



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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

Parshat Vayechi

Volume: 19, Issue: 21 | December 21-22, 2018

Tevet 14

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert
Shabbat day: 48^o, Sunny

Shabbat Times



Friday, December 21
Candle Lighting: 4:13 PM
Mincha/Maariv: 4:15 PM
Shabbat, December 22
Shacharit: 9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema: 9:36 AM
Mincha / Shalosh: 4:05 PM
Seudot: 4:05 PM
Shkiya: 4:29 PM
Maariv: 5:12 PM
Havdalah: 5:17 PM
Next Friday, December 28
Candle Lighting: 4:16 PM
Mincha/Maariv: 4:20 PM

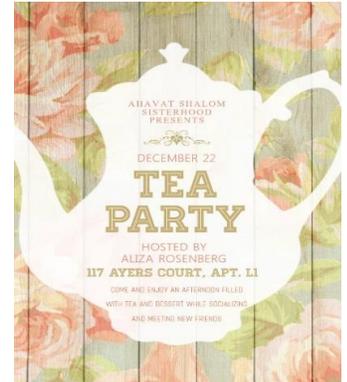
Weather Report: Friday night 45^o, Showers Early

Welcome to Shiran and Benji Nagar who recently moved into the community!

Thank You and Mazal Tov to the following sponsors for this week's Kiddush:
- **Lisa & Tyler Ben-Jacob** in honor of the birth of their daughter Jean Rory, לחן וכבוד רחל!
- **Chana & Nathan Blashka** in honor of their fourth wedding anniversary!

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 your copy.

THIS WEEK C.A.S. Sisterhood's First Tea Party! The event will take place this Shabbat afternoon, and is hosted by Aliza Rosenberg. Come and enjoy dessert and tea with the ladies of the community at 3:30 PM!



Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will 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.

Chessed 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!

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

She'arit ha-Plate 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.

Torah Opportunity For Upcoming Legal Holidays - Congregation Bnai Yeshurun invites you to join us for an early breakfast and shiur on the upcoming legal holidays. Breakfast will begin following the 8:00 am minyan with the shiur at 9:00 am. **Tuesday, December 25th: Rabbi Moshe Benovitz Comfort at What Cost?** Amazon Prime in an Age of Growth and Redemption. **Tuesday, January 1st: Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz Segulos and Superstitions.**

Torah Opportunity @ Beth Aaron - Sunday, December 23rd at 9:00am, a Shiur given by Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz of North Woodmere. A light Breakfast will be served.

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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MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

PROGRAM BENEFITS:
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- 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.

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ONE SOURCE LENDER



Transmitting and Expressing Faith

We have known this story, this Rashi, from our earliest years. Some are even surprised when they cannot find it in the *chumash* text. In it, one great generation tests the other. It adds nobility to the restless quest for legacy, and makes us so aware of the uncertainty of successfully transmitting faith. It is shared by all immigrant Jews as they find their way on foreign footing. And it is so important that Jews are mandated to recall it at least twice a day.

This is the way that the Rambam (*Hilchos Krias Shema* 1:3) records the story: The aging Yaakov gathers all his children around his bedside for what may be the last time. Perhaps in a now or never moment, Yaakov aggressively engages his children discussing with them Hashem's singularity and His other-worldly oneness and unity. Yaakov discoursed on the "pathways of Hashem" that Avrohom and Yitzchak had pursued. Fearing that among his very own children there may be one "off the pathway" and armed with the forthrightness reserved for someone about to leave this world, Yaakov wasted no time. "My children, perhaps there is among you someone who does not accept this oneness of Hashem?" It was then that the "*Shema*" was first formulated and declared, spontaneously and at once by the entire assemblage, no doubt assuaging the lingering fears of their father and granting him the peacefulness he so craved.

Profoundly grateful to have "*mitaso shleima* - His bed complete", i.e. a complete set of G-d fearing progeny, Yaakov *Avinu* thanks Hashem by formulating, "*Baruch sheim kevod malchuos leolam vaed* - The honor of His sovereignty should be forever.

I find it fascinating that as the Rambam records, we, as a people, as a result of this event, have adopted the custom to repeat Yaakov's words of thanks, every time we say *Shema*. That a phrase that does not appear in the text of *Shema* and should be seen as an interruption and distraction, is instead adopted to be a part of the *mitzvah* has to surprise us.

It is true that later authors see this *passuk* as a commentary to our declaration of *Shema* and the oneness of Hashem. Some suggest that it is a way of saying that we really do not understand the oneness of Hashem and the best we can do is view the effects of His sovereignty - His *malchus* from afar.

Yet Rambam insists otherwise, that we want to keep in the foreground of our minds Yaakov's profound appreciation. How does it enhance our recitation of *Shema* and our declaration of Hashem's dominance?

Truth be told, the overwhelming gratitude that Yaakov felt is something that every Jewish parent appreciates. Is there a greater source of peacefulness than to know that one leaves this world being a whole and firm link in an unending chain of Torah teaching? Is there another way to acquire the serenity of knowing that your children have the keys to live meaningfully in this world and to be well prepared for the next? After all is it not every night that we pray, well before we have any concept of what it means, to be blessed with a "complete set of progeny"?

Perhaps therein lies our answer. As we recall the final conversation of Yaakov *Avinu's* life, we take our place among his children who are haunted by the shadow of that moment. Thus, we express our commitment to the oneness of Hashem and the uniqueness of our attachment to Him. To bring to mind that *kabolos ol malchus Shomayim* is the overarching and overwhelming message we strive to convey to our children, and that it will be singular in the way it measures our success and provides us with satisfaction and serenity, is the greatest expression of the depth of our faith.

Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger

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LOAN OFFICER LENDER