



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

Davening: TABC, 1600 Queen Anne Rd.
Mailing: PO Box 595, Teaneck, NJ 07666-0595

Parshat Nitzavim

Volume: 19, Issue: 6 | September 7-8, 2018

Elul 28

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, September 7	
Candle Lighting:	7:01 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	7:05 PM
Shabbat, September 8	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:41 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	6:50 PM
Shkiya:	7:17 PM
Maariv:	7:54 PM
Havdalah:	7:59 PM
Next Friday, September 14	
Candle Lighting:	6:49 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:55 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 76°, Cloudy

Shabbat day: 73°, Partly Cloudy

Welcome - Yael & Isaac Bernstein and Cayla & Daniel Lubat all whom just recently moved into the community! Please introduce yourselves.

Welcome Back Yeshivat Noam! Morah Shira and Morah Melissa are back for another exciting year of groups!

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.



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. Additionally, babysitting will be offered during the day for an additional \$20/child for children 1.5 to 4. Please make sure to sign up on the website!

Members in Action! Check out Congregation Ahavat Shalom members volunteering for Tomchei Shabbat, packaging for Rosh Hashana! Kol HaKavod!

Ahavat Shalom Membership for 2018-2019! The link will be live! It can be found at 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 members. Pricing starts at \$55 per set.

THIS WEEK! Our next Meet n' Greet will take place this Shabbat, September 8th at 3:30pm by 102 Walraven's Terrace!

SAVE THE DATE! Remember when making Yom Tov plans that 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! Shul will be in session for the Second Days of the Chag.

NEW COMMITTEE! Ahavat Shalom is organizing a Singles' Shabbaton and is looking for volunteers to host and/or have guests for meals. If you are interested,



Semi Annual Meet & Greet
September 8th @ 3:30pm
By the Patio of 102 Walraven Dr.

All are encouraged to join in meeting and mingling with old and new friends

- Ahavat Shalom Board

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 | president@teaneckapartments.com | rabbiyehudahalpert@gmail.com

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 9:8. He can be reached via email at 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

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.



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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.



Jordan Kadry

Vice President
FM Home Loans, LLC
(516) 456-3842
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Reaching our Destination

Closeness to Hashem is a primary theme of the upcoming *Aseres Yemei Teshuva*. The *navi* Yeshayahu describes a time when Hashem is especially close and *Chazal* have the tradition that this is referring specifically to this time of the year. In *Parshas Nitzavim* Moshe beseeches the Jewish people not to view "this *mitzvah*" as being far away but rather it is very near to us. According to the Ramban "this *mitzva*" is *teshuvah* and thus these *pesukim* are especially appropriate to read right before *Aseres Yemei Teshuva*.

How does one attain closeness to Hashem? When a person is distant from a geographic location he desires to reach he must travel on the road that will take him there. Similarly, there is a road to travel to reach Hashem. In addition, just as there are impediments that prevent one from reaching a physical destination, so too there are factors that prevent one from achieving spiritual goals.

In *Sefer Melachim* we learn that Yeravam, the king of the northern kingdom, was concerned that his position would be weakened if the Jews under his rule would travel to Yerushalayim which was located in the southern kingdom. He therefore implemented a two pronged system to prevent the people from being influenced by Yerushalayim: he set up physical roadblocks to turn back those who wished to travel to Yerushalayim and he also set up an idolatrous temple that would serve as an alternative for those seeking the religious experience of visiting the *Beis Hamikdash*.

When traveling on a physical journey there are two things that can prevent us from reaching our destination: there are "roadblocks", such as traffic or construction which we often encounter on today's roads, and there is also the possibility of getting lost. A wrong turn can take us miles in the wrong direction.

As we travel on a spiritual journey we are faced with similar challenges. First, there are "roadblocks" of different types on the way. When we feel we are not accomplishing our goals we often want to turn around and go back; frustrated by the "traffic and construction" we question whether we will ever reach our desired destination. Second, there are also wrong turns - thinking we are heading to "Yerushalayim" we may end up in a very different place. One small detour can lead us in the opposite direction from the one we want to reach.

When traveling today many of us avail ourselves of technology that addresses these two potential obstacles on our course. We are no longer as concerned about traffic since Waze weaves us around the most difficult traffic jams and also gives such precise directions that we no longer fear making a wrong turn and getting lost for miles. Even if we miss a turn, we are immediately rerouted to enable us to reach our correct destination.

As we travel down the road of spirituality there is a time-tested system that will enable us to reach our final destination and avoid any roadblocks or wrong turns: closeness to Hashem. The *mitzvah* we read about in *Parshas Nitzavim* which is described as being so close to us and was understood by the Ramban to refer to *teshuvah* is understood by Rashi to refer to Talmud Torah. These two views are not contradictory, but rather complimentary. *Teshuvah* to attain the desired closeness to Hashem can only come through Torah. Studying Torah will prevent us from getting stuck in the obstacles along the way or getting lost.

Especially at this time of the year let us be certain we are traveling in the right direction and not getting delayed by obstacles along the way. Let us listen carefully to the directions the Torah gives us as we are guided to our destination. Only the Torah will enable us to reach our desired goal of closeness to Hashem. May we all merit attaining that closeness during the days ahead and may we remain inspired to maintain that closeness throughout our lives.

By: Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky
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