



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Shemini

Volume: 19, Issue: 35 | March 29-30, 2019

Adar Bet 21

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Assistant Rabbi David Schlusberg

Shabbat day: 66°, Cloudy

Shabbat Times

Friday, March 29	
Candle Lighting:	7:00 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 PM
Shabbat, March 30	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:53 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	6:50 PM
Shkiya:	7:18 PM
Maariv:	7:54 PM
Havdalah:	7:59 PM
Next Friday, April 5	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 AM
Candle Lighting:	7:07 PM



Weather Report: Friday night: 49°, Cloudy

Welcome to Rabbi Markowitz and Congregation Shomrei Torah of Fair Lawn! Thank you as well for sponsoring a kiddush for the whole community!

Thank you to all those who made Purim possible! Thank you especially to our amazing Sisterhood (Yael Wine, Deena Bernstein and Gabee London) and to our awesome Gabbaim (Stephan Gilbert, Avi Sonnenblick, Eli Baum and Steven Lowinger)!

Raising Awareness Seminar #3! Thank you to all those who made it to the Raising Awareness Seminar #3. Special Thanks to Dr. Bat Sheva Marcus, Dr. Shy Krug, and the Chesed Committee for putting this together!

What I Missed in Kallah Classes: A Shiur and Meet & Greet with Yoetzet Halacha Tova Warburg Sinensky! Come get to know the community Yoetzet Halacha and learn about common misconceptions and myths in the observance of Taharat Hamishpacha! See the flyer below for details of this incredible and eye-opening event for women!

Our synagogue is proud to be participating in Yesh Tikva's Fourth Annual Infertility Awareness Shabbat along with over 100 other synagogues in North America, Australia, and Israel in partnership with Australia Jewish Fertility Network, Fruitful AZ, Gefen Fertility, Hasidah, Jewish Fertility Foundation JFLA's Feit 4 KidZ Fertility Fund, and Nishmat. This shabbat aims to give infertility a "voice" and to spread awareness in the Jewish community. Too often, infertility is a silent struggle, such that we may not even be aware when our friends, family members or neighbors are suffering. The goal of this campaign is to increase sensitivity towards our fellow Jews who dream of becoming parents.

New Teaneck-Wide Minyan - This message is to announce a new community wide minyan that will meet once per month on Sunday mornings at 8:00am. The objective of this minyan, endorsed by all of the shuls below, is very simple if "revolutionary": to provide those interested an opportunity, just once per month, to daven at a slow enough pace to enable them to understand the meaning of all of the words. More specifically, the minyan will target a 60-minute, rather than 30-35 minute, shacharit for a regular Sunday morning davening. The minyan will only meet on "regular" Sundays, not Rosh Chodesh or fast days. (It will generally meet the first Sunday after every Rosh Chodesh). As a community-wide initiative, this minyan is expected to rotate among various community shuls. It is anticipated that the first one will be hosted at Bnai Yeshurun on Sunday, April 7, at 8am. We are all very busy the rest of the week and it may not be realistic to always understand everything we are saying when racing along to keep up with the understandably fast pace of davening. This minyan will be launched only if at least 25-30 people respond that they anticipate attending. Please email your interest to sundaykavanaminyan@gmail.com

Initial list of sponsoring shuls: Beth Aaron, Beth Abraham, Bnai Yeshurun, Congregation Ahavat Shalom, Keter Torah, Ohr HaTorah, Rinat Yisrael, Shaare Tefillah, Young Israel, Zichron Mordechai

Nitzanei Noam Summer program for 2-3 year olds - Nitzanei Noam, located in Bnai Yeshurun, Teaneck, is accepting applications for its 2-3 year old summer program. Experienced head counselor, fun junior counselors, outdoor climbing and play area, outdoor water play, dynamic daily programming and learning, music, yoga and more. Hours are 9:00am-3:00pm with early drop off and late pick up available. For more information visit www.yeshivatnoam.org or call Morah Joyce Buckman at 201-836-6871, or email her at jbuckman@yeshivatnoam.org.

Torah Opportunity - The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Aaron and Lamdeinu are co-sponsoring a free pre-Pesach shiur with Miriam Krupka Berger on Tuesday, April 9, at 8:00 p.m., in the shul. Her topic will be "The Four Loves of Shir ha-Shirim: Can We Be Friends with God?" The program is open to both men and women. Light refreshments will be served

Torah Opportunity - Rabbi Baruch Simon, Rosh Yeshiva at RIETS, will offer a Pre-Pesach shiur on Thursday, April 11, at 8:15 p.m., at Congregation Beth Aaron, when his topic will be "Haggadah Insights: Torah for the Seder."

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 5/4.

He can be reached via email at RabbiYehudaHalpert@gmail.com, or phone at 201-836-3828. In the event of an emergency, Rabbi Halpert can also be reached at 212-909-6951. Rabbi Schlusberg can be reached at (201) 543-9308 or daveschluss@gmail.com

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.



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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Only the Humble Can Lead

It had been planned for close to a year. The position, its requirements, and all of its detailed protocols had been studied and reviewed numerous times. Yet when the *mishkan* was fully ready and Aharon was about to begin his *mishkan* service, he resisted. Apparently, Aharon was so emotionally unready that Hashem himself had to intercede. According to Rashi (8:2) Moshe is told, "find the words to convince him and persuade him." This conversation, though cryptic and vague, is obviously important enough to be recorded and become part of what we transmit from generation to generation.

Through various *midrashim* (*Toras Kohanim, Shemini*; Rashi 9:7) we can piece together the realities of the moment, the fears that were addressed, and the ideas that gave Aharon *chizuk* and courage. As Aharon was about to launch his *kehuna* career, he was overwhelmed with memories of the *eigel hazohov*. According to one record, as he looked at the *mizbeach* its square protruding corners morphed, in his mind, into the horns of a bull, like an *eigel hazohov* nightmare. We can only imagine how diminished and tortured Aharon must have felt. How could he now lead his people in the holiest of places? How could he, plagued with these memories, assume the highest tier of spiritual leadership with the sin of the *eigel*? Such is the heart, humility and self-awareness of genuine spiritual leadership.

Moshe, following Divine instruction does not give, declaring the words that have inspired many, - לַכֹּהֵן נִצְרָתָהּ - "for this you were chosen." Simply put, Moshe argues, "this is your purpose in life". Who turns down that kind of clarity? Would we not all want to have prophecy tell us our purpose and destiny in life? Interestingly, Mordechai's charge to the hesitant Esther, " יודע אדם לעת כזאת הגעת למלכות " seems to be largely another way of saying לַכֹּהֵן נִצְרָתָהּ.

Yet, another way to read Moshe's argument has been suggested by several commentators, including Rav Zadok of Lublin. They read Moshe's encouragement as being, "for this humility, for this uncertainty, that is why you were chosen to be *kohein gadol*."

In addition to the sublime spirituality of Aharon and the profound dedication to every individual Jew, perhaps it was his ability to understand failure that prepared him for a life throughout which he would represent his people before Hashem. Possibly, his keen feelings of having disappointed all that is precious in life will help Aharon greet and raise every Jew who approaches him, even one approaching with the attendant guilt and remorse of a sin offering.

This charge to Aharon finds its way into the Purim story as well. It was the Imrei Emes, the Gerrer Rebbe who began to reestablish his *chasidus* in Israel immediately after the holocaust, who points to the *medrashic* descriptions of Esther's uncertainty. He records the account of Esther who, after being emboldened by *Ruach Hakodesh* to confront the king, suddenly feels robbed of that spiritual uplift. As she passed by the *avoda zoro* in the palace, and was apparently reminded of the past sins of her people, she became spiritually and practically weak kneed again. The Rebbe explains that at times of *hester panim*, feelings of spiritual diminution are indeed a call to action and leadership. Based on the Zohar, he saw them as deliberate and forceful voices from above demanding that we dig deep, find inspiration and moral compass from within, and as a result emerge to behold deservedly greater Divine assistance.

Looking for the updated version of Moshe's words to Aharon, I recall the manner in which Rav Yisroel Salanter compellingly responded to his close student, Rav Yitzchak Blazer. The teacher, impressed with the communal impact his student could have and the leadership he could offer, dispatched him to lead the Jews of St. Petersburg and become the chief rabbi of this capital city. Rav Yitzchak, untested and only twenty-five at the time, resisted and explained that he is afraid given his youth and the cosmopolitan nature of the community. To which Rav Yisroel is reported to have responded, "and who shall I send, someone who is not afraid?"

Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger

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