



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Chayei Sarah

Volume: 19, Issue: 14 | November 2-3, 2018

Cheshvan 25

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, November 2	
Candle Lighting:	5:33 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	5:35 PM
Shabbat, November 3	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	10:04 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	5:20 PM
Shkiya:	5:50 PM
Maariv:	6:27 PM
Havdalah:	6:32 PM
Next Friday, November 9	
Candle Lighting:	4:23 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:25 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 54°, Rain & Thunder **Shabbat day:** 63°, AM Showers and Partly cloudy in the Afternoon

Welcome to all our awesome guests who are joining us this Shabbat! We can't wait to meet you!

Welcome to Alissa and Mayer Kovacs, our newest members, who just moved into Westgate!

Special thanks to Yeshivat He'atid for joining us and sponsoring kiddush this week! Join them at their open house this Tuesday - details below!

Special thanks to Ryan Schwartz of Garden State Jewelers for sponsoring Friday night dessert for the Shabbaton!

Mazal Tov to Estee and Steven Lowinger on the birth of Meira Yael, Maya Lily!

Mazal Tov to Naomi, Dani and Akiva on the birth of Malka Shoshana, Michaela Rose!

Mazal Tov to Jenny and David Schlusberg on the birth of a baby boy! The Shalom Zachor will take place this Friday night, 8:15 PM at 654 South Forest Drive in Teaneck - all are invited!



Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here! 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 on the website.

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.



SAVE THE DATE! - New to the community? Never got a chance to meet 'that couple'? Now's your chance! The shul will be continuing in its traditional community themed shabbat, where potlucks are arranged by the sisterhood, allowing new and old members to meet, bond and build friendships. The event will take place on November 17th, Shabbat Parshat Vayetzei. If you are interested in partaking please fill out the link <https://goo.gl/forms/8DQm6hlM9oL5dI0s2> and specify if you'd like to be a host or a guest. The community will then reconvene for a communal dessert at the shul. All are welcome and encouraged to join

The next sisterhood cookbook club is Thanksgiving themed being hosted by Gabee London 110 Ayers Court, 1B on November 11th at 8:00. If you'd like to sign up please reach out to Yael or Deena or use this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/w05gbs6kCfBGzH92>

Yeshivat Noam invites 2-4 year old children and their parents to a fun morning of play, music, exploration and refreshments this coming Sunday morning, November 4th, 9:30am-11:30am. Come meet our Morot, sample our playground, discover wonderful activities in our classrooms and generally have a great time! Please contact Esther Feil for reservations (efeil@yeshivatnoam.org) Walk-ins are always welcome

Join the YAD LEAF's 5K - Clothing for Israel Dash for Dignity- Sunday November 11th, at Overpeck Park - Run, Walk or Stroll 1 Mile - For more information please reach out to Shoshana Poloner at sspol@optonline.net

Teaneck Mikvah's 9th Annual Women's Event is taking place on Wednesday evening November 14th at Congregation Keter Torah. This year's Event will feature a talk given by kosher food blogger Danielle Renov of peaslove&carrots.com



(see website and Instagram).

School Open Houses in the Community:

1. RYNJ - Sunday, November 4th @ 7:00 PM
2. Heichal Ha'Torah - Sunday, November 4th @ 7:00 PM
3. Yeshivat He'atid - Tuesday, November 6th @ 7:30 PM
4. The Moriah School - Sunday November 11th @ 3:30 PM

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!

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Avraham's Relationship with Those Around Him

Last weeks *parsha* concluded with Avrams name being changed to Avraham. His new name represented his role as a father for the entire world. Throughout the *parshios* of *Lech Lecha*, *Vayera*, and *Chayey Sarah* that deal with the events of Avrahams lifetime, the Torah records many interactions that Avraham had with leaders and members of other nations. Avraham is accorded great respect and admiration from the leading personalities of his time. He is blessed by Malchitzedek, sought after by Avimelech to enter into a treaty, and referred to as a prince of Hashem by the tribe of Efron when negotiating purchasing a burial plot for Sarah. What was it about Avraham that won him the honor and respect from his contemporaries?

Chazal comment that the title Avraham *Halvri* not only describes his birthplace as being *ever Inahar* (the other side of the river) but also refers to Avraham being distinct from the rest of humanity. His values and behavior were "on the other side of the river" from the rest of the world. Not only did Avraham not espouse the values of those around him, he challenged those who subscribed to idolatry and those who sanctioned unethical behavior. *Chazal* relate to us the story that occurred during Avrahams youth when he smashed the idols that led to his fleeing from Ur Kasdim. He confronts Avimelech in *Parshas Vayera* and informs him that Avimelechs own servants are guilty of stealing Avrahams wells. Someone who lives up to a higher ethical and spiritual standard than others and also attempts to correct others is usually met with animosity. How did Avrahams behavior not only not earn the scorn of those around him, but also win their admiration and respect?

The secret to Avrahams success with his contemporaries was that they realized that he truly cared about them. Notwithstanding his absolute belief that idolatry had no place in the world, he cared even about the idol worshippers themselves. His tent was open to all and *Chazal* teach us that he treated the three angels royally even though he thought that they worshipped the sand of the desert. His care for all did not minimize his attitude towards idolatry and he insisted that they wash their feet and remove the sand before entering his tent. Once they did, he served them with love hoping to show them the proper path to *avodas* Hashem. The inhabitants of Sodom lived in a way that was antithetical to everything that Avraham held dear. Yet, when told of the imminent destruction that would befall them, Avraham interceded on their behalf. When one is perceived by others to be self-centered and arrogant because of ones higher spiritual standards, envy and eventually hatred of that person will result. However, if the righteous individual truly cares for others, he will not only be tolerated, but he will be respected and admired. Those around him will realize that his correcting of others does not stem from arrogance, but rather from a genuine care and concern for the welfare of all.

We often find ourselves in situations in which we have to subscribe to a higher ethical and religious standard than many of those around us. It is critical to never be aloof and uncaring, even of those whose actions and beliefs we do not approve of. We should never compromise our standards to win the favor of others, rather we should relate to others in a kind and caring manner. By bringing honor and respect to our values and actions, we are truly magnifying the honor and respect of Hashem Who expects us to live a life of emulating the values and actions of Avraham *Avinu*.

By: Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky

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