



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Vayishlach

Volume: 18, Issue: 18 | December 1-2, 2017

Kislev 14, 5778

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, December 1	
Candle Lighting:	4:11 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:15 PM
Shabbat, December 2	
Shacharit:	8:45 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:24 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	4:00 PM
Shkiya:	4:29 PM
Maariv:	5:09 PM
Shabbat Ends:	5:14 PM
Next Friday, December 8	
Candle Lighting:	4:10 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:15 PM

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here on:
12/2, 12/16, 12/23.

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 9:30am - 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.

Chesed Committee

If you or anyone you know has moved in
recently or knows somebody moving in,
let Moty Raven or Yael Stromer know!
Check out
ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin for
more information.



Weather Report: Friday night: 33°, mostly clear

Shabbat day: 47°, partly cloudy

Welcome to Arielle and Dani Secemski who just moved into Terrace Circle!

Tzeitchem L'Shalom to Violet, Moshe, Mackenzie and Savannah Mannasse who are moving to the other side of Teaneck!

New Releases in 2018 - Move over family photos on the fridge! Ahavat Shalom will be rolling out a calendar to every household for the first time ever! Reach out to the Fundraising Committee at board@teaneckapartments.com about exciting sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Sponsorship deadline is this Sunday, December 3, 2017!

ReMembership Your Dues ... The new membership year began on September 1st. To join our growing community, the cost is \$165/person and \$330/household. Kiddushim for the year can be sponsored for an additional \$15/person or \$30/household. **NEW THIS YEAR.** Welcome Baskets for all new community members can be sponsored *for the whole year* for just \$10!

Ahavat Shalom's Cholent Competition! Round Two will be after davening on Shabbat, December 23rd. We are looking for 4 cholents to compete. Email Sisterhood@TeaneckApartments to sign up as a chef! All community members are invited to attend the event (even if you missed Round 1), taste test the cholents, and vote for your favorite! Who will join the Ferber's in the finals in March? May the best cholent win!

Chesed Opportunity - Deena and Henry Bernstein are looking for volunteers to help bring PackIts to the city every Thursday morning. Additionally, PackIts can be sponsored for \$10 each.

Chanukah Toy Drive - Chesed opportunity: Be a part of the 25th annual Bergen County Chanukah Toy Drive! Donate any toys to the Drive; the toys are collected and given out to children in need in time for Chanukah. Toys can be dropped off at the home Joy Sklar, 95 Norfolk St., Bergenfield NJ. She can be reached at (551) 404-0227. For more information about this wonderful opportunity, visit: www.bctoydrive.org

RYNJ Program - RYNJ invites all prospective RYNJ children and their parents to a taste of our warm, inspiring and educational Early Childhood program at our "EC Preview" on Sunday morning, December 3rd from 9:30-11:00am. Please register at rynj.org. For more information, contact Mrs. Tamar Kahn, Director of Admissions, at tkahn@rynj.org or 201.986.1414 ext. 338.

Congregation Bnai Yeshurun Presents Project Ometz - For too long the stigma of mental health has prevented families from reaching out for help. Our goal is to break down that barrier. Join us for a confidential teleconference: Understanding Your Loved One with Anxiety & OCD Tuesday, December 5th at 8:15 pm (641) 532-9173; access code: 636984. Questions can be submitted privately by email during the presentation to projectometz@bnaiyeshurun.org. Project Ometz provided peer support for parents of children with mental health issues and community education on mental health. For more information please visit www.projectometz.org.

Lecture Series - Rabbi Larry Rothwachs will offer a lecture series, "Perspectives on Jewish Parenting in an Ever Changing World," on Tuesday evenings at 8:30 p.m., at Congregation Beth Aaron. The series is free and open to the public. This week's event will take place on Tuesday, December 5, and the topic is *The Halachic Parameters of Chinuch: Through Ages and Stages*.

Project Ezrah Dinner will take place Motzei Shabbat, December 9, at 8:00PM at Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood. For reservations, email dinner@ezrah.org or visit www.ezrah.org

Big Bird, Batman, and Bnai Torah - On Sunday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m., at Congregation Beth Aaron, Dr. Shalom Fisch will discuss "Big Bird, Batman, and Bnai Torah: Using TV and Comic Books to Educate and Inspire Children." For more information, please contact Mordechai Ungar, m_ungar2@yahoo.com or 201.741.3920.

Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2017-2018

President: Ben Wine **Vice Presidents:** Alex Daitch | Ariel Kirshenbaum | Moty Raven | Evan Rottenstreich **Secretary:** Eli Baum **Treasurer:** Yonatan Isser

Sisterhood: Melissa Kirshenbaum | Sam Locke **Gabbaim:** Sam Lightstone | Ezra Blain | Steven Lowinger | Dani Weinberger

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

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



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From a Tent to a House - Yaakov's Journey

The name "Bais Yaakov - the house of Yaakov" has become synonymous with the Jewish People. Yaakov's efforts to build the foundation of the Jewish People are related in the *parshios* of *Vayeitzei* and *Vayishlach*. There is another house that Yaakov built in these *parshios*. *Parshas Vayeitzei* begins with his promise to build a house for Hashem upon his return to *Eretz Yisrael* and *Parshas Vayishlach* concludes with the fulfillment of this commitment. *Chazal* comment that unlike Avraham and Yitzchak who liken the future location of the *Beis Hamikdash* to a mountain and a field, Yaakov calls it a home. It is this term that becomes the permanent name, as we refer to the *Beis Hamikdash* which is built on the *Har Habayis*. What is the significance of a house that plays such a vital role in Yaakov's existence and particularly in his relationship with Hashem?

The emphasis on a house was not always part of Yaakov's life. Yaakov is described as a dweller of tents, which *Chazal* interpret to refer to the tents of the yeshiva of Shem and Ever. In his youth, Yaakov relates to Hashem through the vehicle of a tent, yet in later years he serves Hashem in a house. This model of transformation from tent to the house is not only found in the personal life of Yaakov. The Jewish People in their youth worship Hashem in a tent-like structure, i.e. the *Mishkan*, which is referred to as a tent. It is only centuries later when the tent of the *Mishkan* is replaced with the house known as the *Beis Hamikdash*. How does a house differ from a tent and why is it crucial that both Yaakov and his descendants incorporate aspects of the world of tents and of houses into their *Avodas Hashem*?

A tent conjures up the image of being temporary. It is a dwelling place for those who are traveling and have not yet set down their roots. In contrast, a house is a symbol of prominence. The *Mishkan* was a tent as it was dismantled and reassembled as the Jewish People traveled through the desert. Although the *Mishkan* was endowed with sanctity, as soon as it was moved from its location it lost its holiness. Even the sanctity of the location of the *Mishkan* in the city of Shiloh, which housed the *Mishkan* for 369 years, was only temporary. After the *Mishkan* was destroyed, Shiloh lost its unique status. Only Yerushalayim, which housed the *Beis Hamikdash*, would take on the status of a permanent sanctuary. The *Beis Hamikdash* was not a tent but a house in the fullest sense.

In Tehillim, Dovid *HaMelech* describes his yearning to dwell in the house of Hashem all the days of his life and to visit the sanctuary of Hashem. These two requests seem contradictory. How can one simultaneously live somewhere permanently and yet merely be a visitor? Obviously the optimal reality in *avodas Hashem* is to be in Hashem's presence all the time. Yet, there is a danger in such an existence since we tend to take for granted things that we constantly have; we lose enthusiasm if we no longer view something as being fresh and new. Dovid is beseeching Hashem to enable him to serve Him on a constant basis with the excitement of a first time experience. He wants to be a dweller all of his days yet never lose the passion of a visitor. Yaakov begins his *avodas Hashem* in the world of the tent. The freshness and excitement that accompanies one on his travels are found in the tents and Shem and Ever. As Yaakov gets older, he must build a permanent home for his family to serve Hashem. Nevertheless, he must draw inspiration from the days of his youth. As Dovid *Hamelech* taught us, he must live in a house with the enthusiasm of a tent. The tent and the house of Yaakov becomes the model from his descendants. They first construct a tent and then endow the house of Hashem with the enthusiasm of the *Mishkan* in the now permanent structure.

This message speaks to many of us at different stages of life. Those who are still in the tents of Torah in their youth should continue to thrive and grow with the enthusiasm of youth. Many of us have reached the stage in which we are building structures of permanence for ourselves and our families. At this critical period, we can sometimes lose sight of our original goals in life which we may have formulated during our years in the tents. The challenges of daily life can make it difficult to approach *avodas Hashem* with the excitement of youth. Yet, we must rise to the challenge. If we do not create a permanent structure of *avodas Hashem* with the enthusiasm of our youth, our structure will be hollow and devoid of meaning. Let us turn to our great models from the past who taught us how to thrive in both the tents and houses of Torah. Let us turn to Hashem with a sincere plea to be able to dwell in His house all of the days of our lives and still remain like visitors in His home.

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