

Parshat Vayechi

Volume: 18, Issue: 22 | December 29-30, 2017

Teves 12, 5778

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, December 29

Candle Lighting: 4:18 PM

Mincha/Maariv: 4:20 PM

Shabbat, December 30

Shacharit: 8:45 AM

Krivat Shema: 9:39 AM

Mincha / Shalosh

Sendot: 4:10 PM

Shkiya: 4:37 PM

Maariv: 5:17 PM

Shabbat Ends: 5:22 PM

Next Friday, January 5

Candle Lighting: 4:24 PM

Mincha/Maariv: 4:25 PM

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here on:
12/30.

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 ahavatshalomteaneek.com/movingin for more information.



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:** Dani Weinberger | Steven Lowinger | Benjy Lebowitz | Adam Ehrenreich

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

board@teanekapartments.com | president@teanekapartments.com | rabbivehudahalpert@gmail.com



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



Jordan Kadry
Senior Loan Originator
NMLS #1206628
jkadry@fmm.com
145 East 57th Street, 6th FL
New York, NY 10022
Direct: (212) 710-0341
Cell: (516) 456-3842



**FM HOME
LOANS**

 FTM Home Loans • 2120 Nottredale Ave., 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11231 • 718-377-7000
 Unlicensed Mortgage Banker • NY, NJ, CT, PA, GA, FL, MA, MD, NH, VA, IL, OH, AZ and DC Banking Departments. Licensed by NY Dept. of Banking & Insurance. Licensed Mortgage banker, NYS Department of Financial Services.



Congregation
Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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

Parshat Vayechi

Volume: 18, Issue: 22 | December 29-30, 2017

Teves 12, 5778

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Blessings: the Common and the Unique

Several notable points surface upon reading Ya'akov *Avinu's* blessings to Ephraim and Menashe. Firstly, Ya'akov initially requests of Yosef, "take them to me and I shall bless them" (48:9), but later the verse states, "And he blessed Yosef and he said... The angel ... shall bless the youths" (*ibid.* 15-16). Following that, the Torah records another blessing, "And he blessed them saying, 'With you (*becha* in the singular) shall Israel bless, 'May G-d make you like Ephraim and Menashe'..." (*ibid.* 20). The Torah seemingly alternates between the blessings being directed toward Yosef and their being directed toward his children. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the first blessing does not mention Yosef's children by name whereas the second one does.

The commentaries present different approaches resolving one or more of the above anomalies. *Ramban* explains that the first blessing was a blessing to Yosef since the greatest blessing a father could receive is a blessing for his children. He similarly explains the usage of the singular "*becha*" in the second blessing: Ya'akov was telling Yosef, "The Jewish people will use your descendants as paradigms for their blessings". *Ohr HaChaim* and *Seforno* explain that Ya'akov at first separately bestowed a blessing upon Yosef the content of which is not described and then proceeded to bless Yosef's sons, Ephraim and Menashe. Alternatively, Ya'akov first bestowed the power of blessing - which had been given to Ya'akov from his father Yitzchak who, in turn, received it from his father Avraham - upon his beloved son Yosef, and then Ya'akov proceeded to bless his grandchildren.

Abarbanel, in explanation of the need for two blessings, comments that the first blessing was for both children equally. He notes that there are three different types of blessings: for spiritual success, for physical success and for protection from harm. Ya'akov *Avinu* blessed his grandchildren together with all of these in the first blessing. (See there for the detailed explanation.) The second one highlighted their names indicating each one's uniqueness. Rashi notes that different types of leaders emerged from each tribe. *Netziv* (see also Rav S. R. Hirsch) stresses the fact that Ephraim excelled in spiritual matters; Menashe excelled in the worldly qualities of leadership and court conduct. ^[1] A blessing is designed to augment the qualities and talents with which one was already endowed. The blessing used by the Jewish people thus wishes upon the person being blessed that he excel in the particular quality that is already present within him. Based on this concept, he explains the cryptic statement of *Targum Yonasan (Yerushalmi)* that this blessing would be used at a *bris milah*. ^[2] It is at that early stage in the child's life when his qualities are not yet known that the dual blessing of being like Ephraim (excelling in the spiritual) and (or) like Menashe (excelling in the physical) is appropriate.

Mikdash Mordechai (quoted in *Talelei Oros*) offers an alternative explanation why the sons of Yosef are uniquely chosen to be the models of blessing. They were the first brothers in Biblical history known not to be envious of or quarrelsome with each other even after their grandfather placed the younger Ephraim before the elder Menashe. His comment is especially meaningful in light of the *Netziv's* comment that they were quite different from each other, a fact that oftentimes, unfortunately, leads to enmity and strife. Fathers bless their sons that they should excel in their unique qualities but also admire and respect the unique qualities of others.

In closing, a comment by *Be'er Yoseif* by Rav Yosef Tzvi Salant is most worthy of mention. Yosef, as the viceroy of Egypt, had unlimited resources to rear his two sons to excel, each with their own unique talents: Menashe as an officer in the palace and Ephraim as a devoted student of his grandfather Ya'akov. How could a "*pashute Yid*" with limited resources have hopes that his children will excel? For this reason, Ya'akov *Avinu* used the singular "*becha*" introducing the second blessing referring to Yosef himself. In effect, he was saying that the Jewish people will learn from Yosef's miraculous rise to success both spiritually and physically after being sold as a slave, accused of crimes by his master's wife and imprisoned for twelve years! With Hashem's blessings and providence, nothing is impossible. May we all merit blessings from above and respect each other's unique qualities thus emulating the unity of Ephraim and Menashe.

By: Rabbi Yakov Haber

Copyright © 2017 by TorahWeb.org. All rights reserved.



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



FOR ALL YOUR MORTGAGE NEEDS



Jordan Kadry
Senior Loan Originator
NMLS #1206628
jkadry@fmm.com
145 East 57th Street, 6th FL
New York, NY 10022
Direct: (212) 710-0341
Cell: (516) 455-3842



FM HOME LOANS

FM Home Loans is a 2020 National Top 100 Real Estate Brokerage. NMLS #1206628. Licensed by NYS Dept. of Banking & Finance. Licensed Mortgage Broker. NYS Department of Insurance Services. Equal Housing Opportunity. All loans subject to credit review. All loans subject to approved credit and income requirements. NMLS #1206628.