



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS  
NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Ki Teitzei

Volume: 19, Issue: 4 | August 24-25, 2018

Elul 14

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

## Shabbat Times



Friday, August 24	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:24 PM
Shabbat, August 25	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:37 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	7:10 PM
Shkiya:	7:40 PM
Maariv:	8:18 PM
Havdalah:	8:23 PM
Next Friday, August 31	
Candle Lighting:	7:13 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM

**Weather Report:** Friday night: 64°, Clear

Shabbat day: 82°, Cloudy

**Mazal Tov** - to Shoshana and Yoni Kushner on the birth of a baby girl!

**Welcome** - to Rabbi Ely Shestack and the Ahavat Achim community from Fair Lawn! Thank you for sponsoring kiddush this Shabbat!

**Welcome** - to Devorah and Danny Palgon who recently moved into Terrace Circle, and to Amanda and Daniel Kirshblum who recently moved into Walraven!

**Tzeitchem L'Shalom** - Esther, Yonatan, Yaakov and Daniel Isser who are moving to Bergenfield. We thank you for all you have done for the community.

**Rosh Hashana** - We are 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. 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/seat for members and \$45/seat for non-members. The signup link is live as of this week and can be found at [www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/yomkippur2018](http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/yomkippur2018). Additionally, babysitting will be offered during the day for an additional \$20/child. Please make sure to sign up on the website!

## Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 8:25, 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.



**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 - \$20 suggested minimum donation. 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.

**Arba Minim** - Eli Baum will be selling lulav and etrog sets this year. A portion of your purchase will be donated to the shul when you mention Ahavat Shalom. Additional discount available to paid Ahavat Shalom members for the 2018-2019 year. Pricing starts at \$55 per set.

**SAVE THE DATES!** Our next Meet n' Greet will take place on Shabbat, September 8th! Additionally, the annual Ahavat Shalom Simchat Torah luncheon will take place on Tuesday, October 2nd with a Mexican fiesta twist! More details on both to follow!

**Gift of Life** will be holding a bone marrow drive this Sunday from 10-4 at Congregation Ohr Hatorah, 36 Rector Court in Bergenfield. If you are between the ages of 18-45 and in general good health you can get screened and be entered into the worldwide registry. Contact Jenny Gans at (917)-579-3163 with any questions.

**B'nai Yeshurun presents** - Preparing for Yom HaDin with Rav Moshe Weinberger: "To Forgive and Be Forgiven." The shiur will take place on Tuesday, September 4th at 8:30 PM at B'nai Yeshurun.

**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. Next session:

## 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](mailto:board@teaneckapartments.com) | [president@teaneckapartments.com](mailto:president@teaneckapartments.com) | [rabbiyehudahalpert@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiyehudahalpert@gmail.com)



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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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### Attaining Divine Mercy

Within the awe-inspiring *tefillah* of *Unesaneh Tokef*, recited on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we refer to the angels who cannot survive strict Divine justice. The implication is obvious: how much more so can't we, as human beings, with our frailties, expect to be inscribed in the Book of Life on these awesome days of Judgement. Nevertheless, we continue to *daven* and when Yom Kippur concludes, we are confident that Hashem has indeed judged us favorably. How can we expect to be victorious in judgment if even the angels cannot accomplish this?

*Chazal* teach us that Hashem judges the world in two ways: through the lens of strict judgment on the one hand or through the lens of mercy and compassion on the other hand. When He looks at us through the prism of strict justice, we have no hope of succeeding. However, when Hashem views us through the lens of mercy and compassion, we can *daven* and hope to receive a positive verdict. The challenge that faces us is how we can have Hashem judge us in this manner and not apply the rules of strict justice? *Chazal* instruct us that Hashem treats us as we treat others. If we act to our fellow man in a way that always invokes the rules of justice, then Hashem will act accordingly towards us. However, if we treat others with compassion, then Hashem will likewise judge us in a merciful and compassionate way.

This week's *parsha* incorporates into *halacha* specific ways to treat others that go above and beyond what otherwise strict justice would have dictated. The Torah instructs us what to do when we find a lost object. - we are not allowed to keep it or even ignore it and leave it. Rather, we are obligated to return it to its original owner. According to the strict rules of justice, we should have applied the concept of "finders-keepers." Yet, the Torah insists that we approach a lost object through the eyes of compassion. Although technically the owner has lost the claim to his property, compassion to others requires of us to go beyond the absolute letter of the law.

There is a similar *mitzvah* later in the *parsha* concerning lending money. Theoretically there should be nothing wrong with taking interest on a loan. The lender is losing the opportunity to invest his own funds and it is understandable if he were to receive interest for this loss.

Nevertheless, the Torah strictly forbids any form of interest. This is because we are not to treat our fellow man with strict justice, rather, out of love and compassion, we must forego our otherwise legitimate right to collect interest. The Torah elaborates on the relationship between the lender and the borrower that further highlights the need for compassion. If the borrower cannot repay the loan and it is necessary to take a collateral, the laws that govern such action greatly limit one's otherwise legitimate rights. One is prohibited from taking a collateral that would impinge upon the borrower's livelihood. If an article of clothing is taken, it must be returned at a time that the borrower has to wear it. Even though the lender is legally entitled to receive his payment, all efforts are made to insist that the lender view the borrower through the prism of compassion and mercy. As the ultimate act of compassion concerning loans, the Torah teaches us in *Parshas Re'ei* that at the end of the *shemittah* year the entire loan is cancelled. Clearly this is not rooted in justice but rather in the loving kindness expected to be shown to one another.

The entire institution of *matnos aniyim* - gifts to the poor - is predicated on the traits of kindness and compassion. At the end of the *parsha* the Torah instructs us concerning the special gifts that are given from our fields and vineyards. We must leave a corner of what we harvest and significant parts of our crops for the poor to take. These *mitzvos* and the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* are expressions of our love for others above and beyond what actual justice would have required. Theoretically what we harvest should be ours completely to keep. Yet by sharing with others, we become compassionate and in turn, we merit the compassion of Hashem.

As we approach the Days of Judgement we realize, like the angels on high, that we cannot be victorious in a world dictated by Divine justice alone. We call out to Hashem to view us through the eyes of kindness, love, and compassion. Our most effective way of meriting this Divine love is by treating others in this way. By performing these monetary *mitzvos* designed to implant within us these character traits, may we all merit Divine kindness and all be blessed and inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.

By: Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky

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