



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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

Parshat Tazria-Metzora
18th Day Omer

Volume: 17, Issue: 37 | April 28-29, 2017

Iyar 3, 5777
Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, April 28	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:31 PM
Shabbat, April 29	
Shacharit:	8:45 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:26 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	7:25 PM
Shkiya:	7:50 PM
Maariv:	8:30 PM
Shabbat Ends:	8:35 PM
Next Friday, May 5	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:38 PM

- **Mazal Tov** to Jordana and Ari Schwartz on the birth of a baby girl!
- **Tzeitchem L'Shalom** to Sarah and David (& Zachary) Small who are moving!

APRIL CELEBRATION KIDDUSH

You know the drill, gezunta kiddush right after davening. Thank you to all our sponsors:

- Shoshana and Rabbi Yehuda Halpert in honor of Aryeh's birthday!
- Jordana and Avi (& Talia) Levy in honor of Avi's birthday!
- Samantha and Ben Locke in honor of Ben's birthday!
- Sarah and David (& Zachary) Small as a thank you to the Ahavat Shalom family for making their time here so great!
- Sarah and Dovie Stamper in honor of both of their birthdays!
- Yael and Zack (& Allie) Stone in honor of the birth of their son, Isaac! Mazal tov!
- Leah and Jonathan Weiss in honor of Leah's birthday!
- And the Ahavat Shalom Kiddush Fund!

Weather Report

Friday night: Thunderstorms late, 60° Shabbos day: Cloudy, 84°/57°

Community-wide event for Yom Haatzmaut - Monday May 1, Mincha at 7:15 pm - Keter Torah (600 Roemer Ave, Teaneck, NJ).

Yom Hazikaron Commemoration: Paul Kaye, War-Hero and Navy Veteran who served on the Aliyah-Bet ship "Hatikvah".

Yom Haatzmaut Celebration: Tefilat Maariv Chagigit, followed by a Chagiga in the main ballroom with light pareve refreshments. Youth Activities organized by the RZA Fellows program and Shul Youth Directors for Kindergarten through Grade 5 during this time. Sponsored by UJA Federation, RZA Fellows Program (Religious Zionists of America), and our local shuls in the Teaneck-Bergenfield-New Milford community. Looking forward to seeing you there!

First Time Home Buyers Seminar - Sunday, May 7 @ 7:30 PM - Chase Bank - 170 The Plaza, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (Queen Anne Road next to Glatt Express) - Come and learn about the ins and outs of first time home purchase at the First Time Home Buyers Seminar. Food and beverages will be served! You will have the opportunity to hear from the following presenters: Donna Shahrabani, Esq., Real Estate Attorney, Buckalew Frizzell & Crevina LLP, David Joyandeh, Esq., Real Estate Attorney, Buckalew Frizzell & Crevina LLP, Stuart Greenbaum, Mortgage Banker, Chase Bank; Ruth Miron-Schleider, Broker/Owner, Miron Properties. To reserve your spot, please RSVP: David Joyandeh at DJoyandeh@LawNJ.com

OU Communities Fair - Sunday, April 30th - The OU's Jewish Communities Home and Job Relocation Fair, now in its sixth year offers information and resources to families and individuals wishing to improve their quality of life by relocating to affordable Jewish Communities that offer professional opportunities. This year's event, in partnership with OU Israel and Nefesh B'Nefesh, will take place on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at the Metropolitan Pavilion, (125 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011). The fair promises to be the largest ever in both community participation and attendance with over fifty communities representing the United States and Israel and an expected participation of over 2,000 individuals, couples and families. Register in advance for free at ou.org/fair.

Keylim Mikvah Maintenance: Now that the Pesach keylim mikvah rush is over, the keylim mikvah will undergo a thorough cleaning and maintenance project. This upkeep of the mikvah will require refilling the holding cisterns and therefore, the keylim mikvah will be closed through the early spring rains. We will notify you when it reopens. In the interim, the following keylim mikvaot are open and operational:

- 1) Englewood- Weekdays 9-6, Access through the shul building. Please call [201-567-1443](tel:201-567-1443) for further information.
 - 2) Tenafly- MTW- until 12 pm, Th- until 10:30 am, Friday- all day, Sunday- until 10:30 am. Please call [201-871-1152](tel:201-871-1152) for further information.
 - 3) Fair Lawn- Sundays 10 am-3 pm. Please call [201-796-5839](tel:201-796-5839) for further information.
- Please note that this temporary closure does not impact the women's mikvah at all, and b'ezrat Hashem, that mikvah will maintain its full schedule throughout.

UPCOMING EVENTS: May 12-13: Cong. Beth Aaron, Rabbi Rothwachs, Teaneck, NJ

Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2016-2017

President: Jason Shor **Vice Presidents:** Jason Bloom | Alex Daitch | Moty Raven | Binny Steinig **Secretary:** Liron Gamzeh **Treasurer:** Jason Felder

Sisterhood: Sarit Anstandig | Tali Wigod **Gabbaim:** Sam Lightstone | Ezra Blain | Shua Joseph | Dani Weinberger

We welcome your input! Please send your newsletter announcements by Wednesday.

board@teaneckapartments.com | president@teaneckapartments.com | rabbihalpert@verizon.net

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here for Shabbos on: 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20.

He can be reached via email at rabbihalpert@verizon.net, 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 2-3 are located in the room across the Shul from 9:30am - 10:45am. 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.

Welcoming Committee

If you or anyone you know has moved in recently, let us know! Check out ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin for more information.

Welcome to
Ahavat Shalom!

Households: 101
(Adults: 196, Kids: 59)



Esther Shayowitz
SALES ASSOCIATE

201.638.5858
estershay@vera-nechama.com



MORE listings.
MORE experience.
MORE service.

From starter homes to luxury properties, Vera & Nechama Realty has the experience to find what's right for you.

vera-nechama.com • 201.692.3700 • 1401 Palisade Avenue, Teaneck



Zeeviah Benoff
Sales Associate
NJAR CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE
SALES AWARD - 2015
C: 201.956.0208
O: 201.992.3600
Zeeviah@LinksNJ.com



Stuart Greenbaum
Mortgage Banker NMLS# 279221
Mortgage Banking | Chase
170 The Plaza, Teaneck NJ 07666
C: 201.694.4677 | F: 844.232.5274
stuart.greenbaum@chase.com





Tzora'as, Chodesh Nisan and the Importance of Preparation

Rabbi Eliakim Koenigsberg

In *Parshas Metzora* the Torah concludes its discussion of the rules of *tzora'as* by talking about *nigei batim* - *tzora'as* that is found on the walls of a house. The initial procedure for dealing with all types of *tzora'as* is the same. If a *nega* is found - whether on a person's body or a garment or a house - and it does not have any clear signs of *tumah*, the Kohen quarantines the person, the garment or the house for one week. At the end of the week, the Kohen looks at the *nega* again to see if any signs of *tumah* have developed.

What is interesting is that even if in the middle of the week the *nega* has gotten lighter in appearance, which is a sign of *taharah*, the person still has to wait until the end of the week before he can show his *nega* to the Kohen and be declared *tahor*. Why is that? If the *nega* has become *tahor*, why does the *metzora* have to wait until the end of the week before he can be declared *tahor*? Why does the owner of the garment or the house have to wait before he can show his *nega* to the Kohen?

The *Sefer HaChinuch* (169) explains that the purpose of *hesger* - having the *metzora* quarantined for a week - is to cause the *metzora* to do *teshuva*. *Chazal* say that *tzora'as* comes as a punishment for improper behavior. The *Gemara* (*Arachin* 16a) identifies seven different *aveiros* which are associated with *tzora'as*. A *metzora* has to be quarantined for a full week to give him the opportunity to think about what he has done wrong and to analyze his actions carefully so that he can figure out what needs to be corrected. He can't become *tahor* as soon as his *nega* looks *tahor*, rather he must undergo a complete process of *teshuva* which requires a complete week because thoughts of *teshuva* do not come instantaneously. The *metzora* needs ample time to work on himself and prepare himself for real change. Only then will his *teshuva* be lasting.

This *halacha* teaches a profound lesson: if we want a spiritual experience like *teshuva* to make a lasting impression on us, we have to invest time and effort in it and prepare ourselves properly. Only then will we be transformed by the experience.

In *Parshas HaChodesh* (*Shemos* 12:2) the Torah says, "*HaChodesh Hazeh Lachem Rosh Chodoshim*" - the month of *Nisan* is the first of the months of the year. At first glance, this statement seems puzzling. After all, we assume that the world was created in *Tishrei*, not *Nisan*, and that is why we say in the *tefillos* of Rosh Hashana "*hayom haras olam* - today is the birthday of the world" and, "*zeh hayom techilas ma'asecha* - this is the first day of creation." What's more, *Nisan* is not the month of *kabbolas haTorah* either; that privilege is reserved for *Sivan*. So why is *Nisan* considered the "*rishon*"? What special significance does *Nisan* have over the other months of the year?

Rav Moshe Feinstein (*Darash Moshe, Parshas Bo*) answers that the importance of *Nisan* stems from the fact that it is the beginning of the process of preparation for *kabbolas haTorah*, and without preparation there can be no *kabbolas haTorah*. Since the existence of the world is dependent on Torah, as *Chazal* say that the world was created *bishvil haTorah shenikreis reishis*, and *kabbolas haTorah* is dependent on a person preparing himself to receive the Torah, then the *rishon*, the first and most important month of the year, must be *Nisan* because that is the month when we begin the process of preparation for *kabbolas haTorah*.

Preparation is a crucial prerequisite for *kabbolas haTorah*, *teshuva*, and every *mitzvah*. In fact, the idea of preparation is central to the Torah's outlook on life in general. *Chazal* say, "This world is compared to an antechamber before the world to come; prepare yourself in this world so that you may enter the banquet hall of the world to come (*Avos* 4:16)." This world is the place to prepare oneself spiritually for the world to come by engaging in *mitzvos* and *ma'asim tovim*. "One who toils on *erev Shabbos* will eat on *Shabbos* (*Avodah Zara* 3a)." Only by preparing oneself properly in this world will a person be able to enjoy the fruits of his labor in the next world - the *yom shekulo Shabbos*.

If we internalize the lesson of *Nisan* and the *metzora* and invest time and effort in perfecting our character and serving Hashem, we will lead ourselves on a path to a more meaningful life and reap the benefits for all eternity.

Copyright © 2016 by TorahWeb.org. All rights reserved.



Esther Shayowitz
SALES ASSOCIATE

201.638.5858
estershay@vera-nechama.com



From starter homes to luxury properties, Vera & Nechama Realty has the experience to find what's right for you.

vera-nechama.com • 201.692.3700 • 1401 Palisade Avenue, Teaneck

MORE listings.
MORE experience.
MORE service.



Zeevyah Benoff
Sales Associate
NJAR CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE
SALES AWARD - 2015
C: 201.956.0208
O: 201.992.3600
Zeevyah@LinksNJ.com



Stuart Greenbaum
Mortgage Banker NMLS# 279221
Mortgage Banking | Chase
170 The Plaza, Teaneck NJ 07666
C: 201.694.4677 | F: 844.232.5274
stuart.greenbaum@chase.com

