



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Re'eh

Volume: 19, Issue: 2 | August 10-11, 2018

Av 30

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times

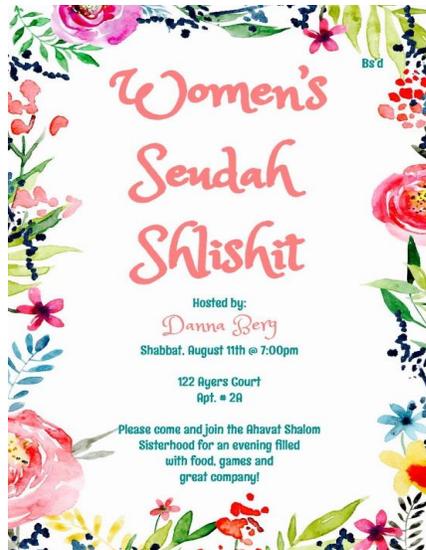


Friday, August 10	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:43 PM
Shabbat, August 11	
Shacharit:	9:31 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:28 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	7:25 PM
Shkiya:	8:00 PM
Maariv:	8:40 PM
Havdalah:	8:45 PM
Next Friday, August 17	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:33 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 71°, 50% chance of scattered T-Storms **Shabbat day:** 76°, AM T-Storms, then cloudy

Mazal Tov to Michelle and Scotty Schames on the birth of a baby girl! The entire community is invited for kiddush following her naming this Shabbat, August 11 at 11:45 AM at 1303 River Road in Teaneck!

Tzeitchem L'Shalom to Dafna, Liron, Nurit and Ayla Gamzesh who are skipping town for Bergenfield! Thank you for all you have done for our community!



Womens Seudah Shlishit - This Shabbat day all the women in the community are invited to partake in a community wide Seudah Shlishit at 7pm hosted by Danna Berg at 122 Ayers Ct. Apt. #2A. The event is sponsored by Lisa Rubin in memory of her grandfather Reuven ben Yitzchak, who passed away recently.

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 signup link and seat selection will go live this week.

Ahavat Shalom Membership for 2018-2019! The link will go live this 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.

Teaneck Baby Gemach - Anyone who wishes to donate to the Teaneck Baby Gemach should make the donation payable to "Congregation Ahavat Shalom" only. As we are separating finances, we will no longer be taking 'Quickpays' directly for them. However we will still be receiving checks on their behalf at this time.

OU Women's Initiative - is proud to present our Virtual Rosh Chodesh Lunch 'n Learn. This virtual video series will provide some "Spiritual Food for Thought" and feature female Torah scholars from across America and Israel. Join Rabbanit Shani Taragin as she provides insight and inspiration for the month of Elul, with her shiur entitled, "Taking Stock in the Month of Elul: Reaping, Weeping & Reflecting - Face to Face". Registration: <https://www.ou.org/women/rc/>

Save the Date - Join us for the Annual 3-on-3 Keter Torah/Ahavat Shalom Basketball Tournament on Saturday night, August 18, at 9:00pm at TABC, with all proceeds benefitting youth sports in Sderot. Players must be 16 or older to join a team and at least one person from each team must be a member of Keter Torah or Ahavat Shalom. Contact Aryeh Halpert at aryehhalpert@gmail.com or text 201-289-9254 to sign up or with any questions.

Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2017-2018

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 | rabbiyehudahalpert@gmail.com

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 8/11, 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.





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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.



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Our Ego, Our Time, Our Year - Our Decision

The opening *pasuk* in *Parshas Re'eh* states, "*Re'eh anochi nosein lifneichem hayom berachah u'klalah* - See that I have placed before you today a blessing and a curse" (*Devarim* 11:26). This *pasuk* hints to a number of choices that are presented to us, not only regarding the *mitzvos* and their performance, but also concerning our ego, our time, and the new year, which all share a common scheme.

The *meforshim* wonder why the Torah uses the word "*anochi* - I" as opposed to the more familiar "*ani*." The *Maor Vashemesh* explains in the name of the Maggid of Zlotchov that the word "*anochi*" represents not only the word "I" but more precisely our "*anochiyus*," our ego. Similarly, in *Parshas Vaeschanan* when Moshe informs *Bnei Yisrael*, "*anochi omeid bein Hashem uveineichem* - I will stand between you and Hashem" (*Devarim* 5:5), he was not only referring to the fact that he would literally serve as the liaison between Hashem and the Jewish people, but also to the notion that often the primary obstacle standing in between ourselves and Hashem, impeding our ability to connect with Hashem, is our "*anochi*" our ego. The further we tread into the abyss of self-congratulation the more difficult it can be to identify potential areas for personal and religious growth.

Even though an inflated ego can hinder our ability to serve Hashem properly, self-awareness and self-confidence are necessary to achieve any measure of spiritual success. Rav Tzadok Hakohen (*Tzidkas Hatzadik*) writes that "just as a person must have *emunah* - belief in Hashem, a person ought to have *emunah* - belief in himself." In order to lead a life dedicated to Torah and *mitzvos*, a person must know that his life is meaningful and consequential and that his existence and accomplishments have an infinite value to Hashem and to himself. Indeed, Rav Aharon Kotler (*Mishnas Rebbe Aharon*) claims that the prohibition against mutilating and defacing our bodies even while mourning (*Devarim* 14:1) is a reminder and reflection of our inherent and limitless self-worth. Without this awareness it is impossible to execute the *mitzvos* of the Torah. For this reason, those who publicly behave in a demeaning and degrading fashion are disqualified from testifying in *beis din* (see *Kiddushin* 40b and *Rambam Hil. Eidus* 11:5). Rav Aharon explains that this is because someone who lacks personal dignity will presumably be capable of compromising their integrity as well.

The *Maor Vashemesh* submits that the *pasuk* "*Re'eh anochi nosein lifneichem hayom berachah u'klalah*," places before us a dilemma concerning our "*anochi*," our ego. If we utilize our "*anochi*" to give us the confidence to vigorously and relentlessly pursue an ambitious religious agenda, then it can certainly be a source of blessing. However, if our "*anochi*" lulls us into a bloated sense of entitlement and satisfaction, content with reveling in the achievements of the past, then it can be a horrible curse. How we use our "*anochi*" is entirely up to us.

Similarly, Rav Avraham Brum (*Likuttei Eish*) cites the Alexander Rebbe who interprets the word "*hayom*" - "today" in this *pasuk*, as a reference to our time in general. For some, time is an invaluable blessing and for others it is an agonizing curse. For the righteous, who are methodically mastering the library of Torah, and continuously climbing the mountain of Hashem, time is the greatest of all assets and resources. As the Chafetz Chaim once said, "time is not money money is time." Additionally, Rav Moshe Shmuel Shapiro (*Zehav Mi'sheba*) maintains that the overall relative financial prosperity of American Jewry can be attributed to their benevolence and generosity, as well as their unforgiving and industrious work ethic. However, for those lacking direction and determination, who seek to drift through their existence in this world, time can be the greatest enemy. It is often viewed as a lurking beast which needs to be slain and "killed", or as an obstruction which needs to be "passed" and whittled away. How will we view our time in this world, as a boundless blessing or as an interminable life-sentence? Once again, the decision is all ours.

Finally, the *Vizhnitzer Rebbe (Imrei Chaim)* suggests that the word "*re'eh*", spelled "*reish, aleph, heh*", is an acronym for Elul and Rosh Hashanah, which begin with the letters *aleph, reish, and heh*. This contention is supported by the *Zohar* which states that the word "*hayom*" - "today," refers to "The Day" of Rosh Hashanah, the annual Day of Judgment. The month of Elul and Rosh Hashanah are alluded to in this *pasuk* because they too can either be exploited as a precious opportunity for reflection and spiritual growth, giving way to a year of blessing and prosperity, or alternatively, they can be viewed as a burdensome inconvenience which simply needs to be tolerated and endured, contributing to and validating an unwanted decree for the coming year, *chas ve'shalom*. How will we approach Elul and Rosh Hashanah? It is up to us to decide.

This year, *Parshas Re'eh* introduces the month of Elul and confronts us with many difficult choices and possibilities. How to manage our ego? How to maximize our time? How to formulate a strategy for the *Yomim Nora'im* and the coming year? However, the *pasuk*, "*re'eh anochi nosein lifneichem hayom berachah u'klalah*" alerts us to the realization that all of these issues are up to us, they are all in our own hands, and we are advised and encouraged to "choose life" - "*u'vacharta ba'chaim*" (*Devarim* 30:19). May we have the strength to choose wisely and may Hashem grant us many years of continuous and limitless *berachah* and *hatzlacha!* *A gut gebentched yor and a kesivah ve'chasima tovah!*

By: Rabbi Daniel Stein

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