

The translation usually attached to this *passuk*, i.e. that initially G-d created Heavens and Earth, leaves little for the subsequent days and ignores the water which is already there. Interestingly, in later passages Rashi explains that indeed all of the components of our universe were created *ex nihilo* at the beginning and waited dormant for their proper placement on the respective days of creation. The days of creation are the times during which each part of our world was given its place and position.

In a seemingly similar slant and elaborating on a Greek approach, Ramban sees that the first *passuk* describes the initial burst of Divine "physical energy" *ex nihilo*. That physical presence would, over the course of the days of creation and directed by Hashem's will, morph into the various parts of the universe that we would come to know. The Greeks called the initial physical matter "*Heyuli*" and it seems to be an early version of a "Big Bang". This information is offered by the Ramban only after he has impressed upon us that the detailed understanding of creation is part of an oral tradition given to Moshe at *Har Sinai* and that will always remain with a select group of students.

In view of that, we are left to wonder: what is the significance of the *heyuli* process? What does it add to an appreciation of creation, which according to Ramban was never intended to teach science but simply faith in an *ex nihilo*, G-d-driven event which is satisfactorily summarized in the fourth commandment in a one-liner?

The Ramban clarifies that Hashem revealed to us a dominant feature of creation: *yetzia mei'koach el ha'poel* - going from potential to actual. In other words, the *ex nihilo* moment delivered a world that was "entirely present" in the potential, but without further crafting and shaping that world would be absolutely meaningless. It had to be willed, if you will, into the magnificent and majestic natural world. At the same time, it was all there.

Students of the Ramban will recall that throughout his writings we will learn that spiritual life is catapulted by *nisyonos* - tests which are all intended to force us to draw on strengths and blessings that have been ours but are so far unrealized. We grow primarily by looking inside, identifying our gifts and challenging ourselves - or daring ourselves - to test them. We advance spiritually by building with confidence on the tested and now recognized powers. Appreciating personal potential, albeit with requisite humility and profound gratitude, is the core and mandate of our spiritual growth and accomplishment and of all that gives meaning to our moments.

Thus the opening *passuk* of the Torah introduces to us Hashem's "*hanhogo*" ("character" or "conduct") which will challenge and guide us throughout the rest of the Torah and with which worlds are created.

It should not go unnoticed that indeed the Torah itself was given to us to be mined in similar fashion to that with which we mine potential (our own and the world's), and deeper insights await those blessed to probe the Torah's every letter and verse.
Istakeil b'Oraysa u'bara Alma!

By: Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger

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