



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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

Parshat Vayigash

Volume: 19, Issue: 20 | December 14-15, 2018

Tevet 7

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat day: 49, Rain

Shabbat Times



Friday, December 14
Candle Lighting: 4:11 PM
Mincha/Maariv: 4:15 PM
Shabbat, December 15
Shacharit: 9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema: 9:32 AM
Mincha / Shalosh: 4:00 PM
Seudot: 4:00 PM
Shkiya: 4:29 PM
Maariv: 5:10 PM
Havdalah: 5:15 PM
Next Friday, December 21
Candle Lighting: 4:13 PM
Mincha/Maariv: 4:15 PM

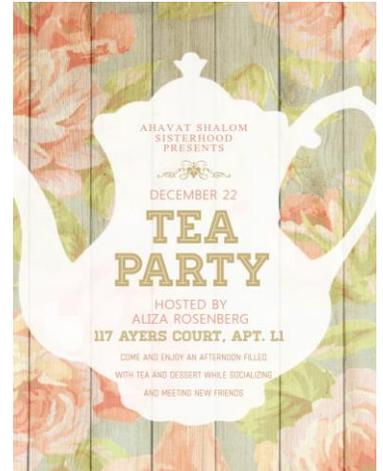
Weather Report: Friday night 46°, Cloudy

Welcome to Yael and Isaac Bernstein who moved into Walraven recently.

2019 Ahavat Shalom Calendar - Move over family photos on the fridge! Ahavat Shalom will be rolling out a calendar to every household for the second year in a row! Though the deadline has passed, your Vice President will let you know when you will receive it.

This Week Join Ahavat Shalom's Annual Cholent Competition! Round One will be after davening this Shabbat, December 15th at the Klein residence (96 Van Buskirk Rd.). Our four chef households, Yael & Bin Weiss, Michal & Chaim Weber, Rebecca & Ike Pariser and Rivi & Shlomie Landesman look forward to providing you with their finest cholents! All community members are invited to attend the event, taste test the cholents, and vote for your favorite. May the best cholent win!

Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood's First Tea Party! The event will take place Shabbat afternoon, December 22nd and is hosted by Aliza Rosenberg. Come and enjoy dessert and tea with the ladies of the community! Time TBD.



Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will not be here: 12.22, 12.29.
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.



Torah Opportunity - Famous for his Friday Night shiurim in our Shul, (between Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv,) Rabbi David Schlusberg will be giving a shiur on the eve of Monday the 24th. The topic will be "Merry Monday - A Jew Surrounded by Secular Culture" - the event will take place at the Blashka residence, located @ 90 Amsterdam Ave (right by TABC) at 8:00 PM. All men and women are welcome!

Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood's December Cookbook Club is COOKIES - Special thanks to Erica Solomon for hosting. The event will take place December 26th at 8:00 PM!

Project Ezrah Annual Dinner - This Motzei Shabbat, December 15th, Congregation Ahavath Torah, 240 Broad Avenue, Englewood, NJ, 8pm. Support Your Neighbors And Friends By Attending The Project Ezrah Dinner at www.ezrah.org or 201-569-9047

She'arit ha-Plata of Bergen County, a volunteer, non-profit organization that collects

excess kosher food from restaurants and smachot and distributes it discretely to people who can use it, is looking for a new site. If you have available space or know of others who might have space available for our operation, please contact Daniel Chazin, DChazin@aol.com, 201-835-5338.

Toiletry Collection Drive - Ongoing collection of full size shampoo, conditioner, body wash and bar soap that is distributed on a regular basis to community members in need. This is a year-round collection and very much needed. Drop off at the Stone residence - 578 Grenville Avenue, Teaneck - purple collection box located at the right side door. Questions? Please contact Gila - gr5thkid@msn.com.

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 | rabbiyehudahalpert@gmail.com



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STUART GREENBAUM
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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
FM Home Loans, LLC
(516) 456-3842
jkadry@fmm.com
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ONE SOURCE LENDER



The Missing Piece

I remember hearing from Rabbi Mordechai Gifter many years ago that he enjoys reading the *seforim* of two *baalei batim* (businessmen) who were never rabbis. One was the Rashash, who was a successful businessman in the late 1800's and a president of the Vilna *kehillah*, and the other was Reb Moshe Leib Shachor (Rabbi Zevulun Charlop's great grandfather) who wrote the *sefer Avnei Shoham* on the Chumash.

In *Parshas Vayigash* the *sefer Avnei Shoham* has a very interesting comment. We know that Yosef *haTzaddik* was testing his brothers to see if they had done *teshuvah* for reacting so harshly and with such jealousy towards him because he was Yaakov's favorite son. The Torah describes the tragedy that resulted from Yaakov *Avinu* favoring Yosef in order to teach us not to show favoritism to one child over others. But Yosef *haTzaddik* knew that his father probably continued to have this approach in raising children and Binyomin would be the favorite son now that he (i.e. Yosef) was absent. Yosef wanted to test his brothers before he was going to be *mochel* them to see if they did *teshuvah*. Through his tests Yosef saw that they were in fact prepared to protect their father by protecting Binyomin, even though Binyomin was the favorite son. Later on Yosef did forgive them, and said that just as he had no grudge against Binyomin similarly he had no grudge against any of his brothers. He realized that everything was *min Hashomayim*.

Although we understand why Yosef was acting the way he was towards the brothers, for them it was such a puzzle; they couldn't understand the strange way Tzafnas Paneach was treating them until finally in *Parshas Vayigash* he says, "*ani Yosef ha'od avi chai* - I am Yosef! How did you sell me? Why weren't you afraid that our father is going to have a heart attack and die? It's good, however, that now you are afraid of the effect that losing Binyomin would have on our father." Yosef saw that his brothers were *chozer beTeshuvah*.

Because Yosef's brothers were missing one piece of information, i.e. that this man is Yosef, everything was puzzling and they couldn't understand what was going on. The same thing occurs in the history of the Jewish people; there are so many strange things in Jewish history that we don't understand. The *haftorah* for *Parshas Vayigash* tells us that *le'asid lavo*, when we will experience the *geulah ha'asidah* and look back in retrospect, everything will be able to be understood in context. Right now we don't have the whole picture and therefore we don't understand many things in our history.

In *Parshas Bereishis* the Torah says regarding almost every day of creation, "*Vayar Elokim ki tov*", but on the sixth day the Torah says, "*Vayar Elokim et kol asher assah vehinei tov meod*." The Medrash says "*Tov' zeh ha'chayim, 'tov meod' zeh ha'maves*", i.e. that even when someone dies it's "*tov meod*." This is difficult for us to understand; we experience death as a tragedy and we recite a *bracha*, "*baruch Dayan Ha'emmes!*"

When you look at everything in proper perspective, "*Vayar Elokim es kol asher assah*", if you look at everything all put together and you're not missing any point of information, everything is in fact *tov meod*. We don't see all of history at once. How long does a person live, a hundred years? We may study history, but we don't really fully understand it from the beginning to the end. When all of history will be unfolded and we will look back in retrospect and understand all of the puzzling things that never made any sense. Why was there was "*tzaddik ve'ra lo, rasha ve'tov lo*"? Why did the Jewish people suffer so much? We'll look back in retrospect and understand that everything was really *le'tovah*. That's the connection between *Parshas Vayigash* and its *haftorah*. In *Vayigash* the brothers were missing an important piece of information (that the man that they were talking to was Yosef) and that's why they couldn't understand what was happening. Once they were told that he was it all made sense. Similarly, in the *haftorah* we are told that *leasid lavo*, after all of Jewish history will be unfolded before us, everything will be understood in context.

Rabbi Hershel Schachter

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