



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS  
NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Vayikra

Volume: 19, Issue: 33 | March 15-16, 2019

Adar Bet 8

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat day: 49°, Partly cloudy

## Shabbat Times

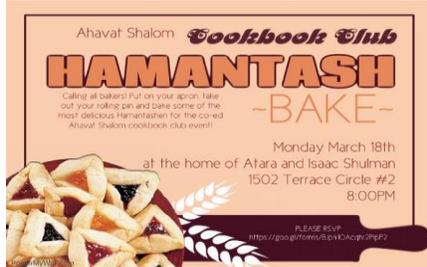
<b>Friday, March 15</b>	
Candle Lighting:	6:45 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:50 PM
<b>Shabbat, March 16</b>	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	10:05 AM
Mincha /Shalosh	6:35 PM
Seudot:	
Shkiya:	7:04 PM
Maariv:	7:39 PM
Havdalah:	7:44 PM
<b>Next Friday, March 22</b>	
Candle Lighting:	6:52 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:55 PM



**Weather Report:** Friday night 43°, Rainy

**Mazal Tov** to Chavi and Jonathan Samuels on the birth of a baby girl!

**Mazal Tov** to Elana and Stephan Gilbert on the birth of a baby girl!



**Parshat Zachor** - Please note that there will be three readings of Parshat Zachor this Shabbat - during leining, after davening and a special Sephardi leining after davening as well.

**Winter Mystery Shabbat is upon us!** If you signed up, we look forward to having you take part and meet new friends this Shabbat!

**Cholent Madness Finals!**  
This Shabbat, the annual

Ahavat Shalom Cholent Competition finals will be held right here in the shul immediately after davening! Come enjoy the heavenly flavour of the Landesman, Rehanian and Ferber kitchens, as well as a surprise mystery wild card!

**Cookbook Club presents:** Hamantash Bake! All men and women are invited to attend this co-ed event that will take place on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 8:00 PM at the home of Atara and Isaac Shulman!

**Purim!** We will be having Wednesday night maariv and megillah reading here at Ahavat Shalom at 7:35 PM! Come all dressed up and hear megillah. To note, Ta'anit Esther ends at 7:43 PM. Additionally, all members can pick up their personalized Mishloach Manot from the shul after Megillah!

**Ahavat Shalom Madness is here!** Just like last year, we are running our very own bracket challenge! YOU can win dinner for two at a restaurant of your choosing (a \$75.00 value)! To enter the tournament, you just have to fill out a bracket at [https://tournament.fantasysports.yahoo.com/t1/group/47685/invitation?key=96e94a5f8dc88a25&soc\\_trk=lnk](https://tournament.fantasysports.yahoo.com/t1/group/47685/invitation?key=96e94a5f8dc88a25&soc_trk=lnk) and send payment by Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 12:00 noon (bracket will lock). The cost of one (1) bracket is \$10, or three (3) brackets for \$25. All proceeds will go straight to the shul!

**Raising Awareness Seminar #3!** On that note, we are very excited to announce Raising Awareness Seminar #3, which will take place on Saturday night, March 23. Dr. Bat Sheva Marcus, LCSW, MPH, PhD, Clinical Director, Maze Women's Sexual Health and Dr. Shy Krug, PhD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, James J. Peter's VA Medical Center will deliver a presentation entitled, "תורה היא וללמוד אני צריך": This too is Torah." The presentation will discuss the realities and myths surrounding physical intimacy and marital relations. The lecture will feature a co-ed presentation followed by a separate male/female Q&A session with our speakers. For more information, please reach out to Shira Russell Giller!

### 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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### Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 3/16, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13.

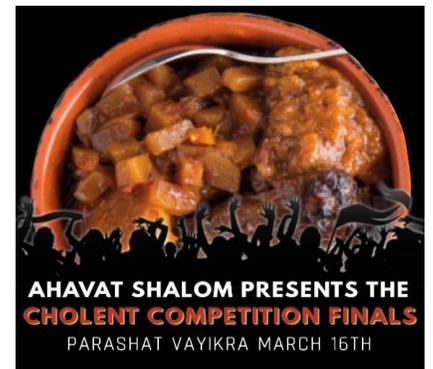
He can be reached via email at [RabbiYehudaHalpert@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiYehudaHalpert@gmail.com), or phone in the evenings at 201-836-3828. In the event of an emergency, Rabbi Halpert can also be reached at 212-909-6951.

### Yeshivat Noam Youth Groups

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



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**MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM**

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**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.



Below, please find a brief summary of the Laws of Purim. If you have any specific questions please feel free to reach out to Rabbi Halpert at 201-836-3828 or rabbiyehudahalpert@gmail.com:

- The Fast Of Esther - **The Fast of Esther will be observed on Wednesday, March 20th the 13th of Adar Bet.** The laws of this fast are more lenient than other fasts, and so pregnant and nursing mothers, as well as the sick (or even those just suffering from major discomfort), do not fast.
- Charity In Commemoration Of the Half Shekel – On the afternoon before Purim, one gives money to charity in commemoration of the half shekel that was given when the Temple stood. (If one was unable to fulfill the commemoration of the half shekel at minchah on the Fast of Esther one can fulfill his or her obligation at shacharit Purim morning). There are numerous customs concerning this obligation. In some places only men above the age of twenty donate, in others men over the age of thirteen. In some places women also donate, and also charity is given in the name of the children, and even pregnant women donate for their unborn child. In shul three half dollars will be placed on a tray, each person then buys the coins by placing an amount of money in the tray (even less than the value of the special coins), and acquiring the coins by lifting them up. These half dollars are then donated back to charity by replacing them on the tray "in commemoration of the half shekel", to be used by the next person.
- Reading the Megilla – The Megilla will be read Wednesday night please make every effort to arrive promptly as one must hear every word of the Megilla.
- Mishloach Manot - Sending of Portions – Everybody is obligated to send at least two portions to one Jew. This can only be fulfilled during the day and not the night. Ideally, each member of the household should send mishloach manot and not rely on that which their spouse has sent. One should educate even small children in this, as well as the other mitzvot of Purim. As in past years, considerable time and effort have been spent coordinating a community wide mishloach manot program. This program serves as a fund raiser for the shul and has many ancillary benefits including, but not limited to, (i) ensuring mishloach manot are sent in a respectful and appropriate manner (ii) allowing individuals to send mishloach manot to the entire shul without delivering mishloach manot to the entire shul and (iii) allowing for instant reciprocity. **However, participation in the mishloach manot program will not technically fulfill your mishloach manot obligation and accordingly individuals participating in the mishloach manot program, should ensure that they deliver at least one mishloach manot (two portion to one Jew) on Purim day.** To fulfill the technical obligation of mishloach manot each portion should be something fit for consumption as is (without further cooking). The two portions also should be different from each other; however it is enough that they have different tastes, such as two types of cake, or two different types of meat etc. (they do not need to have two have separate blessings). One should send portions that are fittingly substantial (both in the eyes of the giver and in the eyes of the receiver).
- Matanot LeEvyonim – Gifts to the Poor – Every person is obligated to give charity to two poor Jews. This can only be fulfilled during the day and not the night, though one can give the money to a messenger any time before Purim day in order that the messenger give the money to the poor during the day of Purim itself. **It is better to increase one's gifts to the poor, rather than increasing the amounts of Mishloach Manot and the size of one's Purim Meal.** This is because there is no greater joy than to gladden the hearts of the poor, the orphans, the widow, and the stranger. In gladdening the hearts of the needy, one acts in accordance with G-d Himself, as it says "To enliven the spirit of the lowly, and to enliven the hearts of the downtrodden" – Rambam. The amount donated must at a minimum be equal to a "prutah" {a minimal coin} and can be money or food. However it is proper to increase ones gifts to the poor both in the amount of money and the amount of poor people being given to, and at a minimum one should donate at least \$10 each to two individuals (as a respectable festive meal in a Teaneck establishment likely costs at a minimum approximately \$10). One should not be particular on Purim, and should give to all who request. However in order to ensure that one fulfills the essential mitzvah, one should guarantee that one gives to at least two bona fide poor. (The best way to ensure this is to appoint a trustworthy charity collector as one's messenger to deliver the money on their behalf). Each family member should give themselves, and not rely on the charity given by the head of the family. One may not use *Maaser* (Tithe) money for the primary fulfillment of this *mitzvah*. One who is in a place where there are no Jewish poor, should set the money aside in order to give to poor at a later time.
- The Purim Meal – Every person, both men and women, are obligated to have a festive meal on Purim day. It is the custom to eat bread at this meal.
- Alcoholic Consumption - The Talmud records that "One is obligated to become intoxicated on Purim, until one cannot distinguish between 'cursed be Haman' and 'blessed be Mordechai'". **There are many opinions about this statement, but all agree that it is forbidden to become intoxicated to the point of rowdiness. All the more so one is forbidden to break any commandments, or forget to fulfill any religious obligations.** The custom in most houses is to drink more wine (and other spirits) than usual until one reaches, through this, a stage of happiness of the festival, and gratitude to God. (Some are accustomed to fall asleep due to the more than normal quantity of wine, and thus reach a state [asleep] of being unable to distinguish between Haman and Mordechai). This mitzvah applies only to men, though in some places women drink a small amount of wine in honor of the holiday – but they are not obligated in becoming intoxicated.

Chag Sameach!!  
Rabbi Halpert

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