



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Bechukotai

Volume: 19, Issue: 44 | May 31 - June 1, 2019

Iyar 26-27

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Assistant Rabbi David Schlusberg

Shabbat day: 79^o, Sunny

Shabbat Times

Friday, May 31	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	8:03 PM
Shabbat, June 1	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:10 AM
Mincha /Shalosh Seudot:	7:55 PM
Shkiya:	8:21 PM
Maariv:	9:06 PM
Havdalah:	9:11 PM
Next Friday, June 7	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	8:08 PM



Weather Report: Friday night 61^o, Partly Cloudy

Welcome to Leora and Noam Weinberger who recently moved into Terrace Circle!
Zeeva, Adam and Lehava Ariel who recently moved into the community!

Mazal Tov to Esti and Mark Kaminetzky on the birth of a baby girl, Bracha Yosepha!

NEXT WEEK (FOR REAL): Erev Shavuot Mystery Shabbat - Join the Ahavat Shalom Community for an Erev Shavuot Mystery Shabbat on June 8th! Sign up to be a host or a guest - our committee will match our hosts with guests to meet new neighbors and have a great time. Sign up closes June 1st @ Midnight. Priority will be given to members. The link is: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4oKzPb9em07v-aRVJjxeiEV2mOkElveoqiYChz2xDyG6b9AQ/viewform>

Newsletter Advertising Space - Congregation Ahavat Shalom will once again be auctioning off the advertising space in our weekly newsletter, the Achdus Newsletter, for the 12 month period from June 15, 2019 - June 14, 2020. The deadline to submit your bid is June 9, 2019. If you have any questions, please reach out to Yishai Kadry at ahavatshalomtreasurer@gmail.com.

Special Shavuot Programming - Don't forget, if you are staying in Teaneck for Shavuot to sign up using this link. We must know exactly who will be staying in! Thanks! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSer0b0in1lvU5OpgAOFNQGZG11o4PWwNe2kDPeAIS6w/viewform>

Shavuot Message - As Shavuot is just around the corner, I want to remind everyone that we WILL be having a full set of programming for the entire community over the three-day yom tov! Whether you have been a part of the festivities in years past, or whether this will be your first Shavuot at CAS, we guarantee a fun-filled educational, spiritual and social experience. Stay tuned for the official schedule that will be sent out in the coming days, but for a sneak peek, here are just a few of the highlights: All night learning, all night eating, Mystery Shabbat, Non-mystery not Shabbat, engaging shiurim with incredible speakers and more!

Additionally, as we have done in the past, if you would like to be a co-sponsor for Tikkun Leil Shavuot in honor or memory of a person or event, or for any reason at all, please reach out to Yishai Kadry.

Lastly, we are looking for a female speaker to give a women's only shiur at some point over the chag. If you or someone you know would like to be that speaker, please reach out to Eliana Baum.

Stay tuned for the full and amazing schedule!

Amud Yomi - Finding time during the day to learn can be an extremely difficult task, especially for those in the workforce. Without a chavrusa to motivate you to show up, it can be difficult to commit to setting aside time. While the worldwide Daf Yomi program has had incredible success in this endeavor, many of us might still find difficulty keeping up and drop it altogether. For anyone that is interested, amudyomi.com is on a schedule to complete Shas in 15 years (Daf Yomi - shas in 7.5 years; 1 amud - 0.5 daf; Amud Yomi - shas in 15 years; math is fun!). This is a great opportunity to incorporate learning into your daily life! If you have any interest in doing this alongside like-minded individuals within our community, please reach out to Ami Kirschner for more details. He can be reached via email: amikirschner@gmail.com or on his cell: (347) 233-1180.

Torah Opportunity: The topic for this week's Shivti seder limud at Congregation Beth Aaron is "I Have You Covered: One Helping Another Fulfill his Mitzvot Obligations." Rabbi Sason Gabay will lead the shiur and the chabura before the shiur. The program is held on Sunday mornings in the Beit Midrash, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A light breakfast will be served at 8:45 a.m. Each Sunday morning program typically will be independent from the previous and subsequent programs. A WhatsApp group has been created for Shivti attendees. To be added to the list, or for information about the program, please contact Mordy Ungar, 201-741-3920, m_ungar2@yahoo.com.

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 | rabbivehudahalpert@gmail.com

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.



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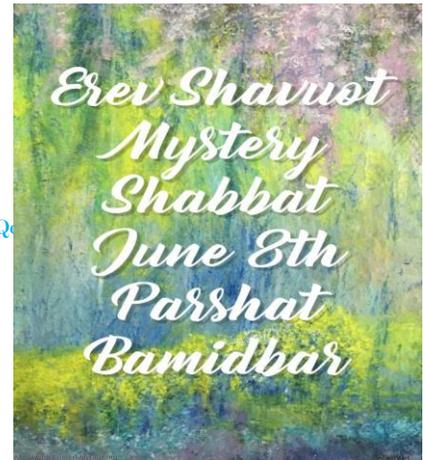
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Torah Study for the Over-Committed

To the young men in their yeshiva years, it would be a sure bet that this Rashi would be the central text for the weekly words of inspiration and guidance. For one who is in a later stage of life, the same Rashi will bring on a smile and nostalgic moments of talks that were inspiring and ambitious in equal measure. I am referring to the opening Rashi of this week's *parsha*, which concludes with "*shetiyu ameilim baTorah*", words that have challenged every *bais hamedrash* to use all of our G-d given energies and faculties, without any reservation at all, in plumbing the depth of Torah.

Rashi is commenting on the first precondition of several, which we must meet as a people in order to earn the promises of goodness that follow. To concretize what would otherwise be an ambiguous and abstract text, Rashi interprets the first phrase of the *parsha*, "*im bechukoisai teleichu* - if you will follow in my laws" as if to say, if you will tirelessly and single mindedly engage in Torah, its wisdom and perhaps its many varied challenges. Thus this very first phrase can be distinguished from the one that follows which simply demands our adherence to all *mitzvos*.

Many commentaries question why Rashi chose, of all the dimensions of our lifestyle, exclusive dedication to and focus on our studies to be the elucidation of a rather general phrase. I have often wondered why Hashem gave this demand the highest priority over all the many *mitzvos* and attitudes that we are enjoined to practice and master.

Moreover the call to "*ameilus*" is puzzling. To study without distraction may readily be within grasp of those whose entire life is enacted within the physical four walls of the *bais hamedrash*. There, it is a call for more hours inside and fewer outside, or for greater care in one's thinking or for a quicker pace with an eye for greater breadth. However, how does Rashi intend to challenge the winemakers, those who are stretched thin between the noble efforts to support one's wife and children all the while tending to their various needs and carving out time to study in fulfillment of the *mitzvah*, "*vohegeso bo yomem voleilo*". After all, the blessings of our *parsha* are addressed to and through the farmers and their community more than anyone else.

All that being said, we do know that when under pressure to present our work, we naturally seclude ourselves, putting up all the "do not disturb" in all forms available to us. It is then that we not only block any absolutely unnecessary disturbance but block out time as well, creating a new space that did not exist before and that cannot be trespassed if we are to succeed. We therefore well understand that distractions will not only dilute the powerful drive of curiosity and the problem solver within us that we usually find so engaging, but will also disturb any contiguous time that would allow us to immerse ourselves in our work.

Perhaps Rashi wants us to consider that we who are already over-committed will find the strength to block out time and space for Torah study - "*kove'a itim latorah*" if we can see that every *mitzvah* and passage contains a "*chok*" - an almost impenetrable idea - in some way or to some measure. "*Im bechukoisai telechu*"! Thus "*ameilus*" is borne out of an appreciation of the "*chok*" of every *mitzvah* and the extent of focus that it will demand of us. It has to be this way. Coming from on High, every Torah idea must have a range of insights that cover the full gamut of human reasoning to uncover. Appreciating a *mitzvah* for what it indeed is requires that we accord it the same undivided attention that many projects and challenges get from us from time to time. Thus realizing that Torah study will require its own space in time and thought is an expression of our understanding of the great gift and opportunity that it is, and it indeed is a good place to start earning the many *berachos* that Hashem wishes to give us.

Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger

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