



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Shabbat Chol Ha'Moed Sukkot

Volume: 19, Issue: 9 | September 28-29, 2018

Tishrei 20

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, September 28	
Candle Lighting:	6:26 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:30 PM
Shabbat, September 29	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:48 AM
Mincha (No Shul SS)	6:15 PM
Shkiya:	6:42 PM
Maariv:	7:17 PM
Havdalah:	7:22 PM
Next Friday, October 5	
Candle Lighting:	6:14 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	6:15 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 65°, Partially Cloudy

Shabbat day: 75°, Partially Cloudy

Kiddush at the Klein's! Janna and Yosef Chai would like to invite whoever is here for this Shabbat to a kiddush in their sukkah after shul @ 96 Van Buskirk Rd, Teaneck NJ 07666 (weather permitting!)

ARIBA! Simchat De Torah is Coming! The signup link is closed, but if you signed up, please get excited! The annual Ahavat Shalom Simchat Torah luncheon will take place this Tuesday, October 2nd with a Mexican fiesta twist! There will be singing, dancing and a communal lunch for all who signed up.

Annual Simchat Torah Auction - As we have done in the past, we will be auctioning off all Simchat Torah kibbudim on the night of Simchat Torah! This is a great opportunity to have fun, team up with your friends (or beat them!) and help raise funds for the shul. Be there!

Ahavat Shalom Communal Sukkot - As we have every year, Ahavat Shalom has put up sukkot at each apartment complex (Ayers, Terrace Circle, Walraven and Westgate) for use by the community! If you can't find them, reach out to a Board member to help you locate your closest sukkah!

Shmini Atzeret & Simchat Torah Schedule

Shmini Atzeret Night (Sunday, September 30)

Candle Lighting:	6:22 PM
Mincha:	6:25 PM

Shmini Atzeret Day / Simchat Torah Night (Monday, October 1)

Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Yizkor:	approx. 10:20 AM
Mincha:	6:10 PM
Simchat Torah Auction:	6:20 PM
Maariv:	7:05 PM
Candle Lighting:	not before 7:20 PM
Hakafot:	7:35 PM

Simchat Torah Day (Tuesday, October 2)

Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Mincha:	6:10 PM
Maariv:	7:12 PM
Havdalah:	7:17 PM

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 9:29, 10:13, 10:20, 10:27.
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

There will be no Yeshivat Noam groups this Shabbat or over Shmini Atzeret / Simchat Torah. Have a wonderful Shabbat!

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.



Ahavat Shalom Membership for 2018-2019! The link is live! It can be found at

www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/ahavatshalommembership. The cost is \$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.

Singles' Shabbaton - Ahavat Shalom is organizing a Singles' Shabbaton for Shabbat, November 2 and is looking for volunteers to host and/or have guests for meals. If you are interested, please reach out to Deena Bernstein ASAP! Additionally, if you have friends who may be interested, please send them this link to sign up: <https://goo.gl/forms/6HetRY2smWRuTqg1>

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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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
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NMLS ID# 1206628





The Mitzvos of Sukkos and the Great Partnership

Without doubt, *Sukkos* is filled with more *mitzvos* than any of the other holidays - from the *sukka* to the *arba'as haminim* practiced everywhere to the *nisuch hamayim* and *arava* in the *mikdash* (later universalized by the early prophets (*Sukka* 44a-b)). Interestingly, the Talmud (*ibid.* 43a, 44a) derives these *mitzvos* from fundamentally different types of sources. The primary *mitzvah* of the four species is derived from an explicit verse, "And you shall take on the first day, the fruit of a beautiful tree..." (*Vayikra* 23:40). Their taking in the *beis hamikdash* is derived from a *derasha* on the verse, "And you shall rejoice before Hashem for seven days" (*ibid.*). *Chazal* understand the phrase "before Hashem" as a reference to the *mikdash*. The *mitzvah* of *arava* and *nisuch hamayim* are derived from *halacha l'Moshe miSinai*, "pure Torah *sheb'al peh*". To be sure, all of the *mitzvos* are always informed by a combination of *Torah shebichsav* and *Torah sheb'al peh*, but the conglomeration of all the different combinations - straightforward *pesukim* = pure *Torah shebichsav*, *dersahos* = a combination of the written and oral Torah, and *halacha l'moshe misinai* = pure *Torah sheb'al peh* - in one festival is certainly notable.

Homiletically, perhaps we can suggest an insight highlighting a central feature of *Sukkos* which serves as the culmination of all the festivals of *Tishrei*. Our relationship with *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* is first and foremost one of created to Creator, or servant to King. This is fundamental to our status of total dependency - both in our initial creation and our continued existence - on *Hashem Yisborach*. However, *Hashem* has chosen to partner with man in creation. One of many passages which indicates this partnership is the statement that "there are three partners" in the creation of a new child (*Nidah* 31a); the parents provide the body and *Hashem* provides the soul. In reality, there is an unequal partnership, as the parents are merely utilizing all of the tools G-d granted them combined with the complex rules of the natural world He created. Nonetheless, our Sages reflect *Hashem's* will by referring to this as a partnership. Similarly, Rav Chaim Volozhin (*Nefesh HaChaim* 4:10-11) quotes the *Zohar* that *Hashem* created the world with speech, and those who study Torah continue to create the world with speech - "if not for my eternal Covenant, the laws of Heaven and Earth would not have been formed" (*Yirmiyahu* 33:25) which the *Talmud* (*Pesachim* 68b) interprets to mean, "would cease to exist."^[1]

One of the most far-reaching areas of human partnership with the Divine is in the realm of *Torah sheb'al peh* study and analysis. The opinions of mere mortals - even though their *modus operandi* is to merely use the Sinaitic-principles of *Torah* analysis to arrive at an educated theory of "what Hashem would have said about this case had he revealed it at *Sinai*" - become part of *Torah*. "*Eilu v'eilu divrei Elokim Chayim*" (*Eiruvin* 13b). Rav Chaim Ya'acov Goldwicht *zt"l*, founding *Rosh HaYeshiva* of *Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh* would often highlight this concept through *Kiddush Hachodesh* where the *Beis Din's* ruling is binding even if mistaken or even if deliberately in error (*Rosh Hashana* 25a). He would also often quote the *Talmud Yerushalmi* which indicates that on the thirtieth day of *Elul* which might be declared *Rosh Hashana* down below, the heavenly court gathers with its myriad prosecuting and defending angels ready to commence, but *Hashem* awaits the declaration of *Rosh Chodesh* on earth. If it is not forthcoming, the Supreme Judge dismisses the court and declares that the Day of Judgment will have to take place the next day since *Beis Din* did not sanctify the month on the first day! With this endowed power, man is not just passively acted upon but becomes an actor in the drama of creation and history.

We attempt to realign with our Maker's will on *Rosh HaShana*; *Hashem's Shechina* descends to and visits our shuls and homes to be the vehicle of cleansing us from sin. This is followed by the overflowing joy of *Sukkos* in which Hashem, so to speak, invites us into His house - as the verse recited daily from the beginning *Elul* through *Shemini Atzeres* states: "for he shall hide me in His *sukka* on a day of evil" (*Tehillim* 27:5). Our relationship is hopefully restored: *Hashem* visits us; we visit Him. What more fitting demonstration of this mutual connection which G-d, in His infinite kindness, bestows on lowly man than the *mitzvos* of *Sukkos* which are taken from the fixed, Divinely dictated *Torah shebichsav*, *halacha l'Moshe miSinai* - the oral tradition preserved by the Jewish people, and the *dersashos*, which, through human analysis bridge the two. May we merit bringing the *teshuvah* of the *Yamim Noraim* and the joy of the re-establishment of our partnership with our Creator to the rest of the year!

^[1] Many other sources for this concept of partnership exist. See, for example, several essays in Rav C. Y. Goldwicht's *Asufas Ma'arachos* at length.

By: Rabbi Yakov Haber

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