



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

Davening: TABC, 1600 Queen Anne Rd.  
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Parshat Shoftim

Volume: 19, Issue: 3 | August 17-18, 2018

Elul 7

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

## Shabbat Times



Friday, August 17	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:34 PM
Shabbat, August 18	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:34 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	7:20 PM
Shkiya:	7:50 PM
Maariv:	8:29 PM
Havdalah:	8:34 PM
Next Friday, August 24	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:24 PM

**Weather Report:** Friday night: 82°, Scattered T-Storms

Shabbat day: 75°, T-Storms

**Welcome** - to our newest congregants; Eli and Alyssa Kirsch who moved into Walraven, Or and Devorah Mossaiov as well as Sharon Stahl who all moved into West Englewood.

**Tzeitzchem L'/Shalom** - Leah, Jason and Eitan Felder who are moving to Highland Park. We thank you for what have you done for the community.

**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](mailto: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/sear for members and \$45/sear for non-members. The sign up link is live as of this week and can be found at [www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/yomkippur2018](http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/yomkippur2018).

**Ahavat Shalom Membership for 2018-2019!** The link will be live! It can be found at [www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/ahavatshalommembership](http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/ahavatshalommembership) 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.

## Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 8/18, 9/1, 9/8.

He can be reached via email at [RabbiYehudaHalpert@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com).

## 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](http://ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin) for more information.

**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 [arvehalpert@gmail.com](mailto:arvehalpert@gmail.com) or text 201-289-9254 to sign up or with any questions.

**Torah Opportunity** - Rabbi Larry Rothwachs of Congregation Beth Aaron is offering a lecture series on the Book of Jonah, "Sefer Yonah: Models of Teshuva and Profiles of Prayer." All sessions begin at 8:30 p.m.

The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, August 29:** Prophets and Losses: Discerning the Messages within Yonah's Silence
- Wednesday, September 5:** A Deep Wail from Deep within the Whale: Yonah's Finest Moment
- Wednesday, September 12:** Look Who's Sorry Now: A Closer Look at the Repentant City of Nineveh
- Monday, September 17:** The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth: The Timeless Message of Sefer Yonah

**Chesed Committee** - The Chesed Committee's Community Resource Initiative is open for business! If there is anyone in need of professional services, please reach out to [chesed@teaneckapartments.com](mailto:chesed@teaneckapartments.com). Thanks to the generous members of our community, we have set up a professional network to assist you with your professional needs. All correspondence will remain virtually anonymous. Available services include financial planning, tax returns and advice, therapy/counseling and more.



## 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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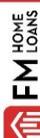
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## MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



**PROGRAM BENEFITS:**  
*Exclusively for Ahavat Shalom Members*

- Waive of all bank fees (\$1490 value)
- 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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### The Responsibility of Miracles

Whereas for others it is a potter's field story, for our people it becomes a public call for introspection and prayer. That is the remarkable ritual of *egla arufa*, through which the lone Jewish murder victim found in an unpopulated area becomes the catalyst for national hand wringing and stocktaking. The ritual itself of killing an unharnessed calf dramatically assigns value to every single soul and demands of local leadership to accept responsibility for their safekeeping. It may very well be that this *parsha* has been unusually impactful and has singularly seared into Jewish consciousness the absolute preciousness of every life. This truth is tested time again on the battlefield, in the war rooms in Israel, and in the philanthropy-seeking pitches of countless organizations.

That is why the culminating prayer (21:5) offered by leadership, "forgive the nation that you have redeemed", with its seemingly unnecessary reference to our redemption of old, needs greater study. Why is a *parsha* focused on the value of life and on the systemic flaws that failed that creed connecting us to our redemptions and particularly to our redemption from Egypt?

Even more surprising is that *Chazal* (*Sifri*, *Horiyos* 6a, *Kerisus* 26a), in answer to this question, interpret that this prayer asks for atonement for the generation of Jews who experienced that exodus. That is to say that the present-day leadership while admirably taking responsibility for a murder on their watch are instructed to deflect it as well. Truth be told it sounds frighteningly similar to contemporary spinning or some legal defense!

Rav Meir Simcha of Dvinsk (in his *sefer Meshech Chochma*), with his trademark creativity, suggests that we are asking to be pardoned for this crime as if it had taken place prior to our entry into Israel. Those generations were not yet charged with the *mitzvah* of *arvus*; that is, they were not held responsible for the flaws of their contemporaries. Thus, for some unrecorded reason we are asking to be judged by their standard. Yet I think that this is one of those solutions that speaks to the textual difficulty at hand. After all, the simple reading suggests that when we fail the safety of another Jew we assuage our shame and hold our ancestors, who experienced the miraculous, responsible.

I believe there is a lesson here that should resonate with us, as our generations are also witness to the miraculous. Let me explain.

The hard truth that *Chazal* are expressing is pointed out by Rav Moshe Shternbuch, head of the *Eidah Chareidis* of Yerushalayim in his *sefer Ta'am Voda'as*. Incredible as it is, the Torah wants us to appreciate that the failure to value the safekeeping of every Jew stems from the failure to successfully transmit the miraculous narrative of our people. I do not know whether it was the safety provided to the Jews during certain plagues, or the protection that every family received in the intimacy of their homes (the miracle of *shivtei ko*), or simply the invitation to every Jew to be a part of the story through participation in the *korban Pesach*, or merely the miracles performed for the delivery of every worthy Jew. Whatever it was, *Chazal* understood that we would never fail the concerns for the safety of a Jew had we successfully imbibed the *mesora* of the miracles that occurred. Apparently, a people richly endowed with transmitted testimony of the appreciation that Hashem has for all our people would inescapably design a society that offers utmost protection to every soul.

In addition to the good textual fit of Rav Shternbach's comment, I find that the responsibility that it places on generations that witness miracles to be powerfully instructive. We are such a generation.

We are witness to the miracle of the rebirth of our people growing year after year. We should be keenly aware of the protection that we have received from on High from tunnels, fire laden kites and knife wielding terrorist, even as we have suffered terribly from them. With any trip to Israel we cannot miss seeing the beginning of the prophesized incoming of far flung Jews. During visits to Israel and to the local grocer we are witness to the fulfillment of the words of Yechezkel *hanavi* (36:8), "...you, the mountains of Israel, give out your branches and carry your fruit for my people Israel for their coming is drawing close." Our embrace of this mandate that we thankfully shoulder will help us strengthen our faith and that of our children and merit the life lessons and blessings that come with it.

By: Yaakov Neuberger

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